

Weekly One-Liners

July 8-14



Weekly One Liners Updates 8-14th July 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of July 2020. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Payments banks has launched 'Bhavishya' Savings Account for Minors Aged between 10-18 years ____ **Fino Payments Bank.**
Note:
 - The Bhavishya Savings Account can be only opened through the Electronic-Know Your Customer(e-KYC) mode.
 - The account comes with a free Platinum RuPay Debit card and there is no requirement to maintain any minimum monthly average balance.
 - The annual Subscription charges for the account is Rs.349
2. Bank has joined hands with Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd for bancassurance ____ **Karur Vysya Bank.**
Note:
 - As per the pact, KVB will market wide range health insurance products of the Star Health through its 780 branches.
 - In addition, all bank customers will be able to access value-added services like STAR WELLNESS and get telehealth consultation using TALK TO STAR.
3. Bank has entered into a strategic multiyear partnership with Google Cloud ____ **Deutsche Bank.**
Note:
 - The partnership focuses on redefining how the bank develops and offers its financial services.
 - The partnership enables co-innovation between the two companies to produce the next generation of technology-based financial products for clients and delivers cutting edge cloud services to Deutsche Bank.
4. General Insurance company that launched a service in which the auto insurance customers are not required to pay the 'Compulsory Deductible' cost for each claim ____ **Liberty General Insurance.**
Note:
 - The service is a part of its existing Private Car Package Policy under the Regulatory Sandbox approval received from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
 - The Liberty Assure will have an additional benefit which includes 'service warranty' for customers, covering all defects which arise from the repair of an accidental vehicle.
5. Ola has entered into a strategic partnership with which Indian e-commerce payment system to boost its digital payments experience for its customers ____ **PhonePe.**
Note:
 - This partnership will help Ola users to link their existing PhonePe account with their Ola account to make payments for future rides.
 - This partnership will also enable PhonePe to provide their services to millions of customers on the Ola platform.
6. Which bank has released USD 50 million in the first tranche of assistance to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIF), to fund renewable Energy Projects in India ____ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.**
Note:
 - The released amount is part of a sanctioned USD 100 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) loan.
 - This is the 1st loan of AIIB to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India.
 - The objective of the project is to enhance the supply of renewable energy in India by mobilizing private capital.
7. Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has joined hands with which life insurer for bancassurance ____ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.**
Note:
 - As per the pact, KVB will market all retail and group products of Bajaj Allianz including savings, retirement, investment, protection and critical illness life insurance products through its 780 branches.
 - Through this partnership, Bajaj Allianz will strengthen its penetration in southern India, leveraging tech-enabled servicing solutions & comprehensive life insurance products to KVB customers.

8. As per the Reserve Bank of India data which Indian state is at the top in market borrowings in the fiscal 2020-21(FY 21) _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- TN, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crore (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crore (9%), Rajasthan ₹17,000 crore (9%).

9. Which bank has renewed its 3-year MoU signed in 2017 with the Paris based International Energy Agency (IEA) for promoting advance clean energy development in the developing member countries _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- ADB signed the MoU with International Organization-IEA back in March 2017 for promoting advance clean energy development in the developing member countries under the ADB.
- The purpose of the MoU was to overcome the critical experience and knowledge gaps that were blocking the development of sustainable forms of energy in the developing economies under the ADB.

10. As per the revised norms of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) what will be the maximum sum insured on Arogya Sanjeevani policies _____ **No maximum limit.**

Note:

- This decision has been taken in view of the increasing cost of healthcare in the country amid the covid-19 pandemic.
- Arogya Sanjeevani, is a product for which all insurers are mandated to offer had a cap of Rs 5 lakh on the sum insured and the minimum cover for it was of Rs 1 lakh.

11. Which becomes the 12th Foreign Investor in Jio Platforms in last three months with an investment of Rs 730 crore _____ **Qualcomm Ventures.**

Note:

- Rs 730 crore of investment will translate to 0.15 percent of an equity stake for Qualcomm in Jio Platforms. In a matter of 12 weeks since 22nd April 2020, this was the 13th foreign investment, and the 12th Foreign Investor.
- The 13 foreign investments make a total of Rs 1,18,318.45 crores that have been raised in Jio Platforms.

12. As per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which country remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20 _____ **USA.**

Note:

- This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India (in Financial Year 2018-19 United States surpassed the People's Republic of China to become the top trading partner of India), indicating the continuously increasing economic ties between both the countries.

13. As per the Industry body FICCI what will be the country's annual median GDP growth for FY 2020-21 _____ **- 4.5 per cent.**

Note:

- Industry body Ficci on Sunday said its Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country's annual median GDP growth for 2020-21 at (-) 4.5 per cent.
- With the rapid spread of COVID-19 pandemic manifesting into an economic and healthcare crisis globally, the latest forecast marks a sharp downward revision from the growth estimate of 5.5 per cent reported in the January 2020 survey.

14. Payment technology company VISA has partnered with which bank to roll out Visa Secure to the bank's cardholders _____ **Federal Bank.**

Note:

- Visa Secure is a global authentication program that uses the latest standards of the EMV 3DS (3D Secure) protocol.
- Besides providing additional layers of authentication for issuers and merchants to combat online frauds, the upgraded technology provides a quicker and frictionless checkout experience to consumers.
- Visa Secure, built on EMVCo 3DS 2.0 protocol, makes e-commerce more secure while reducing customer friction at point of purchase to the growing number of online shoppers.

15. Technology giant google announced to invest what amount in India over the next five to seven years with a focus on digitizing the economy and building India-first products and services _____ **Rs 75,000 crore.**

Note:

- Firstly, the Rs 75,000 crore investment will focus on help in enabling affordable access and information to every Indian irrespective of the language.
- Secondly, India's unique needs to be met by products and services. The huge investment will also help local businesses to move towards digital transformation. Also, it will work towards using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in areas like health, education, etc.

Obituaries

1. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri popularly known as Jagdeep passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Actor**.

Note:

- Jagdeep appeared in around 400 films but it is his role as Soorma Bhopali in 1975 film "Sholay."
- Better known by his stage name Jagdeep, the actor also directed the movie "Soorma Bhopali" with his character as the protagonist.

2. Renowned personality Charlie Daniels passed away recently, was a veteran _____ **Musician**.

Note:

- He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like "Long-Haired Country Boy," "In America," and his signature fiddle tune "The Devil Went Down To Georgia", who won his only Grammy Award in 1979.
- He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

3. Renowned personality Nagindas Sanghvi passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Journalist**.

Note:

- He was 100 and suffering from acute asthma. Mr. Sangvi was conferred Padma Shri award in the year 2019.
- He was in teaching at Bhavan's College Andheri from 1951 to 1980.
- Later he moved to Ruparel College, Mahim and Mithibai College, Vile Parle for teaching political science.

4. Famous footballer Wim Suurbier of which country passed away recently _____ **The Netherlands**.

Note:

- Suurbier, who won three European championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade, had been in hospital since suffering a cerebral haemorrhage in April.
- Suurbier was an attacking full-back whose role epitomised the "Total Football" style pioneered by the Ajax and Dutch national sides during his heyday.

5. English sports person Jack Charlton passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____ **Football**.

Note:

- A member of the England 1966 World-Cup winning team, Jack Charlton passed away.
- He was also an integral part of the great Don Revie-managed Leeds United side that won the 1969 League title and the 1972 FA Cup.

6. Renowned personality Avad Bin Hassan Jami passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **cartoonist**.

Note:

- His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "**Abhiyan**" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper **Phulchhab** as a cartoonist.
- He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

7. Amadou Gon Coulibaly who passed away recently was prime minister of _____ **Ivory Coast**.

Note:

- He recently returned from France after receiving medical treatment.
- He was also chosen as the ruling party Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (**RHDP**)'s candidate for October's presidential election.

Important Days

1. World Population Day is observed globally every year on _____ **11th July**.

Note:

- This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc.

- This year theme of World Population Day 2020: Putting the brakes on COVID-19: Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls.

2. The United Nations celebrates World Malala Day to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai every year on _____ **12th July.**

Note:

- Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world.
- On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the first chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a 3 years term _____ **Injeti Srinivas.**

Note:

- IFSCA regulates all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in Gandhinagar.
- In addition to the chairman, IFSCA has other members who have been nominated from the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and two members from the Centre.
- Injeti Srinivas is a 1983 batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre

2. Who has been appointed as the first India based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UKIBC _____ **Jayant Krishna.**

Note:

- He will assume office from 3rd August 2020 succeeding the current CEO Richard Heald.
- Richard Heald will take charge as the chairman of the Group from 1st September 2020 succeeding Lord Davies of Abersoch, the current Chair.
- Lord Davies of Abersoch will assume the position of President of UKIBC's new Senior Leadership Council.

3. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Luxury Ride the multi-brand luxury car showrooms _____ **Sukhbir Singh.**

Note:

- He will soon be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign besides being leveraged across its upcoming brand and product communication initiatives.
- Luxury Rides is a chain of pre-owned, multi-brand luxury car showrooms. Its pre-owned luxury car portfolio includes Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Volvo, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mini Cooper, and others.

4. The term of Rajkiran Rai as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which bank has been extended for two years _____ **Union Bank of India.**

Note:

- Rai was appointed as the managing director of Union Bank on July 1, 2017, for a period of 3 years until June 30, 2020.
- The extension of Rai's tenure implies to facilitate the merger properly. The merged entity is now India's fifth-largest public sector bank.

5. Who has been appointed as the ambassador for Toronto IFF _____ **Priyanka Chopra.**

Note:

- She joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF.
- The esteemed film festival will be opting for digital screenings and virtual red carpets in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The festival is scheduled to kick off from September 10 to September 19, 2020.

6. The Incumbent President of which country Andrzej Duda has secured a victory in the 2020 Presidential Election _____ **Poland.**

Note:

- Andrzej Duda has secured 1,04,13,094 (1 crore 4 lakh 13 thousand 94 votes) votes in the Second Round of the Election to cross the majority figure marginally with 51.21 percent of the total valid votes.

- Duda's opponent Rafal Trzaskowski secured 99,21,219 (99 lakh 21 thousand 219 votes) to finish at second place with 48.79 percent of the total valid votes.
 - Andrzej Duda's current term will expire on 6th August 2020, with this win, he will continue as the President of Poland for another five-year term.
7. Who has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India _____ **Gyanendro Ningombam.**
- Note:**
- He will replace Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad.
 - This was following the resignation letter of Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad received by Hockey India on 7 July 2020 due to his personal and family commitments.
8. Who has been appointed as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) _____ **Hemang Amin.**
- Note:**
- He will replace Rahul Johri who recently resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO) of BCCI and his resignation was accepted by the BCCI office-bearers.
 - Hemang Amin is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Indian Premier League. He joined the IPL operations team in June 2010 and was appointed as the COO of IPL in 2015.

Important News – India

1. Which ministry has set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate investigations related to three Nehru-Gandhi family linked trusts, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) _____ **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- Note:**
- The committee would be headed by special director of the Enforcement Directorate.
 - Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of RGF and its board has among others former PM Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Priyanka Gandhi.
2. Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated in which city of India _____ **Navi Mumbai.**
- Note:**
- The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1' is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at Navi Mumbai's Panvel region.
 - Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.
3. What is India's rank in the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) 2020 released by the US-based Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) _____ **34th.**
- Note:**
- The Index was released by the United States-based property and investment management services firm- Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL).
 - GRETI was first released in the year 1999.
 - This year marked the 11th edition of GRETI. A total of 163 cities and 99 countries have been covered in the 11th edition of GRETI.
4. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following to exchange data between them _____ **SEBI.**
- Note:**
- The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between SEBI and CBDT on an automatic and regular basis.
 - In addition to regular exchange of data, SEBI and CBDT will also exchange with each other, on request and suo moto basis, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out their functions under various laws.
5. What is the budget outlay of the Central Sector Scheme "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund" which was approved by the Union Cabinet _____ **Rs 1 lakh crore.**
- Note:**

- The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.
- Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years.

6. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with which technology company to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth ____ **Microsoft India Private Limited.**

Note:

- The partnership with NSDC is an extension of Microsoft's Global Skilling Initiative. Under this, the company is teaching new digital skills to 25 million people all over the world, which is needed in the coronavirus (Covid-19) economy.
- The integration between the two firms will give the youth a chance to redefine their skills for the digital economy.

7. Under whose chairmanship the IRDAI has formed a 9- member working group to look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool' ____ **Suresh Mathur.**

Note:

- Suresh Mathur, Executive Director, Irdai, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members.
- Apart from studying the need for such as pool, the group will also recommend the structure and operating model.

8. Recently approved the union cabinet the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme is a sub-scheme under ____ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY).**

Note:

- Under this existing vacant government-funded housing complexes across key cities will be converted into ARHCs, and offered to concessionaires for 25 years to rent out the units to urban poor and migrant workers.
- State and civic bodies will select concessionaire through bidding, according to guidelines issued by the housing and urban development ministry.

9. Which IIT has tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC) ____ **IIT Hyderabad.**

Note:

- Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is tie-up with a multinational technology company, NVIDIA to establish India's 1st 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC).
- This centre is established to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.

10. Which ministry released first five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscript recently ____ **Ministry of Culture.**

Note:

- The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was recently presented to the Government of Mongolia.
- Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.

11. Which company has partnered with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India to lead the scale up program of Digital India and Information Technology start-ups ____ **T-Hub.**

Note:

- As many as 10-15 startups with leading-edge solutions in mobility, energy, agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, consumer, healthtech, medtech, smart cities and logistics and supply chain sectors will be shortlisted.
- The call for application for the program will commence in July 2020.
- Startups will be shortlisted from hundreds of applications after an extensive screening process.

12. Who was the head of the 9-member committee to study various issues related to non-personal data that called for a new legislation to regulate such information _____ **Kris Gopalakrishnan**.

Note:

- The committee strongly recommends that the proposed Non-Personal Data Governance Framework becomes the basis of a new legislation for regulating non-personal data.
- The committee was set up last year the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).

13. India's second VNR 2020 report titled "Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local" was presented by which body/ministry to the UN High-level Political Forum _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- The HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, presented the VNR.

14. BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding with which of the following to encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-ups platform _____ **IIT Alumni Council**.

Note:

- The alliance will ensure entity transparency, improvement in governance, market discovery of share price, provide liquidity for private equity investors and enable retail participation.
- IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the 23 IITs with over 100 city chapters globally.

Important News – State

1. Which state's finance commission has recommended for Rs 23,848 crore for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies over six financial year _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- These funds allocated will be for strengthening the ULBs and PRIs in the state financially so that various developmental projects and maintenance of existing assets can be taken up by these institutes and bodies.

2. Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is being upgraded to a National Park is located in which state of India _____ **Assam**.

Note:

- It is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, spreading across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam (Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar).
- After upgradation, Dehing Patkai will be the 6th national park in Assam.
- The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

3. e-Commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with which state MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- The partnership under the Flipkart Samarth programme will enable local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their hallmark products to a pan-India customer base, the company said in a release.
- Both the Government of Karnataka and the Flipkart Group will focus on creating avenues to increase business and trade inclusion opportunities for these underserved segments of the society, thereby adding further thrust to Made in India efforts.

4. Which becomes the first state in India to use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for safeguarding government lands _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- The Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System is a geo-tagged repository that would monitor and detect all government lands in Bhubaneswar.
- This will be done by using high-resolution satellite imagery.

5. Which state government will be setting up a stress relief fund of around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, in a bid to support developers undertaking Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects _____ **Maharashtra**.

Note:

- The State government's contribution will be around ₹700 crore to ₹1,000 crore, while the State Bank of India's contribution will be bigger."
6. N Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of which state has inaugurated five water supply projects worth Rs 48.39 crore recently _____ **Manipur**.
- Note:**
- The five Water Supply projects located at different districts of Manipur were constructed with the total cost of 48.39 crore rupees having total capacity of more than 26.15 millions of liters per day.
 - The New Development Bank has sanctioned 3,000 crore rupees to provide potable water to every household of the state and work orders for the projects have been issued.
7. Which state government has approved the Startup Policy 2020 _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The validity of this policy is five years from the date of notification which is estimated to provide direct employment to more than 50,000 people and generate self-employment to around 1.5 lakh people.
 - UP was anointed as the "Inspiring Leader" in the national startup ranking in 2018.
8. Which state government has launched 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks.
 - As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state.
 - Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.
9. India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic was organized in which state of India _____ **Chhattisgarh**.
- Note:**
- The high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing.
 - Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum where pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised whereas e-lok adalat will be handled virtually.
10. Which state government has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to provide digital payment solutions to the state's transport department _____ **Jharkhand**.
- Note:**
- The Digital solution solution will enable the traffic police to equip themselves with Point of Sale (POS) machines to collect traffic-related penalties.
 - The traffic rules violators can also use this online payment facility to pay a fine.

Important News – World

1. What edition of "Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)" was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic _____ **Fourth**.
- Note:**
- From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar participated in meet.
 - The meet was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.
2. Which became the first two countries from the South East Asia Region of WHO to have successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus _____ **Sri Lanka and Maldives**.
- Note:**
- Sri Lanka and Maldives the first two countries from the South-East Asia Region of the WHO to achieve the target.
 - The target year set by the WHO for eliminating Rubella Virus from the South-East Asia Region is 2023.
3. Which becomes the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy _____ **Germany**.
- Note:**

- This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources.
 - German closed its last coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.
4. What is India's rank among 10 Asia-Pacific countries in the "Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control" prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) _____ **eighth**.
- Note:**
- The 10 Asia-Pacific countries included in this report were — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.
 - India records below-average scores across all three pillars in the EIU's ICP — policy and planning, care delivery, and health system and governance.
5. According to Dun and Bradstreet's (D&B) Country Risk and Global Outlook Report in 2020 the global economy is likely to contract by _____ **5.2%**.
- Note:**
- As per report, the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022.
 - India's economy is expected to contract this fiscal year after four decades of positive growth.
 - In March, 2020 D&B downgraded India's rating to DB5c from DB4d, stating the magnitude of downgrade and the risk level highest since 1994.
6. Which country has imposed a ban on all private Indian news channel _____ **Nepal**.
- Note:**
- Except for the Indian State-owned Doordarshan's news channel DD News, Nepal based Multi-System Operators have issued a broadcasting ban on all other Indian News Channels in Nepal.
7. What will be the rise in mean average global temperature in next 5 years as per the report "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-24" released by the WMO _____ **1.5°C**.
- Note:**
- This is because of man-made greenhouse emissions and there is a 20% chance that it will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in at least one year between 2020-2024.
 - Overall, it is very likely to be within the range 0.91 – 1.59°C.
 - The 1.5 C mark is the level to which countries have agreed to try to limit global warming as per 2015 Paris accord.
8. Under whose chairmanship the World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 _____ **Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.
- Note:**
- The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
 - While Helen Clark served as an administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, Ellen Sirleaf is a recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.
 - Both will choose other Panel members.
9. The ADB has entered into a 5-year agreement with Qatar-based Education Above All Foundation to work jointly for project worth of _____ **\$100 million**.
- Note:**
- It will put at least 3.2 lakh out-of-school children, including refugees and internally displaced children into quality primary education.
 - Initially, 10 nations have been selected for projects namely- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
10. Recently which country has expressed interest to have an Open Sky Agreement with India _____ **UAE**.
- Note:**
- Open Sky Agreements are bilateral agreements that the two countries negotiate to provide rights for airlines to offer international passenger and cargo services. It expands international passenger and cargo flights.
 - Open skies between India and UAE will allow unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.

11. Which of the following countries has approved an Expat Quota Bill _____ **Kuwait**.

Note:

- According to the bill, Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law, over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait.
- The draft expat quota bill has been deemed constitutional and will be transferred to the respective committee so that a comprehensive plan is created.
- Lawmakers and government officials including the Prime Minister of Kuwait have been calling to reduce the number of expats from 70% to 30% of the population.

12. In which country the world's first gold-plated hotel was unveiled _____ **Vietnam**.

Note:

- The hotel overlooks the Giang Vo Lake. It boasts of a gold-plated infinity pool on the roof.
- The 25-storey hotel cost approximately \$200 million to build. Rooms at Dolce start at \$250 per night.

13. Which country's Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology's COVID-19 vaccine becomes the first in the world to successfully completed the Human Clinical Trials _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- The trials on volunteers were conducted from 18th June 2020 at Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University.
- At Sechenov University, the Director of Institute for Translational Medicine and Biotechnology has informed that the First Group of Volunteers will be released on 15th July 2020 while the Second Group of Volunteers will be released next Monday (20th July 2020).

14. According to the data released by the United Kingdom which has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019 _____ **India**.

Note:

- The United States of America remains as the top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of the UK, delivering 462 projects and 20,131 jobs.
- The List is followed by India, Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.

15. Which of the following countries has launched a two-month campaign to clean up websites aimed at users under the age of 18 _____ **China**.

Note:

- The campaign will be for a period of two months, mostly websites providing online learning content through live streamlining or video conferencing.
- They will be checked as a part of the campaign, also instant messaging tools and android applications offering entertainment, quick part-time jobs for easy money, etc will be checked.

16. Which country drops India from Chabahar rail project, cites funding delay _____ **Iran**.

Note:

- Four years after India and Iran signed an agreement to construct a rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in funding and starting the project.

17. With Which country Iran has entered into a 25-year Strategic Partnership that would allow for billions of dollars investments in energy and other sectors - including the military _____ **China**.

Note:

- In exchange for this investment, Iran would supply Beijing with a heavily discounted supply of oil over the next 25 years.
- China is a key market for Iranian crude oil exports, which have been dampened by US economic sanctions imposed after Washington's 2018 withdrawal from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal with Tehran.

Honor & Awards

1. Which state's Darpan Portal and Mobile app, which contains the details of the schemes of the government received the Elites Excellence Awards 2020 by the IT institution Elites Technomedia under the Digital India Initiative _____ **Chhattisgarh**.

Note:

- The e-certificate was presented during the three-day virtual conference from 10th July to 12th July organised to encourage innovation in the IT Sector of the Government.
- The conference was inaugurated on 10th July 2020 by Nitin Gadgari, Union Minister of MSME.

2. Who among the following has been honoured with the "Top Publicist" award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London _____ **Sachin Awasthi**.

Note:

- The Global Humanitarian Award 2020 is instituted as a part of the Honoring the Honorable initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive(WHD).
- The award is to honour the popular men and women who contribute to the betterment of the society and the world.

3. Which Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) has won the the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category _____ **NTPC Limited**.

Note:

- The company has also received Commendation for Significant Achievement in the category of CSR.
- CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognize and reward excellence in sustainability practices. It is considered to be the most credible platform for sustainability recognition in the country.

4. Who has won the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2020 _____ **Kezang D Thongdok**.

Note:

- Kezang D Thongdok won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award for his documentary "Chi Lupo"
- The documentary Chi Lupo portrays the customs and practices of the Shertukpen community.

5. Who among the following has been honoured with Paul Harris Fellow recognition _____ **Edappadi K Palaniswami**.

Note:

- The recognition is in the honor of Rotary founder, Paul Harris who contributed to The Rotary Foundation.
- The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is conferred to honour the efficient service of people who provide drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc. to its people.

Sports News

1. Who has won the Formula One's season opening 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.

2. Egyptian Raneem El Welily is associated with which sports who announced her retirement recently _____ **Squash**.

Note:

- Nouran Gohar of Egypt claims the No.1 ranking after the retirement of Welily.
- Raneem El Welily became the top ranking squash player in 2015 and became the 1st Arab woman to secure the world's top ranking in any sport.

3. Joshna Chinappa is associated with which sports who secured 10th position in World Women's Ranking 2020 _____ **Squash**.

Note

- She first entered the top 10 list in 2016 second to Dipika Pallikal, the other Indian woman squash player to enter the top 10 ranking.

- Saurav Ghosal, India's top male squash player, remains in the 13th position in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) ranking.
4. Who has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria _____ **Lewis Hamilton**.
Note:
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull- Belgium) was third.
 - It was the second race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship and the first running of the Styrian Grand Prix.
5. Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced to postpone the Asia Cup cricket tournament until ____ **June 2021**.
Note:
- The tournament was earlier scheduled to be held in September 2020.
 - India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament and is the defending champions, having won the last two tournaments.
6. Mile Jedinak is associated with which sports who has announced his retirement from the sport _____ **soccer**.
Note:
- Former Socceroos captain Mile Jedinak has announced his retirement from the sport. Socceroos is the official nickname of the Australia national soccer team that represents Australia in international men's soccer.

Books & Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'A Song of India' _____ **Ruskin Bond**.
Note:
- The book is the 4th instalment in his memoir series.
 - The book portrays his unknown life before he became a successful author. It is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.
2. Who has authored the book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' to be released in 2020 ____ **Tenzin Geyche Tethong**.
Note:
- The book is published by Roli Books.
 - The biography is a memorable portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

Science and Defence

1. Which institutions has launched a cartridge-based machine named 'Compact XL' that will be able to test and handle multiple samples at the same time ____ **Mylab Discovery Solutions Private Limited**.
Note:
- The machine will reduce the need for laboratory technicians for handling and testing samples to one, as an individual will be able to operate the machine.
 - This automated system will be able to handle samples of RNA/DNA based test, RT-PCR test, Plasma, Tissue, Swab, and Sputum.
2. To bolster the comprehensive strategic partnership and boost maritime relations the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has signed an MoU with which country's coastal force ____ **Indonesia**.
Note:
- The MoU was signed through video conferencing amid the global travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The objective of this MoU is to enhance the collaborative and cooperative engagements in maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue and marine pollution response.

3. Which Indian company has launched the first of its kind in the world- reusable face masks and PPE Kits in collaboration with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based HeiQ Materials AG _____ **Loyal Textile Mills.**

Note:

- The reusable mask and PPE Kit was launched by Loyal Textile Mills with collaborating with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based textile innovation company- HeiQ Materials AG.
- Along with reusable masks and PPE kits, reusable garments with zero virus penetration were also unveiled by Loyal Textile Mills.

4. Israel Weapon Industries Assault Rifle's- Arad and Carmel will be manufactured at the PLR Systems Private Ltd in which state of India _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- This will be a major boost to the domestic small arms industry and as well as the Make in India initiative.
- Both IWI Carmel Assault Rifle and Arad Assault Rifle was a caliber 5.56 X 45 mm, Carmel Assault Rifle has a Rate of Fire (RPM) in between 700-1000 rounds per min.

5. The Indian army has set its eyes on acquiring hand-launched, remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle Raven from which country _____ **USA.**

Note:

- As per media reports, procurement of 200 pieces of AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven is in advance level.
- The RQ-11 Raven is a remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that is launched with hand.

6. The Indian army is set acquire state-of-the-art Spike Firefly "loitering" ammunition from which country _____ **Israel.**

Note:

- The Spike Firefly is developed under a joint venture of Israeli company- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel's Ministry of Defence.
- The Spike Firefly has loitering capability and can be carried by a soldier as a part of his kit.
- The Spike Firefly can be operated from a table by a single user without requiring any special skills to operate.

7. By which year the Indian Navy will get new twin-engine aircraft carrier-based fighter aircraft being developed by the DRDO _____ **2032.**

Note:

- It will replace the MiG-29Ks in service which are scheduled to start going out by 2034.
- The Navy currently operates Russian-origin carrier INS Vikramaditya and expects to have the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) Vikrant operational by 2022.

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