

# SSC & Railways Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (1 - 15 Sept)

## Bi-weekly One Liners Updates 1-15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear readers,

**Bi-Weekly One Liners Update** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of September 2020. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Vedanta has tied up with which bank for a long term syndicated loan facility for Rs.10000 crore \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**

**Note:**

- Syndicated loan is a loan offered by a group of lenders to provide credit to a large borrower.
- As a lender State Bank of India(SBI) has committed Rs.5000 crore.

2. Which bank has launched 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects by renowned developers from key cities across the country \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank.**

**Note:**

- The exhibition is available for everyone, including ICICI Bank's customers and those who are not customers of the Bank.
- It offers them enhanced convenience, as they can simply browse through these projects online, from the comfort of their home and office

3. Which Life Insurance company has introduced an Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered voice chatbot, "LiGo", on Google Assistant \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company.**

**Note:**

- This will enable the company's policyholders to address their queries by simple voice commands. It provides an easy to use and convenient service touch-point for customers.
- Expanding the functionalities of LiGo to Google Assistant is part of the company's strategy to be on platforms that customers prefer and to offer them an immersive experience.

4. Which bank has partnered with Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt Limited to provide convenient and affordable options of bank's debit card through Innoviti Point of Sale (POS) terminals \_\_\_\_\_ **Federal Bank.**

**Note:**

- The partnership will offer Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) options to over 7.5 million Federal Bank Debit Card holders at over 70,000 Innoviti POS terminals across 1000 cities.
- The partnership is in view of COVID-19 crisis as people are cautious about their spending and still will need affordable options in essential categories such as healthcare, education and IT (computers and laptops).

5. Which state government has received the nod from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to form its Crop Insurance Firm Andhra Pradesh General Insurance Company (APGIC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Andhra Pradesh is among the few states like Bihar, West Bengal that has chosen to have their own crop insurance schemes.
- Andhra Pradesh General Insurance Company (APGIC) will run the state's own YSR Free Crop Insurance Scheme.

6. Which public sector company has decided to invest over 1.22 lakh crore rupees on development of nearly 500 projects \_\_\_\_\_ **Coal India Ltd (CIL).**

**Note:**

- It includes coal evacuation, infrastructure, project development, exploration and clean coal technologies in the country.
- The investment aims at making India self-reliant in terms of coal and achieve the production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024.

7. Which Life Insurance company has launched "Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana" a group life insurance scheme for employees working in the military cantonment areas across India \_\_\_\_\_ **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).**

**Note:**



- Launched during the two-day webinar organised by the Ministry of Defence and Directorate General of Defence Estates(DGDE) to improve the implementation of Central Sponsored Schemes(CSS) in the 62 cantonments around India.
8. Which Investment Bank will invest € 650 million for the first metro line of Kanpur \_\_\_\_\_ **European Investment Bank.**  
**Note:**
- Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (UPMRC) is the promoter-Financial intermediary for this project.
  - €650 million(Rs 5,551.99 crore) investment is the 5th investment of EIB in green infrastructure and connectivity in India i.e Bhopal, Pune, Bangalore and Lucknow.
  - This investment will boost GOI and its Urban Development “Smart Cities Mission”, as Kanpur is one of the first 100 targeted Smart Cities in the country
9. With which entity the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has released a report titled ‘Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments’ \_\_\_\_\_ **PayPal India.**  
**Note:**
- Apex body on data protection in India, set up by NASSCOM, the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), along with PayPal India released a report titled ‘Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments’.
  - The report suggests to safeguard payments for consumers, MSMEs, businesses, as the e-commerce market in India and UPI transactions are growing manifold during the recent times. It also discussed about the threats in the payment ecosystem and its prevention.
10. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office what is the contraction in India’s GDP growth in first quarter of FY 20-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **23.9%.**  
**Note:**
- This was mainly on account of limited economic activity in the country during the quarter amid lockdowns to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.
  - This is the first instance of an economic contraction for the country in at least four decades, and also the first GDP decline since India began publishing quarterly numbers in 1996.
11. Which equipment finance company has bagged a euro 10 million loan from KfW IPEX-Bank to facilitate German exports to India \_\_\_\_\_ **SREI Equipment Finance Private Limited.**  
**Note:**
- Through this arrangement, KfW IPEX-Bank will provide modern and energy-efficient construction machinery for use in Indian infrastructure projects.
  - The financed machinery from a German construction machine manufacturer includes asphalt machines, road pavers and rollers, said a press statement issued by Srei.
12. LazyPay has launched the buy-now-pay-later concept called LazyUPI that will offer a credit limit of \_\_\_\_\_ **One lakh.**  
**Note:**
- The offering allows the users to access the real-time credit using UPI across omnichannel networks, which includes offline merchants and e-commerce platforms.
  - It is to be noted that this solution is a strategic response to the market demand for easy access to credit across the (online and offline) platforms and higher ticket-size pay-later options.
13. The RBL Bank has launched a cardless cash withdrawal facility from ATMs, through the Instant Money Transfer (IMT) system in partnership with which entity \_\_\_\_\_ **Empays Payment Systems India Pvt Ltd.**  
**Note:**
- This service enables the customers of the RBL Bank to withdraw cash without their debit cards from 389 IMT-enabled bank’s ATMs or more than 40,000 other bank ATMs across the country.
14. Which Mutual Fund has unveiled Magnum Children’s Benefit Fund - Investment Plan, an open-ended fund for parents to invest for their children \_\_\_\_\_ **SBI Mutual Fund.**  
**Note:**

- The scheme, open for subscription from September 8, is a part of SBI Magnum Children's Benefit Fund that currently has Savings Plan, a predominantly debt-oriented offering.
  - The new plan for children aged 1 year going up to when he/she is 14 years old.
  - There would be a lock-in period for at least 5 years or till the child attains age of majority, whichever is earlier.
15. Which state government has signed \$82 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the implementation of the State Roads Transformation Project \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- The project will strengthen the transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh.
  - It aims at improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of state road network.
16. Which public sector bank has launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- This international contactless debit card will be available in metal and plastic variants.
  - This card will have a spending limit of up to ₹5 lakhs on POS & e-commerce and ₹1 lakh on ATM
17. Which finance company to launch a portal 'PayBima' through which it will provide digital services to the customers of its insurance brokerage \_\_\_\_\_ **Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd.**
- Note:**
- It a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited(Mahindra Finance).
  - PayBima will help Mahindra insurance broking services to transform it into a "phygital" model that will leverage its feet-on-the-street agents at over 400 locations in the country, with the digital aggregation and settlement services.
18. Which bank is planning to launch loan product 'SAFAL' for organic cotton growers \_\_\_\_\_ **State bank of India.**
- Note:**
- The bank is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in a big way for generating business.
  - Currently, the bank has more than 40 Machine Learning based models which it uses across the spectrum for business, risk mitigation, fraud management.
19. Which bank finds top position in the Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) Banking reform index 2020 prepared by Indian Banking Association (IBA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of Baroda.**
- Note:**
- State Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) got the 2nd and 3rd place respectively.
  - The Indian Banking Association (IBA) makes EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) reform index.
20. The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India's FY21 GDP growth forecast at \_\_\_\_\_ **-11.8%.**
- Note:**
- The rating agency estimates the economic loss in FY21 to be Rs 18.44 lakh crore.
  - The rating agency also expects India's GDP to rebound and grow at 9.9% year-on-year in FY22 primarily due to the weak base of FY21.
21. Which financial service company has launched a digital currency testing platform aimed at helping central banks test their digital currencies \_\_\_\_\_ **Mastercard.**
- Note:**
- The platform will allows central banks to test how proposed central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) would work in real life.
  - The system will also demonstrate how consumers can use central bank digital currencies to pay for goods and services wherever Mastercard is accepted worldwide.
22. According to the CRISIL Research the Indian economy will shrink by what percent in financial year 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **9%.**
- Note:**
- CRISIL revising its forecast down from 5% owing to uncertainty over the spread of Covid-19 and lack of adequate financial support from the government.

- For FY22, Crisil has projected India's GDP to grow at 10%.
23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) laid down guidelines for appointment of chief compliance officer (CCO) in banks for a minimum fixed period of \_\_\_\_\_ **three years**.
- Note:**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) laid down guidelines for appointment of chief compliance officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.
  - CCO "shall not be given any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest."
24. Domestic rating agency, CARE Ratings projected what per cent of contraction of Indian GDP in the current financial year (FY2020-21) \_\_\_\_\_ **8-8.2%**.
- Note:**
- This decline shows that there will be no increase in capital expenditure (capex) during the year along with a decline in the gross fixed capital formation.
  - The forecast for GVA growth in FY21 is -7.7%.
25. ICICI Prudential Life has partnered with which bank to offer insurance products \_\_\_\_\_ **NSDL Payments Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under the agreement, ICICI Prudential Life will provide its customer-centric protection and savings products to customers of NSDL Payments Bank.
26. Which bank has launched 'Festival Bonanza Offer' for its customers to give a push to subdued loan demand due to the COVID-19 crisis \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under the 'Festival Bonanza Offer', the bank will waive all upfront or processing fees and documentation charges on some of its major retail products like housing loans and car loans.
27. Which has become the 1st India company to cross \$200-billion mark \_\_\_\_\_ **RIL**.
- Note:**
- Shares of the company were up 6.2 per cent in midday trading in Mumbai after hitting a record intraday high.
  - Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani is turning his focus toward retail after successfully building India's top telecom network by customers in less than four years, hoping to take a dominant position as India's huge consumer market comes of age.
28. Which bank has fully repaid the ₹50,000 crore provided by RBI as a special liquidity facility (SLF) amid the crises faced by the lender earlier this year \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank**.
- Note:**
- The government and RBI had replaced the entire board of the lender in March this year and also stopped depositors from accessing their funds for a few days.
  - A new management was installed, the restrictions were lifted and it also completed a Rs 15,000-crore capital raise during the pandemic which will help it restart lending operations.

### Obituaries

1. Veteran politician and former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee passed away recently, which post he did not serve \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Minister**.
- Note:**
- He was never served as Home minister of India.
  - He hold post finance minister and External Affairs Minister Twice
  - Finance minister from 1982-84 and 2004-2012
  - External Affairs Minister from 1995-96 and 2006-2009
  - He also hold the post of Defence Minister from 2004-2006.
2. Renowned personality Joe Ruby passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Animation Creator**.

**Note:**

- He was the founder of television animation production company Ruby-Spears Productions, together with Ken Spears.
- They were noted for co-creating the animated series Scooby-Doo

3. Noted personality Dr S Padmavati passed away at the age of 103 years due to COVID-19, she was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_

**Cardiologist.**

**Note:**

- She was the first female cardiologist of India and was popularly known as "God Mother of Cardiology".
- She was the founder of the National Heart Institute. She was born in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1917, a year before the world was hit by the Spanish Flu pandemic.

4. Famous cricketer David Capel held from which country who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **England.**

**Note:**

- He made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1987.
- Capel made 270 first-class appearances for Northamptonshire from 1981-1998
- He became the first cricketer born in the county to play a Test for England in 77 years when he made his debut against Pakistan in July 1987.

5. The petitioner of a historic case, Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, Kesavananda Bharati passed away recently, he was chief pontiff of which Mutt/temple \_\_\_\_\_ **Edneer Mutt, Kasaragod.**

**Note:**

- Shri Kesavananda Bharati was the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India.
- He was a follower of Smartha Bhagawatha tradition and the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy.
- He took Sanyasa at the age of 19 and headed the Edneer Mutt as the Peetadhipathi until his death.

6. Renowned sportsperson Tom Seaver who passed away recently, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Baseball.**

**Note:**

- He became a constant on magazine covers and a media presence, calling postseason games on NBC and ABC even while still an active player.
- Seaver was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1992 when he appeared on 425 of 430 ballots for a then-record 98.84%.

7. Famous personality Jiri Menzel passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Film Director.**

**Note:**

- His 1st feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains' won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968.
- Menzel won the Czech Lion for lifetime artistic contribution and was honoured by the Karlovy Vary festival.

8. Renowned personality Govind Swarup passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Astronomer.**

**Note:**

- He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- He is well known for his many important research contributions in several areas of astronomy and astrophysics.

9. Renowned personality Johnny Bakshi passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Film maker.**

**Note:**

- Veteran producer-director, Johnny Bakshi passed away. He mostly worked as a producer, backing films such as Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain, (1974), Raavan, (1984) and Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee (1993).
- He has also directed two films Daku Aur Police (1992) and Khudai (1994).

10. Renowned personality Jaya Prakash Reddy passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor.**

**Note:**

- He was working as a sub-inspector of police when he got an opportunity to act in Venkatesh's 1988 film Brahma Puthrudu.
- He was last seen in Mahesh Babu starrer Sarileru Neekevvaru (2020).

11. Famous personality Diana Rigg passed away recently she was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.

**Note:**

- British actress Diana Rigg, whose commanding career stretched from iconic 1960s spy series The Avengers to fantasy juggernaut Game of Thrones passed away.
- Ms. Rigg also starred in 1967 James Bond thriller On Her Majesty's Secret Service as the only woman ever to marry Agent 007.

12. Renowned personality Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician**.

**Note:**

- He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar.
- Singh had served as the Union Minister for Rural Development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's cabinet.

### Important Days

1. United Nations celebrates the International Day of Charity globally every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **05<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Note:**

- The day is being celebrated to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others via volunteer and philanthropic activities.
- The day also recognizes the role played by charity in reducing humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations.

2. The International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is observed globally on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **7<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Note:**

- The day aims to raise public awareness at all levels individual, community, corporate and government that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
- The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on September 7th, 2020.

3. What was the theme of the 55th International Literacy Day 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond**.

**Note:**

- International Literacy Day is observed globally on 8th September every year.
- The theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective, and therefore, mainly focuses on youth and adults.

4. International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **9<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Note:**

- The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict.
- The resolution proclaiming the Day was presented by the State of Qatar and co-sponsored by 62 countries.

5. The World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **10 September**.

**Note:**

- The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.
- The theme for the 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.

6. On which date Hindi Diwas is celebrated to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India \_\_\_\_\_ **14<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Note:**

- The Constituent Assembly of India had, in 1949, recognised and adopted Hindi — an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script — as the official language of the newly-formed nation.
- Hindi is one of the two official languages of the Union government — the other being English.
- It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the Republic of India.

## New Appointments

1. Mustapha Adib has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Lebanon**.  
**Note:**
  - He was Lebanon's ambassador to Germany.
  - Mustapha Adib was named by four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs on their choice for the post.
2. Who has been appointed as the trade envoy to India by Australian government along with Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh for advancing business ties with India \_\_\_\_\_ **Matthew Hayden**.  
**Note:**
  - Three new appointments to the board of the Australia-India Council were announced
  - Lisa Singh, former Labor Party Senator from Tasmania, would be the Deputy Chair.
  - Former Victoria Premier Ted Baillieu and former cricketer Hayden are the other new members.
3. Who has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned defence shipbuilder, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Hemant Khatri**.  
**Note:**
  - He will replace Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd). Previously, Hemant Khatri was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL.
  - Hemant Khatri was appointed as the CMD of HSL was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet(ACC) on 27th May 2020 with effective from 1st September 2020 till 31st July 2025 the date of his superannuation or until further orders.
4. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Aveek Sarkar**.  
**Note:**
  - He succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers.
  - Aveek Sarkar was the founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books, the founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.
5. Who becomes the first women Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) \_\_\_\_\_ **Usha Padhee**.  
**Note:**
  - She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post.
  - The central deputation tenure of Usha is scheduled to end on 16th July 2022.
  - She succeeds Rakesh Asthana (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) on 17th August 2020.
6. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab and Sindh Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **S Krishnan**.  
**Note:**
  - Prior to this appointment, he was an Executive Director at Canara Bank.
  - He will replace S Harishankar, the current MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
7. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Murali Ramakrishnan**.  
**Note:**
  - Ramakrishnan had retired from ICICI Bank as Senior General Manager at Strategic Project Group on May 30, 2020, and joined the South Indian Bank as an advisor on July 1, 2020.
  - He represented the bank in the board of CIBIL and the risk advisory board of VISA for the Asia Pacific.
8. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board \_\_\_\_\_ **VK Yadav**.  
**Note:**

- The chairman and CEO will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a DG (HR).
  - The Cabinet had earlier approved the restructuring of the Railway Board, whose strength has been cut from eight to five, as part of large scale reforms initiated by the national transporter.
9. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life \_\_\_\_\_ **Ayushmann Khurrana**.
- Note:**
- The actor will promote its products and digital services across offline and online mediums.
  - Khurrana will feature in the brand's next campaign 'Smart Living' that encompasses its term plan – Smart Protect Goal and the new digital service – Smart Assist.
10. Name the cricketer who has been appointed as the first cricket ambassador of SBOTOP sportsbook brand \_\_\_\_\_ **Dwayne Bravo**.
- Note:**
- Bravo is recognised as one of Caribbean cricket's best ever 'all-rounders', representing the West Indies in all formats of the sport.
  - He has represented the country in 256 test matches and 120 one-day-internationals and is also considered as one of the best ever 'all-rounders' of the sport.
11. Who has been elected as the President of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) \_\_\_\_\_ **Kenichi Ayukawa**.
- Note:**
- He will replace Rajan Wadhwa.
  - Ashok Leyland MD and CEO, Vipin Sondhi has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM.
12. Which state tops Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) or Ease of Doing Business ranking 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.
- Note:**
- Ranking of various States of India on the basis of implementation of Business Reform Action Plan had started in 2015. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 was a comprehensive plan including 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.
13. Which association appointed Vinkesh Gulati as its 35th President for the year 2020-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations**.
- Note:**
- Gulati is the Director of United Automobiles, based out of Allahabad and Faridabad.
  - United Automobiles is involved in the Auto Dealership business since the year 1985 and are dealers for brands like Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Auto.
14. Who has been appointed as the president of All India Tennis Association (AITA) \_\_\_\_\_ **Anil Jain**.
- Note:**
- He was elected unanimously to lead the administration of AITA after Praveen Mahajan's tenure as AITA President came to an end this year.
  - Anil Dhupar was elected as the Secretary-General and Rohit Rajpal will serve as the Treasurer of AITA.
15. Who has been appointed Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Chennai, with consular jurisdiction over Tamil Nadu and Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **S. Mahalingam**.
- Note:**
- Mr. Mahalingam retired as chief financial officer and executive director of Tata Consultancy Services.
  - Mr. Mahalingam is replacing former Honorary Consul Suhasini Maniratnam, whose mandate was terminated after five years.
16. Who has been appointed to the World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness \_\_\_\_\_ **Preeti Sudan**.
- Note:**
- The decision by the panel's two heads, former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke and former Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

- In a meeting of the Chairs, Helen Clarke is believed to have conveyed that Sudan's experience as the head of the government ministry that led India's response to the pandemic makes her much more suited for the job.
17. Who has been appointed as the new chief of National School of Drama (NSD) \_\_\_\_\_ **Paresh Rawal**.
- Note:**
- In a career span of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994.
  - He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry
18. Which pair of cricketers has been appointed as the brand ambassadors of the fantasy sports gaming platforms, Playerzpot \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Smriti Mandhana**.
- Note:**
- The partnership will see the cricketers in the brand's upcoming campaigns and promote Playerzpot through engagement activities.
  - The duo will anchor the brand with their sports charisma and help in creating a higher brand recall amongst the key target audience.
19. Who has been appointed as the first women Chief Executive Officer of the Citigroup \_\_\_\_\_ **Jane Fraser**.
- Note:**
- She will be the first women CEO of Citigroup
  - She will take over the top job in February, replacing Michael Corbat who will retire.
  - Fraser, who has served as president and CEO of global consumer banking since 2019, will join the board of directors immediately.
20. Who has been appointed as the celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign titled as 'For Every Child' by UNICEF \_\_\_\_\_ **Ayushmann Khurrana**.
- Note:**
- He will support UNICEF towards ending violence against children, by working towards this initiative in India.
  - After his appointed, Ayushman Khurrana joins the like of former football star David Beckham who is working on this campaign globally

### Important News - India

1. According to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report the maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.
- Note:**
- The cases of suicide and the number of accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year compared to 2018, according to the annual National Crime Records Bureau report.
  - The maximum cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).
2. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract of what amount for supply of six Pinaka Regiments \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 2580 Cr**.
- Note:**
- The contract has been signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces.
  - Induction of Six Pinaka Regiments which comprise 114 Launchers with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning System (AGAPS); 45 Command Posts to be procured from M/s TPCL and M/s L&T and 330 Vehicles to be procured from M/s BEML, is planned to be completed by 2024.
3. Who will head the six-membered committee constituted by IRDAI on index-linked products following requests for permission from life insurers to introduce such products \_\_\_\_\_ **Dinesh Pant**.
- Note:**

- It will also examine the products earlier available in the market in terms of product structure, ease of customer understanding and administrative processes and any other matter of relevance.
  - Current IRDAI product regulations do not specifically permit insurers to sell index-linked products.
4. As per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau which city recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**.
- Note:**
- According to the data, a total of 1,400 persons died in road accidents and 529 persons died because of driving dangerously or carelessly in Delhi followed by Jaipur in Rajasthan where 320 persons died and Asansol in West Bengal where 301 persons died due to reckless driving.
  - Delhi recorded the highest number of deaths due to dangerous driving and overall road accidents in 2019 among all cities, the data shared by National Crime Records Bureau showed.
5. Union Power Minister R K Singh launched the GTAM initiative that will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the Renewable Energy Sector. What is full form of GTAM \_\_\_\_\_ **Green Term Ahead Market**.
- Note:**
- The move, that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector.
  - The initiative will also help in achieving 175 GW renewable energy (RE) target of the country.
  - It will lessen the burden on RE-rich states and incentivize them to develop RE capacity beyond their own RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation).
6. What is India's rank in the 13th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School \_\_\_\_\_ **48<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D-intensive global companies.
  - Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 5 positions are dominated by high-income countries.
7. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has decided to block how many mobile apps in view of the emergent nature of threats \_\_\_\_\_ **118**.
- Note:**
- The step is expected to safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users and will also ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace.
  - 118 mobile apps have been blocked by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology by invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.
8. Which renewable power company of India has been ranked as World's Largest Solar Power Generation Asset Owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects by the Mercom Capital \_\_\_\_\_ **Adani Green Energy Ltd**.
- Note:**
- Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communication consulting firm.
  - AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GigaWatts (GW) and its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW.
  - AGEL's renewable energy portfolio stands at 12.32 GW, which exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.
9. Which became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20 Companies of 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation**.
- Note:**
- Amul was ranked 16th with an annual turnover of USD 5.5 billion (approximately Rs 40,240 Crores). Switzerland's Nestle topped the list.
  - Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company.

10. Who is the chairman of the steering committee constituted by central government for green initiatives in the coal sector \_\_\_\_\_ **VK Saraswat.**

**Note:**

- The objective behind this webinar was to discuss the road map for achieving the 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification target by 2030 with investments worth over Rs4 lakh crores.
- Notably, a Steering Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. VK Saraswat for green initiatives in the coal sector.

11. With which organization the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised a two-days long “National Tribal Research Conclave \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).**

**Note:**

- The inaugural session of conclave was addressed by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda.
- The National Tribal Research Conclave was organised to review the progress on the results of projects launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 10 research partners shared their projects in the 2-days long conclave.

12. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources with its counter part of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Finland.**

**Note:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the MoU.
- The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis, Seismic and other Geophysical surveys

13. Which University has developed the ‘EnglishPro’ mobile app that was launched by the Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank \_\_\_\_\_ **Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.**

**Note:**

- The app is developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.
- The app will help learners develop Indian English Pronunciation in the unique “Indian” way.
- This app will be “a useful digital tool” and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds.

14. Name the mission approved by the Union Cabinet which is aimed at bringing post-recruitment reforms in the Civil Services \_\_\_\_\_ **Mission Karmayogi.**

**Note:**

- The objective of this mission is to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future with right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India by focusing on competency led capacity building.

15. Which helpline has been launched by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for mental health rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_ **KIRAN.**

**Note:**

- The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The helpline – 1800-500-0019 will provide relief and support to persons with mental illness.

16. Which city tops the list of destinations for a career in Artificial Intelligence (AI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- Job searches in the field have risen 106 per cent in the past year (June 2019 to June 2020), and this has increased further by 20 per cent from March to July 2020, in line with the onset of the pandemic.
- AI-related job postings have also seen a steady rise in the last two years, with a 51 per cent jump between June 2019 and June 2020.

17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Jaipur.**

**Note:**

- The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in the Pink City.

- Prime Minister Modi also released two books written by the Group Chairman on the occasion, authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

18. As per NSO report on 'household social consumption' in its 75th round of the survey which state emerged as least literate state in the country with 66.4% of literacy rate \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- As per the report Kerala again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy followed by Delhi (88.7%), Uttarakhand ( 87.6%), Himachal Pradesh (86.6%) and Assam (85.9%).
- The overall literacy rate in India is pegged at 77.7% where rural areas have 73.5% literacy rate and urban areas has 87.7%.

19. Who will chair the Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC) constituted by the NITI Aayog \_\_\_\_\_ **Sanyukta Samaddar**.

**Note:**

- It has members from Ministry of Power, Women & Child Development, Telecommunication, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.

20. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with which networking company to provide access to free learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability \_\_\_\_\_ **LinkedIn**.

**Note:**

- According to LinkedIn, Indian professionals with digital skills are 20 percent more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020.
- Under the partnership, 10 free LinkedIn learning paths, consisting of 140 courses for a range of in-demand tech jobs will be made available for free on eSkill India digital platform till March 31, 2021. It will help India's youth to develop skills needed for jobs.

21. Which entity has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges \_\_\_\_\_ **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**.

**Note;**

- The programme will spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.

22. The first World Solar Technology Summit 2020 held virtually was attended by how many countries \_\_\_\_\_ **149**.

**Note:**

- The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.
- The main objective of the summit is to pay attention to state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies.

23. Which scheme has been launched by the Prime Minister Naredra Modi aims to focus on the focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

**Note:**

- The scheme will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,050 crores within a period of 5 years from the fiscal year 2020-21 to the fiscal year 2024-25 in all states and union territories.
- The scheme was announced as a part of the centre's AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package.
- The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector.

24. Which International airport has QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers \_\_\_\_\_ **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai.**

**Note:**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai has put in place a QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers, which allows them the use of their mobile phones to remotely operate check-in and self-bag drop kiosks for printing boarding passes and bag tags.
- Passengers at Mumbai airport just need to scan the QR code shown on the kiosks to access a remote keyboard and mouse on their mobile device, without touching the kiosks.

25. Under whose chairmanship the Government of India has constituted an Expert Committee for making an overall assessment of relief to bank borrowers related to waiver of interest and waiver of interest on interest on the COVID-19 related moratorium \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajiv Mehrishi.**

**Note:**

- State Bank of India will provide secretarial support to the committee.
- The Committee may consult banks or other stakeholders, as deemed necessary, for the purpose.

26. Hubballi Railway Station in Karnataka has been renamed after \_\_\_\_\_ **Siddharoodha Swamiji.**

**Note:**

- Union government has approved long-pending demand of Hubballians of renaming the Hubballi railway station.
- Name of Hubballi railway station, which is headquarters of South Western Railway, is being changed for the second time in the last five years. It was changed in 2015 from 'Hubli' to 'Hubballi'.

27. 'Streets for People' challenge has been launched by which entity \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry.**

**Note:**

- The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.

28. As per DPIIT which state emerged as the best performer in developing start-up ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- Gujarat was categorised as the best performer among all States and one Union Territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern States and other UTs.
- A total of 22 States and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.

29. Which institution has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas \_\_\_\_\_ **NIMHANS.**

**Note:**

- The research by a team of doctors led by Bharath Holla, Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Integrative Medicine; Rose Dawn Bharath, Professor and Head of the Department of Neuro-Imaging and Interventional Radiology; and Dr. Benegal, was published in the journal Human Brain Mapping on August 26

30. Which Shrine/Temple has been granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration enabling it to receive foreign donations \_\_\_\_\_ **Golden Temple.**

**Note:**

- Govt's decision to allow FCRA to Sri Harmandir Sahib will deepen the connection of Seva between the Sangat and Sri Darbar Sahib

- FCRA registration has been given in the name of 'Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Saheb Sri Darbar Saheb Punjab Association', a body set up in 1925
- The FCRA will be valid for 5 years.

31. Which became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs. 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).**

**Note:**

- The company's market valuation went past ₹9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price.
- The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91% to ₹ 2,442.80 — its record high — on the BSE.

32. Which IT company will acquire Czech Republic-based GuideVision for up to €30 million (about ₹260.4 crore) \_\_\_\_\_

**Infosys.**

**Note:**

- The acquisition is being carried out by Infy Consulting Company Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of Infosys Ltd.
- As per the regulatory filing, the cost of acquisition is "up to €30 million including earn-out and bonuses".

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- During the campaign over 7 lakh, people took the oath to maintain cleanliness and eight lakh 70 thousand people were approached to make compost from wet waste.
- Four lakh 65 thousand masks were distributed with the help of citizens under the mask awareness campaign.

2. According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, which one is not an official of Jammu and Kashmir union territories \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhoti.**

**Note:**

- The J&K official languages Bill 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session. This bill will include Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages of the Union Territory.
- Bhoti is spoken in Ladakh region

3. Which state government has launched AMA SAHAR and SWACHHA SAHAR web app \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha.**

**Note:**

- With the launching of web app, the urban local bodies (ULBs) will be able to submit utilisation certificate online which will bring better fiscal management.

4. Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme, Goa is paired with which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Jharkhand.**

**Note:**

- Stalls of Jharkhand displayed delicacies from that state and Goans enjoyed savouring the same.
- Folk dances presented by Jharkhand artistes also were appreciated by Goan artistes.
- Later Goan artistes also visited Jharkhand and presented Goan folk dances.

5. Which state government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to set up a Bulk Drug Park (BDP) \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative partnership between the State government and CSIR-IICT to establish Bulk Drug Pharma park in the State
- It seeks financial support from the Centre.

6. Which state government has launched 'I Rakhwali' app for Environment Protection \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab.**

**Note:**

- With this new initiative, the state govt aims to safeguard the state forest area by making people a stakeholder in this process.
- The state govt came up with the concept of the app to encourage people to come forward and contribute to the protection of the environment.

7. Which is all set to create the Udyog Bandhu-like body for farmers to assist Farmer Producer organisations \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of Udyog Bandhu, to assist enterprising farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) that the Centre had announced in August.

8. First ever Cannabis medicine project will be setup in which state/UT \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Note:**

- Cannabis Medicine Project will be set up in collaboration with Canada and Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu.
- It is the first major foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory (UT).

9. Which state constituted a seven-member high-level committee to study the National Education Policy of the Centre and to make recommendations \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu.**

**Note:**

- Vice-Chancellors of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University K. Pitchumani; Alagappa University N. Rajendran; Madurai Kamaraj University M. Krishnan; and Thiruvalluvar University S. Thamarai Selvi are among the members in the panel.

10. Which state government has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot “Apka Mitra” and Online Admission Platform for UnderGraduate courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges for the new academic session 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_

**Haryana.**

**Note:**

- ‘Apka Mitra’ is the first-of-its-kind educational WhatsApp Chatbot to resolve admission related queries of the students.
- Students can send a message on Whatsapp chatbot number 7419444449 to get information regarding admission & scholarship.

11. Which state government has launched Sampurna Poshana Yojana scheme for providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The scheme aims at providing food to lactating mothers and pregnant women so as to fulfil their nutritional requirements.
- The scheme will bring down malnutrition among the vulnerable section of state.

12. Which state government has inaugurated an online portal for e-filing of consumers’ complaints \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi.**

**Note:**

- Accessible via delhistatecommission.nic.in, the software has been developed by National Informatic Centre (NIC) in coordination with State Bank of India, which is providing payment gateway for payment of fees digitally.
- The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDRC) decided to launch the portal for the convenience of consumers especially due to the pandemic.

13. Which state government has launched Kitchen Garden to promote nutritious food, as part of the Poshan Maah \_\_\_\_\_

**Assam.**

**Note:**

- Kitchen Garden or Nutri garden will be set up at Anganwadi Centres and Government Primary Schools across the state.

- Poshan Maah is India's flagship programme, launched in March 2018 to improve the nutritional status of children up to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
14. Which state government has launched a portal for eye donation \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:**
- He also pledged to donate his eyes as part of the National Eye Donation Fortnight.
  - The portal will enable persons who wish to pledge to donate their eyes - [www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor](http://www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor).
15. Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa inaugurated a flyover named after which historic personality \_\_\_\_\_ **Veer Savarkar**.  
**Note:**
- The inauguration of the 400-metre long flyover built on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in the city.
  - The Bengaluru's civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built the flyover at the cost of Rs 34 crore.
16. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) software company, UiPath has partnered with which state's Skill Development Corporation to bridge the growing skill requirements \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:**
- The programme is designed to bridge the growing skill requirements and build RPA resiliency in more than 50,000 students, in the next one year.
  - In line with this, APSSDC will act as the regional center for all UiPath Academic Alliance activities in the State. To start off, UiPath will onboard 100 APSSDC institutes.
17. From which state country's second and South India's first "Kisan Train" was flagged off \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:**
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy & Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the train, via a video link from New Delhi and Amaravati. This train, loaded with 14 parcel vans, will cover a distance of 2,150 km in 40 hours.
18. An Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (IGRAMS) has been launched in which state/UTs \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu & Kashmir**.  
**Note:**
- The system will replace the current portal launched by the government in 2018.
  - This is the first UT that will be linked to the central government system—CPGRAMS.
19. Which state government has launched 'GARIMA' scheme to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.  
**Note:**
- State Housing and Urban Development department will be the scheme's implementing agency in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.
  - The scheme will benefit around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families.
20. India's largest piggery mission was launched at which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Meghalaya**.  
**Note:**
- With funding of Rs 200 crore, the mission will have a transformative effect benefitting over 20,000 enterprises in Meghalaya.
  - The Meghalaya State Piggery Mission was launched with the support of NCDC.

### Important News - World

1. The publication of "Ease of Doing Business" report has stopped by which organization to probe data collection irregularities in the annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank**.  
**Note:**

- According to World Bank “A number of irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018 and Doing Business 2020 reports, published in October 2017 and 2019”.
- World Bank would conduct a systematic review of data changes in the last five Doing Business reports, and independent auditors will probe data collection and review processes.

2. Which country is providing an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of an amount of approx. Rs. 3,500 crores to India to fight COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan**.

**Note:**

- Japan has committed the loan for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support in order to fight the COVID-19 crisis.
- The ODA loan will support India’s efforts in its fight against COVID-19. It will also assist the country to prepare the health system to handle future epidemics. It will also increase the resilience of India’s health systems against infectious diseases.

3. Which country has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the food industry of that country \_\_\_\_\_ **UAE**.

**Note:**

- It has been launched by Dubai’s free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai’s authority on commodities trade and enterprise.
- This initiative will enable Indian farmers to connect directly, bypassing intermediaries, with the entire food industry in the UAE, including food processing companies, traders and wholesalers.

4. Which becomes the first African country to eliminate sleeping sickness \_\_\_\_\_ **Togo**.

**Note:**

- Togo has not reported any cases in the past 10 years.
- There are two forms of sleeping sickness. The first, due to Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, is found in 24 countries in west and central Africa and accounts for more than 98% of cases.
- The second form, due to Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense, is found in 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa and represents the rest of cases.

5. Which three countries have to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in the Indo-Pacific region \_\_\_\_\_ **India-Australia-Japan**.

**Note:**

- The initiative will help in building a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the region.
- Proposed by Japan and to reduce the dependency on China.

6. Google has partnered with which country to bring the flood warning services to the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh**.

**Note:**

- Announcing this on its official blog Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country.
- More than 65 per cent of people who receive advance flood warnings take action to protect themselves and their assets.
- The company is also partnering with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to build to deliver alerts to people who don’t have smart phones to receive the alerts directly.

7. Which country chaired the 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) held virtually \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhutan**.

**Note:**

- The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference.
- The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as COVID 19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.

8. Social Media platform Whatsapp has partnered with which of the following foundation to create awareness on cyber safety among students \_\_\_\_\_ **CyberPeace Foundation.**

**Note:**

- The facebook-owned messaging platform noted in a press release that “this is an effort to build on their earlier partnership with WhatsApp under the “e-Raksha” program that reached thousands of students.
- With the collaboration, the platforms aim to reach nearly 15,000 students across five states including Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra by the end of 2020.

9. Which International organization has launched a new publication, “The Little Book of Green Nudges” for university students \_\_\_\_\_ **UNEP.**

**Note:**

- The books aimed to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- The book is UNEP’s first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them, and was drafted with The Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal.

10. Which country will host the G20 Education Ministers Meeting to be held at the end of 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Saudi Arabia.**

**Note:**

- The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20’s 2020 activities: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All.
- The meet was chaired by Saudi Arabia’s Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Asheikh where India was represented by Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the virtual mode.

11. With which country and eight companies of that country the Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoUs in the food processing sector \_\_\_\_\_ **The Netherlands.**

**Note:**

- Representatives of seven companies from across the country and the Netherlands government signed the MoU in the presence of chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.
- These companies would help farmers through the state government in the food processing sector, including harvesting, processing and packaging of fruits, vegetables, fish and aqua products.

12. Zolfaghar-99 is an annual three-day naval exercise of which country that was held near the strategic Strait of Hormuz \_\_\_\_\_ **Iran.**

**Note:**

- Units from the navy, air force and ground forces participated in the maneuver in the Gulf of Oman.
- Iranian submarines and drones were used during the exercise.
- The annual maneuver dubbed as Zolfaghar-99 was aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion.

13. With a focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region which three countries have held the first trilateral dialogue \_\_\_\_\_ **India, France, Australia.**

**Note:**

- The three countries also had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism.
- The trilateral dialogue helped underscore the goal of guaranteeing peace, security and adherence to international law in the Indo-Pacific.

14. India and which country signed the Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement boosting the interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan.**

**Note:**

- The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Mr Suzuki Satoshi

- This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in the reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities

### Honor & Awards

1. Who becomes the first Divyanga sports person of the country to get the prestigious Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Satyendra Singh Lohia.**  
**Note:**
  - He is also the first Asian Divyanga swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes.
  - Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh was also conferred with the Best Sports person National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.
2. Which Indian International Airport has won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management' \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.**  
**Note:**
  - It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC).
  - The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.
3. Which Maharatna Public Sector Undertakings has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC Limited.**  
**Note:**
  - AIMA Chanakya National Management Games is an online Business Simulation Game which is conducted every year.
  - The championship aims to ensure that executives participating in the event get the onboard experience about the complexities of running an organisation and gain expertise and skills from this event.
  - It also enables the Corporate Managers to face the thrill of Managing Business in a competitive mode.
4. Who has been conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ **Sir David Attenborough.**  
**Note:**
  - He is an English broadcaster and a historian.
  - He is popular for writing and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit.
  - He worked to make aware to preserve and protect the biodiversity of the planet.
5. American global aerospace and defence technology company, Northrop Grumman, announced to name its next Cygnus capsule after which astronaut \_\_\_\_\_ **Kalpana Chawla.**  
**Note:**
  - Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003.
6. Name the Indian filmmaker who won the best screenplay award at the Venice Film Festival \_\_\_\_\_ **Chaitanya Tamhane.**  
**Note:**
  - Chinese-American filmmaker Chloe Zhao bagged the top prize of the coveted Golden Lion for her drama Nomadland.
  - The Jury headed by two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett.

- Mr. Tamhane a, became the first director from the country to compete in the main category of a European film festival after Mira Nair.

### Sports News

1. Jayanti Behera who has been awarded with the Biju Patnaik sports award in Odisha is associated with which sports\_\_\_\_\_ **Para-Athletic.**

**Note:**

- Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka and para-athlete Jayanti Behera received the Biju Patnaik sports award for outstanding performance.
- Both of them received a citation along with cash award of Rs 2 lakh each.

2. The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in \_\_\_\_\_ **2021.**

**Note:**

- The Cycling Summit 2021 will consist of cyclists, athletes, fitness and sports enthusiasts, cycling coaches, health and nutrition experts, and influencers.
- There will also be indigenous and global brands that cater to the needs of health, fitness and cycling enthusiasts. The summit is estimated to attract around 25,000 people in each city.

3. Who becomes the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last 7 years \_\_\_\_\_ **Sumit Nagal.**

**Note:**

- He went into second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis by defeating Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open
- Prior to him, Somdev Devvarman is the last player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open in 2013
- He will now face Austria's Dominic Thiem in the 2nd round.

4. Who has won the prestigious Annual World Open online chess tournament \_\_\_\_\_ **P Inian.**

**Note:**

- He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top.
- The 48th edition of the annual event was held online from August 7-9.

5. Famous cricketer, Ian Bell announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, he held from which country \_\_\_\_\_

**England.**

**Note:**

- He made his debut in 2004. He played 118 Tests, 161 ODIs, and 8 T20Is for England. He retired from ODIs in 2015 to focus on Test cricket.
- He won five Ashes series out of seven. He was the Player of the Series in the 2013 series, where he scored 562 runs at an average of 62.44.

6. Who has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held at Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Italy \_\_\_\_\_ **Pierre Gasly.**

**Note:**

- This is his first Grand Prix win. Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place.

- Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.
7. Who has been crowned as Wushu World Champion Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test \_\_\_\_\_ **Poonam Khatri**.  
**Note:**
- Her medal got upgraded after Iran's Maryam Hashemi failed her dope test.
  - Maryam won the gold medal in the Women's Sanda event at this Championship last year in October.
  - She defeated Poonam in the 75 kg category in the final which was held in China.
8. Who among the following has won the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament \_\_\_\_\_ **Dominic Thiem**.  
**Note:**
- Thiem is also the first player to capture a Grand Slam title from two sets down since Gaston Gaudio at 2004 French Open.
  - For the first time in six years, there was a first-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open.
9. Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the women's single title at the 2020 US Open tournament defeating \_\_\_\_ **Victoria Azarenka**.  
**Note:**
- Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open.
  - She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles.
  - The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.
10. The Formula one driver who will drive for the Racing Point in the next season \_\_\_\_\_ **Sebastian Vettel**.  
**Note:**
- Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season.
  - The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin.
  - The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season "and beyond" but did not reveal the length of the contract.
11. Who has won the Formula One (F1) Tuscan Grand Prix 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Lewis Hamilton**.  
**Note:**
- This was Hamilton's 6th win of the season and 90th F1 victory of his career.
  - Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas (Finland) bagged 2nd position, followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull-Thailand) at the F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020
  - It was the 1st edition of Tuscan Grand Prix and 9th race of F1 2020

### Books and Authors

1. First newspaper for kids 'The Young Minds' has been launched in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam**.  
**Note:**
- Specifically designed for kids the newspaper is the brainchild of Neelam Sethia and Neha Bajaj.
  - The Young Minds, reportedly, will cater to kids of 4-14 years of age.
2. Who has authored the children's picture book titled "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv" \_\_\_\_\_ **Karan Johar**.  
**Note:**
- The book will be published by Juggernaut Books.
  - The book narrates the story of the twins Luv and Kusha and features the challenges faced by the parents and the difference imposed between the boys and girls by the parents while raising them
3. Who has authored the book titled 'The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind' \_\_\_\_\_ **Ramachandra Guha**.  
**Note:**
- The book portrays the entire arc of the game(cricket) in India, across all levels at which it is played and gives a glimpse of local heroes, provincial emblems and international stars.

- The book will be co-published by HarperCollins India and William Collins.
4. Who has authored the book titled “Let Us Dream” set to release in December 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Pope Francis**.  
**Note:**
- The book will be an outcome of numerous exchanges between Pope Francis and his Biographer Austen Ivereigh in the weeks following the Coronavirus outbreak around the world.
  - Austen Ivereigh is a Roman Catholic Journalist, Commentator, the author based out of Britain.
5. The book titled “Invertonomics: 8 ideas to transform India” has been authored by which of the following \_\_\_\_\_ **Goonmeet Singh Chauhan**.  
**Note:**
- The book presents practical ideas and models to solve the 8 specific fundamental problems of India like, Social inequality, Air pollution, Cleanliness, Safer Cities, Women empowerment and rural economy deteriorating etc.
  - It was published by published by HarperCollins India.
6. Who has authored the book titled ‘Breaking The Cocoon @ 40’ \_\_\_\_\_ **Radha Nair**.  
**Note:**
- It is a delightful collection of select events from her life, which also holds a mirror to the time the incidents are set in.
  - Acting on her brother’s suggestion, Radha decided to write about her experience of working as a dream merchant in the ad agency.
7. Who has authored the book titled ‘Breaking The Cocoon @ 40’ \_\_\_\_\_ **Radha Nair**.  
**Note:**
- Acting on her brother’s suggestion, Radha decided to write about her experience of working as a dream merchant in the ad agency.
  - However, she realised that it would be a slim book indeed if it were to cover only her ad agency days.

### Science and Defence

1. What is the name of the remote-controlled medical trolley developed by the Indian Railway to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients \_\_\_\_\_ **MEDBOT**.  
**Note:**
- During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like foodgrains to people, Indian Railways has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients.
  - It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways
2. Which organization has developed World’s Largest Solar Tree \_\_\_\_\_ **Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur**.  
**Note:**
- The solar tree has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power while its installed capacity is above 11.5 kWp.
  - The Solar Tree has been designed in such a way that it ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight.
  - A single solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels each having a capacity of 330 wp each.
3. India along with which country scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.  
**Note:**

- Three Russian navy ships will take part in the exercise along with an equal number from the Indian Navy, along with some aircraft.
  - This is also the first bilateral naval exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to COVID-19.
4. The students from which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) have launched a free-of-cost mobile scanner application “AIR Scanner” \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Bombay**.
- Note:**
- The app saves the scanned document in PDF format and stores directly in the device.
  - The AI (Artificial Intelligence) based Reading Assistant and Document Scanner app is developed by Rohit Kumar Chaudhary and Kavin Agrawal.
5. Which institutions has launched a special decontamination device called ‘Chakr DeCoV’, to decontaminate N95 masks \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The Chakr DeCoV device is designed in the shape of a cabinet.
  - Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.
6. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) with the ability to travel at \_\_\_\_\_ **six time of speed of sound**.
- Note:**
- The test was conducted from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.
  - Now, India has joined the elite club of the United States, Russia and China to develop and successfully test Hypersonic Technology.

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