

Weekly One Liners

August 22-31



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st August 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31st) of **August 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Asian Development Bank has approved what package to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India _____ **USD 1 billion**.

Note:

- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

2. In partnership with which of the following Yes Bank has a digital `Loan against Securities` under the Loan in Seconds platform for instant loan disbursements _____ **KFin Technologies Private Limited**.

Note:

- By leveraging Yes Bank's strong technology and analytics and with the help of algorithmic processes offering customised solutions, real time online loan application processes would take place offering seamless experience for customers.

3. The Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business has been merged with which General Insurance Company _____ **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company**.

Note:

- The deal would result in the emergence of the third largest non-life insurer in India.
- The merger would result in an entity with a combined annual premium of Rs 16,447 crore and a market share of nearly 8.7 per cent.

4. Which bank has launched a new initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities' to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country _____ **Axis Bank**.

Note:

- The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.
- This hiring model comprises two working patterns.

5. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Limited by which company _____ **Siemens Limited**.

Note:

- The proposed combination envisions acquisition of 100% of the share capital of C&S Electric Limited (C&S) by Siemens Limited (Siemens India).

6. The Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra has signed a loan agreement of \$500 million with which bank for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III _____ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

Note:

- The aim of the project is to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- With a population of 22.8 million (2011), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is the most populous metropolitan region in India and is expected to reach 29.3 million by 2031 and 32.1 million by 2041.

7. As per the new announcement made by the Finance Ministry of the Government of India what shall be the annual turnover for the Businesses to enjoy GST exemption _____ **40 lakh**.

Note:

- Previously the threshold limit was Rs 20 lakh.
- During the commemoration ceremony of the first death anniversary of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Finance Ministry of GoI released a series of statements
- GST has reduced the tax rate as well as increased the number of taxpayers.

8. The Chamber of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA) partnered with which organization to set up a help desk for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) _____ **UNDP**.

Note:

- The help desk will provide information on various government safety guidelines, regulatory norms, schemes and support measures during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The help desk will be active till January 2021.

9. Which Indian conglomerate has launched “super app”, an e commerce app with an aim to take on Amazon and Reliance Industries in the country's booming e commerce sector _____ **Tata Group.**

Note:

- The app will offer food and grocery ordering, fashion and lifestyle, consumer electronics and consumer durables, insurance and financial services, education, healthcare and bill payments,
- The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.

10. Which becomes the first bank in India to use satellite data to assess the creditworthiness of farmers _____ **ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- The satellite data with demographic and financial details provides strong information on the land asset of the farmers.
- Usage of this technology will help farmers with existing credit to expand their eligibility and help new-to-credit farmers to get better access to formal credit.

11. Which insurance company has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called ‘Shagun – Gift an Insurance’, which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy _____ **SBI General Insurance.**

Note:

- The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured.
- A Gift giver (policy buyer) can gift this product to anyone like family, friends, extended family and even domestic helpers, chauffeurs, drivers, cook, etc.

12. Which financial institution has introduced, ‘Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) _____ **NABARD.**

Note:

- It is a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product to ensure uninterrupted flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. Name the payment technology company that tied up with Goals101.ai to create targeted and personalized offers for Bank cardholders _____ **VISA.**

Note:

- Through this alliance, Goals101.ai connects merchants and issuers using big data, AI and automation to create targeted and personalized offers for Bank cardholders.
- Through this partnership, Mastercard and Goals101.ai will launch a section within the platform called ‘For You’ which will unify all the bank channels and properties into one.

14. Which bank to acquire 17% (17.002%) of the equity share capital in Max Life Insurance (Max Life) instead of 29% _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- After the transaction, the total ownership of Axis bank in Max Life will be 18%.
- Axis Bank and Max Life will approach the respective regulatory authorities, with revised applications for their consideration and approval.

15. Which bank has ‘Liberty Savings Account’ for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic.

16. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 projected India's growth at what percent for 2020-21 _____ **minus 4.5%.**

Note:

- It is the Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of Section 53(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

- In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21.
17. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for 2019-20 has decided to dissolve which of the following bodies _____ **Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI)**.
- Note:**
- It was set up in February 2006 as an independent and autonomous body for formulating codes of conduct to be adopted by banks voluntarily for ensuring fair treatment of customers.
 - BCSBI, in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved two codes – Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank's Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises.
18. Which foreign bank has launched Omni Collect, a one-stop solution in India for businesses to offer multiple payment options on a single platform _____ **HSBC India**.
- Note:**
- It is designed for businesses to easily collect payments through various digital methods, thereby allowing them to easily adapt to the changes in consumer spending.
19. Which bank has announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers _____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- The partnership is powered by Adobe Experience Cloud Solutions and will help HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.
20. The Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with which of the following to develop an installment platform, which will enable the issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face Point of Sale (PoS) in India _____ **Visa**.
- Note:**
- The installments platform with the suite of platform capabilities leveraging Innoviti's uniPAYNEXT platform and Visa's APIs, provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase.
21. Which insurance company has launched 'Smart Assist', a 1st of its kind technology service in the insurance industry _____ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited**.
- Note:**
- It helps the customers to know about product details while enjoying virtual assistance and maintaining social distance protocol.
 - It is the latest in the series of initiatives by Bajaj Allianz Life to enhance the customer experience by digitizing its operations, making them easy-to-use and completely secure

Obituaries

1. Chariots of Fire' star Ben Cross who passed away recently belonged to which country _____ **UK**.
- Note:**
- He belonged to United Kingdom.
 - He was born Harry Bernard Cross in London to a working-class Catholic family.
 - After graduating from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (Rada), he moved from the stage to screen and took a minor role in the 1977 war film A Bridge Too Far, which starred Sir Sean Connery and Sir Michael Caine
2. Famous personality Pascal Lissouba passed away recently; he was president of which country _____ **Congo**.
- Note:**
- He served as the president from 1992 to 1997.
 - He served as the Prime minister under the Presidency of Alphonse Massamba Debat.
 - The high court of Justice in the Republic of Congo sentenced Pascal Lissouba in absentia to 30 years forced labour for treason and corruption in 2001.
3. Renowned personality Arnold Meyer Spielberg passed away at an age of 103 years, he was a veteran _____ **Computer Scientist**.
- Note:**
- Spielberg and Charles Propster designed the GE-225 mainframe computer in the late 1950s while working for General Electric.
 - The machine allowed computer scientists at Dartmouth College to develop the programming language BASIC, which would be essential to the rise of personal computers in the 1970s and '80s.
4. Renowned personality Gail Sheehy passed away recently, she was a veteran _____ **Writer**.

Note:

- Sheehy's honors included the National Magazine Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and a citation from the American Psychological Association.

5. Famous sports personality Purushotham Rai passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Athletic coach.**

Note:

- He became the third person from the state of Karnataka to win Dronacharya award in Athletics.
- He coached number of top athletes namely Olympian quarter-miler Vandana Rao, heptathlete Pramila Aiyappa, Ashwini Nachappa, Murali Kuttan, MK Asha, EB Shyla, Rosa Kutty and GG Pramila.

Important Days

1. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition observed globally every year on which date _____ **23 August.**

Note:

- The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- The day was designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

2. The World Water Week 2020 is observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from _____ **24th to 28th August 2020.**

Note:

- The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is '**Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action**'.

3. The Women's Equality Day is being observed in the United States on _____ **26th August.**

Note:

- This was 100th anniversary of the Women's Equality Day.
- The day is celebrated to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote.

4. The National Sports Day is observed every year on which date _____ **29th August.**

Note

- The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.

5. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on _____ **29th August.**

Note:

- The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

6. The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed every year on _____ **29th August.**

Note:

- The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in **enforced or involuntary disappearances** in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction.

New Appointments

1. Who has been sworn in as the President of Dominican Republic _____ **Luis Rodolfo Abinader.**

Note:

- He succeeds Danilo Medina of Liberation Party. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%.
- The 53-year old Luis Rodolfo Abinader was elected to the four-year term on July 5, which ended the 16-year run in power by the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

2. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI) _____ **Ashwani Bhatia.**

Note:

- He has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation that is May 31, 2022.
- Bhatia is currently working as the managing director and chief executive officer at SBI Mutual Fund.

3. Who has been appointed as the Election Commissioner of India _____ **Rajiv Kumar**.

Note:

- Mr. Kumar has been appointed in place of Ashok Lavasa, who has resigned to join the Asian Development of Bank.
- Mr. Kumar is an ex-IAS officer of the 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre.

4. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF) _____ **Vinay Tonse**.

Note:

- Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF).
- He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.

5. Who has been re-elected as the President of African Development Bank _____ **Akinwumi Adesina**.

Note:

- The 60-year-old Nigerian was the sole candidate to head the continent's biggest multilateral lender, in a virtual vote as a result of the coronavirus, at the end of its two-day annual meetings.

Important News - India

1. Who will head the ten-member committee set up by IRDAI to recommend setting up loss prevention entities for non-life insurers _____ **TL Alamelu**.

Note:

- The ten-member committee headed by Irdai member T L Alamelu has recommended the regulator and industry participants to join hands in establishing this company.

2. Which company has launched the FerroHaat App, a first-of-its-kind mobile application (App) in the world to source steel scrap from the traders _____ **Tata Steel**.

Note:

- The new app is a major step by the company to organise India's scrap market while also providing a reliable source of scrap metal for the steel industry.

3. Who launched the mobile app named 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways _____ **Nitin Gadkari**.

Note:

- Under this initiative, the NHAI planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the national highways between July 21 and August 15, 2020.
- The minister launched 'Harit Path', a mobile app to monitor the plantations through geo-tagging and web-based GIS-enabled monitoring tools.

4. Which ministries has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, a requirement under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 _____ **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Note:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up this council to cater to the transgender community with various essential needs.
- The Union Minister of social justice will be the head of the commission.

5. As per the recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), India filed what per cent of the global patent applications _____ **Less than 1 per cent**.

Note:

- The recent data published by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has shown that India filed less than 1% of the global patent applications with total filings of 2,053 in 2019.

6. The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda has e-inaugurated "Tribes India Showroom" in which city of India _____ **Mumbai**.

Note:

- The showroom has been inaugurated in Indian Globe Chambers of LIC Western Zonal Office, Fort, Mumbai.
- "Tribes India Showroom" is an initiative of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote the livelihood of the tribal people marketing.
- "Tribes India on Wheels" is also launched by TRIFED to boost the sales and enhance tribal income in these challenging times.

7. Ministry of Tourism has signed an MoU with which entity and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with primary objective of women empowerment _____ **Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)**.

Note:

- The signed MoU will enable FLO & TAAI to focus on personal and hospitality skills, a more flexible work balance and greater options for entrepreneurship with lower capital.
- The partnership between the three aims to increase the participation of women in the tourism sector and enable them to become an integral part of the tourism workforce of India.

8. APEDA functions under which ministry that has signed two MoUs with AFC India Limited and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors _____ **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Note:

- It has signed two MoUs one each with AFC ((formerly Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd) India Limited, and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), Delhi for working together in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors.

9. Who headed the task force constituted by the NITI Aayog that recommended linking of Sugarcane prices to sugar rate _____ **Ramesh Chand.**

Note:

- The Niti Aayog task force has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates to keep the industry in sound financial health.
- It has also pitched for a one-time increase in minimum sugar price to Rs 33 per kilo to help sugar mills cover the cost of production.

10. Which IT majors joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support Indian women entrepreneurs _____ **Tech Mahindra.**

Note:

- WTI awards is an initiative of the WEP to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors like healthcare and life sciences, agritech and education, among others.

11. ReNew Power signed a partnership agreement with which organization to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency _____ **UNEP.**

Note:

- This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a part of progressive strategies that India has adopted to realise its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
- The aim is to shift the heating and cooling sector to an energy efficient one.

12. Which energy solution provider entered into an MoU with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) to explore renewable energy power supply solution and energy storage _____ **Greenko Energies Private Limited.**

Note:

- This comes under the framework of India's World largest clean energy programme, a part of global climate change commitments, which aims to have 175 GW of clean energy by 2022.
- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC limited.

13. Which government body has developed the 'Vendor Performance Evaluation System' to establish a transparent and comprehensive performance rating system for its consultants, contractors and concessionaires _____ **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).**

Note:

- The portal-based objective assessment of vendors was initiated to track the vendor performance for various NHAI projects.
- The vendors are required to conduct a self-assessment and upload the documents related to the project activities executed by them on the portal.

14. Which division of Indian Railways has introduced a drone-based surveillance system to protect railway assets _____ **Central Railway.**

Note:

- The Mumbai Division of Central Railway zone has recently procured Ninja UAVs.
- RPF has procured as many as nine drones at a cost of Rs 31.87 lakh at Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, South Western Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, and Raebareli.

15. Who has launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App _____ **Rajnath Singh.**

Note:

- The Mobile Training App will support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.
- The DGNCC Mobile Training App seeks to offer entire training material to the NCC cadets on one platform.

16. National e-Governance Division (NeGD) is working under which ministry that signed an MoU with Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Limited to facilitate delivery of UMANG app services to citizens _____ **MeitY**.

Note:

- This will benefit those citizens who either do not have access to smartphones or are not comfortable accessing app based e services on their own.
- Notably, all the UMANG services at CSCs are available at zero cost and will be provided by CSC operators Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

17. Who among the following has launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system _____ **Piyush Goyal**.

Note:

- The system is developed by the integration of the Industrial Information System (IIS) with State GIS systems.
- The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.

18. Which company has partnered with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs _____ **Mahindra & Mahindra**.

Note:

- The corner modular architecture of REE integrated with the design, engineering, sourcing, ecosystem and production capacity of Mahindra will provide zero emission vehicles, including the autonomous vehicles.
- This will improve the mahindra's capabilities in the Electric Vehicle(EV) sector.

19. Who will chair the 5-member committee constituted by DRDO to review charter of duties of 57 DRDO labs on the basis of current and futuristic defence and battlefield needs _____ **Valipe Ramagopal Rao**.

Note:

- The five-member committee will be chaired by Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi director V Ramagopal Rao.
- The committee will submit its report in 45 days.

20. Under whose chairmanship a three-member committee has been to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre _____ **DB Shekatkar**.

Note:

- This is in line with the recommendation of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (retd) committee on enhancing the military's combat potential and rebalancing defence expenditure.

21. In partnership with which organization the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative (SFC) to Promote Sustainable Finance in India _____ **UNDP**.

Note:

- In this regard, a three days consultation centered on the broad scope of Sustainable Finance architecture in India was held to accelerate green finance by bringing together leading experts and organizations.

22. Which next-generation startup Challenge contest has been launched by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad _____ **Chunauti**.

Note:

- This contest is a part of Rs 95 crore programme, spanning over 3 years, will hunt for around 300 startups working in identified areas and to provide them seed funds of up to Rs 25 lakh and other support from government through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

23. Who represented India in the virtual 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) chaired by Vietnam _____ **Piyush Goyal**.

Note:

- It was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States.
- The Meeting was chaired by Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.

24. The Union Government is planning to come up with Mega Bamboo Industrial Park in which place _____ **Ghati**.

Note:

- Apart from this government is also planning to set up a Mega Bamboo Industrial Park at Ghati near Jammu and Bamboo Technology Training Centre will also come up in the region.
- This was announced by the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh.

Important News – State

1. Which state has launched the 'Ek Sankalp – Bujurgo ke naam' campaign for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19 _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**
Note:
 - In this campaign, the police are taking care of the elderly people from the food to their health. Renowned social activist Anna Hazare has also praised this initiative of Chhatarpur Police.
2. Which state government has launched the Niraman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan for construction workers from August 24 to September 11 _____ **Delhi.**
Note:
 - Special camps would be set up for construction workers to register themselves and take advantage of nearly 18 different assistance schemes.
 - Delhi government will set up camps at 70 schools—one each in all the 70 assembly constituencies of Delhi—to help workers who are not tech-savvy.
3. Uttar Pradesh government has signed a 'plan of cooperation' with which country to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region _____ **Israel.**
Note:
 - The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand.
 - It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand
4. Which state government is working on a mobile-based application to enable farmers to upload picture of grievances such as water availability in canals and their redressal in a fixed timeframe _____ **Odisha.**
Note:
 - The application being developed through Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) will use command area of projects as geo-fencing region to forward the grievance to the authority concerned.
5. Which state government has extended a ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of COVID-19 _____ **Maharashtra.**
Note:
 - The Maharashtra government has extended ₹50 lakh insurance cover to private doctors who die of coronavirus infection during the pandemic.
 - In a circular issued, director of state Health Services Dr Sadhana Tayde said the insurance cover, which is being given to doctors in government and semi- government services, has now been extended to private medical practitioners who succumb to the infection.
6. Which state is to host the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival 2020 _____ **Kerala.**
Note:
 - The festival has been christened as Thumbimahotsavam 2020.
 - 'Pantalu' is the official mascot of the festival. As part of the festival, various programmes will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of society.
7. The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in which state of India _____ **Assam.**
Note:
 - The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.
 - The new ropeway service empowered with state-of-the-art technology will decrease the travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati.
8. Which state government has launched a new scheme for promoting intensive aquaculture through Biofloc technology in fisheries _____ **Odisha.**
Note:
 - The scheme will provide livelihood support to entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and interested progressive fish farmers and will also increase fish production in the state.

9. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 45 highway projects in which state _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- He also announced that Rs.700 crore from the Central Road Fund (CRF) will be utilised for the road sector of Madhya Pradesh.
- The aim was to complete projects worth Rs 50,000 crore out of Rs 1.25 lakh crore by 2023.

10. Which state government has inked an MoU with the M3M Foundation to facilitate online preparation, training and mentoring for government jobs to students _____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- Through this MoU, a program will be implemented to select 50,000 candidates for online training based on their past performance in government examinations in the state.
- Under the MoU, M3M Foundation will finance the initiative, identify, select and hire suitable students and undertake a periodic review of the implementation of the program.

11. Which state will establish the first international women's trade centre (IWTC) of India _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity.
- It will also offer a safe place away from home to women to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

12. Which state government has launched 'Major Dhyam Chand Vijaypath Yojana' scheme under which 19 International Players will get road connectivity to their homes _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- The initial list includes 19 International Players from the state, and later on more players are expected to be added to the list.
- The list includes Indian Cricketers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif.

Important News - World

1. The first meeting of the National Coordination Committees for monitoring implementation of mutually agreed projects between India and which Central Asian country was concluded _____ **Uzbekistan**.

Note:

- Both nations reexamined the activities of bilateral economic and trade cooperation which are in operation or planned for the future.
- The Committee was set up under the supervision of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

2. Which tech giant has launched 'The Anywhere School' initiative in more than 250 countries around the world _____ **Google**.

Note:

- Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products.
- Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide 'extra privacy' to the users.

3. Which country has launched its New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite "Gaofen-9 05" along with 2 Smaller Payloads _____ **China**.

Note:

- The satellite, Gaofen-9 05, was sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket.
- A multifunctional test satellite and another satellite named Tiantuo-5 were also launched via the rocket.

4. A pair of gold-rimmed spectacles worn by Mahatma Gandhi were sold in an auction for £260,000 (over Rs 2.5 crore) in which country _____ **UK**.

Note:

- The iconic spectacles were sold to an American collector within six minutes of bidding at an auction in Bristol.

- The glasses had been dropped in their letter box by a man who claimed that they were originally gifted to his uncle by Gandhi himself.
5. Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) Alumni Council has signed an agreement with which country to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India _____ **Russia**.
- Note:**
- The most promising areas for Indo-Russian joint projects are Information and Communications Technology, space exploration, climate change, quantum technology and data security.
6. Which global telecom company has partnered with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help map school internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of 2023 _____ **Ericsson**.
- Note:**
- This joint initiative is a part of the Giga initiative launched by UNICEF and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in September 2019 to provide internet connection to every school and their surrounding communities.
7. Which country will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime _____ **Singapore**.
- Note:**
- Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime.

Honor & Awards

1. Which water technology company has won the prestigious Global Water Award for its 45 million liters a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis Plant _____ **VA Tech Wabag Ltd**.
- Note:**
- The plant has won the distinction award under the category of 'wastewater project of the year'.
 - The plant is one of the largest and technologically advanced water treatment plants in India.
2. Which company has bagged the "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, green campus _____ **NLCIL**.
- Note:**
- The award was conferred to three units of the PSU - Township administration office (First rank), Thermal Power Station -I (second rank) and Mines Sub-stores (third rank).
 - NLCIL implemented the Swachhta Hi Seva programme in two phases -- the first phase from September 11 to November 2, 2019 and the second phase from October 3 to 27, 2019.
3. Who has won the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC) _____ **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash**.
- Note:**
- Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.
4. Who has authored the book titled 'Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life' _____ **Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand**.
- Note:**
- The book provides an account of how the Dalai Lama traced his Spiritual Teacher Khunu Lama in India.
 - Tenzin Priyadarshi is the President and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Zara Houshmand is an Iranian American author and literary translator.
5. Who has been adjudged as the winner of the International Booker Prize 2020 _____ **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld**.
- Note:**
- The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison.
 - The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.

6. "Nayi Disha" is the HR initiative of which bank for which it has been awarded with Brandon Human Capital Management (HCM) Excellence Award 2020 _____ **SBI**.

Note:

- The award is also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development 2020.
- The SBI has been awarded with the global recognition for its HR initiative, "Nayi Disha".
- The award winners will be honored at Brandon Hall Group's annual HCM Excellence Conference, January 26-28, 2021 at the Hilton West Palm Beach, Florida.

Sports News

1. Which football team has won the Europa League for a sixth time _____ **Sevilla**.

Note:

- Italy's wait for a first European trophy in a decade, and Inter's nine-year trophy drought, goes on after Lukaku could not stop Carlos's spectacular strike.
- It is Europe's secondary club football tournament organised by UEFA, and the 12th season since it was renamed from the UEFA Cup to the UEFA Europa League.

2. Manika Batra has been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020 along with others, she is associated with sports _____ **Table tennis**.

Note:

- The government has announced the National Sports Awards 2020.
- Rohit Sharma(Cricketer), Mariyappan Thangavelu(Para-Athlete), Manika Batra (TT player), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) and Rani Rampal (Hockey) will receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

3. Former cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame, she held from which country _____ **Australia**.

Note:

- Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in a virtual ceremony along with Legendary South African all-rounder Jaques Kallis and Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas.
- Pune born Sthalekar represented Australia in eight Tests, 125 ODIs and 54 T20s. Sthalekar is the 27th from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list, which includes five from her country.

4. Who has won the Women's British Open 2020 title in Golf _____ **Sophia Popov**.

Note:

- German Golfer Sophia Popov won the Women's British Open 2020 title (rebranded as 2020 AIG Women's Open) by defeating Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.
- Sophia has now become the first female golfer from Germany to win the LPGA Tour's major title.

5. Which football club has won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title _____ **Bayern Munich**.

Note:

- Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament.
- This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.

6. Famous all-rounder Cameron White was playing for which country who has announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket _____ **Australia**.

Note:

- He represented Australia in 4 Test matches, 91 ODIs and 47 T20Is.
- He also led the Australian limited-overs team in 7 international games. He amassed 146 runs in tests, 2072 runs in ODIs and 984 runs in T20Is.

7. Poulomi Ghatak was associated with which sports, who announced her retirement from the sport _____ **Table Tennis**.

Note:

- Poulomi Ghatak belongs to the state of West Bengal.
- She won three junior national championships as well as seven senior national championships between 1996 and 2016.

8. Who became the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test Match Cricket _____ **James Anderson**.

Note:

- Overall, he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble.

- Anderson, who made his Test debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe, had become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in 2018 when he dismissed Mohammed Shami against India at The Oval to go past Glenn McGrath's tally of 563 Test wickets.
9. Which country will host BRICS Games 2021 _____ **India**.
- Note:**
- This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
 - India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.
10. Brothers pair, Mike Bryan and Bob Bryan have announced their retirement from the sport. They are associated with which sport _____ **Tennis**.
- Note:**
- They are the most successful men's doubles pair in tennis history.
 - The brother's pair captured an Open Era record with 119 trophies in 26 seasons which comprises all four Grand Slams, all nine ATP Masters 1000s as well as the Olympic gold medal.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories _____ **Sudha Murthy**.
- Note:**
- This was announced by the publishing house Penguin Random House India on the 70th birthday of award-winning author.
 - The book, scheduled to be released in November, is a sequel to Murthy's last release Grandma's Bag of Stories and will feature 20 stories.
2. Who has authored the book on cancer titled "Gastric Cancer", released by Union Minister, Jitendra Singh _____ **Dr Ashok K. Vaid**.
- Note:**
- The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology.
 - The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education.
 - Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.
3. Who has authored the book titled "Who painted my lust red" _____ **Sree Iyer**.
- Note:**
- The book is something about when Bollywood meets Cricket meets Politicians.
 - This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer's Money Trilogy series. The first book was "Who painted my money white?".
4. Who has authored the book titled "Cricket Drona" on the life of one of India's most renowned cricket coaches, Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe _____ **Anand Vasu & Jatin Paranjpe**.
- Note:**
- The book is published by Penguin.
 - The book talks about the impact of Paranjpe on shaping the careers of India's greatest cricketers like Gavaskar, Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma.
5. Released by Indian Army Chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the book titled "National Security Challenges: Young Scholars' Perspective" has been authored by _____ **Group of Journalist**.
- Note:**
- The book contains various themes pertaining to national security. It aims to develop strategic thinking among the youth of this country.
 - The book is a tribute to Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the strategist of 1971 Indo-Pakistan War, that resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh.
6. Name the cricket coach who has co-authored his memoir titled "Pitching It Straight" with sports journalist MS Unnikrishnan _____ **Gurcharan Singh**.
- Note:**
- The book portrays the personal and professional life of Gurcharan Singh, who trained numerous young talents.
 - The 186-page memoir covers the period when cricket was patronised by royal families and the life incidence of Gurcharan Singh during the 1947 partition.

Science and Defence

1. Which institution has developed a UV disinfection tower for sanitizing coronavirus-prone areas _____ **DRDO**.

Note:

- The equipment named UV Blaster is “useful for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories and offices that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods.
- The product is also effective for areas with large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories and offices

2. A newly built Interceptor boat of the Indian Coast Guard built by Larsen and Toubro was launched in which city _____ **Surat**.

Note:

- A newly-built “Interceptor” boat of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched in Surat.
- Interceptor Boat ‘ICGS C-454’, built by Larsen and Toubro, was launched into the service of the Coast Guard.

3. Which app has been launched by the Indian Air Force to provide career-related information and details to the aspirants who wish to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) _____ **‘MY IAF’**.

Note:

- The application was launched by the Chief of the Air Staff, Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.
- The app launched as a part of the Digital India initiative has been developed in association with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

4. The India Pavilion at the Army-2020 International Military and Technical Forum was inaugurated in which country _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- The forum will also host discussions among global military officials, researchers and defence industry experts about the application of 3D technologies in designing, manufacturing and operating weapons and military equipment.
- The forum was organised by the Russian Defence Ministry will be held from August 23-29 at the Patriot Park near Moscow, which has been the venue since 2015.

5. ISRO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which university to set up the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre to promote space research _____ **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology**.

Note:

- Under the MoU ISRO and VSSUT will collaborate to develop high-end simulation tools, miniature test facilities like Static test facility and solid propulsion research lab and establishment of testing facilities for the scaled-down model.
- ISRO will offer technical consultancy support and financial assistance of Rs.50 lakhs for the development of infrastructure of VSSUT.

6. Which Paramilitary forces of India has created and launched an in-house mobile Application (app), ‘Pensioners Corner’ to get in touch with the pensioners and to bring them to the digital platform as a one stop solution _____ **CISF**.

Note:

- It will also cater to the needs of its pensioners.
- It is a part of its ‘e-karyalay’, an electronic office app launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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