

# Weekly One-Liners

1-7 January 2021



## Weekly One Liner Updates 1-7th January 2021

**Dear readers,**

**Weekly One Liner Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **January 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which Bank has sold 23% of its stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (IFLI) to Ageas Insurance International NV for a consideration of Rs 507 crore \_\_\_\_\_ **IDBI Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - IFLI is a three-way joint venture of IDBI Bank, Belgium's Ageas and Federal Bank.
  - On purchasing the stake, Ageas Insurance International NV will hold 49% stake in IFLI earlier from 26%.
  - While IDBI Bank's stake in IFLI will be reduced to 25% from 48%.
  - Federal Bank continues to hold 26 per cent stake in IFLI.
2. The RoDTEP scheme has replaced the popular Merchandise Exports from India Scheme from January 1, 2021. What does 'R' stand for in RoDTEP \_\_\_\_\_ **Remission**.  
**Note:**
  - As per the finance ministry the benefit of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme will be extended to all export goods from January 1, 2021.
  - Under the scheme, the embedded central, state and local duties or taxes will get refunded and credited in an exporter's ledger account with customs.
3. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a fine of rupees Rs 25 crore on which Indian company for carrying out manipulative trade \_\_\_\_\_ **Reliance Industries Ltd**.  
**Note:**
  - Two more entities, Navi Mumbai SEZ Pvt Ltd and Mumbai SEZ Ltd have been fined Rs 20 crore and Rs 10 crore, respectively.
  - The fine was imposed on Reliance India Limited because the company violated the Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP).
4. International card payment service RuPay partnered with which bank to launch an innovative payment solution for Indian merchants "RuPay PoS" in association with PayNearby \_\_\_\_\_ **RBL Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The announcement for the same was made by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
  - This collaboration will transform smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for the retailers enabling the latter to accept contactless payments of up to Rs 5,000 through a simple tap and pay mechanism on his Near Field Communication (NFC) enabled mobile phones.
5. Which general insurance company has launched health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social, Endeavour for Health, and Telemedicine (SEHAT) in association with Jammu & Kashmir Government \_\_\_\_\_ **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.  
**Note:**
  - This extended scheme was launched by Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi.
  - The scheme will provide universal health insurance cover to all the citizens of J&K, thus ensuring financial security during any medical emergency.
  - This is the first time in India that any scheme is implemented to such huge masses.
  - The scheme will operate on insurance mode in convergence with PM-JAY.
6. To recapitalize which public sector bank, in a first of kind move the central government has issued Rs 5,500 crore in zero-coupon bonds \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab and Sindh Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - This move of capital infusion was approved by the Ministry of Finance on November 10, 2020.
  - It should be noted that the Zero-coupon bonds are debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full-face value.

7. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an advisory council to manage the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, aimed at encouraging deployment of more digital payments infrastructure across tier-3 to tier-6 centres \_\_\_\_\_ **BP Kanungo**.

**Note:**

- The fund will be used to subsidize banks and non-banks for deploying payment infrastructure, which will be contingent upon specific targets being achieved.
- The central bank has also constituted an advisory council under the chairmanship of B.P. Kanungo, a deputy governor, to manage the fund.
- The PIDF will be operational for three years from 1 January 2021, and may be extended for two more years based on progress.

8. With which bank the government of India has signed a loan agreements worth USD 646 million for two road projects in Andhra Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **New Development Bank**.

**Note:**

- The first project is Andhra Pradesh Roads and Bridges Reconstruction Project comprising widening of 1,600 kilometre of State Highways to double lane and reconstructing dilapidated bridges on the State Highway network.
- The second project is Andhra Pradesh Mandal Connectivity and Rural Connectivity Improvement Project comprising widening of 1,400 kilometre of district roads to double lane and reconstructing dilapidated bridges on the district road network.

9. Which has become the first urban co-operative bank (UCB) in India to receive a licence from RBI to operate as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank**.

**Note:**

- The RBI had given an 18-month timeline to commence business.
- SMCB received the commercial banking license from banking regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 06, 2021, to transition to an SFB, under the voluntary transition scheme.
- The Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) will start its banking operations from April 2021.

10. Which power company has partnered with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide easy financing scheme for MSME customers in rooftop solar segment \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Power**.

**Note:**

- Tata Power and SIDBI have joined hands to design a solar financing solution to help MSME players with financial aid without any collateral at an interest of less than 10 per cent.
- The scheme will also be complimented with a sanction time of seven days and disbursement of money in four days.

11. Which mutual fund has acquired an additional 86,993 shares in CSB Bank Ltd which consequently raised its stake in the bank to 5.01% from 4.96% earlier \_\_\_\_\_ **SBI Mutual Fund**.

**Note:**

- The acquisition was made through open market purchase.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to SBI funds management to acquire stake up to 10 % of the paid-up capital of the CSB Bank through various schemes of 'SBI Mutual Fund.'
- This approval is valid for one year till July 21, 2021.

12. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Army for 'Shaurya' salary account \_\_\_\_\_ **Bandhan Bank**.

**Note:**

- The serving personnel of Indian Army will be provided the services of the account through the Bank's network of banking outlets.
- It is a zero balance salary account with 6% interest on balance above Rs.1 lakh.

13. Which became the 1st Group of States to complete three out of the Four citizen schemes stipulated by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance viz. One Nation One Ration Card Reforms, Ease of Doing Business Reforms, & Urban Local Bodies Reforms \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- As they have completed the reforms, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance will provide them an additional Financial Assistance of INR 1004 Crore under the newly launched "Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure" scheme.
- The 4 reforms are One Nation One Ration Card, Ease of doing Business Reform, Urban Local Body/Utility Reform & Power Sector Reform.

14. The Reserve Bank of India announced the operationalization of the Payment Investment Development Fund (PIDF) with an initial corpus of \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 345 crore.**

**Note:**

- The objective of PIDF is to increase the number of acceptance devices multi-fold in the country.
- The Scheme is expected to benefit the acquiring banks / non-banks and merchants by lowering overall acceptance infrastructure cost.

**Obituaries**

1. John Fulton Reid passed away recently, he was former cricketer of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand.**

**Note:**

- The Left-handed batsman was born on March 3, 1956 in Auckland, City in the North Island, New Zealand.
- He served as the New Zealand Test captain.
- He played 25 ODIs, 19 tests from 1979 to 1986, where he scored 633 runs in ODIs and 1296 runs in Tests. The test runs of him came at an average of 46.28, along with 6 centuries and 2 half centuries.

2. Renowned personality Brian Urquhart, who played a central role in developing the U.N. practice of peacekeeping, passed away recently, he was a diplomat of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **UK.**

**Note:**

- He was an early leader of the United Nations who played a central role in developing the U.N. practice of peacekeeping.
- Mr Urquhart, born in Bridport, England in 1919, served in British military and intelligence during World War II before becoming the second official hired by the U.N. after its formation in 1945.

3. Olympic Medalist Michael Kindo Passed Away recently, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Hockey.**

**Note:**

- He was born on 20th June 1947 in Odisha.
- Michael Kindo was a part of the Indian Hockey Team which won the Olympic bronze medal in the Munich Olympic 1972.
- He was also a part of the Indian team that won the 1975 Hockey World Cup held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

4. Padma Shri awardee, Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar passed away recently, also he was an iconic \_\_\_\_\_ **Mountaineer.**

**Note:**

- He was born on 8th December 1933 in Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan.
- In 1964, he was the first Indian to climb Mount Nanda Devi. He climbed Mount Everest in 1965, Mount Blanc (highest peak in the Alps), and later Mount Kangchenchanga.

5. Renowned personality Anil Panachooran passed away recently, he was a poet and lyricist of which language \_\_\_\_\_ **Malayalam.**

**Note:**

- He is a lawyer by profession. He was born on November 20, 1969 at Kayamkulam, Alappuzha, Kerala.
- His last lyrics were penned for the movie Within Seconds (2021)
- He made his debut in Malayalam industry through the film Makalkku(2005).

6. Renowned personality Vilas Patil Undalkar passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician.**

**Note:**

- He was born on 15th July 1938.
- He was elected has as the MLA for 7 times from the Karad South Assembly constituency for a record 35 consecutive years, i.e., from 1980 to 2014

**Important Days**

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) observed the 63rd Foundation Day on \_\_\_\_\_ **1st January, 2021.**

**Note:**

- DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector.
- At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for Indian Armed Forces.

2. World Braille Day is observed globally every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **4th January**.

**Note:**

- The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.
- The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities.
- Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France.

3. The World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **6th January**.

**Note:**

- The day aims to raise awareness about children who have been orphaned due to wars.
- The objective of the day is to spread awareness about the predicament of war orphans and highlight the emotional, social, and physical challenges they face while growing up.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the 38th Chief Secretary of Karnataka \_\_\_\_\_ **P Ravi Kumar**.

**Note:**

- P Ravi Kumar will hold this post until May 2022, i.e., till he attains the age of 60.
- Prior to his appointment, P Ravi Kumar was the Additional Chief Secretary(ACS) of Karnataka govt and was ACS of Karnataka CM, BS Yediyurappa.
- T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, a 1981-batch IAS officer was appointed as CS of Karnataka govt in 2018.

2. Whose term has been extended for one year as Secretary of Department of Space, Govt of India and Chairman of space commission \_\_\_\_\_ **K Sivan**.

**Note:**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of tenure of K Sivan, secretary, Department of Space and chairman, Space Commission, for a period of one-year beyond January 14, 2021, that is up to January 14, 2022
- He is currently the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO).
- He took charge in January 2018, succeeding, AK Kiran Kumar.

3. Who has been appointed as the New Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board under the Ministry of Railways \_\_\_\_\_ **Suneet Sharma**.

**Note:**

- He takes over the charge from the incumbent VK Yadav upon the completion of his term as the Chairman and CEO of the board on 31st December 2020.
- Previously Suneet Sharma served as the General Manager of the Eastern Railway.
- He is also appointed as the ex-officio Principal Secretary to the Government of India.

4. Who has been appointed as the deputy election commissioner in the Election Commission of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Umesh Sinha**.

**Note:**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the term of reemployment of Sinha as deputy election commissioner on contract basis for a period of six months beyond December 31, 2020.
- Sinha is a part of a committee set up by the Election Commission to look into the issue of revising the election expenditure of candidates during campaigning.

5. Who has taken over as first-ever woman head of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Soma Mondal**.

**Note:**

- Before joining SAIL as a Director, Mondal was the Director (Commercial) at fellow Central public sector enterprise, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).
- In a company statement, Mondal said that the first target is to improve the financial performance of SAIL.

6. Who has been elected as the as the speaker of US House of Representatives for the 117th Congress \_\_\_\_\_ **Nancy Pelosi**.

**Note:**

- The House voted 216-209 to reinstate Pelosi, after Democrats lost 11 seats in the November elections to command a narrower 222-212 majority.
  - Five Democrats chose not to support her - two voted for Democratic lawmakers who were not running, while three others simply voted “present.”
7. Who has been appointed as the first Additional Director General-ADG (Human Rights-HR) in the newly created Human Rights cell in the Indian Army \_\_\_\_\_ **Major General Gautam Chauhan.**
- Note:**
- He will function under the Indian Army Vice Chief Lieutenant General SK Saini.
  - This is the 1st time, Indian army has appointed a major general rank officer to examine the human rights issue and suggest means to better the track record of the force.
  - This appointment is part of the ongoing restructuring of Indian Army headquarters.
8. Who will head the high-level group named “South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)” for the development of South Asia energy security architecture set up by the Government of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Ram Vinay Shahi.**
- Note:**
- It has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)-run think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
  - The development of South Asia-focused energy security architecture is on the lines of India’s neighbourhood-first policy under which Cross-border energy trade is a key part.
  - The energy architect by India includes cross-border electricity trade, supplying petroleum products and setting up liquefied natural gas terminals.
9. Who has been appointed as the leader of Google Cloud for Asia-Pacific region \_\_\_\_\_ **Karan Bajwa.**
- Note:**
- Presently, Bajwa leads Google Cloud in India.
  - He will lead all regional revenue and go-to-market operations for Google Cloud, including on Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Google Workspace.
10. According to the Global Economic Prospects (GEP-January 2021) report released by the World Bank (WB), India is expected to grow at what percent in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **5.4%.**
- Note:**
- Global Economy is expected to expand by 4% in 2021.
  - The major causes of India’s contraction are sharp declines in household spending & private investment.
  - The report also states that Vaccine Deployment & Investments as the need to sustain the Global recovery.
11. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashish Pethe.**
- Note:**
- Pethe has been closely associated with GJC and was the Zonal Chairman West, which he will continue even after this new position.
12. Who has been appointed as the president of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sanjay Kapoor.**
- Note:**
- Kapoor, representing Uttar Pradesh Chess Association, defeated incumbent P R Venketrama Raja in a close contest. Kapoor received 33 votes as against 31 of Raja.
  - Naresh Sharma, belonging to the Chauhan faction, was elected as treasurer, beating Kishore Bandekar 34-30.
  - The AICF has been split into two factions, one led by Raja and the other by Chauhan.

### Important News – India

1. Who has launched the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile application to connect with 3.12 Crore Indian Diaspora across the world \_\_\_\_\_ **V. Muraleedharan.**
- Note:**

- The portal web interface will be used by Indian Missions whereas the mobile app will be used by diaspora & Indian nationals.
  - The portal will be used by MEA for sharing information on Visa, Passport & other activities like consular services, conducting surveys and news about events organised by missions.
  - It will also connect the Indian diaspora community to connect them to new & existing Government schemes.
2. National Metrology Conclave 2020 was organized in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The theme of the conclave is 'Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation'.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the conclave.
3. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' laid the foundation stone of the buildings for School of Engineering and Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship in \_\_\_\_\_ **Jawaharlal Nehru University**.
- Note:**
- Pokhriyal expressed his delight at the naming the School of Management after late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was not only a visionary Prime Minister of India, but an inspiring author too.
4. Which railway station is set to get the "world's longest railway platform" of 1500 plus meters' length and 10 meters width \_\_\_\_\_ **Hubbali, Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- The construction of the platform is done with an expenditure of Rs. 90 core for remodeling of wards, building work, signalling, third entrance construction, electrical and other related works.
  - This project is a part of doubling between Hubbali and Bengaluru which is underway since November 2019.
5. 4th Global Ayurveda Festival 2021(GAF2021) will be organized in which state to held from 12th to 19th March 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala**.
- Note:**
- The event, which showcases Ayurveda as a global treatment programme, will serve as a meeting place for those working towards this goal around the world.
  - The festival, which was scheduled to be held in Angamaly from May 16 to 20 last year was postponed due to COVID-19.
6. Under whose chairmanship the University Grants Commission has set up a 7-member committee to look at the possibility and review the feasibility of holding the Common Entrance Test at undergraduate level from the next academic year in central universities \_\_\_\_\_ **R P Tiwari**.
- Note:**
- The committee is headed by Raghavendra P Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab.
  - If CET is implemented, the National Testing Agency(NTA) will be responsible to conduct this test and a common exam for a discipline at least twice a year for admission to Central universities.
7. 1.9 Km long Feni Bridge also known as Maitree Setu will connect which Indian state with Bangladesh scheduled to be operational soon \_\_\_\_\_ **Tripura**.
- Note:**
- It provides access to the Chittagong seaport and is all set to be opened in a few months.
  - Its construction was started in 2017 but it got delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The bridge has been taken over by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the project execution authority which will recheck the safety standard of the work.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation for how many Light House Projects (LHPs) \_\_\_\_\_ **six**.
- Note:**
- These will be developed as a part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) initiative under which 1,000 houses at each location are to be constructed in a year (12 months), using six distinct technologies.

- GHTC-India aims to adopt innovative technologies in the housing construction sector.

9. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to what per cent for 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **3%**.

**Note:**

- The country's food regulatory body notified the amendment on December 29, more than a year after it issued a draft on the subject for consultation with stakeholders.
- The revised regulation applies to edible refined oils, vanaspati (partially hydrogenated oils), margarine, bakery shortenings, and other mediums of cooking such as vegetable fat spreads and mixed fat spreads.
- Trans fats are associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease.

10. The five day long 'National Folk Dance Festival' 2020 was held in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu**.

**Note:**

- A 5 day long 'National Folk Dance Festival' was held in Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory-JKUT) from December 26, 2020.
- It was organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala (Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) jointly with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

11. The DRDO has signed an MoU with which Metro Rail Corporation to render technical support to implement the advanced biodigester Mk II technology to treat human waste in Metro Rail Network \_\_\_\_\_ **Maha Metro**.

**Note:**

- The MoU was signed by Dr DK Dubey, Director DRDE, Gwalior and Atul Gadgil, Director, Maha-Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Pune, as per an official release.
- DRDO's biodigester is an indigenous, green and cost-effective technology, with a rare distinction of having one of the largest numbers of DRDO-licences (ToT holders).

12. Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', virtually laid foundation stone for India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems in which IIT \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Hyderabad**.

**Note:**

- Department of Science & Technology, Government of India sanctioned INR 135 Crore to IIT Hyderabad under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to establish 'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad'.
- An area of 2 acres of land has been allocated in IIT Hyderabad campus for the setting up of a hub.
- 'TiHAN Foundation' was incorporated as a Section-8 company by the institute in June 2020.

13. India flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) from which port \_\_\_\_\_ **Mormugao Port, Goa**.

**Note:**

- The Expedition will have 43 members and the chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliy Golovnin will take the team to Antarctica.
- On return, the vessel will bring back the members of the 39th Expedition. The Ministry of Earth Science launched the expedition.
- National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the implementation agency of the Indian Antarctic Programme.

14. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated India's 1st of its kind Migrant Worker Cell at \_\_\_\_\_ **Surat, Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- An initiative of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) it aims to help Migrants from Odia & other parts of the country working in different industries of Surat.
- The cell will be based at iLab, Udhna, Surat and has been created under the 'National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme'.



15. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission signed an MoU with which security forces to supply of 1,72,000 cotton durries every year \_\_\_\_\_ **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.

**Note:**

- The agreement has been signed for one year which will be renewed thereafter. The development comes after Home Minister Amit Shah gave instructions to the paramilitary forces to encourage local products to support the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The cotton durries will be produced by Khadi artisans in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

**Important News – State**

1. Which state government has launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab**.

**Note:**

- Punjab CM, Captain Amarinder Singh virtually launched a mobile application 'DigiNest' that will enable people to have digital access to the directory of state govt.
- In addition to this, he also launched an online Punjab Advertisement Release Order System.
- This will bring transparency and efficiency in the entire process of releasing State Government's advertisements and payments to media houses.

2. Which state government has launched state's own crop relief scheme 'Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana' which will replace Government of India's crop insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) \_\_\_\_\_ **Jharkhand**.

**Note:**

- The new scheme is a compensation scheme which will provide security cover to farmers of Jharkhand in cases of crop damage due to natural hazards.
- Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative, Jharkhand will be the implementing agency of the scheme.
- The main objectives of the scheme are – Food Safety, Crop Diversification, rapid development in Agriculture & paving way for competition.

3. Which state government and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have signed an agreement with Oakridge Energy to solarise schools in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The project will be developed by Oakridge and subsidised under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's (MNRE) capital subsidy scheme for Government Buildings.
- The installation of solar plants will help in making institutions energy independent, reduce their electricity bills and generate additional income through sale of surplus power.
- Oakridge has set a target to solarise 1, 000 schools & educational institutions by 2022.

4. The TRIFED has signed a memorandum of understanding with Akhil Bhartiya vanvasi Kalyan Ashram to setup TRIFOOD parks in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the two organisations to work together for setting up of TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts in Madhya Pradesh.
- The two organisations will work together by undertaking various initiatives all aimed at improving the livelihood of tribal people and implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana through the mobilization of Self Help Groups (SHGs) / VanDhanVikas Kendra (VDVKs) / VPCs / TRIFOOD Parks.

5. Which state government has set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**.

**Note:**

- It also appointed former municipal councillor and member of the Delhi Tamil Sangam N. Raja as vice-chairman of the academy.
- It is diversity that forms Delhi's vibrant and cosmopolitan culture as people from all parts of the country come to settle in the Capital for work.

6. The Mathikettan Shola National Park is located in which state in which the central government notified a zero to 1 km area around the boundary of it as an Eco-sensitive zone \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala**.

**Note:**

- The area of the Eco-sensitive Zone is 17.5 square kilometres.
  - The notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
  - This is to conserve the uniqueness of Shola forest in Mathikettan and its importance as an elephant corridor.
7. Which state won the “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019” in the Best Performing State category \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- The PMAY(U) awards were instituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2019.
  - Uttar Pradesh (UP) won the award in the best performing state followed by Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Andhra Pradesh (AP).
8. Which state government has rolled out a 'Launch Pad Scheme' to provide such a platform to the youth, through which they will be able to become self-reliant by continuing their education and training \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- The objective of this scheme of the Women and Child Development Department is to provide such a platform to these youth, through which they will be able to become self-reliant by continuing their education and training.
  - Under the launch pad scheme, 52 districts of the state have been divided into 5 clusters. Five divisional headquarters are being started in Indore, Sagar, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Bhopal.
9. Which state government has launched 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' for farmer welfare and to double the farmers income of the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a special program named as Kisan Kalyan Mission for farmer welfare and to double the farmers income of the state.
  - Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the Kishan Kalyan Mission from Sarojininagar development block of state capital Lucknow.

### Important News – World

1. The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) has named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites from which countries as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \_\_\_\_\_ **China, Japan and South Korea.**
- Note:**
- The Pu'er Tea Agroecosystem in Yunnan is the world's largest area of tea forest plantations established by village ancestors thousands of years ago.
  - The Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System developed over more than 2000 years is rich in biodiversity.
  - GIAHS is an initiative started by FAO in 2002 for the identification & conservation of traditional agricultural systems all over the world. These sites also represent models of sustainable agriculture production
2. Which country is developing wooden satellites to reduce the space debris \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan.**
- Note:**
- The partnership will begin experimenting with different types of wood in extreme environments on Earth.
  - Wooden satellites would burn up without releasing harmful substances into the atmosphere or raining debris on the ground when they plunge back to Earth.
3. Which country has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called Sea Wing Glider in the Indian Ocean region \_\_\_\_\_ **China.**
- Note:**
- These sea gliders, which the Chinese are deploying "en masse", are a type of Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (UUV) which were launched in mid-December 2019.
  - According to the defence expert, reports from December last year suggested that 14 would be employed in the Indian Ocean mission but only 12 were used.
4. Which countries Parliament has passed the "Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act" which will expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women to receive higher education \_\_\_\_\_ **USA.**
- Note:**
- Passed by the House of Representatives in March 2020, the bill was passed by the United States Senate by a voice vote on January 1. The bill now heads to the White House for US President Donald Trump to sign into law.
  - The bill requires the US Agency for International Development to award at least 50 per cent of scholarships under a Pakistan-based higher education scholarship programme to Pakistani women, from 2020 to 2022, across a range of academic disciplines and in accordance with existing eligibility criteria.

5. Which country will co-chair the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), a regional forum to conserve wildlife habitats for three years \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- India will replace South Korea which held this position for three years till November, 2020. Notably APAP is chaired by IUCN Asia and co-chaired by an APAP country member.
- India got this opportunity after successfully increasing the population of wild animals such as tigers, lions and leopards through protecting their habitats.

**Honor & Awards**

1. Which Department has won the gold icon award in the category, 'Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry/Department (Central)' in the 6th Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Department of Post**.

**Note:**

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred 6th Digital India Awards (DIA) 2020 through video conferencing in a virtual awards ceremony.
  - 24 digital governance initiatives/ products by Government entities under 7 categories received Digital India Awards 2020. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) organized the awards online.
  - The Department of Post won the gold icon award in the category, 'Excellence in Digital Governance Ministry/Department (Central)' for implementing an IT application in the land registration system in India, named as a National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).
2. India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, the chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries limited (RIL) dropped down to what position in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- The net worth of Ambani dropped from 90 billion USD (around Rs. 6.62 lakh crore) (in early 2020) to 76.7 billion USD (around Rs. 5.6 lakh crore).
- The drop in the net worth of Mukesh Ambani was due to the correction in the shares of RIL which has fallen to Rs.1995.50 on 30th December 2020, which is 16% from its all-time high of Rs.2369.35.
- Zhong Shanshan, referred to as "Lone Wolf", has replaced Ambani as Asia's richest person, he is one of the fastest in the history to achieve the feat.

**Sports News**

1. Who became the first female umpire to officiate in a men's Test match \_\_\_\_\_ **Claire Polosak**.

**Note:**

- The 32-year-old already holds the distinction of being the first woman to officiate (as an on-field umpire) in a men's ODI match.
  - Polosak had umpired in ICC's World Cricket League Division 2 final match between Namibia and Oman in 2019. In Sydney though, Polosak will officiate as a fourth umpire.
2. Who has been appointed as the first deputy general secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF) after the sports body decided to create a new post in its hierarchy \_\_\_\_\_ **Abhishek Yadav**.

**Note:**

- The 40-year-old former international, who has played with the likes of Bhaichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri, Mahesh Gawli and Climax Lawrence, has been serving as national team's director since January 2018.
- He was the member of AIFF and has been serving as national team's director since January 2018.

**Books and Authors**

1. Who has authored the book titled "Sabarimala Vijnanakosham" released by Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **K S Vijayanath**.

**Note:**

- Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala released the book titled "**Sabarimala Vijnanakosham**" authored by K S Vijayanath at Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- He presented the **first copy** of “Sabarimala Vijnanakosham” to **S Sreejith**, Inspector General of Police (Crime Branch) Kerala.
  - He also presented the Limca Book of World Records certificate to Swami Maheswarananda who erected a 111 feet Shiv Linga Sthoopa at Maheswaram Sri Siva parvathi Temple in Chenkal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
2. Who has authored the book titled ‘India’s 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia \_\_\_\_\_ **R Kaushik**.
- Note:**
- The book, a Bradman Museum initiative, is authored by senior cricket scribe R. Kaushik, and it chronicles a rivalry that has given a fillip to Test cricket.
  - In his foreword to the book, Shastri wrote: “Australians hate losing, and it’s a thought process entertained not just by the 11 on the field, but the whole nation, the fans and the media. When a team tours Australia, there is a combined assault like no other.”

### Science and Defence

1. Which Indian Aerospace company has successfully test fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named ‘Kalam-5’ from a Private Test Facility at Nagpur, Maharashtra \_\_\_\_\_ **Skyroot Aerospace**.
- Note:**
- Skyroot Aerospace, an Indian Space Startup successfully test fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named ‘Kalam-5’ from a Private Test Facility at Nagpur, Maharashtra. It is the 1st Private company of India to successfully design, develop & test a full solid-fueled rocket stage.
  - It will now be used for propulsion of their maiden rocket ‘Vikram-1’ which is expected to be launched in December, 2021 with the help of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
  - ‘Kalam-5’ is the 1st of 5 Kalam series of solid rocket motors, the other four rocket motors are expected to be tested in 2021.
2. The Ministry Defence has signed a contract with which defence establishment for procurement of 10 Lynx U2, a Naval Gun Fire Control System \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Electronics Limited**.
- Note:**
- The Lynx system has been designed and developed indigenously that will further the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - The LYNX U2 GFCS is a Naval Gun Fire Control System designed to acquire, track and engage targets amidst sea clutter.
3. Name the India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container of which successful maiden test trial was conducted recently \_\_\_\_\_ **SAHAYAK-NG**.
- Note:**
- The trial was conducted by the Indian Navy to enhance its operational logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering stores to ships that are deployed more than 2000 kilometers from the coast.
  - Two DRDO laboratories--Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam and Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra-- were involved in the development of the SAHAYAK-NG container along with the industry partner M/s Avantel for GPS integration.
4. The Indian Army has signed an agreement with which defence manufacturer to procure the 12 high-performance patrol boats to boost its surveillance of Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL)**.
- Note:**
- The construction will be done at GSL, Goa under the program Atma Nirbhar Bharat and only a few crafts will be in the world for such specialized operations.
  - India started its surveillance of the lake after the violent clash began in early May between India and China.
5. Which defence equipment manufacturer has signed a contract with Indian Navy in New Delhi to supply 20 Indigenously developed Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazzlers \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Electronics Limited**.
- Note:**
- The Laser Dazzlers have been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be manufactured by BEL, Pune Plant.
  - Laser Dazzler is a non lethal weapon for warning & stopping suspicious vehicles, boats, aircrafts, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
  - The product has been designed & developed indigenously for the First Time for Armed Force.

6. Which Meteorological Observatory has been conferred the status of 'Centennial Observing Station' by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to recognize its contribution towards long-term meteorological observation \_\_\_\_\_

**Patna Meteorological Observatory.**

**Note:**

- The decision to confer the status was taken during the 72nd WMO Executive Council Meeting held virtually from September-October, 2020.
- The Patna meteorological observatory was established in 1867 by the British Corps of Engineers.

-----0-----

gradeup



# Gradeup Green Card

## Features:

- › 700 + Full-length Mocks
- › 35+ Bank & Insurance Exams Covered
- › Tests Available in English & Hindi
- › Performance Analysis & All India Rank
- › Previous Year Question Papers in Mock Format
- › Available on Mobile & Desktop



[www.gradeup.co](http://www.gradeup.co)