

# Weekly One-Liners

22-31 Dec 2020



## **Weekly One Liners Updates** **22-31st December 2020**

Dear readers,

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

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which public sector bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders \_\_\_\_ **Bank of Baroda**.  
**Note:**
  - The bank has also renewed its existing MoU with the Indian Army to offer specially customised banking services through 'Baroda Military Salary Package'.
  - Services under 'Baroda Military Salary Package' will be offered to serving and retired personnel of Indian Armed Forces through the Bank's network of over 8,200 domestic branches and around 20,000 business correspondent touch points.
2. Which public sector bank has launched a unique variant of a contactless debit card under the name 'RuPay Select', in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) \_\_\_\_ **Central Bank of India**.  
**Note:**
  - This innovative offering by the bank in the form of RuPay Debit Select Card, will focus on customers' lifestyle, fitness, rejuvenation, nutrition and personal care
  - Users of Central Bank RuPay Select Debit Card can avail complementary membership and concessional access to golf courses, gyms, spas and restaurants.
3. Which online payments solutions provider has collaborated with Google Pay to introduce tokenized payments flow for merchants in India \_\_\_\_ **PayU**.  
**Note:**
  - Following this collaboration, Google Pay users will now get an option to pay a PayU merchant with their debit cards, credit cards, or Google Pay UPI.
  - With the digital token linked to the phone and card information tokenised, Google Pay users can make repeat payments seamlessly and securely.
4. Which general insurance company has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to offer domestic travel insurance \_\_\_\_ **SBI General Insurance**.  
**Note:**
  - The insurance would be offered to bus travelers opting to commute through IntrCity RailYatri, it would be a complimentary travel cover worth Rs 5 lakh which will come along with the travel ticket.
  - Under the travel insurance, SBI General Insurance would provide a wide variety of coverage including accidental death, permanent total disability, and medical evacuation.
5. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected what per cent of contraction in the India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth \_\_\_\_ **7.3%**.  
**Note:**
  - In its mid-year review of the Indian economy, the NCAER said that the long-term effects of the pandemic will last for years.
6. As per the revised guidelines of Union Cabinet for Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting services what per cent of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will be allowed in DTH \_\_\_\_ **100%**.  
**Note:**
  - It also approved the extension of the license period from 10 years to 20 and a reduced licence fee.
  - The licence fee had been reduced in keeping with the rates in the telecom sector
  - Currently, India has 18 crore television sets, out of which 6 crore operate on DTH.

7. Which becomes the 1st Financial Institution (FI) to take the 1st of its kind Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) Portal, e-Governance, Government of Karnataka \_\_\_\_\_ **Canara Bank**.

**Note:**

- Canara Bank becomes the 1st Financial Institution (FI) to take the project on a pilot basis.
- It is the first of its kind technology adoption from the Karnataka govt to combine all 70 lakh farmers in the state with land and other details under a single platform.
- The launch was done at the NABARD office, Karnataka at an event organised by NABARD.

8. Which bank secured the top spot in UPI Transaction among the UPI Remitter Banks with 607.92 million transactions \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India**.

**Note:**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) secured the top spot in UPI Transaction among the UPI Remitter Banks with 607.92 million transactions.
- The banks have initiated close to half or 1.1 billion of the total UPI transactions processed in November
- HDFC is the third largest UPI-player amongst banks in terms of remittances, clocking close to 179.4 million transactions.

9. The GoI has signed a USD 500 million project with which Bank to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank**.

**Note:**

- The Centre and the World Bank signed a USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the banking licence of which Local Area Bank recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd.**

**Note:**

- The central bank observed that the Local Area Bank (LAB) had breached the minimum net worth requirement for two quarters in the financial year 2019-20.
- The bank was incorporated on July 10, 2003 and received a banking licence from RBI to work as a Local Area Bank in the districts of Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, Belagavi & Pune.

11. Which financial organisation topped in BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.

**Note:**

- The BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 Report by Wizikey, a PR- SAAS start-up, highlighted the top 100 banks in India and emerging BFSI models such as Wallets and UPI, Neobanks, NBFCs, Small Finance Bank, Payments Banks, among others, that have found acceptance and their respective sectoral leaders this year.
- According to the report, HDFC, ICICI, and SBI were the top three banks of 2020.

12. Which financial institution has announced to provide Rs 2,100 crore loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Asian Development Bank**.

**Note:**

- Under the loan arrangement, initially ADB would provide Rs 40 crore for engagement of project design and management consultants for urban and tourism sectors.
- Once the projects are prepared, ADB would provide Rs 1,600 crore for development works in urban areas and Rs 500 crore in tourism sector over the next three years.

13. With which organization the National water mission has collaborated for 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan-II: Catch the Rain' an awareness generation campaign for rain water harvesting \_\_\_\_\_ **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan**.

**Note:**

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan will undertake the campaign covering 623 districts across the nation from December 2020 to March 2021.
- NWM has launched a campaign "Catch the rain" with tag line "catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" in order to nudge all stake-holders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) to store rain water as rains falling in the four/five months of monsoon are the only source of water for most parts of the country.

14. The Asian Development Bank has signed a USD 40 million loan agreement with which organization to support the livelihoods of microfinance borrowers and MSMEs in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Northern Arc Capital Limited**.

**Note:**

- The loan is disbursed to NACL as part of ADB's ongoing COVID-19 response.
  - NACL will on-lend the loan proceeds and provide guarantees to financial institutions and individual borrowers.
  - NACL will also on-lend to affordable housing finance companies.
15. Who among the following to offer loan to construct Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP) plant in Central Assam, India \_\_\_\_\_ **Asian Development Bank.**
- Note:**
- The LKHEP plant is expected to double the hydropower generation capacity of the Assam Power Generation Corporation (APGCL).
  - The plant will produce a total capacity of 120MW of electricity to harness water from the Kopili River, to address power requirements during peak demand periods.
16. With which intergovernmental bank the Indian government has signed a pact worth 400 million dollar to aid the poor and vulnerable reeling under the coronavirus crisis \_\_\_\_\_ **World Bank.**
- Note:**
- This is the second operation in a programmatic series of two as the first operation of Dollar 750 million was approved in May 2020.
  - The \$400 million credit has been extended by World Bank's concessionary lending arm International Development Association (IDA).
17. The Government of India and which bank have signed a loan agreement for lending \$1,000 million to support the rural infrastructure in the country and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **New Development Bank.**
- Note:**
- The Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed a loan agreement for lending \$1,000 million for 'supporting India's economic recovery from COVID-19' by supporting expenditures on rural infrastructure related to natural resource management (NRM) and rural employment generation under Government of India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
18. Which housing finance company has signed an MoU with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to promote green buildings in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Ltd.**
- Note:**
- HDFC intends to work with IGBC to create awareness and promote financing of green buildings in the country.
  - Under the MOU, HDFC and IGBC will promote green housing by jointly organising training and awareness programmes to facilitate capacity building across the country.
19. Which public sector bank has decided to exit housing finance business \_\_\_\_\_ **Central Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- State-owned Central Bank of India will exit housing finance joint venture by selling its entire stake of over 64 per cent to Centrum Housing Finance for Rs 160 crore.
  - The bank has entered into a binding agreement to divest its entire equity stake of 64.40 per cent in Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd (CBHFL), to Centrum Housing Finance.
20. Which life insurance company has acquired 8.99 per cent stake in Paisalo Digital \_\_\_\_\_ **SBI Life.**
- Note:**
- The transaction was for cash consideration of about ₹186.20 crore.
  - It has purchased 38 lakh equity shares of the company at ₹489.99 apiece, it further said, adding that the purchase was done in the normal course of business.
21. Which public sector bank has introduced an 'e-Credit Card', a digital replica of a physical Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank.**
- Note:**
- It will allow PNB customers to use PNB e-credit card at any e-commerce platform or merchant website, without the need of carrying the physical card.
  - Customers can view PNB e-Credit Cards details by clicking on e-Credit Card facility in PNB Genie Mobile app.
  - Existing PNB customers will need to update their PNB Genie with the latest app available on Google play store and Apple's app store to use the new feature.
22. According to the annual report of Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) India will become the third largest economy by \_\_\_\_\_ **2030.**
- Note:**



- India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth largest economy in the world but has been relegated to 6th spot in 2020.
  - The UK-based think tank forecast that China will in 2028 overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy, five years earlier than previously estimated due to the contrasting recoveries of the two countries from the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan would remain the world's third-biggest economy, in dollar terms, until the early 2030s when it would be overtaken by India, pushing Germany down from fourth to fifth.
23. Which bank has launched its Digital Lending Platform (DLP), which will allow prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of Baroda**.
- Note:**
- The Platform provides 'in-principle approval' for home, car and personal loans in 30 minutes without human intervention. The bank will also offer 'Online Loan against Fixed Deposits' via DLP.
  - Prospective loan seekers can avail the DLP facility through multiple channels — website, mobile banking, internet banking and social media as well.
24. Which bank has announced a partnership with Google which will allow users to issue FASTag using Google Pay \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank**.
- Note:**
- Google Pay users will now be able to conveniently order, track, and recharge ICICI Bank FASTags.
  - The announcement makes ICICI Bank the first bank to join hands with Google Pay for the issuance of FASTag. This will also add competition for Paytm, which currently issues FASTags from the app as well and is quite a popular choice for many customers.
25. Which small finance bank aims to deliver paperless life insurance solutions to its more than 18 lakh customers through digital platform with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance \_\_\_\_\_ **AU Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- Over 700 banking touch points of AU Bank across 13 states and 2 union territories will receive the entire suite of customer-centric protection and long-term savings products of ICICI Prudential Life for retirement and critical illness.

## Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Motilal Vora passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician**.
- Note:**
- He passed away recently passed away after a prolonged illness.
  - A former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Motilal Vora was also a Rajya Sabha member from Chhattisgarh till April this year.
  - He was also the AICC general secretary (administration) before the recent party reshuffle by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.
2. Renowned environmental activist personality Sugathakumari passed away recently, she was also a poet of which language \_\_\_\_\_ **Malayalam**.
- Note:**
- Sugathakumari was an influential voice in the field of Malayalam literature with her works garnering all the major accolades on offer in the country.
  - She was a recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award, Kendra Sahitya Akademi award, Odakkuzhal award, Ezhuthachan award among others.
3. Shamsur Rahman Faruqi passed away recently, he was an accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ **Urdu Poet**.
- Note:**
- Faruqi's book 'Kai Chaand The Sar-e-Asmaan', written in 2006, has been hailed as a masterpiece of Urdu fiction. An English version of this book 'Mirror of Beauty' was published in 2013.
  - He has also translated his stories into English which are included in a book titled 'The Sun That Rose from the Earth' in 2014.
  - He has also been credited with spearheading the revival of the Dastangoi – an Urdu oral storytelling art form.
4. Famous sportsperson John Edrich passed away recently, he was associated with which sport \_\_\_\_\_ **Cricket**.
- Note:**
- Former England opening batsman John Edrich passed away at the age of 83.

- John Edrich had a prolific career for England and scored more than 5,000 runs during a 77-match Test career, including 12 centuries.
- The batsman was also the captain of Surrey and hit 103 hundreds and more than 39,000 runs in first-class cricket
- 5. Renowned personality Robin Jackman passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **cricketer**.  
**Note:**
  - Jackman played in four Tests and 15 one-day internationals for his country, while he took 1,402 wickets in a 399-game first-class career between 1966 and 1982.
  - Following his retirement he became a successful commentator in South Africa.
- 6. Renowned personality Ishwar Bidri passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **cinematographer**.  
**Note:**
  - He was best known for his work in popular 1990s films like Andaz Apna Apna and Border.
  - Ishwar Bidri is best known for his longstanding collaboration with filmmaker JP Dutta for whom he shot action dramas like Yateem, Hathayar, Batwara in the late 1980s and the 1998 war epic Border.
- 7. Renowned personality Sunil Kothari passed away recently, he was an eminent \_\_\_\_\_ **dance scholar**.  
**Note:**
  - A Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow, Kothari blazed a new trail in documenting Indian classical dance forms.
  - Kothari received numerous titles and awards for his contribution to Indian dance forms including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1995); the Gaurav Puraskar conferred by the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi (2000); the Padma Shri bestowed by the Government of India (2001); and the Life Time Achievement Award of the Dance Critics Association, New York, USA (2011). He was also an elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to Indian dance as a scholar.

### Important Days

1. In India the National Mathematics Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **22nd December**.  
**Note:**
  - The main objective behind celebrating the day is to raise awareness among people about the importance of mathematics for the development of humanity.
  - National Mathematics Day was first observed in 2012 when former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh declared this day as National Mathematics Day on February 26, 2012.
2. National Farmers' Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **23rd December**.  
**Note:**
  - Kisan Diwas or National Farmers' Day is observed on December 23, the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth prime minister of India.
  - This day is of vital significance as it lays the idea of empowering the farmers of the society with the latest learnings of the agricultural sector.
3. What is the theme of National Consumer Rights Day being celebrated every year on 24th December \_\_\_\_\_ **The Sustainable Consumer**.  
**Note:**
  - On December 24, 1986, Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the approval of the President of India and hence, came into force. Consumer Protection Act 1986 aims to provide few rights to the consumers in order to save them from the damages caused to them due to different unfair trade practices.
4. National Good governance day is observed annually on \_\_\_\_\_ **December 25**.  
**Note:**
  - The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  - The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill.
5. Ministry of skills development joins hands with which entities to provide digital learning content for students at industrial training institutes (ITIs) \_\_\_\_\_ **Microsoft and NASSCOM**.  
**Note:**
  - Nearly 1,20,000 students in around 3000 ITIs across India can be benefited by this digitized e-learning module via the Bharatskills portal.

- Microsoft has also facilitated access to the free content available on the Microsoft Learn platform for more than 24 lakh students in the ITI ecosystem, by linking the Global Skilling Initiative (GSI) through the Bharatskills platform.
6. The first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, observed on \_\_\_\_\_ **27 December 2020**.
- Note:**
- The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness aims to promote international awareness and action on the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) \_\_\_\_\_ **Vineet Agarwal**.  
**Note:**
  - Managing Director of logistics major Transport Corporation of India Limited Vineet Agarwal has taken over as the new President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), the industry body said.
  - He replaces Niranjana Hiranandani, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Hiranandani Group of Companies.
  - Sumant Sinha, Chairman and Managing Director of ReNew Power, is the new Senior Vice-President of Assocham.
2. Who has been appointed as Romania's new prime minister \_\_\_\_\_ **Florin Cîtu**.  
**Note:**
  - Some 260 lawmakers in Romania's 465-seat, two-chamber assembly on Wednesday voted for the new government, while 186 voted against.
  - Former investment banker and finance minister Florin Cîtu become the new prime minister at a time when Romania is struggling against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout.
3. Who has become the Country's Youngest Mayor from Kerala's Capital Thiruvananthapuram \_\_\_\_\_ **Arya Rajendran**.  
**Note:**
  - The party district committee has decided to field S Arya Rajendran as the mayor candidate on behalf of the LDF and Suresh Kumar as the District panchayat president of Thiruvananthapuram.
  - In the recent civic polls, the LDF has won 51 wards in the 100-member prestigious corporation of the Kerala capital.
  - Rajendran is a state committee member of the Students Federation of India (SFI) and also the state president of Balasangam, the children's wing of the Left party.
4. Who has been nominated as the board member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.  
**Note:**
  - Dr Vardhan will represent the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board. Dr Vardhan will assume the charge with effect from January 1, 2021, and serve till December 31, 2023.

### Important News – India

1. Who will head the committee constituted by the central government to celebrate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ **Amit Shah**.  
**Note:**
  - The committee will include experts, historians, authors, and family members of Netaji, as well as eminent personalities associated with his Azad Hind Fauj and Indian National Army.
  - The committee will lend guidance to the commemorative activities in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and the Azad Hind Fauj in India as well as overseas.
2. Which institution has decided to establish the "Dr F C Kohli Centre of Excellence for Advanced Research in Mathematical and Computing Sciences" \_\_\_\_\_ **Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)**.  
**Note:**
  - With a committed donation of Rs 10 crore towards the establishment of the centre, the institute will raise funds from corporates, community groups, colleagues and wellwishers to further augment the corpus.
  - FC Kohli, known as the architect of the Indian IT industry, passed away on November 26 at the age of 96.

3. As per the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018' report, released by Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, the population of leopard in India has increased by what per cent \_\_\_\_\_ **60 per cent**.

**Note:**

- More than 60 per cent increase in population has been recorded over the previous estimate which was conducted in 2014.
- The States of MP (3,421), Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690) have recorded the highest leopard estimates.

4. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has launched a multilingual call centre for aquafarmers in which state, in a first of its kind initiative \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than 60 per cent of the country's marine products export basket.
- The call centre can also handle calls in English and Hindi.

5. Homegrown data storage and management platform DigiBoxx has been launched by \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog**.

**Note:**

- India now has its own cloud storage platform, DigiBoxx. A potential alternative to Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft OneDrive, the indigenous cloud service is seen as a step that furthers the initiative of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.'
- The homegrown data storage and management platform has been launched by NITI Aayog and it will provide affordable services to both regular users as well as businesses.
- Without revealing any technical details, the company said that all the data will be encrypted and stored in servers in India.
- The cloud storage platform is available on Android and iOS and can be accessed on computers through the web. The most interesting feature of the service DigiBoxx is that it allows users to share files even when they don't have a DigiBoxx account.

6. International Gita Mahotsav 2020 was held in which city of India inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh chief minister (CM) Jai Ram Thakur \_\_\_\_\_ **Kurukshetra**.

**Note:**

- The international festival was held from 17th to 25th December, 2020.
- In view of the pandemic, the celebrations are subdued this time.
- While earlier, the extravaganza used to continue throughout the month, this time the celebrations was last for only a week.

7. With which organization the with Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sharing ocean services data, expertise in operational oceanography \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Navy**.

**Note:**

- This MoU is focused on sharing of ocean services, data, and expertise in the field of operational oceanography and the same will benefit both Indian Navy and INCOIS in furthering meaningful interactions and professional exchanges in future.

8. India will host a Global Media and Film Summit in \_\_\_\_ **2021**.

**Note:**

- The year 2022 will mark 75 years of independence and 75 years of Cannes Film Festival, and the occasion will be celebrated in a different scale with a special pavilion at the International Film Festival.

9. India indigenously developed high horsepower locomotives and has becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ country in the world to do so \_\_\_\_\_ **6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- The Indian Railways has operationalised its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive manufactured locally by French rolling stock manufacturer Alstom.
- The locomotive made its maiden commercial run between Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station to Shivpu/
- Indian Railways' completes five years of awarding the contract to Alstom for manufacturing the high-speed electric locomotives.

10. Name the mobile application that was launched by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot to identify and geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers \_\_\_\_\_ **"Swachhata Abhiyan"**.

**Note:**

- This app would help in rehabilitating all manual scavengers and replace insanitary latrines with sanitary ones.



- In the absence of any authentic data base regarding the location of insanitary latrines, it has been decided to seek the help of NGOs, Social Organisations and general public for collection and compilation of the data.

11. Who has launched E-Sampada, a new web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day \_\_\_\_\_ **Hardeep Singh Puri.**

**Note:**

- The new application provides a single window for all the services including allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, office space allotment to government organisations in 45 office complexes in 28 cities and booking of 1,176 holiday home rooms.
- The portal provides online facility to users across India to lodge complaints, submit documents and appear for virtual hearing.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched a special campaign 'Varasat' (natural succession) to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- This is a first of its kind campaign in the state which aims to put an end the land-related issues in the rural areas and eradicate the exploitation of the villagers over succession rights by land mafias, who generally target disputed properties.
- The two-month-long special drive will continue till 15th February 2020.

2. Which state government has signed a pact with Cerestra Managers Pvt Ltd to set up a Special Education Region \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- The Gujarat government signed a pact with Cerestra Managers Pvt Ltd to set up the Gujarat-Special Education Region (G-SER) at the Dholera Special Investment Region.
- The G-SER will be developed as an education hub spread over 1,000 acres that can be expanded up to 5,000 acres to develop university district, school district and innovation district

3. Which state government has collaborated with UN-Women to establish India's first Gender Data Hub \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala.**

**Note:**

- The Gender Hub builds on the goals established through the International Conference on Gender Equality held in November 2015, to collect, analyse and use more nuanced data and inform policy formulation in a manner that centre-stages women's rights.

4. Which state government has launched 'PR Insight' mobile app and web portal \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab.**

**Note:**

- The 'PR Insight' mobile app and web portal will look after and improve the delivery of citizen-centric services in order to observe responsive and transparent administration in the State.
- It will work coordinately in response to the feedback from the people on government policies and schemes.
- The app and web portal will help to align the proper execution of existing schemes so that each person can avail the benefits.
- It is developed by the Information & Public Relations Department.

5. Which has become the first state to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India and South Asia \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India and South Asia in a project led by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) with Australian technology company Power Ledger.
- Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) and the subsidiary Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (MUVNL) will host a pilot project involving peer-to-peer (P2P) trading of energy generated from solar rooftop systems installed on buildings in Lucknow.
- India Smart Grid Forum along with two other organisations will execute the project.
- The P2P trading platform's first 12 participants would comprise nine customers with rooftop solar systems (prosumers) and three customers without rooftop solar systems (net buyers).

6. Which state will become the first state in the country to establish a leather park \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- A mega leather park will come up in Ramaipur village of Kanpur with an investment of Rs 5,850 crores. With the mega leather cluster at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh will become the first state in the country to establish a leather park.

- The park which is part of the mega leather cluster project is likely to create 50,000 jobs.
  - The mega leather cluster project will attract an investment of about Rs 13,000 crores.
  - The leather park will be equipped with an effluent treatment plant to keep a check on pollution.
7. Which state government's Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Accelerator to build startup ecosystem \_\_\_\_\_ **Haryana**.
- Note:**
- The Government is in the process of building a robust Startup Ecosystem for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the state.
  - The Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Government (DITECH) Haryana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Accelerator.
8. Rajasthan government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which IIT to create a data-driven system approach to road safety \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras**.
- Note:**
- The objective of this collaboration is to enhance road safety measures, increase capacity and capability across the board in the Government to both increase the survivability of road accident victims and reduce occurrence rate in the State.
9. Which state government has signed an MoU with SAP India to digitize and empower MSMEs in the state by equipping them with digital skilling and technologies \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- The program will work towards promoting entrepreneurship for the MSMEs sector, by providing them with access to the global marketplace, digital skilling for the workforce and access to affordable enterprise technology.
10. Which state government has launched a 'Career Portal' for secondary and higher secondary students in collaboration with UNICEF \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.
- Note:**
- The portal will provide easy access to information on different careers and will give students an opportunity to interact with teachers.
  - Students will also be able to access career guidance services through a mobile friendly app created specifically for the portal.
11. India's first Lithium refinery is soon going to be set up in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- The company will import Lithium ore from Australia and will be processing in Gujarat.
  - Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy company will invest around Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery.
  - The refinery will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material.

### Important News – World

1. The 20th edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_ **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- Note:**
- The theme of the meeting was "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean".
  - The Indian delegation was led by V. Muraleedharan, MoS, Ministry of External Affairs. Sri Lanka has assumed the charge of Vice-Chair of IORA for the period 2021-23.
2. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country for cooperation in the fields of Health and Medicine, sharing expertise in building climate resilient infrastructure & support to 'Green Healthcare' \_\_\_\_\_ **Israel**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed by Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi & Sanjeev Kumar Singla, India's ambassador to Israel.
  - On November 4, 2020, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the signing of MoU between India & Israel.
3. Which organization has launched 'COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard' \_\_\_\_\_ **UNICEF**.
- Note:**

- The dashboard, in this 1st release offers a routinely updated overview of the global research and development pipeline, the projected production capacity, the bilateral and multilateral supply agreements, that were announced publicly and the reported price points.
  - The dashboard will be expanded to see the progress towards the goal of the COVAX Facility to achieve 2 billion vaccine doses by the end of 2021.
4. Which country has successfully launched a new remote sensing satellite 'Yaogan-33' into space \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
- Note:**
- The satellite, Yaogan-33, was launched aboard a Long March-4C rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully. It was the 357th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series, the report said.
  - The mission also sent a micro and nano technology experiment satellite into orbit. The two satellites will be used for scientific experiments, land resources survey, crop yield estimation and disaster prevention and reduction.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Lewis Hamilton**.
- Note:**
- The 35-year-old driver, who last month equalled Michael Schumacher's record of seven F1 titles, overcame Jordan Henderson and Hollie Doyle to win the British broadcaster's prestigious prize in a public vote.
  - England midfielder Henderson led Liverpool to its first Premier League title in 30 years.
2. Which academic institutions has bagged a prestigious award of merit in the 2020 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific awards for cultural heritage conservation \_\_\_\_\_ **Amar Singh College Srinagar**.
- Note:**
- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) chapter in the union territory has been administering the conservation work at the 80-year-old building.
  - Seven conservation projects have been awarded by an international panel of jury members, which reviewed 48 nominees from nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. Name the 12-year-old Indian boy in the UAE has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by identifying the most aeroplane tails in a minute \_\_\_\_\_ **Siddhant Gumber**.
- Note:**
- Siddhant Gumber, an Abu Dhabi-based homeschooled boy who identified 39 aeroplane tails in 60 seconds, is also the youngest Indian to identify top 100 tallest buildings.
  - His name also features in the India Book' for being the youngest to identify the top 100 tallest buildings of the world with their respective heights and locations.
4. Which company has been conferred "Excellence" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain at the 15th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC Ltd**.
- Note:**
- NTPC has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence Category, Commendation for Significant Achievement.
  - This is the highest award conferred by CII-ITC in CSR domain. NTPC is the only PSU to receive the award in the Corporate Excellence category.
  - NTPC wins the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards in Corporate Excellence category second time in a row i.e. in the year 2019 and 2020.
5. Who has been conferred with the prestigious "Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020" \_\_\_\_\_ **V.K. Yadav**.
- Note:**
- Every year Institution of Engineering and Technology, Delhi Local Network celebrates Engineers' Day on the 15th September to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya.
  - On this occasion, besides technical activities the Institution also presents Eminent Engineer's Award to distinguished Engineering personalities for their outstanding services in the field of Engineering and technology.

### Sports News

1. The Indian Hockey men team ranked at what position in the latest rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) at the end of 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- Belgium Men's Team will finish 2020 at the top position, while Netherlands women's team finished 1st.
- In January, 2020, FIH released a new method for calculation of World Ranking.
- The new method is based on a match-based rankings model, moving away from Tournament-based rankings followed by FIH.

2. Which country will host the 2030 Asian Games as per the announcement made by the Olympic Council of Asia \_\_\_\_\_ **Qatar.**

**Note:**

- An executive board meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) unanimously approved the proposal to name the runner-up in the two-horse race for the 2030 games as 2034 hosts.
- The decision means Qatar will play host to the multi-sport event eight years after it organises the 2022 football World Cup finals.

3. Which country has got the hosting right for the FIFA Under-20 Men's World Cup in 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Indonesia.**

**Note:**

- The Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to cancel the 2021 editions of the men's U-20 World Cup and U-17 World Cup and gave the hosting rights to Indonesia and Peru respectively for the 2023 editions.

4. Which country will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia and New Zealand.**

**Note:**

- Australia and New Zealand will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.
- The play-off tournament will be used as a test event in Australia and New Zealand for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

5. Name the Russian doubles badminton player has received a five-year ban after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results \_\_\_\_\_ **Nikita Khakimov.**

**Note:**

- The BWF opened an investigation against Khakimov after obtaining a statement from a whistleblower, who claimed the shuttler had approached him to manipulate match results at the European Teams Championships held in February 2018.
- Khakimov, 32, was part of the Russian men's team that won the bronze medal at the 2020 European Team Championships.

6. Who wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade \_\_\_\_\_ **Virat Kohli.**

**Note:**

- The winners of the prestigious ICC Awards of the Decade including the Rachel Heyhoe-Flint for Best Female Player and Sir Garfield Sobers for Best Male Player, were announced.
- Virat Kohli wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha" \_\_\_\_\_ **Jairam Ramesh.**

**Note:**

- The book will showcase the story of the poem "The Lights of Asia" which shaped the people's view of Buddha and his teachings.
- The book will be published by Viking imprint of Penguin India.

2. Who has authored the book titled "Vajpayee: The Years that changed India" \_\_\_\_\_ **Shakti Sinha.**

**Note:**

- **The** new book on former PM was released on his 96th birth anniversary.
- **Shakti Sinha** has worked with Vajpayee as the secretary to the leader of the Opposition (1996-97) and as his private secretary (1998-99).

3. Who has authored the book titled 'Ayodhya' \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhav Bhandari.**

**Note:**

- Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis released the book 'Ayodhya' written by BJP's State Vice President Madhav Bhandari in Mumbai.
- Fadnavis said that the fight to build a Ram temple is a fight to awaken the Hindu community and the book will be used as a reference book.



4. Who has authored the book titled 'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan' \_\_\_\_\_ **Kailash Satyarthi**.

**Note:**

- The Hindi book, published by Prabhat Prakashan, discusses how the pandemic has influenced the education system, business, politics, public safety, foreign policy, law, medicine, economy and development of countries.

5. "In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" is an autobiography of \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajindar Sachar**.

**Note:**

- The family of Late Justice Rajindar Sachar in association with The Indian Society of International Law and The Indian Law Institute is organizing the book launch "In Pursuit Of Justice: An Autobiography" written by Late Justice Rajindar Sachar.
- The book has been posthumously published.

6. Who has authored the book (Novel) titled "Antima" \_\_\_\_\_ **Manav Kaul**.

**Note:**

- Manav Kaul on December 28 presented his first novel "Antima" to Ruskin Bond here and the iconic author said he hopes the book earns the actor "lots of royalties and readers".
- The "Ghoul" actor took to Instagram to share a short video in which Bond congratulated him on the release of the Hindi book.

### Science and Defence

1. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up its Regional Academic Center for Space (RAC-S) in which IITs \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT-BHU**.

**Note:**

- In this regard a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between IIT-BHU and ISRO to pave the way for advanced research in the future technology of the Indian space program.
- IIT-BHU will act as a catalyst for capacity building, awareness creation and R & D activities of ISRO. The activities of RAC-S shall be directed to maximize the utilization of research potential, infrastructure, expertise available at ISRO and IIT-BHU.

2. India successfully test-fired a medium range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) from Odisha coast, the missile has been jointly developed by DRDO and which aerospace manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_ **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

**Note:**

- The missile was fired from a ground mobile launcher at launch pad number-1 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) near here at 3.55 pm, and it hit the target with accuracy.
- An unmanned air vehicle (UAV), 'Banshee', was first flown into the air, which was hit by the MRSAM.

3. Which defence manufacturing group has received 'green channel status' from Defence Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ **L & T Defence**.

**Note:**

- It has received the status from the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) under the Ministry of Defence for its major naval weapon delivery systems.
- L&T became the first private sector defence company to be granted this (green channel) status for delivery of major naval systems.

4. The 51<sup>st</sup> Director General (DG) Level Border Coordination Meet between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) took place in which place \_\_\_\_\_ **Guwahati, Assam**.

**Note:**

- India was represented by DG Rakesh Asthana and Bangladesh was represented by Major General Md Shafeenul Islam.
- The dignitaries discussed border-related issues and assured to develop coordination between the border guarding forces of both nations.
- They held discussions about development and infrastructure work to implement a coordinated border management plan and confidence building measures.

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