

Weekly One-Liners

8-14 Jan 2021



Weekly One Liner Updates 8-14th January 2021

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of January 2021. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- As per the first Advance Estimates (AE) of GDP for the year 2020-21 released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will shrink by what per cent in the financial year ending March 2021 _____ **7.7%**.

Note:

- The real GDP at 2011-12 prices in 2020-21 has been estimated to contract by 7.7 per cent and nominal GDP at current prices by 4.2 per cent.
- That's steeper than a 7.5% drop forecast by the Reserve Bank of India, as well as economists surveyed by Bloomberg and other agencies.

- PhonePe in partnership with which life insurer launched Term Life Insurance plans on its platform _____ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**.

Note:

- This policy can be availed by PhonePe users instantly on PhonePe app through an all digital process without the need of any health check-ups and paperwork
- This plan enables PhonePe users to protect their families from financial turmoil in case of an untimely demise of them.

- Which public sector bank has signed an MoU with the SIDBI to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) customers of the bank to apply online for one-time restructuring (OTR) _____ **Bank of Baroda**.

Note:

- With this, the eligible MSME entities can get credit exposure up to Rs 25 crore.
- The restructuring of the borrower account will be implemented by March 31, 2021.
- The MSME Customer can now access the web-based portal, 'Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs (ARM-MSME)'.

- Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) has partnered with which general insurance company to initiate comprehensive insurance covers for the customers of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh _____ **Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited**.

Note:

- Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation operates in the entire territory of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It plays a pioneering role in boosting industrial climate in the State by providing financial assistance to various Small and Medium Enterprises besides others.

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has signed an MoU with which company for providing its technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects _____ **NHPC Limited**.

Note:

- Under the MoU, IREDA will undertake Techno-Financial due diligence of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and conservation projects for NHPC.
- IREDA will assist NHPC in developing an action plan to create and acquire Renewable Energy projects for the next five years.
- IREDA is under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- Which bank in association with Indian Oil Corporation launched a co-branded contactless Rupay debit card _____ **State Bank of India**.

Note:

- On spent of Rs 200 at IndianOil fuel station, every time customer will get 6 reward points and loyalty points worth 0.75% against the purchase of fuel.
- The initiative will promote digital payments and is in alignment with the Government's vision of a Digital India.
- The card was launched by Dinesh Kumar Khara, chairman, SBI and Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, chairman, IndianOil.

7. Which bank has signed an MoU with NABFOUNDATION to provide working capital to all self-help groups (SHGs) which have an account with it and undertake the 'My Pad My Right' project _____ **Central Bank of India.**

Note:

- Central Bank of India (CBoI) and NABFOUNDATION signed an MoU to provide working capital to all self-help groups (SHGs) which have an account with it and undertake the 'My Pad My Right' project.
- NABFOUNDATION is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD.
- This cheap, collateral-free credit will support rural women needed to take up manufacturing on a regular basis.

8. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) gave approval to the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Columbia Asia Hospitals Private Limited(CAHPL) by which Hospital Group _____ **Manipal Hospitals.**

Note:

- After this acquisition MHEPL will become India's 2nd largest healthcare chain, after Apollo Hospitals.
- In regard to the acquisition MHEPL has entered into a share purchase agreement with CAHPL in November 2020.

9. India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR), a comprehensive report issued by the WTO Secretariat which acknowledged India's strong economic growth at what per cent during in the last five years from 2015-20 _____ **7.4%.**

Note:

- India's official delegation for the TPR is headed by the Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan.
- During the TPR, a comprehensive report issued by the WTO Secretariat which acknowledged India's strong economic growth at 7.4% during in the last five years i.e. 2015-20.

10. What is India's rank in the 3rd edition of Digital Evolution Scorecard 2020 developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard _____ **4th.**

Note:

- It should be noted that India doubled its mobile internet connectivity in the last four years It will add 350 million smartphones by 2023.
- The scorecard was published in the Harvard Business Review in December 2020.
- In Digital Evolution-State Category, Singapore Topped followed by United States, Hong Kong. India ranked at 61st position

11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of which cooperative bank _____ **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd.**

Note:

- The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- The RBI said the bank has failed to comply with the requirements and continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors.

12. Which e-commerce platform has collaborated with NITI Aayog to launch the updated Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) _____ **Flipkart.**

Note:

- The revamped platform has multiple regional language support, allows interaction with women, fellow women entrepreneurs and mentors to communicate and also has a Question and Answer Portal.
- The community on WEP platform will connect women entrepreneurs who seek clarification on GST, funding, effects of the pandemic & progression of already established businesses.

13. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a working group on digital lending to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated financial sector as well as by unregulated players _____ **Jayant Kumar Dash.**

Note:

- This is to ensure that an appropriate regulatory approach is put in place.
- The working group consists of both internal and external members. The internal members include Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI (Chairman); Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Chief General Manager in-charge, Department of Supervision, RBI; S.P. Vasudevan, Chief General Manager, Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, RBI; and Manoranjan Mishra, Chief General Manager, Department of Regulation, RBI (Member Secretary).
- The external members are Vikram Mehta, co-founder, Monexo Fintech; and Rahul Sasi, cyber security expert and founder of CloudSEK.

14. Government of India has decided to sale what per cent of its stake in the Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) through an offer for sale (OFS), which could fetch over Rs 2,600 crore for the exchequer _____ **10 per cent.**

Note:

- The government, which held 75 per cent stake in SAIL as of September quarter, will divest 5 per cent equity stake in the company with a 5 per cent greenshoe option, an option to sell further equity in case of over-subscription. The government had last sold 5 per cent stake in the state-owned steel maker in December 2014.

15. Which social sector scheme has completed five years of its operation on January 2021 _____ **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.**

Note:

- PMFBY was launched on January 13, 2016 with an aim to provide a comprehensive risk solution at the lowest uniform premium across the country for farmers.
- So far, 29 crore farmers have insured their crops under the scheme and about 5.5 crores new farmers are getting registered every year. The government has disbursed claims worth Rs 90,000 crore in the last five years.

16. The UBS Investment Bank has projected that the Indian Economy will shrink by what per cent in the 2020-21 _____ **7.5 per cent.**

Note:

- Swiss brokerage major UBS Investment Bank has projected the Indian economy to contract 7.5 per cent in the current fiscal FY21, ending March 2021.
- UBS further expects the economy to rebound at 11.5 per cent in FY22. For the FY23, GDP growth is expected to stabilise at 6 per cent.

17. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on which foreign bank for non-compliance _____ **Deutsche Bank AG.**

Note:

- The bank did not comply with "certain provisions of directions contained in the 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c), read with Section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

18. According to Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank of India, banks' gross non-performing assets may rise to what per cent by September 2021 _____ **13.5%.**

Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Financial Stability Report (FSR) of December 2020 has stated that banks' gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) may rise sharply to 13.5 per cent by September 2021, and escalate to 14.8 per cent, nearly double the 7.5 per cent in the same period of 2019-20, under the severe stress scenario.
- And banks will have to brace for a rollback of regulatory forbearance that was announced in the wake of the pandemic, and enhance their capital positions.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Satya Paul passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Fashion Designer.**

Note:

- Paul started his journey in the field of retail in the late 60's and expanded to exports of Indian handloom products to high-end retail stores in Europe and America.
- In 1980, he launched the first 'saree boutique' in India, L'Affaire, and founded the eponymous fashion clothing brand with his son in 1986.
- The brand soon became synonymous for its sleek sarees.

2. Turlapati Kutumba Rao passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Journalist.**

Note:

- Mr. Rao had the distinction of being a personal secretary to Tanguturi Prakasam, the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.
- A native of Vijayawada, Mr. Rao had worked as editor and editorial writer of Telugu newspaper Andhra Jyothi for close to three-and-a-half decades. He won laurels for translating into Telugu the speeches of many national leaders and stalwarts.

3. Renowned journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Neil Sheehan passed away recently was a citizen of which country _____ **USA.**

Note:

- His account of the Vietnam War, *A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*, took him 15 years to write. The 1988 book won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction.
 - Sheehan served as a war correspondent for United Press International and then the Times in the early days of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War in the 1960s.
4. Veteran politician and former Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki was also chief minister of which state who passed away recently _____ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- Born on July 30, 1927, the nonagenarian leader was the chief minister of Gujarat four times and also Union external affairs minister. Under his leadership, the Congress rode to power in the Gujarat assembly in 1985, winning 149 of the 182 seats -- an electoral feat that has not been matched so far.
 - Solanki, Congress stalwart had left active politics since last two decades as he was pursuing his passion for reading and writing.
5. Famous Indian-American Ved Prakash Mehta passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Novelist**.
- Note:**
- The New Yorker magazine, where he had been a staff writer for 33 years, reported that he had died on Saturday.
 - Mehta provided the first introduction to India for many contemporary Americans through his popular books and articles that ranged from the autobiographical to the political and historic.
6. Renowned personality Prof Shashikumar Madhusudan (M.) Chitre, passed away, he was a famous _____ **Astrophysicist**.
- Note:**
- He is the recipient of Padma Bhushan. He was born on May 7, 1936 in India.
 - He retired as a senior professor from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, in 2001
 - He served as the visiting professor of many universities across the world namely, University of Columbia, University of Virginia among others.
7. Renowned personality Sheldon Adelson passed away recently, he was associated with which profession _____ **Casino**.
- Note:**
- Adelson, whose net worth was estimated by Forbes to be around \$33 billion, had been among the most-watched donors supporting President Trump's 2020 reelection effort.
 - He was a staunch supporter of Israel.
8. Renowned personality D Prakash Rao passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Social Activist**.
- Note:**
- He was basically a tea seller based in Cuttack, who spent his entire earning to educate slum children, through the school 'Asha O Ashwasana', which he started in 2000.
 - He was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum kids in Cuttack.
 - Apart from this, Rao was also a well-known blood donor.

Important Days

1. What is the theme of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention to be organized on 9th January 2021 _____ **Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Note:**
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Indians.
 - In view of the sentiments of our vibrant diaspora community, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, is being organized on 9th January 2021, despite the ongoing Covid pandemic.
2. The World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on which date _____ **10th January**.
- Note:**
- The day was observed as on this day in 1975, India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inaugurated the first World Hindi Conference.
 - The basic aim of observing this day is to promote the Hindi language worldwide.
3. What is the theme of 'National Youth Day 2021' observed every year on 12th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda _____ **'YUVAAH - Utsah Naye Bharat Ka'**.
- Note:**

- National Youth Day is celebrated in India every year on 12 January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
 - The day was declared by the Government of India in 1984 while the event was first celebrated in 1985.
 - The main aim behind this is to make sure that the students across the country can be encouraged to learn about the life, the ideas and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and apply them in their lives.
4. In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on _____ **14 January**.
- Note:**
- In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017 to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation.
 - The day was initially called Armistice Day. 2021 marks the 5th Armed Forces Veterans Day.
5. Ministry of Transport and Highways has decided to observe Road Safety Month from _____ **18 January to 17 February 2021**.
- Note:**
- During this period, various nation-wide activities have been planned to be conducted throughout the country in association with the state governments/ UT administrations, OEMs and other stakeholders.
 - The month-long event will see awards being given to best performance in road safety to a state as well as Swacchta Award, road safety activities by NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited), HOAI (Highway Operator Association of India), NHAH among others.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the first woman chief justice of Telangana High Court _____ **Hima Kohli**.
- Note:**
- She is the first woman chief justice of the state. She came here from Delhi high court. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to her.
 - Justice Hima Kohli got enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi. She was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Delhi on 29 May, 2006.
2. Who has been appointed as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020 _____ **Raj Iyer**.
- Note:**
- One of the highest-ranking Indian-American civilians in the US Department of Defense, Raj Iyer, who holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army and directs representation of the secretary in matters relating to information management/information technology (IT).
 - Equivalent in rank to a three-star General, Raj Iyer will supervise an annual budget of USD 16 billion for the US Army's IT operations.
3. Who has been appointed as full-time Director of the College of Supervisors (CoS), which was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to further broaden and strengthen the supervisory skills among RBI's regulatory and supervisory staff _____ **Rabi Narayan Mishra**.
- Note:**
- The College of Supervisors (CoS) has now been fully operationalized for effective supervision of the regulated entities.
 - It was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2020 to further broaden and strengthen the supervisory skills among RBI's regulatory and supervisory staff at entry level and on a continuous basis.
4. Who has been appointed as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House _____ **Sabrina Singh**.
- Note:**
- Singh was Press Secretary to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the Biden-Harris campaign. Prior to her role on the campaign, Singh served as senior spokesperson for Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign and National Press Secretary for Cory Booker's presidential campaign.
5. Who has been appointed as the head of a 10-member empowered committee for administration of COVID-19 vaccine by the Government of India _____ **RS Sharma**.
- Note:**

- The members of the committee comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
 - The committee can invite distinguished persons when there is a need to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine through Co-WIN app.
6. Who has been named as the official representative of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings _____ **Jai Shah**.
- Note:**
- Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
 - He will replace BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who was currently representing India at the ICC Board, but he suffered a heart condition recently and had to be admitted to hospital where he underwent primary angioplasty.
7. Japarov Sadyr Nurgojoevich was elected as the president of which country _____ **Kyrgyzstan**.
- Note:**
- He served as the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan till 14th November 2020 after which his official powers in office are suspended due to the pending results of the January 2021 presidential election.
 - He served as the acting president of the country after the resignation of Sooronbay Jeenbekov.
 - After his resignation, Talant Mamytov, speaker of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament became the acting president of the country.
8. Who has been nominated as the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) by US President-elect Joe Biden _____ **Samantha Power**.
- Note:**
- If confirmed by the Senate, Power, 50, will head the agency which oversees US foreign humanitarian and development aid, Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday.
 - Biden also announced that he is elevating the position to the National Security Council within the White House.

Important News – India

1. In collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA) which university has organized the Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020', inaugurated by the Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' _____ **Central University of Punjab, Bathinda**.
- Note:**
- This two-day International Conference is being organized by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA).
 - The focal theme of EDUCON-2020 is "Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace".
2. The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for which Union Territories _____ **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Note:**
- The government of India has formulated a New Industrial Development Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K IDS, 2021) as the Central Sector Scheme for the Development of Industries in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment which directly leads to the socio-economic development of the area.
3. Under whose chairmanship the Union Government has decided to form a committee to find a solution to issues associated with preservation of Ladakh's land, culture and language _____ **G Kishan Reddy**.
- Note:**
- A 10-member delegation from Ladakh met Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday. The delegation is learnt to have expressed concern over threat to the region's unique culture, language and demography due to recent changes brought about by the Centre to the status of the region.
 - The delegation included former MPs Thiksay Rinpoche and Thupstan Chhewang, former BJP minister Chering Dorjay, Leh chief executive councillor Tashi Gyalsen and sitting BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.
4. The Central government has sanctioned Rs 37.87 crore for the facelift of Parshuram Kund pilgrimage site located in which state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**

- Parshuram Kund is one of the most sacred places in the country which is visited by a large number of pilgrims throughout the year and thousands of people take a holy dip in the Lohit river during Makar Sankranti.
- It is expected to boost the livelihood of the locals & socio-economic development of the area.
5. What was the theme of Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020' _____ **Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace.**
- Note:**
- The focal theme of EDUCON-2020 was Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace.
- This two-day International Conference is being organized by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA).
6. Who represented India in the Annual India and France Strategic Dialogue 2021 to discuss regional and global issues _____ **Ajit Doval.**
- Note:**
- The key focus areas of discussions were Covid-19 vaccines, cooperation within the Indo-Pacific area, nuclear, space, maritime safety, environment, digital economy, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and defence sectors.
- The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was held in February 2020 in Paris, France. It is held with the two countries as alternating as hosts.
7. Which public sector company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to establish Clean & Energy Efficient Interventions at NHAI Establishments _____ **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).**
- Note:**
- EESL will set up Solar Power Projects, energy efficient LED lighting and EV Charging stations at NHAI establishments.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajeev Sharma, Chairman, EESL & RK Pandey, Member-Projects, NHAI.
8. Who has launched the 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines _____ **Amit Shah.**
- Note:**
- The platform is expected to ease the process of obtaining clearances for the smooth operationalisation of coal mines. It will help in reducing the time taken to grant approvals in the sector.
- The Unified platform will reduce the need for companies to approach different for operationalisation of coal mines, which is the main cause for delay.
9. What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021 released by Henley & Partners, based on the exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) _____ **85th.**
- Note:**
- Last year, India held 84th position. Indian passport got a score of 58, which means Indian passport holders get to visit 58 countries without prior visa. India shared the rank with Tajikistan.
- Japan, once again topped the list with a visa-free score of 191. The nation has been holding the position for three consecutive years, either solely or jointly, with Singapore. This year, Singapore sits at the second position with 190 countries.
10. Bharti Airtel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which institutions for the digital transformation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in order to achieve the goal of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" _____ **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).**
- Note:**
- With this MSMEs will be served with business automation and connectivity needs viz. data/voice connectivity, marketing solutions, cloud security and collaboration.
- Under this assistance, NSIC aggregates services of various technology providers as per the needs of MSME.
11. What is India's rank in the Arton Capital Passport Index 2021 _____ **61st.**
- Note:**
- Sweden, Finland and Spain all ranked second, with a mobility score of 133. While all the passport holders of all the three countries require visas for 65 countries, the Swedish passport holders can go to 99 countries without requiring a visa, and to 34 countries on a visa-on-arrival arrangement.
- Passports of Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand ranked at the third place, with all the countries having a mobility score of 132, requiring a visa for 66 countries.
12. Who will head the 'Health Insurance Advisory Committee' set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) to examine the availability of health insurance products in the country _____ **Subhash Chandra Khuntia.**
- Note:**

- The expert committee will be headed by IRDAI Chairperson, Subhash Chandra Khuntia and will have a Member (Non-Life) as the vice-chairperson.
 - The committee, which has a term of one year.
13. Under whose chairmanship the Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a committee to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5 _____ **Preeti Pant**.
- Note:**
- The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5 and “recommend programmatic and policy interventions to improve” indicators pertaining to malnutrition, stunting, anaemia, and C-section.
 - The committee is chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant and includes experts from medicine and nutrition. There are also State programme officers from Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Important News – State

1. The World’s Largest Floating Solar Energy Project (600 MW) is being built in which state that is set to begin power generation by the year 2022-23 _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note:
 - The production of electricity will be in about 2000- hectare water areas and the Floating panels will be installed in the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam.
 - Estimated Investment of the project stands at INR 3, 000 Crore.
 - International Finance Corporation, World Bank & Power Grid have granted consent to provide funds for the development of the project.
2. Which state government has launched E-Daakhil portal to streamline grievances redressal system _____ **Punjab**.
Note:
 - The E-Daakhil has been developed under the new Consumer Protection Act 2019 envisages aass
3. Which state government has waive entertainment tax and reduce the fixed charges on electricity during the post-COVID-19 outbreak period for Cinemas to help the film industries in the state _____ **Kerala**.
Note:
 - In 2019, the Kerala government had issued an order allowing local self-governing institutions to collect entertainment tax from cinema halls upto 8.5% from the sale of movie tickets.
 - The order was issued in order to compensate for the loss of revenue incurred by the state due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
4. An annual Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was celebrated in which state _____ **Manipur**.
Note:
 - The Mao area of Senapati district in Manipur is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan.
 - It was jointly organised by the Department of Tourism and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Shillong in association with the Organising Committee Flower Festival, Mao.
5. Which state government has approved the ‘One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues – 2021’ for Traders to clear their Pending Arrears _____ **Punjab**.
Note:
 - The OTS will help Traders to settle their Pending arrears under the Punjab Value Added Tax Act, 2005 & Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.
 - It will cost around INR 121.06 Crore to the Punjab Government.
 - Will benefit Small & Medium Business Dealers/Traders who suffered due to COVID-19.
 - Dealers who have filed assessments upto December 31, 2020 can apply under the scheme till April 30, 2021.

Important News – World

1. Which country has successfully test launched Fatah-1, the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system _____ **Pakistan**.

Note:

- The rocket system is capable of delivering a conventional warhead up to a range of 140 kilometres.
 - The weapon system will give Pakistan Army the capability of precision target engagement deep in enemy territory.
2. Which country has decided to assist India by providing a loan of up to INR 2,129 Crore for its efforts to mitigate socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 _____ **Japan.**

Note:

- The Exchange of Notes for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection were signed by SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India and Dr C. S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.
 - This yen loan is the latest addition to Japan's supports to India in its fight against COVID-19.
3. Which country will be the Country in Focus for the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa from 16th to 24th January _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- According to an official release by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), the Country in Focus is a special segment that recognizes the cinematic excellence and contributions of a particular country.
 - In addition, the 51st Edition of IFFI has announced a line-up of programmes that will be showcased on the OTT platform during the festival.
4. Which country has organised the fourth 'One Planet Summit', through videoconferencing, which aimed at protecting the world's biodiversity _____ **France.**

Note:

- The Summit was organised in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank. The theme of the Summit was "Let's act together for nature!"
 - It was inaugurated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, French President Emmanuel Macron, and President of the World Bank Group David Malpass.
5. Which country topped in the Arton Capital Passport Index 2021 _____ **Germany.**

Note:

- Sweden, Finland and Spain all ranked second, with a mobility score of 133. While all the passport holders of all the three countries require visas for 65 countries, the Swedish passport holders can go to 99 countries without requiring a visa, and to 34 countries on a visa-on-arrival arrangement.
- Passports of Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand ranked at the third place, with all the countries having a mobility score of 132, requiring a visa for 66 countries.

Honor & Awards

1. Who becomes the world's richest person according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index surpassing Amazon's Jeff Bezos _____ **Elon Musk.**

Note:

- Musk had a net worth of more than \$188.5 billion, \$1.5 billion more than Bezos.
 - Mukesh Ambani is now 13th richest in the world.
 - Zhong Shanshan, chairman of Chinese bottled-water company Nongfu Spring, become Asia's richest person and 6th richest person in the world.
2. Which Medical Institution was awarded the second prize under the Kayakalp Awards scheme in category 'Group A' Central government health facilities _____ **JIPMER.**
- Note:**
- These awards are meant for health facilities with the highest standards of sanitation and hygiene and are given annually by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
 - Union Minister for Health Harsh Vardhan, along with Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey, presented the awards via video conferencing.
3. Which Medical Institutions has received the best central government hospital under Category B of the Kayakalp Awards for cleanliness for the third consecutive time _____ **AIIMS, Bhubneswar.**

Note:

- The Rairangpur Sub Divisional Hospital of Mayurbhanj district was felicitated as the best Sub-divisional hospital community health centre category.
- Rani Durgavati Hospital received the award for the fourth time consecutively
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Sports News

1. Name the Indian athlete who has secured fourth position in the Dhaka Marathon 2021 _____ **Jigmet Dolma**.

Note:

- Jigmet Dolma is an SPO of Ladakh police. Two more women runners from India and a total of 8 athletes participated in the marathon
- In the marathon, Hicham Lakohi of Morocco came first in the elite competition of the marathon in men's category while Angela Jim Asunde from Kenya won the women's category in the same event.
- The marathon was organized to commemorate the return of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Pakistan jail to Bangladesh in 1972.

Books and Authors

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

Note:

- 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 'Right Under Your Nose' _____ **R Giridharan**.

Note:

- This is his debut Book. The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.
- The book portrays how Superintendent Vijay along with his trusted aide Dalvi, and Journalist Padmini spots the murderer who killed a woman and a team of scientists.
- Their skills are pitted by a genius who eliminates all possible lead, right under their nose.
- The story is set in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

3. Who has authored the book titled 'Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo' _____ **Konsam Himalay Singh**.

Note:

- The book was released by Dr Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur through a virtual mode at Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal, Manipur.
- It is a memoir of Lt Gen (Dr) Konsam Himalay Singh who discovered his journey from a small village in Manipur to becoming the 1st Lieutenant general (Three Star General of the Indian Army) from North East India.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China, 1957' _____

Romila Thapar.

Note:

- The book is published by Seagull Books London Ltd.
- She declined the Padma Bhushan award in 1992 and 2005.
- The book accounts a few months that Romila Thapar spent in China in 1957 along with Sri Lankan art historian Anil de Silva, where she worked at two cave sites, namely Maijishan in north China and Dunhuang on the edge of the Gobi desert in Northwest China

5. Who has authored the book titled "The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India" _____ **S Y Quraishi**.

Note:

- The book will hit the stands on February 15, 2021. It has been published by HarperCollins India.
- The book evaluates India's demographics from a religious perspective and seeks to demolish two basic myths that 'Islam is against family planning' and "Muslim rate of growth" is linked to capture political power.

6. Who has authored the book titled 'Unscripted: Conversations on Life and Cinema' _____ **Vidhu Vinod Chopra**.

Note:

- The book is scheduled to be released on January 25.

- Essence of the Book
- The book gives a glance into the mind, method and madness of Vidhu Vinod Chopra, one of contemporary Hindi cinema's best filmmakers.
- In this book, Vidhu Vinod Chopra speaks to his long-time collaborator and scriptwriter Abhijat Joshi about his journey.

Science and Defence

1. Who has launched Coastal Research Vehicle (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika' at the Chennai Port that will be used to carry out environment indexing and bathymetric (mapping underwater features) in both coastal and offshore waters _____ **Harsh Vardhan.**

Note:

- The vehicle will be used to carry out environment indexing and bathymetric (mapping underwater features) in both coastal and offshore waters.
- It will be used for research purposes by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and has been built by Titagarh Wagons, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Anveshika has been built under Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) and is a DP (Dynamic Positioning)-Capable vessel.

2. The second edition of the coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-21' was conducted by Indian Navy in _____ **Along the entire coastline.**

Note:

- The exercise aims at assessing India's preparedness in the domain of coastal defence and maritime security.
- The Defence exercise involved 13 coastal states/union territories. It also include fishing and costal communities.
- The exercise was conducted to assess the strength and weakness of India's Coastal Defence and Maritime Security.

3. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be adopting 100 Atal Tinkering Labs under the Atal Innovation Mission to promote education in the field of STEM, these Labs have been established by _____ **NITI Aayog.**

Note:

- Through this collaboration, Isro will facilitate coaching and mentoring of students in advanced 21st-century cutting-edge technologies, including those related to space.
- Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog have established over 7,000 ATIs across the country so far, enabling more than three million students between classes six to 12 acquire a problem solving, tinkering and innovative mindset.

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