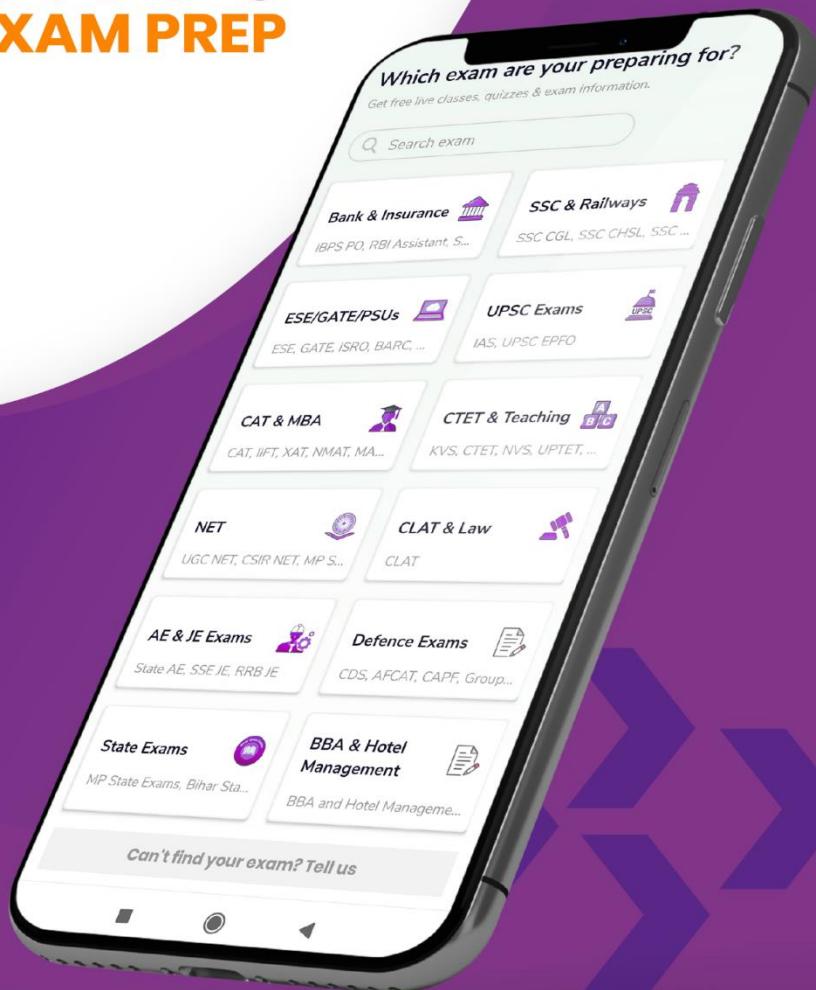




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Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates 1-15th December 2021

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of December 2021. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance exams.**

Banking & Financial Awareness

- According to the Ministry of Finance, government's debt is estimated to be around what percent of the GDP for the current financial year 62 per cent.

Note:

- Government debt is held predominantly in domestic currency.
- Increasing the buoyancy of tax revenue through improved compliance, mobilisation of resources through monetisation of assets, improving efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure etc are the important measures initiated by Government to control the fiscal deficit and the debt burden.

- Which bank has signed a pact with the Government of India to provide a loan of USD 250 million (about Rs 1,872 crore) to support the country's National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP) Asian Development Bank.

Note:

- The ADB financing supports India's NICDP that aims to develop world-class industrial nodes that are buttressed by efficient urban agglomerations and multimodal connectivity, including international gateways like ports and airports and inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.

- Which bank has launched India's first standalone metal debit card or black card in partnership with Visa IDFC FIRST Bank.

Note:

- It is a lifetime free card to cater the customers of the bank's FIRST Private program.
- The program offers an unrivalled banking and investment experience to customers and comes with a range of exceptional investment, banking, lifestyle and wellness benefits.

- Which digital payment major has launched a health insurance plan, Health@999, for first-time health insurance buyers PhonePe.

Note:

- The product has a three-step process requiring users to share information such as name, age, gender, and email ID to buy the policy.
- The plan will cover expenses including in-patient and ICU hospitalisation, daycare procedures, Ayush treatment, and ambulance charges.

- Which intergovernmental organization has approved a \$500 million loan to the Government of India to help improve the quality of the country's school education and mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students' learning Asian Development Bank.

Note:

- About 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- Exemplar schools will demonstrate quality learning environments and effective learning, which will become a model for replication in other government schools across the country.

- Which Bank has signed a master agreement with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops State Bank of India.

Note:

- Adani Capital is the non-banking finance company (NBFC) arm of Adani Group.
- India's largest bank underscored that it is actively looking at co-lending opportunities with multiple NBFCs for financing farm mechanisation, warehouse receipt finance, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) etc., for enhancing credit flow to double the farmers' income.

7. Which digital payment company has signed an MoU with the Directorate of General Training to train 6,000 individuals over a period of three years in the rapidly growing fintech industry _____ **Paytm**.

Note:

- The selected individuals will undertake a six-month programme, designed by Paytm, in consultation with the DGT.
- It will equip the trainees with fundamentals and knowledge of the latest fintech IoT products and financial services.
- The trainees will also undergo professional skills, communications, sales and pitch, and on-the-job training.

8. Which bank has launched a feature-rich savings bank product 'called Mahila Mitra Plus' for women _____ **Federal Bank**.

Note:

- The savings scheme is called Mahila Mitra Plus and provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women.
- The special features include exclusive preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customised insurance cover.

9. Which Bank has announced a partnership with Europe-based payment and transactional service firm, Worldline to enable Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) payments via Kotak debit cards in India _____ **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.

Note:

- The Kotak debit card EMI is available to all consumers, retailers, fashion and electronic products to pay instalments easily using Worldline Point of Sale (POS) terminals.
- Worldline is dominant among Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India.
- It manages over 15 lakh merchants and enables Kotak debit cardholders to access to their EMI facilities.

10. Which digital ecosystem for consumers and merchants, has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer its Startup Toolkit to startups onboarded on AWS Activate _____ **Paytm**.

Note:

- This program offers startups free tools, resources, and more to quickly get started on AWS.
- Paytm will help entrepreneurs operating in India in the AWS Activate program grow their businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions.

11. Which Health insurance company has launched 'Activ Health Essential' an affordable health solution plan for the special health needs of senior citizens _____ **Aditya Birla Health Insurance**.

Note:

- This plan will offer coverage from day one of chronic health management, along with optional benefits to waive off mandatory co-payment.
- The senior citizen plan also comes with counselling support and health coaching features that are so important for senior citizens.

12. Which bank has signed a memorandum of understanding with Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM) to introduce financing options for its customers to purchase Toyota vehicles _____ **Karnataka Bank**.

Note:

- Under this agreement, Karnataka Bank becomes one of the preferred financiers for the vehicles sold by TKM.
- The customers can get loans through the digital platform of the bank with interest rate linked to External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) for purchasing TKM vehicles for both private and commercial use.

13. Which Industry group has signed a \$736 million equivalent green loan agreement with five banks to fund its acquisition of Norwegian solar panel manufacturer REC Solar Holdings _____ **Reliance Industries**.

Note:

- ANZ, Credit Agricole, DBS Bank, HSBC and MUFG were the lenders on the borrowing.
- Reliance had announced the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding of REC Solar from China National Bluestar (Group) for an enterprise value of \$771 million.

14. Which regional rural bank headquartered in Dharwad, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Liberty General Insurance for selling general insurance products through 629 branches _____ **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank**.

Note:

- The company will provide a variety of general health insurance products to the customers with reasonably affordable cost.
- The bank has consistently enhanced its portfolio to meet the diverse financial needs of its customers and alliance in this regard is a step in that direction.

15. Which bank will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kendriya Sainik Board to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows _____ **State Bank of India.**

Note:

- India's largest bank said it will provide a grant of ₹1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans' children.
- The bank has contributed ₹10 crore to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

16. Which bank has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) for empowering women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance _____ **State Bank of India.**

Note:

- The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model.
- As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SBI and UIL, branches of the bank in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western UP, and NCR Haryana will be financing women entrepreneurs to Usha Silai School to purchase sewing machines for enhancement and upgradation of technical sewing skills or to purchase thread of clothes, etc. related to above for running their livelihood.

17. Which bank has recently inked an agreement with Adani Capital Private Ltd (Adani Capital), the NBFC arm of Adani Group, for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements _____ **State Bank of India (SBI).**

Note:

- With this partnership, SBI would be able to target farmer customers in the interior hinterland of the country looking for adoption of farm mechanization to enhance productivity of crops.

18. Agriwise Finserv Limited has entered into a co-lending agreement with which bank for agri-loan disbursal _____ **Central Bank of India.**

Note:

- The co-lending agreement will ensure that the farmer, agri and allied community get finance at affordable rates in a simple, transparent and speedy manner.
- The loan will be disbursed at a blended interest rate, as per the RBI directive on co-lending of loans.

19. As per the Bi-monthly Policy released in December 2021, what is the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate _____ **4.25 percent.**

Note:

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four per cent to keep the stance accommodative.
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.

20. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 150 million dollar (about Rs 1,095 crore) loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor in _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- The project is aligned with the Government's development priorities and policies on urban sector development, particularly the flagship program Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Housing for All.

21. With which bank the central government has signed a \$125 million loan pact to improve access to safe and affordable drinking water and city-wide inclusive sanitation services in Dehradun and Nainital cities of Uttarakhand _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- The project will construct 136 kilometers of water pipe system to replace defective water networks in South Dehradun to ensure reliable and continuous water supply.
- It will benefit more than 40 thousand people, including four thousand urban poor and vulnerable groups.

22. The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to enhance the transaction limit for payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) for investment in government securities and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from _____ **Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.**

Note:

- This essentially means that retail investors using the convenient UPI payment system will soon be able to invest upto Rs 5 lakh in government bonds under RBI's RDS scheme and IPOs. The limit was Rs 2 lakh earlier.
- RBI Governor made the announcement while announcing the outcome of the central bank's bi-monthly policy review meeting.

23. What does 'U' stand for in NUUP payment services the Feature phones currently have _____ **Unified.**

Note:

- Initiated by the Government of India and developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), it facilitates access to banking services from mobile phones.
- The USSD code to access the NUUP is *99#.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has set a maximum ceiling of ₹1.5 per transaction for accessing the NUUP, although rates can differ among service providers.

24. Which small finance bank has signed a partnership agreement with fintech firm, Indiagold to launch India's first Loan against Digital Gold _____ **Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Note:

- This agreement will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail of instant and digital loans up to Rs. 60,000 and also seamlessly access gold loans starting at a monthly interest of just 1%.
- To provide access to secure and affordable credit to the customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.

25. Which bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its manufacturing partner Sesaasai, has announced the launch of RuPay On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers _____ **City Union Bank.**

Note:

- Launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, on Sunday at New Delhi, CUB is introducing this keychain payment mode to enable customers to make payments on-the-go, according to a statement.
- The keychain can be requested through net banking, mobile banking, and at CUB's branches.

26. Which payment bank has received RBI's approval to operate as a scheduled payments bank _____ **Paytm Payment Bank.**

Note:

- It has been included in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.
- Apart from Paytm, Fino Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank have also been included in the second schedule.

27. Which bank has tied up with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch its first Platinum RuPay Contactless Credit Card _____ **Bank of Maharashtra.**

Note:

- It offers 100 reward points as a welcome benefit to users on their first retail spending worth ₹1,000 or more

28. Which payments bank has tied up with NPCI's bill payments system Bharat BillPay to facilitate cash-based bill payments service at customer's doorstep _____ **India Post Payment Bank.**

Note:

- Payments for various utility bills can be done on the Bharat BillPay platform and the facility will be made available to non- IPPB customers as well.
- The aim is to provide access to payment solutions to millions of unbanked and underserved customers in remote locations at their doorstep
- The service will enable payments of mobile postpaid, D2H recharge, school fees, and other utility services by using the bank's mobile banking service.

29. Which general insurance company has announced a strategic alliance with Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd to provide the bank's customers access to a range of insurance solutions _____ **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.**

Note:

- Under this agreement, Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd. will offer Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive suite of general and health insurance products to its customers across its network of 21 branches.
- The insurance products will mitigate the risks and secure the assets and health of the customers.

30. Which small finance bank has partnered with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance to launch a 'Chola Sarva Shakti Policy', a women-specific health insurance policy _____ **Equitas Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- According to a recent survey among 1,009 women, only 39% of them had a health cover.
- The Chola Sarva Shakti Policy initiative aims to provide women with an independent and comprehensive policy, which secures their future against various contingency health situations.

31. Which petroleum company has collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale-up alkaline electrolyzer technology for green hydrogen production _____ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.**

Note:

- Presently, electrolyzer plants are imported.
- This is a first of its kind initiative to support the country's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Refineries use large quantities of hydrogen for de-sulfurization to make petrol, diesel and other chemicals. Currently, hydrogen is made at the refinery via. steam reforming of natural gas, but this results in high CO₂ emission.

32. For cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of what amount and above, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory _____ **Rs 50 crore**.

Note:

- LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained in a global LEI database available on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF).
- LEI has been introduced by the Reserve Bank in a phased manner for over the counter (OTC) derivative, non-derivative markets, large corporate borrowers and large value transactions in centralised payment systems.

33. Which general insurance company has announced the launch of its '#Care4Hockey' campaign aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level _____ **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.

Note:

- The Company has associated with Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain who is the face of this campaign.
- The thought behind this campaign is to elevate field Hockey's recognition in our country and showcase how supporting a person to attain their goals can enable them to make a difference in the society.

34. Which energy company has signed a power purchase agreement with state run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4667 MW of green energy _____ **Adani Green Energy**.

Note:

- This is the world's largest ever green power purchase agreement (PPA), as Adani is on track to be the world's largest renewables player by 2030.
- As the world's largest solar power developer, Adani Green Energy will supply 4,667 MW.

35. Which became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization system (NTS) supporting tokenization of RuPay cards _____ **PayPhi**.

Note:

- On the lines of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2021 regarding tokenization of cards during online transactions, NPCI announced the launch of NPCI Tokenization system (NTS).
- In this regard, PayPhi, Phi Commerce's API (Application programming interface) first digital payments platform, became the first certified tokenization service for NTS supporting tokenization of RuPay cards.
- Tokenization of cards as an alternate to storing card details with merchants.

36. According to a report by Ministry of Finance how many Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed across India by the end of September 2021 _____ **2.13 Lakh**.

Note:

- The Finance Ministry announced that around 2.13 Lakh Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed across India by the end of September 2021.
- Out of 2.13 lakh ATMs, 4 percent of ATMs are installed in rural and semi-urban areas.
- RBI has directed the White Label ATMs (WLAs) operators must deploy a minimum of 1,000 ATMs every year
- WLA should maintain a deployment ratio of 1:2:3 for metro and urban, semi-urban and rural regions respectively.

37. Which bank has partnered with Flipkart, an e-commerce platform, to offer an instant and digital overdraft (OD) facility of up to 25 lakh to individual sellers and businesses registered on Flipkart _____ **ICICI Bank**.

Note:

- The OD is renewable on an annual basis, depending on the repayment track records of the seller
- The OD Facility is enabled by Application Programming Interface (API) and the process from application to sanction to disbursement is completely digital.

38. Which bank has signed an MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL) for sourcing and financing housing loan borrowers under Co-Lending Model (CLM) mechanism _____ **Bank of Baroda**.

Note:

- CHFL is one of the leading housing finance companies that provides long-term housing finance.
- The Bank will penetrate deep into the markets of tier 2 & tier 3 cities at very competitive interest rates.
- Bank extends upto of Rs.1000 crore as Housing finance in one financial year.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry passed away recently, he was veteran lyricist of which language _____

Note:

- He came to be known as Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry though his surname is Chembolu.
- Since then, he has penned about 3,000 songs and bagged the Andhra Pradesh government's Nandi award several times, besides other honours.
- He formed a powerful combination with legendary playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, especially in the films of K Viswanath.

2. Renowned personality Vinod Dua passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ Journalist.

Note:

- Dua was a pioneer in broadcast Hindi journalism with stints in Doordarshan and NDTV.
- He lived an inimitable life, rising from the refugee colonies of Delhi to the peak of journalistic excellence for over 42 years, always, always speaking truth to power.

3. Renowned personality Sarada Menon passes away recently, he was a veteran _____ psychiatrist.

Note:

- She has been a recipient of several awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 1992 for her work in the field of mental health.
- She became the first woman psychiatrist in the country when she began working in 1959 at what is now the Institute of Mental Health (previously government Kilpauk mental hospital) in Chennai.

4. Renowned personality Nanda Prusty, fondly known as Nanda Sir passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ Teacher.

Note:

- His family later took him to the Jajpur district headquarters hospital and Tata Covid Hospital for further treatment.
- The much respected "Nanda Sir" will be remembered for generations due to his efforts to spread the joys of education in Odisha.

5. Renowned personality Anne Rice passed away recently, she was a veteran _____ Writer.

Note:

- Anne Rice's debut novel, published in 1976, Interview with the Vampire revolves around a vampire named Louis de Pointe du Lac, who narrates the story of his life to a reporter.
- The novel was written shortly after the death of Anne's young daughter, Michelle, who was reportedly an inspiration for the character of Claudia - a child vampire - in the novel.

6. Renowned personality Dr Suresh Jadhav has passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ Biotechnologist.

Note:

- He was part of several national and international bodies and organisations. Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker.
- It is the second company to apply for the approval of a vaccine candidate from the Drugs Controller General of India.

7. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. He was which number of Chief of Army Staff _____ 26th.

Note:

- He was among the 14 people who were on board, including his wife and staff members. Thirteen people have succumbed to the crash, including CDS Rawat, Madhulika Rawat and 11 others.
- An IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter with a crew of 4 members carrying the CDS and 9 other passengers met with a tragic accident. Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan was the pilot of the Mi-17V5.

Important Days

1. What is the theme of the World AIDS Day for the year 2021 _____ **End inequalities. End AIDS.**

Note:

- Every year, December 1 is observed as World AIDS Day across the globe to spread awareness about the disease and remember all those who lost their lives to it. It was first observed in 1988.
- AIDS is a chronic, potentially life-threatening health condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that interferes with the body's ability to fight infections.

2. National Pollution Prevention Day is observed annually on which date in memory of the people who lost their lives in the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy _____ **2nd December.**

Note:

- The horrific industrial accident took place due to the leak of Methyl Isocyanate gas in the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant on the night of December 2–3.
- Thousands of people were killed due to the toxic gas spread.
- The day is observed to make people and industries understand the importance of pollution control acts.

3. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed annually on which date _____ **2nd December.**

Note:

- The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

4. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated every year on which date _____ **3rd December.**

Note:

- This year, the theme for IDPD is "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world."
- Nearly one billion people out of the total population i.e, 7 billion or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability.
- People with Disabilities (PWDs) have been affected "disproportionately" by the health, social and economic consequences of the global issues.

5. International Day of Banks is celebrated every year on which date _____ **4th December.**

Note:

- United Nations also observes the day in recognition of the vital role of banking systems in Member State in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living.
- In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated December 4 as the International Day of Banks. It is celebrated for the first time in 2020.

6. World Soil Day is celebrated every year on which date to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems _____ **5th December.**

Note:

- World Soil Day 2021 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil salinization, increasing soil awareness and encouraging societies to improve soil health.

7. International Volunteer Day (IVD), also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed every year on _____ **5th December.**

Note:

- International Volunteer Day Theme 2021: "**Volunteer now for our common future**".
- The purpose of the day to celebrate the efforts of volunteers and organizations and offer the opportunity to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and international levels.

8. National armed forces day is also known as the National flag day of India is celebrated every year on which date _____ **7th December.**

Note:

- The aim to observe this day as the national armed forces day is to collect funds from the people for the betterment of armed forces.

- To know more about the national armed forces day, candidates are advised to read the article below.
9. International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on _____ **7th December**.
- Note:**
- The purpose of International Civil Aviation Day is to help generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.
10. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is annually observed on _____ **8th December**.
- Note:**
- The 8th December 2021 marks the observance of the 37th SAARC Charter Day.
 - The charter was signed by the Leaders of SAARC Countries Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
11. International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on which date _____ **9th December**.
- Note:**
- The day is observed since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003.
 - The theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2021: "Your right, your role: say no to corruption".
12. The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed annually on _____ **9th December**.
- Note:**
- The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as defined in the Convention, and to commemorate and honour its victims.
13. What is the theme of Human Rights Day 2021, which is observed every year on 10th December _____ **EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights**.
- Note:**
- The day is being observed every year on 10th December to mark the anniversary of the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
14. International Mountain Day is observed globally every year on _____ **11th December**.
- Note:**
- The day is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.
15. International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed every year on which date _____ **12th December**.
- Note:**
- This year theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day is "Leave No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all."
16. International Day of Neutrality is observed every year on which date _____ **12th December**.
- Note:**
- It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on December 12, 2017.
17. Every year, UNICEF Day is observed on which date to raise awareness about saving children's lives by defending and helping them to fulfil their wishes _____ **11th December**.
- Note:**
- The day provides assistance for the health, nutrition, education, and welfare of children during World War II.
 - UNICEF's name was subsequently changed from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to United Nations Children's Fund though, it continued to be known by the popular acronym based on the previous title.
18. National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on which date _____ **14th December**.
- Note:**
- The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
 - The Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001.
 - BEE is a constitutional body that works under the Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies to reduce the use of energy.

New Appointments

1. Who assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-In-Chief of Western Naval Command _____ **Ajendra Bahadur Singh.**

Note:

- He succeeded Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- Prior to this, he served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command.
- He is among the few Commanders-in- Chief who have been bestowed with the unparalleled honour and unique distinction of heading both operational commands of the Indian Navy.

2. Who took charge as the 34th Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi _____ **Manoj Kumar Mago.**

Note:

- He succeeded Air Marshal D Choudhury who superannuates on November 30, 2021.
- He is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was commissioned into the elite 7th Battalion Brigade of the GUARDS on December 15, 1984 and later commanded 16 GUARDS.

3. Who has been appointed as the chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet _____ **Sambit Patra.**

Note:

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Tourism Ministry's proposal to split the post of chairman and managing director of India Tourism Development Corporation into chairman, ITDC, and managing director (MD), ITDC.
- IAS officer, GKV Rao will hold the post of managing director of ITDC.

4. Name the Indian women sports person who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the GUVI, an Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) _____ **Smriti Mandhana.**

Note:

- As the brand ambassador of GUVI, Smriti Mandhana will be the face of GUVI and feature across the online campaigns of GUVI aimed to strengthen the importance and scope of technological education & information technology (IT) skills.
- She will create awareness about technological education among everyone, especially among women.

5. Who has been appointed as the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) _____ **Gita Gopinath.**

Note:

- She will become the second-ranking official, replacing First Deputy Managing Director Geoffrey Okamoto who plans to leave the Fund early next year.
- Gopinath has served as the IMF's chief economist for three years.
- She was scheduled to return to her academic position at Harvard University in January 2022.

6. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the CA Institute's Quality Review Board (QRB) _____ **Shefali Shah.**

Note:

- It has also now notified K Saravanan, Chief General Manager, Corporate Finance Department at SEBI as Member of the QRB. Ritika Bhatia, Director General (commercial-II), Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also been notified as Member of QRB.
- The QRB established under the Chartered Accountants Act 1949 has 11 members including six nominees of the central government (Chairman and five members).

7. Who has been appointed as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries _____ **Naomi Kawase.**

Note:

- She has been recognised for her commitment to culture and creativity at the service of the development of more just societies, especially for girls and women, and of her support for the objectives of UNESCO.
- Naomi Kawase, committed to the representation of women in the film industry in Africa, participated in UNESCO's conference on Diversity and Gender Equality in African Cinema.

8. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) _____ **Alka Upadhyaya.**

Note:

- Senior bureaucrat Alka Upadhyaya has been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- Ms Upadhyaya, a 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.

9. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India _____ **Sanjay Bandopadhyay.**

Note:

- Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has been named chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.

10. Who has been appointed as the chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) _____ **Pradip Shah.**

Note:

- Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company managing director Sanjay Jain will be the chief executive of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL).
- Also, Diwakar Gupta, former managing director of State Bank of India, is selected as chairman of IDRCL.
- Before joining Aditya Birla ARC, Jain was with Asset Reconstruction Company of India, J M Financial and SBI Capital Markets.

11. Who will be nominated as the next Chancellor by Parliament, replacing Angela Merkel's 16-year reign _____ **Olaf Scholz.**

Note:

- He has cleared the final hurdle on his path to majority after Green Party members approved their coalition deal with his Social Democrats and Free Democrats.
- While support of at least 369 lawmakers is required in 736-seat lower house to take up the top job, three coalition partners have 416 seats together, giving them a comfortable majority in the house.

12. Who has been elected as the president of International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) _____ **Major General Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi.**

Note:

- He is inspector general of the UAE's Ministry of Interior
- In the final round, the UAE candidate received 68.9 per cent of votes cast by member countries.
- As president, Al Raisi's role during his four-year term will be to chair meetings of the executive committee which supervises the implementation of decisions taken at the General Assembly.

13. Who became the first female president of Honduras in the Presidential election of Honduras in December 2021 _____ **Xiomara Castro.**

Note:

- The conservative ruling party accepted loss in presidential elections held two days earlier.
- Handing victory to Castro and assuaging fears of a second contested election and violent demonstrations.

14. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) _____ **Catherine Russell.**

Note:

- Russell will succeed Henrietta Fore, who resigned in July 2021.
- Russell, a lawyer, has worked in Democratic politics since the mid-1980s.
- Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden and she also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.

15. Name the Indian-origin person who has been elevated to Head of the White House personnel office _____ **Gautam Raghavan.**

Note:

- He succeeded Catherine Russel, who has been appointed Executive Director of UNICEF.
- Gautam Raghavan was Russel's Deputy at the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.
- He is the editor of the book 'West Wingers: Stories from the Dream Chasers, Change Makers, and Hope Creators Inside the Obama White House'.

16. Radha Unni, former Chief General Manager, State Bank of India has been appointed as Independent Director of which bank _____ **South Indian Bank.**

Note:

- She brings to the table 36 years of banking experience.
- During her tenure in State Bank of India, Radha Unni had handled corporate credit and project appraisal of small and medium enterprises.

17. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a period of 3 years _____ **Ittira Davis.**

Note:

- The bank has also appointed Rajesh Kumar Jogi, Harish Devarajan and Umesh Bellur as additional directors.

- Ittira Davis is succeeded by former MD and CEO Nitin Chugh
- Davis has also been appointed as Key Managerial Personnel in terms of Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013 for a period same as that of his tenure as MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

Important News - India

1. Under whose chairmanship the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted a three-member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations _____ **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.

Note:

- The committee will comprise Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Member Secretary ICSSR Prof VK Malhotra and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal.
- The committee will examine various approaches followed in the country so far for identifying the economically weaker sections.
- It will also send its recommendations to the Centre in the next three weeks.

2. Which ministry has launched "unique" face recognition technology that would act as a proof of 'life certificate' for pensioners and ensure ease of living for the retired and elderly citizens _____ **Ministry of Personnel**.

Note:

- Face Recognition Technique of giving Life Certificate is a historic, far-reaching reform and this will bring ease of living for the retired and the elderly citizens.
- It will touch the lives of not only 68 lakh Central Government Pensioners but also Crores of Pensioners who fall outside the jurisdiction of EPFO and State Government Pensioners.

3. With which e-Commerce platform the Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU to sell products made by millions of artisans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program on the e-commerce platform _____ **Flipkart**.

Note:

- The move will help artisans reach out 10 crore of Flipkart's existing customers, thus substantially scaling their outreach.
- MoU between ministry & Flipkart will help in empowering local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.

4. The IFFCO has been ranked at what position among the top 300 cooperatives in the world in the 2021 edition of the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report _____ **First**.

Note:

- WCM is a project designed to collect robust economic, organizational, and social data about cooperatives worldwide.
- The 2021 WCM report is published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).

5. Smartphone maker Oppo India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which IIT to introduced the Genius+ programme to provide scholarships to outstanding students pursuing engineering courses at premium institutes _____ **IIT Delhi**.

Note:

- Under this program, Oppo said it has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-Delhi to offer scholarships covering academic expenses for the shortlisted students.
- Genius+ program is aimed at connecting with youth at renowned institutes in India and reach out to the best talent who can further build India's innovation portfolio.

6. What is the theme of the first edition of the 'InFinity Forum' _____ **Beyond**.

Note:

- The event is being hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority under the aegis of Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg.
- Indonesia, South Africa and the U.K. are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum.
- NITI Aayog, Invest India, FICCI and NASSCOM are some of the key partners to this year's Infinity Forum.
- InFinity Forum will bring together leading minds of the world in policy, business and technology.

7. The union government has launched which scheme for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students by providing quality residential education to meritorious students in reputed private schools _____ **SRESHTA**.

Note:

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar on Thursday said the Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) scheme will enable meritorious SC students to have a better future and aid in controlling dropout rates of students from classes 9 to 12.

8. Which Technology company has launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022 _____ **Microsoft**.

Note:

- In a bid to address this skills gap and empower India's workforce for a career in cybersecurity, Microsoft, on Tuesday, launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022.
- The program is designed to provide a hands-on experience to learners in the fundamentals of security, compliance and identity.

9. The union housing & urban affairs ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission to _____ **June 2023**.

Note:

- According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within five years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission.
- The official said all the 100 smart cities selected under the mission will now have to complete their projects by June 2023.

10. The government has set a target to open about ten thousand five hundred Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK's), by _____ **March 2025**.

Note:

- In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said, about eight thousand 533 PMBJKs are functioning till 28th of last month. It covers all districts in the States and Union Territories of the country.
- The Minister said, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India, the implementing agency of PMBJP makes regular efforts for making all the drugs of its product basket available to the consumers.

11. To achieve the target of constructing 2.95 crore houses the Cabinet approved the extension of the Centre's flagship housing-for-all scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) till _____ **March 2024**.

Note:

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said financial assistance would be provided for the construction of the 155.75 lakh houses remaining as on March, 31, 2021.
- Till November 29, 2021 a total 1.65 crore PMAY-G houses have been constructed of the total target of 2.95 crore.

12. What is India's rank in the Asia Power Index 2021 _____ **4th**.

Note:

- The index has been released by Lowy Institute.
- India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.

13. Which organization has launched report on Waste-wise Cities: Best practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste and documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.

14. ISRO has signed an agreement with which smart devices maker to strengthen the Research and Development (R&D) of the NavIC messaging service, an Indian satellite navigation system _____ **Oppo**.

Note:

- NavIC is a messaging service platform, which provides regional navigation services covering the entire country and an area up to 1,500 km beyond the Indian boundaries.
- Notably, the messaging platform primarily provides PNT (position, navigation, and timing) services along with the capability of broadcasting short messages (safety-of-life alerts) in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in oceans.

15. Along with which another country India has been ranked at 66th position in the 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index _____ **Jordon.**

Note:

- According to the new 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index India has shared the 66th rank with Jordon.
- India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.
- While Jordon scored 42.8 with a gain of 1.6 points since 2019.
- Three neighbouring countries of India like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives have improved their score by 1-1.2 points.

16. What amount of assistance will be provided to each artisan under the Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme for the grass root Artisans of the North East Region announced by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) under Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER) _____ **1 lakh.**

Note:

- Total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs.1 lakh per artisan
- Credit facility is collateral free and carries subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months
- For regular repayment, incentive of 1% on interest rate.

17. What is India's rank in the Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 _____ **66th.**

Note:

- GHS Index has been developed in partnership of Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center.
- It assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories and 37 indicators

18. According to Asian Power Index for 2021 released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, what is India's rank as most powerful nation in Asia _____ **Fourth.**

Note:

- India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.
- Asian Power Index for 2021 of Lowy Institute ranks 26 nations and territories.
- The institute noted that India exerts less influence in the region than expected due to its negative power gap score.

19. What is India's rank in the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) 2021 World Talent Ranking, which evaluates the ability of the economies in developing, attracting and retaining talent _____ **56th.**

Note:

- In the Peer Group Ranking – Asia – Pacific, India have ranked 12th.
- Switzerland tops the ranking followed by Sweden in 2nd and Luxembourg in 3rd.
- The ranking is published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center.

20. Who represented India in the first Summit for Democracy convened by US President Joe Biden _____ **Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Session convened by US President Joe Biden.
- Delivering his opening speech, Biden highlighted the 'definite challenges' and threats faced by democracy worldwide that has been 'backsliding'.

21. Swachh Technology Challenge was launched by _____ **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.**

Note:

- The challenge seeks entrepreneurial skills for India's waste management sector that can be further utilized by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in implementing various components of SBM-U 2.0.
- MoHUA will also launch the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge in collaboration with France's AgenceFrançaise de Développement (AFD).
- It will be an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022.

22. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with which organisation to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) _____ **UNDP.**

Note:

- This collaboration is in the backdrop of the 75th year of India's independence, the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with UNDP supporting us with the set up and operationalization of 75 Swachhata Kendras across the country.
- This will also support the realization of the vision, 'Clean Air, Clean Water, Clean Land' in urban India, through a circular economy approach based on the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) principle.

23. Which entity has launched the 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- To Share knowledge of various stakeholders – Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book titled "Innovations for You".
- It is an initiative of Niti Aayog to share success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.

24. Which country has assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) _____ **India**.

Note:

- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India, in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized a 2-day Practical Seminar on 'Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment' (on December 7 and 8, 2021) for delegates from SCO member States.
- The seminar is the 1st event to be hosted by India during its Chairmanship of Council of RATS SCO

Important News - State

1. First-ever Aharbal festival was celebrated in which state/UTs _____ **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Note:

- The festival was a collaborative effort of the Kulgam district administration and the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir.
- The waterfall is a popular tourist site in South Kashmir that attracts locals and people outside the union territory alike.

2. Which state government has roped in bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador for 50 Years of its celebration _____ **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note:

- Known erstwhile as North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), Arunachal Pradesh came into existence as a Union Territory on 20th January 1972.
- The month-long state-wide celebrations is scheduled to start on from 20th January 2022 at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district.
- It will cover all the five river basins of the state after which the first districts were named viz, Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap.

3. Which is the state partner of the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021 _____ **Bihar**.

Note:

- It was organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as the theme and to further promote the idea of 'Vocal for Local'.
- An estimated 3,000 exhibitors from India and abroad have participated in the fair. The fair was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19.
- Piyush Goyal listed five pillars of India as Economy, Exports, Infrastructure, Demand, and Diversity.

4. Which state government has signed an MoU with German Federal Employment Agency, the German government agency in charge of recruitments, for the hiring of nurses _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- The German recruitment scheme, christened 'Triple Win', is the first of its kind in India held under the aegis of a government.
- More than 10,000 job opportunities are expected to come up for nurses in Germany in the post-Covid scenario.

5. According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which state becomes the country's leading manufacturing hub _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 percent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy.
- Meanwhile, Maharashtra's annual growth rate stood at nearly half of Gujarat's at 7.5 percent for the same time period and its GVA for manufacturing stood at Rs 4.34 lakh crore in FY20.

6. The Kazhuveli wetland has been declared 16th Bird Sanctuary of which state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake.

7. Which state government has announced formation of a Commission to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog' to address the grievances of the 'general category' _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- The Commission, to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog', will be formalised through a legislative enactment in three months' time when the state assembly meets next in February-March 2021 for the budget session of the House.
- A Scheduled Caste Commission is already in operation in Himachal Pradesh and is chaired by former Shimla MP Virendra Kashyap.

8. Which state government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the UNDP, as part of the state-level initiative 'Code-Unnati' with the aim of improving access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youth, including women _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The initiative involving United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and supported by SAP India lab's CSR strategies will be implemented in 4 districts of Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Dakshina Kannada, and Raichuru to start with.
- The LoU intends to provide a platform for cooperation between UNDP and the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports to ensure joint implementation of the activities in close coordination with state/district/college level NSS units.

9. According to a report tabled in the Parliament which state topped the list of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- As on December 4, 2021, as many as 6,49,560 beneficiaries were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,35,615), Gujarat (4,44,741) and Karnataka (3,07,164), Minister of State for Labour & Employment Rameswar Teli said in written reply to Lok Sabha.
- In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries have been provided a total of ₹409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.

10. Which state's Health and Family Welfare Department has signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu project _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- The project is expected to start from the fourth quarter of FY21 to focus on strengthening the managerial and technical capabilities of health personnel with respect to NCD prevention and control.

- The death rate related to NCDs accounts for 63 per cent of all deaths and the probability of death from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70 is 23 per cent, according to UNICEF.
- 11.** Haiderpur wetland is located in which state that has been designated as the country's 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- Haiderpur Wetland covers an area of 6,908 hectares and is situated on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border in Uttar Pradesh. It was formed in 1984 by the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage at the confluence of Solani and Ganga rivers and is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - A source of freshwater and groundwater recharge, Haiderpur Wetland supports a variety of plant species, and is home to numerous animals, including swamp deer, otters, gharial and fishing cat.
- 12.** According to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways which state has the highest number of registered electric vehicles _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that 870,141 electric vehicles have been registered in India.
 - Uttar Pradesh (255,700) has the highest registered electric vehicles, followed by Delhi (125,347) and Karnataka (72,544) come in that order.
 - The fourth and fifth spots are grabbed by Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506).
- 13.** Which state government has launched the 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' to provide incentives benefiting around 53,000 people of the state _____ **Uttarakhand.**
- Note:**
- It is a Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme, the amount under the scheme would go directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries through their linked bank accounts.
 - The state government is targeting to spend INR 444.62 crore to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand.
 - The dairy sector accounts for 4.2% of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- 14.** As per the 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022, released by Wheebox which state has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent _____ **Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- The theme of ISR 2022 – 'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'.
 - States with Maximum Hiring Activity: Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand.
 - Pune is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 percent.

Important News - World

- 1.** According to the 2021 Worldwide Cost of Living Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which city has been ranked as world's most expensive city _____ **Tel Aviv.**
- Note:**
- The index explored the cost of living in 173 cities, 40 more than last year, measured against impactful global events.
 - It stated that prices for goods and services have risen by 3.5 per cent year-on-year, the highest inflation rate seen in the last five years.
 - This year, Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel, has leaped to the top of the list, jumping past Paris and Singapore which are at a joint second ranking, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong.
- 2.** The fifth Indian Ocean Conference - IOC 2021 was held in which city of the world _____ **Abu Dhabi.**
- Note:**
- Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the conference from India.
 - The theme of the Indian Ocean Conference 2021 is "Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic".

- S Jaishankar has stressed on the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded commerce in a globalised world.
3. In December 2021, India has conducted 21st annual summit with which country to discuss the entire gamut of relations, including regional and global issues _____ **Russia**.
- Note:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed regional and global developments, including the post-pandemic global economic recovery, and the situation in Afghanistan at the India – Russia Annual Summit.
4. The World Petroleum Congress, the largest triennial gathering for the industry was held in which city of America _____ **Houston**.
- Note:**
- Topics include the role of U.S. oil and gas in global energy markets, the shale revolution, digital evolution of oil industry, energy transition from oil, gas and coal to wind, solar and other clean technologies, and a future vision and perception of the industry at large, according to the organizers.
 - The World Petroleum Congress is organized every three years by the London-based World Petroleum Council which includes 65 member countries, representing over 96 per cent of global oil and gas production and consumption.
5. According to UK-based research institute MEPS that specializes in steel market, which country set to India as the world's second largest producer of stainless steel _____ **Indonesia**.
- Note:**
- In the current year 2021, global production is set to log 56.8 mt, showing a growth of 11.6 per cent from the previous year.
 - Despite being the world's largest producer by far, China's production is seen constrained by State regulations; but elsewhere in the world production is set to rise.
 - As a result, in 2022, world stainless steel production is forecast to set a record of 58.2 million tonnes (mt) registering a growth of 2.5 per cent.
6. In which country the World's First Floating City will be built _____ **South Korea**.
- Note:**
- 'Oceanix,' a company dedicated towards making futuristic floating cities, got backing from the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UN-Habitat, one of the most credible organizations in the world to build a floating city in South Korea.
 - An MoU was signed between the UN-Habitat, Republic of Korea, and Oceanix to build a full-fledged floating city near the banks of Busan that can withstand floods, tsunamis, and level 5 hurricanes.
7. Which country hosted Summit for Democracy virtually to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad _____ **United States of America**.
- Note:**
- Three themes: defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights.
8. As per Reporters Without Borders (RSF) report, which country has been declared as the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained _____ **China**.
- Note:**
- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a report titled 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China' under which China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.
9. Which country is holding the presidency of G20 summit for 2022 _____ **Indonesia**.
- Note:**
- G20's theme 2021: Recover Together, Recover Stronger
 - G20 Leaders' Summit will be held for the first time in India in 2023.
10. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited which Arabian country marking the first-ever visit by a Jewish PM to the Arab state _____ **United Arab Emirates**.
- Note:**
- UAE, part of the Arab League, had boycotted Israel but a normalization deal inked last year has established economic and diplomatic ties between the two.
 - As a part of the visit, Bennett is poised to meet UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed al-Nahyan

- Israel had earlier signed the "Abraham Accords," a US-backed initiative to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

11. Which Arabian country has banned the Tablighi Jamaat calling it one of the gates of terrorism _____ **Saudi Arabia**.

Note:

- The country's Minister of Islamic Affairs made an announcement on social media directing the mosques to warn people against associating with them during the Friday sermon.
- Government has also warned people against associating with the Tablighi Jamaat which has been banned in Saudi Arabia.
- Saudi government also asked mosques to inform people about the danger that Tablighi Jamaat pose to society.

12. Which has become the world's first government to turn 100 per cent paperless _____ **Dubai**.

Note:

- It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.
- A comprehensive digital government services platform is managing all internal, external transactions and procedures of the Government of Dubai.
- The Dubai Paperless Strategy was implemented in five consecutive phases, each entity consisting of a different group of the Dubai Government's entities.

13. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) based in which city of world _____ **Stockholm, Sweden**.

Note:

- The former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm based organization.
- A 15-member board of advisers is assisted by IDEA, those members are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- Sunil Arora was the 23rd CEC of India and held the office from December 2 ,2018 to April 12, 2021.
- He had joined the organization as the Election Commissioner of India on September 1, 2017.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record seventh time _____ **Lionel Messi**.

Note:

- Apart from him, Barcelona's Alexia Putellas (27 years) won the women's Ballon d'Or. She netted in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year.
- Cristiano Ronaldo finishes outside the top three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2010.

2. Name the Indian Athlete who has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent and encouraging young girls in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality _____ **Anju Bobby George**.

Note:

- She is 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump.
- She was the first Indian athlete to win bronze medal in long jump at the World Championships in Athletics held in 2013 in Paris.
- In 2004 Olympics, she finished sixth.

3. Who has won the prestigious Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021 for his book Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism, a biography of one of the most significant figures in modern Indian history, Dadabhai Naoroji _____ **Dinyar Patel**.

Note:

- The New India Foundation announced the winner from a shortlist of six books, which covered a variety of themes and subjects.

- The prize carries a cash award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation. Instituted in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates high-quality non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India from writers of all nationalities, published in the previous calendar year.
- The prize will be presented to Patel in a ceremony at the Bangalore International Centre.
4. Who has been awarded the 'Impact Person of the Year 2020' award instituted by the exchange4media Group, to recognize excellence in the Advertising, Media and Marketing domain _____ **Sanjiv Puri**.
- Note:**
- He has been awarded this title for transforming a 100-year-old company, driving ITC to change with the times, making it an incredibly stable and strong conglomerate, flexible, agile, and digitally focused too, along with turning ITC into one of the fastest-growing FMCG companies in India.
 - Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, announced the winner, chosen from a wide field of business achievers.
5. Name the Indian-American mathematician who has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize for the "highly original work" in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS) _____ **Nikhil Srivastava**.
- Note:**
- Along with Prof. Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, the two other awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman.
 - Mr Marcus holds the Chair of Combinatorial Analysis at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Mr Spielman is Sterling Professor of Computer Science, a professor of statistics and data science, and a professor of mathematics.
6. Who has been awarded the world's highest education accolade the 2021 Yidan Prize, for Education Development, for her work in improving learning outcomes _____ **Rukmini Banerji**.
- Note:**
- Among Banerji's pioneering work, along with Pratham's team, is the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) assessment approach that revealed literacy and numeracy gaps among children who have already spent several years at school.
7. Who has been adjudged as the winner of the 56th Jnanpith Award for the year 2021 _____ **Nilmani Phookan Jr.**
- Note:**
- Phookan is a poet of renown, having written Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi, Gulapi Jamur Lagna, and Kobita.
 - Primarily a poet, he also writes prose and is a pioneering art critic from Assam, with a focus on folklore and folk art.
8. Who has been adjudged as the winner of the 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022 _____ **Damodar Mauzo**.
- Note:**
- Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo has won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
 - It is India's highest literary award.
 - The annual Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution towards literature."
9. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked at what position in the Forbes' rankings of 100 most powerful women of the world _____ **37th**.
- Note:**
- This year, Sitharaman is ranked at 37th position, up from 41 last year.
 - In 2019, she held the 34th spot in the Forbes ranking of 100 most powerful women.
 - Jeff Bezos' former wife Mackenzie Scott earned the topmost spot in this year's list.
10. Who secured top position in the list of 100 powerful women of the world _____ **Mackenzie Scott**.
- Note:**

- US Vice-President Kamla Harris is ranked second, and European Central Bank Head Christine Lagarde is at the third position in the top 100 rankings.
- Every year, Forbes, an American business magazine, releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world.

11. The 70th Miss Universe 2021 event was held in which city where India's Harnaaz Sandhu has won the crown _____ **Eilat, Israel.**

Note:

- The 21-year-old from Punjab claimed the crown edging out Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira and South Africa's Lalela Mswane.
- Ms Sandhu was presented the crown by Andrea Meza, former Miss Universe 2020 from Mexico.
- She has previously been crowned Miss Diva 2021, Femina Miss India Punjab 2019 and was even placed in the Top 12 at Femina Miss India 2019.
- Previously, only two Indians have worn the crown – Sushmita Sen in 1994, and Lara Dutta in 2000.

12. Name the Indian mathematician who won the 'Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries 2021' for his/her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra _____ **Neena Gupta.**

Note:

- She is a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata.
- She becomes the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize since its inception in 2004.

13. Who has been selected for Royal Gold Medal 2022 by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) _____ **Balkrishna Doshi.**

Note:

- Royal Gold Medal is world's highest honour for architecture.
- Balkrishna Doshi is an important figure of Indian architecture and his more noteworthy designs include IIM Bangalore, IIM Udaipur, NIFT Delhi, Amdavad ni Gufa, CEPT University, and Aranya Low Cost Housing development in Indore which was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

14. Who has been named the Time magazine's 2021 "Person of the Year" _____ **Elon Musk.**

Note:

- Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX, and leads brain-chip startup Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company.
- Times Magazine called him the richest man in the world who does not own a house and has recently been selling off his fortune.

15. Who has won the 2021 WTA Player of the Year Award _____ **Ashleigh Barty.**

Note:

- She won the award for the 2nd Time, previously she won the WTA Player of the year in 2019.
- WTA announced the winners of the WTA Player Awards 2021 as voted by the members of the International media that recognise the outstanding performance from the current season.
- Ashleigh Barty ended the 2021 season securing WTA's World No.1 ranking for the 3rd consecutive year. She became the 5th woman to achieve this feat after Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Serena Williams.

16. Who topped the Fortune India's Most Powerful Women List 2021 _____ **Nirmala Sitharaman.**

Note:

- She is followed by Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador Nita Ambani (58) in 2nd position, and Soumya Swaminathan (62), Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) at 3rd.
- Nirmala Sitharaman is the 28th finance minister of India.

Sports News

1. Which country has won the men's Junior hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha _____ **Argentina**.

Note:

- They defeated six-time champion Germany by 4-2 and won the title after a 16-year gap.
- Argentina sealed their second men's Junior World Cup title when Franco Agostini fired into an empty net in the final minute
- France has defeated India to claim the 3rd place in the tournament.

2. Which country has won the Asian team squash championships 2021 held in Kuala Lumpur _____ **Malaysia**.

Note:

- Malaysia defeated Indian in the final by 2-1.
- India had lost in the summit clash before in 1981 and 2012 also.
- Malaysia has also won the women's final of the Asian team squash championships defeating Hong Kong 2-1 in the final.

3. Who has won the 2021 BWF World Tour men's Final held in Bali, Indonesia _____ **Viktor Axelson**.

Note:

- He defeated Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand by 21-12, 21-8 in just 43 minutes to wrap up the men's singles title.
- South Korea's An Seyoung has won BWF World Tour Finals in women's category by defeating India's PV Sindhu.

4. Who has won the 2021 BWF World Tour women's Final held in Bali, Indonesia _____ **An Seyoung**.

Note:

- Men's doubles, Japan's Hoki Takuro and Kobayashi Yugo beat Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo from Indonesia.

5. Which country has won the Davis Cup title 2021 _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- They defeated Croatia 2-0 in the summit clash in Madrid.
- Andrey Rublev defeated Borna Gojo 6-4, 7-5 in the opening match and then the victory was sealed by Daniil Medvedev after he outclassed Marin Cilic.
- Medvedev defeated Cilic 7-6, 6-2 to seal the victory for Russia.

6. Who won the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2021 _____ **Lewis Hamilton**.

Note:

- Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which is scheduled to be held on 12th December, is the last race of '2021 Formula One World Championship', which will decide 2021's Winner.
- Currently the top position is shared by Max Verstappen & Lewis Hamilton with 369.5 points each.

7. Sanket Mahadev Sargar is associated with which sport who won a gold medal recently _____ **Weightlifting**.

Note:

- For the top-podium finish, the Indian lifted the weight of 113kg.
- With this lift, Sargar also created the new snatch national record.
- The Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 is currently being held concurrently in Tashkent along with World Weightlifting Championships 2021 from December 7 to 17.

8. Who has gold medal the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan _____ **Jhilli Dalabhera**.

Note:

- Indian weightlifter Jhilli Dalabhera has won the gold medal in the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

9. Who has won the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2021 _____ **Max Verstappen**.

Note:

- Hamilton's Mercedes team secured the constructors' championship for an unprecedented eighth successive year but Verstappen, 24, ended a run of double dominance dating back to 2014.

- Verstappen ended the season with 10 wins to Hamilton's eight, having also led more laps and taken more poles and podiums.
10. Which country hosted the Asian Rowing Championship 2021 in which India won total of six medals, including two gold and 4 silver medals _____ **Thailand**.

Note:

- Senior rower Arvind Singh bagged a gold in the lightweight Men's single sculls event while his compatriots won three silver medals.
- India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrupul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four.
- In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.

11. Arvind Singh is associated with which sports who won gold medal recently _____ **Rowing**.

Note:

- India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrupul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four.
- In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.

12. Who has won 2021 FIDE World Chess Championship held in Dubai, UAE _____ **Magnus Carlsen**.

Note:

- He defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi, who faded badly after going toe-to-toe in the early games.
- Carlsen wins 60% of the 2 million-euro prize offered by the championship.
- FIDE World Chess Championship 2021 was played during Expo 2020 at Dubai Exhibition Centre in Dubai, UAE, between 24 November and 12 December 2021.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat' _____ **Prabhat Kumar**.

Note:

- The book was released by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- The book is published by IC Centre for Governance.
- The book deals with ethics in governance and public service and proposes a collective quest for ethical India or Naitik Bharat.

2. Who has authored the book titled 'The Midway Battle: Modi's Roller-coaster Second Term' _____ **Gautam Chintamani**.

Note:

- The book mentioned the political scenario of India.
- It marks the second tenure of the current Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.
- The Midway Battle shed light on the various legislations like the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, triple talaq, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as well as farming laws.

3. Who has authored the book titled 'Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947' _____ **Ayaz Memon**.

Note:

- It is an anthology of Indian Cricket and marked several insights of Indian cricket of the last 70 years.
- The book has covered the era of veteran cricketers K N Prabhu to P N Sundaresan and Dicky Rutnagar to Ramachandra Guha and Suresh Menon, those years of famous victories consist of experiences about World Cups, various Test cricket, etc.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'At Home in The Universe' _____ **Bala Krishna Madhur**.

Note:

- The book is the autobiography of B K Madhur, a former Chief Executive Officer at DHFL Property Services Ltd, and one of the key personalities in establishing Dewan Housing.
- The book is published by Bookworld Enterprises of Mumbai.
- The book offers an inside view into the policy environment in the 1980s and 1990s in the Housing Finance Sector.

Science and Defence

1. 'Ekuverin' is a Joint Military Exercise between Indian army and military forces of which country _____ **Maldives**.

Note:

- The exercise will enhance synergy and inter-operability between Armed Forces of both the nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea, conducting Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences.
- Besides rigorous training, the joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations.
- The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region.

2. Which IIT will launch a Global Energy Consortium to boost the transformation towards a low carbon future _____ **IIT Madras**.

Note:

- The institute believes that the energy challenges of the next generation will require inter-disciplinary approaches across multiple domains and need a strong collaborative effort across academia and industry, which will be a key focus of this initiative.
- The consortium will be launched at the IIT Madras Energy Summit to be held from December 14 to 16.
- IIT-Madras has seven dedicated research initiatives working on the energy sector. These initiatives will form the core of the Global Energy Consortium.

3. With which country India has signed a contract for the indigenous production of over 6 Lakh AK-203 Assault Rifles at Korwa, UP _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- It envisages complete transfer of technology to IRRPL by Kalashnikov in manufacturing of first 70,000 weapons.
- Rest of the 5.31 lakh weapons will be completely indigenous realizing Govt's vision of Make in India and expanding defence exports.
- The whole order will be produced in 10 years.

4. What is the operational range of the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) that was successfully test-fired by DRDO from Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha _____ **50 km**.

Note:

- The missile has an operational range of 50 to km distance and features mid course inertial guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase.
- The VL-SRSAM, indigenously designed and developed by DRDO for the Indian Navy, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges, including sea-skimming targets.

5. The Indian Army is organizing a multi-nation disaster management exercise PANEX-21 involving BIMSTEC countries in which place _____ **Pune**.

Note:

- The exercise has been called PANEX 21 and will involve Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and India—BIMSTEC countries.
- The aim of the exercise is to foster joint planning and build regional cooperation for responding to natural disasters.

6. NASA has launched new X-ray Mission titled as Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) in collaboration with which space agency _____ **Italian Space Agency**.

Note:

- It is built to study some of the most energetic objects in the universe like the remnants of exploded stars, powerful particle jets spewing from feeding black holes, and much more.

7. India's maiden crewed space mission, Gaganyaan will be launched in _____ **2023**.

Note:

- This will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying 'Vyommitra', a spacefaring human robot developed by ISRO.

8. What is the full-form of SMAT that was successfully launched by India from Abdul Kalam island, formerly known as Wheeler Island _____ **Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System**.

Note:

- During the mission, the full range capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated.
- The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.
- The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.

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