

Weekly One-Liners

15-21 December
2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 15 -21st December 2021

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **third week** (15-21st) of **December 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank has joined hands with National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) to launch a solution for digital banking payments, named 'World Wave' a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem _____ **Bank of Baroda**.
Note:
 - A bob World Wave wearable device will allow customers to monitor their SpO2, body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.
 - With bob World Wave, BOB is providing an exclusive 3-months free wellness package along with a personal health coach, doctor tele-consultation and interactive video coaching.
 - The device will provide contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 in all NFC enabled PoS devices.
2. Which credit card issuer has launched a unique type of credit card called 'PULSE' on the Visa Signature platform to cater to the needs of fitness and health enthusiasts _____ **SBI Card**.
Note:
 - Launched on the Visa Signature platform, this new credit card called the "Pulse" has an annual membership charge of Rs 1,499.
 - SBI Card PULSE provides the customers Noise ColorFit Pulse Smartwatch of worth ₹4,999 as a welcome gift on payment of the joining fee.
3. Which cryptocurrency has been accepted as an official currency for local use by the Myanmar's parallel government led by the supporters of Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi _____ **Tether**.
Note:
 - The National Unity Government officially accepts Tether, a cryptocurrency meant to be a dollar proxy, for "domestic use to make it easy and speed up the current trade, services and payment systems.
 - The NUG is an alliance of leaders from the ousted civilian government and pro-democracy groups.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has released the draft Master Directions on minimum capital requirements for operational risk as part of convergence of its regulations for banks with Basel III standards. The provisions of these directions shall apply to _____ **All Commercial Banks**.
Note:
 - The provisions of these directions shall apply to all commercial banks excluding local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks, the RBI said, adding that the directions shall come into effect from April 1, 2023.
 - Operational risk means the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events.
5. What amount of reimbursement scheme has been approved by the central government aiming to promote digital transactions and incentivise users having Rupay debit cards and BHIM unified payments interface (UPI) _____ **Rs 1,300 crore**.
Note:
 - Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government by paying a percentage of the value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of ₹1,300 crore for one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021.
 - The scheme has been formulated in compliance with the Budget announcements (FY 2021-22) by the Government to further boost digital transactions in the country.
6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow which banks to conduct Government agency business _____ **Scheduled Payments Banks and Scheduled Small Finance Banks**.

Note:

- The central bank has decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF).
 - Any payment bank or small finance bank that intends to undertake Government agency business may be appointed as an agent of RBI upon execution of an agreement with RBI, provided that the overarching regulatory framework prescribed for these banks is complied with.
7. Tata Motors has partnered with which bank to sign a retail finance MoU, offering finance options to all its passenger vehicle customers _____ **Bandhan Bank**.
- Note:**
- As part of the tie-up, Bandhan Bank will provide loans to Tata Motors' customers at an interest rate starting from 7.50 per cent.
 - This scheme will offer a maximum of 90 percent financing on the total on-road cost of the vehicle.
8. Which India IT company has signed an agreement to acquire LeanSwift Solutions, US-headquartered system integrator of Infor Products whose service capabilities include ERP, e-commerce, digital transformation, supply chain, warehouse management systems, business intelligence and integrations _____ **Wipro Ltd**.
- Note:**
- LeanSwift has development offices across US, Sweden and India and its portfolio of clients span multiple industries, including manufacturing, distribution, chemicals, fashion, and food & beverages.
 - Their core business is providing consulting, business solutions, and technical services to customers in the Infor space.
9. State-owned power sector giant, NTPC, has awarded a standalone fuel-cell based green hydrogen microgrid project at _____ **Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- This will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the world's largest.
 - The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby Floating Solar project.
 - This unique project configuration is designed in-house by NTPC.
10. Which food and tech platform company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABFOUNDATION, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD to develop farmer clusters through products and services of Innoterra platform _____ **Innoterra**.
- Note:**
- The MoU aims to develop farmer clusters through products and services of Innoterra platform.
 - This association will enable both organisations to engage with India's largest farmer collectives' network of over 5000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
11. Which online ordering platform partnered with WhatsApp that will enable retailers and consumers to order essentials like groceries, vegetables, snacks etc _____ **JioMart**.
- Note:**
- This will enable retailers and consumers to order essentials like groceries, vegetables, snacks etc.
 - The JioMart on WhatsApp service is expected to start in 2022.
 - The new 'tap and chat' option allows users to order groceries through Whatsapp and pay via JioMart or can opt for cash on delivery.
12. Which bank has approved the \$150-million 'Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Programme' that seeks to strengthen institutions and improve the quality and financial sustainability of selected urban services in Chennai _____ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**.
- Note:**
- Tamil Nadu is an economic powerhouse and is one of India's most urbanized States. Chennai dominates the State's demographic and economic landscape and is experiencing rapid physical growth and changes in its boundaries.
 - The programme will complement AIIB-supported urban transport projects-such as the Chennai Metro Rail (Phase 2, Corridors 4 and 5) and Peripheral Ring Road-by improving integration of public transport modes (in terms of routes, institutions and technology) and strengthening relevant institutions.
13. Home First Finance Company India Ltd (HomeFirst) has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with which bank to offer home loans to customers _____ **Union Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Under this partnership, HomeFirst will originate loans as per the agreed credit policy of UBI in line with the provisions of RBI's Co-Lending Model.
 - HomeFirst will retain minimum 20 per cent of the loan on its book while 80 per cent will be on UBI's book.

14. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an MoU with which entity to enable real-time bank account payout in India _____ **Western Union**.

Note:

- The agreement will enable bank account holders in India to receive cross-border money transfers instantly using UPI IDs.
- It will benefit millions of Indian citizens to seamlessly receive money from across the world.

15. Pine Labs has partnered with which bank to enable the bank's credit cardholders to avail equated monthly instalments (EMI) offers _____ **AU Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- The Partnership offers EMI at the point of sale (PoS) and converts their customer's regular purchase into interest-free EMIs across the over 2 lakh merchant base of Pine Labs, pan India.
- Aim – To empower the underbanked with no cost EMI offers
- Pine Labs contains more than 30 different credit issuers and Non-Banking Financial Corporation (NBFC) partners on its Android PoS terminals.

16. Which bank has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to offer benefits to all serving as well as retired army personnel and their families through its Defence Salary Package (DSP) Scheme _____ **State Bank of India**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed in the presence of AG Lt. Gen. Harsha Gupta in New Delhi.
- Under this MoU, SBI will offer enhanced complimentary personal accidental insurance (Death) cover, air accidental insurance (Death) cover, permanent/partial disability covers.
- It also supports the education of children and the marriage of girl children of deceased army personnel.

17. Which bank has been empanelled as a banking partner to the Government of Maharashtra with a view to offer its services to the state government employees _____ **Equitas Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- The agreement will enable the SFB to distribute salaries and allowances to the existing employees apart from making provision of pension to pensioners.
- The other three banks assigned the role of distributing salaries and allowances to government employees are Bandhan Bank, Karur Vysya Bank and The South Indian Bank.

18. Edelweiss General Insurance has partnered with which digital payment platform for digital motor insurance products _____ **PhonePe**.

Note:

- PhonePe customers can now purchase EGI's motor insurance policy in just a few clicks with zero paperwork.
- EGI has launched on-demand, need-based, bite-sized insurance products, and is co-creating propositions in partnership in the digital ecosystem.

19. With which bank the government of India has signed a 442.26 million euro loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project _____ **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)**.

Note:

- The total cost of the project is Euro 1.50 billion, out of which KfW is financing Euro 442.26 million.
- The project is co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD (Agence Française de Développement) with Euro 250 million.
- The agreement for the same was signed on January 28, 2021.

20. Which intergovernmental bank will provide USD 350 million loan to improve access to urban services in India by accelerating policy actions and reforms to enhance service delivery and promote performance-based central fiscal transfers to urban local bodies (ULBs) _____ **Asian Development Bank**.

Note:

- The ADB will provide knowledge and advisory support to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in programme implementation, including monitoring and evaluation.
- It will also support urban local bodies particularly in select low-income states to implement policy reforms, prepare investment plans, and provide recommendations on cross-cutting issues like climate change, environmental and social safeguards assessment, and gender equality and social inclusion.

21. The Government of India has signed a \$150-million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a housing project for the urban poor in _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Nearly half of Tamil Nadu's 72 million population lives in urban areas making it one of the most urbanised States in India.

- Through the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, the project will construct houses in nine locations and relocate about 6,000 households vulnerable to natural hazards.
22. Samunnati has entered into a co-lending agreement with which bank to expand credit accessibility for farmer producer organisations (FPOs) across the country _____ **IndusInd Bank**.

Note:

- This collaboration will provide ₹15 crore as an initial amount disbursed to farmers collectives.
- The primary aim is to ensure the self-sustainability and profitability of Farmer Collectives and their members, comprising mostly small-holder farmers.
23. Which has become the first Indian insurance company to sign the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) _____ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**.
- Note:**
- In its journey towards promoting sustainability, the company is integrating ESG factors into its investment management framework. This private life insurer has also adopted sustainability principles across its business activities.
- The sustainability framework is built on the three pillars of ESG which include leaving the planet a better place for the next generation, giving back to society and transparency in functioning.
24. Pine Labs, a merchant commerce platform, has partnered with which bank with which the bank's credit cardholders will now be able to avail of equated monthly instalments (EMI) offers at the point of sale and convert their regular purchase into interest-free EMIs _____ **AU Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- Pine Labs, a merchant commerce platform, has partnered with AU Small Finance Bank, the country's largest small finance bank.
- With this partnership, the bank's credit cardholders will now be able to avail of equated monthly instalments (EMI) offers at the point of sale and convert their regular purchase into interest-free EMIs across the over 2 lakh merchant base of Pine Labs, pan India.
- Currently, Pine Labs powers more than 30 different credit issuers and NBFC partners on its Android PoS terminals.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality R.L. Jalappa passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Politician**.

Note:

- RL Jalappa was founder and Chairman of Devaraj Urs Medical College in Kolar and RL Jalappa Institute of Technology, Doddaballapur.
- In 1979 he quit Congress to form the Karnataka Kranti Ranga with former Chief Minister D Devaraj Urs and he again joined congress in 1998.
- In 1996, He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chikballapur constituency, representing Janata Dal.

2. Renowned personality KP Geethakrishnan passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Bureaucrats**.

Note:

- He joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in May 1958 and belonged to the Tamil Nadu cadre.
- He held various positions in the State Government, including that of the Collector of Salem, Industries Secretary and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Industries Development Corporation.

Important Days

1. International Tea Day is observed every year on _____ **15th December**.

Note:

- It is the second most used drink in the world after water. For some people, tea is an integral part of life which adds rhythm.
- China is currently the largest exporter of tea. According to a study conducted by the Tea Board of India in 2007, around 80 per cent of the total tea produced in India is consumed by the domestic population.
2. In India, Vijay Diwas (also called Victory Day) is celebrated every year on _____ **16th December**.

Note:

- The country is celebrating the 50th Vijay Diwas in 2021.
- Vijay Diwas is observed to commemorate the service, valour, and sacrifices of the gallant men of the Indian Armed Forces' victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

- On this day, we pay homage to all the soldiers who had defended the nation in the war.
3. The International Migrants Day is observed globally every year on _____ **18th December**.
- Note:**
- The day is marked by the United Nations, through the UN-related agency International Organization for Migration (IOM).
 - The day is observed to highlight the contributions made by the 272 million migrants, which includes more than 41 million people who are internally displaced persons, and the challenges they face.
 - The theme of International Migrants Day 2021 is Harnessing the potential of human mobility.
4. Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on _____ **18th December**.
- Note:**
- The Minority Rights Day 2021 aims to uplift all the minority sections of society and back them to voice their opinion. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, all the sessions, seminars, and debates are likely to take place digitally.
5. World Arabic Language Day is observed globally every year on _____ **18th December**.
- Note:**
- The Arabic language is one of the pillars of the cultural diversity of mankind. It is one of the most widely used languages in the world, spoken daily by more than 400 million people.
 - The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the history, culture and development of the language by preparing a program of special activities and events.
6. International Human Solidarity Day is observed globally on which date every year to celebrate unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity _____ **20th December**.
- Note:**
- According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is among the fundamental values that are essential to international relations.
 - Solidarity is defined as an awareness of shared interests and objectives that create a psychological sense of unity and ties in a society that bind people together as one.

New Appointments

1. Under whose chairmanship, the SEBI has constituted an Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies _____ **Madhabi Puri Buch**.
- Note:**
- The seven-member expert group will guide Sebi on ways to “enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technology solutions for early detection of market anomalies.”
 - The name given to the committee is ‘Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)’.
2. Who has been elected has been elected as the president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) _____ **Mohit Jain**.
- Note:**
- He was elected during 82nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of INS held through video conferencing.
 - He succeeds Lakshmipathy Adimoolam of Health & The Antiseptic.
 - K Raja Prasad Reddy (Sakshi) is the Deputy President, Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) is the Vice President and Tanmay Maheshwari (Amar Ujala) is the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for 2021-22.
3. Name the cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand with an aim to promote sports and create mental health awareness _____ **Rishabh Pant**.
- Note:**
- The 24-year Pant, who was rested for the New Zealand Tests, is currently in South Africa as the Indian Team is all set to face Proteas in the three-match Test series, starting December 26.
 - Rishabh Rajendra Pant is an Indian cricketer who plays as a middle-order wicket-keeper batsman for India, Delhi, and the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League.
4. 35-year-old Gabriel Boric becomes the youngest president of which country and one of the youngest political leaders in the world _____ **Chile**.
- Note:**

- Boric won with 56% of the votes, while his opponent 55-year-old José Antonio Kast trailed with 44% of the votes.
 - Boric as a student led Federation of Students at University of Chile in Santiago.
 - He rose to prominence after leading protests in 2011 demanding improved and cheaper education.
5. Who has been appointed as Managing Director of Hyundai Motor India Limited with effect from 1st January 2022
Unsoo Kim.
- Note**
- He will succeed Seon Seob Kim, who was serving the company since November 2018.
 - He is currently with the parent company in South Korea
 - SS Kim has played pivotal role in Hyundai growth in the Indian market.
6. Who assumed the charge as the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee _____ **MM Naravane.**
- Note:**
- The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat in the IAF helicopter crash on December 8.
 - Gen Naravane has been given the charge as the chairman of the committee as he is the senior-most among the three service chiefs
7. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Software Technology of India (STPI) _____ **Arvind Kumar.**
- Note:**
- Before joining STPI, Kumar was working with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) since 2004.
 - As an advisor in TRAI, he was responsible for broadband, data security and privacy issues, manufacturing, DTH, IPTV, TV broadcasting and OTT, after having worked since 1997 in the Indian Government-run premier technology centre, C-DoT.

Important News – India

1. The winner of the 2nd edition of 'Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge' will get how much amount that was launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in partnership with Startup India _____ **Rs. 10 Lakh.**
- Note:**
- The first edition of the startup grand challenge was launched by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 12th September, 2019.
 - The challenge is open for application on the Startup India portal – www.startupindia.gov.in – to all startups
2. In December 2021, which of the following has been inscribed on the UNESCO's 'Intangible Heritage list' _____
Kolkata's Durga puja festival.
- Note:**
- Durga Puja is an annual festival celebrated in September or October, most notably in West Bengal's Kolkata, also in other parts of India
 - The 16th Committee of UNESCO for safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in its meeting held on 15th December 2021 in Paris has inscribed Durga puja in Kolkata on the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
3. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of _____
Rs.93,068 crore.
- Note:**
- The CCEA has approved central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21.
 - Launched in 2015, PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.
4. What is the theme of the eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue _____ **Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States.**
- Note:**
- The theme for this year's edition was Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States.
 - IORA was formerly known as Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and Indian Ocean Rim Initiative.
 - It is an international organisation comprising of 23 states which share borders with the Indian Ocean.

5. India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with which country to enable collaboration in the field of digital media and strengthen the partnership between both the countries _____ **Vietnam**.

Note:

- Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharati; Jaideep Bhatnagar, Principal DG, PIB; and Vikram Sahay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) along with other officials from India and Vietnam were present during the event.
- The LoI anticipates sharing of information and experience in establishing policies and regulatory frameworks on digital media and social networks.
- The LoI also expects to conduct capacity building and training programs for media professionals and officials in both India and Vietnam.

6. Under what theme the Good Governance Week 2021 is being celebrated from 20th-25th December, 2021 _____ **Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur**.

Note:

- Celebrated by: Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)
- Moto: to redress and dispose of public grievances and improvise service delivery down to the village level.
- Theme: "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur"
- A film on "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur" will also be screened.
- "Good Governance Day will be celebrated on December 25, 2021.

7. Who will chair the Committee set up by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for the transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to financial institutions _____ **G Padmanabhan**.

Note:

- Former executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) G Padmanabhan will chair the committee along with expertise in banking and legal firms.
- The committee examines the provisions of the RBI directions that require further clarification for transferring stressed loans, for identifying areas or issues of the directions from RBI
- The committee will submit a report to the chairperson of IFSCA, within one month from the date of the committee's first meeting.

8. What will be the length of the Ganga Expressway, the foundation stone of which was laid down by the PM Narendra Modi _____ **594 Km**.

Note:

- Ganga Expressway will open new doors of progress for UP and will be a source of five boons covering network of expressways, new airports, and railway routes:
- It is a 594 Km long six-lane Expressway and will be built at a cost of over Rs 36,200 crore.
- It passes through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, RaeBareli, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

9. What is India's rank in the Truecaller's Global Spam Report 2021 _____ **4th**.

Note:

- India's rank is moved from 9th in 2020 to the 4th spot this year
- The report has been released by Truecaller
- KYC (know your customer) spam remains one of the most common one in the country.
- The average number of spam calls per user per month stood at 16.8 in October.

10. Which forces has launched website for online recruitment of the officers _____ **Indian Coast Guard**.

Note:

- Digital recruitment process will cover around hundred cities spread throughout the country and would be conducted twice a year ensuring far wider reach, talent and also provide an unprecedented opportunity to the individuals aspiring to serve the Nation.

11. Who has laid foundation stone and inaugurated 232 km of National Highways at a cost of Rs.4160 Crore in Jaunpur and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh _____ **Nitin Gadkari**.

Note:

- It will facilitate movement of goods with better connectivity in the region and provide access to markets for agricultural produce, local and other products
- In Jaunpur, foundation stone for 3 national highway projects which will cover 86 kms with a total cost of Rs 1,123 crore.
- In Mirzapur, Four National highways projects worth Rs 3037 crore with total length of 146 kms.

Important News – State

1. Askot Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state that has been declared as the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) _____ **Uttarakhand**.
Note:
 - The notified area extends from 0 to 22 km around the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - After the new notification, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary has become the first sanctuary in the state without any villages inside it.
2. Which state government has signed an agreement with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to empower women economically and drive gender equality in the state _____ **Odisha**.
Note:
 - Under the joint initiative, the launch of Mission Shakti Living Lab was announced.
 - The initiative will also help 10,000 women-led micro-enterprises get better access to affordable market opportunities, capital for business promotion, and market solutions for better linkages.
3. Which state govt signed an agreement with the UN-FAO and Indian Council of Agricultural Research to help the state farmers in adopting a sustainable agriculture food system _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note:
 - Through this agreement, there will also be strengthening the capacities of the state government in the agriculture sector.
 - FAO will provide training to farmers, Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) staff, officials, and scientists on new technologies in agricultural allied sectors and training to farmers on best cultivation management practices.
4. Which state top the chart in the 'large states' category on the 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' -- an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years that was prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness' and released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman Bibek Debroy _____ **West Bengal**.
Note:
 - In the 'small states' category, Kerala grabbed the top spot and Jharkhand was adjudged the worst performer on the index.
 - There are four categories in which regions have been divided -- large states, small states, Union Territories and North East.
5. Which state government has launched Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY) scheme aimed at nurturing young sporting talents in Maoist-hit districts of the state _____ **Jharkhand**.
Note:
 - Currently, it is launched in Saraikela-Kharsawan, West Singhbhum, Khunti, Gumla and Simdega districts of Jharkhand, and will extend to other districts too.
 - This scheme has been launched to curb the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) which affected 19 of the state's 24 districts.
 - LWE are those groups that try to bring change through violent revolution.
6. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signed an agreement with GreenCell Mobility, to lend INR 275 crore for deployment of 350 electric buses across nine cities of _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note:
 - The initiative is part of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME)-II scheme.
 - GreenCell Mobility is an e-mobility platform supported by Governments of India and United Kingdom to boost adoption of electric vehicles in the country.
 - The buses will be deployed in key cities of UP including Agra, Meerut, Aligarh, Bareilly, Ghaziabad & Mathura.
7. India's first International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) was inaugurated in which city of India _____ **Hyderabad**.

Note:

- The IAMC would emerge as one of the top destinations for arbitration and mediation due to Hyderabad being strategically located.
- The IAMC would be a boon for companies and organisations, both Indian and international, to resolve their disputes
- Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK.

8. Jaitapur nuclear power plant is located in which state for that the govt has given in-principle approval for setting up six nuclear power reactors of 1,650 MW each in technical cooperation with France _____ **Maharashtra**.

Note:

- This would make it the largest nuclear power generating site in the country with a total capacity of 9,900 MW.
- Currently, techno-commercial discussions to arrive at the project proposal with France are in progress.

Important News – World

1. Which country conferred its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi _____ **Bhutan**.

Note:

- The award, established in 2008, comes with a Breast Star and Sash Badge.
- It honours those who have dedicated their lives to serving Bhutan's nation and people.
- Her Majesty Queen Grandmother Ashi Kesang Choden, His Holiness Je Thrizur Tenzin Dendup, and His Holiness Je Khenpo Trulku Ngawang Jigme Choedra have been the previous recipients.

2. Which has become the first European Union nation to legalize cultivation and personal use of cannabis _____ **Malta**.

Note:

- Maltese parliament voted in favour of reform last week, with 36 votes in favour and 27 against.
- Under this, adults will be allowed to grow four plants at home and carry seven grams of cannabis, with smoking in public or in front of children remaining illegal.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named as the Time's 2021 Athlete of the Year _____ **Simone Biles**.

Note:

- The world's most decorated gymnast was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Biles, a four-time Olympic medalist, later revealed that she suffered from what gymnasts called "the twisties" - when you lose the sense of space and dimension in the air.

2. Name the former cricketer who has been conferred with the prestigious 'SJFI Medal' by the Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) _____ **Sunil Gavaskar**.

Note:

- Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won silver at the quadrennial extravaganza, was voted as the SJFI Sportswoman of the Year.
- Neeraj Chopra, who won India's lone gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was adjudged the recipient of the SJFI Sportsman of the Year award.
- The Indian men's team that won the hockey bronze in Tokyo - its first hockey medal in 40 years - was declared the SJFI Team of the Year.

3. Who has been conferred with the Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award- Business Transformation by the Silicon Valley-based The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) _____ **Kumar Mangalam Birla**.

Note:

- He is the first Indian industrialist to receive this award for his leadership of a globally diversified conglomerate during the pandemic.
 - Birla joins an exclusive list of global entrepreneurs to receive the award this year that include Elon Musk (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - Immigrant Entrepreneur), Jeff Bezos (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - First Generation) and Satya Nadella (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - Entrepreneurial CEO).
4. Which Public Sector Enterprises has won Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021 _____ **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)**.

Note:

- Major initiatives by SAIL: Carbon footprint reduction, R&D, creation of carbon sinks, gradual shift to LED, enhancing share of renewable energy, etc
 - The Award is given to organizations for significant achievements in Environment Management by Environment Foundation (WEF) since 1998.
5. Who has been adjudged as the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021 _____ **Emma Raducanu**.

Note:

- Raducanu ended Britain's 44-year wait for a women's Grand Slam singles champion with her remarkable victory at Flushing Meadows.
- Her fairytale win followed a run to the Wimbledon fourth round in July on her Grand Slam main draw debut.
- In a public vote, diver Tom Daley placed second and swimmer Adam Peaty was third.

Sports News

1. Name the Indian badminton player who won the historic silver medal in the World Badminton Championships in Spain _____ **Kidambi Srikanth**.

Note:

- A former world no. 1, Srikanth lost Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.
 - He becomes the first Indian men Badminton player to win a silver in BWF World Championships.
 - The maiden silver placed Srikanth alongside P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who had finished runner-up in the past.
 - Akane Yamaguchi of Japan clinched the women's title beating World No. 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.
2. Loh Kean Yew of which country has defeated Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth in the final of the BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain and won the gold _____ **Singapore**.

Note:

- Kidambi Srikanth becomes the first Indian men Badminton player to win a silver in BWF World Championships.
 - The maiden silver placed Srikanth alongside P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who had finished runner-up in the past.
 - Akane Yamaguchi of Japan clinched the women's title beating World No. 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.
3. Who won the women's title (gold medal) in the BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain _____ **Akane Yamaguchi**.

- Second seeded Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai won the mixed doubles title as they beat third-seeded Japanese duo Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino in straight game, 21-13, 21-14 in the final match.
 - Loh Kean Yew of Singapore won the gold medal in BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain by defeating Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth.
4. Name the sportsperson who has been bestowed with the knighthood by the Prince of Wales Charles at Windsor Castle in Windsor _____ **Lewis Hamilton**.

Note:

- The Mercedes driver was made a Knight Bachelor by Prince of Wales Charles at Windsor Castle in Windsor.
 - Hamilton holds an incredible seven Formula One World Titles.
 - Hamilton missed out on his record eighth title at the Yas Marina circuit during the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.
5. Which country will host Women's Under-18 and Under-19 SAFF championships in 2022 _____ **India**.

Note:

- While SAFF Under-18 Women's Championship will be held from 3rd to 14th March and SAFF Under-19 Championship will take place from July 25 to August 3.
 - Participants for SAFF U-18 Women's Championship: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India
6. Who has won 2021 National Billiards Title _____ **Pankaj Advani**.

Note:

- Sitwala, displaying excellent in-offs, pots and cannons, surged ahead by pocketing the third game with a sizeable break of 84.
- He was on course to even wrest the fourth game after he compiled a wonderful effort of 101, but a costly lapse by him gave a window of opportunity to Advani.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'Pride, Prejudice and Punditry' _____ **Shashi Tharoor**.

Note:

- The book, published by Aleph Book Company, was earlier launched in Delhi.
- There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics etc.

2. Who has authored the book titled 'Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work' that was released by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu _____ **Rahul Rawail**.

Note:

- The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary.
- The vice president described the book as a "labour of love and dedication".
- The book is also dedicated to Raj Kapoor's second son and father of Ranbir Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, who passed away in April 2020.

3. Who has authored the book titled 'Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology' _____ **S S Oberoi**.

Note:

- The book consists of life experience, challenges working as an advisor under the MeitY.
- S. S. Oberoi is a retired adviser in the Department of Electronics (DoE).
- He was the first head of the Software Development Agency and the first adviser of Information Technology.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'Gandhi Topi Governor' _____ **Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad**.

Note:

- The book chronicles the life of Barrister Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao.
- The book is published by Emesco Books.
- Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao was a prominent freedom fighter, Legislator and the Governor of the Central Provinces in the British Administration.

5. Who has authored the book titled "India's Ancient Legacy of Wellness" _____ **Rekha Chaudhari**.

Note:

- It was launched on the occasion of World Digital Day (WDD) celebration.
- The book highlights how important it is for human beings to be close to nature which helps to revive and recharge to do productive work.
- Dr Rekha has also published many of her research works in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Science and Defence

1. Recently, which IIT has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF _____ **IIT Delhi**.

Note:

- The joint partnership between the IAF and IIT Delhi aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance.
 - Under the ambit of the MoU, the IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems.
 - IIT Delhi will provide cooperation and consultancy, duly supported by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development.
2. Which automotive manufacturer has partnered with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) to develop and manufacture 600-HP indigenous engine to power futuristic combat vehicles under Atmanirbhar Bharat mission _____ **Ashok Leyland**.

Note:

- The 600-HP engine will undergo rigorous testing in lab and will be qualified for application in tanks. Ashok Leyland will undertake series production of the engine post induction into service.
- For over five decades, Ashok Leyland has developed and expanded its scope within the defence space.
- This partnership with CVRDE has given the company an opportunity to further innovate in the mobility space for defence requirements.

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