

Weekly One-Liners

1-7 December 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 1st -7th December 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 underscoped 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.

Obituaries

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

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 Bhusan 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Sindu.

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.

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.

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.

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