

Weekly One-liners

8-14 December 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 8th -14th December 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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.
- 18.** 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.
- 19.** 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.
- 20.** 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.
- 21.** 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 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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. 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.
2. 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”.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.”
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 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.
2. 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.
3. Name the Indian-origin person who has been elevated to Head of the White House personnel office _____ **Gautam Raghavan**.
- Note:**
- He succeeded Catherine Russell, who has been appointed Executive Director of UNICEF.
 - Gautam Raghavan was Russell'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'.
4. 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.
5. 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

Note:

- According to the new 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index India has shared the 66th rank with Jordan.
- India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.
- While Jordan 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.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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'.

11. 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 Agence Française de Développement (AFD).
- It will be an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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).

8. 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).

9. 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 pool 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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. 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.

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

Note:

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

3. 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.
4. 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 Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four.
 - In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.
5. 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 Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four.
 - In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.
6. 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 '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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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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