

# Weekly One-Liners

22-31 Jan 2021



## Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st January 2021

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31st) of **January 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which Bank has launched 'AURA', a credit card with health and wellness benefits at an affordable price for its individual users \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The features of the card is powered by Poshvine , Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG etc.,
  - The aim of the card is to provide complete health and wellness solutions to its users.
  - Cardholders will can get discount on annual medical checkup through IndushealthPlus.
2. Which payments bank has partnered with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)** Ltd to enable its account holders to avail Fixed Deposit (FD) services \_\_\_\_\_ **Paytm Payments Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The payments bank has already been offering fixed deposits service in collaboration with IndusInd Bank with a minimum investment of Rs. 100.
  - With the partnership with Suryoday SFB the Paytm Payments Bank has become the 1st payments bank in India to launch the multi-partner FD service.
3. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has given approval to the deal between Future Group and which industry, where Future group will sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehouse businesses to Reliance Retail for Rs 24,713 crore \_\_\_\_\_ **Reliance retail Ltd**.  
**Note:**
  - This deal was earlier approved by Competition Commission of India(CCI).
  - This acquisition is part of the scheme in which Future Group is merging certain companies carrying on the above said businesses into Future Enterprises Limited (FEL).
  - The retail & wholesale undertaking will be transferred to Reliance Retail and the Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRFLL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RRVL.
4. Which Payments Bank has launched 'Safe Pay' a safe way to pay digitally to protect Airtel customers from the growing incidents of online payment frauds \_\_\_\_\_ **Airtel Payments Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - With 'Airtel Safe Pay', Airtel customers making UPI or net banking-based payments through Airtel Payments Bank, no longer have to worry about money flowing out of their accounts without their explicit consent.
  - An India-First innovation, 'Airtel Safe Pay' leverages Airtel's 'telco exclusive' strength of network intelligence to provide an additional layer of payment validation, compared to the industry norm of two-factor authentication.
5. As per the latest World Economic Outlook released by International Monetary Fund (IMF) the Indian Economy will grow by what percent in the FY 2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **11.5 per cent**.  
**Note:**
  - India is the only major economy forecast to grow in double digits next year and forecast to follow that up with the highest 6.8% rise in the FY23 fiscal.
  - The latest forecast for India's FY22 gross domestic product (GDP) marks an upward revision from the 8.8% growth the IMF had estimated in its last assessment in October.
6. As per the 'World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021', produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), India's economy is projected to grow at what per cent in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **7.3 per cent**.  
**Note:**
  - The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), said the world economy was hit by a once-in-a-century crisis a Great Disruption unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

- The global economy shrank by 4.3 per cent last year, over two-and-a-half times more than during the global financial crisis of 2009. The modest recovery of 4.7 per cent expected in 2021 would barely offset the losses of 2020.
7. Global financial services major HSBC has inaugurated its International Banking Unit (IBU) branch in which state \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gujarat.**  
**Note:**
- HSBC is one of the earliest global financial institutions setting up a branch at India's GIFT City and was the first bank to get a licence from the newly set up International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), said a release by the company.
  - HSBC's IBU branch at Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City) will be operational for customer transactions with effect from January 27.
8. With which entity the government of India has signed a strategic partnership agreement to strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability \_\_\_\_\_ **International Energy Agency (IEA).**  
**Note:**
- This partnership will lead to an extensive exchange of knowledge and would be a stepping stone towards India becoming a full member of IEA.
  - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai and IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.
9. Which company has ranked first most-valued IT services brand globally, according to a report by Brand Finance \_\_\_\_\_  
**Accenture.**  
**Note:**
- According to a report by Brand Finance, Accenture retained the title of world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand with a record brand value of \$26 billion, while IBM continued at the second place with brand value of \$16.1 billion
10. According to a report by Brand Finance, Indian IT firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) ranked at what place \_\_\_\_\_  
**Third.**  
**Note:**
- Four Indian IT services companies -- TCS, Infosys, HCL and Wipro -- secured spots in the top-10 global tally.
  - TCS has celebrated strong revenue growth as demand grows for its core transformation services and through winning deals - worth over \$6.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020 alone.
11. What amount India has pledged UN peacebuilding as a token of engagement \_\_\_\_\_ **USD 1,50,000.**  
**Note:**
- On India's peacebuilding efforts at UN, ambassador Tirumurti said, "As the world's largest democracy, we are conscious of the need to prioritize the building of governance structure to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.
  - India also recognizes the critical role played by women and youth in peacebuilding activities. Strengthening security structures go hand in hand with strengthening civilian structures of good governance."
12. In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, overseas investment by domestic firms fell by over \_\_\_\_\_ **42%.**  
**Note:**
- Of the total FDI investment, USD 775.41 million was in the form of equity infusion, USD 382.91 million was in the form of loan, and USD 287.63 million was in the form of issuance of guarantee.
  - In November 2020, the total outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) was also trimmed by 27% to USD 1.06 billion as compared to October 2020.
13. Which general insurance company has launched Krishi Sakha App, a one-stop-shop for Indian farmers that offers them relevant information to cater their daily farming needs \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharti AXA General Insurance.**  
**Note:**
- The farmers through this app will also have access to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) portal for crop insurance related information.
  - The aim of it is to empower farmers and educate them to enhance their farming knowledge and productivity.
14. As per the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)'s recent Economic Outlook Survey, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to contract by \_\_\_\_\_ **8 per cent.**  
**Note:**
- The survey projected the Fiscal deficit for 2020-21 at 5%.

- It also expects the Indian economy will perform better and have a median GDP growth rate of 9.6% for the financial year 2021-22, with a minimum growth and maximum growth at 7.5% and 12.5% respectively.
15. The government has approved closure of which loss-making state-owned firm \_\_\_\_\_ **Scooters India Limited**.
- Note:**
- In a BSE filing, Scooters India said the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises has communicated that the competent authority has approved the closure. It has also cleared seeking a loan (with interest) of ₹ 65.12 crore required for the closure from the Government of India.
  - The Scooters India brand name shall be sold separately as the company holds famous brands such as Lambretta, Vijai Super, Vikram and Lambro.
16. According to the report titled "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021" by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India in FY 2020-21 is estimated to contract by \_\_\_\_\_ **9.6 per cent**.
- Note:**
- This projection is highest among major economies of the world.
  - On the global front, the economy is contracted by 4.3% (-4.3%) in 2020 but it projected a recovery of 4.7% in 2021.
  - Earlier, International Labour Organization (ILO) also released its 7th edition of report title "ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work" which states that in 2020, the world faced a job loss of 255 million jobs where South Asia accounted for 80 million.
17. According to the Futures Industry Association (FIA), which stock exchange remained the world's largest derivatives exchange for the second consecutive year in 2020 in terms of number of contracts traded \_\_\_\_\_ **National Stock Exchange of India**.
- Note:**
- In addition, the bourse has been ranked fourth in the world in cash equities by number of trades by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for calendar year 2020.
  - In the capital market segment, NSE has listed T-bills (Treasury Bills) and SDLs (State Development Loans) facilitating investors to transact in these securities, in addition to the existing dated Government Securities (G-sec) available for trading.

### Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Unnikrishnan Namboothiri has passed recently, he was veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- The actor, who had charmed viewers with his benevolent grandfather roles, died a day after it was reported that he had recovered from COVID-19.
  - The actor had started his career in the 1990s when he was well over 70 years of age. But his performances have seeped into the psyche of cinema lovers. Some of his notable works are Kaliyattam, Kalyana Raman, Madhuranombarakattu, Pokkiri Raja and Rappakal.
2. Renowned personality Cloris Leachman passed away recently, she was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- A character actor of extraordinary range, Leachman defied typecasting. In her early television career, she appeared as Timmy's mother on the "Lassie" series. She played a frontier prostitute in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," a crime spree family member in "Crazy Mama," and Blucher in Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," in which the very mention of her name drew equine commentary.
3. Larry King, iconic radio and television host, who passed away hailed from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.
- Note:**
- The company he co-founded, Ora Media, did not state a cause of death but media reports said King had been battling Covid-19 for weeks and had suffered several health problems in recent years.
4. Renowned personality Narendra Chanchal passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhajan singer**.
- Note:**
- He sang a Bollywood song Beshak Mandir Masjid for the 1973 film Bobby and won Filmfare Best Male Playback Award.
  - Some of his ever-popular bhajans include Chalo Bulawa Aaya Hai, Tune Mujhe Bulaya Sherawaliye, Ambe Tu Hai Jagadambe Kali, Hanuman Chalisa, Sankat Mochan Naam Tiharo, Ram Se Bada Ram Ka Naam among others.
5. Renowned sportsperson Prasanta Dora passed away, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Football**.

**Note:**

- He was represented Tollygunge Agragami, Calcutta Port Trust, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal in domestic football.
- He has also adjudged the Best Goalkeeper when Bengal lifted back-to-back **Santosh Trophy** titles in 1997-98 and 99.

**Important Days**

1. National Girl Child Day in India is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **24<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- National Girl Child day 2021 is being celebrated across the country with the objective of raising awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR).
- The celebrations will also mark the anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

2. International Day of Education is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **24<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- Every year, International Education Day is celebrated with a unique theme. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's theme for International Education Day is "Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation."

3. The National Voters Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **25<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- The Election Commission was founded in 1950 on this day. The occasion was first celebrated in 2011.
- This year's theme is "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed". One focus this year is highlighting the EC's feat of running elections safely during the pandemic.

4. National Tourism Day is observed every year on which date in India \_\_\_\_\_ **25<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- It is not known when exactly this day came about. However, in 1948, a Tourist Traffic Committee was formed to promote tourism. The first regional offices of the same were established in Delhi and Mumbai. Three years later, in 1951, more offices were added in Kolkata and Chennai.

5. International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **26<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- It is the day designated to honour the custom officials and agencies for their function in taking care of the flow of goods across the world borders.
- 2021 will witness the theme of "Customs bolstering recovery, renewal and resilience" which will focus on the endeavours of customs to emerge from the pandemic crisis and help people.

6. 'Data Privacy Day' is observed every year on which date to create awareness and promote privacy and data protection \_\_\_\_\_ **28<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- The main motto is to enhance awareness among businesses and users about protecting the privacy of their personal information online.
- Recently there has been a hue and cry from different sections of people when WhatsApp has announced data transfer of its users to its parent organisation the Facebook.

7. Every year, Martyrs' Day is observed on \_\_\_\_\_ **30<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**

- The day is marked the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, known as the father of the nation, across the country.
- Martyrs' Day or 'Shaheed Diwas' aims to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who lost their lives fighting for the freedom, welfare and progress of our nation.

**New Appointments**

1. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sanjeev Kumar**.  
**Note:**
  - According to an order from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Kumar has been appointed to the post for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, or till the age of superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
  - He is currently serving as Director (Technical) in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).
2. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Siddhartha Mohanty**.  
**Note:**
  - Currently, he is serving as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of LIC Housing Finance.
  - He will serve as the MD of LIC till his superannuation on June 30, 2023.
  - Mohanty will be replacing TC Suseel Kumar, who is set to retire on January 31, 2021.
3. Who has been appointed to the 20-members High-Level Advisory Board of United Nations that will provide recommendations for the U.N. Secretary-General to respond to the current and future socio-economic challenges in the post-COVID-19 world \_\_\_\_\_ **Jayati Ghosh**.  
**Note:**
  - Ghosh, 65, is a professor of economics at University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University for nearly 35 years and has authored several books.
  - The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) announced that the 20 "prominent personalities, globally renowned for their intellectual leadership in economic and social fields, will form the second United Nations High-level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Economic and Social Affairs."
4. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Justice Gita Mittal**.  
**Note:**
  - Justice Mittal succeeds former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Vikramajit Sen, whose tenure as BCCC chairperson has ended.
  - Having served as the first woman Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court, she is also the first woman chairperson of BCCC.
5. J K Shivan has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of which bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Dhanlaxmi Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - It may be recalled that the shareholders of the Kerala-based had voted against MD & CEO Sunil Gurbaxani On September 30, 2020. Then, in December that year, the lender appointed Shivan as the new MD & CEO.
  - However, the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), had asked the Dhanlaxmi Bank Board to get shareholders' approval before appointing J K Shivan as the next chief of the bank.
6. Whose appointment as treasury secretary has been confirmed by the US Senate \_\_\_\_\_ **Janet Yellen**.  
**Note:**
  - Yellen steps into the role with some advantages: She is well known and well respected among lawmakers of both parties, and she has experience with enormous economic challenges.
  - The 74-year-old previously broke barriers as the first female Fed chief.
7. Who has been sworn in as the new U.S. Secretary of State \_\_\_\_\_ **Antony Blinken**.  
**Note:**
  - Blinken will become America's top diplomat as the world confronts a confluence of threats: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and a great-power competition that increasingly pits the United States against China on trade, technology and other issues.
  - Blinken will be charged with unraveling much of President Donald Trump's foreign policy, which made even some of his most ardent Republican supporters squeamish.
8. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has been re-elected as the president of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Portugal**.  
**Note:**

- He belongs to Social Democratic Party (Partido Social Democrata-PSD)
- He was elected as the president for 1st term in 2016.
- He was one of the founders of the People's Democratic Party, later the Social Democratic Party, and was party leader from 31 March 1996 to 27 May 1999.

9. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of 3 years \_\_\_\_\_  
**Swaminathan Janakiraman.**

**Note:**

- Swaminathan Janakiraman was serving as the deputy MD(finance) of SBI.
- Ashwini Kumar Tewari was serving as MD and Chief Executive Officer(CEO)of SBI Card, a subsidiary of SBI.
- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) in October 2020 recommended their names for post of MD at SBI.

10. Kaja Kallas has been appointed as the first female Prime Minister which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Estonia.**

**Note:**

- She succeeds Jüri Ratas. She is the leader of the Reform party.
- The 15-member Cabinet of Prime Minister Kaja Kallas is a coalition of 2 parties namely, Reform Party & Centre Party.

11. Thomas Bach re-elected second term as President of which International Organisation until 2025 \_\_\_\_\_ **International Olympic Committee.**

**Note:**

- Bach, a 66-year-old German lawyer, is set to be confirmed for a second and final four-year term at an IOC session in March in Athens.
- Bach was initially elected for an eight-year term as Olympic chief in September 2013, taking over from Belgian Jacques Rogge. If re-elected, Bach's term will end in 2025, a year after the Paris Olympics.

### Important News – India

1. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the new Joint Venture Company (JVC) for an investment of Rs.5281.94 crore in Ratle Hydro Electric Project (850 MW). It is located in which river \_\_\_\_\_ **Chenab.**

**Note:**

- The project is located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)
- It will be commissioned within 60 months.
- The life cycle of the project will be 40 years.

2. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed an agreement with which state to improve telecom connectivity in the remote & hilly areas of the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- POWERGRID has created about 67, 500 kms of Optical Fiber Communication (OFC) network which connects over 1000 plus locations across India
- POWERGRID's OFC network covers all major towns & cities of India including the hilly & difficult terrains of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) & North Eastern Region.

3. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, India is at what position among the most-affected countries by the devastating impact of climate change globally in 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ **Seventh.**

**Note:**

- As per the the report by Germanwatch, a Bonn-based environmental organization, India was preceded by Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Bahamas, Japan, Malawi and Afghanistan in the list of countries most affected by the impacts of extreme weather events in 2019.
- Between 2000 and 2019, over 475,000 people lost their lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events globally and losses amounted to around US \$2.56 trillion (in purchasing power parities).

4. Who inaugurated the 'Bharat Parv 2021', a virtual national festival showcasing the country's diverse culture, cuisines and handicrafts \_\_\_\_\_ **Om Birla.**

**Note:**

- Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism and Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel was also present on this occasion.

- The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other central Ministries is organizing this year a virtual 'Bharat Parv' event from 26th to 31st January 2021, showcasing the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
5. For the first time, a 122-member tri-service contingent of which country participated in Republic Day Parade 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- The 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising soldiers of the Bangladesh Army, sailors of the Bangladesh Navy, and air warriors of the Bangladesh Air Force was led by the contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Abu Mohammed Shahnur Shawon and his deputies, Lieutenant Farhan Ishraq and Flight Lieutenant Sibat Rahman.
  - All the three services of the Bangladesh Armed Forces had played a key role in securing independence for their country in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971
6. Who has launched the mobile action game Fearless and United Guards (FAU-G) on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day \_\_\_\_\_ **Akshay Kumar**.
- Note:**
- Akshay unveiled the game with an animated trailer. He wrote, "FAU-G : Fearless And United Guards. Face the enemy. Fight for your country. Protect our Flag. India's most anticipated action game, Fearless and United Guards: FAU-G takes you to the frontlines and beyond!"
  - The game has been developed by Bangalore based studio nCore Games, with a concept by Akshay himself.
7. The Textiles Committee of the Ministry of Textiles has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre of which country to boost export of Textile and Apparel in that country \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan**.
- Note:**
- The MoU signing ceremony was held through video conferencing which was presided over by Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Yasumasa Nagasaka.
  - The main objective of the MoU is to provide required support to textile's trade and industry for ensuring quality as per the requirement of Japanese buyers.
8. What is India's rank out of 98 countries in the COVID-19 performance index published by the Australian think-tank, Lowy Institute \_\_\_\_\_ **86<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- In the index India ranked 86 out of 98 countries, while the United States placed 94 and Brazil at the bottom of the index.
  - Sri Lanka was the best faring nation in South Asia, ranking 10, while the Maldives was at 25, Pakistan at 69, Nepal at 70, and Bangladesh at 84.
  - The think-tank said China was not included "due to a lack of publicly available data on testing".
9. For the conservation of which of the following species the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has released 'National Marine Action Plan' \_\_\_\_\_ **Marine Turtle**.
- Note:**
- Speaking at the virtual launch event the Union Environment Minister said that both floral and faunal diversity including the marine biodiversity is the beauty of India and we need to conserve it with best possible action and interventions.
  - India has rich marine biodiversity along a vast coastline of over 7,500 km. From colorful fish, sharks, including Whale Sharks, turtles and big mammals like whales, dolphins and dugongs to bright corals, marine habitats not only harbor diverse species but also provide resources essential for human wellbeing.
10. What is India's rank among 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) – 2020 released by the Transparency International \_\_\_\_\_ **86<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- India's ranking on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) – 2020, has slipped from 80 to 86, even as its score has decreased only slightly by one point from 41 in 2019, to now stand at 40.
  - The index released annually by Transparency International, which is a global civil society, ranks 180 countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people.
11. Which state has launched 'PANKH Abhiyan' for girl child on the occasion of National Girl Child Day 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Wherein 'P' stands for protection, 'A' for awareness of their rights, 'N' for nutrition, 'K' for knowledge and 'H' for health. The abhiyan will go on for a year.



- The National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year since 2008 to spread awareness about the inequalities and atrocities girls have to face in our patriarchal society.
12. Where was the 15th edition of Toshali National Crafts Mela inaugurated \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhubaneswar**.
- Note:**
- Artisans showcased various handicrafts including lanterns, carpets among other decorative items.
  - Several women were seen shopping several necklaces, hair-bands, rings and other artificial jewellery items.
13. Which organization has organized the 7th edition of 'MASCRADE 2021-- Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade' \_\_\_\_\_ **FICCI**.
- Note:**
- The aim of MASCRADE 2021 is to foster a healthy discussion on newer and practical strategies to mitigate the challenges of counterfeiting and smuggling, especially in a post-COVID era.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched 'Avalokana software' a transparent e-governance tool \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- The software provides focused eye view on Sustainable Development goals, Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan, Tribal Sub-plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
  - The Chief Minister issued directions today to the Deputy Commissioners of each district to the data in the software at regular intervals.
2. Which state government has launched 'Udyam Sarathi' app to help youth to explore self-employment opportunities \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- On the occasion of 71st foundation day of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Udyam Sarathi' app to help youth to explore self-employment opportunities.
  - As per the government statement, this application will provide all information related to self-employment and the job industry at one click.
3. Which state government has launched ambitious 'Abhyudaya', state-wide, free coaching facility programme \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Named 'Abhyudaya', the free coaching facility will start from upcoming Basant Panchmi, the day of worship to the goddess of learning, Saraswati.
  - From the day of Basant Panchami, 'Abhyudaya', the free coaching facility for students of the state appearing in various competitive examinations will commence.
4. Which state government announced to start 'Jail Tourism Initiative' \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.
- Note:**
- Home minister Anil Deshmukh announced the jail tourism initiative.
  - Of the 60 prisons in the state, Thane, Aurangabad, Ratnagiri, Dhule, Nashik, Chandrapur, Byculla women's jail and others, are of historical importance.
  - Based on a proposal initiated by the state prisons department, the state government has decided to launch jail tourism at Yerawada.
5. Which state government has launched new School of Public Health to make policy intervention for building public health capacity and skills and bridge gaps between education and practices in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- Named after Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) chairperson S.D. Gupta, the school will provide technical support to health systems and render help to the State government in harnessing new technologies.
  - IIHMR Dean (Research) D.K. Mangal said on Tuesday that the SPH has taken up a study on non-communicable diseases, climate change and antimicrobial resistance as its first project to identify priority areas in public healthcare.
6. Which state government has launched a 1st of its kind initiative in India where, beneficiaries of old-age pensions will be automatically selected using the Navodaya app and their pension amount will be paid through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.

**Note:**

- This model was piloted in Udupi and Ballari districts of the state.
  - Navodaya app is developed in accordance with the National Education Policy guidelines.
  - The aim of the initiative is to enable beneficiaries to get the pension without the need of middlemen.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of Rs 2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in which state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of ₹2,691 crore to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). Modi released the assistance via video conference.
8. Which was the 1st state to launch door-delivery of rations under the Public Distribution System (PDS) \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Fine quality of rice will be distributed right at the door-steps of the cardholders across the state from February 1.
  - The move is expected to give huge relief particularly to the elderly people and differently abled as they need to wait for longer hours in the queue lines at the ration shop.
9. Which State Government signed an MoU with International Digital Health & Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) in Geneva, Switzerland to develop and deploy digital technologies in the health sector \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab.**

**Note:**

- The MoU was signed by Punjab's Additional Chief Secretary (governance reforms) Anirudh Tewari.
- Under this MoU, I-DAIR will work on the projects related to data interoperability, real-time epidemiology and benchmarking of digital health solutions.
- Both state government and I-DAIR will promote synergy across communities of practice which will support the digital health work in the state.

### Important News – World

1. Which country overtook the USA as world's top destination for new foreign direct investment last year \_\_\_\_\_ **China.**

**Note:**

- New investments by overseas businesses into the U.S., which for decades held the No. 1 spot, fell 49% in 2020, according to U.N. figures released Sunday, as the country struggled to curb the spread of the new coronavirus and economic output slumped.
  - China, long ranked No. 2, saw direct investments by foreign companies climb 4%.
2. Which country hosted the online international Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **The Netherlands.**

**Note:**

- CAS Online build on the advances of the UN Climate Action Summit by showcasing pioneering solutions to the climate emergency, and sustaining momentum through to UNFCCC's COP26 in Glasgow in 2021.
  - As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the CAS will deliver action and inspire change to help societies build back better.
  - It was aimed to help realize the transitions required for a climate-resilient world.
3. Which two countries were ranked the best performing countries in their response to the pandemic according to a COVID-19 "performance index" released by the Australian think-tank, Lowy Institute \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand and Vietnam.**

**Note:**

- In the index India ranked 86 out of 98 countries, while the United States placed 94 and Brazil at the bottom of the index.
  - Sri Lanka was the best faring nation in South Asia, ranking 10, while the Maldives was at 25, Pakistan at 69, Nepal at 70, and Bangladesh at 84.
  - The think-tank said China was not included "due to a lack of publicly available data on testing".
4. India has launched 2021 as the Year of the Environment along with which country \_\_\_\_\_ **France.**

**Note:**

- The Indo-French Year of the Environment over the period 2021-2022 would be based on five main themes including environmental protection, climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban development, renewable energy and energy efficiency according to a statement by the ministry.

- From the French side, it will be implemented by the Ministry of Ecological Transition along with the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.
5. Which country hosted the 17th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue 2021 virtually under the theme “The New Normal and Safe and Healthy Tourism” \_\_\_\_\_ **Turkey**.
- Note:**
- Indian side was represented by Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.
  - During the meeting, She highlighted that India is focusing on tourism promotion as a part of 3T’s strategy which includes “Trade, Tourism and Technology”.
6. Global Climate Risk Index 2021 is released by which organization \_\_\_\_\_ **Germanwatch**.
- Note:**
- India ranked as the seventh worst-hit country in terms of climate change in 2019.
  - The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 is the 16th edition of the annual report and has taken into account the data available for 2019 and from 2000 to 2019.
7. Recently India held 14th edition of Joint Working Group meet on Counter-Terrorism with which country \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom**.
- Note:**
- Both the nations strongly condemned the terrorism activities in all forms.
  - Both nations assured to deepen cooperation in order to combat global terrorism and cross-border terrorism in South Asia.
  - They also assured to enhance bilateral cooperation to combat counter-terrorism, extremism and radicalization, financing of terrorism, prevention of internet exploitation for cyber-crimes etc.
8. Which organization released the “Global Climate Litigation Report 2021” that highlights that the Climate litigation cases have increased in recent years \_\_\_\_\_ **UNEP**.
- Note:**
- According to the report Climate litigation cases have spiked in recent years, making the courtroom increasingly relevant to efforts to address climate change around the world.
  - The report, published by UNEP in cooperation with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, shows climate litigation has become more common and more successful worldwide.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named as the Business Standard Banker of the year for 2019-20 \_\_\_\_\_ **Shyam Srinivasan**.
- Note:**
- Shyam Srinivasan, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Federal Bank has been named as Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2019-20 for his bank’s consistent healthy performance at a time when most of its peers witnessed large stress on asset quality, registered losses, or even invited regulatory actions.
  - The unanimous decision was taken by a high-profile jury of five, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor S S Mundra.
2. Who became the 1st woman fighter pilot to take part in the Republic Day parade \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhawana Kanth**.
- Note:**
- She was a part of the Indian Air Force’s tableau in the 2021 Republic Day Parade that will showcase mock-ups of the light combat helicopter, light combat aircraft, and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.
3. Which institution has been conferred with the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021 award for their contribution in disaster management \_\_\_\_\_ **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)**.
- Note:**
- The award is announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of ₹51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and ₹five lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.
  - The award is given to recognise and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management by the central government.
4. Nikhil Srivastava from India has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize along with two others. The prize was given to him in which field \_\_\_\_\_ **Mathematics**.
- Note:**

- Srivastava from the University of California, Berkeley, Adam Marcus, the Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Daniel Alan Spielman from Yale University will receive the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize, the National Academy of Sciences said in the statement.
  - The prize consists of a medal and USD 100,000.
5. Who has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for excellent work in Disaster Management \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajendra Kumar Bhandari**.
- Note:**
- Union Home Ministry announced the award every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an institution and five lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an individual.
  - Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, SEEDS has done commendable work in building community resilience to disasters.

### Sports News

1. Which country will host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.
- Note:**
- The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from eight in the previous edition, comprising three groups of four with a minimum of 25 matches being played over 18 days. Eight teams will qualify for the newly-introduced quarterfinals.
  - The event will also serve as a qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, which will see a record five Asian teams seal their spots to join co-host Australia for the newly-expanded 32-team global showpiece.
2. Which team won the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)'s 10th National Ice Hockey Championship trophy held at Gulmarg \_\_\_\_\_ **Indo-Tibetan Border Police**.
- Note:**
- The match was held at Gulmarg Ice Rink.
  - Teams from Delhi, Maharashtra, Indian Army also participated in the tournament, said ITBP.
  - Top teams of Ice Hockey in India participated in the Championship organized from January 16 to 22, 2021.
3. Who has become the first recipient of the iconic Mullagh Medal \_\_\_\_\_ **Ajinkya Rahane**.
- Note:**
- He is the first recipient of the iconic medal which is named after former Australian skipper and cricket Johnny Mullagh.
  - Rahane scored 112 runs in the first innings and helped India reach a total of 326 runs in the first innings.

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'Flying Blind: India's Quest for Global Leadership' \_\_\_\_\_ **Mohamed Zeeshan**.
- Note:**
- The book is published by Penguin Random House.
  - The book describes the difficulties that stand as an obstacle to the current India's foreign policy, each of which have led to many instabilities in the foreign policy practice, which in turn has affected India's interests.
  - It tries to explain why the ordinary Indian citizen should care about foreign policy and how a more proactive foreign policy can deliver economic growth at home.
2. Who has authored the book titled "Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World" \_\_\_\_\_ **Fareed Zakaria**.
- Note:**
- The book published by Penguin book speaks about the nature of the post pandemic world and the social, political, technological and economical effects that may take years to develop.
  - The book with 10 lessons includes the acceleration of natural and biological risk, datedness of the political categories, the rise of digital life, globalization and the developing world order split between US and China.
3. Who has authored the book titled "India 2030: The Rise of a Rajasic Nation" \_\_\_\_\_ **Gautam Chikermane**.
- Note:**
- The book features 20 themes on various fields ranging from education to healthcare, science, energy, politics and foreign policy, that predicts the evolution of India in this decade.

- The book showcases the numerous aspects of the future that will result in India becoming the world's 3rd largest economy and regional power.
  - This book will act as a roadmap for policymakers and guide for scholars.
4. Who has authored the book titled "The Law of Emergency Powers: Comparative Common Law Perspectives" \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Abhishek Singhvi & Prof. Khagesh Gautam.**
- Note:**
- It presents a detailed study on legal and constitutional provisions of Emergency powers under Article 356.
  - It also includes detailed discussions on Martial law, wartime & peacetime invocations, Constitutional & statutory law.
  - The book also compares the emergency powers of India, USA & UK.
5. Who authored the book titled "The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts" \_\_\_\_\_ **Audrey Truschke.**
- Note:**
- Published by Penguin India, the book, The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts, seeks to collect, analyse, and theorize Sanskrit histories of Muslim-led and, later, as Muslims became an integral part of Indian cultural and political worlds, Indo-Muslim rule as a body of historical materials.

### Science and Defence

1. A Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) successfully test fired from which aircraft for the first time by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Hawk-I.**
- Note:**
- It is the first smart weapon to be fired from an Indian Hawk Mk132 trainer aircraft.
  - The company-owned Hawk-I platform is being extensively used for certification of systems and weapons developed indigenously by DRDO and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research labs.
2. Which Armed Force has signed an MoU with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers to provide further impetus to indigenisation under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Army.**
- Note:**
- Collaboration between the Indian Army and industry started in 1995 with the indigenisation of spares and has progressed to major defence platforms and a wide range of weapons and equipment.
  - The MoU has been signed to provide further impetus to indigenisation under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and to achieve strategic independence by reducing dependence on foreign origin equipment.
3. A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX - 21 was conducted in \_\_\_\_\_ **Andaman & Nicobar.**
- Note:**
- The exercise involved participation of Naval ships, amphibious troops of the Army and different types of aircraft from the Air force.
  - The exercise was aimed at validating India's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of its island territories.
  - It also sought to enhance operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities amongst the three Services.
4. Which space organization successfully created a New World Record by launching 143 Satellites in a single mission \_\_\_\_\_ **SpaceX.**
- Note:**
- With this, SpaceX bettered Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) record of deploying 104 satellites in a single mission in February 2017.
  - The Launch is also the first dedicated mission for SpaceX under SmallSat 'Rideshare' program called Transporter-1.
  - With the launch of the satellites, SpaceX is planning to provide Global broadband internet coverage by 2021.

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