

# Weekly One-Liners

8-14 Feb 2021



## Weekly One Liner Updates 8-14th February 2021

**Dear readers,**

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

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which private sector bank in India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MUFG Bank of Japan for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The MoU establishes a framework of partnership between the banks across various domains including trade, investment, treasury, corporate and retail banking.
  - It also paves way for the two banks to combine their individual strengths and cater holistically to the banking requirements of Japanese corporations operating in India.
2. The Reserve Bank of India in its 5th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review projected India's gross domestic Product (GDP) growth at what per cent for the FY2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **10.5%**.  
**Note:**
  - The projection of Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has been revised to 5.2% for the Q4FY21, 5.2 % to 5.0 % in H1FY22 and declined to 4.3% by Q3FY22.
  - The MPC has given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4% until March 31, 2021 with an upper tolerance of 6% and lower tolerance of 2% i.e. within a band of +/- 2 %.
3. What is total amount to be provided to various sectors and banks under Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 1 lakh crore**.  
**Note:**
  - The sectors which could benefit from this move include construction, real estate, and microfinance. RBI will provide these funds under on-tap targeted long-term repo operations (TLTRO) at a floating rate linked to the policy rate for up to three years. At present, the repo rate is 4 percent.
  - LTRO lets banks borrow one to three-year funds from the central bank at the repo rate, by providing government securities with similar or higher tenure as collateral.
4. Which general insurance company has launched 'Salute to Caregivers – Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign' to support the cancer survivors in the battle against cancer \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharti AXA General Insurance**.  
**Note:**
  - To commemorate the World Cancer Day 2021, Bharti AXA General Insurance has collaborated with poetess Priya Malik, who wrote a poem on the Campaign & she also expressed her experience as a caregiver.
5. Parivartan is a corporate social responsibility (CSR) brand of which bank under which it has invited applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its SmartUp grants \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - The initiative is aimed at finding and deploying long-term, sustainable solutions at scale, to address social issues and contribute to the economic and social development of the country.
  - The bank will be focusing on start-ups in the education (edtech) and skill development sector this year for the grant.
6. What is the budgetary provision for the new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" launched with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 6865 crore**.  
**Note:**
  - The goal is to achieve doubling of export by 2022.
  - However, more than 86% of farmers in the country are small and marginal.
  - For this, Aggregation of small, marginal and landless farmers into FPOs will help enhance economic strength & market linkages of farmers for enhancing their income.

7. Which Bank has entered into a co-lending agreement with the Pune-based non-banking financial company LoanTap Credit Products, for MSME loans \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- Under the co-lending model, the bank will have an exposure of up to 80 per cent while the rest will be borne by the LoanTap.
  - Co-lending is the system introduced by RBI in the wake of the liquidity crisis at non-banking finance companies to enhance the credit flow to the unserved and underserved sector and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost.
8. The digital payment platform PhonePe has partnered with which bank on UPI multi-bank model giving its users the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs banks “@axl” handle \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank.**
- Note:**
- It will enable the PhonePe users to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank’s “@axl” handle.
  - Until now, the PhonePe’s key banking partner was Yes Bank.
9. The RBI has permitted the Indian individual to make remittances to IFSCs established here under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) per year for travel, education and medical care as well as for the purchase of shares \_\_\_\_\_ **\$250,000.**
- Note:**
- Till now, only global participants were allowed to invest in funds set up in Indian IFSCs.
  - The move is likely to benefit retail investors, and high net-worth individuals (HNIs).
  - Under the LRS, an Indian individual can send up to \$250,000 per year overseas for travel, education and medical care as well as for the purchase of shares.
10. What do you mean by ‘Gilt Accounts’ for that the RBI has given permission to open, making India the first country to do so \_\_\_\_\_ **An account for holding Government securities.**
- Note:**
- The retail investors are allowed to access government securities (G-Secs) market both primary and secondary – directly through the Reserve Bank (‘Retail Direct’) along the facility to open their gilt securities account. With this, India has become the first country to do so.
  - A “Gilt Account” means an account opened and maintained for holding Government securities, by an entity or a person including ‘a person resident outside India’ with a “Custodian” permitted by the RBI.
11. Meghalaya Police has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which bank for implementation of e-Challan in the jurisdiction of Shillong Traffic Police (STP) \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- The e-Challan system has been integrated with VAHAN & SARATHI, which are the flagship applications of MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways).
  - The Integration with VAHAN & SARATHI will help traffic officials in gathering the information of traffic violations such as Vehicle & Driver’s details.
12. The Central Government is all set to sell what per cent stake in National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) out of its shareholding of 74.71% through an Offer For Sale (OFS) method of shares \_\_\_\_\_ **20 per cent.**
- Note:**
- To initiate the sale process, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has invited tenders from merchant banks.
  - It should be noted that NFL is the second largest producer of Urea in the country with a share of about 15% of total Urea production in the country.
13. Which company has announced a definitive agreement with SoftBank Group Corp. (SBG) under which will acquire Arm Limited from SBG and the SoftBank Vision Fund \_\_\_\_\_ **NVIDIA.**
- Note:**
- Under the deal, NVIDIA will pay Softbank USD 21.5 billion in common stock and USD 12 billion in cash, USD 2 billion of which will be payable at signing.
  - Another USD 5 billion in cash or stock may also be given to Softbank, depending on Arm’s performance.
14. Which bank has committed to invest USD 100 Million into the NIIF Fund of Funds (FoF) \_\_\_\_\_ **New Development Bank.**
- Note:**
- This is the NDB’s 1st Equity Investment into India & the 1st ever Investment in an FoF.
  - With this investment, FoF has secured USD 800 Million in commitments.

- The other investors in FoF apart from NDB are Government of India, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank.
15. Which Bank has signed a First-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for providing up to INR 2 Crore Loan to Indian Oil dealers \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under the scheme Dealers can avail loan of upto INR 2 Crore at lower interest rates, nil margin and with minimum or Zero Collateral requirements.
  - Collateral Security will not be asked to Individuals who are having dealerships with IndianOil for 5 years or more.
16. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a First-of-its-kind an MoU with which oil company for providing up to INR 2 Crore Loan to dealers of the company through the PNB e-Dealer scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **IOCL**.
- Note:**
- Under the scheme Dealers can avail loan of upto INR 2 Crore at lower interest rates, nil margin and with minimum or Zero Collateral requirements.
  - Collateral Security will not be asked to Individuals who are having dealerships with IndianOil for 5 years or more.
17. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) Ltd estimated that India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at what per cent in FY22 \_\_\_\_\_ **10.4%**.
- Note:**
- Earlier, Ind-Ra had projected the GDP for FY 21 as -7.8%.
  - The full recovery will be visible in FY23.
  - The government final consumption expenditure is expected to grow at 10.1% in FY22, while private final consumption expenditure is expected to grow at 11.2% in FY22
18. Which bank has joined hands with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd to provide EMI Collection Services \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- CSC is a Special Purpose Vehicle under MeitY.
  - The bank's new initiative is aimed at making payments convenient for customers, who can now visit their nearest CSC, to deposit overdue.
  - With EMI Collection facility, customers need not visit bank branches.
19. Which small finance bank has partnered with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) and Ocean Highway Facilities and Solutions Pvt Ltd. to launch India's first FASTag powered truck terminal at Khalapur, Maharashtra \_\_\_\_\_ **Equitas Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- Equitas Small Finance Bank (Equitas SFB) has partnered with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) and Ocean Highway Facilities and Solutions Pvt Ltd for launching country's first FASTag powered truck terminal at Khalapur, Maharashtra on the Yashwantrao Chavan Mumbai - Pune Expressway.
20. Which Life Insurance company has launched a new goal based savings product - 'Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow' (GIFT), which provides guaranteed income to policyholders to help them achieve their long-term financial goals \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company**.
- Note:**
- This non-participating savings product can enable customers to eliminate the uncertainty of future income streams to a large extent.
  - The life cover provides financial security to the family, which is essential for a robust financial plan.
21. Name the Indian company that has been selected as the first member from India for The Circulars Accelerator Program 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Recykal**.
- Note:**
- The Circulars Accelerator, led by Accenture, in partnership with Anglo American, Ecolab and Schneider Electric, and in collaboration with UpLink and the World Economic Forum, will connect industry leaders with 17 groundbreaking circular economy entrepreneurs to scale up disruptive, cross-sector value-chain innovation at an unprecedented pace.
22. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has signed an MoU with which payments bank to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers \_\_\_\_\_ **India Post Payments Bank**.
- Note:**
- This MoU will ensure accessible financial services for construction workers along with financial literacy and digital inclusion.



- The aim of the pact is to cover around 10 lakh workers in a year from around current 3 crore workers engaged in construction activities across real estate projects.

### Obituaries

1. Renowned personality George Shultz passed away at 100 recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician**.

**Note:**

- A man of broad experience and talents, Shultz achieved success in statesmanship, business and academia. Lawmakers praised him for opposing as sheer folly the sale of arms to Iran that were the cornerstone of the Iran-Contra scandal that marred Reagan's second term in office.

2. Renowned personality Rajiv Kapoor passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.

**Note:**

- He was the youngest son of the legendary Raj Kapoor, and the brother of Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor.
- The Ram Teri Ganga Maili actor suffered a heart attack at his residence in Chembur following which he was rushed to Inlaks Hospital.

3. Christopher Plummer is the oldest Oscar-winning actor, who has passed away recently. He was from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Canada**.

**Note:**

- Oscar-winning actor Christopher Plummer, who rose to prominence for his critically-acclaimed film 'Sound of Music', has passed away.
- He was 91. The prolific and versatile Canadian-born actor is the oldest person to win Oscar award.

4. 10-time tennis Grand Slam champion, Tony Trabert passed away recently, he belongs to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **United States**.

**Note:**

- Trabert captured the 1953 US Open, the 1954 French Open and the 1955 US and French Opens and Wimbledon.
- Trabert served as the Hall of Fame's president from 2001 to 2011 and spent 30 years as a television analyst. He also served as an author and coach and captained the US Davis Cup team from 1976-1980, guiding the squad to titles in 1978 and 1979.

5. Prominent sportsman Bruce Taylor who passed away recently, was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Cricket**.

**Note:**

- Taylor played 30 tests for New Zealand, picking up 111 wickets and scoring 898 runs.
- He also scored New Zealand's fastest test century in a game against West Indies in 1969 before the record was broken by Daniel Vettori 36 years later.

### Important Days

1. International Epilepsy Day 2021 is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_ **8<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:**

- International Epilepsy Day celebrated each year on the 2nd Monday of February.
- World Epilepsy Day 2021 fall on February 8.
- The Day is a joint initiative by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)

2. National DeNational Deworming Day (NDD) is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:**

- The day aims at eradicating intestinal worms also referred to as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), among children within the age bracket of 1-19 years.

3. What is the theme of the World Pulses Day (WPD) 2021 observing every year on 10 February \_\_\_\_\_ **'Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future'**.

**Note:**

- World Pulses Day (WPD) is observed every year on 10 February to realize the importance of pulses in human life.
- UN General Assembly has decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day in 2018.

4. World Unani Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **11<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:**

- World Unani Day has observed every year on 11th February.
  - This day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of great Unani scholar and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan.
5. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **11<sup>th</sup> February**.
- Note:**
- The theme for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021 is 'Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19'.
6. World Radio Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **13<sup>th</sup> February**.
- Note:**
- This year, the day's theme is 'New World, New Radio.'
  - This was decided to keep in mind the services the medium provided during COVID-19.
7. National Women's Day of India is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **13<sup>th</sup> February**.
- Note:**
- To honor the contributions of Sarojini Naidu, February 13 is observed as National Women's Day of India. This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
  - National Women's Day is observed to celebrate the social, cultural, political, and economic achievements of women.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been reappointed as a special envoy to engage governments and businesses in tackling the threat of global warming by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres \_\_\_\_\_ **Michael Bloomberg**.
- Note:**
- Bloomberg is the founder and owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News.
  - He was previously appointed as the U.N. special envoy for climate action between March 2018 and November 2019.
2. Who has been appointed as the first female Director General (DG) of World Trade Organisation (WTO) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**.
- Note:**
- She would be the first woman as well as the first African nation to lead the organization.
  - Okonjo-Iweala, the former finance minister of Nigeria, will succeed Roberto Azevedo, who stepped down in August 2020.
3. Mario Draghi has been named the new Prime Minister of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Italy**.
- Note:**
- He accepted the request of Sergio Mattarella, President of Italy, to form a new government.
  - Mario Draghi will lead the unity government replacing the centre left coalition government of Former prime minister Giuseppe Conte.
4. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director(MD) of Tata Motors Ltd \_\_\_\_\_ **Marc Llistosella**.
- Note:**
- He served as the President and CEO of Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation between 2015-2018 and Head of Daimler Trucks in Asia.
  - Prior to this, he served as the MD and CEO of Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt Ltd between 2008-2014.
5. Who has been appointed as the to the newly reconstituted National Security Advisory board (NSAB) headed by Ajit Doval \_\_\_\_\_ **Sridhar Vembu**.
- Note:**
- Vembu is currently working from his company's office in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi district.
  - The other members of the NSAB are former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, IIM Bangalore faculty Anshuman Tripathy and former ambassador to France and United Nations Arun K Singh.

### Important News - India

1. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed a contract with which country for delivering 1 Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) called 'Zoroaster' \_\_\_\_\_ **Seychelles**.  
**Note:**
  - "Zoroaster" will be a powerful, fuel-efficient platform which will be capable of performing operations like Patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching & search and rescue operations.
  - The overall design of the FPV was developed indigenously by GRSE.
  
2. Which IIT has developed solar-powered energy-efficient pest controlling devices for smaller agricultural tracts owned by marginal farmers \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kharagpur**.  
**Note:**
  - The research team has developed a self-propelled boom-type sprayer that can be operated using solar energy while safely guided through the crops in smaller tracts of land, the leading engineering institute
  - The device is aimed to increase field capacity and uniformity in liquid spraying and also to reduce drudgery to the operator and dependency on fossil fuel for carrying out spraying in cropped areas.
  
3. According to India Energy Outlook 2021, published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) by which year India will overtake the European Union as the world's third-largest energy consumer \_\_\_\_\_ **2030**.  
**Note:**
  - India at present is the fourth-largest global energy consumer behind China, the United States and the European Union.
  - India accounts for nearly one-quarter of global energy demand growth from 2019-40 -- the largest for any country. Its share in the growth in renewable energy is the second-largest in the world, after China.
  
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the postage stamp to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations of the Chauri Chaura Incident. Chauri Chaura place is located in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:**
  - The stamp was released during the event organised to inaugurate the Centenary celebration of the Chauri Chaura incident.
  - The state government has planned various events through 4th February 2022 at all the 75 districts of the state to mark the centenary celebration of Chauri Chaura.
  
5. Under whose chairmanship the government of India has appointed an expert panel to review the objections of industry to the proposed ban on 27 pesticides, that are mentioned as harmful to animals and humans by the government \_\_\_\_\_ **TP Rajendran**.  
**Note:**
  - These 27 pesticides that are widely used are part of 66 contentious pesticides that are being reviewed for their toxicity. Already, in 2018, the government had banned 18 of them.
  - In May 2020, The Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare has issued the draft Banning of Insecticides Order, 2020 that aimed to ban these 27 pesticides.
  
6. What amount of Grant-in-aid has been approved by the government for the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup (Assam) for the strengthening of it's urea manufacturing units \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 100 crore**.  
**Note:**
  - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved Grant-in-aid of Rs.100 crore to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup (Assam) for the strengthening of it's urea manufacturing units.
  - This approval has been made on the lines of the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F).
  
7. To encourage and to create awareness about which scheme SIDBI and Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE) have launched "Swavalamban Sashakt- Mega campaign" \_\_\_\_\_ **Stand Up India scheme**.  
**Note:**

- The Swavalamban Sashakt is a 20 webinar series to give a fillip to 'Stand Up India' scheme.
- The scheme was launched in 2016 and has been extended up to 2025.
- The scheme is a flagship programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch.

8. US-based Triton Electric Vehicle has signed an MoU with which Indian company for developing electric vehicles and energy storage systems \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

**Note:**

- As per the MoU, BEL will be the exclusive manufacturing partner to Triton in India for identified products, while Triton will provide the know-how and technical documentation required for manufacturing of these products.
- For requirements of Energy Storage System (ESS) in India, BEL will address the requirements as a prime contractor and Triton will provide the support as technology partner as per Make in India requirements.

9. For what purpose 'Asom Mala' programme launched in Assam by PM Modi \_\_\_\_\_ **Improve Road Infrastructure**.

**Note:**

- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Asom Mala' programme in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district of Assam.
- Asom Mala Programme will focus on maintenance by conducting field studies of the roads and will thus improve Road Asset Management System of the state.

10. Indian airport operator and aviation infrastructure developer, GMR group has signed MoU with which aerospace corporation to explore collaboration opportunities across aviation services, technologies and innovation \_\_\_\_\_ **Airbus**.

**Note:**

- This MoU was signed at Aero India 2021, that was held in Bangalore.
- The aim of the MoU is to explore potential synergies in several strategic areas of aviation services like maintenance, components, training, digital services both for commercial and military aircraft.

11. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) setting up country's first thunderstorm research testbed in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Balasore**.

**Note:**

- The objective of setting up the thunderstorm testbed is to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.
- IMD Director-General Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, while speaking with a private television channel, also revealed that a first-of-its-kind monsoon testbed is also being planned near Bhopal.

12. What is India's rank in the 'Asia-Pacific Personalised Health Index' released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- Singapore ranked first in the index followed by Taiwan (2nd), Japan (3rd) and Australia (4th). Indonesia ranked 11th in the index.
- It measures performance against 27 different indicators of personalised health across four categories called 'Vital Signs'.

13. What is the corpus of the 'Startup India Seed Fund Scheme' approved by the government of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 845 crores**.

**Note:**

- SISFS shall provide financial assistance to startups via a corpus of Rs. 945 cr that will be disbursed through selected incubators across India in 2021-25.
- A startup, recognized by DPIIT, incorporated not more than 2 years ago at the time of application is eligible for SFS.

14. As per the data released by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), what is India's rank in scientific publications \_\_\_\_\_ **Third**.

**Note:**



- Of the 13,045 patents in 2017-18, as many as 1,937 were by Indians.
- Out of 15,550 patents filed by Indians at Indian Patent Office during the period, 65 per cent were filed from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi.

15. Which ministry launched ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Education.**

**Note:**

- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) implemented this important initiative with the support of nodal agencies from all ten ASEAN countries, which included their Education Ministries and prominent universities.
- The Hackathon was inaugurated by Minister of Education Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' along with other dignitaries from ASEAN and India on 1 February.

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Discovery Campus of which IIT \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras.**

**Note:**

- The campus will be built at Thaiyur near Chennai at an estimated cost of Rs 1,000 crores in the first phase, over an area of 2 lakh square metres.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension project, which has been completed at a cost of Rs 3,770 crores.

17. PM Modi handed over the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to Army Chief General MM Naravane, the tank has been indigenously designed, developed and made by which establishment \_\_\_\_\_ **Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment.**

**Note:**

- The tank has been indigenously designed, developed and made by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, attached to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with 15 academic institutions, 8 labs and several MSMEs.

18. MapmyIndia will partner will partnered with which entity to build an Indigenous, mapping portal and geospatial services which could become an alternative to GoogleMaps & GoogleEarth services \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Space Research Organization.**

**Note:**

- According to the agreement, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) & MapmyIndia will partner to build an Indigenous, mapping portal and geospatial services which could become an alternative to GoogleMaps & GoogleEarth services.
- MapmyIndia's digital maps and ISRO's catalogue of satellite imagery and earth observation data will be utilized to build the indigenous portal.

19. Which Indian company is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite namely Combined Air Teaming System (CATS) \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.**

**Note:**

- Once developed the pseudo-satellite will be capable of taking information flying unmanned around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months.
- The system will have mother-ship carrying components and four autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles known as CATS Warrior.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**

**Note:**

- The main purpose of the system is to check the cases of land disputes, put an end to fake registries of the disputed land and save people from falling into the trap of fraudsters.
- Every piece of land in the state will have its own unique identity

2. How many states have completed the reforms in the 'Ease of Doing Business', as stipulated by the Ministry of Finance \_\_\_\_\_ **12.**

**Note:**

- These states have become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources to the tune of Rs 5,034 crore through open market borrowings.
- Now the total number of state that has undertaken the reforms to promote Ease of Doing Business till now has gone up to 12.
- The other states are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

3. Which state government has approved "Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha" in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of state as a science scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi.**

**Note:**

- The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed this as a crucial step for our government to promote excellent and talented students.

4. Which state ranks first in the second edition of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra.**

**Note:**

- That judges states on delivery of justice to people.
- Tamil Nadu is in second place which improved its ranking from its previous third position in 2019 and Telangana ranked third.

5. Where is India is the first of its kind 'PGI Amputee Clinic' launched \_\_\_\_\_ **Chandigarh.**

**Note:**

- The basic intent of this initiative is to bring an Amputee as a near-normal functional human being in society.
- This initiative will attempt to provide appropriate management to amputees to guide them in their path to rehabilitation in society and will support patients with counselling and medical facilities during their treatment and recovery.

6. The three-day famous "Mandu Festival" was held in which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The festival will culminate on February 15, 2021.
- The festival is organised by the state government of Madhya Pradesh to showcase each and every aspect of the ancient Mandu city, ranging from food, music, history & heritage, art & craft etc.

7. Which state government has signed an MoU with UNEP to develop a framework for achieving climate resilience & low-carbon development in the state by 2040 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bihar.**

**Note:**

- Bihar became the 1st Indian State to sign such an agreement.
- As part of the Agreement, UNEP will assist Bihar to prepare a GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Inventory & Carbon Footprint Analyses and to develop Climate Impact Vulnerability Assessments

### Important News - World

1. What is the theme of the 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) flagship event, the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Redefining our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All.**

**Note:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021.
- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) annual flagship event.

2. Which country has released new anti-monopoly guidelines that target internet platforms, a move tightening the existing restrictions faced by the country's top tech companies \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
- Note:**
- The new rules formalise an earlier anti-monopoly draft law released in November, and clarify a series of monopolistic practices that regulators can crack down on.
  - The rules, issued by the market regulator, bar companies from a range of behaviour, including forcing merchants to choose between the country's top internet players, a long-time practice in the market.
3. With which country India has signed an agreement to build the Shahtoot Dam \_\_\_\_\_ **Afghanistan**.
- Note:**
- In a virtual summit, external affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Afghan counterpart Mohammed Haneef Atmar signed the MoU in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani.
  - The Shahtoot dam is to be constructed on the Kabul river basin, one of the five river basins of Afghanistan.
4. Which Space agency announced to launch the world's first 'all-civilian' mission to space named as Inspiration4 \_\_\_\_\_ **SpaceX**.
- Note:**
- SpaceX announced its plan for the World's first all civilian mission to space, the mission is named Inspiration4 in recognition of the 4-person crew to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
  - The mission commanded by Jared Isaacman, a 37-year-old entrepreneur the founder and CEO of Shift4 Payments and accomplished pilot will be launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
5. Which country has announced to set up world's largest offshore wind farm by 2030 \_\_\_\_\_ **South Korea**.
- Note:**
- This is a major component of President Moon Jae-in's vision of a Korean Green New Deal that would both create jobs and make the country carbon neutral by 2050.
  - The farm will have a maximum capacity of 8.2 GW.
6. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected which space company to launch its SPHEREx Mission \_\_\_\_\_ **SpaexX**.
- Note:**
- Elon Musk's SpaceX wins contract to launch NASA's astrophysics mission. Washington, NASA has selected tech billionaire Elon Musk 's private aerospace company SpaceX to provide launch services for an astrophysics mission to survey the sky in the near-infrared light.
7. Which country unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program for his country that includes missions to the moon, sending astronauts into space and developing internationally viable satellite systems \_\_\_\_\_ **Turkey**.
- Note:**
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program for his country that includes missions to the moon, sending Turkish astronauts into space and developing internationally viable satellite systems.
  - Erdogan announced the program, seen as part of his vision for placing Turkey in expanded regional and global role, during a live televised event laced with special effects.
8. Which country conducted military exercise 'Jidar-ul-Hadeed' \_\_\_\_\_ **Pakistan**.
- Note:**
- The exercise, code-named 'Jidar-ul-Hadeed', began on January 28 and is scheduled to conclude on February 28.
  - Troops from the Karachi Corps will be practising tactical drills and procedures as part of the exercise.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been conferred with the Business Leader of the Year at The Economic Times Award for Corporate Excellence 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Pawan Munjal**.
- Note:**
- The Jury for the awards was led by Sundar Pichai, the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc and its subsidiary Google.
  - Shaktikanta Das, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, was the jury's choice for Business Reformer of the Year.

2. Who is the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award at The Economic Times Award for Corporate Excellence 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Aditya Puri.**

**Note:**

- After more than a quarter century at HDFC Bank, he left a bank worth Rs 7.73 lakh crore with a balance-sheet size of Rs 16 lakh crore and net bad loans of a minuscule 0.17%.
- The Jury for the awards was led by Sundar Pichai, the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc and its subsidiary Google.

3. Who has won the Allan Border Medal for the period 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **Steve Smith.**

**Note:**

- The Allan Border Medal recognises the most outstanding male Australian cricketer of the past season as voted by his peers, the media and umpires.
- Apart from this, Beth Mooney bagged Belinda Clarke Award, the top honour for a female player at the Australian Cricket Awards.

4. Which airport has won the global recognition from the Airports Council International World's 'Voice of the Customer' award \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).**

**Note:**

- The 'Voice of the Customer' initiative by the Airports Council International World recognises airports that continued to prioritise their customers and remained committed to ensuring that their voice was heard during the novel coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

### Sports News

1. Who became the sixth Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket in his 98th test against England at Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ **Ishant Sharma.**

**Note:**

- Indian fast bowler Ishant Sharma became the sixth Indian bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket in his 98th test against England at Chennai.
- Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), Ravichandran Ashwin (377), Harbhajan Singh (417) and Zaheer Khan (311) are other Indian bowlers to take more than 300 wickets in tests.

2. Asian Games gold medalist athlete Hima Das has been appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police by which state government \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**

**Note:**

- Assam government has appointed World Championship sprinter Hima Das as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the state and medal winners in Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games will be appointed as Class- I officers.

3. Priyanka Goswami is associated with which sports who set a new National record and qualified for Tokyo Olympics and for the World Athletics Championship \_\_\_\_\_ **Racewalking.**

**Note:**

- Priyanka Goswami, 25, shattered the national record in the 20-km walk at the 8th open national and 4th international race walking championship in Ranchi on Saturday with a timing of 1:28:45.
- And she qualified for Tokyo Olympics and for the World Athletics Championship.

### Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the novel titled "Whereabouts" \_\_\_\_\_ **Jhumpa Lahiri.**

**Note:**

- The book is published by Penguin Random House India is about a woman protagonist and her journey through life. The book will be released in April.
- The novel Whereabout was written in Italian and translated into English by Jhumpa Lahiri.
- The book portrays the story of the life of a woman whose life transforms with the change in her perspective.



2. Who has authored the novel titled '1857 – The Sword of Mastaan' \_\_\_\_\_ **Vineet Bajpai.**

**Note:**

- It is part two of the Mastaan Trilogy. The first part of the trilogy, Mastaan – The Fallen Patriot of Delhi, was released in October 2019.
- It is author's 5th fiction novel and 8th book overall

3. Who has authored the book titled "Beautiful Things" \_\_\_\_\_ **Hunter Biden.**

**Note:**

- The book is called "Beautiful Things" and will center on the younger Biden's well publicized struggles with substance abuse, according to Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.
- Acquired in the fall of 2019, "Beautiful Things" was kept under wraps even as Biden's business dealings became a fixation of then-President Donald Trump and others during the election and his finances a matter of investigation by the Justice Department.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'Platform Scale: For A Post-Pandemic World' \_\_\_\_\_ **Sangeet Paul Choudhary.**

**Note:**

- The first edition of 'Platform Scale' was published in 2015.
- It explains about the importance of inner workings of platform business models and their ability to scale rapidly.

5. Who has authored the book titled 'By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life' \_\_\_\_\_ **Mohammad Hamid Ansari.**

**Note:**

- He served as the ambassador to the United Arab Emirates(UAE), Afghanistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
- He was the high commissioner to Australia and was also the permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

6. Who has authored the book titled "Turn Around India: 2020 – Surmounting Past Legacy" \_\_\_\_\_ **RP Gupta.**

**Note:**

- The book explains the economic history of India which enables it to identify the strengths and weaknesses and helps to take the required corrective actions.
- This is an intimate narrative of the experiences and journey of RP Gupta towards achieving success through hard work and determination.

7. Who has authored the book titled 'Race With Me!' \_\_\_\_\_ **Andre De Grasse.**

**Note:**

- Titled 'Race With Me!', the motivational book is expected to be out in July 2021.
- In the book, he shares how he overcomes adversity and stays motivated.

8. Who has authored the book titled "Mapping Love" \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari.**

**Note:**

- The book is published by Rupa Publications.
- Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari debuted as a director with the film "Nil Battey Sannata" in 2016 which was remade in Tamil as "Amma Kanakku".

9. The book titled 'Starstruck: Confessions of a TV executive' is a memoir of which Television Executive \_\_\_\_\_ **Peter Mukerjea.**

**Note:**

- The book is presented as a recollection of his experiences in the satellite television industry in India and the changes it has gone through over the years.
- Mukerjea is the former chief executive of Star India

10. Who has authored the book titled "Unfinished: A Memoir" \_\_\_\_\_ **Priyanka Chopra Jonas.**

**Note:**

- The end result is a book, published by the Michael Joseph imprint, which covers her dual-continent 20-year-long career as an actor and producer and her work as a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador.

### Science and Defence

1. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratory has signed an MoU with which entity for development of two-seater trainer aircraft through technology transfer \_\_\_\_\_ **BEML Limited.**

**Note:**

- The Two entities will also undertake Joint Development in areas of advanced composites and autoclaves, mini-unmanned aerial vehicles, design & analysis of aircraft structure & systems.
  - The MoU was exchanged between A K Srivastav, Director Defence and Aerospace, BEML & R Venkatesh, Director, Business Development of NAL.
2. The 6th India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC) was held in which city of India, where BEL entered into an Offset Contract under invest in kind with Rosoboronexport, a Joint Stock Company (JSC) in Russia \_\_\_\_ **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed at the 6th India-Russia Military Industrial Conference, held in Bengaluru.
  - Setting up of industrial facilities under the contract for manufacture of aviation hoses is fully consistent with the government's 'Make in India' programme.
3. Which edition of 'Yudh Abhyas', the joint military exercise of India and the United States was held in Rajasthan \_\_\_\_\_ 16th.
- Note:**
- The Indian side is represented by the 11th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, part of the South Western Command while U.S.
  - Army delegation will be represented by the troops of 2nd battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment of 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team along with respective brigade headquarters.
4. Indian Navy has signed an MoU with which IIT for research in the underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Delhi**.
- Note:**
- Research conducted at IIT Delhi has played a key role in the technological advancements of the Indian Navy
  - Indian Navy, in accordance with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', aims to develop major technology driven projects through IIT Delhi.
5. 'Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)', is the Biennial Largest War Game of which entity of Indian defence system \_\_\_\_ **Indian Navy**.
- Note:**
- The exercise started in early January 2021 and is expected to end by the Third Week of February, 2021.
  - The main objective of the exercise is to validate the Navy's Offensive-Defence capabilities, safeguarding national interests in the Maritime domain and promoting stability and peace in the IOR.
6. Where is the headquarter of the CIFT located \_\_\_\_ **Kochi**.
- Note:**
- ADDS, promulgated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, will set up a criterion for basic design aspects for the construction of DSFVs.
  - Notably, the vessels constructed in compliance with ASDDS will attract a subsidy under the PMMSY scheme.
7. The Ministry of Defence has inked a pact with which company to procure a software-defined radio tactical (SDR-Tac) ship-borne system \_\_\_\_ **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.
- Note:**
- The procurement of SDR-Tac (software-defined radio tactical) "will bring strategic depth to the armed forces".
  - The SDR-Tac is a four channel multi-mode, multi-band, 19-inch rack mountable, ship-borne software defined radio system

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