

Weekly One-liners

15-21 March 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 15-21st March 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data, what is India's position in terms of Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves holder ____ **4th**.
Note:
 - India's foreign currency holdings fell by \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion and Russia's forex holdings were \$580.1 billion.
 - As of March 2021, International Monetary Fund (IMF) table, China has the largest reserves, followed by Japan, Switzerland, India, and Russia.
 - Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank (RBI) in foreign currencies, which can include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills, and other government securities.
2. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on which bank for contravention of norms, including specific directions to the lender on remuneration to its employees in the form of commission ____ **State Bank of India**.
Note:
 - The penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain sections of Banking Regulation Act and its specific directions of RBI issued to the bank on payment of remuneration to employees in the form of commission.
3. Which telecom equipment maker has partnered with Microsoft, Amazon web services and Google to develop new cloud-based 5G radio solutions with its radio access network (RNA) technology ____ **Nokia**.
Note:
 - The goal of the partnerships is to develop new business cases, the company.
 - RAN is the part of a mobile telecommunication system.
 - This system implements a radio access technology.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has asked all the banks in India to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) under respective grids in all its branches by ____ **September 30, 2021**.
Note:
 - About 18,000 bank branches are still outside any formal clearing arrangement hence, it is proposed to bring all such branches under the CTS image-based clearing mechanism by September 2021.
 - On February 5, 2021, RBI had announced Pan-India coverage of CTS by bringing all branches of banks in the country under an image-based CTS clearing mechanism.
5. Which becomes the India's second renewable energy company has been named the Global Lighthouse Company by World Economic Forum (WEF) ____ **ReNew Power**.
Note:
 - WEF Global Lighthouse Network recognizes companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community-supportive, profitable growth.
 - ReNew's Hubli facility was specifically nominated as a Global Lighthouse for its ground-breaking work in the development and deployment of advanced analytics and machine learning solutions to increase the yield of ReNew's wind and solar assets.
6. Which public sector bank has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary which will deal with the banks' non-financial support services related to its credit card business ____ **Punjab National Bank**.
Note:
 - The authorised capital of the company is Rs 25 crore, which is divided into 25 million shares of Rs 10 each, and the paid-up capital is Rs 15 crore.
 - It is important to note that among public sector banks, State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has a separate arm for its card business -- SBI Cards and Payment Services.

7. Which state-owned oil company and Israeli battery developer Phinergy formalised a joint venture to manufacture ultra-lightweight metal-air batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) _____ **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.

Note:

- The equal joint venture will replace lithium with aluminum to make batteries that will charge faster and give a longer run.
- This will "help overcome most of the challenges facing EVs including range anxiety.

8. Which bank and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal with by replacing the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) _____ **State Bank of India**.

Note:

- The SOFR linked ECB deal is for about \$100 million with a maturity of 5 years.
- This deal made by SBI & IOCL is the first SOFR linked ECB deal in India. It will facilitate other firms in India to take this as a reference to make a transition from Libor to Alternate Reference Rates (ARR) linked ECB.

9. Which company has signed an initial pact with the National Productivity Council (NPC) to explore the business opportunities in consultancy services _____ **Power Trading Corporation of India Limited**.

Note:

- Under this pact, both NPC and PTC have agreed to jointly explore and develop business opportunities for consultancy/project management services in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, productivity enhancements, quality assurances, optimization of technology, and others within India and overseas.

10. Which IT company announced to acquire a 70 % stake in Ireland-based Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd for around Rs 182 crore and plans to buy the remaining 30% shareholding over a period of 4 years _____ **Tech Mahindra**.

Note:

- It is intended to help in augmenting its expertise in the domains of global pharmaceutical, and HLS (Healthcare and Lifesciences).
- It is a part of Tech Mahindra's long-term growth plan which is to make a presence across key markets in Ireland, Germany, the USA, and India with enhanced global delivery

11. Government's think tank NITI Aayog has kept how many public sector banks including state bank of India out of the privatization plan _____ **six**.

Note:

- The other five PSBs are Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda.
- The government will soon take a call on the two banks and one general insurer that will be taken up for privatization in the next fiscal year.
- The NITI Aayog's recommendation to exclude these is in line with the thinking within the finance ministry that is keen on expeditious integration of systems at these banks, the publication mentioned.

12. Which of the following organisation launched 'UPI-Help' _____ **NPCI**.

Note:

- The 'UPI-Help' will help in the grievance redressal mechanism for BHIM app users.
- With this application, users will be able to check the status of the pending transactions, raise complaints against transactions that are not processed if the money has not reached the other end and raise complaints against merchant transactions.

13. Which bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Continuum Green Energy (Continuum) has executed the world's first green hedging transaction, with a second party opinion based on a specially designed green hedge framework _____ **Deutsche Bank**.

Note:

- Both the firms are working together to develop a green hedge framework to support the implementation of Continuum's green bond framework.
- External reviewer, Cicero Green, has issued the second party opinion on the green bond and the green hedge frameworks.

14. International Air Transport Association (IATA) has partnered with which bank for providing 'EasyPay' services 'pay as you go' to travel agents in India which will replace the traditional billing and settlement system _____ **Standard Chartered Bank**.

Note:

- The new system is aimed at increasing the digitisation of payments that will result in improving cash flows for the aviation industry and for the travel agents.
- In the earlier system, the agents would receive credit for tickets.
- As one of IATA's EasyPay service providers in India, Stanchart said it will provide greater payment flexibility to travel agents.

15. Which intergovernmental bank has raised over USD 307 Million from the first Panda bond issue in more than a decade _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- It is the first borrowing of ADB from a CNY10 billion program approved by regulator National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors in June 2020.
- It will support ADB for its development project in china during its 5-year country partnership strategy.

16. Which bank has partnered with SMC Global Securities to provide online trading services to the bank's customers _____ **Union bank of India.**

Note:

- Customers can trade using the portal www.smctradeonline.com apart from desktop and mobile applications.
- SMC has a presence in more than 550 cities which can service the lender's 9,500 branches.

17. According to UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Indian economy is estimated to contract by what per cent in FY 2020-21 _____ **6.9%.**

Note:

- However, it forecasted to record a "stronger recovery" in 2021 and grow by 5 per cent in FY 2021-22.
- The September 2020 report by UNCTAD had said that India's economy was forecast to contract by 5.9 per cent in 2020 and recover to 3.9 per cent in 2021.

18. Which banking institutions has released a publication titled "Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework", a practical guide for insolvency professionals (IPs) for discharging their duties ethically in association with British High Commission _____ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).**

Note:

- Dr. Navrang Saini, Whole Time Member, IBBI released the handbook in the presence of Ms. Natalie Toms, Chief Economist and Counsellor, British High Commission.
- The launch was followed by the webinar on "Pre-Pack Insolvency Resolution Process: Report of the Sub-Committee of the ILC".
- It is based on inputs on the best practices followed by insolvency practitioners in the UK.

19. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of what per cent of the equity share capital of North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha (NESCO Utility) by The Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) _____ **51%.**

Note:

- The proposed acquisition is in accordance with the competitive bidding process initiated by the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission ("OERC") under Section 20 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- TPCL which is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra was incorporated on 18th September 1919, a public listed company that is primarily engaged in the business of power generation, transmission, and distribution. It is a part of the Tata group.

20. The Power Grid Corporation of India has signed an agreement with Jaiprakash Power Ventures (JPVL) for the acquisition of what percent stake of JPVL in Jaypee PowerGrid (JPL) _____ **74%.**

Note:

- Powergrid has already owned a 26% stake in JPVL and now through this acquisition, it became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Power Grid.
- JPL has developed a 214-kilometer-long EHV power transmission project to evacuate power from the Karcham-Wangtoo project in Himachal Pradesh.

Obituaries

1. Padma Bhushan recipient and veteran artist Laxman Pai passed away recently, he belongs to which state _____ **Goa**.

Note:

- The renowned painter was born in Goa in 1926, he is well known for his contemporary paintings he is also the former principal of the Goa College of Art. He received the third highest civilian honour of Padma Bhushan award in 2018.

2. Padma Shri Chemacheri Kunhiraman Nari passed away recently, he was a performer of which classical dance form _____ **Kathakali**.

Note:

- He founded the Bharatiya Natyyakalayalam, the first school of dance in North Kerala in 1945 and in 1983 he established Cheliya Kathakali Vidyalayam in Kozhikode.
- He has won several honours for his contribution to the art form of Kathakali, which includes, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Award in 1979, Kerala Kalamandalam award in 2001, Kala Ratna award in 2009, Mayilpeeli award and Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore award.

3. Renowned personality GV Ramakrishna passed away recently, he was former chairman/head of which institution _____ **SEBI**.

Note:

- Born in 1930 in Bengaluru, he started his career as a biochemist and then opted for civil services in 1952.
- Known for his stellar administrative performance, Ramakrishna was appointed as the chairman Sebi in 1990 when it lacked legal status. Among his many works, he was known for strongly advocating to ban the badla stock trading system in 1994.
- He headed SEBI till that year and then became the first chairman of the Disinvestment Commission in 1996.

Important Days

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development has celebrated Poshan Pakhwada from _____ **16th to 31st March, 2021**.

Note:

- Addressing nutritional challenges through Food Forestry and organizing Poshan Panchayats are the key focus areas for Poshan Pakhwada 2021.
- To address nutritional challenges, distribution of 4 saplings of nutrition rich plants per Anganwadi Centre (AWC) in the Aspirational Districts will be done under the supervision of local panchayat and DM/DC by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH.

2. The National Vaccination Day, also known as National Immunization Day is observed every year on which date _____ **16th March**.

Note:

- The National Vaccination day 2020 aims to eradicate both polio and the COVID-19.
- The day was first observed on 16th March 1995, the day on which the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme became operational.

3. International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is annually observed across the globe on _____ **14th March**.

Note:

- The day is observed to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life. The day also marks the birth anniversary of renowned mathematician and physicist Albert Einstein and death anniversary of theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking.
- The theme of the International Day of Mathematics 2021 is "Mathematics for a Better World".

4. The International Day of Action for Rivers is annually observed across the globe on _____ **14th March**.

Note:

- 14th March 2021 marks the **24th edition** of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- The theme of International Day of Action for Rivers **2021** is "**Rights of Rivers**".

5. World Consumer Rights Day is annually celebrated across the globe on _____ **15th March**.

Note:

- The world Consumer Rights day is coordinated by **Consumers International**, the membership organisation for consumer groups across the globe.
- The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2021 is **“Tackling Plastic Pollution”**.

6. The World Sleep Day is observed annually on which date ____ **19th March**.

Note:

- The world Sleep day is annually organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society.
- The World Sleep Day 2021 is co-chaired by Lourdes DelRosso, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Sleep Medicine Fellowship Director at University of Washington and Professor Fang Han, MD of The Sleep Center, Peking University People's Hospital in Beijing, China.

7. United Nations International Happiness Day is celebrated every year on ____ **20th March**.

Note:

- It is a global event designated by the United Nations.
- The theme of the 2021 International Day of Happiness campaign is 'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind'.
- First International Day of Happiness was celebrated on 20th March 2013.
- International Day of Happiness is a day to value our happiness and make people happy.

8. World Sparrow Day is observed every year on which date ____ **20th March**.

Note:

- **World Sparrow Day** is annually observed across the world on **20th March** to create awareness and to bring attention to the significance and importance of conservation and protection of the sparrows and other such birds.
- The first world sparrow day was observed on **20th March 2010**.
- The theme of World Sparrow Day is **“I Love Sparrows”**.

9. World Oral Health Day is celebrated every year on which date ____ **20th March**.

Note:

- The day is observed across the globe on **20th March** to promote the importance of oral health and to reduce the problems of oral diseases that affect the individuals, health system and economy.
- The theme of World Oral Health Day 2021 is **“Be Proud of your Mouth”** and this theme will be followed in 2022 and 2023.

10. International Day of Forest is celebrated every year on which date ____ **21st March**.

Note:

- The United Nations observes March 21 as the International Day of Forests, commemorating the green cover around the world and reiterating its importance.
- The theme of the International Day of Forests for 2021 is **“Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”**.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) ____ **Kuldeep Singh**.

Note:

- Mr. Singh is currently Special DG of CRPF where the post of DG is vacant following superannuation of A.P. Maheshwari on February 28th.
- Mr Singh is a 1986 batch officer of West Bengal cadre.

2. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG) ____ **M.A. Ganapathy**.

Note:

- His appointment is up to February 29, 2024.
- The post of DG, NSG has been vacant since last October when the then DG A.K. Singh retired.

3. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the international body Stop TB Partnership Board ____ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.

Note:

- He was appointed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis from India by 2025.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan will serve a three-year term, commencing from July this year.

- The Stop TB Partnership is a unique international body with the power to align actors all over the world in the fight against TB.
4. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the committee constituted by the Government of India (GoI) which will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme _____ **H K Mittal**.
- Note:**
- The committee will evaluate and select incubators for allotment of funds under the scheme, monitor progress and take all necessary measures for efficient utilisation of funds towards fulfilment of objectives of the scheme.
 - The committee, it said, would be chaired by H K Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology.
5. Name the cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd _____ **Ajinkya Rahane**.
- Note:**
- Rahane will feature in a campaign slated to be released in the first week of April, which will talk about the ease of procuring loans through NeoGrowth for small businesses. The campaign "Keeping it simple" will show the day-to-day struggles of small businesses while scaling up and how NeoGrowth can help them overcome it.
6. Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in as first female president of which country _____ **Tanzania**.
- Note:**
- She took the oath of the office after the sudden death of John Magufuli from an illness shrouded in mystery.
 - The 61-year-old took the oath of office in Dar es Salaam before inspecting troops at a military parade and receiving a cannon salute.

Important News – India

1. India's first dedicated Express Cargo Terminal exclusively for export and import of international couriers has been launched in which airport _____ **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**.
- Note:**
- The 2 lakh square feet built to suit facility terminal will be operated by Express Industry Council of India
 - It has a dedicated space for customs offices with direct access to both Landside and Airside wing
 - It will enable ease of doing business and reduce transaction time and cost for the shipper.
2. India's first centralised air-conditioned (AC) railway terminal has been built in which city _____ **Bengaluru**.
- Note:**
- It is named after 'Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya', one of the foremost civil engineers, and set to become operational soon.
 - It has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 314 crore.
 - Byappanahalli terminal is the 3rd coach terminal and is equipped with all the modern facilities and is aimed to offer an airport-like aura to the passengers.
3. 4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in which city of India _____ **Kozhikode, Kerala**.
- Note:**
- It has been organized from 12 to 19 March 2021
 - GAF is the largest Ayurvedic event ever held anywhere across the world and witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders, and business explorers from Ayurveda.
4. According to the 'World Air Quality Report, 2020', prepared by Swiss organisation, IQAir, how many cities from India are among the 30 most polluted cities in the world _____ **22**.
- Note:**
- Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally.
 - The report, however, shows that Delhi's air quality improved by approximately 15 per cent from 2019 to 2020.
 - Delhi ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world.

5. According to the 'World Air Quality Report, 2020', prepared by Swiss organisation, which is India's most polluted city and the second most polluted city in the world _____ **Ghaziabad**.

Note:

- Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally.
- The report, however, shows that Delhi's air quality improved by approximately 15 per cent from 2019 to 2020.

6. What is Delhi's rank in the 'World Air Quality Report, 2020', prepared by Swiss organisation, among the among the 30 most polluted cities in the world _____ **10th**.

Note:

- Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally.
- The report, however, shows that Delhi's air quality improved by approximately 15 per cent from 2019 to 2020.
- Delhi ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world.

7. With which healthcare provider the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to change and improve health care innovations & outcomes in India _____ **Aster DM Healthcare**.

Note:

- Aster Digital Health Incubator (ADHI), a unit of Aster DM Healthcare Group will also support AIM's initiatives such as Atal Incubation Centers (AICs), Established Incubation Centres (EICs), Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) & Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- Aster will provide access to Aster Clinical Simulation Lab, Aster Federated Learning Data bank for Artificial Intelligence (AI) healthcare research, ADHI, Aster Digital Health Centre of Excellence, and other facilities to startups under various AIM initiatives.

8. Prime minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with his counterpart Sana Marin, the prime minister of which country _____ **Finland**.

Note:

- India & Finland had announced a new partnership in the fields of ICT, Mobile Technology, Digital Education clean energy investment and evolution of 6G.
- Both sides noted that Digital Domain was one of the promising sectors for an intensive India-Finland partnership.

9. NITI Aayog has partnered with which cloud computing web service provider to train students on the fundamentals of cloud computing through Atal Tinkering Labs _____ **Amazon Web Services**.

Note:

- A statement of intent (SoI) was signed between Niti Aayog and Amazon Internet Services Private Limited (AISPL), which undertakes the resale and marketing of AWS Cloud services in India, to roll out the project.
- The education and tools will establish a strong foundation in cloud computing for students of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across India, while the support of AWS EdStart for startups will accelerate their productisation and potential commercialization.

10. What is India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network _____ **139th**.

Note:

- Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country.
- In 2019, India was ranked 140th.
- Denmark ranked 2nd, followed by Switzerland, Iceland and the Netherlands.
- Afghanistan was classed as the world's unhappiest nation this year.

11. Which public sector undertakings has unveiled the GRAM UJALA programme under which high-quality energy-efficient LED bulbs will be given for Rs 10 per piece in certain villages of five states in the first phase _____ **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd**.

Note:

- Under the programme, high-quality energy-efficient LED bulbs will be given for Rs 10 per piece in certain villages of five states in the first phase.
- The programme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

12. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd function under administrative control of which ministry with which Labour Bureau has inked an agreement for providing technical and manpower support for conducting all India surveys, including on migrant workers _____ **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

Note:

- The surveys to be undertaken by the Bureau will be integrated with the technology provided by the BECIL.
- It will substantially reduce the time taken for completion of surveys by at least 30-40%
- BECIL is an enterprise under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched a three-day-long 'Kalanamak rice festival' under one district – one product scheme of the state government _____ **Uttara Pradesh.**

Note:

- To promote the production, processing, packaging, and branding of Kalanamak Rice, the UP Government has declared the rice as the One District One Product (ODOP) of Siddharth Nagar in 2018.
- It is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice that are grown in India, Kalanamak is also called Buddha Rice.

2. Which state ranked first in the state wise distribution of High Net-worth Individual (HNI) households in accordance with 'Wealth Report 2020' released by Hurun India _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- Based on the report there are 4.12 lakh dollar-millionaire households / affluent households in India with a networth of at least Rs 7 crore.
- Maharashtra is the highest Gross/Net State Domestic Product (GSDP) Generating state in India with growth rate of about 13.16% and it is contributing around 16 % of national GDP

3. 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) is being built in which state/union territories _____ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

Note:

- The authorised capital of the JVC is Rs 1,600 crore with initial paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore.
- Out of the paid-up capital, J&K State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDCL) will contribute Rs 49 crore as initial equity.
- The MoU to execute the project was signed between the Government of J&K, JKSPDCL and NHPC on 3rd January 2021.

4. Which state government announced to launch Universal Health Scheme (UHS) called "Mukhya Mantri Chiranjeevi Yojana _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- The scheme will be launched on May 1, 2021.
- In his budget speech Gehlot had announced UHS with Rs 3,500 crore in the upcoming financial year wherein cashless health services up to Rs 5 lakh will be provided to all families in the state.

5. Which state government has launched the 'Mission Gramodaya' under which housing facilities will be provided in rural areas along with basic and fundamental infrastructure _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- The mission was launched by the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Under the Gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded.

6. Which state government has launched the SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign to fight with malnutrition _____ **Jharkhand**.

Note:

- Aim of the campaign is to identify anaemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem in a state.
- The state govt. runs various schemes under Child Development Schemes, National Nutrition Mission among others to deal with the situation.

Important News – World

1. According to Jones Lang LaSalle's Human Performance Indicator (HPI) Index, which country ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98 percent _____ **India**.

Note:

- As per the report, India leads other Asia-Pacific (APAC) countries with 81 per cent of high performers practising flexible working, including flexible hours and work-from-home.
- The Key Factors impacting workplace satisfaction in high performers are wider range of sophisticated workplaces and technologies.

2. Which country becomes India's 2nd Biggest Oil Supplier in February 2021 _____ **USA**.

Note:

- India's imports from America increased to 48% to a record 545, 300 BPD in February, 2021 accounting for 14% of India's overall imports last month
- Saudi Arabia slipped to No.4 Position for the 1st time since January 2006.
- Nigeria rose to 3rd Position and UAE slipped to 5th Position.

3. Which is the world's most polluted city, as per the 'World Air Quality Report, 2020', prepared by Swiss organisation, among the among the 30 most polluted cities in the world _____ **Xinjiang**.

Note:

- Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally.
- The report, however, shows that Delhi's air quality improved by approximately 15 per cent from 2019 to 2020.
- Delhi ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world.

4. World Energy Transitions Outlook report was published by which organization _____ **International Renewable Energy Agency**.

Note:

- Previewed at the virtual Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD 2021) the report proposes energy transition solutions for the narrow pathway available to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5°C and halt global warming.

5. Which country has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) after signing the amended ISA Framework Agreement _____ **Italy**.

Note:

- The new ISA Framework Agreement came into force on January 8, 2021.
- Under the new amended framework, the membership of ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations. Previously, it was open to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics.

6. At present, how many countries have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement _____ **73**.

Note:

- Under the new amended framework, the membership of ISA is open to all member states of the United Nations. Previously, it was open to countries that were partially or entirely located within the Tropics.
- The signed copies of the agreement were received by an additional secretary (ER) as representative of MEA. MEA is the depositary of the ISA Framework Agreement.
- It is an alliance of over 121 countries.

7. Accepting India's invitation, the European Union (EU) has officially on-boarded as a member of the CDRI, what does 'R' stand for in CDRI _____ **Resilient**.

Note:

- Launched in 2019 by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Change Summit, the CDRI is an international collaborative platform involving the public and private sector, aiming to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

8. Which country ranked first in the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network _____ **Finland**.

Note:

- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2021.
- Denmark ranked 2nd, followed by Switzerland, Iceland and the Netherlands.
- The ranking is based on GDP per person, healthy life expectancy and the opinions of residents.

9. Which country ranked as unhappiest country in the UN World Happiness Report 2021 released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network _____ **Afghanistan**.

Note:

- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2021.
- Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country.
- India has been ranked 139 out of 149 countries.
- In 2019, India was ranked 140th.

Honor & Awards

1. What edition of the annual Grammy Awards was held in 2021 _____ **63rd**.

Note:

- The 2021 Grammy awards recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, between **September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020**.
- The award is presented by **The Recording Academy** to recognize achievements in the American music industry.
- **Beyonce** received the most nominations with nine, as well as the most awards with four.

2. Who has been honoured with a nomination for the International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award by the U.S. Consulate _____ **Gowsalya Shankar**.

Note:

- Gowsalya Shankar is Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender
- The IWOC Award Certificate of Nomination was handed over to her by U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin at an event 'Courageous Women Inspire a Better World' held in the city.

3. In how many languages the annual Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021 is announced _____ **20**.

Note:

- Seven books of poetry, four of the novel, Five short stories, two plays, and one each of memoirs and epic poetry in 20 Indian languages.
- The awards for **Malayalam, Nepali, Odia and Rajasthani** will be announced later.
- Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India.

Sports News

1. According to announcement made by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) the Asian Boxing Championship will be held in which city of India _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- This will be the 1st boxing tournament in Asia in 2021, acting towards evaluating boxers' readiness for the Olympic games.

- For the 1st time in the tournament's history both men & women fought in the same championship.
2. Cricketer Gary Wilson announced retirement from International Cricket. He belongs to which country _____ **Ireland**.
Note:
 ➤ Currently, he is all set to take over the role of Head Coach and Pathway Manager for North West Warriors.
 ➤ Gary Wilson made his International Debut in 2005 for Ireland, and represented the side 292 times.
 ➤ He is the 2nd Highest wicket-taker for Ireland with 160 catches & 33 stumping's.
 ➤ In his 16 yearlong cricketing career, he scored 5,959 runs for Ireland, with 1 century and 30 fifties.
3. Kamalpreet Kaur associated with which sports who broke the 9 year old National record and qualified for Tokyo Olympics _____ **Discus throw**.
Note:
 ➤ The 25-year-old Kaur, who had also won gold in the 2019 edition of the championships, dramatically heaved the discus to 65.06m in her first throw to the surprise of the sizeable crowd at the NIS.
 ➤ She eclipsed the nine-year-old earlier national record of 64.76m which was in the name of Olympian and 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Krishna Poonia.
4. Cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt banned for 8 years from all form of cricket, by the International Cricket Council, the belongs to which country _____ **UAE**.
Note:
 ➤ The banned for trying to fix matches during the T20 World Cup qualifiers in 2019.
 ➤ The ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal had found them guilty of breaching the Anti-Corruption Code in January 2021.
5. Who becomes the first cricketer to score 3000 runs in Men's Twenty20 Internationals _____ **Virat Kohli**.
Note:
 ➤ Kohli's knock of 73 runs, which came off 49 balls, also helped India to level the five-match T20I series.
 ➤ He also became the third captain in international cricket to score 12000 runs as a captain. He joined legendary captains Ricky Ponting and Graeme Smith in the elite list.
6. Name the Indian sprinter who beat national record holder Dutee Chand to win women's 100m sprint final in the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala _____ **S Dhanalakshmi**.
Note:
 ➤ The 22-year-old Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu clocked 11.39 seconds to become the fastest woman of the championships.
 ➤ Odisha-based Dutee clocked 11.58 seconds to be placed in second place.
7. Name the Indian shooter who won the first gold medal for India in the Women's 10M Air Pistol final of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup _____ **Yashaswini Deswal**.
Note:
 ➤ Deswal accumulated 238.8 points to lead in her category. Another Indian shooter Manu Bhaker won a silver medal with 236.7 points.
 ➤ World number one shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar clinched the bronze medal in 10m Air Rifle (men's category) and opened India's medal account in the competition.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "Prince with a Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma" _____ **Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan**.
Note:
 ➤ Published under Westland's 'Red Panda' imprint, it aims to inspire young readers to learn about the famed artist and how he made his entry and mark in the art world.
 ➤ Srinivasan has earlier authored children's books like "Indi-Alphabet" and "How Many Lines in a Limerick?"
2. Who has authored the book titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" _____ **Indra Nooyi**.
Note:
 ➤ The book is set to be published by Portfolio books on September 28. The book will feature both the personal and professional life of Indra Nooyi.
 ➤ The book features the life of Indra Nooyi from her childhood in India to her life at Yale University as an immigrant to her life as a person of colour in the elite corporate world.

3. Who has authored the novel titled “Undertow” _____ **Jahnvi Barua.**

Note:

- The book was published by Penguin Viking.
- The book portrays the story of Loya, a 25-year-old who is on a journey to discover herself.
- Loya leaves her home in Bengaluru and sets off to Assam to study Asian elephants (Elephas Maximus) and to connect with her grandfather Torun Ram Goswami.

4. Who has authored the book titled “Gandhi in Bombay” _____ **Usha Thakkar & Sandhya Mehta.**

Note:

- The Indiatourism Mumbai, Regional Office of Ministry of Tourism in the Western Region organized an online book reading session of “Gandhi in Bombay” by the authors Dr.Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta , as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India @ 75) is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta India’s Independence

5. Who has authored the book titled “The Pain-Free Mindset: 7 Steps to Taking Control and Overcoming Chronic Pain” _____ **Dr. Deepak Ravindran.**

Note:

- The book was published by Vermillion, an imprint of Penguin.
- This is the first book by a medical physician in the UK in the past 15 years to provide an overview that new scientific advances in understanding the nervous system will support us in overcoming pain.

6. Who has authored the book titled “Full Spectrum: India’s Wars 1972-2020” _____ **Arjun Subramaniam.**

Note:

- It is his second book and it explores the trials and tribulations, successes and failures of India’s armed forces in the post-1971 period
- It is covering major operation that the armed forces have participated including insurgencies in the north-east, terrorism and proxy wars in Jammu and Kashmir, separatist violence in Punjab, the IPKF intervention in Sri Lanka.

Science and Defence

1. What is the name of the sounding rocket which was launched by ISRO in March 2021 to study attitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics _____ **RH-560.**

Note:

- RH-560 will study attitudinal variations in neutral winds and plasma dynamics
- ISRO has developed series of sounding rockets known as ‘Rohini series’. Among them RH-200, RH-300 and RH-560 are the important ones.

2. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed an MoU with which institution for setting up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC) _____ **National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed after ISRO agreed to set up a Space Technology Incubation Centre(S-TIC) at NIT Rourkela.
- This collaboration with ISRO will open up new opportunities for research and development as well as space start-ups.

3. The researcher of which IIT built the ‘Energy Swaraj Yatra’ bus that runs on solar energy and has a complete work-cum-residential unit _____ **IIT Bombay.**

Note:

- An ‘Energy Swaraj Yatra’ bus has been built by Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, Prof. IIT Bombay.
- The bus runs on solar energy and has a complete work-cum-residential unit.
- Mr Solanki has been travelling on it to raise awareness about the use of solar power.
- The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in 2020 and will continue till 2030.

4. ‘Pabbi-Antiterror-2021’ is a joint anti-terrorism exercise of which grouping of countries _____ **SCO.**

Note:

- The decision to hold the joint exercise "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- At the meeting, representatives of the SCO member states also approved the draft program of cooperation for 2022-2024 to counter-terrorism, separatism and extremism.

5. Which countries are the participants in the Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise, a major naval exercise _____ **USA, France, Belgium and Japan.**

Note:

- The Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise will see ships from the four countries conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman.
- Ships involved include the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, as well as the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island.

6. According to a study released by defence website 'Military Direct' has the strongest military force in the world _____ **China.**

Note:

- The USA, despite their enormous military budgets, comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. The UK just about makes the Top 10, coming in 9th place with a score of 43.
- China has the strongest military in the world, scoring 82 out of 100 points in the index.



Gradeup Green Card

Features:

- › 700 + Full-length Mocks
- › 35+ Bank & Insurance Exams Covered
- › Tests Available in English & Hindi
- › Performance Analysis & All India Rank
- › Previous Year Question Papers in Mock Format
- › Available on Mobile & Desktop



www.gradeup.co