

Weekly One-Liners

15-21 April 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 15-21st April 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which e-commerce company announced to acquire 100% stake in Cleartrip, one of the oldest travel booking portals in India _____ **Flipkart**.
Note:
 - Cleartrip will continue to operate as a separate brand and will work closely with Flipkart to further develop technology solutions.
 - While the terms of the acquisition were not disclosed, the deal is expected to be a mix of cash and equity, likely valuing the online travel agent at around \$40 million in what is considered to be a distress sale.
2. Which social media giant has signed a deal to buy renewable energy in India from a local firm's wind power project that is companies first such deal in the country _____ **Facebook**.
Note:
 - The 32 megawatt wind power project, located in Karnataka, is part of a larger portfolio of wind and solar projects that Facebook and Mumbai-based CleanMax are working together on for supplying renewable power into India's electrical grid.
 - CleanMax will own and operate the projects, while Facebook will buy the power off the grid using environmental attribute certificates, or carbon credits.
3. Which corporate group has signed an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to reduce its overall carbon footprint by implementing clean energy efficiency initiatives across its properties _____ **Oberoi Group**.
Note:
 - EESL will collaborate with Oberoi Group Hotels to evaluate opportunities for saving energy and lowering emissions.
 - It is the Government of India's Energy Service Company (ESCO) and the world's largest ESCO.
 - It is a joint venture of 4 public sector undertakings (PSUs) of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, REC Limited & POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited & EESL works under the Ministry of Power.
4. Which financial institution will invest USD 100 million in J.C. Flowers India Opportunities Fund to help Indian financial institutions in resolving distressed assets _____ **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**.
Note:
 - The investment is part of IFC's Distressed Asset Recovery Program's (DARP) work in India.
 - Initially, IFC will invest USD 40 million.
 - It will help the domestic lenders (Lenders in India) to resolve their distressed assets and free up the capital for new lending.
 - It will allow mid-sized firms to preserve jobs and avoid insolvency during the pandemic.
5. Which small finance bank has partnered with fintech company, NIRA to strengthen its digital footprint and onboard its customers for Personal Loans _____ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**.
Note:
 - This was USFB's first Digital Lending Partnership.
 - Salaried customers can apply for a personal loan by using the NIRA app, which will fund the low-income salaried class.
 - The aim of the it is to serve the unserved and underserved customers through personal loans.
6. Which bank has allowed its customers to make International Fund Transfers (send money abroad) in over 100 currencies across 150 countries through the 'Send Money Abroad' _____ **Axis Bank**.
Note:
 - The users can send up to USD 25,000 (~18.63 Lakh) per transaction for any different purposes such as education fee payment, family maintenance, and health-related expenses.

- Axis bank transfers funds to global banks through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) mode.
 - SWIFT is a cooperative that provides safe and secure financial transactions as it assigns a unique code of either 8 characters or 11 characters for each financial organization.
7. Which tech giant has bought AI speech tech firm Nuance for \$19.7 billion _____ **Microsoft**.
- Note:**
- The move will help Microsoft's prowess in voice recognition and will give it a boost in the health care market.
 - Nuance is known for its Dragon software which helps to transcribe speech using deep learning. In 2016, Microsoft had purchased LinkedIn for \$26 billion.
8. Which bank has partnered with Mastercard to launch a mobile-based consumer-friendly payment solution 'Pay by Bank App', a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India _____ **RBL Bank**.
- Note:**
- RBL Bank account holders can now enjoy contactless transactions across the world through their mobile banking application both in-store and online.
 - This functionality will be available at all Mastercard accepting merchants, worldwide that accept contactless and online payments.
9. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India has set up a six-member committee to carry out a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem _____ **Sudarshan Sen**.
- Note:**
- The six-member committee will be headed by Sudarshan Sen, former executive director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - As per the terms of reference of the committee, the panel will review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs.
10. State-run Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed whom to facilitate digital payments _____ **Paytm**.
- Note:**
- The new contract requires a smoother payment process, wider variety of payment options and adding more players (banks, wallets, etc) in payment channels.
 - LIC has seen a surge in digital payments after the pandemic.
 - The corporation does Rs 60,000 crore of premium collections from the digital mode, which does not include the payment made through banks.
 - It sees around 8 crore digital transactions — a number expected to go up sharply.
11. Which bank has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to help Microfinance Institutions (MFI) in providing housing loans to low income families in rural and semi urban areas of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Philippines _____ **ADB**.
- Note:**
- In order to improve the construction quality and climate resilience by upgrading semi-permanent structures and installing sanitation and water connections, loans will be given to around 20,000 households by partner MFIs in the first phase.
 - In the first phase Commercial banks will provide \$30 million financing for housing loans to MFIs.
12. Which digital payments and financial services company has become the first company to cross 1 billion transactions on Unified Payment Interface (UPI) _____ **PhonePe**.
- Note:**
- The company has crossed over 1.3 billion transactions on its platform across payment offerings of wallet, cards and UPI in March 2021.
 - PhonePe has seen a growth in UPI transactions to 975.53 million in February 2021 from 902.03 million in December 2020.
13. With which Insurance technology startup, the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICIL) has partnered to develop the insurance penetration in rural India _____ **Gramcovers**.
- Note:**
- The main objective of this partnership is to identify and develop useful rural insurance products that could help farmers.
 - It also aims to increase the insurance coverage in rural parts of India.

- Under this partnership they have planned to reach around 25 million farmers.
14. Which has been appointed as transaction advisor by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) for the privatization of the J N Port Container Terminal (JNPCT) _____ **SBI Capital Markets Ltd.**
- Note:**
- JNPT has planned to privatize the JNPCT through the public-private-partnership (PPP) route in December 2020, and it was evaluated by the standing finance committee(SFC) in the ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways(MoPSW).
 - JNPT has appointed SBI Caps as the transaction advisor for the PPP project which is estimated to cost Rs 863.31 crores.
 - It is one of the five container terminals at JNPT and it has handled 1.35 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) a year (544,027 TEUs in FY21 from 718,863 TEUs in FY20).

Obituaries

1. Famous sportsman Ahmed Hussain Lala has passed away due to COVID-19, he was associated with which sport _____ **Football.**
- Note:**
- He represented India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where India finished fourth.
 - Besides, he was also part of the Indian team that won the gold medal in the 1951 Asian Games.
 - Ahmed also took part in the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan, in which India finished fourth.
2. Famous Dr Kakarla Subba Rao, who served as the first director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Radiologist.**
- Note:**
- Rao was conferred Padma Shri in 2000, by the Government of India for his contributions to the field of medicine.
 - He was the founder president of the Telugu Association of North America (TANA), an umbrella organisation for Telugu speaking people in the United States.
3. Former Union Minister Bachi Singh Rawat has passed away recently, he was associated with which political party _____ **BJP.**
- Note:**
- He was a four-time MP from the Almora-Pithoragarh constituency in Uttarakhand.
 - He had served as the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government
4. National Awardee Sumitra Bhave has passed away recently, she was a veteran _____ **Filmmaker.**
- Note:**
- She was known for her out-of-the-box content and also for the way she handled social issues in her films.
 - The duo of Sumitra and Sunil together directed several popular films like Doghi, Dahavi Fa, Vastupurush, Devrai, Badha, Ek Cup Chya, Samhita, Astu, Kaasav, among others.
5. Veteran writer Ganjam Venkatasubbiah passed away recently; he was a writer of which language _____ **Kannada.**
- Note:**
- He was commonly known as a walking encyclopedia of Kannada language and culture, in his literary circles.
 - Professor G Venkatasubbaiah had compiled 12 dictionaries and had authored around 60 books.
 - He received the Padma Shri in 2017 for his proficiency in Kannada literature, poetry, essays and translations.
6. Renowned personality Charles Geschke passed away recently he was a computer scientist and founder of which company _____ **Adobe Inc.**
- Note:**
- American computer scientist Charles Geschke, best known as the co-founder of graphics and publishing software company Adobe Inc, has passed away.
 - Geschke co-founded Adobe company in 1982 with fellow mate John Warnock.
 - Geschke, who was widely known as Chuck, also helped in developing the popular Portable Document Format (PDF).
7. Name the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India also known as "Father of Indian Banking Reforms", who passed away recently _____ **Maidavolu Narasimham.**
- Note:**
- He was the 13th Governor of RBI and served from May 2, 1977, to November 30, 1977.

- He was known for being the chair of two high-powered committees on banking and financial sector reforms.
8. Renowned politician, diplomat, and lawyer Walter Mondale passed away recently, he was former vice president of which country _____ **USA**.
Note:
- Former American politician, diplomat, and lawyer Walter Mondale, who served as the 42nd Vice President of the United States, has passed away.
 - He served as Vice President from 1977 to 1981 under President Jimmy Carter. He also served as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1993 to 1996 under Bill Clinton.
9. Renowned politician Bhumidhar Barman passed away recently, he was former chief minister of which state _____ **Assam**.
Note:
- Bhumidhar Barman had served as CM of Assam twice. His first term was between April 22, 1996 to May 14, 1996 and second term was during 2010. During both periods he acted as an interim CM
 - He belonged to Indian National Congress (INC) and had also represented the Barkhetry Constituency.

Important Days

1. World Hemophilia Day is annually observed across the globe on which date to create awareness about Hemophilia and other bleeding disorders _____ **17th April**.
Note:
- The day is an effort to provide better diagnosis and access to care for the people with Hemophilia.
 - The April 17th Marks the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia.
 - The theme of World Hemophilia Day 2021 is "Adapting to change: sustaining care in a new world".
2. What is the theme of the World Heritage Day observing every year on 18th April _____ **Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures**.
Note:
- It is also aimed at promoting historical monuments and sites through which we can actually preserve the cultural integrity of a community as well.
 - This year's theme "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures" reflects on the need to acknowledge global calls for greater inclusion and recognition of diversity.
3. World Liver Day is observed every year on which date _____ **19 April**.
Note:
- The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.
 - Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs.
 - Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.
4. UN Chinese Language Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **20th April**.
Note:
- The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.
 - The 1st Chinese Language Day was celebrated in 2010 on the 12th of November, but since 2011 the date has been on the 20th of April.
5. In India, 'National Civil Services Day' is celebrated every year on which date _____ **21st April**.
Note:
- It is a day to appreciate the tremendous work done by officers engaged in public administration, in various departments of the central and state governments.
 - The Government of India chose April 21 as the National Civil Service Day as on this day the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
6. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **21st April**.
Note:

- This day is celebrated to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem-solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the “global goals”.
- The main objective of the day is to encourage people to use new ideas, make new decisions, and do creative thinking. Creativity is what makes the world go ‘round.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the head of the Regulatory Review Authority, RRA 2.0 set up by the Reserve Bank of India that will review regulatory prescriptions _____ **M. Rajeshwar Rao**.
Note:
 - The authority will review regulatory prescriptions internally as well as by seeking suggestions from RBI-regulated entities for simplification and ease of implementation.
 - Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the Regulations Review Authority. The authority would have validity for a period of one year from May 1, 2021, unless its tenure is extended by the RBI.
2. Under whose chairmanship the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed an eight-member National Task Force (NTF) to monitor the remedial steps to improve the status of air quality _____ **Rameshwar Prasad Gupta**.
Note:
 - NTF will be headed by and coordinated by the Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta.
 - India has the World’s highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases and 1.5 million people in India are dying annually due to air pollution.
 - It will monitor the enforcement of air quality standards in all the Non-Attainment Cities along with other air polluted areas through quarterly meetings with the Chief Secretaries of concerned States/UTs.
3. Murali M. Natrajan is the Managing Director & CEO of which bank whose re-appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India _____ **DCB Bank**.
Note:
 - He was appointed as MD and CEO of DCB Bank in May 2009.
 - Prior to joining DCB, Natrajan has worked with foreign banks Standard Chartered & Citibank
4. Who has been officially sworn in as the ‘First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba’, following the resignation of Raul Castro _____ **Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel**.
Note:
 - The Secretary of the Communist Party is the most powerful position in one party ruling Cuba. Díaz-Canel now holds Cuba’s two most important positions, head of the party and president of the state.
 - Raúl Castro announced that he would step down from the key position of the party and hand over the leadership to a younger generation.
5. Name the Indian Cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Puma India, the leading German sportswear brand _____ **Washington Sundar & Devdutt Padikkal**.
Note:
 - In March 2021, Puma signed as the official kit partners of the Royal Challengers Bangalore(RCB) in the IPL 2021 season.
 - Washington Sundar(21 years old) from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, is the youngest T20I cricketer(18 years) to represent India at International level in 2017.
 - DevduttPadikkal(20 years old) from Edappal, Kerala, is an Indian cricketer who represents Karnataka and India under 19s.
6. Who has been appointed as the new prime minister of South Korea _____ **Kim Boo-kyum**.
Note:
 - He will replace former PM Chung Sye-kyun who resigned to run in the 2022 presidential election.
 - Currently, Hong Nam-ki is serving as the Acting Prime Minister of South Korea.
 - He will be appointed only after, the parliament of South Korea approved the nomination of the President.
 - The president has also nominated new ministers for Labour, Land, Science, Trade and Oceans Ministry.
7. Who has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of Allahabad High Court by President Ram Nath Kovind _____ **Justice Sanjay Yadav**.

Note:

- He assumed charge as the Acting CJ on 14th April 2021, succeeding Justice Govind Mathur who retired on 13th April 2021.
- Department of Justice, under the Ministry of Law and Justice notified regarding the appointment.
- Justice Sanjay Yadav, started his career in 1986 and practiced in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh(MP) at Jabalpur.

Important News - India

1. With which tech giant the Agricultural Ministry of India recently signed Memorandum of Understanding to implement a pilot project in 100 villages of six states to promote digital agriculture _____ **Microsoft**.

Note:

- Microsoft will start a pilot project in 100 villages in 10 districts of 6 states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh) to develop farmer interface for smart and well-organised agriculture, including post-harvest management and distribution.
- For this project, Microsoft has tied up with its local partner, CropData. The project is for one year and both sides inking the MoU will bear the cost on their own.

2. What is India's rank in the 'Inclusive Internet Index' 2021 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit along with Facebook _____ **49th**.

Note:

- India is set to reach one billion internet users by 2025.
- There were over 687.6 million internet users in India in 2020.
- The Facebook 'Inclusive Internet Index' looked at 120 countries, representing 98 per cent of global GDP and 96 per cent of global population.

3. With which online travel company the Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry especially during COVID _____ **Cleartrip & Ease My Trip**.

Note:

- The aim of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on OTA platform
- MoU also outlines both parties to encourage Units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage local tourism Industry.

4. Who launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) aims at providing financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization _____ **Piyush Goyal**.

Note:

- The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.
- The government has approved Rs. 945 Crore corpus for the fund, which will be divided over the next 4 years beginning April 01, 2021, for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India. The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.

5. What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2021 _____ **84th**.

Note:

- India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
- Japan, Singapore and Germany, South Korea stand in Top 3 respectively.

6. What is India's rank in the latest World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization "Reporters Without Borders (RSF) _____ **142nd**.

Note:

- In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.
- India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well.
- India was ranked in the "bad" category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.

7. According to the National Climate Vulnerability Assessment report titled 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework' released by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) how many eastern state have been identified as Highly Vulnerable to Climate Change _____ **Eight**.

Note:

- The 8 states are – Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- Among all states, Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have over 60% districts in the category of highly vulnerable districts.

8. With which country India has signed an agreement titled "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment" on Technical cooperation over a virtual event in New Delhi _____ **Germany**.

Note:

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**) GmbH India signed the agreement on behalf of the government of Germany.
- The project is expected to be a collaborative effort under the Indo-German bilateral development corporation on sustainable urban transformation.
- This project will be undertaken at national level in selected states (Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and in the cities of Kanpur, Kochi, Port Blair.
- Project period: **three and half years**.

9. Indian Army Chief General M M Naravane attended the Army Chiefs' Conclave that was held in which country _____ **Bangladesh**.

Note:

- The Conclave was held on the sidelines of Multinational Military Exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena 2021' (Front Runner of Peace) held at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh from April 4-12, 2021.
- During the conclave, Naravane delivered a keynote address on 'Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers'.
- He visited Bangladesh from April 8-12 on the invitation of Bangladesh Army General Aziz Ahmed.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has announced Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP) or Public Discipline Fortnight _____ **Rajasthan**.

Note:

- The decision came on a day when the state crossed 10,000 new cases for the first time
- JAP is essentially an extension of the curfew the Rajasthan government had announced for the weekend
- However, the government has neither called it a lockdown, nor a curfew, mainly because of the interpretations associated with both, as they have been implemented in the past.

2. Which state government has announced to follow a "Health Safety Week" beginning from April 22 to 29, to break the chain of growing COVID-19 infection rate in the State _____ **Jharkhand**.

Note:

- People have been advised to stay home and do not move without unnecessary work.
- Essential services and medical services continue to function and all identified offices of private sector, central and state government offices shall remain open.

3. Which becomes the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds _____ **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)**.

Note:

- A declaration of a ₹1 crore donation was made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report.
- According to the contribution report of the ruling party in Jharkhand, the donation was made by aluminium and copper manufacturing company Hindalco.

4. Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme has been launched in which state for that first tranche of Rs 672 crores released recently _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- This reimbursed the fees for 10.88 lakh students. So far, a total of Rs 4, 879 crores have been disbursed under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme.
 - The main objective of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme is to provide scholarships to all the students who are not able to pay their fees because of their financial burden.
 - The scheme mainly focuses on students seeking higher education. It aims to provide fee reimbursement to more than 14 lakh students of the state.
5. Which state government reiterated its commitment to achieve the 'Har Ghar Jal' target by 2022 _____ **Punjab.**
- Note:**
- Punjab has 34.73 lakh rural household, out of which 25.88 lakh (74.5%) have tap water supply.
 - In 2021-22, the State plans to provide 8.87 lakh tap connections, thereby providing tap connection to every rural household.
 - So far, 4-districts, 29 blocks, 5,715 panchayats and 6,003 villages in Punjab have been declared 'Har Ghar Jal', which means every rural household has access to water through the tap.
6. Which state gets India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) _____ **Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- FSRU based LNG Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an environment-friendly and efficient manner”.
 - The port is the first deepwater, 24×7 operational private port in Maharashtra.

Important News – World

1. Which country becomes the first in the world to introduce a bill that would require banks, insurers and asset managers to report the impacts of their funding on the effect of climate change _____ **New Zealand.**
- Note:**
- The bill, said to be the first of its kind in the world, would receive its first reading in the country's parliament this week.
 - The island nation has been at the forefront of trying to cut down carbon emissions and has pledged to make its public sector carbon neutral by 2025.
 - It will also force the financial firms to evaluate the companies they are lending in terms of environmental impacts.
2. Along with which social media platform the Economist Intelligence Unit released Inclusive Internet Index 2021 _____ **Facebook.**
- Note:**
- India is set to reach one billion internet users by 2025.
 - There were over 687.6 million internet users in India in 2020.
 - The Facebook 'Inclusive Internet Index' looked at 120 countries, representing 98 per cent of global GDP and 96 per cent of global population.
3. Recently, which country has launched its first ever mega food park project in India involving food processing facilities _____ **Italy.**
- Note:**
- The pilot project “The Mega Food Park” was launched, in virtual mode, with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat.
 - The main aim of the project is to develop an interaction between agriculture and industry.
 - Also, the project will focus on the research and development of efficient technologies in the sector.
4. The 1st ever United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 to be held in September 2021 in which city _____ **New York, USA.**

Note:

- The Summit is a part of the Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The summit will launch new actions for delivering progress on all 17 SDGs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to participate in the event along with other global leaders.
- The summit is to strategize actions for positive change in Agri-food systems.

5. Which country's passport has been adjudged as the most powerful passport in the Henley Passport Index 2021 _____

Japan.

Note:

- India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
- Japanese passport holders have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 167 more destinations than citizens of Afghanistan, who are at the bottom of the ranking as they can only visit 26 places without needing a visa in advance.

6. Which country ranked at first position in the World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization "Reporters Without Borders (RSF) _____ **Norway.**

Note:

- In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.
- India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well.
- India was ranked in the "bad" category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.

7. Which country is at the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index 2021, released by international non-profit and non-governmental organization "Reporters Without Borders (RSF) _____ **Eritrea.**

Note:

- In the report India has been classified among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.
- India was at 142nd position in 2020 as well.
- India was ranked in the "bad" category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In south Asia, Nepal was placed 106, Sri Lanka 127, Myanmar 140, Pakistan 145 and Bangladesh at the 152nd spot. China was ranked 177, and the US 44.

8. According to 'Global Energy Review 2021' released by International Energy Agency (IEA), Global CO2 emissions expected to increase by what per cent in 2021 as compared to 2020 _____ **5 percent.**

Note:

- It would be the Biggest annual rise in emissions since 2010.
- The major reason for increase in CO2 emissions is due to rise in Coal demands. Coal is set to grow by 4.5% in 2021.
- The report is IEA's annual update on latest trends in world energy and CO2 emissions.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named as Wisden's leading cricketer of the year for the second consecutive year _____ **Ben Stokes.**

Note:

- Stokes, 29, is the first Englishman to win the award twice since its inception in 2004.
- He scored more Test runs than any other batsman in 2020, with 641 in seven matches, while also taking 19 wickets.
- Kent all-rounder Darren Stevens has become the oldest person since 1933 to be named as one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year.

2. Who has been given the 2021 'Leading Woman Cricketer in the World' award by Wisden' _____ **Beth Mooney.**

Note:

- Mooney was considered the overwhelming choice for the accolade after also being voted the player of the T20 World Cup in which she played such a huge part in Australia's triumph, with innings of 81 not out, 60, 28, and 78 not out in the final at the MCG against India.

3. Who has been declared as the winner of 2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award also known as the Nobel Prize of Computing _____ **Alfred VainoAho & Jeffrey David Ullman.**

Note:

- The award was presented to them for fundamental algorithms and theory on programming language implementation.
- The award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize of Computing.
- Alfred VainoAho is the Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Columbia University
- Jeffrey David Ullman is the Stanford W. Ascherman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Stanford University.

Sports News

1. Who has won the Emilia Romagna F1 Grand Prix 2021, in Imola, Italy _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- This win is his first victory of the season. The race was the second round of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.
- The seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) finished second, following a crash and sustaining damage involving Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.
- Lando Norris (McLaren – Great Britain) took third place.

2. 34th edition of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships was held in which country _____ **Kazakhstan.**

Note:

- The event was the 34th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championships.
- India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table.
- The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals.
- Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each.

3. Name the Indian women wrestler who won the gold medal in the 53 kg Women's freestyle event in 34th edition of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships 2021 _____ **Vinesh Phogat.**

Note:

- The event was the 34th edition of the Asian Wrestling Championships.
- India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table.
- The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals.
- Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each.
- Indian Gold medalist are:
 1. Ravi Kumar Dahiya – 57 kg Men's freestyle
 2. Vinesh Phogat – 53 kg Women's freestyle
 3. Anshu Malik – 57 kg Women's freestyle
 4. Sarita Mor – 59 kg Women's freestyle
 5. Divya Kakran – 72 kg Women's freestyle

4. Mirabai Chanu is associated with which sport who set a new World Record recently _____ **Weightlifting.**

Note:

- The 26-year-old Indian won the bronze medal at the event.
- The gold medal went to Hou Zhihui of China who created a new world record in snatch.
- Asian Games, held once every 4yrs, is the 2nd largest multi-sport event after Olympics.

5. Which team has won Copa del Rey football tournament at Seville in Spain _____ **Barcelona**.

Note:

- Barca earned the Spanish King's Cup trophy, scoring all their goals in the second half of the final at La Cartuja Stadium, Seville.
- French star Antoine Griezmann scored the opener with a left-footed shot in the near post in the 59th minute to give Barcelona the lead.
- Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong doubled the gap with a diving header in the 63rd minute.

6. Who has won the ATP Masters 1000 series tennis tournament _____ **Stefanos Tsitsipas**.

Note:

- The Greek star had lost his previous two finals at this level, with Rafael Nadal denying him in Toronto and Novak Djokovic beating him in Madrid.
- Rublev beat 11-time Monte Carlo champion Nadal in the quarter-finals. Rublev knocked out Roberto Bautista Agut, Rafael Nadal and Dan Evans en route to the final but could not find a way past Tsitsipas.

7. Name the Sri Lankan Cricketer who has been banned for 8 years from all forms of cricket for breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption code the International Cricket Council (ICC) _____ **Dilhara Lokuhettige**.

Note:

- The ban was backdated to 3rd April 2019 when he was provisionally suspended.
- He was the 4th former Sri Lanka player to be charged with corruption.
- He was also charged by the ICC on behalf of Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) for breaching 3 ECB anti corruption code for T10 league in 2017.

Books and Authors

1. "Believe — What Life and Cricket Taught Me" is memoir of which Indian cricketer _____ **Suresh Raina**.

Note:

- The Book is all about the Suresh Raina, it describes about his life, challenges he faced as a young cricketer.
- He hails from Uttar Pradesh.
- He is the first Indian batsman to hit a century in all three formats (Test, ODI, T20I) of international cricket.

2. Who has authored the children story book titled "The Christmas Pig" _____ **JK Rowling**.

Note:

- The story is about a boy named Jack and his toy Dur Pig, who goes missing on Christmas Eve.
- "The Christmas Pig" is Rowling's first children's novel since Harry Potter.
- Rowling returned to writing with the release of "The Ickabog" last year during the pandemic.

3. Who has authored the book titled "Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages" _____ **Peggy Mohan**.

Note:

- The book was published by Penguin Random House India.
- The book argues that all Indians are of Mixed origins, through the inclusive study of languages like the story of early Sanskrit, the rise of Urdu, language formation in the North east.
- The book connects linguistics and history to explore the migration impacts on communication language.

4. Who has authored the novel titled "The Cursed Inheritance" that contributes toward the importance of the conservation of heritage through the stories _____ **Sutapa Basu**.

Note:

- The book is published by Readomania Publishing.
- The book provides an overall view of the heritage of Kolkata through architecture, social customs, modes of transportation and food.
- Sutapa Basu is the director of Learning Solutions at Eupheus Learning

Science and Defence

1. The Indian Space Research Organisation recently signed an agreement with which space agency for cooperation for the country's first human space mission Gaganyaan _____ **National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), France.**

Note:

- Under this agreement, France will be contributing to India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.
- The Gaganyaan orbital spacecraft project was kicked started in August 2018. It originally intended to send an astronaut from Indian soil to mark the 75th anniversary of the country's independence in 2022. Test flights will carry an instrumented humanoid robot.
- The capsule will orbit at an altitude of 400 kilometres for seven days before splashing down in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Ahmedabad.

2. The United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) awarded \$2.89 billion contract to which company for its Artemis programme _____ **SpaceX.**

Note:

- The total value of this contract is \$2.89 billion.
- SpaceX will develop a spacecraft 'SpaceX Starship' to land next to two US astronauts, including a women astronaut at the lunar south pole region, by 2024.
- NASA also aims to bring the first person of colour to the moon's surface as part of the Artemis programme.

3. Which space agency is all set to launch four astronauts to the International Space Station on World Earth Day (April 22) _____ **NASA.**

Note:

- NASA is to launch the mission along with SpaceX.
- It is the second crewed operational flight of Crew Dragon Spacecraft.
- The mission will transport four scientists to the International Space Station.
- The astronauts to travel to the International Space Station are from NASA, JAXA and ESA. JAXA is the Japanese Space Agency and ESA is European Space Agency.

4. Indian conducted Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Khanjar' with which country _____ **Kyrgyzstan.**

Note:

- The two-week-long exercise focuses on high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism.
- The exercise is being held between Special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011, to take forward the strategic partnership between India and the Kyrgyz Republic.

5. The Luna 25 is Lunar Mission of which country set to be launched by October 2021 _____ **Russia.**

Note:

- The Roscosmos is the State Space Corporation of Russia that is responsible for space flights, aerospace research and cosmonautics programmes.
- The Mission will carry a lander. The primary objective of Luna 25 is to prove landing technology.
- It is to carry thirty kilo grams of scientific instruments including a robotic arm and drilling hardware to collect soil samples.

6. The 1st Unit of the Indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Mk-III Aircraft was commissioned into the Indian Navy at _____ **INS Hansa, Goa.**

Note:

- INAS 323 Squadron will comprise of 3 ALH Mk IIIs. It will be commanded by Commander Samik Nundy.
- The ALHs are designed and developed Indigenously by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The squadron will perform roles like Search and Rescue operations, Special Operations and Coastal Surveillance.

7. Name the experimental Mars helicopter of the NASA that became the first helicopter to take powered, controlled flight on Mars _____ **Ingenuity**.

Note:

- Ingenuity is a mini 4 pound (1.8 kg) copter, which carried a bit of the wing fabric from the 1903 Wright flyer (Kitty Hawk), the first successful heavier than air powered aircraft.
- NASA has invested around **85 million USD** to build the ingenuity, a 19 inch(48 cm) tall copter with carbon fiber blades.

The ingenuity was taken to mars along with the Perseverance rover and landed inside the Jezero crater.

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