

Weekly One-liners

22-31 March 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st March 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India has announced the setting up of a standing external advisory committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for universal banks and small finance banks _____ **Shyamala Gopinath**.
Note:
 - The five-member committee will be headed by former deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath.
 - The SEAC which will have a tenure of three years, and will screen applications for universal and small finance banks after the regulator first vets the proposal.
2. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan – Arogya Sanjeevani Policy – from Rs 5 lakh to _____ **Rs 10 lakh**.
Note:
 - Insurers can offer the revised sum insured with effect from 1 May, 2021 or earlier.
 - IRDAI made it compulsory for insurers to offer a sum insured of up to ₹10 lakhs, starting from ₹50,000 and in multiples of ₹50,000.
3. As per the relaxed norms of for valuing perpetual bonds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) what would be the maturity period until March 31, 2022 _____ **10 years**.
Note:
 - The norms, which had sought to value banks' deemed residual maturity of Basel III additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds as 100-year debt from April 1, were strongly opposed by the finance ministry.
 - In a statement, the regulator said the maturity would be 10 years until March 31, 2022, and would be increased to 20 and 30 years over the subsequent six-month period.
4. As per the revised estimate of Fitch Ratings what will be the GDP growth rate of India in FY 2022 _____ **12.8%**.
Note:
 - It anticipates the level of India's GDP to remain well below its pre-pandemic forecast trajectory.
 - Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to 5.8% in Fiscal Year 2023.
 - India's recovery from the depths of the lockdown-induced recession in the second quarter of 2020 has been observed as swifter than expected.
5. Which bank becomes the first in the industry to launch an instant EMI (Equated Monthly Instalments) facility on its internet banking platform in partnering with BillDesk and Razorpay _____ **ICICI Bank**.
Note:
 - Called 'EMI @ Internet Banking', the facility aims to offer increased affordability to millions of pre-approved customers, as it enables them to convert their high-value transactions up to ₹5 lakh into easy monthly instalments.
 - It also brings in enhanced customer experience as customers get the benefit of EMIs instantly and in a fully digital manner.
6. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones (APSEZ) Ltd, a subsidiary of the diversified Adani Group acquired what percent of stock in Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL) belongs to DVS Raju & Family _____ **58.1%**.
Note:
 - Adani port made an agreement to acquire 89.6% of GPL i.e. (31.5% from Warburg Pincus and 58.1% from DVS Raju & Family)
 - As per the agreement it acquired the 31.5% stake from Warburg Pincus on March 17, 2021.
7. What is the age bracket for the 'IOB Trendy', a savings account customised for the growing millennial population launched by the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) _____ **21 – 38 Years**.
Note:
 - Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) launched 'IOB Trendy', a savings account customised for the growing millennial population in the country by keeping their banking preferences in mind.

- The account may be self or jointly operated. In case of a joint account, the primary holder has to be a millennial at the time of account opening.
8. Which small finance bank had been awarded 'Great place to work' certification by the Great place to Work Institute _____ **ESAF Small Finance Bank.**
- Note:**
- The certification is the result of an employee survey conducted by the third-party global authority on recognising high-trust and performance culture at workplaces.
 - This recognition acknowledges the bank's commitment and credibility amongst its employees.
9. Which bank has been adjudged as the 'India's Best Bank for SMEs' at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021 _____ **HDFC Bank.**
- Note:**
- HDFC Bank's transformation of its micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) business over the past few years makes it a worthy winner of this award.
 - The Annual Best Banks survey of the financial magazine based in Hong Kong, aims to identify which banks in each market have excelled across a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.
10. Which Public Sector Undertaking has been conferred with the 'Role Model' Award at the 11th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National HR Excellence Award 2020-21 _____ **NTPC.**
- Note:**
- NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award.
 - The award was presented at the virtual conference "Learn from the Achievers".
11. With which petroleum company the Union Bank of India has launched a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card _____ **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.**
- Note:**
- This card is a contactless "Tap & Go" card and National Common Mobility Card (NMC).
 - While using this card at HPCL retail outlets, the cardholder will get Cashback/Rewards along with the waiver of fuel surcharge provided by the Bank.
12. Which industry body has signed an MoU with the IFSCA to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for the development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ('GIFT') IFSC _____ **FICCI.**
- Note:**
- The MoU will lead to future collaborations and cooperation between IFSCA and FICCI for the development of a world-class FinTech Hub in GIFT IFSC.
 - FICCI will also assist IFSCA in the development of FinTech Accelerator programmes in GIFT IFSC among the other cooperation areas.
13. Tata Motors signed a three-year MoU with which bank to offer financial assistance to the customers looking to purchase its small and light commercial vehicles _____ **State Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- According to the automaker, the partnership will not only create employment but also generate more demand for its BS6 range of vehicles.
 - Tata Motors claimed that the collaboration with SBI will allow its CV customers to avail loans in a hassle-free manner as well as access the bank's unique technology-laden offerings.
14. Which investment fund has acquired a 74% stake in Engie Group's Solar Energy Assets in India _____ **Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus (EIYP).**
- Note:**
- The Engie Group has 813 MW of operational solar assets in the country, and it plans to add up to 2 GW more over next couple of years, which once commissioned will be acquired by the EIYP.
 - EIYP is the largest yield-focused infrastructure AIF (alternative investment fund) in the country today
15. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Our Food Pvt. Ltd., Visakhapatnam to help farmers set up cost effective processing units _____ **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank.**
- Note:**
- In a bid to help farmers set up cost effective processing units, the Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Our Food Pvt. Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
 - According to the MOU signed recently, the vendor will ensure supply, delivery and installation of high quality, standardised and branded equipment/machinery as per the requirement of the farmer/farmer franchisee, and also

purchase of processed products. The vendors also ensure regular recovery towards such loan accounts and also support the bank in end utilisation of the loan

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Sagar Sarhadi passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **Screen Writer**.

Note:

- Sarhadi began his career writing Urdu short stories and became an Urdu playwright. Filmmaker Yash Chopra's 1976 film 'Kabhi Kabhie', starring Amitabh Bachchan and Raakhee, opened the gates to his Bollywood career.
- The writer collaborated with Chopra for screenplays in acclaimed films like 'Silsila' (1981) and Sridevi and Rishi Kapoor-starrer "Chandni", for which he wrote the dialogues.

2. Renowned personality Anil Dharker passed away recently, he was veteran _____ **Journalist**.

Note:

- He was in his mid-70s, was the editor of several publications including Mid-Day and The Independent and played a vital role in opening the Akashwani Auditorium in south Mumbai as an art movie theatre.
- Dharker had been the editor of a variety of publications, starting with 'Debonair', 'Mid-Day'; 'The Independent' and 'The Illustrated Weekly of India'.

3. Renowned personality KC Chakrabarty passed away recently, he was former _____ **Deputy Governor of RBI**.

Note:

- He was the deputy governor of the central bank between 15 June 2009 and 25 April 2014 when he demitted office three months before his term was to end.
- Prior to the stint, he had served as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of Punjab National Bank (2007-2009), and CMD of Indian Bank (2005-2007).

4. Renowned personality Anil Dharker passed away recently who was veteran _____ **Journalist and Author**.

Note:

- Anil Dharker was one of India's best known editors and a tireless supporter of the arts.
- During his lifetime, Dharker had donned many hats and was the lifeline behind the popular literary festival, Tata Literature Live.
- Anil Dharker worked as an editor across several publications, of different genres, starting with the Debonair, then Mid-day, The Independent, and the Illustrated Weekly of India.

5. Nawal Saadawi, a renowned feminist, psychiatrist and novelist passed away recently was belonged to which country _____ **Egypt**.

Note:

- Nawal Saadawi, a renowned Egyptian feminist, psychiatrist and novelist, whose writings have stirred controversy for decades in an overwhelmingly conservative society passed away. She was a fierce advocate of women rights in Egypt and the Arab world.
- In 2020, Time Magazine named her on their 100 Women of the Year list.

6. Renowned personality Laxmipriya Mohapatra passed away recently, she was veteran _____ **Odissi dancer**.

Note:

- Noted Odissi dancer **Laxmipriya Mohapatra**, the wife of legendary classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra, passed away. She started her dancing career at the **Annapura Theatre in Puri in 1947**.
- She has also acted in four Odia movies.

7. Renowned personality Adam Zagajewski passed away recently, he was veteran _____ **Polish poet**.

Note:

- Renowned Polish poet Adam Zagajewski has passed away.
- He was a leading figure in Poland's New Wave or Generation '68, a literary movement of the late 1960s that called for a simple language to relate directly to reality.

8. Renowned personality KC Chakrabarty passed away recently, he was former _____ **Deputy Governor, RBI**.

Note:

- Former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor, KC Chakrabarty passed away.
- He was the deputy governor of the central bank between 15 June 2009 and 25 April 2014 when he demitted office three months before his term was to end.

9. Name the military hero who led an infantry division to a legendary victory in the 1971 India-Pakistan War who passed away recently _____ **Walter Anthony Gustavo 'WAG' Pinto**.

Note:

- Lieutenant General, Walter Anthony Gustavo 'WAG' Pinto (Retd), a military hero who led an infantry division to a legendary victory in the 1971 India-Pakistan War has passed away at the age of 97.
- He led the 54 Infantry Division in the Battle of Basantar in the war that gave birth to Bangladesh, leading his troops from the front with the motto he coined "bash on regardless".

Important Days

1. What is the theme of the World Tuberculosis Day 2021 _____ **The Clock is Ticking.**

Note:

- March 24 marks the day when Robert Koch discovered Mycobacterium tuberculosis in 1882 that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- Theme 2021: 'The Clock is Ticking'

2. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on _____ **21 March.**

Note:

- This year theme is "**Youth standing up against racism**".
- It engages the public through #FightRacism, which aims to foster a global culture of tolerance, equality and anti-discrimination and calls on each and every one of us to stand up against racial prejudice and intolerant attitudes.

3. Every year on which date Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day) is observed to pay tribute on the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru _____ **23rd March.**

Note:

- It was on March 23 in 1931, in Lahore (Pakistan), that these three were hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders, a British police officer in 1928.
- They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott, who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

4. The World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on _____ **23rd March.**

Note:

- The day is to commemorate the date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization in 23 March 1950.
- The day also highlights the contribution that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and well-being of society.

5. World Theatre Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **27th March.**

Note:

- World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), France.
- It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.

6. International Transgender Day of Visibility observed globally every year on _____ **31st March.**

Note:

- The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the high-level taskforce set up by the government of India to lay a roadmap for enforcement of contracts _____ **Rajiv Kumar.**

Note:

- The task force for enforcement of contracts will give its recommendation for a policy framework for enforcement of contracts and the task force on conciliation mechanism will give its recommendation for an effective conciliation mechanism.

2. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the high-level taskforce set up by the government of India to lay down a roadmap for conciliation mechanism _____ **Amitabh Kant.**

Note:

- It is to facilitate speedy resolution of contractual disputes between government entities and private investors contractors inter alia to augment ease of doing business.

- This task force will include DPIIT secretary, DEA secretary, secretary of department of legal affairs, chairman & CEO, Railway Board, secretary, MoRTH, secretary, civil aviation, secretary, power, secretary, MNRE and chairman, NHAI. This task force will submit its report within three months of its constitution.
3. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation _____ **Sanjeev Kumar**.
- Note:**
- IAS Sanjeev Kumar has appointed as Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - Kumar is a 1993-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment
4. Who is present Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) whose term has been extended by one year _____ **Vijay Raghavan**.
- Note:**
- He was appointed PSA in 2018 after retiring as Secretary of, Department of Biotechnology. His contract ends on April 2 but has now been extended until April 2022.
5. Who has been recommend as the next chief justice of India by the incumbent Chief Justice of India S A Bobde _____ **Justice N V Ramana**.
- Note:**
- CJI Bobde handed over a copy of the letter of recommendation to his successor Justice Ramana after sending it to the Centre.
 - CJI Bobde appears to have dismissed the complaint filed by Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Jagan Reddy against Justice Ramana before sending the recommendation letter to the Centre for Justice Ramana's appointment as the 48th CJI on April 24.
6. Name the Indian Doctor who has been appointed as the Surgeon General under US President Biden's administration _____ **Vivek Murthy**.
- Note:**
- The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time.
 - Prior to this, Dr Murthy was appointed as surgeon general under the Obama administration in 2011 but was fired by former President Trump in 2017.
7. Who is the Director General UNESCO with whom Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank held a virtual meeting _____ **Audrey Azoulay**.
- Note:**
- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank held a virtual meeting with Director General UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay in New Delhi.
 - They discussed key issues of mutual importance including National Education Policy, India's response to COVID Pandemic especially in the education sector.
8. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) _____ **Saurbah Garg**.
- Note:**
- Senior bureaucrat Saurbah Garg has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Garg as the CEO, UIDAI in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
9. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India _____ **Atish Chandra**.
- Note:**
- Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, the order said.
 - Chandra, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
10. Who has been elected as the new chairperson of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) _____ **Soma Mondal**.
- Note:**
- Mondal will have a two-year term starting April; she took charge of SAIL on January 1, 2021.
 - SCOPE is an apex professional organization representing the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

11. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M) _____ **Anish Shah.**

Note:

- He takes over from Pawan Goenka who will retire as the MD and CEO, and member of the Board of Directors of M&M on 2nd April 2021.
- Anish Shah is currently serving as the deputy managing director and Chief Financial Officer(CFO) of the company.

Important News – India

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign on World Water Day 2021 for rain water harvesting, the campaign will be implemented from _____ **March 22 to November 30.**

Note:

- The 'Catch the Rain' campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas. It will be implemented from March 22 to November 30 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.
- The campaign aims to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation. It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

2. Name the e-Tendering Portal established by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a central PSU under Ministry of Power _____ **PRANIT.**

Note:

- It has been certified by Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
- With this, POWERGRID is now the only organization in India to have an eProcurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SRM), complying with all applicable requirements relating to security and transparency as stipulated by STQC.

3. Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has virtually inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in which city of India _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- The inauguration took place on the occasion of a programme organised by the University of Delhi on 'Shaheed Diwas' or Martyrs Day (March 23, 2021) to pay homage and commemorate 90 years of martyrdom of our freedom fighters - Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru.
- It will remain open to students and the university community to inculcate values of freedom and sacrifice.

4. According to the report by 'India: Transforming to a net-zero emissions energy system' released by TERI and Shell, the Net Zero emissions in energy system in India is achievable by ____ **2050.**

Note:

- According to the report by 'India: Transforming to a net-zero emissions energy system' released by TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute) & Shell (otherwise known as Royal Dutch Shell plc), the Net Zero emissions in energy system in India is achievable by 2050.
- The report is one of the first assessments of the challenges that India would face if India were to move towards Net-zero emissions energy system.

5. Applied Materials India, the local subsidiary of US materials engineering company Applied Materials Inc., has signed a research and development (R&D) pact with which institution _____ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.**

Note:

- This pact is a part of the Industry Affiliate Program of the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE)
- IISc Bengaluru and Applied Materials India will work closely with CeNSE to explore new applications and solutions in the field of advanced materials

6. Who represented India at the 'World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021' which is one of the world's largest annual gatherings of the 'ICT for development' communities _____ **Sanjay Dhotre.**

Note:

- The Minister highlighted the policies and programs undertaken by his Ministry such as,
- Arogya Setu platform is used to monitor and alert the health status of citizens.

7. Who will chair the Empowerment Committee to discuss and enhance manufacturing of products in High technology areas in India constituted by the Government of India _____ **Piyush Goyal.**

Note:

- The 10-member committee will be headed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry. The committee will be serviced by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Objective of the committee is to facilitate investments and promote manufacturing in technology-intensive sectors including semiconductors.

8. What is India's rank in the among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) ____ **40th**.

Note:

- The Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.
- The overall global IP environment improved in 2020, with positive score increasing in 32 of the 53 economies measured by the IP Index.

9. "Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park" has been inaugurated in which city of India ____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- Friendship Park has been built to commemorate contribution of Indian peacekeepers in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.
- India-South Korea relations have strengthened in recent years with the convergence of Act East Policy (AEP) of India and New Southern Policy (NSP) of South Korea.

10. What is the theme of the 7th Annual Summit of 'NATHEALTH' organized by NATHEALTH – Healthcare Federation of India ____ **Indian Health System Expansion in Post-COVID Era**.

Note:

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually addressed the 7th Annual Summit of 'NATHEALTH' organized by NATHEALTH – Healthcare Federation of India which was held between March 25-26, 2021 in a virtual format.
- It was allocated INR 2, 23, 846 Crore in the 2021-22 Budget, an increase of 137% over the previous year.

11. Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh jointly inaugurated the 'Chhatrasal Convention Centre' in ____ **Khajuraho**.

Note:

- The Tourism Ministry also launched the "MICE Roadshow Meet in India" at the Chhatrasal Convention Centre at Khajuraho.
- It is an initiative by the Ministry of Tourism to promote India's Iconic tourist spots into World class destinations for conducting MICE events.

12. Which became the first Airport in South India to have a fully operational parallel runway ____ **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru**.

Note:

- While the Southern runway is equipped with a CAT III B System that provides precision landing facility by improving runway visibility.
- Due to reduced passenger traffic caused by the pandemic, it was decided not to implement the CAT III B system in the Northern runway.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched India's first govt-run ambulance network for animals ____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- The Animal Husbandry Department has been further directed to set up one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic at every assembly constituency.
- These mobile ambulances shall provide veterinary first aid services along with spot diagnosis and attending to emergency cases.

2. Which state government has signed an MoU with ITC to execute a Watershed Programme covering over one million acres in the southern state ____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed under the ITC's Social Investments programme "Mission Sunehra Kal" & the Karnataka Watershed Development Department. With regard to this MoU, 100 Watershed had set up.

- The agreement was a part of the Karnataka government's 'Watershed development for drought proofing' programme & it is a part of ITCs Sustainability 2.0 agenda.
3. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed an MoU with which state to Implement MSP for MFP Scheme & Van Dhan Vikas Yojana _____ **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state of Arunachal Pradesh for implementing its flagship program, "Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & development of value chain for MFP" scheme and Van Dhan Yojana.
4. Which state has been emerged as the Champion State for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana _____ **Manipur**.
- Note:**
- Van Dhan Yojana was launched in October 2019 in Manipur, with the successful establishment of 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in the state.
- This constitutes 1500 self-help groups for marketing & providing value-addition to the tribal, minor forest produces.
5. Kurnool Airport is located in which state that was inaugurated by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The flight operations at Kurnool airport will begin on 28 March 2021. This airport has been developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme, Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN).
- Kurnool airport will bring the region closer to major hubs in South India by providing direct flight operations to Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai.
6. The Shigmo is a spring festival celebrated in the which state of India _____ **Goa**.
- Note:**
- Goa has announced that this year no Shigmo spring festival parades will be held due to sudden hike in COVID-19 infections. Shigmo is the biggest spring festival in Goa and was scheduled to take place in the first week of April.
- The decision to cancel the festival was to prevent the further increase in the COVID-19 numbers, informed Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said in the Goa Assembly
7. Which state government has organized a 'Banana Festival' to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan for a self-reliant India _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The main goal of organizing this festival is to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan for a self-reliant India.
- Banana made products from Kushinagar are included in One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
8. Which state is set to become India's 1st State to have 2 Green Energy Efficient towns _____ **Bihar**.
- Note:**
- To implement the project, the state government of Bihar will construct 500 MW solar energy plants at Lakhisarai & Bhagalpur.
- After Rajgir & BodhGaya, many important government offices in Patna like the Governor house, High Court, Museum & Vidhyut Bhawan would also run on green energy supplied by SECI.

Important News – World

1. With which country India signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoU) aimed at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development _____ **Japan**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed between Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan in the field of Water Resources.
2. How many foreign satellites has been launched by Russia for 18 countries from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan _____ **38**.
- Note:**
- The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with the Fregat upper stage and 38 spacecraft from 18 countries took off from the Baikonur cosmodrome.

- Soyuz rocket successfully placed into orbit the 38 satellites from more than a dozen countries, including South Korea, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy and Brazil.
3. India's Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has signed an MoU with which country's Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) to share experience and expertise in the area of recruitment, books, manuals and other documents _____ **Afghanistan**.
- Note:**
- It will strengthen the relationship between IARCSC and UPSC
 - The MoU will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise in the area of recruitment, books, manuals and other documents which are not of a confidential nature and Information Technology (IT) for the preparation of written examinations and holding of Computer Based Recruitment Tests and Online Examinations.
4. Which country's branch of the Red Cross has sponsored and launched the world's first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) for Volcano-related disasters with the support of several financial firms _____ **Denmark**.
- Note:**
- The \$3 million bond will enable the disaster relief agency to get aid quickly to those suffering following the eruption of 10 named volcanoes, in Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia and Mexico.
 - Catastrophe bonds offer investors high yields, but do not pay out if a named catastrophe occurs. They typically cover areas prone to hurricanes and typhoons.
5. What is the title of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2021 _____ **Valuing Water**.
- Note:**
- The World population is set to increase to 9 Billion by 2040, but the projected reservoir volume is stabilising around 7,000 billion cubic metre.
 - This report published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on behalf of UN-Water.
6. World's first ship tunnel, is being built in which country _____ **Norway**.
- Note:**
- First announced a few years ago by the Norwegian Coastal Administration, this mile-long, 118-foot-wide tunnel will burrow through the mountainous Stadlandet peninsula in northwestern Norway.
 - Building this engineering marvel will cost somewhere in the region of 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner (\$330 million) and take between three to four years, with construction due to commence in 2022.
7. Sri Lanka has signed about USD 1.5 billion currency swap deal with which country _____ **China**.
- Note:**
- The agreement signed between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the People's Bank of China is valid for three years. China remains Sri Lanka's largest source of imports.
 - In 2020, imports from China amounted to USD 3.6 billion, or just over 22 per cent of Sri Lanka's imports.
8. What is the name of the huge cargo ship that was stuck near the southern end of the Suez Canal due to a mishap caused by bad weather _____ **Ever Given**.
- Note:**
- This is causing a huge jam of vessels at either end of the vital international trade artery.
 - The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

Honor & Awards

1. What edition of National Film Award announced this year (2021) _____ **67th**.
- Note:**
- The event is organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - Director Priyadarshan's Malayalam war epic Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea, that is headlined by Mohanlal, won Best Feature Film.
 - The best acting honours went to Manoj Bajapayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran, and Kangana Ranaut for two of her films: Panga and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

2. Which film has won the best feature film award at the 67th National Film Award ceremony _____ **Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea.**
Note:
- The best acting honours went to Manoj Bajapayee for Bhonsle, Dhanush for Tamil film Asuran, and Kangana Ranaut for two of her films: Panga and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.
 - Vijay Sethupathi (Super Deluxe) and Pallavi Joshi (The Tashkent Files) won the supporting actor awards, while director Sanjay Puri was awarded for Bahattar Hoorain
3. Who has been conferred with the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 _____ **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**
Note:
- The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all people regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.
 - The award carries an amount of Rs 1 crore, a citation, plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
4. Who has been conferred with the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 _____ **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said.**
Note:
- The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - The award is open to all people regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.
 - The award carries an amount of Rs 1 crore, a citation, plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
5. Who will be honoured with the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award for the year 2020 _____ **Asha Bhosle.**
Note:
- The award, instituted in 1996 by the State government to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the State, representing different walks of life, carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.
 - The first Maharashtra Bhushan awardee was Marathi writer P.L. Deshpande and the last winner of this award was historian Babasaheb Purandare who got it for the year 2015.
6. Who will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman – 2020 _____ **Sharad Pagare.**
Note:
- The Vyas Samman, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
 - It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.
7. Who has won the won EY Entrepreneur of the year award 2020 and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) _____ **Harsh C. Mariwala.**
Note:
- Mariwala, and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on 10 June 2021.
 - Awards were also announced for eight other categories with the winners representing both mature industries and young entrepreneurs from startups including Unicorns and a Decacorn.
8. Who has won the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards forest conservation _____ **Mahinder Giri.**
Note:
- He is the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious award.
 - Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has congratulated him for the award.
9. The Parliament of which country has passed a legislation that allows the mothers and their partners who have suffered a miscarriage or stillbirth the right of paid leave _____ **New Zealand.**
Note:
- New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so.
 - The bereavement allowance, passed unanimously in parliament late on Wednesday, gives employees three days leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth without having to tap into sick leave.

Sports News

1. The Sports Ministry has decided to extend the Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to _____ **2025-26.**

Note:

- The Sports Ministry has decided to extend the Khelo India scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Ministry has furnished an Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memorandum to the Ministry of Finance for extension/continuation of the Khelo India Scheme from 2021-22 to 2025- 26.
- An amount of Rs 657.71 crore has been allocated in the Budget Estimate (B.E.) for the year 2021-22 under the Khelo India Scheme

2. Name the Indian shooter who has won the gold medal in the men’s 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi _____ **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.**

Note:

- The 20-year-old became the youngest in history to win a shooting World Cup gold in the 3 Positions event.
- The two other Indian shooters in the final, Sanjeev Rajput finishing sixth and Niraj Kumar came at the last position.

3. With how many Gold Medal the Indian contingent emerged successful in ISSF World Cup in the Trap events _____ **15.**

Note:

- Indian trio of Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari won the gold medal in women's Trap Team event.
- India outgunned the Kazakhstan trio 6-0 in the final
- Men's Trap Team event: Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Lakshay beat the Slovakian team in the gold medal match to make it 30 medals for India in the shooting World Cup.

4. Who won the 2021 Bahrain Grand Prix also known as Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2021 _____ **Lewis Hamilton.**

Note:

- Red Bull Racing’s driver Max Verstappen (Netherlands) finished 2nd in the race, while Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished 3rd in the race.
- The victory was Hamilton’s 96th Formula One Victory.
- The Bahrain Grand Prix is the inaugural GP of the 2021 Formula One World Championship.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled “My Experiments with Silence” _____ **Samir Soni.**

Note:

- Soni’s book aims to be a personal account of his dialogues with himself during his growing-up years in Delhi, his stint at Wall Street and his time in Bollywood.
- The book will be published by OM Books International.

2. Who has authored the book titled “Wild and Wilful: Tale of 15 Iconic Indian Species” _____ **Neha Sinha.**

Note:

- The book is a collection of 15 essays each focused on an Indian species.
- Through this book Neha Sinha highlights the indicators of developed India can affect various ecologies and displaced wildlife even result in their extinction.

3. Who has authored the book titled “Name Place Animal Things” _____ **Daribha Lyndem.**

Note:

- The book is published by Zubaan Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
- The book features a young khasi woman who lives in the city of Shillong, Meghalaya in early 2000s.
- The book has interconnected stories that move through age, lives and places and covers the breadth of childhood and moves into the awareness of adulthood.

4. Who is the co-author of the autographical book “I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban” _____ **Christina Lamb.**

Note:

- It was co-written by Christina Lamb and published on 8 October 2013, by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in the UK and Little, Brown and Company in the US.
- The book details the early life of Yousafzai, the rise and fall of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and the assassination attempt made against Yousafzai, when she was aged 15, following her activism for female education.

Science and Defence

1. Who built the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vajra was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) by General Bipin Rawat in Chennai _____ **Larson & Toubro Limited**.
Note:
 - ICGS Vajra is the sixth vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015.
 - Like the five OPVs in the series, ICGS Vajra was also delivered ahead of the contractual schedule.
2. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has partnered with which institute for futuristic research orbit -something similar to the JPL- Caltech model in the United States _____ **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)**.
Note:
 - The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency is striking a partnership with the IIST -- something similar to the JPL-Caltech model in the United States.
 - JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) is federally funded by US space agency NASA and managed by Caltech (California Institute of Technology).
3. According to Global Wind Report 2021 published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), how much wind energy capacity has been installed in 2020 which was the best year in history for the global wind industry _____ **93 gigawatt (GW)**.
Note:
 - As per the report, 2020 was the best year in history for the global wind industry with 93 gigawatt (GW) of new capacity installed, which was a 53 per cent year-on-year increase.
 - According to the report titled 'Global Wind Report 2021', at present there is 743 GW of wind power capacity worldwide, helping to avoid over 1.1 billion tonnes of CO2 globally – equivalent to the annual carbon emissions of South America.
4. With which the "Operation Thiruvallur" is associated with that was launched by the Indian Army recently _____ **Disposal of unexploded ordnance**.
Note:
 - The ordnance was collected from the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Industrial Estate in Gummidipoondi, Thiruvallur district, TN.
 - Operation Thiruvallur was initiated by the Ministry of Defence on the request of Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
 - Unexploded ordnance from a metal scrap dump were successfully neutralised by the Army Bomb Disposal Team.
5. Which institution is setting up an atmospheric observatory to do research, track atmospheric problems like air pollution, and suggest solutions to mitigate pollution, erratic monsoon and extreme weather events associated with climate change _____ **IIT Delhi**.
Note:
 - The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi announced that it is setting up an atmospheric observatory to do research, track atmospheric problems like air pollution, and suggest solutions to mitigate pollution, erratic monsoon and extreme weather events associated with climate change.
 - The observatory will be established in its research campus in Sonapat at a cost of ₹125 crore.

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