

Weekly One-Liners

1-7 April 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates

1-7th April 2021

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **April** 2021. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Facebook has partnered with which entity to connect the United States of America with Southeast Asian countries through undersea cables _____ **Google**.

Note:

- At the initial stage, 2 undersea cables: Echo and Bifrost, will be connecting the US with Indonesia through a diverse sea route in the Trans-pacific region.
- Note- Facebook deploys 3000 Kms of fibre in Indonesia to develop public Wi-Fi hot spots.
- “Echo” – Constructed by Facebook in partnership with Google & XL Axiata, an Indonesian telecom company. It is expected to get completed by 2023.

- Which institution has released a report titled ‘Investment Opportunities in India’s Healthcare Sector’ that highlighted the range of investment opportunities in different segments of India’s Healthcare sector _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- The report highlights the range of investment opportunities in different segments of India’s Healthcare sector.
- Investments in the Healthcare sector are expected to reach USD 372 Billion in 2022.
- The FDI inflows in the sector increased from USD 94 million in 2011 to USD 1, 275 million in 2016 (a jump of over 13.5 times).

- Which private sector bank has collaborated with UK based business banking fintech Tide Platform Limited (Tide) to provide bank account infrastructure to Tide’s India platform, which is focused to serve mainly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) _____ **RBL Bank**.

Note:

- Tide’s first market outside the UK, is India due to its vast SME population of around 63 million, and the people’s entrepreneurial spirit.
- Gurjodhpal Singh the former vice president of PayU (Payment Service Provider) will lead Tide’s business in India.

- Which small finance bank partnered with nStore Technologies Private Limited (nStore) to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India _____ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank(Ujjivan SFB) partnered with nStore Technologies Private Limited (nStore) to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India.
- Under this collaboration, Ujjivan SFB will offer the mobile application ‘nLincs’, to its current account holders who own local businesses and enable them to sell their products online.

- Which bank has signed a loan agreement of \$1 billion with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to provide loans for the whole range of business operations of the Japanese automobile manufacturers in India _____ **State bank of India**.

Note:

- In October 2020, SBI similar \$1 billion loan agreement with JBIC. After the current loan agreement, the total loan facility is now about \$2 billion.
- The financing will assist the Government’s ‘Make in India’ initiative.
- SBI will provide the loan with refinancing for the funding support to the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers of Japanese automobiles in India.

- According to the report titled “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021” released by the UN-ESCAP, by which rate the Indian Economy will grow in financial year 2021-22 _____ **7 per cent**.

Note:

- The report has forecasted the Indian economy to grow at 7% in FY21 against a contraction of 7.7%(-7.7%) in FY20.
- It reported a “K-shaped recovery” in the economics of the Asia Pacific region, including India.

7. Which two banks have tied up to launch a New Umbrella Entity (NUE) for retail payments along with global e-commerce major Amazon and cards major Visa as their partners _____ **ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.**

Note:

- ICICI Bank and Axis Bank will be co-leading with each having a 20% stake (40%) and the other partners including Amazon, Billdesk, Pine Labs and Visa will be holding a stake of 15% each (60%)
- RBI allowed other organisations to set up umbrella entities for payments systems to create an alternate mechanism(rivalry) to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for speeding up the cashless payment.
- RBI has fixed March 31, 2021, as the deadline for making application to form NUEs.

8. According to the South Asia Economic Focus Spring update report published by the World Bank, what will be the growth rate of Indian economy in FY 2021-22 _____ **10.1%.**

Note:

- Real India GDP growth will be in the range from 7.5% to 12.5%.
- As per World Bank, government consumption is expected to rise by about 16.7% during the reported fiscal.
- Report forecast growth for the South Asia region at 7.2% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022.

9. What amount has been announced by the government to infuse in the in 4 state-owned banks in 2020-21, by issuing non-interest-bearing bonds to these banks _____ **Rs 14,500 crore.**

Note:

- Four Banks are Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank
- Recapitalisation bonds will be issued with six different maturities, and special securities will be at par for the amount as per eligible bank application
- This infusion will complete govt's total capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore in PSBs for 2020-21.

10. RBI has extended the timeline for processing recurring online transactions till _____ **September 30, 2021.**

Note:

- Prior to this, in December 2020, RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface will not be continued beyond March 31, 2021 if they do not comply with Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).

11. Who among the following represented India in the 6th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB) _____ **Nirmala Sitharaman.**

Note:

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor in New Development Bank (NDB), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through video-conference in New Delhi today.
- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.

12. The National Investment & Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL) invested Rs 2100 crore in which Hospital Group that is its first investment in the Indian healthcare sector _____ **Manipal Hospitals.**

Note:

- NIIFL will get a minority stake in Manipal Hospitals as Chairman of Manipal Education and Medical Group RanjanPai is selling a small percentage of his stake in the company.
- In January 2021 Manipal Health Enterprises Private Limited acquired the Columbia Asia Hospital.
- This investment will support Manipal Hospitals' journey of growth to become one of India's largest hospital chains.
- NIIFL manages over \$4.5 billion of equity capital commitments across three funds (master fund, fund of funds and Strategic Opportunities Fund).

13. Which bank has bought the Reliance Centre of Reliance Infrastructure Limited (RInfra) at Santacruz, Mumbai, Maharashtra for Rs.1200 crores _____ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- This sale of the office building of 21432.28 square meter plot in Santacruz is utilized to repay the debt of YES Bank.
- Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, The YES bank has issued the demand notice to Reliance Infrastructure Ltd on 6th May 2020, for non-payment of loans amounting to Rs. 2,892 crore.

14. Which digital Payment company has become the first company to cross one billion transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure _____ **PhonePe.**

Note:

- The company achieved the feat in March 2021, when the total transactions clocked around 1.3 billion on its platform, across the payment instruments offering of wallet, cards as well as UPI.
- PhonePe, which first achieved market leadership on UPI in December, last year, has seen its transaction count grow steadily, on the back of rising merchant payments.

15. Which Bank has partnered with digital payments company PhonePe for the issuance of FASTags using UPI on the PhonePe app _____ **ICIC Bank.**

Note:

- This integration allows over 280 million registered users to order and track FASTag conveniently on the app.
- PhonePe users, who may be customers of any bank, will have a fully digitised experience as they don't have to visit physical stores or toll locations to buy a FASTag. ICICI Bank is the first bank to partner with PhonePe for the issuance of FASTag.

16. According to latest World Economic Outlook report released by IMF what is India's growth projection for India _____ **12.5%.**

Note:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded its growth projection for India to 12.5% for Financial Year 2021-22 in its latest World Economic Outlook report.
- IMF projected global economy to expand 6% this year, up from the 5.5% pace estimated in January.

17. What is the new loan limit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) against the Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)/electronic-NWRs(e-NWRs) as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India _____ **Rs 75 lakh.**

Note:

- With a view to ensure greater flow of credit to the farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce, and to encourage use of NWR/eNWR issued by regulated warehouses as a preferred instrument for availing such finance by the farmers, it has been decided to enhance the PSL limit for loans against NWRs/eNWRs from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh per borrower.
- The PSL limit backed by the warehouse receipts other than NWR/eNWR will continue to be ₹50 lakh per borrower.

18. The Reserve Bank of India has enhanced the limit of maximum balance at end of the day maintained in Payments Bank from Rs 1 lakh to _____ **Rs 2.0 lakh.**

Note:

- Earlier, the limit was ₹1 lakh.
- Payments bank aims to further financial inclusion, especially through savings accounts and payments services
- The central bank introduced payments banks in the country to enhance financial inclusion.

19. What is the increased limit of the Way and Means Advances (WMA) for the State Governments/UTs as on April 2021 _____ **Rs. 47,010 crore.**

Note:

- The central bank provides this support to governments under its ways and means advances (WMA) mechanism.
- The new limit has been fixed at Rs 47,010 crore, compared with the previous Rs 32,225 crore.
- There are two types of WMA – normal and special. While normal WMA is clean advances, special WMA is secured advances provided against the pledge of government securities.

20. On the recommendation of which committee, the RBI has increased the limits for Way and Means Advances (WMA) for the State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crores (fixed in February 2016) to Rs. 47,010 crores _____ **Sudhir Shrivastava committee.**

Note:

- This represents an increase of about 46%.
- There are two types of WMA – normal and special. While normal WMA is clean advances, special WMA is secured advances provided against the pledge of government securities.
- Earlier in the month, RBI fixed the WMA limit for the central government at Rs 1,20,000 crore for the first half of the financial year 2021-22.

21. Which entity has proposed to construct and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters _____ **RBI.**

Note:

- The RBI proposes to construct and publish a Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) based on multiple parameters.
- This will be published in July every year for the financial year ending previous March.
- Over the past few years, the banking regulator has announced several measures to step up financial inclusion and reach the unbanked.

- Last year, the RBI had released the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion for India 2019-2024.

22. Which is the technical and banking partner for development of “मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल” launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar to enable traceability source of honey and other beehive products _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- This portal is being developed for online registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform.
- The technical and banking partner for development of this digital platform is Indian Bank.
- An MoU between NBB and Indian Bank was signed for this project.

23. Maruti Suzuki has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which bank to offer auto finance deals to customers _____ **Karnataka Bank.**

Note:

- Under the purview of this tie-up, people buying a Maruti Suzuki car will be able to avail this car loan offer across 858 branches of Karnataka Bank all over India.
- This partnership is aimed to make the vehicle buying journey easy and affordable for our customers. Rapid technological development and new digital consumer behaviours are determining auto sales across India.

24. Which bank has become co-promoters of Max Life Insurance Company Limited, after completion of the acquisition of 12.99% stake collectively by the bank in the company _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- The lender said that Axis Bank and its two subsidiaries—Axis Capital Limited and Axis Securities Limited – will collectively own 12.99% stake in Max Life after the consummation of the deal.
- With the conclusion of this transaction, Max Life's Board will be strengthened further, with co-option of three nominee directors of Axis Entities on its Board.

Obituaries

1. Japanese Nobel Laureates, Isamu Akasaki passed away recently, he had won the prize in which subject _____ **Physics.**

Note:

- Akasaki, a professor at the university, had been recognized for the invention which has contributed to bright and energy-saving white light sources, widely known as LED lamps.
- He was honoured in 1997 by the Japanese government with the Medal with Purple Ribbon, an honour bestowed on those who have made contributions to academic and artistic developments.

2. Renowned personality Shashikala Om Prakash Saigal passed away recently, she was veteran _____ **Actress.**

Note:

- She was featured in over 100 popular movies like Bimla, Sujata, Aarti, Anupama, Gumrah, Khubsoorat, Mujhse Shaadi Karogi and Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.
- She was awarded with Padma Shri in 2007

3. Renowned personality P Balachandran passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Malayalam Actor.**

Note:

- About 50 Malayalam film fall under his credit as an actor and screenwriter. His character in the film 'Trivandrum Lodge' was noteworthy.
- He is noted for his works like Punaradhivasam and Kammatipaadam. Punaradhivasam has won a national award and two state awards, while critically acclaimed Kammatipaadam grabbed four state awards.
- He won two major awards, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and Kerala Professional Nataka Award for his play 'Paavam Usman' in 1989.

4. Renowned politician Bhagwati Singh passed away recently, he was associated with which party _____ **Samajwadi Party.**

Note:

- A Samajwadi Party member of the Rajya Sabha from July 2004 to 2010, Bhagwati Singh joined the socialist movement following inspiration from the socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia.
- Bhagwati Singh was a member of Mulayam cabinet and later stood by Akhilesh Yadav when he was elected as the SP national president. He led the management of Chandrabhanu Gupta Agriculture College in Bakshi ka Talab.

Important Days

1. International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised every year on which date to inspire love of reading and to call attention to children's books _____ **2nd April**.
Note:
 - It was first observed in 1967 by International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)
 - Each year a different National Section of IBBY has the opportunity to be the international sponsor of ICBD and decide upon a theme.
 - IBBY United States is the sponsor for International Children's Book Day 2021.
 - Theme 2021: The Music of Words.
2. What is the theme of the World Autism Awareness Day 2021 _____ **'Recognise the Genius in Me'**.
Note:
 - It is a day that spread kindness and autism awareness.
 - Theme: 'Recognise the Genius in Me'.
 - Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder characterized by deficits in social and language communication, as well as repetitive behaviours and restricted interests.
3. The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on which date _____ **4th April**.
Note:
 - This day aims to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.
 - This year, the theme of International Mine Awareness Day is Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress. This year, the UN has laid focus to advance the work so that new partnerships can be formed.
4. International Day of Conscience is celebrated every year on which date _____ **5th April**.
Note:
 - Declared by the United Nations, this day is observed in order to self-reflect on our life and try and do the right things all the time.
 - The purpose behind this was simple.
 - People's conscience helps to act upon certain situations in the best way possible.
 - It also empowers to do better in society.
5. The International Day of Conscience is celebrated every year on which date _____ **5th April**.
Note:
 - The International Day of Conscience is a global day of awareness celebrated on April 5, commemorating the importance of the human conscience.
 - This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.
6. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed every year on which date _____ **6th April**.
Note:
 - The day as the name suggests is marked to celebrate the positive contribution of sports towards sustainable development and advancement of human rights.
 - The day came into existence after the UN General Assembly passed resolution 67/296 in 2013.
7. World Health Day is observed every year on which date _____ **7th April**.
Note:
 - World Health Day is observed every year on April 7 to create awareness of a specific health theme to highlight a priority area of concern for World Health Organization
 - Theme for World Health Day 2021: "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone"

New Appointments

1. Who takes the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) _____ **Subhash Kumar**.
Note:
 - He is presently serving as the Director (Finance) at ONGC.
 - He succeeded Shashi Shanker, who superannuated on March 31, 2021

- Subhash Kumar has over 36 years of experience in diverse activities across Exploration & Production (E&P) value chain.
2. Who has been appointed as the as the Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) _____ **Mukhmeet S. Bhatia.**
Note:
 ➤ He has worked as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
 ➤ He has also served as the Principal Secretary in Dept. of Labour & Employment and Women & Child Development in Jharkhand.
3. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) _____ **Mallika Srinivasan.**
Note:
 ➤ Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited, Mallika Srinivasan has been appointed as the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), an order issued by the personnel ministry.
 ➤ This is for the first time that a private sector specialist has been appointed as the head of the PESB, responsible for the appointment of top management posts in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
4. Who among the following has recently been appointed as the additional director of at Britannia Industries board _____ **Urjit Patel.**
Note:
 ➤ The Board of Britannia Industries has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as the Additional Director of the company.
 ➤ He has been appointed for a period of five years, in the category of Non-Executive and Independent Director.
5. Who has been appointed as the head of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit _____ **Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala.**
Note:
 ➤ Khandwawala, a 1973 batch IPS officer, has been appointed ahead of the IPL beginning April 9.
 ➤ He retired as Gujarat DGP in December 2010. After that he was an advisor to the Essar Group for 10 years.
 ➤ He has also been a part of the central government's Lokpal Search Committee, which was mandated to appoint the Lokpal.
6. Who has been appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India _____ **N V Ramana.**
Note:
 ➤ Justice Ramana will have a term till August 26th next year.
 ➤ Before his elevation to the Supreme Court on February 17th, 2014, Justice Ramana was the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
 ➤ He was born in an agricultural family in Andhra Pradesh.
7. Who has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Digit Insurance _____ **Virat Kohli.**
Note:
 ➤ Digit Insurance, a general insurance company that became the first unicorn of 2021 with a valuation of \$1.9B.
 ➤ With this association, the company aims to carry the message of 'making insurance simple' through the cricketer.
 ➤ Digit was able to get the Indian Men's Cricket Team Captain to invest in the company before he planned to become the face for the brand.
8. Who has been appointed as the new revenue secretary under the Ministry of Finance _____ **Tarun Bajaj.**
Note:
 ➤ Tarun Bajaj has been appointed as the new revenue secretary under Ministry of Finance.
 ➤ He will take additional charge of Secretary, Department of Revenue, after the superannuation of Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
9. Who has been appointed the mission director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) _____ **Chintan Vaishnav.**
Note:
 ➤ Chintan Vaishnav has been appointed as the mission director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the government's flagship initiative under NITI Aayog.
 ➤ He will succeed Ramanathan Ramanan.
10. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI _____ **S Ramann.**
Note:
 ➤ The appointment is for a period of three years from the date of his assuming the charge or until further orders.

- Ramann, a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer, is currently the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd, India's first Information Utility.

11. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) _____
Poonam Gupta.

Note:

- Gupta will succeed the current head of the think tank, Shekhar Shah, to become the first woman to hold the post.
- Prior to joining the World Bank in 2013, Gupta was the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at NIPFP, and a Professor of Macroeconomics at ICRER.

Important News – India

1. What is India's rank in the in the Global Gender Gap index 2021 among 156 countries, released by World Economic Forum _____ **140th.**

Note:

- India was ranked 112th among 153 countries in 2020
- India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- Iceland has topped the index for 12th time, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland
- Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 is 15th edition of the annual publication by WEF

2. Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya, virtually flagged off the Cruise Ship service between Hazira Port of Surat and _____ **Diu.**

Note:

- Between 2014 to 2020, Cruise calls at Indian Ports have increased from 139 calls with around 1 lakh passengers to 450 calls with over 4.5 lakh passengers.
- Indian Govt. is planning for 6 International Cruise Terminals

3. India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 megawatt is expected to become operational in which state _____ **Telangana.**

Note:

- The project has been set up by the energy conglomerate National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the reservoir of its thermal power plant at Ramagundam, Peddapalli district.
- The solar photo-voltaic project, spread over 450 acres, will have 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels and it can be expanded in the future.

4. Which Institution has won the number one rank in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020 also known as Shanghai Ranking _____ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc).**

Note:

- As per the ARWU Ranking 2020 of top institutions in India, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) was on the number one rank while the University of Calcutta was on the third spot among all premier higher educational institutions in the country.
- Calcutta University has secured first place among Indian universities and third position among top higher educational institutions in the country in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.

5. Spices Board India is under administrative control of which ministry that has signed an MoU with UNDP India's Accelerator Lab to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade _____ **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Note:

- Blockchain is a decentralized process of recording transactions on an open and shared electronic ledger.
- This allows for ease and transparency in data management across a complex network, including, farmers, brokers, distributors, processors, retailers, regulators, and consumers, thus simplifying the supply chain.

6. Whose birth anniversary has been declared as a public holiday 2021, under Section 25 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 _____ **Dr BR Ambedkar.**

Note:

- As per an official order of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Central government offices, Industrial Establishments throughout the country will also remain closed on the 14th April
- BR Ambedkar inspired Dalit Buddhist movement and was independent India's first Minister of Law and Justice.

7. Name the initiative jointly launched by the Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities _____ **Anamaya**.

Note:

- A multi-stakeholder initiative supported by Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Anamaya' will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.

8. Who has launched the “मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल” and Honey Corners of NAFED to enable traceability source of honey and other beehive products _____ **Narendra Singh Tomar**.

Note:

- “मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल” is an initiative of National Bee Board (NBB), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM).
- This portal is being developed for online registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform.
- The technical and banking partner for development of this digital platform is Indian Bank.

9. Who among the following partnered with Mahindra Logistics Limited (MLL) for fast-track deployment of electric vehicles across its logistics fleet _____ **Flipkart**.

Note:

- The partnership is made for fast-track deployment of electric vehicles across its logistics fleet in the country.
- Both the entities will develop a conducive environment for EV deployment and operations in India.
- They will jointly develop supportive infrastructure and technology like charging stations and parking lots, training workforce, route planning and battery swapping stations.

Important News – State

1. Mati Festival is celebrated in which part of India _____ **Purvanchal**.

Note:

- The first edition of the Purvanchal Festival 'Maati' took place in 2018 with the objective of promoting folk art and melody, traditional food, literature, ethnic culture and tourism of the culturally rich Purvanchal (Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda, Azamgarh, Mirzapur and Prayag divisions and entire Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh).

2. Which becomes the first state to commission India's first Farm-based Solar Power Project under the PM-KUSUM scheme _____ **Rajasthan**.

Note:

- It has a capacity of 1 megawatt and is spread over on 3.5-acre semi-barren land.
- It has been developed at an investment of nearly INR 3.7 Crore.
- The power generated by the project will be purchased by Rajasthan VidhyutVitran Nigam Ltd (at the rate of INR 3.14 per unit).

3. Which becomes the first state in India to provide health insurance of up to INR 5 Lakh to each Family every year under Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana _____ **Rajasthan**.

Note:

- With this launch, Rajasthan became the 1st State in India to provide health insurance of up to INR 5 Lakh to each Family every year.
- The announcement of the Health Insurance Scheme was made during the presentation of the State Budget for the FY 2021-22.
- The Scheme is worth INR 3, 500 Crore.

4. The World Bank has approved a USD 32 Million (Rs. 234.80 Crores) for the improvement of healthcare system in which state _____ **Mizoram**.

Note:

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a USD 32 Million (~INR 234.80 Crores) Project titled 'Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project' for improving management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.
 - The project will help Mizoram to improve quality certification at health facilities, enhance human resources, improve health insurance and other innovations.
5. The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved the loan for the 300 Million USD (around Rs.2190 crore) canal-based drinking water project in which state _____ **Punjab.**
- Note:**
- The World Bank(WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved the loan for the 300 Million USD (around Rs.2190 crore) canal-based drinking water project in Punjab.
 - The entire project will be co-financed by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of World Bank (USD 105 million), AIIB (USD 105 million) and the Government of Punjab (USD 90 million).
6. Which state emerge as the highest contributor to the small savings schemes such as NSC and PPF _____ **West Bengal.**
- Note:**
- It is followed by Uttar Pradesh, the largest state in terms of population, with gross collection of Rs 69,660.70 crore out of the Rs 5.96 lakh crore garnered during 2017-18 (last updated), as per data collated by the National Savings Institute under the finance ministry.
 - The rate of interest on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of 2021-22 starting from April 1 and ending on June 30, 2021 would remain unchanged from those notified for the fourth quarter (January 1 to March 31, 2021) of 2020-21.
7. Amboli is located in which state in Western ghats that has been declared as a biodiversity heritage site recently _____ **Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- This biodiversity site has discovered a rare freshwater fish species Schistura Hiranyakeshi
 - Earlier, Glory of Allapalli in Gadchiroli district, Landor Khori Park in Jalgaon, Ganesh Khind in Pune, myristica swamp vegetation in Sindhudurg district has been declared biodiversity heritage sites.
 - Biodiversity Heritage Sites are notified areas of biodiversity importance in India.
8. Which state government has launched a unique gift scheme to promote Covid vaccination in the state _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- UP govt will conduct a lucky draw for those who have taken the vaccine on World Health Day on 7th April
 - Districts with more than 25,000 beneficiaries with doses of vaccine, will be eligible for this gift scheme
 - 4 gifts will be given to the beneficiaries after lucky draw.
9. Which international organisation is financing Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project _____ **World Bank.**
- Note:**
- Government of Mizoram is implementing Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.
 - World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$32 million Project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram.

Important News – World

1. First ever World Immunisation & Logistics Summit 2021 held in which city of the world _____ **Abu Dhabi, UAE.**
- Note:**
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare of India virtually participated in a final panel discussion on 'Focus on Asia: Vaccine production and distribution across Asia'.
 - Abu Dhabi launches The Hope Consortium launched by Department of Health ,Abu Dhabi for full global vaccine distribution.

2. Longi Green Energy Technology Co, the world's biggest solar energy company belong to which country that is entering in to the hydrogen market _____ **China**.
Note:
 - China's Longi Green Energy Technology Co., the world's biggest solar company, is entering the hydrogen market
 - This is mainly because hydrogen is a carbon-free fuel that can be produced by electrolysis of water and then stored and transported and used in every possible machinery such as cars to electrical generators to steel mills.
 - The firm, which manufactures wafers, cells and panels, is the world's largest solar company by market capitalization, at about \$52 billion.
3. Which becomes the first country in the world to adopt Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), an advanced disease surveillance system _____ **India**.
Note:
 - Expressing his enthusiasm at the brave, futuristic and pertinent amalgamation of healthcare and technology.
 - India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system.
 - He pointed out that the new version of IHIP will house the data entry and management for India's disease surveillance program.
4. Vjosa Osmani has been elected as the new president of which country _____ **Kosovo**.
Note:
 - While 82 deputies participated in the vote in the 120-member parliament, 11 votes were declared invalid.
 - The 38-year-old politician studied law at the University of Pristina in Kosovo and earned a doctorate from Pittsburgh University in the US.
5. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country in areas of atmospheric science and technology that was approved by the Union Cabinet _____ **Japan**.
Note:
 - The pact was signed between National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) and Department of Space and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University for academic and research cooperation and exchange in November 2020.
 - The agreement would lead to mutual utilisation of facilities such as the Middle and Upper atmosphere (MU) radar in Shigaraki, Japan, the Equatorial Atmosphere Radar (EAR) in Kototabang, Indonesia and complementary instruments available from RISH, and the Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere (MST) radar and complementary instruments available at NARL.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2020 by the KK Birla Foundation _____ **Dr. Sharankumar Limbale**.
Note:
 - The Saraswati Samman 2020 marks the 30th Saraswati Samman.
 - The book – Sanatan, features the story of socio-cultural struggles of the untouchables.
 - The Saraswati Samman is an annual award instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
 - It is one of the highest literary awards in India.
2. Who will be conferred with the he prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 _____ **Rajinikanth**.
Note:
 - India's highest honour in cinema
 - Presented by: Directorate of Film Festivals
 - It is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, who is revered as the father of Indian cinema
 - It was instituted in 1969.
 - The recipient receives a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
3. Which novel has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction _____ **Hamnet**.
Note:
 - Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet has been conferred with National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction
 - Hamnet: Well-timed story for the current pandemic, explores the impact of the boy's illness and death on his family. He was Shakespeare's only son.
4. Who has been conferred with the Kalinga Ratna Samman for the year 2021 _____ **Biswabhusan Harichandan**.
Note:
 - It was given by M. Venkaiah Naidu during 600th Birth Anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das and 40th celebrations of Sarala Sahitya Sansad

- The award carried a silver statue of Goddess Saraswati and a copper plaque
 - Sarala Das was an excellent literary genius of 15th century who is well known as Adi Kavi, who contributed to epic literary works in Odia.
5. Who has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the “Nobel Prize of computing” _____ **Alfred V. Aho**.
- Note:**
- Lawrence Gussman Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, Alfred V. Aho has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the “Nobel Prize of computing.” Aho shares the award with his long-time collaborator Jeffrey David Ullman.
 - Aho and Ullman began working together at Bell Labs in 1967 and their early efforts included developing efficient algorithms for analyzing and translating programming languages.
6. Who has topped Forbes’ annual world’s billionaires list 2021 _____ **Jeff Bezos**.
- Note:**
- Jeff Bezos has topped the Forbes’ annual world’s billionaires list 2021 for the fourth consecutive year.
 - India’s richest billionaire Mukesh Ambani ranked at 10th position with total net worth of \$ 84.5 billion.
 - Elon Musk stood second, followed by Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg
7. Who has been selected for 2021 GD Birla Award for Scientific Research _____ **Suman Chakraborty**.
- Note:**
- Suman Chakraborty has been selected for 2021 GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
 - He is a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, has been chosen for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare

Sports News

1. Which country will host the 2023 men's boxing World Championships _____ **Uzbekistan**.
- Note:**
- Tashkent is awarded the 2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan
 - 22nd edition of the competition will be the first time when Uzbekistan will be hosting it.
 - Uzbekistan is one of the most active members of the International Boxing Association, we have rich boxing history.
2. Who became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics after she was assured of a top-place finish in the laser radial event of the Asian Qualifiers in Oman _____ **Nethra Kumanan**.
- Note:**
- The 23-year-old Kumanan has a 21-point advantage over her nearest rival, who also happens to be an Indian -- Ramya Saravanan -- in the Laser Radial Class event with one race to go.
 - The Chennai-based Kumanan currently has 18 points while Saravanan has 39 on the penultimate day of competitions in Mussanah Open Championship, which is a joint Asian and African Olympic qualifying event.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored book titled ‘Names of the Women’ _____ **Jeet Thayil**.
- Note:**
- This book depicts extraordinary reimagining of the New Testament from the points of view of the women who became the disciples of Jesus Christ - and whose roles have been erased from the Gospels
 - Jeet Thayil: Renowned author, best known for his book ‘Narcopolis’ which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.
2. Who has authored the book titled ‘Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life’ _____ **Nitin Gokhale**.
- Note:**
- The book is published by Bloomsbury.

- It is an attempt to capture Parrikar's persona — the man, the politician and the patriot. Gokhale is a renowned author, media trainer and founder of a specialised defence related website BharatShakti.in. and StratNewsGlobal.com.
3. Who has authored the book titled "Suparipalana" released by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu _____
Shailendra Kumar Joshi.
- Note:**
- M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India released the book "Suparipalana" authored by Dr Shailendra Kumar Joshi(SK Joshi), the former Chief Secretary of Telangana.
 - This is the Telugu translation of SK Joshi's book "Echo T Calling: Towards People Centric Governance".
 - The book was translated by AnnavarapuBrahmaiah and published by Maruthi.

Science and Defence

1. The 11th Edition of the India-US Special Forces Exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2021' was conducted in which state of India _____
Himachal Pradesh.
- Note:**
- The main objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of the two countries.
 - Vajra Prahar is conducted alternatively between India & US to share best practices & experiences in areas like Joint Mission Planning & Operational Tactics.
2. Multinational Military Exercise titled 'SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021' was held in which country _____
Bangladesh.
- Note:**
- It will be held from April 4 to 12, 2021
 - Theme: Robust Peace Keeping Operations
 - It is being held to commemorate birth centenary of Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman
 - Other participants: Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
3. DRDO's which establishment has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard naval ships against missile attack _____
Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur.
- Note:**
- Chaff is a passive expendable electronic countermeasure technology used worldwide to protect naval ships from enemy's radar and Radio Frequency (RF) missile seekers.
 - Defence Laboratory Jodhpur, a DRDO laboratory, has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology — Short Range Chaff Rocket, Medium Range Chaff Rocket and Long Range Chaff Rocket — meeting Indian Navy's qualitative requirements. The development of Advanced Chaff Technology by DRDO lab is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
4. Which of the following is not the part of Military Exercise La Pérouse _____
Russia.
- Note:**
- Participants: Indian Navy, French Navy (FN), Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and United States Navy (USN)
 - It will be held for three day exercise and is being conducted in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region.

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