

SSC & Railway Bi-weekly Current Affairs (16 - 30 April)



Bi-weekly One Liners Updates 16-30th April 2021

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of April 2021. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** 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).

15. The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Ltd has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with which another housing finance company _____ **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.**

Note:

- The loans under the program will be in the funding ratio of 80:20 in which 80% of the loan is with HDFC's books and 20% with Indiabulls HFL's books).
- Indiabulls will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan and it holds 20% of the credit risk by way of direct exposure.

16. Which bank has decided to withdraw its banking services from India just within a week of Citi banks exit _____

FirstRand Bank.

Note:

- It is the second largest bank in South Africa.
- FirstRand had started its banking service in India in late 2009 but it started lending to individual customers and small and medium enterprises only in 2012.
- The bank has its only office in Mumbai and acts as a branch of FirstRand Bank South Africa.

17. In Partnership with which two banks the Aceware FinTech Services launched Kerala's first neobank called Ace Money Neobank _____ **YES Bank and ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- Under Ace Money, the start-ups, merchants, and enterprise entities can open present accounts, in line with the corporate
- Chqbook is India's first Neobank for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships.

18. Which bank has appointed Ernst & Young Global Limited, a multinational professional services network as its digital consultant _____ **Indian Overseas Bank.**

Note:

- This partnership is a part of IOB's growth strategy to transform its banking services into Digital format.
- The aim of the partnership is to increase IOB's digital share in the market and to attract millennial customers.
- The Digital consultant will support IOB to focus on utilizing and adopting the new technologies and enhance its service quality and delivery to its customers.

19. Which bank has acquired 9 per cent equity stake in Techfino Capital Private Limited (TCPL), a non-banking financial company (NBFC) _____ **DCB Bank.**

Note:

- TCPL provides customized consumer loans in the education and healthcare sectors and is present in key metros and tier-II cities across India
- The funds raised by TCPL will be used in the enhancement of its current Tech Stack, apart from on-lending to customers.

20. Which Indian IT company has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider Digital OnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments _____ **Tech Mahindra**.

Note:

- IT major Tech Mahindra has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider DigitalOnUS for \$120 million, including retention bonus and earnout payments.
- The acquisition will strengthen Tech Mahindra's cloud-native development, hybrid cloud infrastructure and site reliability engineering automation. The transaction is expected to close by May 15.

21. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restricted which foreign entity from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1, 2021, due to the non-compliance with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data _____ **American Express Banking Corp & Diners Club International Ltd.**

Note:

- American Express and Diners Club are authorized to operate card networks in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).
- In April 2018, RBI has made certain regulation under PSS Act for the storage of payment system data to payment system providers such as,
- Directed to store all the data related to payment systems (full end-to-end transaction details/information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction) in a system only in India (within October 2018).

22. As per the RBI what should be the maximum tenure for the post of MD & CEO or Whole Time Director in banks, including private sector banks, small finance banks (SFBs) and wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks _____ **15 years**.

Note:

- As per the regulator, the post of MD & CEO or WTD (whole time director) can't be held by same incumbent for more than 15 years.
- The post of the MD & CEO or WTD cannot be held by the same incumbent for more than 15 years.
- Thereafter, the individual will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a minimum gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions

23. In April 2021, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of which cooperative bank _____ **Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited**.

Note:

- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.
- According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.

24. Which e-commerce payment platform has launched a new video-based wealth community called Wealth Community _____ **Paytm**.

Note:

- Paytm Wealth Community is an investing community based on video, and "will enable users to attend live sessions conducted by subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, and Personal Finance.

25. In association with which company the BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has launched ConQR - on Card solution to offer an easy payment solution for cardholders _____ **MasterCard**.

Note:

- This solution uses a Mastercard patented technology which enables cardholders/SMEs to accept cashless payments using their cards.
- By doing so, QR on card makes payments more flexible and empowers cardholders (mainly small merchants) to spend and earn on the same card.

26. Which Public sector bank has entered into pact with Chennai-based angel investment group 'The Chennai Angles' for financing start-ups under the bank's loan product Ind Spring Board _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Under this project, Indian Bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities up to ₹50 crore for working capital needs and also fund term-loan requirements for acquiring fixed assets for their units.

27. The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Limited based in which state _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakhs from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.
- According to the regulator, the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in the full and public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.

28. Axis Direct – the flagship brand of Axis Securities, a fully-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank has launched evolutionary mobile app- 'Axis Direct RING' to facilitate which type of investment _____ **Stock Market.**

Note:

- RING is built on the latest Technology Stack above a robust Order Management and Risk Management system.
- RING technology scans over 25,000 stock market instruments in real-time and identifies opportunities for you to invest.

29. The CII- Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has set a target to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by which year _____ **2050.**

Note:

- As part of this mission, more than 250 leading organisations from Indian building sector have committed to achieve Net Zero status for their new and existing buildings.
- CII demonstrated India's first platinum-rated green building – CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre at Hyderabad in the year 2004, which triggered the green building movement in India.

30. According to Asian Development Outlook, 2021 released by the Asian Development Bank what will be the growth rate of Indian Economy in the current fiscal year (2021-22) _____ **11 percent.**

Note:

- For FY2022, India's GDP is expected to expand at 7%.
- Further, it said the gross domestic product (GDP) of South Asia is expected to rebound to 9.5% this year, following a contraction of 6% in 2020, before moderating to 6.6% next year (2022).

31. How much capital has been infused in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) through issue of equity shares by the Government of India _____ **Rs 200 crore.**

Note:

- After the capital infusion, the government's holding in IFCI was increased from 61.02 per cent to 63.8 per cent.
- In the budget of FY21, the government had committed for funding Rs 200 crore to IFCI.
- In March 2020 also, the government infused Rs 200 crore.

32. According to the Annual Report of Asian Development Bank (ADB) released in April 2021, what amount ADB had provided to India in supporting the response to tackle covid-19 _____ **\$1.5 billion.**

Note:

- The \$1.5 billion financing to India is a part of the ADB's \$16.1 billion pandemic response in 2020 through a \$20 billion assistance package announced by ADB in April 2020 to help its 26 member countries in managing the pandemic.

- In 2020, ADB has committed to provide \$31.6 billion to help Asia and the Pacific to tackle Covid-19 outbreak and to support a green, sustainable recovery from the pandemic and address long term development challenges.
33. Which Bank has launched a digital and contactless banking platform, especially for retail merchants named as 'Merchant Stack' _____ **ICICI Bank**.
- Note:**
- The service, christened 'merchant stack', is targeted at the over 2 crore retail merchants in the country to render banking services digitally.
 - The banking services under Merchant Stack will include zero-balance current account, instant credit facilities, 'digital store management' facility, loyalty programme, and value-added services like alliances with e-commerce and digital marketing platforms.
34. Which bank has emerged as the top arranger of corporate bond deals in 2020-21 (FY21) _____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- However, for the last quarter of FY21, i.e January- March 2021, Axis Bank was the top arranger of corporate bond deals while HDFC was second in the last quarter.
 - Axis Bank managed 16 deals worth Rs. 106.6 billion while HDFC Bank had 19 deals worth around Rs 70.4 billion.
35. Which bank has approved the reclassification of New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) from promoter category to public category investor _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- As of April 22, 2021, 0.67 per cent of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the Axis bank was held by NIACL.
 - The approval of the stock exchanges, statutory/regulatory authorities and shareholders of the bank are also subjected to reclassification.
36. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide telecom services to the bank at a competitive rate _____ **Indian Bank**.
- Note:**
- The MoU was signed in the presence of the executive director of Indian Bank and chief general manager of BSNL Chennai Telephones.
 - Indian bank already uses the service of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) for the Wide Area Network (WAN) across India.
37. By which year the IT major Wipro has announced its plan to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions _____ **2040**.
- Note:**
- The targets fixed by the company are in accordance with the Paris Agreement's objective to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the globally accepted Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

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.
10. Renowned personality Sankha Ghosh passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Poet**.
- Note:**

- Ghosh was one of most important names in Bengali poetry and, together with Shakti Chattopadhyay, Alokranjan Dasgupta and Sunil Gangopadhyay, was said to have carried on the baton from the poets of the early part of the 20th century, such as Jibanananda Das and Buddhadev Basu.
- He was awarded the Jnanpith Award in 2016 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011.
- Considered an authority on Tagore, Ghosh was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for his poetry collection Babarer Prarthana.

11. Famous sportsperson Suhas Kulkarni was associated with which sports who passed away recently _____ **Table Tennis.**

Note:

- After his retirement from active sports he contributed to the sport as a Coach.
- He has played in the Masters Table Tennis Tournaments at National and International level.
- He won the national Masters TT Championship 2019 held in Indore.

12. Padma Bhushan awardee Rajan Mishra passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **classical singer.**

Note:

- Rajan Mishra was a famous classical singer from 'Banaras Gharana' of India.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of art in 2007.
- Their proclaimed works include 'Bhairav Se Bhairavi Tak', 'Bhaktimala', 'Durgati Nashini Durga', 'Aarti kijai hanuman lala ki', and more.

13. National award winner Waman Bhonsle passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **Film Editor.**

Note:

- He won the best editing award at the 25th National Film award for "Inkaar".
- In his four-decade-long career, he worked with several noted filmmakers including Subhash Ghai, Shekar Kapur, Mahesh Bhatt, Gulzaar, Raj Sippy, Anil Ganguly, Sunil Dutt, others.

14. Renowned personality Jagdish Khattar passed away recently, he was former Managing Director of which vehicle manufacturer _____ **Maruti Suzuki.**

Note:

- Khattar (79), a former bureaucrat, was considered as one of the most high profile leaders of the Indian automotive industry, laying the foundation for Maruti's future growth after the government began its disinvestment in 2002 and gradually exited from its joint venture with Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).
- He had joined the then Maruti Udyog Ltd in July 1993 as director (marketing) and went on to become executive director (marketing) in the next six years.

15. Renowned personality Krishnamurthy Santhanam passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **Nuclear scientist.**

Note:

- He was deeply associated with DRDO, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA).
- Santhanam was the field director of Defence Research and Development Organization during the tests of Pokhran-II.
- He was awarded with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award, in 1999 by the Government of India.

16. Renowned personality and Padma Shri awardee Manzoor Ahtesham passed away recently he was a veteran _____

Hindi litterateur.

Note:

- Incidentally, Ahtesham's first story was titled "Ramzan Ki Maut" and he died in the holy month currently underway.

17. Renowned personality Michael Collins passed away recently; he was a famous _____ **Astronaut.**

Note:

- He stayed behind in the command module of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969, while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin traveled to the lunar surface to become the first humans to walk on the moon.
- Often described as the "forgotten" third astronaut on the historic mission, Collins remained alone for more than 21 hours until his two colleagues returned in the lunar module.

18. Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee Manoj Das passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **writer.**

Note:

- Manoj Das was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education.
- He was teaching English Literature and the Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo at the Sri Aurobindo International University.

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.

7. What is the theme of the International Mother Earth Day 2021 _____ **Restore Our Earth.**

Note:

- Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day is observed globally on 22 April every year.
- The Day will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth's wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection.
- World Earth Day 2021 will mark the 51st Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970.

8. World Book Copyrights Day is celebrated every year on which date by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) _____ **23rd April.**

Note:

- As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day 2021, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.
- The first World Book and Copyrights Day was celebrated in 1995.
- The UNESCO decided to celebrate the World Book and Copyrights Day on April 23 to commemorate the death anniversary of William Shakespeare.
- As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.

9. The World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on which date _____ **26th April.**

Note:

- The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.
- The day is dedicated to the Small and medium-sized enterprises.
- SMEs account for 90% of all companies worldwide and 70% of global employment that's why World IP Day 2021 is carrying the theme "IP and SMEs: Taking your ideas to market."

10. The International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on which date to highlight the importance of jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people in all corners of the globe _____ **30th April.**

Note:

- The 2021 celebration marks the 10th Anniversary of International Jazz Day. The day was created on the idea of jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock.
- The musical form of Jazz was developed by African Americans.
- It was influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It originated in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

11. Ayushman Bharat Diwas is observed every year on which date _____ **30th April.**

Note:

- On that day in 2018 Ayushman Bharat Yojna was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide healthcare benefits to crores of Indians who can't afford proper medical facilities.
- The flagship scheme of the Narendra Modi government was launched along the lines of a universal health coverage to meet one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations - "leave no one behind."
- The Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2021 Theme is "Seva Bhi – Rozgar Bhi".

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.
- Devdutt Padikkal(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.

8. Who has been appointed as External Auditor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a three-year term starting 2021 _____ **Girish Chandra Murmu.**

Note:

- The appointment was made during an election process held at the OPCW Conference of State Parties held on April 21, 2021.
- India was also selected as a member of the Executive council of the OPCW representing the Asia group for another 2-year term.

- It is an intergovernmental organisation and Implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29th April 1997.
9. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) for a term of five years _____ **Arun Raste**.
- Note:**
- He succeeded Vijay Kumar.
 - Arun Raste is currently working as an executive director in National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
 - He has also worked in organisations like IDFC First Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NABARD, ACC Cement, and a non-profit NGO IRFT.
10. Who became the first women to appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) _____ **Rekha M Menon**.
- Note:**
- Accenture India's chairperson, Rekha M Menon has been appointed as chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), becoming the first woman to take the top role in the software lobby group's 30-year history.
 - She succeeds U B Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys as Nasscom's chairperson. TCS President Krishnan Ramanujam will be the vice-chairperson.
11. Who has been appointed as the part-time chairman and additional independent director of the private sector lender HDFC Bank _____ **Atanu Chakraborty**.
- Note:**
- He retired as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he served as Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
 - Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, has been appointed for a period of three years with effect from May 5, 2021 or the date of his taking charge, whichever is later.
12. Who has been appointed as the new finance secretary of India whose appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet _____ **TV Somanathan**.
- Note:**
- He is a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.
 - The senior-most officer among all secretaries in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.
13. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Earth Movers Limited, (BEML) _____ **Amit Banerjee**.
- Note:**
- The PESB announced on meeting held on April 26, 2021. Currently, he is serving as Director (Rail & Metro), BEML Limited.
 - In his professional career spanning over three decades in BEML, Shri Banerjee has worked in R&D and manufacturing functions.
14. Name the Indian cricketers who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Japanese Sportswear brand ASICS _____ **Ravindra Jadeja**.
- Note:**
- ASICS focuses on sporting gear for the running category.
 - ASICS has been working with young and fresh athletic talent across various genres of sports.
 - In India, ASICS is promoted by actor Tiger Shroff. In Asia, ASICS currently has over 55 stores across India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
15. Amitabh Chaudhry has been reappointed as Managing Director and CEO of which bank for three years with effect from January 1, 2022 _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**

- The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders of the bank, the filing added.
- Chaudhry was appointed as Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Axis Bank for a period of three years, with effect from January 1, 2019 up to December 31, 2021.

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.
10. What is India’s rank in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects _____ **87th**.
- Note:**
- The report was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - The report, prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI.
 - The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. “China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.
11. Who represented Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021 _____ **Arvind Kejriwal**.
- Note:**
- It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York.
 - The WCCF 2021 Forum was hosted by London.
 - The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by each member City annually.
 - The theme of WCCF 2021 is “The Future of Culture”.
12. The Indian Air Force Commanders Conference 2021 took place in New Delhi, what was the theme of the conference _____ **Reorienting for the Future**.
- Note:**
- The theme of the conference was – ‘Reorienting for the Future’.

- Other subjects of discussions were identifying challenges across all threat domains, incorporation of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence & 5G into the service.
13. Which became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021 _____ **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu.**
- Note:**
- Apart from Amrita Vishwa University, two Indian Universities namely Karnataka-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research and Punjab-based Lovely Professional University were ranked in the list with a place in the 100-200 grouping.
 - At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.
14. With Which IIT the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set-up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development in the institute _____ **IIT Khargpur.**
- Note:**
- The centre will act as an incubation hub for creation & development of technological products.
 - The Accelerator Centre will act similar to Central govt's "ASHA-India initiative".
 - About Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA):
 - Minister of State Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)- Hardeep Singh Puri.
15. Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of Indian Air Force (IAF), Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria recently visited to which country _____ **France.**
- Note:**
- During his visit he flagged off four Rafale aircraft for India.
 - During his visit to France, he flagged off the four Rafale fighter jets for India from a Merignac airbase in France.
 - These jets once inducted into service will complete the first Rafale squadron No. 17 Golden Arrows based at Ambala.
 - The next(2nd) squadron will be based in Hasimara air base in West Bengal.
16. What is India's rank in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes _____ **49th.**
- Note:**
- The Chandler Good Government Index shows the importance of measuring and investing in governance capabilities that matter.
 - It highlights a key need for 'pracademics' in government - people who combine a rigorous understanding of research and data with a practical and grounded sense of what governments need to do to succeed.
 - Finland has topped the CGGI list, in which each country is measured across over 50 open data points.
17. Which becomes the fourth country with which India has decided to hold '2+2 ministerial dialogue' between foreign, defence ministers _____ **Russia.**
- Note:**
- 2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.
 - It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country.
18. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has certified around 14, 491 Hectares of land as 'Organic Area' under the 'Large Area Certification (LAC)' scheme in _____ **Car Nicobar and Nancowry Islands.**

Note:

- It became the 1st large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification.
- LAC is a certification programme under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (DAC&FW) flagship scheme 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)'.
- The organic certification will help farmers in getting direct access to the emerging organic food market of the country.

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.
7. Which state government has signed an MoU with Microsoft Corporation to offer skill development training to around 1.6 lakh students and unemployed youths across more than 300 colleges and skill development centres _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- This is the biggest and first of its kind initiative by a state government to cover all the graduates of the state.
 - Microsoft will collaborate with the Higher Education department to provide scalable skilling experience which includes, access to the 40 courses and certifications on Microsoft's learning resource centre, Microsoft Learn.
8. With which state the Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed its first solar power purchase agreement for the sale of 100 Mw solar power with a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 25 years _____ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- CIL entered into a PPA and supply the 100 Mw power generated to GUVNL within 18 months with a capital investment of Rs 442 crore.
 - The 100 MW project will be executed through a Solar EPC Contractor (engineering, procurement, and construction).
 - CIL plans for 3,000 Mw of solar power generation by 2024 and it plans to invest nearly Rs13,500 crore in solar power projects through the company's internal resources, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), and bank loans.
9. Which state government has launched 'Covid Emergency Loan Scheme' for new and old entrepreneurs supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical facilities to Covid-19 patients _____ **Haryana**.
- Note:**
- For this, the State Government has set up a fund of Rs 500 crore.
 - Under the scheme, Haryana Government will help businessmen, presently working in the state, to increase their current production or to set up new units to meet various requirements to tackle Covid-19 pandemic.
10. Which state government has approved 'HARIHAR Scheme' under which a job will be provided to abandoned, surrendered children and turned 18-year-old while living in child-care institutions _____ **Haryana**.
- Note:**
- The children abandoned when below 5 years of age and surrendered before turning one-year-old will be eligible for benefits of HARIHAR initiative of the Haryana government. Under the policy, eligible children will get benefits of education, employment, and financial support.
 - The policy provides for free schooling, higher education, technical education, skill development and industrial training, apart from financial assistance up to the age of 25 years or marriage, whichever is earlier, and one-time interest-free loan for buying a house in Haryana.
11. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has established a 'Water Sports and Adventure Institute (WSAI)' in which state _____ **Uttarakhand**.

Note:

- The institute was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat along with Union Minister of State for Sports Kiren Rijju.
- The Mountaineering and Skiing Institute of ITBP at Auli, will independently run this institution.

12. Which state government announced to appoint oxygen nurses to curb wastage of oxygen at hospitals _____

Maharashtra.

Note:

- The primary job of an oxygen nurse is to monitor the requirement of oxygen every 2-4 hours round the clock, its use among patients and to ensure minimum wastage.
- Instruction has been issued to all government medical colleges and hospitals to set up a dedicated team of nurses.

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.

9. Which country ranked at first position in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects _____ **Sweden.**

Note:

- The report has been prepared in collaboration with Accenture, also draws on insights from ETI.
- The top 10 countries in the index are Western and Northern European countries, with Sweden in the first place, followed by Norway and Denmark. "China (68) and India (87), which collectively account for a third of global energy demand, have both made strong improvements over the past decade, despite coal continuing to play a significant role in their energy mix.

10. Which city has been selected as the World Book Capital for 2021 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) _____ **Tbilisi, Georgia.**

Note:

- As per UNESCO, the city of Tbilisi in Georgia was selected as the World Book Capital for 2021.
- World Book Day is celebrated by UNESCO on April 23, every year.
- As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day 2021, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.

11. The 6th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will be convened in which city from 22 – 24 February 2022 _____ **Toulouse, France.**

Note:

- The 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines was held virtually from 20th April to 22nd April 2021.
- It was attended by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).
- The forum is convened by Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) & TuBerculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).

12. Which city hosted the World Cities Cultural Forum (WCCF) 2021 _____ **London.**

Note:

- It is a forum of 40 top cities of world including London, Tokyo and New York.
- The WCCF is an annual summit attended by the deputy mayors for culture and heads of culture from the member cities & it will be hosted by each member City annually.
- The theme of WCCF 2021 is “The Future of Culture”.

13. For how much time in row Norway tops in the World Press Freedom Index 2021 released by international journalism not-for-profit body Reporters Without Borders _____ **5th time.**

Note:

- The index was topped by Norway for the 5th time in a row followed by Finland & Sweden.
- India with a score of 46.56 ranked at 142nd Rank. Also, in 2020 India was ranked at 142nd.
- India has been classified as a country with a 'bad' environment for Press Freedom, it shared the classification with Brazil, Mexico & Russia.

14. Which University finds top position in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021 _____ **University of Manchester, UK.**

Note:

- At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World's Top 100 Educational Institutions for sustainability.
- It was ranked 81st (overall ranking) in the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021.

15. Which of the following is not a member country of 'Net Zero Producers Forum' being set up to support implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change _____ **India.**

Note:

- Saudi Arabia decided to join the forum.
- Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest crude exporter.
- SA aims to reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030.

- U.S President Joe Biden unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels at the start of a two-day climate summit kicked off on Earth Day and attended virtually by leaders of 40 countries including big emitters China, India and Russia.

16. Which country will build World's most powerful weather, climate-change forecasting supercomputer ____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- Likely to be operational in 2022, the supercomputer will provide accurate warnings on severe weather and help protect from impact of increasingly extreme storms, floods and snow in the UK.
- In February 2020, the UK government had announced funding of £1.2 billion (about ₹12,400 crore) to develop this supercomputer, which is expected to be one of the top 25 supercomputers in the world.

17. Which organization has released the report, "Gender Bias & Inclusion in Advertising in India" that analyzed Indian Women's position in Televisions & Advertisements ____ **UNICEF.**

Note:

- The research conducted by UNICEF with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media measures the level and type of gender stereotyping found in Indian advertisements on TV and YouTube, through analysis of over 1,000 most viewed advertisements in 2019.
- The ads were provided and translated by the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA). UNICEF shared that IAA will be working with members to launch campaigns to deconstruct harmful stereotypes.

18. Which country has topped the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes ____ **Finland.**

Note:

- The index focuses on seven pillars: leadership and foresight; robust laws and policies; strong institutions; financial stewardship; attractive marketplace; global influence and reputation; and helping people rise.
- India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes.

19. Which country has launched NEO-01, robot prototype capable of catching space debris with net ____ **China.**

Note:

- The NEO-01, which will also peer into deep space to observe small celestial bodies, was launched on the government's Long March 6 rocket along with a handful of satellites, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.
- The 30kg robot developed by Shenzhen-based Origin Space will pave the way for future technologies capable of mining on asteroids, according to the company.

20. Along with India and Australia which country has launched the 'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)' to build a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the Indo-Pacific region ____

Japan.

Note:

- It will reduce the dependency of the 3 countries on China and counter its dominance on Trade.
- During the initial stages, SCRI will focus on sharing best practices on supply chain resilience & holding investment promotion events for stakeholders to diversify their supply chains.

21. Which became the first country in the world to permit self-driving cars on motorways ____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- In order to make safe use of the self-driving vehicle system, the transport ministry of the UK was working on specific wording to update its country's highway code.
- For keeping the cars within a lane, a technology called Automated Lane Keeping Systems (ALKS) will be used as it uses sensors and software to guide the self-driving cars to accelerate and brake without manual input.

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.

4. Which state has won the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021" ranking first under Category I _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- The award recognises the efforts of UP in implementing the e-applications developed by the Centre and other applications developed by the State Government.
- Uttar Pradesh was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh in 2nd rank and Odisha and Tamil Nadu in 3rd rank.
- The award was instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj(MoPR) to promote the use of ICT in monitoring the works of gram panchayats.

5. Who become the first Indian and Asian woman to be chosen for the 2021 'WILD Innovator Award' given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation' _____ **Krithi K Karanth**.

Note:

- This award given by the 'WILD ELEMENTS Foundation' brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation.

6. Along with Jio Platform which company have figured in Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 Most Influential Companies _____ **Byju's**.

Note:

- It listed Jio Platforms under the Innovators category alongside Zoom, Adidas, TikTok, Ikea, Moderna and Netflix.
- Byju's was listed alongside Tesla, Huawei, Shopify, Airbnb and DiDi Chuxing in the Disruptors category.

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.

8. Arjun Kalyan held from which state who became India's 68th Chess Grand Master (GM) after winning against Dragan Kotic of Montenegro in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- In order to qualify for the title of GM, a player must achieve 3 GrandMaster norms in events covering a minimum of 27 games and an ELO (Electric Light Orchestra) rating of at least 2500 at any point in their career.
- Arjun Kalyan already had 4 GM norms under his belt but his ELO was 2477. After playing a steady chess in the three closed round robin event he crossed the 2500 mark to become India's 68th GM.

9. Who became the first Indian woman to scale the Mount Annapurna 10th highest mountain peak in the world _____ **Priyanka Mohite.**

Note:

- Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.
- Priyanka has also climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 metres) in 2013, Mount Lhotse (8,516 metres) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 metres) and also Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) in 2016.

10. Name the Indian boxer who won a bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St Petersburg, Russia _____ **Amit Panghal.**

Note:

- Amit, a world championship silver-medallist, lost 5-0 to the Uzbek, who is also the reigning Olympic champion.
- This was the Indian's second loss to Zoirov after the 2019 world championships. In that event, he had lost to Zoirov in the finals.

11. Which Football Club has won the League Cup final in London _____ **Manchester City.**

Note:

- The final was played in front of 8,000 supporters, including 2,000 from each club - and it was a delight to hear noise inside Wembley's vast arena once more.
- City's victory equalled Liverpool's achievement in the early 1980s of winning the competition four years in a row, as well as matching the Reds' overall tally of eight triumphs, and manager Pep Guardiola said his players are motivated by such milestones.

12. According to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) which country will host the World Table Tennis Championship 2021 for the first time _____ **USA**.

Note:

- This is for the 1st time USA will host the World Table Tennis Championship.
- The decision was made at a meeting of the ITTF executive committee on April 11.
- It is to be noted that, 2020 World Table Tennis Championship in Busan, South Korea was cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.

13. Who has won the 68th Edition of Barcelona Open _____ **Rafael Nadal**.

Note:

- This is the 12th Barcelona Open Title for Rafael Nadal.
- The 2021 Barcelona Open (sponsored by Banc Sabadell) took place from April 17-25, 2021 at Real Club de Tennis Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- Rafael Nadal won his 1st Barcelona Title in the year 2005.
- Barcelona Open is an annual tennis tournament for male professional players and is played on clay courts.

14. AIBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2021 was held in which country _____ **Poland**.

Note:

- India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze) .
- The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition.

15. Name the Indian boxer the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at the event _____ **Sachin**.

Note:

- India topped the overall medals tally by winning 11 Medals (8 Gold, 3 Bronze) .
- The AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships is an biennial event, around 414 boxers from 52 countries participated in the 2021 edition.
- Indian Boxer Sachin who hails from Bhiwani, Haryana was the only one from the Indian Men's Boxing Contingent to win a Gold Medal (56 Kg) at the event.

16. Who has won the GM round robin Rujna Zora-3 2021 chess tournament which concluded in Serbia _____ **Arjun Kalyan**.

Note:

- The 18-year-old Kalyan is a B. Com. student at the SRM College (Vadapalani) in Chennai.
- He is coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.

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

5. Who has authored the book titled “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” _____ **Amitav Ghosh**.

Note:

- It will be Published by Harper Collins India.
- The Book is written in the Structure of a fable about Mahaparbat, the living mountain.
- It is a cautionary tale of how humans have systematically exploited nature leading to an environment collapse.
- The book will also be published simultaneously in Hindi and as an ebook and an audio book.

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

8. Which IIT has successfully commercialized its flagship healthcare product COVIRAP the novel diagnostic technology to zero on infectious diseases including COVID-19 _____ **IIT Kharagpur.**

Note:

- The product, developed by lead researchers Professor Suman Chakraborty, Dr Arindam Mondal and their research group, has been licensed for commercialisation to the Rapid Diagnostic Group of Companies, India and Bramerton Holdings LLC, USA.

9. Bilateral Naval Exercise titled as 'VARUNA-2021' was conducted between India and which country _____ **France.**

Note:

- The exercise will be conducted from 25th to 27th April 2021.
- INS Kolkata, INS Tarkash, INS Talwar and Chetak integral helicopters will participate in the exercise
- It was initiated in 1983 as Indo-French naval cooperation plays a key role in the two countries' joint vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

10. The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) collaborated with Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of which IIT to mutually promote Technology based Startups _____ **IIT Kanpur.**

Note:

- The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) collaborated with Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT-Kanpur to mutually promote Technology based Startups.
- Under this collaboration, SICCI-SIIC conducts a Launchpad Competition - "SICCI-SIIC INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD".

11. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), successfully test-fired the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) from which air craft _____ **Tejas.**

Note:

- This adds the Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in the air-to-air weapons package of India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.
- The trials also aimed to validate the enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas.

12. Name the community service centre that has been set up to bring all data on board India's first dedicated solar space mission to a single web-based interface _____ **Aditya L1.**

Note:

- It is a joint effort of Indian Space Research Organisation and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences.
- It will allow every interested individual to perform scientific analysis of the data.
- It is slated to develop specific tools to assist guest observers and researchers to prepare observing proposals for Aditya-L1 observations.

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