

# Weekly One-Liners

1-7 May 2021



## Weekly One Liners Updates 1-7th May 2021

**Dear readers,**

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

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

- The Ministry of Finance is set to provide what additional amount to State Governments as Interest free 50-year loan under Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 15,000 Crore.**

**Note:**

- The loan will be provided to the States under 'Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure'. The Scheme was launched in 2020.
- It aims to nudge States to spend more on infrastructure and incentivize disinvestment of State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs).
- The Guidelines for the scheme were released by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

- What target has been set up by the central government for the food grain production in the crop year 2021-22 starting from July 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **307.31 MT.**

**Note:**

- The target of total food grains production for 2021-22 is set at a record 307.31 MT, comprising 151.43 MT in kharif season and 155.88 MT during rabi.
- In 2020-21, production was 303.34 MT, against the target of 301 MT.
- For 2021-22, the target for rice production has been fixed at 121.1 MT, wheat at 110 MT, pulses at 25MT, coarse cereals at 51.21 MT and oilseeds at 37.5MT.

- Which company has partnered with Cryptocurrency exchange, Gemini & WebBank to launch a 1st of its kind, Cryptocurrency rewards credit card \_\_\_\_\_ **Mastercard.**

**Note:**

- Using this card, Clients will earn up to 3% in cryptocurrencies depending on their purchase.
- The rewards will be automatically deposited in the cardholder's Gemini account in real time.
- There will be no annual fee for the card and there is a 24/7 live customer support
- This is a small metal card with only the cardholder's name on it.

- Which bank has launched the "Immune India Deposit Scheme" a special deposit scheme to provide an additional interest rate of 25 basis points in addition to the applicable card rate for the vaccinated people \_\_\_\_\_ **Central Bank of India.**

- The Immune India Deposit Scheme has a maturity of 1111 days.
- The senior citizens are also eligible for the extra interest as applicable.

- According to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021 what is the position of LIC as the most valuable insurance brand globally \_\_\_\_\_ **tenth.**

**Note:**

- As per the report, the total value of the world's top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6% from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021.
- However, LIC's brand value increased by almost 7% to \$8.65 billion
- Brand Finance is a London-based brand valuation consultancy.

- Which becomes the 3rd largest Indian IT services company by market capitalization of Rs 2.65 trillion \_\_\_\_\_ **Wipro.**

**Note:**

- TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of Rs. 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.
- Wipro has also announced its commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- The country's third-largest largest software services company has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).

7. Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE) has acquired a minority stake in which small finance bank for \$ 25 million through a secondary acquisition \_\_\_\_\_ **Fincare Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- The key investor in Fincare SFB, True North Fund V LLP got a partial exit from the firm after the deal of MOPE with Fincare SFB.
  - The deal was done by one of the growth capital funds of MOPE called India Business Excellence Fund–III (it was managed and advised by MOPE).
  - Secondary Acquisition – It means the acquisition of existing shares of the company by the trust on the platform of a recognised stock exchange for cash consideration.
8. Which public sector company has entered into the league of top 100 most valued companies in terms of market capitalization globally \_\_\_\_\_ **SAIL**.
- Note:**
- It regained market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 50,000 crore, after its stock climbed over 80 per cent in the past one and half month.
  - SAIL stood at 78th position in the overall m-cap ranking with a market cap of Rs 55,529 crore.
  - SAIL is one of the leading steel producers in India, which has 5 large integrated steel plants (Bhilai steel plant, Rourkela steel plant, Durgapur steel plant, Bokaro steel plant and IISCO) spread across 4 states in eastern India (Chattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand).
9. Which wind energy company has signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India for supplying 540MW out of the total awarded capacity of 810 MW of blended wind power capacity \_\_\_\_\_ **JSW Renew Energy**.
- Note:**
- It is the single largest PPA for wind/blended wind power capacity awarded to a company.
  - JSW Renew Energy won the contract for 810 MW of blended Wind Power Project in a competitive bidding done by SECI in September, 2020.
  - India has set a target to raise the capacity of installed Renewable Energy (RE) generation plants to 450 GW by 2030.
10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs 3 crore monetary penalty on which bank for contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio \_\_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank**.
- Note:**
- Cause for the Penalty: For shifting of securities in May 2017 from HTM (held to maturity) category to AFS (available for sale) without explicit permission.
  - The penalty is intended only over the ICICI bank's insufficiency in regulatory compliance and not over any agreement by the bank with its customers.
11. World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) has decided to make a debt investment of \$150 million in which Non-Banking Financial Company in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bajaj Finance Limited**.
- Note:**
- The loan is sanctioned for five years to essentially support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).
  - Bajaj Finance will direct 3 times of its IFC's loan towards the MSME segment thus enabling combined funding of \$600 million/INR 4,530 crore towards MSME.
12. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), what is the position of India as a recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Third**.
- Note:**
- It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).
  - India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.
  - China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.
13. According to a new set of data released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which country is the largest sources of FDI outflows in 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Luxembourg**.
- Note:**
- It dropped to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).
  - India became the 3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.

- China became the largest Recipient of FDI (USD 212 Billion) overtaking the United States (USD 177 Billion) for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.
14. Which steel company has been selected by the Andhra Pradesh government as Joint Venture partner to set up a steel plant in the Kadapa district \_\_\_\_\_ **Essar Steel**.
- Note:**
- The AP government has previously selected Liberty Steel India Limited as the JV partner for construction and development of the YSR Steel Plant.
  - But that was cancelled based on the recommendation of SBICAP as Liberty steel India Limited was facing some financial issues.
  - The steel plant will be set up with a capacity of 3 million tonne per annum for producing high grade Steel products.
15. What amount will be provided by the Reserve Bank of India for three years at the repo rate to small finance banks (SFBs) to lend individuals, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) \_\_\_\_\_ **10,000 crores**.
- Note:**
- The RBI incentivised SFBs to lend microfinance institutions (MFIs) by granting priority sector lending status to such exposures.
  - Credit will be up to 10 per cent of a bank's priority-sector portfolio as of March 31, 2021.
  - While the facility is there until March 31, 2022, loans disbursed will continue to be classified as priority-sector lending till the date of repayment/maturity, whichever is earlier.
16. The Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) of what asset size will be eligible for Small Finance Banks' priority sector lending (PSL) \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 500 crores**.
- Note:**
- Currently, the SFB's PSL is not permitted for MFIs for on-lending.
  - This facility is made to be available up to March 31, 2022.
17. Which bank has been selected as the digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform \_\_\_\_\_ **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under this partnership, the bank will provide payment, clearing and settlement services by integrating its payment system and portal directly with the payment interface of the eNAM platform to enable a trade facility between a buyer and seller (of agri produce).
  - The eNAM online ecosystem will enable farmers with more power over pricing decisions, greater transparency and availability of financial support.
18. According to UN Study, Online share of retail sales jumps to how much percent amid lockdowns \_\_\_\_\_ **19%**.
- Note:**
- Online sales accounted for 19% of overall retail sales in 2020, up from 16% a year earlier, according to estimates from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) based on national statistical offices in major economies.
  - South Korea reported the highest share at 25.9%, up from 20.8% the year before. China had a 24.9% share, Britain 23.3% and the United States 14.0%.
19. The Reserve Bank of India has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member. Where is the network located \_\_\_\_\_ **Paris, France**.
- Note:**
- The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) is a network of 83 central banks and financial supervisors that aims to accelerate the scaling up of green finance and develop recommendations for central banks' role for climate change.
  - The NGFS was created in 2017 and its secretariat is hosted by the Banque de France. Its current chair is Dutch central banker Frank Elderson.
  - The NGFS has been awarded best green initiative of the year 2020 by Centralbanking.com.
20. Which company got the CCI nod to acquire 64.3% stake in BigBasket's B2B arm Supermarket Grocery Supplies \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Digital**.
- Note:**
- The commission said Supermarket Grocery Supplies may acquire sole control of Innovative Retail Concepts that operates BigBasket's online retail unit.

## Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Soli J Sorabjee passed away recently, he was former \_\_\_\_\_ **Attorney General**.

**Note:**

- Sorabjee was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2002 for his defence of the freedom of expression and the protection of human rights.
- He was known for his contribution to the field of constitutional law.
- He had also helped India win in the International Court of Justice against Pakistan in the Atlantique downing case of 1999.

2. Renowned personality Pandit Debu Chaudhuri has passed away following COVID-19 related complications, he was a prominent \_\_\_\_\_ **sitar maestro**.

**Note:**

- Pandit Debu Chaudhuri had been awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1992 for his contribution to arts.
- He has also won the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- He was also a teacher and writer, who penned six books. Apart from being an artist he was a disciple of Mushtaq Ali Khan.

3. National Awardee Karimanal Venkatesan Anand passed away at the age of 54 due to COVID-19 related complications, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **cinematographer**.

**Note:**

- KV Anand started his career as a photojournalist and later joined as an assistant of award-winning cinematographer PC Sreeram.
- He was the founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC).
- In 1994, He debuted as the cinematographer for the Malayalam film "Thenmavin Kombath" and won the National Film Award for Best Cinematography.

4. Renowned personality Amit Mistry passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Film Actor**.

**Note:**

- Actor Amit Mistry worked in TV shows like Tenali Rama, Madam Sir and played roles in many films like Yamla Pagla Deewana, Shor In The City.
- He was also actively involved in the theatre circuit especially in Gujarati shows. He had also acted in Gujarati films.
- Besides acting, he was also a dialogue writer and director. He was most recently seen playing the role of the protagonist's uncle in the web series Bandish Bandits.

5. Renowned personality Manas Bihari Verma passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Aeronautical Scientist**.

**Note:**

- He worked as a scientist at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for 35 years in the aeronautical stream.
- He was given the responsibility for the design of the Tejas aircraft mechanical system, where he led the team responsible for the full-scale engineering development of the Tejas aircraft in the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

6. Former Union minister Jagmohan Malhotra passed away recently he also served as governor of which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir**.

**Note:**

- Jagmohan served two terms as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He had also served as the lieutenant governor of Delhi and governor of Goa.
- He belonged to BJP and served as the Union Minister for Urban Development and Tourism in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government.

7. Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' actress Olympia Dukakis passed away, she held from which country \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.

**Note:**

- Olympia Dukakis was an American actress, director, producer, teacher and activist who performed in over 130 stage productions, over 60 films and in 50 television series.
- She won an Oscar award in 1987 and won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her performance in Moonstruck.
- She has also won an Obie Award for Best Actress in 1963 for her performance in Bertolt Brecht's Man Equals Man.

8. Renowned personality Abhilasha Patil passed away recently, she was veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.

**Note:**

- Actress Abhilasha Patil, who featured in films like 'Good Newwz', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and 'Chhichhore', passed away due to Covid-19 complications.
  - Apart from Bollywood movies, Patil also appeared in Marathi films such as 'Te Aath Diwas', 'Bayko Deta Ka Bayko', 'Prawaas', 'Pipsi' and 'Tujha Majha Arrange Marriage'.
9. Former Union Minister Ajit Singh has passed away recently belong to which political party \_\_\_\_\_ **Rashtriya Lok Dal.**  
**Note:**
- He was the son of former Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.
  - Ajit Singh had served as Minister of Commerce & Industry under Prime Minister V. P. Singh; Minister of Food Processing Industries in P. V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet; Minister of Agriculture in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and Minister of Civil Aviation in Manmohan Singh's cabinet.
10. Renowned personality V Kalyanam passed away recently, he was former personal secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ **Mahatma Gandhi.**  
**Note:**
- Kalyanam was preserving letters written by Gandhiji, a cheque bearing his sign and other literature associated with him.
  - He was proficient in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English.
  - A staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he was also associated with Rajaji in the 1960s.

### Important Days

1. International Labour Day or International Workers' Day or May Day observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **1st May.**  
**Note:**
- The day, dedicated to workers and labourers across the world.
  - Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States in the 19th Century when they demanded 8 hours working in a day.
  - The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party in Madras in 1923.
2. World Tuna Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **2nd May.**  
**Note:**
- Its aim was to spotlight the importance of conservation management and make sure that a system is required in place to prevent tuna stocks from crashing.
3. World Press Freedom Day is observed globally every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **3rd May.**  
**Note:**
- The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.
  - They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public.
  - This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good".
4. The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **4th May.**  
**Note:**
- The day is celebrated to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
  - The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.
5. The World Hand Hygiene Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **5th May.**  
**Note:**
- The day is organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.
  - The theme for 2021 is "'Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care'.
6. International Day of the Midwife is observed globally every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **5th May.**  
**Note:**
- This day is celebrated to recognise the work of midwives and raise awareness about the status of midwives for the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.
  - The theme for 2021 International Day of the Midwife is "Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives."

7. World Asthma Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **5<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Note:**

- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the chronic disease and how it can be controlled with proper treatment.
- This year's theme is 'Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions', which aims at clearing misconceptions related to the complications of asthma.

8. International No Diet Day is observed globally every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **6<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Note:**

- International No Diet Day is observed on May 6, and its symbol is a light blue ribbon. It is an annual celebration of body acceptance, including fat acceptance and body shape diversity.
- It means recognising that your body is beautiful exactly as it is and worry less about your weight, body shape and more about being healthy and active.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI) for a period of 3 years starting from 1st May 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Mahesh Balasubramanian**.

**Note:**

- He has been appointed for a period of 3 years starting from 1st May 2021.
- He has been appointed following the retirement of G Murlidhar.
- KLI is in receipt of approval from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the appointment of Balasubramanian.

2. Vaishali S Hiwase held from which state who became the first woman officer to be appointed as officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- She will be responsible for providing connectivity through an Indo-China border road.
- She is from Maharashtra is M Tech and after successfully completing a demanding tenure in Kargil the Women Officer has taken over the command to undertake this challenge of cutting through the rocks.

3. Who has been appointed as the 4th Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India \_\_\_\_\_ **T Rabi Sankar**.

**Note:**

- ACC has cleared his appointment for a period of 3 years or till his date of superannuation.
- He succeeds B P Kanungo, who retired on 2nd April 2021 after serving one year extension period.
- RBI cannot hold more than 4 deputy governors. The other 3 Deputy Governors of RBI are Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael D Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.

4. Who has been appointed as Acting Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant**.

**Note:**

- He Succeeds Justice H.L. Dattu, whose tenure ended on December 2, 2020.
- His appointment was authorized by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- The term of office of the NHRC Chairperson and members of the NHRC is for five years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

5. Who has been appointed as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_\_ **MK Stalin**.

**Note:**

- The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the late M Karunanidhi.
- The DMK-led alliance won 159 seats, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won 133 seats in the election.

6. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) \_\_\_\_\_ **Raman Meenakshi Sundaram**.

**Note:**

- Prior to this elevation, he was working as Principal Scientist (Biotechnology) at the institute crop Improvement Section.

- He is a scientist of global repute working in the area of rice biotechnology, molecular breeding, and genomics and has over 160 research papers in national and international journals of repute and has published several books, book chapters and popular articles.

### Important News – India

1. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's first 3D printed house at which IIT \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras.**

**Note:**

  - The single-storey home has been built in just five days over an area of about 600 sq. ft using 'Concrete 3D Printing'
  - TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions, a start-up founded by IIT-M alumni in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter built the 3D Printed House.
  - The 3D Printed House would help to meet the deadline of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the 'housing for all' scheme by 2022.
2. Which foundation has partnered with the not-for-profit organisation, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) to launch a community COVID-19 vaccination drive and set up COVID care centres \_\_\_\_\_ **PepsiCo Foundation.**

**Note:**

  - As part of the partnership, SEEDS will drive Covid-19 vaccinations for the community at large, set up Covid care centres equipped with beds and medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders.
  - SEEDS is a not-for-profit organization.
3. With Which country India has adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom.**

**Note:**

  - During the summit, the two leaders adopted 'Roadmap 2030' which aims to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.
  - The UK finalised new deals/trade worth 1 Billion British Pound Sterling (GBP) to create 6,500 jobs in the UK.
  - They also agreed/announced 9 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/Declarations during the summit.
4. Recently, the first-ever electric tractor in India has been tested at the Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute which is located in \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**

**Note:**

  - This new electric tractor will be more environmentally friendly than other types of tractors.
  - The Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni is a premier institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
5. On the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in \_\_\_\_\_ **London.**

**Note:**

  - The first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
  - The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Marise Payne.
6. The Nation's first 'Drive in Vaccination Center' was inaugurated by MP Rahul Shewale in \_\_\_\_\_ **Mumbai.**

**Note:**

  - This center has been set up in the parking lot of Kohinoor Square Tower at Dadar.
  - This first of its kind 'Drive-in Vaccination Center' facility has been made available to the citizens at a time when people with disabilities are facing difficulties in getting to the vaccination center.
7. With which entity the National Dairy Development Board signed an MoU to promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry \_\_\_\_\_ **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd.**

**Note:**

  - NDDDB and EESL will work to design and develop innovative energy-efficient business solutions (innovative business models) for dairy cooperative institutions.
  - They collaborate with different agencies for adopting non-conventional energy-generating facilities for the disposal of crop residues/agricultural waste and bio waste in an environment-friendly manner.

8. 2021 G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting was held in which country that was attended by the Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually \_\_\_\_\_ **Italy**.

**Note:**

- Mr Massimo Garavaglia, Minister of Tourism, Government of Italy Chaired the meeting.
- India will support the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as a further contribution to the policy area "Green Transformation" to embrace sustainability in tourism.

9. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced a year-long celebrations to Mark birth centenary of which filmmaker \_\_\_\_\_ **Satyajit Ray**.

**Note:**

- Satyajit Ray (May 2, 1921-April 23, 1992) was a renowned filmmaker, writer, illustrator, graphic designer and music composer.
- He started his career in advertising and found inspiration for his first film, Pather Panchali, while illustrating the children's version of the novel by Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay.

10. What amount has been released by the central govt for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to all the States for COVID-19 containment measures \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 8,873 crore**.

**Note:**

- The States can use up to 50 percent of the released amount for COVID-19 containment measures.
- It includes meeting the cost of oxygen generation and storage plants in hospitals, ventilators, strengthening ambulance services, COVID-19 hospitals, thermal scanners, personal protective equipment, testing laboratories and testing kits.

11. What additional amount has been decided to provide to states as an interest free 50 year loan for spending on capital projects \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 15,000 crores**.

**Note:**

- The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard on the Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for the financial year 2021-22.
- This helped to sustain state level capital expenditure in the pandemic year. In view of the positive response to the scheme and considering the requests of the State Governments, the Government has decided to continue the scheme in the year 2021-22.

12. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and which country \_\_\_\_\_ **UK**.

**Note:**

- The MoU will benefit Indian students, academics, and researchers, migrants for professional and economic reasons and those willing to contribute through various projects to the economic development of both countries.
- It can support the innovation ecosystem in both countries by facilitating free flow of talent.

**Important News – State**

1. In which state/UTs the Indian Army has Inaugurated its first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sikkim**.

**Note:**

- The Plant uses Vanadium based battery Technology and is situated at an Altitude of 16000 Ft.
- The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.
- It was completed by a team from IIT Mumbai which was led by Professor Prakash Ghosh and troops of the Indian Army.

2. Which state government has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' to revive, recharge aquifers and conserve natural resources of water in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Himachal Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- It is set to be implemented in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh.
- An outlay of INR 20 Crore has been set aside for implementation of the scheme.
- Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh will implement the scheme in forest areas.
- The scheme was announced in the Himachal Pradesh State Budget for the FY 2021-22.

3. Which state government has declared working journalists as Frontline Covid Warriors and have been covered under Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- With these more than 6,500 journalists are to be benefitted in the state.
- Launched in 2018, Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government.

4. Which state government has launched the first of its kind Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society for all the students of state \_\_\_\_\_ **Tripura**.

**Note:**

- Auro Scholar is the World's first Micro Scholarship programme aimed to encourage the students to improve their learning.
- Sri Aurobindo Society partnered with the Government of Tripura to make the scholarship accessible to all the students of Tripura.

5. Which State government has launched the Corona Warriors Scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- The government will take the responsibility of family members of health workers who have passed away while on Corona duty.
- Their families will be given honorarium of Rs 50 lakhs by the government.

### Important News - World

1. Alstom is a rolling stock manufacturer of which country that successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- It successfully manufactured and delivered its 100th Electric Locomotive to the Indian Railways.
- It is part of the 3.5 Billion Euro contract signed between the Ministry of Railways, India & Alstom in 2015 for delivery of 800 fully electric high-powered double-section locomotives of 12,000 HorsePower (HP) (9 MW).
- It is the Largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Project in the Indian Railway sector.

2. The Global Forest Goals Report 2021 has been released by which of the following institutions \_\_\_\_\_ **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.

**Note:**

- The UN has released its Global Forest Goals Report 2021.
- The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN.
- According to the report, the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.
- It provides an initial overview of the progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

3. The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Portugal**.

**Note:**

- It will attract tourists and help to revive a region whose economy was devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The bridge hangs 175 meters above the fast-flowing River Paiva.
- It is Hidden between rock-strewn mountains covered with lush greenery and yellow flowers inside the UNESCO-recognised Arouca Geopark.

4. 44 people were killed in a stampede that occurred at a religious gathering at Mount Meron that is located in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Israel**.

**Note:**

- The tragedy struck when a large number of Jewish pilgrims had gathered at the site of the reputed tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a second-century Talmudic sage.

- it started after some attendees slipped on steps, which caused dozens more to fall.
- Authorities say at least 44 people have been killed and about 150 injured.

5. Which country has approved the proposed sale of 6 Poseidon-8I (P-8I) Patrol Aircraft and other equipment to India \_\_\_\_\_ **USA.**

**Note:**

- It is being procured by the Indian Government for use by the Indian Navy.
- The P-8I Patrol Aircrafts are produced by Boeing, an American Aerospace & Defense Company.
- In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the procurement of the P-8I Aircrafts and other equipment.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been honoured with the 3rd highest order decoration of Japan, Order of the Rising Sun, under the class Gold and Silver Rays from the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Karnataka \_\_\_\_\_ **Shyamala Ganesh.**

**Note:**

- She received the order for her contribution in spreading the Japanese culture and language in Karnataka and other parts of India and for promoting the friendship and goodwill between Japan and India.
- She is also the former President of the Bengaluru Chapter of Ohara-Ryu Ikebana and supported to popularise the cultural traditions of Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangements. Along with her husband Ganesh she has started a Japanese language school in 1983.

2. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted the “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema” from 20021, which will be given every year at \_\_\_\_\_ **International Film Festival of India (IFFI).**

**Note:**

- The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a certificate, shawl along with a silver peacock medal and a scroll.
- The award is instituted as a part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Awardee Satyajit Ray, who was born on 2nd May 1921 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

3. Maria Ressa is an investigative journalist and media executive of which country who has been named as the 2021 laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize \_\_\_\_\_ **Philippines.**

**Note:**

- The \$25,000 prize “recognizes outstanding contributions to the defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the face of danger,” according to UNESCO.
- The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.
- Over a career spanning more than thirty years, Ressa has worked as CNN’s lead investigative reporter for Asia and the head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.

4. Who will be honoured with the Icon Award at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs) \_\_\_\_\_ **Pink.**

**Note:**

- The award aims to recognize artists who have achieved success on the Billboard charts and left an indelible impact on music.
- Pink joins previous honourees that include Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, Prince, Jennifer Lopez, Celine Dion, Cher, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey and Garth Brooks.

5. Who has been honored with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar statue, at the 93rd Academy Awards 2021 Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ **Tyler Perry.**

**Note:**

- He was honoured for his contribution towards the recovery of the entertainment industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award is presented to an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry.

### Sports News

1. Who has won the women's singles title in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix 2021 in Stuttgart \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashleigh Barty.**

**Note:**

- Australian tennis star beats Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the final.
- She also won the women's double title partnering with Jennifer Brady.
- It was her first European tournament on clay since triumphing in the 2019 French Open.

2. Due to rising Covid cases in India the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in consultation with the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) decided to conduct the 2021 Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships in \_\_\_\_\_ **Dubai, UAE.**

**Note:**

- The tournament was scheduled to be held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from May 21 to 31, 2021.
- Now the event will be held between May 21 to June 1, 2021 and will be organized by BFI along with UAE Boxing Federation.
- Under the championship, the Indian women's team will be led by the MC Mary Kom (51kg) and the men's team is not yet announced.

3. Who has won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Lewis Hamilton.**

**Note:**

- He defeated Red Bull's Max Verstappen to eight points after three races.
- Verstappen finished second at the Algarve circuit with Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas completing the podium, and taking a bonus point for the fastest lap, after starting from pole position.

4. Name the Indian sports person who has been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation \_\_\_\_\_ **PV Sindhu.**

**Note:**

- The Badminton World Federation announced that India shuttler PV Sindhu and Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 'Believe in Sport' campaign aimed at preventing competition manipulation.
- Sindhu and Li will be working alongside other athlete ambassadors from around the world to raise awareness on the topic of competition manipulation amongst athletes and encourage.
- The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.

5. Name the Indian gymnast who has qualified for Tokyo Olympics through Asian quota \_\_\_\_\_ **Pranati Nayak.**

**Note:**

- She has won the bronze in vault at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2019.
- She has qualified through the Asian quota.
- She is the 2nd reserve after Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh of Sri Lanka for the Asian quota.
- Both the Gymnasts will compete in the Olympics starting on 23rd July 2021.

6. Asian Games gold medalist Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan (retired) passed away recently, he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Riding.**

**Note:**

- From 1980 to 1990, he captained the ASC team, during which time his team won the National title six times and he became individual National Champion (Eventing) four times.
- As a member of the team that won the gold medal in Eventing at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi, Col Khan clinched the individual silver medal riding Goodwill.

7. Mark Selby belongs to which country who has become the World Snooker Champion for the fourth time \_\_\_\_\_ **England**.  
**Note:**
- He won the Championship title after defeating fellow mate Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at a professional snooker tournament, that took place from 17 April to 3 May 2021 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.
  - Prior to this, Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021.
8. Who won the 2021 World Snooker Championship \_\_\_\_\_ **Mark Selby**.  
**Note:**
- This is his 4th World Championship. The Championship held in Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England.
  - The Championship was organized by the World Snooker Tour, a subsidiary of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA).
9. Name the Indian weightlifter who clinched gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan \_\_\_\_\_ **Jhilli Dalabehera**.  
**Note:**
- India's Jhilli Dalabehera clinched the gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
  - It was only a two-lifter field as Dalabehera made the most of the opportunity to better her record at the continental level.

### Books and Authors

1. Who translated Satyajit Ray's book titled "Another Dozen Stories" from Bengali to English \_\_\_\_\_ **Indrani Majumdar**.  
**Note:**
- The book was released on 2nd May 2021, the 100th Birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray, one of India's greatest filmmakers.
  - The foreword of the book was written by veteran actress Sharmila Tagore.
  - The book was published by Penguin India.
2. Who has authored the book titled "The Bench" \_\_\_\_\_ **Meghan Markle**.  
**Note:**
- The book is published by Random House Children's Books.
  - The illustrations of the book are done by award-winning artist Christian Robinson.
  - The book was inspired by the relationship between fathers and sons.
  - The audiobook edition of the book narrated by Megahan will also be released in June.
3. Who has authored the book titled Bengal 2021, An Election Diary \_\_\_\_\_ **Deep Halder**.  
**Note:**
- This book speaks about the electrifying election that took place in West Bengal, amid the times of Covid-19.
  - Deep Halder is the author of Blood Island: An Oral History of the Marichjhapi Massacre.
  - He has been a journalist for almost two decades, writing on issues of development at the intersection of religion, caste and politics.

### Science and Defence

1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) launched the Joint Multinational Military Exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' in which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Albania**.  
**Note:**
- 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' is led by the United States (US). It is an annual exercise held between US and NATO Countries to build readiness and interoperability.
  - Around 28, 000 US & NATO forces from 26 nations participated in the drills.

- It is the 1st such large-scale drills since World War-II in the Western Balkans region.
  - NATO is an International Alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe.
2. Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of which IIT has launched 'Mission Bharat O2' challenge to develop indigenous solutions for solving India's oxygen crisis \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur**.

**Note:**

- SIIC aims to support innovative minds of India to set up more than 20,000 oxygen generation units and work with a set of manufacturers in different regions of India with a target production capacity of 100 units per day.

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