

Weekly One-Liners

8-14 May 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 8-14th May 2021

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of May 2021. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank has been excluded from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
_____ **Lakshmi Vilas Bank.**

Note:

- A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as 'Scheduled Commercial Bank'.
- Last year in November, the government had approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India.

2. Under whose chairmanship the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has constituted a 6-member Advisory Group _____ **S Janakiraman.**

Note:

- On April 15, 2021, RBI formed the RRA 2.0 for a period of 1 year from May 01, 2021 to Streamline RBI's Regulations and Reduce Compliance. M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, RBI was the RRA (head).

3. Which NBFCs has launched 'Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein', a public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks to educate customers and public at large on financial fraud risks _____ **Bajaj Finserv.**

Note:

- The campaign also alerts the customers to be mindful of the various signs and means to differentiate between the genuine Bajaj Finserv entity and a fake one, whether on web or social media platforms.
- The brand has also gone live with the campaign on other infotainment and entertainment apps like Chingari, Josh and Jio Saavn, to effectively reach out to the regional audiences, present on these platforms.

4. Which entity in association with Mastercard has released a report titled 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat' _____ **NITI Aayog.**

Note:

- The report identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.
- Based on five roundtable discussions held in October and November 2020, the report highlights key issues and opportunities, with inferences and recommendations on policy and capacity building across agriculture, small business (MSMEs), urban mobility and cyber security.

5. What is India's growth forecast for the year 2021, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently _____ **7.5%.**

Note:

- However, the country's outlook for the year remained "highly fragile".
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.

6. Which organization releases the World Economic Situation and Prospects Report _____ **United Nations.**

Note:

- The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 7.5% in 2021.
- It also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.

7. Which bank has launched the 'Asia Pacific Tax Hub' to enhance International Tax Cooperation _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- The Hub will create an open and inclusive platform for promoting strategic policy dialogue, improving knowledge sharing & strengthening coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners.
 - It will maximise the regional and international resources to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and international tax cooperation among ADB's Developing Member Countries (DMCs).
8. Which NBFCs has collaborated with NIRA, a Bangalore-based fintech start-up to strengthen its digital footprint and enhance the personal loans growth _____ **Muthoot Finance Ltd.**
- Note:**
- Loan Benefit under the partnership: The salaried customers could avail personal loan up to Rs 1 lakh from Muthoot Finance through the NIRA app (downloadable from Google's Play store).
 - NIRA fintech is offering small ticket personal loans to salaried customers of India's middle class.
9. Which bank has entered into a strategic tie-up with Mashreq Bank of UAE, to facilitate money transfers from the UAE to India _____ **Federal Bank.**
- Note:**
- The partnership will support Mashreq's payment product "QuickRemit", which was launched in 2017.
 - The agreement made Mashreq bank as the first bank in the UAE to offer instant and same day credit facility to so many places, including the UK, Singapore, Philippines, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka and majority of European countries.
10. Geojit Financial Services has entered into an agreement with which bank to provide the advantage of a three-in-one account to the customers of the bank _____ **Punjab National Bank.**
- Note:**
- The Three Accounts are, Savings Account, a Demat Account and a Trading Account.
 - The new service gives all the customers who have a savings account with PNB, a PNB demat account and Geojit trading account.
 - It helps to diversify investments and manage it all through one account.
11. In partnership with remittance firms – Wise and Western Union, which digital wallet company has launched International Money Transfers for its United States (US) users to transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore _____ **Google Pay.**
- Note:**
- Using the feature, Google Pay users in the US can transfer money to app customers in India & Singapore.
 - Google is planning to expand the feature to around 80 countries through Wise, and around 100 through Western Union by the end of 2021.
12. According to HDFC Bank what will be India's growth rate in the year 2021-22 _____ **10 per cent.**
- Note:**
- HDFC Bank has cut India's growth projection to 10 per cent from 11.5 per cent for the current financial year, citing the adverse effect of the second Covid-19 wave.
 - In a worst-case scenario of COVID-19, the bank has predicted the GDP rate to be at 8%.
13. According to revised estimate of Care Ratings, the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) _____ **9.2%.**
- Note:**
- The domestic rating agency, Care Ratings, has revised the GDP growth forecast of India for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 9.2 per cent.
 - This is lower than 10.2 per cent estimated earlier in April 2021.
14. Which small finance bank has launched the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number _____ **Jana Small Finance Bank.**
- Note:**
- Jana Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India.
 - This new feature gives the bank's existing and new customers the option to select their favourite numbers as their savings or current account number.
15. Which digital payment platform has launched 'COVID-19 Vaccine Finder,' an integrated platform to help citizens check the availability of vaccination slots – on its Mini App Store _____ **Paytm.**
- Note:**

- The platform will help citizens to check the availability of vaccination slots for a specific date by individually entering different pin codes or district details along with age group (18 or 45).
16. What is India's growth forecast for the year 2021, as per the World Economic Situation and Prospects report released by the United Nations recently _____ **10.1%**.
- Note:**
- However, the country's outlook for the year remained "highly fragile".
 - The World Economic Situation and Prospects report also projected India's GDP to grow by 10.1% in 2022.
17. Japanese brokerage Nomura revised its GDP growth estimate for India for the current 2021-22 fiscal to how much percent _____ **10.8%**.
- Note:**
- It said the activity levels have dropped further to 64.5 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels in the week to May 9 as per a proprietary index, after a further 5 percentage points drop in the week.
 - The activity levels, at present, are at par with those seen in June 2020.
18. Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth forecast for the current financial year to how much percent _____ **9.3%**.
- Note:**
- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth forecast for the current financial year to 9.3 per cent saying that the second wave of coronavirus infections hampers economic recovery and increases risk of longer-term scarring.
 - Moody's, which has a 'Baa3' rating on India with a negative outlook, said obstacles to economic growth, high debt and weak financial system constrain sovereign credit profile.
19. Which bank has acquired a 10% stake in CSC Grameen e-Store, a special purpose vehicle run by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology _____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- The partnership between the country's largest private bank and CSC Grameen aims to deliver and scale access to financial services and banking products to semi-urban and rural customers.
20. Which Payments Bank has launched "DigiGold", a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold _____ **Airtel Payments Bank**.
- Note:**
- This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold.
 - With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank's saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app.
 - Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.

Obituaries

1. Rajya Sabha member, Raghunath Mohapatra has passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Sculptor**.
Note:
 - Hailing from Odisha, Mohapatra was awarded Padma Shri in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013 for his pioneering contributions to the world of art, architecture and culture.
2. Renowned personality Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away recently, he was veteran _____ **Journalist**.
Note:
 - Veteran senior journalist Shesh Narayan Singh has passed away while undergoing treatment for COVID-19. He was 70.
 - A columnist, political commentator and an expert on foreign policy, Shesh Narain Singh had a career spanning over two decades.
3. Arjuna Awardee Venugopal Chandrasekhar passed away due to COVID-19 related complications, he was associated with which sport _____ **Table Tennis**.
Note:
 - He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. V Chandrasekhar is popularly known as a 3 times national champion.
 - V Chandrasekhar represented India in the Commonwealth Games in 1982.
 - He has also served as a coach.
 - He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1982.
4. Renowned personality Homen Borgohain passed away recently, he was a veteran litterateur of which language _____ **Assamese**.

Note:

- His body of work includes 11 novels and four non-fictions.
- He won the Sahitya Akademi in 1978 for his novel Pita Putra but returned the award in 2015 to protest the growing intolerance in India.
- The late writer was serving as the editor-in-chief of Assamese daily Niyomiya Barta until his death.

5. Renowned sportsperson Fortunato Franco passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____ **Football.**

Note:

- One of India's finest mid-fielders, Franco was a part of Indian football's golden era between 1960-64.
- Franco was a part of the 1960 Rome Olympics squad but didn't get a game. However, he was an integral part of the 1962 Asian Games gold winning team in Jakarta.

Renowned personality KR Gouri Amma passed away recently she was a veteran _____ **Politician.**

Note:

- The senior-most communist leader of Kerala, KR Gouri Amma, who was the first Revenue Minister in the first communist ministry of the state in 1957, has passed away due to age-related ailments.
- She was 102. She was the second longest-serving MLA in Kerala Legislative Assembly and also the last surviving member of the first Kerala government.

6. Freedom fighter Anup Bhattacharya passed away recently, by profession he was a _____ **musician.**

Note:

- Freedom fighter and Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra musician, Anup Bhattacharya passed away.
- During the liberation war of Bangladesh, he worked as the composer and music director at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.
- He is also a founder member of the Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha.

7. Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **Social Activist.**

Note:

- He was a disciple of Acharya N.G. Ranga and former Member of Parliament.
- He founded the Tirupati-based Rayalaseema Seva Samithi (RASS) as a social organisation with diverse activities in the form of reaching out to the mentally challenged, caring for the children, support to widows, tribal welfare, drug addiction victims and special care to senior citizens.

Important Days

1. World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated every year on _____ **2nd Saturday (8th May 2021).**

Note:

- The Day is celebrated to raise awareness of migratory birds and the importance of international cooperation to conserve them.
- This year's World Migratory Bird Day theme is "Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!"

2. World Red Cross Day is also known as Red Crescent Day is celebrated every year on _____ **8th May.**

Note:

- This date marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- The theme of World Red Cross Day 2021 is "Together we are unstoppable".

3. World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on which date _____ **8th May.**

Note:

- The day commemorates the struggles of the patients suffering from this genetic disorder and raise awareness about the disease and its symptoms.
- This year's theme of World Thalassaemia Day is "Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community".

4. In India, the National Technology Day is celebrated every year on which date to highlight the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science _____ **11th May.**

Note:

- The day acts as a reminder of the country's technological advancements. It was first observed on May 11, 1999, and aims to commemorate the scientific and technological achievements of Indian scientists and engineers.

- National Technology Day holds great importance because on this particular day in 1998, India achieved multiple notable technological progressions.
 - The theme of the National Technology Day 2021 is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”.
5. The International Nurses Day is observed every year on which date _____ **12th May**.
- Note:**
- The Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
 - The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).
 - The theme for this year’s International Nurses Day is Nurses: A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare.

New Appointments

1. Who has been sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam _____ **Himanta Biswa Sarma**.
- Note:**
- He took the charge of the office with effect from May 10, 2021.
 - The BJP party won a second straight term in the 2021 assembly polls in the state.
 - The party won 60 seats in the 126-member Assam assembly.
2. Who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, for a record fourth time _____ **N Rangasamy**.
- Note:**
- N Rangasamy was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant governor (additional charge) Tamilisai Soundararajan.
 - Prior to this, the 71-year-old served as Chief Minister of Puducherry from 2001 to 2008 as a member of the Indian National Congress and then from 2011 to 2016 as a member of AINRC.
3. Who has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) _____ **Arun Kumar Singh**.
- Note:**
- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government’s head-hunter, has picked Arun Kumar Singh as the chairman and managing director of state-run oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
 - Arun Kumar Singh is currently director, marketing at BPCL and holding additional charge of Director, Refineries.
4. Name the Indian origin immunologist, who has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research _____ **Sankar Ghosh**.
- Note:**
- He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy.
 - Sankar Ghosh is the Silverstein and Hutt Family Professor of Microbiology and Chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.
 - He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
5. Who has been appointed as the National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia _____ **Ujjwala Singhania**.
- Note:**
- As the 38th National President of FLO Singhania will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.
 - Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India’s Industrial and economic growth story.
6. Who will be the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), a proposed entity for taking over bad loans of lenders, predominantly public sector banks _____ **Padmakumar M Nair**.
- Note:**
- NARC, also called a 'bad' bank, is expected to be operational in June 2021.
 - Nair, a career banker with SBI, has been chief general manager (CGM) in the stressed assets resolution group (SARG) of the bank since April 2020.
 - Prior to his elevation in 2020, he worked as general manager in the SARG from 2017.
 - He has worked mostly in the corporate banking segment in the last two decades.
7. Who has been appointed as the as Executive Director (ED) in the Reserve Bank of India _____ **Jose J Kattoor**.

Note:

- Prior to being promoted as ED, Mr Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka.
- He will look after Human Resource Management Department, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.
- Mr Kattoor has, over a span of three decades, served in communication, human resource management, financial inclusion, supervision, currency management and other areas in the Reserve Bank.

8. Who has been sworn in as new NASA Administrator _____ **Bill Nelson.**

Note:

- Nelson will serve as NASA's chief executive officer and will be directly accountable to President Biden.
- In this role, he will articulate the space agency's vision, will set its programmatic and budget priorities, internal policies and assess the agency's performance.

9. Which bank has appointed Indranil Pan as its chief economist _____ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has appointed Indranil Pan as its chief economist. Pan joins the bank from rival IDFC First Bank.
- Pan and his team will provide strategic and policy-level inputs for the bank, based on macroeconomic developments at global and national level.

Important News – India

1. Which ministry has issued a notification mandating all State/UT Governments to issue a certificate of disability through online mode only using Unique Disability ID Portal _____ **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.**

Note:

- The requirement of a Certificate of disability is mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016).
- Using the certificate, people with disabilities can avail benefits of different government schemes.
- The sector has been demanding online issuance of certificates, as people with disabilities were unable to get certificates due to prevalent restrictions in Pandemic times.

2. Which education body has launched 'Dost for Life', an exclusive psychological counselling app for students and parents _____ **CBSE.**

Note:

- The new App will simultaneously cater to students and parents from CBSE-affiliated schools in different geographies across the world.
- The app will also provide students with other resource material such as suggestive course guides for after senior secondary education, tips on mental health and well being, and a 'corona guide' with information on daily safety protocol, learning from home and self-care.

3. According to Knight Frank's 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021' report New Delhi ranked at what position _____ **32nd.**

Note:

- While Bengaluru moved down by four places in Q1 2021 and is ranked 40; Delhi and Mumbai dipped one place each in the same period.
- Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter. Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.

4. According to the new report 'Renewable Energy Market Update – Outlook for 2021 and 2022' released by International Energy Agency (IEA), India's Renewable Energy capacity addition declined by almost _____ **50%.**

Note:

- The decline in capacity addition in India has been attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- At the Global level, the annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% to almost 280 GW (up from 190 GW in 2019), which is the highest year-on-year increase since 1999.
- China alone accounted for more than 50% of the green energy projects built in 2020.

5. Around which sanctuary the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced 48.32 square km are as an Eco-Sensitive Zone _____ **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary.**

Note:

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified 48.32 sq km around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS) in Maharashtra as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- Eco-Sensitive Zones are geographical areas within a radius of 10 kms around a protected area, a national park or a wildlife sanctuary, and are declared by the ministry under the provisions of Environment Protection Act 1986.

6. According to Union minister Nitin Gadkari how many Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen plants will be installed in various states _____ **581**.

Note:

- NHAI will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these facilities.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, will be the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work for these plants and will complete them on war footing.

7. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO. What does UCO stands for _____ **Used Cooking Oil**.

Note:

- Centre had initiated Expressions of Interest for “Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil” on the occasion of World Biofuel Day on 10th August 2019. Such “Expressions of Interest” are being periodically released by Oil Marketing Companies.
- This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by shoring up indigenous Biodiesel supply, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment.

8. The foreign ministers of India, Australia and which country are set to hold a first trilateral meet in New Delhi to discuss steps to strengthen maritime security and other Indo-pacific issues _____ **France**.

Note:

- The trilateral meet was attended by heads of state of Rwanda and Denmark and other 10 foreign ministers while PM Modi was attended the opening and closing sessions of the event.
- The three foreign ministers will also be discussing the global security environment and the Chinese posture in the Indo-Pacific.

9. Which regulatory authority has issued guidelines on Bharat Yatra Suraksha, the standard domestic travel insurance product _____ **IRDAI**.

Note:

- It will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses, death, permanent complete or partial disablement due to an accident, for travel through taxi, bus, train, ship, and airplane in the country.
- The base cover will provide coverage for hospitalization expenses ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs10 lakh and an accidental death benefit ranging from Rs1 lakh to Rs1 crore.

10. Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) has signed a pact with business organization of which country to jointly promote ‘AtmaNirbhar Bharat’, and facilitate investment and manufacturing in areas such as telecom and ICT _____ **Canada**.

Note:

- TEMA has signed a pact with Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC).
- TEMA will come on board as a partner organisation for CONNEXT 2021 – ICCC’s 10 days-10 states virtual trade mission to India from June 11-25, 2021.

11. Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) located in which city of India that has developed the country’s first vaccine for deadly viral nervous necrosis (VNN) disease _____ **Chennai**.

Note:

- Scientists say the VNN disease is a serious threat affecting many marine, brackishwater and freshwater fish causing up to 100% mortality in larval and early juvenile stages.
- The disease is caused by nervous necrosis virus (NNV). Red-spotted grouper nervous necrosis virus (RGNNV) is the only genotype prevalent in India and most other tropical countries.
- The vaccine can be used in all species susceptible to VNN such as Asian seabass, milkfish, grey mullet, mangrove red snapper etc.”

12. Which entity has set up a Covid Management Cell to bring in greater efficiency in coordinating real-time responses to address the exponential rise in Covid cases across the country _____ **Indian Army**.

Note:

- In order to coordinate multiple facets of staffing and logistics support, an exclusive Covid Management Cell under a Director General rank officer has been established which reports directly to the Vice Chief of Army Staff
- The force said that it help in assistance to civil administration in the form of testing, admissions in military hospitals, and transportation of critical medical equipment.

Important News – State

1. With which organization the Assam State Disaster Management Agency has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System, thus Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system to find out impact indicators during floods _____ **UNICEF.**
Note:
 - The FRIMS jointly developed by ASDMA & UNICEF will replace the present manual system with the web cum mobile application-based technology driven system.
 - It will help in efficient delivery of relief, ex-gratia, rehabilitation grants to the flood affected people besides tracking of damages to agricultural crops, loss of livestock, infrastructure damages etc.
2. Under whose chairmanship the Maharashtra government has constituted an eight-member committee to study the Supreme Court's order striking down quota for the Maratha community _____ **Dilip Bhosale.**
Note:
 - The Committee will be headed by former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court Dilip Bhosale.
 - Other members of the panel include former state advocate general Darius Khambata, senior advocate Rafique Dada and a few serving and former government officials.
3. Which state police has come up with "COVID-19 Hospital Transport Service" for free transportation of needy infected patients from their homes to hospitals or nursing homes and back _____ **Haryana.**
Note:
 - A total of 440 vehicles are being provided for this service and every police district would get 20 SUVs for this purpose.
 - These vehicles are being provided after the instances of either shortage of ambulances or overcharging by private ambulance service providers came to the notice of the police.
4. Rupsi airport has started its Commercial operations recently, the Airport is located in which state _____ **Assam.**
Note:
 - A trial flight was conducted on the Guwahati-Rupsi-Guwahati route by private Flybig airlines.
 - The airport in Assam's Kokrajhar district has been developed at a cost of Rs 69 crore under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (RCS-UDAN) scheme.
 - It is northeast India's 15th and Assam's 7th airport.
5. Which state government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana' amid a rise in cases in the state _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**
Note:
 - The scheme has been divided into three sections. 'Under the first section, hospitals run by state medical colleges, district and civil hospitals and community health centres will give free treatment to COVID-19 patients.
 - In the second section, 20 per cent ICU/HDU and isolation beds will be reserved in hospitals run by private medical colleges to give free treatment,'
6. Which becomes the fourth state/UTs to implement the 'Har Ghar Jal' Yojna _____ **Puducherry.**
Note:
 - Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.
 - Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM.
7. Which state government has announced 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur Manoj Das _____ **Odisha.**
Note:

- The award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature every year. It will carry a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.
8. Which government has developed a web portal 'CGTeeka' for systematic vaccination of people in the age group 18-44 years _____ **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Note:**
This web portal, developed by CHiPS, was launched by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.
 - CGTeeka web portal has been developed on the basis of social and geographical conditions in the state. This initiative of the government would save the people from waiting in long queues.

Important News – World

1. Which European country hosted the India-European Union Leaders' Meeting that was attended by PM Narendra Modi, held in a hybrid format _____ **Portugal**.
- Note:**
- PM Modi attended the event at the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr Charles Michel.
 - The leaders of all the 27 EU Member States, as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission, participated in the meeting.
 - This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.
2. Who won the won the 2021 Spanish Grand Prix _____ **Lewis Hamilton**.
- Note:**
- This win is the fifth successive Spanish Grand Prix title of Lewis Hamilton and the third win of this season.
 - Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing-Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third position.
3. Name the Nepali climber who has scaled Mount Everest for the record 25th time _____ **Kami Rita**
- Note:**
- Rita, 51, first scaled Everest in 1994 and has been making the trip nearly every year since then.
 - He is one of many Sherpa guides whose expertise and skills are vital to the safety and success of the hundreds of climbers.
4. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) Meeting 2021 was held in which city _____ **Tokyo**.
- Note:**
- The ASM3 2021 is the 1st meeting to be held in Asia.
 - The theme for 2021 is 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'.
 - ASM is a global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region, it is an event initiated by the Arctic Council, a high-level intergovernmental forum.
 - Union Minister for Earth Science Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually represented India in the meeting.
5. Which international organization has launched 'ID-Art' app which will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts _____ **Interpol**.
- Note:**
- The 'ID-Art' app enables users — from law enforcement agencies to the general public — to get mobile access to the Interpol database of stolen works of art, create an inventory of private art collections and report cultural sites that are potentially at risk, said the Interpol.
 - It is available for both Android and Apple devices.
 - The app's users can immediately cross-check if an object is among the over 52,000 items registered as stolen in the Interpol's "Stolen Works of Art" database.
6. Which country chaired the first BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting held in 2021 in virtual format _____ **India**.

Note:

- The meeting was held under the chairmanship of India, which has assumed the BRICS Presidency in 2021.
- The meeting was chaired by Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named as the “Sportswoman of the Year” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards _____ **Naomi Osaka.**

Note:

- This is Osaka’s second Laureus Sports Awards.
- In 2019, she won the “Breakthrough of the Year” award.

2. Who has been named as the “Sportsman of the Year” at the 2021 Laureus World Sports Awards _____ **Rafael Nadal.**

Note:

- With the French Open victory in 2020, Nadal took his tally to 20 Grand Slam titles.
- Nadal picked up his fourth Laureus honour, having previously scooped the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.

3. Name the Indian personality who has been selected for the Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021 _____ **Gita Mittal.**

Note:

- The Award will be presented at IAWJ’s Biennial Conference during the virtual opening ceremony on May 7, 2021.
- She shares the honour with Margarita Luna Ramos from Mexico.
- International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) instituted this award in 2016. Justice Mittal would be the first Indian judge to receive the award.

4. Name the Indian actor who has won the Best Actor award in the New York City International Film Festival _____ **Anupam Kher.**

Note:

- The film has been directed by Prasad Kadam and produced by FNP Media. Besides Anupam, Happy Birthday stars Aahana Kumra.
- The film also won the Best Short Film award at the festival.

5. Name the Indian American professor who won the Sheikh Zayed Book Award in 2021 for his/her book titled “Arabic Oration: Art and Function” , thus became the first person from India to win the award _____ **Tahera Qutbuddin.**

Note:

- She became the first person from India to win the award.
- She won the award under the Arab Culture in Other Languages category.
- The awards under 8 different book categories were announced at the 15th annual Sheikh Zayed Book Award held in Abu Dhabi.

6. Who has been conferred with the World Food Prize 2021 _____ **Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted.**

Note:

- World Food Prize is an award that aims to recognise achievements made in the field of food and agriculture.
- The award is also referred to as the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture. Every year, the committee selects one person who will be awarded the title and prize money of \$250,000.
- Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted is a resident of Denmark and was born in Trinidad and Tobago.

7. Which organization has been conferred with the prestigious “Green Urja Award” 2021 _____ **IREDA.**

Note:

- The award was received by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director, IREDA from Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance.
- IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.

Sports News

1. Who won the 2021 Madrid Open women's singles title _____ **Aryna Sabalenka**.

Note:

- She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the final
- This Sabalenka's 10th career WTA singles title, second WTA title of the season and first on clay court. Madrid Open is a professional WTA tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts.

2. Who has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021 _____ **Babar Azam**.

Note:

- The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket throughout the year.
- Along with Babar, Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy also bagged the ICC Women's Player of The Month accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.

3. Who won the Men's Singles Title in Madrid Open tennis tournament 2021 _____ **Alexander Zverev**.

Note:

- This is the 2nd Madrid Open Title (previous one – 2018) & 4th Masters 1000 Title for Alexander Zverev.
- In the Women's Singles Category, Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka defeated World No.1 Ashleigh Barty (Australia) to clinch her maiden Madrid Open Title. The 2021 Madrid Open is the 20th edition of the Tournament in WTA.

4. Wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling held from which country who has announced that he would be retiring from international cricket after the three Tests, including the World Test Championship final against India _____ **New Zealand**.

Note:

- Watling has played 73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20Is for the BlackCaps.
- Watling became just the 9th wicketkeeper to hit a double hundred and the first to hit a double against England when he did so in Bay Oval in 2019.
- Watling has been involved in two 350-plus stands, one with Brendon McCullum in 2014 against India and the other with Kane Williamson the following year.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "Elephant In The Womb" _____ **Kalki Koechlin**.

Note:

- The book, which is yet to be released, is an illustrated non-fiction book on motherhood.
- It is illustrated by Valeriya Polyanychko and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- The book narrates about pregnancy and parenting for mothers, expectant mothers, and "anyone even thinking about motherhood".

2. Who has authored the book titled "Life in the Clock Tower Valley" _____ **Shakoor Rather**.

Note:

- The book is published by Speaking Tiger, it talks about Kashmir's pristine past, its grievous present and always-uncertain future.
- It also includes historical and political information about Kashmir as well as environmental issues that are seldom talked about.

3. Who has authored the book titled "Elephant" _____ **Paul Pickering**.

Note:

- This book is about the love story between Natasha and the man in Paris and it explores the interface between fact and fiction.
- The elephant culturally symbolises India more than any other country.
- According to the author, his book 'Elephant' is an affirmation of 'I am my voice'. And my voice is as big as an elephant, which in turn is as big as creation.

4. Who has authored the book titled "1971: The Beginning of India's Cricketing Greatness" _____ **Boria Majumdar & Gautam Bhattacharya**.

Note:

- It is the story of a young country (India) ready and eager to make an impression on the world stage.

- Boria Majumdar, a Rhodes Scholar, is the author of multiple books on Indian sport and its history, and the co-author of Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography Playing It My Way.
- Gautam Bhattacharya, currently the Joint Editor of Kolkata's leading daily Sangbad Pratidin, has been a longstanding cricket writer and commentator and is the author of several books.

Science and Defence

1. Which space company is set to launch the "DOGE-1 Mission to the Moon", the first-ever commercial lunar payload, paid entirely in the cryptocurrency Dogecoin _____ **SpaceX**.

Note:

- The satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2022 onboard the Falcon 9 rocket. The dogecoin-funded mission is led by the Canadian company Geometric Energy Corporation (GEC).
- SpaceX will carry a 40-kilogram cube satellite dubbed as DOGE-1, as rideshare on a Falcon 9 rocket.

2. The Researchers from which IIT and members of Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI) are set to work together for boosting digital money transactions in India _____ **IIT Madras**.

Note:

- The two entities will develop voice-based solutions, especially in multiple vernacular languages to enable larger adoption of digital money transactions in India.
- As part of the collaboration, IIT Madras will work on key technical areas like Machine Learning (ML) & Artificial Intelligence (AI), applied to the digital payments space.
- The collaboration is part of MPFI's efforts to achieve 500 million active UPI users in India by 2025. At present, there are more than 100 million active UPI users every month in India.

3. Name the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Advanced Light Helicopter which has successfully demonstrated its deck-operations capabilities _____ **Dhruv Mk III MR**.

Note:

- The ship-borne trials off Chennai coast in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard concluded recently. It covered maintenance activities inside the hangar and on the deck and hot refuelling with engines running on the deck.
- Dhruv Mk III MR is equipped with the most advanced surveillance radar that can detect and identify ships and boats up to a range of 120 nautical miles to help the Indian Coast Guard in its duty to protect the nation from threats.

4. Which technology company has developed 2-nanometer chip technology for faster computing _____ **IBM**.

Note:

- IBM's new 2 nm chip technology helps advance the state-of-the-art in the semiconductor industry, addressing this growing demand.
- It is projected to achieve 45 percent higher performance, or 75 percent lower energy use, than today's most advanced 7 nm node chips.

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