

SSC & Railway Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (1-15 July 2021)

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates 1-15th July 2021

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of **July 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to accelerate its digital transformation programme _____
Axis Bank.

Note:

- Axis bank and AWS signed a multi-year agreement, under which the bank will use AWS to build a portfolio of new digital financial services and modernise core banking applications.
- Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS, including a Buy Now Pay Later product and a new loan management system to support it, Account Aggregator, Video-Know Your Customer, and WhatsApp banking.

2. Which small finance bank has partnered with digital lender LoanTap to provide personal loans to salaried professionals _____
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

Note:

- This move comes as part of Ujjivan's Small Finance Bank's API banking initiative.
- Through this initiative over 150 APIs will be made available, which in turn will offer fast and secure tie-ups for the purposes of digital lending, digital liabilities and payments to fintechs.
- This move also serves a dual purpose of extending the bank's financial services to a larger array of customers through LoanTap's platform, which will make these activities smoother and more convenient for their salaried class customers who are seeking loans.

3. Which Industry group has signed an agreement with the UAE's state-run oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to form a mega petrochemical joint venture in Al Ruwais city, United Arab Emirates (UAE) _____
Reliance Industries.

Note:

- This project, a joint venture of ADNOC and ADQ (formerly known as Abu Dhabi Development Holding(ADDH) Co), will be constructed at the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemical Zone in Ruwais Abu Dhabi, UAE. This is the first investment by Reliance in UAE.
- This agreement enhances the ADNOC's downstream and industry growth plans in line with ADNOC's 2030 strategy.
- Contracts have been awarded for the first stages of development of the TA'ZIZ site.

4. According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the Reserve Bank of India, the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to what percent by March 2022 _____
9.8 per cent.

Note:

- According to the Financial Stability Report (FSR), released by the RBI the Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks may rise to 9.8 per cent by March 2022 under a baseline scenario, from 7.48 per cent in March 2021.
- Under a severe stress scenario, GNPA of banks may increase to 11.22 per cent.

5. According to the report "COVID-19 and Tourism: An Update" jointly released by UNCTAD and the UN World Tourist Organisation, India experienced a drop in tourist arrivals in 2020 by what percent _____
54%.

Note:

- According to report tourism will at least \$4 trillion in terms of global GDP for 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic.
- India experienced a 54% drop in tourist arrivals in 2020
- Some 100 -120 million tourism jobs are at stake as per the report.

6. What amount of funding in total has been announced by the World Bank for Covid-19 vaccines for developing countries _____
\$20 billion.

Note:

- The World Bank is expanding its financing available for Covid-19 vaccine financing to \$20 billion over the next 18 months, adding \$8 billion to the previously announced \$12 billion.

- Further, the Bank also provided over \$4 billion for the purchase and deployment of Covid vaccines for 51 developing countries, half of which are in Africa.
7. Which e-commerce company has launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment ____ **Flipkart**.
- Note:**
- Flipkart aims to enable over 25 million online entrepreneurs by 2023 with the help of Shopsy.
 - Users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers.
8. NABARD has sanctioned Rs 388 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for four drinking water and 20 rural road projects in which state ____ **Odisha**.
- Note:**
- The RIDF assistance is for setting up of four mega piped drinking water supply projects, one each in Boipariguda block of Koraput district, Nilgiri block of Balasore district and two in Malkangiri district.
 - The water supply projects are intended to provide 70 litre per capita per day safe and portable drinking water at the consumer-end through functional household tap connection.
9. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on which PSU bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks' ____ **Punjab and Sind Bank**.
- Note:**
- The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020.
 - Examination of the incident reports and the report of the forensic analysis of the said incidents, revealed, non-compliance with aforesaid directions.
 - The RBI issued a show-cause notice to the bank.
10. Which bank has launched 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative to pay tribute and show gratitude to doctors across the country for their tireless service during the pandemic at the risk of their own lives ____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under this, bank has created a web platform www.salaamdilsey.com.
 - Using this platform, general public can logon on and share the thank you message for doctors which can be immediately shared via e-mail, social media, and WhatsApp to acknowledge and celebrate doctor's contribution.
11. Which bank has launched 'Salute Doctors', a comprehensive banking solutions for doctors ____ **ICICI Bank**.
- Note:**
- The solution will provide customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to an owner of a hospital or a clinic
 - It consists of Salute Doctors Savings Account, Salute Doctors Current Account, Home loans, Medical equipment loan, Business Loan, Personal Loan, Education Loan, etc.
12. As per the new auction methodology of Reserve Bank of India for the benchmark securities of what tenor the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction ____ **30-year & 40-year both**.
- Note:**
- For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-year and 40-year, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auction, as hitherto.
 - The above arrangement will continue till further review.
 - This was noted by the regulator while reviewing market conditions and market borrowing program of the govt.
13. Which digital payments and financial services platform has launched 'Postpaid Mini', a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd ____ **Paytm**.
- Note:**
- It is a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.
 - The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.
14. With which financial company the digital payments and financial services platform Paytm launched a small ticket loans 'Postpaid Mini' that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000 ____ **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd**.
- Note:**
- It is a small ticket loans that will give users flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 - Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

- The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.
 - These small ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.
15. Which digital payments platform has partnered with Flipkart to launch contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature for the e-commerce major's pay-on-delivery orders _____ **PhonePe**.
- Note:**
- PhonePe's QR code solution will now enable customers who earlier opted for cash on delivery to pay digitally through any UPI app at the time of delivery.
 - This is intended to help reduce personal contact while ensuring safety, and drive contactless payments for customers who are traditionally more comfortable with cash on delivery.
16. State-run power giant NTPC has partnered with which another Public Sector Undertaking to boost the development of offshore wind energy in India _____ **ONGC**.
- Note:**
- India is blessed with a coastline of about 7,600 km surrounded by water on three sides and has good prospects of harnessing this clean source.
 - Earlier in May last year, NTPC and ONGC had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to accelerate their footprint in the renewable energy space.
17. Which online payment solutions provider has partnered with WooCommerce to enable WooCommerce merchants with digital payments infrastructure, and end-to-end digitalization of business processes _____ **PayU**.
- Note:**
- WooCommerce merchants is an open-source, customizable e-commerce platform.
 - The partnership will offer merchants exclusive pricing on transactions, no hidden charges, and contactless payment solutions to scale growth and profitability.
 - A recent survey has shown 82 percent of small businesses have experienced a negative impact due to the pandemic and adoption of technology can aid in the revival of up to 35 percent SMBs, post-pandemic.
18. As per the provisional data released by the coal ministry India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of _____ **2.02%**.
- Note:**
- Of the total output, a chunk of 685.951 MT was produced by the public sector, and the remaining production of 30.133 MT was from the private sector.
 - In FY 21, Chhattisgarh registered the highest coal production followed by Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand
 - Jharkhand was the top producer of coking coal.
19. Which financial institutions is offering a unique US bank account to the students gearing up for admissions in the US _____ **Aeldra Financial Inc.**
- Note:**
- It also provides a Mastercard Global Debit Card that can be opened and operated from India, even before students get an F-1 visa.
 - Aeldra is a Silicon-valley based pioneering 'digital neo bank'.
 - It has no minimum balance requirement and it doesn't have foreign currency mark-up fees.
20. Fitch Ratings has cut its projection for India's real GDP growth in 2021-22 to what percent from 12.8% _____ **10%**.
- Note:**
- The ratings agency also warned that banks' asset quality challenges have increased and will remain under threat due to mobility restrictions, medical exigencies and rising job losses, with MSME and retail loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers most likely at risk.
 - Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave of Covid, as against a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20.
 - RBI too earlier this month cut India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal, from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier.
21. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has been brought under the administrative control of which ministry to facilitate govt's ambitious disinvestment programme _____ **Ministry of Finance**.
- Note:**
- Earlier, DPE was part of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
 - The other 5 departments under the Finance Ministry are Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Investment & Public Asset Management and Financial Services

- The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions during 2021-22.
22. Neobank FREO has partnered with which Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to offer a credit line and high-ticket personal loans to customers across multiple cities in India _____ **HDB Financial Services**.
- Note:**
- Through this association, FREO will be providing customers with two innovative credit products: a credit line and a high-ticket personal loan across multiple cities in India.
 - HDBFS in partnership with FREO will offer a credit line that enables consumers to get access to credit anywhere, anytime via a smartphone. An individual will get a personalized amount approved which they can start using immediately.
 - As they repay the borrowed amount, the credit limit is replenished and they can continue withdrawing as much as they need.
23. With which public sector bank the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has entered into a corporate agency agreement for the distribution of its insurance products through the bank's network _____ **Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Under the agreement, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will offer a number of personal lines of products such as – motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance to the bank's customers.
 - It will also offer the commercial line of products such as – engineering insurance, marine insurance, etc.
 - The agreement will enhance the distribution of Bajaj Allianz's products to remote areas of the country.
24. Fintech Company, Drip Capital has collaborated with which bank to offer customised trade financing solutions to empower Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) exporters in India _____ **SBM Bank India**.
- Note:**
- Under the partnership, Drip Capital will provide collateral-free working capital to MSME exporters at competitive rates through its invoice discounting facility.
 - Unlike traditional financial institutions, Drip Capital leverages data analytics and technology to underwrite its transactions, allowing it to provide a seamless financing experience to MSME businesses.
25. With which entity the payment technology company Mastercard has launched a recurring payment interface named 'MandateHQ', to support card-issuing banks that wish to enable recurring payments for its customers _____ **Razorpay**.
- Note:**
- MandateHQ is an API (Application Programming Interface)-based plug-n-play solution, which would reduce the go-live time of card-issuing banks.
 - It will also help the banks to implement the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new framework on automatic debit and recurring payments.
 - It would also support the banks to send a 24-hour pre debit notification (mandated by RBI) via electronic e-mail, SMS, and WhatsApp.
26. In which city of India, the Amazon India has launched its first 'Digital Kendra', as part of its commitment to digitise 10 million Indian micro, small and medium enterprises by 2025 _____ **Surat**.
- Note:**
- Amazon Digital Kendras are brick and mortar resource centres that will provide MSMEs information about the benefits of e-commerce and help avail third-party services such as shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance, digital marketing services, GST and taxation support to start their digital journey.
27. NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) and which bank have launched a fintech professional programme to build future-ready professionals for the private sector lender _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- The programme offers graduates with zero to three years of experience an opportunity to join Axis Bank as a deputy manager (IT).
 - NIIT the programme is immersive in nature where the learners perform tasks of similar complexity as they would face in their role.
28. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to offer a defence service salary package to the Indian Army under its 'Power Salute' initiative _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- The MoU will cover all ranks of army officers viz. serving Defence personnel as well Defence pensioners under its ambit.

- During the signing ceremony Indian Indian Army was represented by Lt Gen (Lieutenant General) Rana Pratap Kalita, and Axis Bank was represented by Reynold D' Souza, Executive Vice President and Lt Col MK Sharma National Accounts Head, Axis Bank.
29. Which bank has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Max Bupa Health Insurance to provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to its customers and employees _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under the partnership, Max Bupa will offer indemnity as well as fixed benefit products, and their customizable variants to the bank's customers across the country.
 - The Axis Bank customers are also enabled to get access to quality healthcare solution products that are offered by Max Bupa through the tie-up.
 - The Health Insurance would cover medical emergencies in Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
30. Which General Insurance company has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named 'Arogya Supreme' with multiple benefits and coverages _____ **SBI General Insurance**.
- Note:**
- Under the policy the insured persons will get a wide range of sum insured options up to Rs 5 crore for their medically necessary hospitalization due to illness or accident that occurred during the policy period.
 - Options: Based on the sum insured and coverage features, 3 different options viz Pro, Plus, and Premium were provided for the customers to choose under the plan.
 - Policy Term: Customers also have a facility to choose the policy tenure ranging from 1 to 3 years i.e. 1year/2years/3years.
31. Under the modified risk management guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank staff working in sensitive positions like treasury operations and currency chests will get how many days mandatory leave in a single spell every year _____ **10 days**.
- Note:**
- RBI has given banks six months to comply with these directions.
 - It asked banks to ensure that employees, while on 'mandatory leave', do not have access to physical or virtual resources related to their work responsibilities, with the exception of internal/ corporate email which is usually available to all employees for general purposes.
 - Mandatory leave for staff was first introduced in May 2011 after the RBI saw a sharp increase in frauds in banks following forensic studies.
32. Which Bank has launched unique Employee-funded program titled as 'Ghar Ghar Ration' for its low-income customers who were affected by Covid-19 _____ **IDFC First Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under this scheme, employees of the bank have contributed their personal income to help such customers who are affected by COVID
 - It is a first such employee-led initiative by any bank.
 - Ghar Ghar Ration program will supply ration kits to 50,000 low-income customers whose livelihood have been impacted by COVID.
33. To facilitate investment in which by individual investors the RBI has introduced RBI Retail Direct facility _____ **Government Securities**.
- Note:**
- Under this facility, retail investors will have the facility to open and maintain the Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with RBI.
 - RDG account can be opened through an Online portal provided for the scheme.
 - Saving Account holders in India with PAN, Valid KYC documents, email ID and Registered number are eligible to open this account.
34. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved which Small Finance Bank (SFB) to apply for the amalgamation of its promoter into itself _____ **Equitas Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- As per the RBI's SFB licensing guidelines, the promoter of SFB should exit or cease to be a promoter after a lock-in period of 5 years.
 - In the case of Equitas SFB, the initial promoter lock-in period for Equitas Holdings expires on September 4, 2021, hence the Equitas SFB requested RBI for amalgamation of its promoter before completion of the lock-in period.
 - Now RBI has approved the bank to apply for amalgamation of its promoter into itself.

35. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has issued framework for Setting up and operating International Trade Finance Services Platform (ITFS). The IFSCA is situated in which city of India _____ **Gandhinagar**.
Note:
- It will enable Exporters and Importers to avail various types of trade finance facilities at competitive terms for their international trade transactions through a dedicated electronic platform.
 - This will help in their ability to convert their trade receivables into liquid funds and to obtain short-term funding.
 - ITFS will provide Trade Finance Services at IFSC
36. Which bank has tied up with Mumbai Metro to launch 'One Mumbai Metro Card' powered by Mastercard, to ensure contactless and cashless travel for Mumbaikars _____ **Axis Bank**.
Note:
- It is a prepaid, open loop contactless card which can be used as a part of the daily transit journey with just a tap. With this solution, Mastercard has continued to contribute in changing the way India commutes and helping the transit eco-system go completely digital.
 - This is a card that can be used for all daily purchases from food, groceries, medicines as well as tickets.
37. Which bank has partnered with TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha to launch a fully digital network for facilitating electricity bill payment across the state _____ **IndusInd Bank**.
Note:
38. Which payments bank has launched 'Pay to contacts' which allows customers to initiate a UPI payment by selecting the receiver's mobile number from their phonebook _____ **Airtel Payments Bank**.
Note:
- 'Pay to Contacts' displays the valid UPI ID associated with the selected contact, irrespective of the UPI app used by the receiver.
 - This eliminates the need to enter the UPI ID or bank account details to process the payment and saves time.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Raj Kaushal passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Film Maker**.
Note:
- He was married to actor-TV presenter Mandira Bedi. Apart from direction, Kaushal had also produced filmmaker Onir's 2005 acclaimed drama "My Brother... Nikhil", starring Sanjay Suri and Juhi Chawla.
 - His last directorial was the 2006 thriller, "Anthony Kaun Hai?", starring Arshad Warsi and Sanjay Dutt.
2. Renowned personality K.V. Sampath Kumar has passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Journalist**.
Note:
- He, along with his wife, was selected for the Padma Shri honour from the Government of India in 2020 for his contribution to the field of Literature & Education.
 - He has also received several awards like the Siddarudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.
3. Renowned personality Donald Rumsfeld passed away recently he was veteran _____ **Politician**.
Note:
- He served two-time as defense secretary and a one-time presidential candidate of USA.
 - Regarded by former colleagues as equally smart and combative, patriotic and politically cunning, Rumsfeld had a storied career under four presidents and nearly a quarter-century in corporate America.
4. Renowned sportsman M Prasannan passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____ **Football**.
Note:
- He played for Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship.
 - He was part of the Indian team coached by PK Banerjee and captained by Inder Singh in the Merdeka Cup in 1973.
5. Legendary actor Dilip Kumar won Filmfare Awards for Best Actor for how many times who passed away recently _____ **Eight**.
Note:

- Legendary actor Dilip Kumar (98) passed away after a prolonged illness in Mumbai.
 - Dilip Kumar made his Hindi film debut in 1944 with the movie 'Jwar Bhata'.
 - In a career spanning over six decades, Dilip Kumar gave multiple hits such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Naya Daur', 'Baabul', 'Deedar', 'Madhumati', 'Devdas', 'Ganga Jamuna', 'Ram Aur Shyam', 'Karma' and others.
 - Dilip Kumar's portrayal in various doomed movies earned him the title of 'tragedy king'.
6. Renowned personality Richard Donner passed away recently he was a veteran _____ **Film Maker**.
- Note:**
- He is known for directing blockbuster and classic films such as "Superman", "The Goonies" and "Lethal Weapon".
 - Donner, whose real name was Richard Donald Schwartzberg, was born in New York to Jewish parents in 1931.
 - Early in his career, Donner had aspired to be an actor but found his calling in direction.
7. Renowned sportsperson Keshav Chandra Datt passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____ **Hockey**.
- Note:**
- Born in Lahore Datt was part of the 1948 London Olympics Indian Hockey team
 - Later as Vice-Captain of Indian team he won Gold in 1952 Helsinki Olympics.
 - In his autobiography Goal, Dhyani Chand rated Datt as one of the finest half-backs of that time.
8. Recently, renowned sportsman Yashpal Sharma passed away, he was associated with which sports _____ **Cricket**.
- Note:**
- He was also a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team.
 - He had got India off to a brilliant start in the 1983 World Cup as he scored a match-winning 89 against the West Indies in what was India's first match of the showpiece event.
 - He scored 1606 runs at 33.45 in Test career and scored 883 runs at 28.48 in ODIs.
9. Renowned personality Mahesh Kathi passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Telugu film critic and actor**.
- Note:**
- He had last month met with an accident near Chandrasekharapuram village in Kodavalur Mandal of Nellore district.
 - He was known for films like Nene Raju Nene Mantri, Hrudaya Kaleyam, Amma Rajyam Lo Kadapa Biddalu, and most recently Krack, which released in January this year. He also directed a movie in 2015 called Pesaratu.

Important Days

1. National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year on which date to acknowledge the role of doctors in keeping the nation healthy _____ **1st July**.
- Note:**
- Government established Doctors' Day in 1991 to recognize the contributions of former Bengal Chief Minister Dr BC Roy.
 - He played an important role in the establishment of Medical Council of India and Indian Medical Association.
 - He was also conferred with Bharat Ratna on 4th February, 1961.
2. The National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on _____ **1st July**.
- Note:**
- The day is a unique opportunity to say 'thank you not only to postmen but also to all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us.
 - The day was initiated by a popular postal service provider from Seattle, the United States of America in 1997 to felicitate and honour the co-postal workers for their dedication.
3. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is observed every year on which date _____ **1st July**.
- Note:**
- The date of July 1 has been designated by the central government as 'GST Day' in 2017 (this year is its fourth anniversary).
 - During these years, several key policy initiatives were taken by the government to make the GST system and compliance mechanism simple, transparent and technology driven.
 - The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect, multi-stage, comprehensive tax in India, imposed on the supply of goods and services.
4. World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on _____ **2nd July**.
- Note:**

- The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. Sports journalists help millions of people in the world to receive information on various sports.
 - This professional has helped in the development of many kinds of games all over the world.
 - These journalists have their associations to maintain their standards in their profession.
5. International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) is celebrated every year on which date _____ **first Saturday of July (3 July 2021)**.
- Note:**
- This year, it is being observed today (July 3) with the theme “Rebuild better together”.
 - This day was officially started by the UNGA on the centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1995.
 - It aims to strengthen and unite everyone in this pandemic.
6. World Zoonoses Day is held every year on which date to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases _____ **6th July**.
- Note:**
- Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa, either with direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.
 - It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease.
7. World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on _____ **7th July**.
- Note:**
- The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones.
 - The day is an annual global celebration of chocolate, which allows people to gorge and indulge, hopefully guilt-free, in it.
 - On this day, chocolate lovers from all over relish eating different kinds of chocolate or create several dishes with it like cakes, pastries, sinful and gooey brownies, hot chocolate or chocolate mousse, without any guilt.
8. National Fish Farmers’ Day is celebrated every year on which date by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) _____ **10th July**.
- Note:**
- The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.
 - This day is made to honour the fish farmers, aquapreneurs, fisherfolks, stakeholders and whoever else is associated in the fishery for their contribution in the fishery.
9. World Population Day is observed globally every year on _____ **11th July**.
- Note:**
- This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc.
 - This year theme of World Population Day 2021: “the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility”.
10. World Malala Day is observed every year on which date by the United Nations _____ **12th July**.
- Note:**
- Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children’s rights around the world.
 - On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls.
 - Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force _____ **Vivek Ram Chaudhari**.

Note:

- He will succeed Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora.
- He is currently serving as commander-in-chief of the IAF's Western Air Command (WAC)
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 29, 1982.

2. Who took charges as the new Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) _____ **Satish Agnihotri**.
Note:
- He had worked as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for close to nine years.
 - NHSRCL has been incorporated in 2016 with an object to finance, construct, maintain and manage the High Speed Rail Corridor in India.
3. Who has become Brand Ambassador of Khadi Prakritik Paint _____ **Nitin Gadkari**.
Note:
- He will promote this paint across the country to encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.
 - He Inaugurated a new automated manufacturing unit of Khadi Prakritik Paint in Jaipur.
 - The Minister appreciated Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the successful research.
4. Who was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand _____ **Pushkar Singh Dhama**.
Note:
- Governor **Rani Maurya** administered the oath to Mr. Dhama at Rajbhawan in **Dehradun**.
 - Pushkar Singh Dhama is the youngest CM of the state.
 - He will be the **third CM** in nearly four months.
 - He is a two-time MLA from the **Khatima** constituency in the **Udham Singh Nagar** district of the state.
5. Veteran lawyer KN Bhattacharjee has been appointed as the new Lokayukta of which state _____ **Tripura**.
Note:
- It will deal with the complaints of corruption against public servants and administrative functionaries under the Tripura Lokayukta Act, 2008.
 - Bhattacharjee will be the 3d Lokayukta of the state.
 - He was succeeded by a former judge of Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh high courts, Justice Subal Baidya, in 2017.
6. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) _____ **PVSLN Murty**.
Note:
- He took charge as the new CMD on 1st July 2021 succeeding B. Paul Muktieh, who served as the CMD of NEDFi from 2010 to June 2021.
 - Prior to his appointment as the CMD of NEDFi, PVSLN Murty served as the Chief Strategy Officer(CSO) at State Bank of India (SBI), based at the Corporate Office, Mumbai.
 - He has served as the Chief General Manager (CGM) and CSO of the SBI.
7. Stefan Lofven has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country within weeks after he was ousted in a no-confidence vote _____ **Sweden**.
Note:
- Löfven won a majority of 117 IN 349 seats.
 - Head of the Social Democrat's Party, Löfven was supported by lawmakers to form a new government after leading the country in a caretaking capacity since late last month.
8. Who has been appointed as the minister incharge of the newly formed formulated Ministry of Co-operation in Modi's new cabinet _____ **Amit Shah**.
Note:
- This is in addition to the portfolio he already holds in the Narendra Modi government that is the Home Ministry.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi had created a new 'Ministry of Cooperation', looking to provide added impetus to the cooperative movement in the country.
 - The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'ease of doing business' for cooperatives and enable the development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).
9. Who has been appointed as the Union Minister of Law & Justice _____ **Kiren Rijiju**.
Note:
- A prominent face from the northeast in the Modi government, Rijiju was elevated as a Cabinet minister in a major reshuffle and expansion of the Union Council of Ministers.
 - Rijiju takes over the key ministry from Ravi Shankar Prasad, who has resigned from the government.
10. Who becomes the new Health Minister of India _____ **Mansukh Mandaviya**.
Note:

- Mandaviya has replaced Dr Harsh Vardhan who was in charge of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences since 2019.
- Mandaviya will also be the in charge of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

11. Who becomes the new Minister of Railways _____ **Ashwini Vaishnaw**.

Note:

- He also took charges as the Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The Jodhpur-born Mr. Vaishnaw was a brilliant student from the beginning. After graduating with a gold medal in electronics and communications engineering course from Rajasthan's Jai Narayan Vyas University in 1992, he pursued his M.Tech programme from IIT Kanpur.
- He immediately cracked the coveted civil service examination with an all-India rank of 27 in 1994.

12. Who has been appointed as the Resident Grievance Officer of Twitter for India _____ **Vinay Prakash**.

Note:

- The appointment announcement was made on the official website of Twitter.
- This appointment is mandatory for all social media companies under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules of the country.
- Guidelines under the new IT Rules were issued in February and require all social media intermediaries to comply by May 26.

13. Abiy Ahmed has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country for a second 5-year term, after his ruling 'Prosperity Party' won the country's parliamentary election in landslide victory _____ **Ethiopia**.

Note:

- Prosperity Party won 410 seats out of 436 parliamentary electoral constituencies at the general elections of Ethiopia
- Abiy Ahmed is serving as the 4th Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since 2018.

14. Shyam Srinivasan has been reappointed as the MD & CEO of which bank for three years with effect from September 23, 2021 _____ **Federal Bank**.

Note:

- He will hold the office till September 22, 2024.
- He has served three terms as CEO of the Federal Bank since September 23, 2010.
- He is the longest-serving MD & CEO of the bank, after its founder, late K P Hormis.
- Federal Bank's Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala.

15. Who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Nepal _____ **Sher Bahadur Deuba**.

Note:

- He has been administered the oath of office by President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari.
- He has been appointed Prime Minister under Article 76(5) of the Constitution, which makes it mandatory for him to secure a vote of confidence in the House within 30 days of taking oath.
- He succeeded K P Sharma Oli

Important News - India

1. What is India's rank in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink _____ **20th**.

Note:

- The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23.
- Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots.
- The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.

2. In July 2021, which flagship programme of government of India has completed six years of its implementation _____

Digital India.

Note:

- The vision of Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this ambitious programme on 1st July, 2015.
- The Digital India journey in the past 6 years has centred around empowerment, inclusion, and digital transformation. It has positively impacted all aspects of the lives of Indian citizens through Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker and mobile-based UMANG services.

3. From which port the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the maiden voyage under the Green Freight Corridor-2 _____ **Cochin**.

Note:

- MoS Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the first voyage under the service, which is operated by Mumbai-based Round the Coast Pvt Ltd.
- The newly launched service will connect Cochin with Beypore-Azhikkal and later Kollam ports in Kerala.

4. Which entity has curated the Financial Literacy Textbook for students of Class VI that was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently _____ **NPCI**.

Note:

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has curated the book.
- This book will be used for a newly introduced elective subject 'Financial Literacy'.
- It will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts at a preliminary stage of their education.

5. Which social media giant has published its first transparency report under the new Information Technology (IT) Rules 2021 _____ **Google**.

Note:

- It has published the report for April 2021.
- Google received a total of 27,762 complaints for the month of April, and the number of removals stood at 59,350.
- The new IT rules require significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs) such as Google, Facebook, etc. to publish a monthly report on the action taken on user complaints that they have received.

6. The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) has signed an MoU with which entity for a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM _____ **Microsoft**.

Note:

- The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies for transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India.
- The Centre of Excellence will serve as a central body for research, AI scenario envisioning and tech led innovation.
- AJNIFM and Microsoft will jointly explore use cases of emerging technologies in finance and related areas, across central and state ministries and public sector enterprises.

7. The Central Government funded for setting up a new Vaccine Testing Laboratory in National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in _____ **Hyderabad**.

Note:

- The funds have been sanctioned for the laboratory from PM- Cares Fund.
- It will be set up at National Institute of Animal Biotechnology in Hyderabad and will be under Department of Biotechnology.
- It is a big step towards development of Pharmacy sector in Hyderabad.

8. According provisional statistics of 2020-21 released by the coal ministry, in FY 2020-21, which state registered highest coal production _____ **Chhattisgarh**.

Note:

- According to the data released, India's total coal production registered a marginal decline of 2.02% to 716.084 million tonnes during the last fiscal year.
- The country had produced 730.874 million tonnes (MT) of coal in FY'20.
- Of the total production of 716.084 MT, 671.297 MT was non-coking coal and the remaining 44.787 MT was coking coal

9. Which project has been launched by the Ministry of Education to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27 _____ **NIPUN Bharat**.

Note:

- Aim: to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies by 2026-27.
- It will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy and will be set up at National- State- District- Block- School level.

10. World's third-largest cricket stadium will come up in which city of India _____ **Jaipur**.

Note:

- The stadium will be constructed in Chomp village on Jaipur-Delhi highway.

- It will be constructed in two phases and construction work for both phases will take 5-years to complete.
- Two largest stadium: Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera and Melbourne Cricket Stadium in Australia.

11. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has initiated a project on ONDC. What does C stands for in ONDC _____ **Commerce.**

Note:

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- It aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

12. The Ministry of Tourism has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which entity to strengthen the country's hospitality and tourism industry _____ **Yatra.**

Note:

- The primary objective of the MoU is to provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on SAATHI on the OTA platform.
- The MoU also outlines both parties to encourage units to register on NIDHI and thereby on SAATHI and encourage the local tourism industry with appropriate safeguards for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

13. The Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture located in which place that has developed Online Course Mobile App Matsya Setu, launched by the union minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh _____ **Bhubaneswar.**

Note:

- The app has been developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar.
- It is being funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.
- The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

14. Which ministry has been created by the Union Govt separately for the realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi' _____ **Ministry of Co-operation.**

Note:

- This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- It will help deepen co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.
- A co-operative based economic development model is very relevant where each member works with a spirit of responsibility.

15. Which institutions has organized the first edition of the Indo Pacific Business Summit in partnership with External Affairs Ministry _____ **CII.**

Note:

- The event saw participation from Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries across the Indo Pacific.
- Addressing the event, Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry, Riva Ganguly Das spoke about promoting trade facilitation in the Indo-Pacific through improved cross border linkages and trade infrastructure.

16. Which institution has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown _____ **ISRO.**

Note:

- ISRO scientists appeared before the PSC for Education and made a detailed presentation about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students.
- **ISRO** emphasized that it is ready to provide satellite rights to states to start satellite **TV classrooms.**

17. Under whose chairmanship the govt has set up a 25-member a Development Council for Cement Industry that will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products _____ **Puneet Dalmia.**

Note:

- The committee will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products.
 - It will also recommend measures for securing the full utilization of the installed capacity and for improving the working of the industry, particularly of the less efficient units.
 - The council would also work for standardization of accounting and costing methods and practice.
- 18.** Which organization has launched a regular MTech programme in Defence Technology in association with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to impart necessary theoretical and experimental knowledge, skill and aptitude in various defence technology areas _____ **DRDO.**
- Note:**
- This MTech defence technology programme can be conducted at any AICTE affiliated institutes or universities, IITs, NITs or private engineering institutes.
 - Institute of Defence Scientists and Technologists (IDST) will provide support to the institutes for conducting this programme, which can be conducted in online as well as offline formats.
- 19.** Which Railway Station has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium _____ **Bengaluru City Railway Station.**
- Note:**
- The aquarium has been opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom, the report added.
 - The aquarium is based on the concept of Amazon River and is one-of-its-kind, promising to be a visual treat and a passenger's delight.
- 20.** In which Indian city the Union ministry of science & technology has set up a concentrated solar thermal (CST) based test rig facility _____ **Hyderabad.**
- Note:**
- The facility can help the solar industry test capability and performance of solar thermal components like solar receiver tubes, heat transfer fluids, and concentrating mirrors.
 - The facility has been set up by the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- 21.** The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which National University to establish a 'Bangabandhu Chair' as a tribute to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh _____ **Delhi University.**
- Note:**
- An MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Delhi University in Dhaka on Monday to set up this Chair at Delhi University.
 - Speaking on this occasion, the President of ICCR Vinay Sahasrabudhe said that this chair was the celebration of the commonality of the world view between Indian and Bangladesh as both countries stand for peace, tranquility, equal respect for all belief systems and democracy.
 - The initiative is the outcome of one of the understandings reached during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in March this year.
- 22.** Which organization has signed and MoU with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for strengthening export linkage of farmer cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisation _____ **NAFED.**
- Note:**
- It facilitates APEDA registered exporters getting assistance under all the government schemes implemented through NAFED.
 - The MoU also envisages ensuring sustainability and growth of exports by Cooperatives
- 23.** Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility plant at _____ **Nagpur, Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- Emphasizing the importance of alternate biofuels for diversification of agriculture towards the energy and power sector, Gadkari stated that India is spending 8 Lakh Crore for the import of petrol, diesel & petroleum products.
 - The Government has designed a policy which encourages development of cost effective pollution free and indigenous ethanol, bio CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), LNG and hydrogen fuels.
- 24.** NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd will India's single largest solar park at which place _____ **Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.**
- Note:**

- This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer in the country.
- As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company, aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032.
- Currently, the state-owned power major has an installed capacity of 66 GW across 70 power projects with an additional 18 GW under construction.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has unveiled the new 'AP Information Technology Policy 2021-24', that is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- It is expected to generate more than 55,000 jobs over the next three years.
- New policy is also expected to create 1.65 lakh indirect employment thereby ensuring a holistic eco system development.
- The policy would be in force till March 31, 2024.

2. Which state government has launched 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojna, a social sector scheme for COVID 19 affected families _____ **Delhi**.

Note:

- It is a social security scheme for COVID-19-affected families.
- Under the scheme, Delhi government will disburse an ex gratia payment of ₹50,000 for each death to the family of the deceased and ₹2,500 monthly to those families who have lost breadwinners.
- Children who were orphaned would be provided ₹2,500 monthly till they turn 25.

3. Panchmuli lake is located in which state from where as many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated for the safety of tourists _____ **Gujarat**.

Note:

- The Panchmuli lake, situated near the 182-meter tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia.
- The Panchmuli lake, also known as 'Dyke-3' of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, was developed for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity.
- There are still many crocodiles in the lake

4. MoEFCC approved the conversion of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary Tiger Reserve is located in which state that becomes the 4th Tiger Reserve in the state _____ **Rajasthan**.

Note:

- Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast & Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side.
- According to a 2018 tiger census, there are 102 tigers in three reserves -- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota.

5. Which state government has launched the 'YSR Bima' scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of the deceased to make the insurance claims easier _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- In order to support **1.32 lakh families** through the YSR Bima scheme, the State government allocated **Rs 750 crores** for the year 2021-22.
- In the last two years, the State government had spent **Rs 1307 crore for YSR Bima**.

6. Which state government has launched 'Students Credit Card' an education loan scheme for the students aiming for higher studies _____ **West Bengal**.

Note:

- The scheme will provide soft loan upto Rs. 10 lakh with simple annual interest. The loan will be available for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies within the country or abroad.
- Students residing in the state for at least 10 years will be eligible for the scheme till 40 years of age and can repay the loan in 15 years.

7. Which state government is planning to introduce the Model Tenancy Act in the state, aimed at ending tenant-owner disputes within two months and aiding the rental housing sector _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- The tweaked tenancy law — once brought in — will help owners get tenants and rentals will soften a bit.
- The Centre sent the law to states either to enact fresh legislation based on the template or suitably amend the existing laws.
- Without a valid notice, tenants cannot be evicted during the agreement period.

8. Which state government has formulated a proposal for population control and welfare, rewarding couples that adhere to a 'two-child policy' _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- The policy will be voluntary — it will not be enforced upon anyone.
- However, if any person decides to "voluntarily" keep the number of their family members limited, they will be eligible for government schemes.
- On the other hand, if someone doesn't follow the policy, they will face restrictions in government jobs, availing ration, and other benefits.

9. Which state government announced to create an independent department to protect and preserve the "faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities" of the state _____ **Assam.**

Note:

- The Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture is aimed to preserve set of beliefs, customs and practices of tribal communities.
- The new 'Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture' will mainly focus on area dominated by illegal immigrants.

10. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India partnered with which state to improve the Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) in the state _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- The partnership entails, among other things, the use of digitisation, data aggregation, performance dashboards for monitoring of the TDPS, thus providing a real-time and long-term solution to improve the food and nutritional security for millions.
- This partnership between the WFP and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies of the Rajasthan government is part of a wider strategic Memorandum of Understanding signed late last year.

11. The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has tied up with which insurance company for insuring yaks _____ **National Insurance Company Ltd.**

Note:

- This is the first such instance in the country that an insurance policy for highly valuable Himalayan cattle/yak have been approved.
- The insurance policy will be a big boon for the yak owners, as it will shield them against a number of risks posed by weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operation, strike or riots and permanent total disability for breeding or stud yaks

12. NTPC signs MoU with which state/union territories to set up country's first Green Hydrogen Mobility Project _____ **Ladakh.**

Note:

- MoU was also marked with the inauguration of NTPC's first solar installations in Leh in form of solar trees and a solar car port.
- It will enable NTPC to help Ladakh develop a carbon free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen.

13. India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in which state _____ **Uttarakhand.**

Note:

- India's first cryptogamic garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district's Chakrata town.
- Around 50 species have been grown in the garden at Deoban in Chakrata at a commanding height of 9,000 ft.

Important News – World

1. Which country has signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Bhutan on the establishment of Model Technical Training Centres (MTTC) as part of growing between the two countries _____ **Singapore.**

Note:

- The agreement was signed by Sonam Tobgay, Director of Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, and Simon Wong, Ambassador of Singapore to Bhutan.
- It is seen as one of the outcomes of Bhutan's opening up to the outside world.
- India with whom Bhutan has a special relationship has warm ties with Singapore with the city state setting up vocational training institutes for Indian youth in places like Rajasthan and Assam in recent years.

2. Which country ranked first in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink _____ **USA.**

Note:

- The country was in the 17th spot in 2019 and slid six spots down in 2020 and stood at 23.
- Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots.
- The report has a score for each location, which is calculated as the sum of three parameters — quantity, quality and business environment.

3. To be commissioned in December 2021 the Rampal Maitree Power project is being built by India in which country _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- The event will be coinciding with the Golden jubilee celebration of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- The second unit is expected to be commissioned matching with the implementation of the associated transmission system.
- The Power Secretaries of both the countries held a meeting through video conferencing

4. World's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, the Baihetan Dam is located in which country that was turn on officially _____ **China.**

Note:

- The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints.
- Plans call for the 289-meter-tall (954-foot-tall) Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each. That will make it second in size after the Three Gorges Dam, opened in 2003 on the Yangtze, with 22.5 million kilowatts of generating capacity.

5. Which country was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease _____ **China.**

Note:

- China was certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease.
- The country reported 30 million cases of the infectious disease annually in the 1940s but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case.

6. Jovenel Moise the President of which country was assassinated is an attack on his residence _____ **Haiti.**

Note:

- The acting Prime Minister Claude Joseph declared a state of seige in the country.
- Haitian National Police have detained two suspects and killed four others connected to the assassination.
- Haiti is a Caribbean country that shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic to its east.

7. Which organization has launched a global mobility aids action group to examine and improve the transport journey of mobility aids, including wheelchairs, with the objective of improving the handling of this vital equipment for travelers with disabilities _____ **International Air Transport Association (IATA).**

Note:

- The action group will be the first of its kind aimed at tackling issues around the safe and secure transport of mobility aids—an issue of huge importance to a growing number of travelers.
 - It will also provide advice and recommendations to airlines and other stakeholders concerning the establishment of policy, process and standards related to the handling and transport of mobility aids.
8. Nepal Investment Board has signed a pact with which Indian firm to develop the 679-megawatt (MW) Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in eastern Nepal _____ **SJVN Ltd.**
- Note:**
- The National Investment Board of the Himalayan Nation announced that the pact was signed with India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) which is the second mega project undertaken by Southern neighbour.
 - The memorandum of understanding MoU was signed by SJVNL Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma and IBN Chief Executive Officer Sushil Bhatta.
9. Recently Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched BHIM-UPI services in which country _____ **Bhutan.**
- Note:**
- With launch of BHIM-UPI in Bhutan, payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit a large number of tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan each year.
 - Bhutan is the first country to adopt UPI standards for its QR deployment, and the first country in our immediate neighbourhood to accept mobile based payments through the BHIM App.

Honor & Awards

1. Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda is poet of which language who won the prestigious Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020 _____ **Odia.**
- Note:**
- This national award was instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu to recognise litterateurs who had contributed in any language listed in 8th Schedule of Constitution.
 - The prestigious award carries a cash award of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.
 - Born on June 24, 1944, Dr Panda writes in the Odia language. He has published 16 poetry collections and a novel.
2. Which International Airline has been selected as the "2021 Airline of the Year" award by the Air Transport World (ATW) also known as Oscar in the aviation industry _____ **Korean Airline.**
- Note:**
- It is also called the Oscar in the aviation industry.
 - The awards ceremony will be held in Boston on October 5.
 - The ATW's Airlines of the Year award has a huge honour that called the Oscar in the global aviation industry.
3. Name the Indian actor after whom the Indian Army has named a military firing range in Gulmarg _____ **Vidya Balan.**
- Note:**
- The Vidya Balan Firing Range is located in Gulmarg, Kashmir.
 - Earlier this year, Vidya along with her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur had even attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army.
 - Also, a few days ago, it was announced that she has been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars.
4. Which Indian ventures has won the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency award 2021 by OCO Global _____ **'Invest India'.**
- Note:**
- **OCO Global** is a leading economic development advisory firm, working with govt and companies worldwide on international investment and trade.
 - **Invest India**, set up in **2009**, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
5. Name the Indian economist who has been conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany _____ **Kaushik Basu.**
- Note:**
- The award recognizes excellence through an entire career and offers research collaboration opportunities.

- Basu is a professor of economics at Cornell University and the Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business.
 - He was the chief economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016, and chief economic adviser to the Indian government from 2009 to 2012.
6. Who has recently been granted the prestigious United Kingdoms Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his initiative 'Hunger Has No Religion' _____ **Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi**.
- Note:**
- The hunger drive feeds about 1,500 people every day in five cities across the country.
 - Presented by the British government, the award is given to the outstanding individual volunteers who make a positive difference through their services to the community around them.

Sports News

1. Who becomes the youngest chess Grandmaster, breaking the record of 12 years and seven months set by Sergey Karjakin in 2002 _____ **Abhimanyu Mishra**.
- Note:**
- Abhimanyu reached the milestone in 12 years, four months, and 25 days.
 - The 12-year-old player from New Jersey scored his third GM norm in Budapest, having already crossed the required 2500 ELO rating barrier.
 - He went on to defeat 15-year-old Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca, securing a performance rating higher than 2600 over nine rounds, which constitutes a GM norm.
2. MP Jabir is associated with which sports who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics recently _____ **Sprinting**.
- Note:**
- Jabir qualified through the World ranking quota where there are 14 spots available.
 - The 25-year-old sailor hails from Malappuram, Kerala.
 - He is currently ranked 34th in the World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings where 40 athletes qualify.
3. Who has won the Silver Lake Open chess tournament in Serbia _____ **Nihal Sarin**.
- Note:**
- The third-seeded Indian came on top of the field with eight points from nine rounds.
 - In the final round, he defeated Branko Damljanovic of the host.
 - The second and third places were also taken by Indians, as Raunak Sadhwani and Abhimanyu Puranik scored seven points each.
4. Who has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2021 _____ **Max Verstappen**.
- Note:**
- This is his third victory in a row from pole.
 - It consolidates his world championship lead over Lewis Hamilton.
 - Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took second with McLaren's Lando Norris in third.
5. Who has won the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess Championship 2021 _____ **Hou Yifan**.
- Note:**
- She beats GM Harika Dronavalli from by 15-13 in the final.
 - Hou, a four-time women's world champion and the winner of the 2017 Biel tournament, added another prestigious title to her resume.
 - Hou clinched the \$20,000 first prize in a tight match where she won the final two bullet games.
6. Levon Aronian has won the wins Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title, he held from which country _____ **Armenia**.
- Note:**
- The Armenian grandmaster defeated the Russian chess player Vladislav Artemiev.
 - He will receive a \$ 30,000 prize for winning first place.

- Goldmoney Asian Rapid is the 7th round of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour organized by Magnus Carlsen.
7. Who has been named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics 2021 _____ **Mariyappan Thangavelu.**
Note:
- The decision was taken by the executive committee meeting of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) due to his victory in 2016 Rio Paralympics.
 - Mariyappan Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna.
 - He had won the 2016 Rio Paralympics T-42 high jump gold by clearing 1.89m.
8. Who will be the India's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics along with M C Mary Kom _____ **Manpreet Singh.**
Note:
- IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games.
 - The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201.
 - The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.
9. Who will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Games 2021 _____ **Bajrang Punia.**
Note:
- IOA also revealed that wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Games.
 - The official size of the Indian contingent will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, totalling 201.
 - The Tokyo Olympics would be held from July 23 to August 8.
10. Name the Indian female swimmer who became the first female and only the third swimmer from the country to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2021 _____ **Maana Patel.**
Note:
- Maana Patel qualified for the Olympics through the Universality quota
 - Universality quota allows one male and one female athlete from a country to participate in the Olympics
 - Maana Patel will join Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Natarajan in India's swimming squad in Tokyo
 - Maana will compete in the women's 100m backstroke event.
11. AFC women's Asian Cup 2022 will be hosted by which two cities of India _____ **Mumbai and Pune.**
Note:
- This move was taken by AFC to minimise the travel time and maintain an optimum bio-secure bubble for the players.
 - The tournament set to take place from 20th January to 6th February, 2022 will be held at 3 Football Stadiums:
 - Andheri Sports Complex – Mumbai
 - D Y Patil Stadium – Navi Mumbai
 - Chhatrapati Sports Complex – Pune
12. Name the Indian Grandmaster who won the Serbia Open Chess Championship in Belgrade _____ **Nihal Sarin.**
Note:
- This is the second consecutive tournament victory for sixteen-year old Sarin after he claimed the title in Silver Lake Open.
 - The GM from Thrissur, Kerala played out a draw with GM Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia to finish with 7.5 points out of a possible nine to finish clear first in the 289-player field in the nine-round tourney.
13. Which country has won the UEFA European Football Championship 2020 _____ **Italy.**
Note:
- Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout.
 - It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976.
 - Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.

14. Which country has won the Copa America 2021 title _____ **Argentina.**

Note:

- They beat Brazil 1-0 in the final at the historic Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.
- Angel Di Maria scored the only goal of the match in the 22nd minute.
- This is Lionel Messi's first major trophy with the Argentina senior team.
- Messi elected joint best player along with Brazil's Neymar.

15. Who has been adjudged as the best player of the tournament in the UEFA European Football Championship 2020 _____

Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Note:

- Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved two England penalties to win by a 3-2 shootout.
- It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in 1976.
- Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was Best player of the tournament.

16. Who won the Wimbledon 2021 men's singles titles _____ **Novak Djokovic.**

Note:

- He beats Matteo Berrettini of Italy in final at All England Club in London.
- It his 20th Grand Slam title, Thus he equal Federer and Rafael Nadal's tally of 20 major wins in the Open Era.
- Djokovic also completed the Wimbledon hat-trick (2018, 2019 & 2021) to become the first male player since Federer to achieve the feat.

17. Who won the Wimbledon 2021 women's singles titles _____ **Ashleigh Barty.**

Note:

- Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980.
- Ashleigh Barty's victory comes 50 years after her idol, Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley, won her first Wimbledon title.

18. Name the Indian origin boy who won the Wimbledon boys' singles title 2021 _____ **Samir Banerjee.**

Note:

- All of 17, the boy from New Jersey just wanted to win a match at the biggest stage in the junior circuit, but little did he know that he would be the last boy standing at the hallowed grass courts.
- Up against compatriot Victor Lillov, the teenager won 7-5 6-3 in the summit clash that lasted one hour 22 minutes.

19. Who has won European Championships (EURO 2020) Golden Boot, as no one from England or Italy managed to surpass his tally in the tournament final at Wembley _____ **Cristiano Ronaldo.**

Note:

- He had scored 5 goals, the same as Czech Republic forward Patrik Schick
- Three of his goals came from the penalty spot, while the other two came from open play against Hungary and Germany.
- Ronaldo also became the leading goal-scorer in the history of Euros with his 14th strike.

20. Which state will organize the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 to be held in February 2022 _____ **Haryana.**

Note:

- Earlier, Khelo India Youth Games was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic
- Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held for the under-18 category.
- Around 8,500 players will participate in the event of which 5,072 will be athletes, including 2,400 females and 2,672 males.

21. Sophie Ecclestone belongs to which country who has been named as ICC Women Player of the Month for June _____

England.

Note:

- She is the 2nd English female to win the title after Tammy Beaumont, who was awarded this title for February 2021.
- Along with her, New Zealand opener Devon Conway has bagged ICC Men's Player of the Month for June.

22. All-rounder Mohammad Mahmudullah Riyad belongs to which country who has announced his retirement from Test cricket recently _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- Mahmudullah's decision to leave the Test game mid-way, has been criticized by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan.
- He decided to stop playing Test cricket, after the end of the third day's play of the ongoing one-off Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

23. According to the Badminton World Federation (BWF) India will host World Badminton Championships in year _____ **2026.**

Note:

- This will only be the 2nd time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played host to the prestigious event in 2009.
- Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, with original 2023 hosts India accepting the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled 'Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin' _____ **Dhaval Kulkarni.**

Note:

- It is the biography of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Pan Macmillan India will the book by 2022.
- The book features the unknown aspects of Godse's life, his ideologies and other factors that led to the assassination of Gandhi.

2. Who has authored the children's book titled "India To The Rescue" _____ **Shruthi Rao & Sushant Singh.**

Note:

- The illustrations of the book were done by Shangnik Chakraborty.
- The book features the rescue operation "Operation Cactus" which averted the Maldives crisis on 3rd November 1988.
- Operation Cactus is India's one of the quickest and most successful missions.

3. Who has authored the book titled "Operation Khukri" which is set to release on 15th July 2021 _____ **Rajpal Punia & Damini Punia.**

Note:

- The book is published by the Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- The book is dedicated to Havildar Krishan Kumar, Sena Medal (posthumous), the only Indian soldier who died in Operation Khukri.
- About the Book:
- The book is the first-hand account of Major General Rajpal Punia, the Commanding Officer (CO) of the 58th Gorkha Rifles, who orchestrated "Operation Khukri".

4. Who has authored the book titled "The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics" _____ **Kaushik Basu.**

Note:

- In the book he argues that the traditional economic analysis of the law has significant flaws and has failed to answer certain critical questions satisfactorily.

- Recently, Kaushik Basu conferred with the Humboldt Research Award for 2021 by Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School Hamburg, Germany.
 - Basu is a professor of economics at Cornell University and the Carl Marks professor of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and SC Johnson College of Business.
5. Who has authored the book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.” _____ **Kaushik Basu.**
Note:
- The book features the journal records of his career of 7 years, during which he served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Indian Government and the Chief Economist at the World Bank in Washington D.C.,
 - The book is published by Simon & Schuster Publishers India Pvt Ltd.
6. Who has authored the book titled ‘The Ramayan of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji’ _____ **Baljit Kaur Tulsi.**
Note:
- The book has been authored by Late Baljit Kaur Tulsi.
 - The book has been published by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
 - Guru Gobind Singh: He was the tenth and last of Sikh gurus in human form. He was a spiritual master, warrior, poet, and philosopher, who was enthroned at the ‘Guru Gaddi’.
7. Who has authored the book titled 'Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan' which was received by the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu _____ **J.S. Iftekhar.**
Note:
- It is authored by senior journalist, J.S. Iftekhar.
 - The book is an anthology of prose and poetry that encapsulates the life and works of 51 outstanding poets and writers of the Deccan region.
 - The book traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of Deccan, right from the time of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, to the present times.
8. Who has authored the book titled ‘The Light of Asia’ _____ **Jairam Ramesh.**
Note:
- This book is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha.
 - Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, “The Light of Asia” by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha’s story to the world at the turn of the last century.
9. Who has authored the book titled “The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency” _____ **Ashok Chakravarti.**
Note:
- The Book is Published By Harpercollins India. The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency book deals with one of independent India’s darkest hours during the emergency period.
 - The Emergency (1975-1977) was one of independent India’s darkest hours.
 - In that period, over 150,000 people were imprisoned without trial; as many as eleven million forcibly sterilized, and countless killed in police firings or otherwise eliminated.

Science and Defence

1. Starlink is a satellite internet constellation of which global company that will provide broadband internet everywhere in the world except polar regions by August 2021 _____ **SpaceX.**
Note:
- Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has launched more than 1,500 satellites so far and has Starlink operations in about a dozen countries.
 - SpaceX aims to offer broadband to as much as 5% of the world's population where conventional fiber and wireless networks can't reach.

- Starlink will provide so-called "data back haul" spines for their networks. The satellite network currently moves about 30 terabits of data per second.

2. Name the India born US astronaut who becomes the second women from India to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla _____ **Sirisha Bandla**.

Note:

- She is a part of the team which will make its first crewed flight to space in which her flight role is that of a Researcher Experience.
- The 34-year-old aeronautical engineer was born in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district and brought up in Houston, Texas
- Prior to Bandla, Rakesh Sharma and Sunita Williams were the other Indians who went into space

3. For what purpose an integrated system SPARSH has been implemented by the Defence Ministry _____ **Pension Disbursement**.

Note:

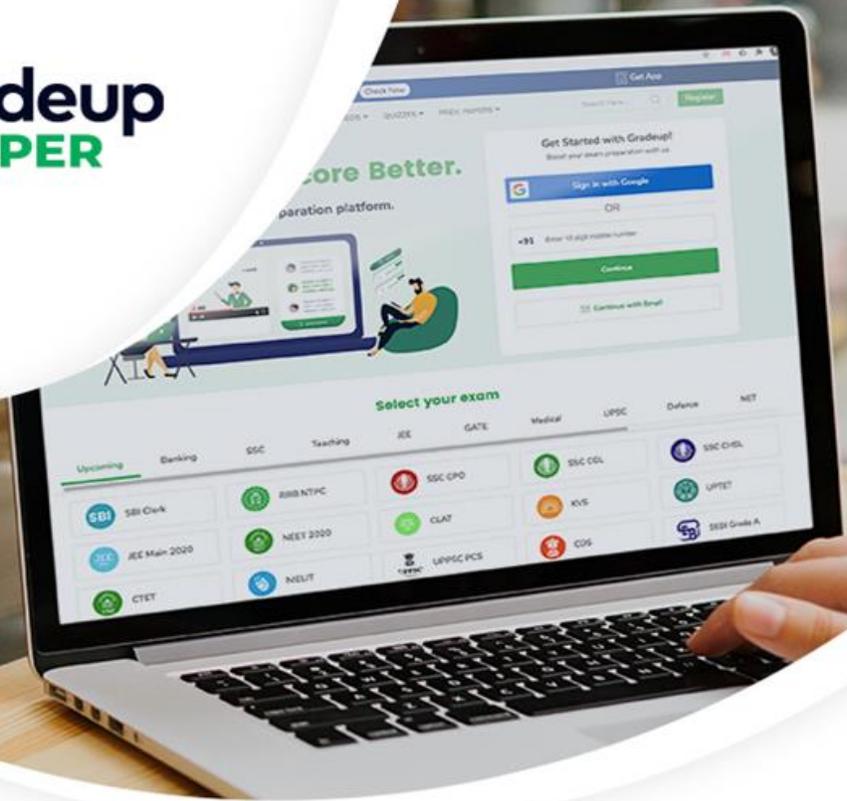
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances.

4. From which country the Indian Navy has received the 10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I _____ **USA**.

Note:

- Defence Ministry had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009 but in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.
- Remaining two aircrafts are expected to be delivered in the last quarter of 2021.
- P-8I is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft, and a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy.

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