

Weekly One-Liners

8-14 July 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 8-14th July 2021

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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

17. 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.

18. 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:

19. 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

- 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, Dhyan Chand rated Datt as one of the finest half-backs of that time.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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".
- 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

- 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.

2. 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.
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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 Sahasrabuddhe 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.
6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. 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

6. 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.

7. 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Recently Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched 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. 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.

2. 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. 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

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 Lilov, the teenager won 7-5 6-3 in the summit clash that lasted one hour 22 minutes.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.

13. 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 "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.

2. 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.

3. 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'.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan' which was received by the Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu _____ **J.S. Ifthekhar.**

Note:

- It is authored by senior journalist, J.S. Ifthekhar.
- 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.

5. 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.

6. 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. 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.

2. 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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