

Weekly One-Liners

22-31 August 2021



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st August 2021

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31st) of **August 2021**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- USAID and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) would jointly sponsor a \$50 million loan portfolio guarantee to which bank to support increased financial access to women borrowers, and MSMEs in India _____ **Kotak Mahindra Bank**.

Note:

- This comes against the backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic, a statement from the US embassy said adding that the partnership will help MSMEs impacted by the pandemic to easily access loans to rebuild and scale up their businesses.
- Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space.

- NTPC Ltd has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal power station in _____ **Visakhapatnam**.

Note:

- This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- The floating solar installation has a unique anchoring design and is spread over 75 acres of reservoir.

- Which Intergovernmental bank has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner _____ **World Bank**.

Note:

- The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.

- Which petroleum company has launched an AI-enabled chatbot, named as 'URJA' to provide a platform for seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues to its customers _____ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation**.

Note:

- URJA is the first AI chatbot in oil and gas industry in India.
- It has been launched under Project Anubhav of BPCL and currently supports 13 languages

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 200 crores on which car manufacturer for restricting discounts by dealers _____ **Maruti Suzuki India Limited**.

Note:

- The CCI passed the order against the company for indulging in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance in passenger vehicle segment by implementing discount control policy.

- Which bank has partnered with the Paytm to share their network and provide digital lending and payment solutions for consumers and merchants across India _____ **HDFC Bank**.

Note:

- Under the partnership, HDFC Bank will act as the payment partner, while Paytm will be the distribution and software partner.
- A co-branded point of sale (POS) product in the retail segment was jointly launched by Paytm and HDFC Bank. The product would be offered by Paytm to its customer base.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a web-based and end-to-end workflow automation system named PRISM. What does 'M' stand for in PRISM _____ **Monitoring**.

Note:

- The objective is to make continuous supervision of entities for – earlier identification of risks; conduct of supervisory actions; and strengthen their internal resilience.
 - RBI supervises entities including banks, NBFCs, financial institutions and Payment System Providers.
8. Which foreign bank received the approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to open a banking unit at India's GIFT IFSC to carry out offshore transactions _____ **Citibank NA**.
- Note:**
- In 2020, Citibank received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a banking unit after which it has waited for the final nod from IFSCA to start operations.
 - Recently, Deutsche Bank became the 1st German bank to set up its IFSC banking unit at GIFT IFSC.
9. Which payment company has launched peer-to-peer (P2P) lending app titled as '12% Club' that will allow consumers to invest and earn up to 12% annual interest or borrow at a similar rate _____ **BharatPe**.
- Note:**
- BharatPe has partnered with LenDenClub for this app and lending arrangement.
 - Under this, consumers can invest their savings anytime by choosing to lend money. Apart from this, consumers can avail collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh on the 12% Club app for a tenure of 3 months.
10. Which becomes the 4th Indian company to touch a market capitalization (m-cap) of USD 100 billion _____ **Infosys**.
- Note:**
- Prior to Infosys, TCS, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank are the first three companies to cross the market capitalization of USD 100 billion.
 - According to the latest m-cap data, RIL is the most-valued firm at Rs 13.7 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs 13.4 trillion and HDFC Bank at Rs 8.42 trillion.
11. Which Financial company has got in-principle approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for launching the mutual fund (MF) business _____ **Bajaj Finserv Ltd**.
- Note:**
- As per the SEBI's regulations, the company would now set up an Asset Management Company (AMC) and the Trustee Company directly or indirectly (i.e. by itself or through its subsidiary) to sponsor MF.
 - In December 2020, SEBI has eased the MF business regulations and allowed the sponsors who do not fulfill profitability criteria at the time of making an application will also be considered to be eligible to sponsor a MF.
12. The Central Govt has approved Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) proposal to increase the family pension to what per cent of the last salary drawn _____ **30%**.
- Note:**
- After this, family pension would go up to as much as Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 per family of bank employees.
 - Govt has also approved the proposal to increase employers' contribution under the NPS to 14% from the existing 10%.
13. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a mobile app ANANDA. What does D stand for the ANANDA _____ **Digital**.
- Note:**
- The app is the latest dimension of the Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application or ANANDA, the paperless solution for new business processes that the insurance major had unveiled last year.
 - This digital application will help in onboarding process to get insurance policy by a paperless module with the help of agent or intermediary.
14. Which becomes the first Indian bank to list its \$1 billion foreign currency additional tier-I (AI-1) bonds _____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- Global Securities Market, the primary market platform of India INX, has received significant interest since it was established in 2018 and has over \$55 billion medium term notes and over \$28 billion of bond listings till date.
 - India INX, BSE's international arm, began trading activity on 16 January 2017 and is India's first international exchange set up at the GIFT IFSC.
15. Which company has been declared as the World's most valuable company with USD 2,443 billion according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021 _____ **Apple**.
- Note:**
- Apple is followed by Microsoft and Amazon.
 - India: Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) is ranked at 57 and is the top Indian company in the list. There are total 12 Indian companies in this list with WIPRO, HCL and Asian Paints.

16. Which Social media giant in partnership with online lending platform Indifi has launched Small Business Loans Initiative in India _____ **Facebook**.
- Note:**
- India is the first country where Facebook is rolling out this programme.
 - Aim: to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit/loans through independent lending partners.
17. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has tied-up with which bank to launch payment system facility of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the UAE _____ **Mashreq Bank**.
- Note:**
- This move will benefit the Indian tourists and who travel to UAE for business or leisure purposes to pay for their purchases using UPI-based mobile applications across shops and merchant stores in the UAE.
 - Mashreq Bank is the oldest privately owned bank in the United Arab Emirates.
18. According to the ministry of finance, as on August 2021, the number of bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) have increased to ____ **43 crores**.
- Note:**
- It is government's flagship financial inclusion scheme completes seven years of implementation.
 - The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014 and was simultaneously launched on August 28 to foster financial inclusion.
19. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of fund transfer under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to _____ **Rs 2 lakh**.
- Note:**
- Earlier, there was a ceiling limit of 12 transactions in a year. Now, this limit has also been removed.
 - However, for cash-based transfers under Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility, the per transaction limit of Rs 50,000 will still be present with a maximum number of transfers in a year allowed at 12.
20. Which Digital payments platform has been issued an insurance broking license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) _____ **PhonePe**.
- Note:**
- Last year, PhonePe entered insurtech sector with a limited insurance 'corporate agent' license which restricted the company to partnering with only three insurance companies per category.
 - Now, with this new 'direct broking' license, PhonePe can distribute insurance products from all insurance companies in India.
21. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the entry age for National Pension System (NPS) to _____ **70 years**.
- Note:**
- Prior to this, eligible age to invest in NPS was 18-65 years which has now been revised to 18-70 years.
 - As per the revised norms, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) between 65 to 70 years can join NPS and continue or defer their NPS Account till 75 years.
22. Which bank's board has approved to divest its entire stake of 19.18% in Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (ARCIL) _____ **IDBI Bank**.
- Note:**
- Board has approved proposal for sale of IDBI Bank's entire holding of 6,23,23,800 fully paid-up equity shares of ARCIL
 - ARCIL: Oldest ARC entities operating in India and was founded in 2002.

Obituaries

1. Renowned sportsman Syed Shahid Hakim associated with which sports who passed away recently _____ **Football**.
- Note:**
- He is the son of legendary football coach Syed Abdul Rahim
 - He has served as the coach of several teams including the Mahindra & Mahindra (Now Mahindra United), Salgaocar and Hindustan FC and Bengal Mumbai FC(2004-2005).
2. Famous sportsman O Chandrasekharan, popularly known as Olympian Chandrasekharan passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____ **Football**.

Note:

- He had been suffering from dementia for a decade or so.
- Chandrasekharan, who played as a defender, was a member of the Indian team in the 1960 Rome Olympics, the last time the country participated in football at the Games.

3. Renowned personality Pt Subhankar Banerjee passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Percussionist**.

Note:

- Banerjee, who had done jugalbandi with all legendary classicists from Pt Ravi Shankar, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan to Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma had been admitted to the hospital on June 20 and was on oxygen support for months.
- He was a recipient of Sangeet Samman and Sangeet Maha Samman by the West Bengal government.

4. Renowned personality Naushad passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Chef**.

Note:

- Naushad was introduced to the culinary world by his father who had a catering business in Thiruvalla.
- After completing his hotel management course, he became a full-time chef and shot into the spotlight by hosting cooking shows on television.

5. Renowned personality Buddhadeb Guha passed away recently was a noted author of which language, who authored several popular books including Madhukari (Honey Gatherer) _____ **Bengali**.

Note:

- His novels and short stories have been highly acclaimed by critics which helped him win several awards, including the Ananda Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar. He was also a noted classical singer and proficient illustrator.
- Besides Madhukari, some of Guha's notable works include Koeler Kachhe, Sobinoy Nibedon and Baba Howa.

Important Days

1. The World Sanskrit Day 2021 was observed on which date _____ **22nd August**.

Note:

- This Indo-Aryan language has been declared as a classical language that's identified for its scientific construction and is in excessive demand throughout the world.

2. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed every year on which date _____ **23rd August**.

Note:

- The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.

3. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed every year on _____ **22nd August**.

Note:

- The day was adopted at 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland
- Aim: To remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

4. International Dog Day is observed every year on _____ **26th August**.

Note:

- The day was started as National Dog Day in the US in 2004 by pet & family lifestyle expert, animal rescue advocate, conservationist and dog trainer Colleen Paige.
- August 26 was chosen as on this day, Paige's family had adopted their first dog "Sheltie" from an animal shelter when she was just 10 years old.

5. What is the theme of the World Water Week 2021 that has been organised from 23rd to 27th August in entirely digital format _____ **Building Resilience Faster**.

Note:

- 2021 edition of World Water Week has been organised from 23rd to 27th August in entirely digital format.
- World Water Week is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development.

6. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed globally on _____ **29th August**.

Note:

- The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
7. National Sports Day in India is observed every year on which date _____ **29th August**.
- Note:**
- The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012, on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand who was the star of hockey team of India.
8. In India, the National Small Industry Day is celebrated every year on _____ **30th August**.
- Note:**
- The industry day is a medium to provide balanced growth to existing small, medium and large scale enterprises and render assistance for setting up new industries to boost the state's financial health.
9. International Day of the Disappeared is observed every year on which date _____ **30th August**.
- Note:**
- The day was adopted by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2010 and was first observed in 2011
 - Enforced disappearance has become a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world.

New Appointments

1. Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country _____ **Malaysia**.
- Note:**
- He will succeed Muhyiddin Yassin as the PM, who resigned from the post after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament.
 - The appointment of Yaakob was done by Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.
2. Who has been re-appointed as the chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBF) by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) _____ **T M Bhasin**.
- Note:**
- The panel was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.
 - The former vigilance commissioner, CVC, Mr Bhasin will now continue to head the board for a further period of two years, with effect from August 21, 2021.
3. Who has been appointed as the 17th Governor of Manipur _____ **La. Ganesan**.
- Note:**
- He Succeeded Najma Heptulla, who retired earlier this month.
 - Earlier, the Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad served as a Governor-in-charge of Manipur.
4. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), India _____ **Nakul Chopra**.
- Note:**
- He will replace Sunil Lulla, who has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur.
 - BARC is a joint-industry body that represent Broadcasters (IBF), Advertisers (ISA) and Advertising & Media Agencies (AAAI) with headquarters at Mumbai.
5. Who has been appointed as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi _____ **Abhay Kumar Singh**.
- Note:**
- He has been appointed for a combined tenure of 7 years against the newly created post.
 - Ministry of Cooperation: It was formed in July 2021 to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement.
6. Who has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank _____ **Sandeep Bakshi**.
- Note:**
- Prior to this, he was the whole-time director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of ICICI Bank.
 - He was serving as MD & CEO of ICICI since October 2018.
7. Who has been named as the interim CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank _____ **Carol Furtado**.
- Note:**
- She is currently serving as the CEO of Ujjivan Financial Services.
 - Her appointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

8. Who has been appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India with effect from August 20, 2021 _____
Ajay Kumar.
Note:
- Prior to being promoted as ED, he was heading the New Delhi Regional Office of RBI as Regional Director.
 - He has served RBI for three decades in areas like foreign exchange, banking supervision, financial inclusion, currency in management, etc
9. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Bank with effect from September 1, 2021 _____ **Shanti Lal Jain.**
Note:
- He will succeed Padmaja Chundurur, who is set to retire on 31st August 2021.
 - He is currently serving as the Executive Director (ED) at Bank of Baroda.
10. Atul Kumar Goel is the MD and CEO of which bank whose term of office has been extended for two years _____ **UCO Bank.**
Note:
- The central government, through a notification dated August 26, extended the term of office of Atul Kumar Goel as UCO Bank's managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO), for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the bank said in a regulatory filing.
 - Goel's current term was to expire on November 1, 2021.
11. Who has been appointed as the managing director in National Food Security Mission (NFSM) _____ **Pramod Kumar Meherda.**
Note:
- He will also serve the post of secretary, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB).
 - Earlier, Meherda had served as Secretary to the Governor and as Health Secretary in the Government of Odisha.
12. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Delhi government's 'Desh ke Mentor' initiative for the school kids _____ **Sonu Sood.**
Note:
- The programme entails "adopting" one to ten government school students who can be mentored by citizens who are successful in their respective fields.
 - Mentors will take out 10 minutes every week to guide students over the phone.
13. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Stop TB Partnership Board _____ **Mansukh Mandaviya.**
Note:
- He succeeded former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan.
 - India aims to end TB by 2025 while the UN aims to end TB by 2030.
14. Who has been appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank for three years _____ **Shanti Lal Jain.**
Note:
- Jain is currently Executive Director (ED), Bank of Baroda.
 - Department of Financial Services for appointment of Jain as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer in Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after September 1, 2021.
15. Who has been appointed as an independent director of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Asia entity with effect from August 30, 2021 _____ **Rajnish Kumar.**
Note:
- He has also been appointed as the member of Audit Committee and Risk Committee of HSBC Asia
 - Rajnish Kumar retired as SBI Chairman in October 2020 after a 40-year career at SBI
 - He is currently serving as Director of India's Lighthouse Communities Foundation

Important News – India

1. What is India's rank in the report titled "The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index" (CCRI) published in UNICEF _____ **26th.**
Note:
- It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services.

- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.
2. According to the Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index what is India's rank as the manufacturing destination across the world _____ **2nd**.
- Note:**
- The rising focus on India can be attributed to India's operating conditions and cost competitiveness.
- Also, the country's proven success in meeting outsourcing requirements has led to the increase in the ranking year on year.
3. Name the new geospatial planning portal launched by the Government of India (GoI) that will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data _____ **Yuktdhara**.
- Note:**
- The portal was launched by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.
- This platform will serve as a repository of assets, Geotags created under various national rural development programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana along with field photographs.
4. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel launched seven indigenous food products of which state _____ **Manipur**.
- Note:**
- The food items include black rice laddoo, black rice fruit and nuts cookies, hot and spicy bhujia, kabok mixture, Manipuri casava barfi, bamboo shoot murabba and fig laddoo.
- These products were developed under the Incubation Lab project of Manipur Food Industries Corporation Limited (MFICL) in collaboration with TQS Global, Ghaziabad with a budget provision of Rs. 10 lakh.
5. New Delhi has been placed at what place in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) _____ **48th**.
- Note:**
- Mumbai is at 50th place with a score of 54.4.
- The Index was first released in 2015.
6. Which entity and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for Decarbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project _____ **NITI Aayog**.
- Note:**
- The project aims at bringing down the peak level of GHG emissions (transport sector) in Asia (in line with a well below 2-degree pathway), resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- India has a massive and diverse transport sector, which is also the third most CO2 emitting sector.
7. SUJALAM Campaign is a 100 days campaign has been launched by which ministry as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations _____ **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Note:**
- It will help manage grey water and prevent the clogging of water bodies.
- This campaign seeks to create more ODF Plus villages by undertaking waste water management across villages in India.
8. The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday launched the fourth edition of the Public Sector Bank Reforms Agenda EASE- 4.0'. What does 'E' stands for in EASE-4.0 _____ **Enhanced**.
- Note:**
- The reforms agenda is focussed towards imbibing tech-enabled, simplified, and collaborative banking. The first edition of EASE 1.0 was launched in January 2018.
- EASE 4.0 aims to further the agenda of customer-centric digital transformation and deeply embed digital and data into PSBs' ways of working.
9. Which ministry has launched Samarth Scheme for Capacity Building in the sector to meet the skill gap in the industry _____ **Ministry of textiles**.
- Note:**
- First batch in each 63 training centers benefitted 1,565 artisans and 2nd batch will also complete during August 2021 benefiting 1,421 artisans.
- Samarth Scheme is being implemented in association with State Govt agencies, sectoral organizations of Ministry of Textiles, Manufacturing Industry, Industry Associations and MSME Associations.

10. Who has virtually hosted the 11th Meeting of BRICS High Representatives Responsible for National Security, since India is the chair for 2021 BRICS summit _____ **Ajit Doval**.

Note:

- 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held in September 2021.
- BRICS meeting of NSA provided a platform for the five countries to strengthen political security cooperation.

11. In association with which institution the Ministry of Textiles has launched an India size survey, titled INDIAsize to create an anthropometric database of measurements for Indians _____ **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi**.

Note:

- This initiative was launched with the aim of introducing a new standardised size chart in ready-to-wear clothing sector in India.
- New sizing chart will comprise of a size identification number.
- It will be created by mapping, categorising and defining the body size and type.

12. Which institution and the US-based tech giant Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) _____ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- Titled 'WEP Nxt', this next phase of Niti Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's start-up ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country, the statement added.
- The WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations.

13. Under whose chairmanship govt has constituted Committee for doubling the production and quadrupling the exports of handlooms within three years _____ **Sunil Sethi**.

Note:

- It will be headed by Chairman of Fashion Design Council of India, Sunil Sethi.
- This Committee will submit the final report within 45 days from the day of constitution.

14. What is India's rank in the 2021 Global Cryptocurrency Adoption Index released by blockchain data platform Chainalysis _____ **2nd**.

Note:

- India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption worldwide behind Vietnam, but ahead of countries such as the US, UK, and China, according to the 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by blockchain data platform Chainalysis.
- This comes even as worldwide crypto adoption grew by 880% between June 2020 and July 2021, according to the report.

15. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal announced the setting up of a Skill Institute on Marine Studies at which place _____ **Guwahati**.

Note:

- This Government declared 20 waterways as National Waterways in 2016. The ministry has initiated work on NW 2 (Brahmaputra) and NW 16 (Barak) as more waterways are considered for development.
- Such steps add towards the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to utilize the true and untapped potential of inland waterways for trade and transportation.

16. Under whose chairmanship the central government has constituted a committee to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters _____ **Ashish Shiradhonkar**.

Note:

- Ashish Shiradhonkar is heading the e-courts project in National Informatics Centre, to develop a technological platform streamlining the appeal filing process related to direct and indirect taxation matters.
- A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and M R Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the committee will complete its work in three months and will have members from revenue department, CBDT and CBIT.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched Chief Minister's COVID-19 Affected Livelihood Support Scheme to provide assistance to those who had severely affected the COVID-19 pandemic in the State _____ **Manipur**.

Note:

- The scheme was launched today by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a function held at Imphal.

- The Government is for the people and is always ready to serve them.
2. Which state government has inaugurated India's first smog tower to improve air quality _____ **Delhi**.
Note:
- The over 20-metre-tall structure, being set up to improve air quality in a radius of around 1 km, will "operate at full capacity" after the monsoon season.
 - This smog-tower was built at the cost of Rs 20 crores.
3. Which becomes the first state in the country to officially implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 _____
Karnataka.
Note:
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the NEP in the state virtually.
 - Admission process under the new policy will be initiated by the Universities in the state.
4. Wanchuwa Festival is celebrated in which state to mark a good harvest _____ **Assam**.
Note:
- It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires.
 - The people of Tiwa tribe associate the bountiful harvest with the higher power from nature. This takes the form of pigs' skulls and bones which act as deities and are preserved through many generations.
5. US-based Ohmium International Ltd has started India's first green hydrogen electrolyzer manufacturing unit in _____
Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Note:
- The unit will manufacture India-made Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) hydrogen electrolyzers.
 - It has a capacity of manufacturing approximately 0.5 GW per year
6. Which state government has launched a special mission called "Mission Vatsalya" in order to help women who lost their husbands to COVID-19 _____ **Maharashtra**.
Note:
- Mission Vatsalya will provide several services and some 18 benefits under one roof to those women.
 - It been designed for widows, with special focus on widows coming from rural areas, poor backgrounds and deprived sections.
7. India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated in which state _____ **Uttarakhand**.
Note:
- It has been developed in 3 years under central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme
 - This herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet was and is close to the Indo-China border.
8. Which state government has launched comprehensive Talent Search Campaign in the field of sports to search for new talented players and train them in 18 sports academies of state _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note:
- CM has appealed to the youth interested in sports to register themselves in the Talent Search Campaign of the state.
 - So far, more than 50,000 players have applied for online registration of talent search.

Important News - World

1. Which country will host the 2nd United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in October 2022 on the theme 'Towards Geo-enabling the Global Village' _____ **India**.
Note:
- This information was provided during the curtain raiser event which was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) on the lines of 11th Session of the United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to be held during the end of August 2021.
 - It was inaugurated by Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST.
2. What name has been given by India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan _____
Operation Devi Shakti.
Note:
- External affairs minister S Jaishankar called the evacuation process as 'Operation Devi Shakti' while saluting the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.

- This announcement was made after 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals, were brought to India from Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in a special Air India flight.
3. Which city has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) _____ **Copenhagen.**
Note:
- The Danish capital surpassed former frontrunners like Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka in the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial Safe Cities Index, which for the first time included environmental security metrics.
 - In a study of five pillars of urban security — digital, health, infrastructure, personal and environmental — Copenhagen topped the charts, scoring 82.4 points out of 100.
4. What will be the theme of the World Economic Forum's annual Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021 to be held on September 20-23, 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland _____ **Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery.**
Note:
- This year's event will focus strongly on inclusively revitalizing economies. The United Nations General Assembly, the summit convenes under the theme "Shaping an Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery".
 - It will welcome almost all leaders from government, business and civil society who will work together to drive action and build momentum for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
5. World's largest and tallest observation wheel is set to be unveiled in _____ **Dubai.**
Note:
- This observation wheel is known as 'Ain Dubai'
 - It is 250 m (820 ft) in height and is located at Bluewaters Island.
 - This record breaking wheel is 42.5 m (139 ft) taller than the current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas, measuring 167.6 m (550 ft)
6. 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress was held in which city in that India has been elected to its Council of Administration (CA) _____ **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.**
Note:
- India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region.
 - India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC) at the 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan.
7. Which becomes the first country in the world to manufacture first fossil-free steel (Green Steel) _____ **Sweden.**
Note:
- It has been developed by HYBRIT Technology and its first delivery was done to truck-manufacturer Volvo AB as a trial run.
 - The initiative was in process since 2016.
 - Full-scale production of green steel will begin from 2026.

Honor & Awards

1. Which bank is the Overall winner of the EASE Reforms Index Award 2021 (EASE 3.0 Awards) _____ **State Bank of India.**
Note:
- Bank of Baroda is second and Union Bank of India is third. **Indian Bank** won the award for the **best improvement from the baseline performance.**
 - SBI, BoB, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank won the top awards in different themes of the PSB Reforms Agenda EASE 3.0.
2. Who has been selected for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award by the Karnataka government _____ **Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru (senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath).**
Note:
- Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.
 - The septuagenarian seer has spent over five decades in the Lingayat religious institution in the Bidar district.

Sports News

1. Shaili Singh is associated with which sports who won a silver medal at the U-20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya _____ **Long Jump.**

Note:

- She missed Gold medal by a mere 1 centimetre.
- Shaili's personal best effort of 6.59 metre was not enough for Gold as Sweden's reigning European junior champion Maja Askag managed 6.60 metre for the top spot on the final day of the championships.

2. 2021 edition of World Athletics U20 Championships is scheduled to be held in which city _____ **Nairobi, Kenya.**

Note:

- Javelin Thrower Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana and Long Jumper Shaili Singh will lead the Indian challenge in World Athletics U20 Championships.
- India have had a champion at the U20 Athletics World Championships in each of the last two editions.
- World Athletics U20 Championships was launched as the IAAF World Junior Championships in Athletics in 1986.

3. Name the Indian table tennis player who has won Czech International Table Tennis Federation tournament tournament at Olomouc in Czech Republic, after beating Yevhen Ryshepa of Ukraine _____ **G Sathiyam.**

Note:

- This is only his third ITTF Challenger title following triumphs in Belgium Open 2016 and Spanish Open 2017
- Prior to this, he paired up with Manika Batra to win mixed doubles title at WTT Contender in Budapest.

4. Which stadium has been named after Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra _____ **Army Sports Institute Stadium, Pune.**

Note:

- At the inaugural event, Army Chief General MM Naravane and Neeraj Chopra were also present.
- ASI, Pune has produced 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth Games medalists, 21 Asian Games medalists, six Youth Games medalists and 13 Arjuna Awardees so far.

5. Name the Indian who has won the gold medal in Women's 10 metre Air Rifle Shooting at Tokyo Paralympics _____ **Avani Lekhara.**

Note:

- She has won the first Gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games.
- Yogesh Kathuniya won Silver medal in Discus Throw.
- This is the fifth medal for the country at the Tokyo Paralympics.

6. Yogesh Kathuniya is associated with which sports who won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics _____ **Discus Throw.**

Note:

- Yogesh threw 44.38 in his sixth and final attempt to take up the top spot before Claudiney Batista of Brazil fired 44.57 in his first attempt to dethrone the Indian athlete.
- Yogesh got off to a poor start as his first throw was deemed as foul but the Indian para-athlete soon made up for it as he registered a massive 42.84 in his second attempt.

7. Name the Indian table tennis player who has won historic silver medal at 2020 Paralympic Games at Tokyo in the women's singles table tennis summit clash _____ **Bhavinaben Patel.**

Note:

- She lost to Chinese paddler Ying Zhou by 0-3, in her maiden Paralympic Games.
- This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Paralympic Games.
- She is the only second Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics, after Deepa Malik, who claimed silver in shotput at 2016 Rio Olympics.

8. Nishad Kumar is associated with which sports who has won a silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics 2020 _____ **High Jump.**

Note:

- This is the second medal for India at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics
- He made a jump of 2.06m, and in doing so created an Asian record.
- He also equaled his jump with USA's Dallas Wise, who also took home silver.

9. Name the Indian para-athlete who won a gold medal for a record three time in javelin throws after winning the third one in final of the Tokyo Paralympics _____ **Sumit Antil.**

Note:

- With this, World No. 1 in the F64 category, Sumit Antil won India's second gold in the Tokyo Paralympics and the first in athletics.
- The 23-year-old from Sonapat in Haryana, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.

10. Name the para-athlete who a silver medal in the men's javelin throw F46 final at Tokyo Paralympics 2020 _____

Devendra Jhajharia.

Note:

- Earlier he won gold medal twice.
- The 40-year-old Jhajharia, already India's greatest Paralympian after winning gold medals in the 2004 and 2016 Games, pulled off a new personal best throw of 64.35m for the silver.

11. Name the Indian grandmaster who won the Noisiel International Open tournament in Noisiel, Paris _____ **P Iniyam.**

Note:

- The event, held from August 23 to 28, saw Iniyam score 8 points out of 9 rounds.
- GM Solodovnichenko Yuri of Ukraine finished second with 7.5 points while French IM Kambrath Yannick was third.
- The tournament was a 9 round Swiss system with Classical time control. A total of 54 players from 9 countries participated in the event.

12. Who has won the Belgian Grand Prix 2021 _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- Pole-sitter Verstappen was awarded half points, which moved him to within three points of Lewis Hamilton in the drivers' championship.
- Williams' George Russell took second with Hamilton's Mercedes in third in the shortest race in Formula One history - all 14 kilometres of it.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the book titled "Let's Go Time Travelling Again: Indians Through the Ages" _____ **Subhadra Sen Gupta.**

Note:

- The book was released by Puffin Books, the children's imprint of Penguin Books .
- Sen was the winner of Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015 award.
- Famous Books-Mystery of the House of Pigeons ,Twelve O'Clock Ghost Stories, 'Jodh Bai' and 'A Clown for Tenali Rama.

2. Who has authored the book titled "Mission Domination: An Unfinished Quest" _____ **Boria Majumdar & Kushan Sarkar.**

Note:

- The Book Published by Simon & Schuster Publisher India Private Limited.
- The Book talks about the short story of several Indian cricketers life events such as Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, R. Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara.

3. The book titled 'Battlefield' has been authored by _____ **Vishram Bedekar.**

Note:

- A book titled 'Battlefield' has been authored by Vishram Bedekar, translated from the Marathi original Ranaangan by Jerry Pinto.
- The book is the story of a shipboard romance between an Indian man and a German-Jewish woman, both fleeing Europe before the Second World War.

4. Who has authored the book titled 'Address Book: A Publishing Memoir in the time of COVID' _____ **Ritu Menon.**

Note:

- Menon, who co-founded Kali for Women, India's first feminist press in 1983, is founder-director of Women Unlimited, an associate of KfW.
- Weeks after the March 2020 lockdown began, Menon started to write a diary.

Science and Defence

1. Naval Exercise Konkan-2021 was jointly held between India and which country _____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- The Indo-UK Naval exercise included the participation of integral helicopters of the two ships and the Falcon Electronic Warfare aircraft.
 - A wide range of exercises including co-ordinated anti-submarine procedures, firing drills, combined maritime picture compilation, combat formation maneuvering and replenishment at sea were conducted.
2. Which IIT has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle called 'NeoBolt' that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains _____ **IIT Madras**.
- Note:**
- Called 'NeoBolt', it has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and travels up to 25 km per charge.
 - It empowers wheelchair users with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility when compared to cars, auto rickshaws or modified scooters. NeoBolt is powered by a Lithium-Ion Battery that will give 25 Kms for every charge.
3. Bilateral India Navy -US Navy exercise MALABAR-21 is being conducted in which Island Territory of the USA _____ **Guam Island**.
- Note:**
- MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral India Navy -US Navy exercise and has grown in stature over the years to include four prominent navies of Australia, India, Japan and USA in the Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.
 - The exercise will provide an opportunity for common minded navies to enhance inter-operability, gain from best practices and develop a common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.
4. The second edition of the joint naval exercise, 'Zair-Al-Bahr' was conducted between India and which country _____ **UAE**.
- Note:**
- This edition of the exercise included a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase.
 - The sea phase is comprised of tactical maritime exercises involving surface action, anti-piracy exercises, air defence, maritime surveillance, boarding operations and SAR exercises.
5. Which country will deliver India the Krivak class stealth frigates by 2023 _____ **Russia**.
- Note:**
- India and Russia had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in October 2016 for four Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates.
 - Under this agreement, two frigates were to be procured directly from Russia while two to be built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
6. Fifth edition of Indo- Kazakhstan Joint Training Exercise, KAZIND-21 will be conducted at _____ **Aisha Bibi**.
- Note:**
- It is a joint training between both the Armies, which will boost the bilateral relations between India and Kazakhstan.
 - It will provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces of India Kazakhstan to train for Counter Insurgency Counter-Terrorism operations in the mountainous, rural scenarios under UN mandate.
7. First batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG) has been handed over to Indian Army in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The MMHG is manufactured by _____ **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)**.
- Note:**
- MMHG is manufactured by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), following Transfer of Technology from Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory of DRDO
 - Grenade is lethal, safer and has a distinctive design that gives flexibility of employment in both defensive (fragmentation) and offensive (stun) modes.
 - It has a highly accurate delay time, very high reliability in usage and safe for carriage.

8. In August 2021, with which country Indian Navy has conducted a 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' in South China Sea region _____ **Philippines**.

Note:

- It aims to further strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain to ensure a stable, peaceful & prosperous Indo-Pacific region.
- The Indian Navy was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora, with the Philippine Navy's BRP Antonio Luna, Frigate FF151.
- It included several Operational manoeuvres with the consolidation of Interoperability between both the Navies.

9. Which company has received USD 328 Million worth Contract from the Indian Government to provide comprehensive support for the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet of 12C-130J-30 Super Hercules Aircraft for a period of 5 years _____ **Lockheed Martin**.

Note:

- Through this contract, Lockheed Martin will provide Logistics & Engineering support elements necessary to the IAF's Fleet.
- It is used to support various missions like humanitarian aid, Airlift, Natural disaster support and search & rescue operations.
- Lockheed Martin is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of these planes.

10. The International Military Technical Forum 'ARMY 2021' was inaugurated in which country _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- ARMY 2021 is being held from 22 August to 28 August 2021
- It is being organised by Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation since 2015.
- It is the 7th edition of the annual Forum
- It is the world's leading exhibition of armament and military equipment

11. Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vighraha was built by which company that was commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh _____ **L&T Limited**.

Note:

- The handing over of the vessel by L&T to the Indian defence ministry showcases its commitment to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' by completing the delivery of all seven OPVs ahead of contractual schedule.
- OPVs are long-range surface ships, capable of operation in the maritime zones of India, including island territories with helicopter operation capabilities.

12. Navies of India and which country carried out a joint exercise in Gulf of Aden near Yemen _____ **Germany**.

Note:

- The Indian Navy's frigate "Trikanth" exercised with German frigate "Bayern".
- The exercise included cross deck helo (helicopter) landings and visit board search and seizure operations.
- INS Trikanth is deployed in the Gulf of Aden region for anti-piracy patrol.

13. Which security forces has conducted week-long counter-terrorism exercise titled 'Gandiv' from August 22 to August 28, 2021 _____ **NSG**.

Note:

- It is the third edition of the annual drill, that was held at multiple cities in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and NCR by NSG to check its response time and reaction to hostage and hijack-like situations.
- Aim: Enhancing the counter-terror skills of the state administration, police, anti-terrorist squads and also create awareness among the public.
- NSG: counter-terrorism unit under Ministry of Home Affairs

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