

Weekly One-Liners

1-7 January 2022



Weekly One Liners Updates **1st -7th January 2022**

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **January 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which power company to acquire 5 per cent equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL) that provides various electricity trading options _____ **NTPC Ltd.**

Note:

- The PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, which has been providing various electricity trading solutions and connecting buyers as well sellers since 2008.
- the authorised share capital of the PXIL is Rs 120 crore and paid-up capital is Rs 58.47 crore.

2. As per the framework issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for allowing offline digital payments what will be the total limit for offline digital transactions on a payment instrument at any point of time _____ **Rs 2,000.**

Note:

- An offline digital payment means a transaction which does not require internet or telecom connectivity.
- Under this new framework, which is applicable with immediate effect, offline payments can be made in face-to-face (proximity) mode only.
- Such transactions will not require an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).
- The upper limit of an offline payment transaction will be ₹200.

3. The government has kept the interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) unchanged at what percent for 4th quarter of FY 2021-22 _____ **7.1%.**

Note:

- The central government has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, unchanged for the fourth quarter of 2021-22 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

4. Digital marketplace for consumer credit, paisabazaar.com has partnered with which bank to launch a pre-qualified program for unsecured loans on its platform _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- Axis Bank customers, both salaried and self-employed, who are eligible for pre-qualified personal loans from the bank, will now be able to view and apply for the same offers through the Paisabazaar platform as well.
- This integration would lead to instant access to credit for these select customers through an end-to-end digital process.

5. Which payments bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval for commencing international remittance business _____ **Fino Payments Bank.**

Note:

- It received approval from central bank under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS).
- It will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities in association with an overseas principal, the details of which are being worked out.
- It also has plans to commence outward remittance services soon.

6. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'UPMS'. What does 'M' stands for in the UPMS _____ **Management.**

Note:

- Through UPMS, NBBL will enable the customers to set up standing instructions – from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments.
- The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.
- UPMS will help in democratizing recurring bill payments and making them further convenient for customers.

7. Which general insurance company has launched #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao campaign to increase awareness of Indians around the need to buy health insurance to save tax _____ **SBI General Insurance.**

Note:

- The campaign #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao will also underline other benefits of opting for health insurance.
- The campaign has a humorous tone to bring out the barriers people have for not buying or procrastinating to buy health insurance.

8. In January 2022, which payments bank has been categorised as a scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) _____ **Airtel Payments Bank.**

Note:

- With this, Airtel Payments Bank can now pitch for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions and undertake both central and state government business, besides participating in government-operated welfare schemes.
- Airtel Payments Bank is among the fastest-growing digital banks in the country, with a base of 115 million users.

9. Which group of banks were identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India for 2021 _____ **State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- RBI places D-SIBs in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- The central bank's current update on D-SIBs is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2021.
- Based on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement is applied to it.

10. Which bank has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for Best Automation under Crisis for Business Continuity _____ **South Indian Bank.**

Note:

- The award was bestowed upon the Bank for its exceptional use of Robotic Process Automation capabilities under difficult times for solving severe operational constraints, thereby ensuring business continuity.
- The UiPath Automation Excellence Awards aim to recognise the change-makers of automation.

11. Which became first company with stock-market value above \$3 trillion _____ **Apple.**

Note:

- Its share price has climbed steadily for years, leaving it up more than 200% since Covid lockdown in early 2020 and underlined centrality of technology for work, education, entertainment, etc
- Apple shared \$2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp, which is now worth \$2.5 trillion

12. Which crypto app has launched India's first crypto index titled 'IC15', which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies _____ **CryptoWire.**

Note:

- Crypto assets like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba inu will be monitored by this platform
- CryptoWire's index governance committee will maintain, monitor and administer the index
- Base value of the index is set at 10,000 and base date is 1 April 2018.

13. India exported goods worth \$37.29 billion in December 2021, the highest ever in a month, what is the annual export target of India, for the year 2021-22 _____ **\$400 billion.**

Note:

- India's merchandise exports in April-December were nearly \$300 billion, up 48.85 per cent year-on-year and 26 per cent against the same period in 2019.
- This translates into India achieving three-fourths of its annual export target of \$400 billion in the first nine months of FY22.

14. Which telecom company has announced a joint venture with Hughes Communications India Private Limited (HCIPL) to provide satellite broadband services in India _____ **Bharti Airtel Limited.**

Note:

- HCIPL will hold a 67 percent stake in the joint venture, while Airtel will hold a 33 percent
- HCIPL will combine the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) business of both companies.

15. Which payments bank announced a collaboration with Park+ to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across the country _____ **Airtel Payments Bank.**

Note:

- The collaboration aims to leverage the deep distribution reach and digital payments stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle.

- Park+ will offer its entire suite of FASTag services including issuance, acquiring, recharge, and technology support to Airtel Payments Bank.

16. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the authorisation certificates of which entities for non-compliance with regulatory requirements _____ **Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Ltd and Eko India Financial Services Private Ltd.**

Note:

- Both the Payment System Operators (PSOs) had authorisation for issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- However, customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on these companies as PSOs, can approach them for settlement of their claims within three years from the date of cancellation.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality Richard Leakey passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Conservationist.**

Note:

- He spearheaded campaigns against the ivory trade to save the dwindling African elephant population.
- For years, Mr. Leakey served in various roles in the government, including as director of the state-run National Museums of Kenya and twice as board chairman at the Kenya Wildlife Service.

2. Renowned personality Sindhutai Sapkal passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Social Worker.**

Note:

- He is fondly known as 'orphan children's mother'.
- She raised over 1,050 orphan children and could boast of having 207 sons-in-law and 36 daughters-in-law.
- Marathi biopic on her 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal' was released in 2010.

3. Lawrence N. Brooks, the oldest World War II veteran and believed to be the oldest man in the country passed away in January 2022 at the age of 112. He belonged to which of the following countries _____ **USA.**

Note:

- His death was announced by the National World War II Museum and confirmed by his daughter.
- Brooks, born on Sept. 12, 1909, was known for his good-natured sense of humor, positivity and kindness.
- Brooks was working at a sawmill when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940.

Important Days

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has observed the 64th Foundation Day of its establishment on _____ **1st January 2022.**

Note:

- DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector.
- At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for the Indian Armed Forces.

2. World Braille Day is observed globally every year on _____ **4th January.**

Note:

- The day aims to recognize the right of access to braille by blind people and raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

3. World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on which date to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict _____ **6th January.**

Note:

- In any conflict, children are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups present.
- Children who have been injured in a gunfight or separated from their families require particular care in order to heal the mental wounds of war, begin school, and restart normal life.

4. What is the theme of the National Science Day 2022 as announced by the Science and Technology Minister, Jitendra Singh _____ **Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future.**

Note:

- Theme of National Science Day 2022: Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future.
- National Science Day is observed every year on 28th February to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.

5. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has celebrated its which Establishment Day on 6th January, 2022 _____ **75th.**

Note:

- Addressing on the occasion Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said that Quality is not expensive it is cost-effective.
- He highlighted that For BIS to grow it should work as a facilitator not an obstructer.
- He said that BIS should develop as a global organisation, learn from global experiences and integrate global standards.

New Appointments

1. Who will lead the Parliamentary Standing Committee that will examine the bill that seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 years to 21 years _____ **Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**.
Note:
 - It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.
 - The bill seeks to increase the legal age of marriage of women from 18 to 21.
 - The parliamentary standing committee will be led by senior BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.
 - TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman among the 31 members.
2. Who took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Vistara airline _____ **Vinod Kannan**.
Note:
 - He replaced Leslie Thing, who was the CEO from July 16, 2017 to December 31, 2021.
 - He started his stint with Vistara as Chief Strategy Officer in June 2019 and took over as Chief Commercial Officer in January 2020
 - Deepak Rajawat has been elevated to the role of Vistara's chief commercial officer
3. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) _____ **Vijay Paul Sharma**.
Note:
 - The role of CACP chairman will be crucial in the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other reforms.
 - Currently, he is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
4. Under whose chairmanship the SEBI has re structured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy _____ **S Sahoo**.
Note:
 - Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now be chaired by S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the latest information with the regulator.
 - The 20-member committee was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole time member of Sebi.
5. Who will head the Energy Transition Advisory Committee formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas _____ **Tarun Kapoor**.
Note:
 - The panel will include representatives of all public-sector oil and gas companies and will reach out to other stakeholders in the sector.
 - The committee has until the middle of 2022 to recommend a roadmap for the sector's transition.
6. Who has been appointed as the chairman-cum-CEO of Railway Board with immediate effect _____ **Vinay Kumar Tripathi**.
Note:
 - Vinay Kumar Tripathi, prior to be appointed as new chairman of railway board was working as General Manager of North Eastern Railway in Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has not only approved the appointment of Tripathi for six month from January 1 but also further granted extension of his tenure till 31 December in 2022.
7. Which public sector bank has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser _____ **Bank of Baroda**.
Note:
 - In a welcome result of her consistent outstanding performance in the Women's cricket for India, the Bank has signed contract with the ace Cricketer.
 - Shafali has created various records, one of which is when she became the youngest woman cricketer to play for India in her debut game against South Africa.
 - Shafali brings in a natural connect with today's youth, especially women and she exuberates sportsman spirit and qualities on and off-field.

8. Who becomes the first women chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) _____ **Alka Mittal.**
Note:
- She is the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.
 - She replaced Subhash Kumar, who retired on December 31.
 - She has been appointed for a period of six months.
9. The survey is titled as 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar' is being conducted by which ministry _____ **Ministry of Culture.**
Note:
- The survey is titled as 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar'
 - It will document the cultural identity at village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block, or district unique.
10. Who has been appointed as the president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) _____ **Atul Keshap.**
Note:
- He will replace Nisha Biswal, who has been appointed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Senior Vice President of International Strategy and Global Initiatives and South Asia.
 - Mr. Keshap was also previously the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. He was posted to India in the 2005-2008 period and more recently in 2021 as Chargé d'Affaires.
11. Who has been named as the new Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) _____ **TS Tirumurti.**
Note:
- Prior to taking up his current position as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, in May 2020, Tirumurti served as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, handling the Economic Relations portfolio.
12. Who has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) _____ **Zhang Ming.**
Note:
- He succeeded Vladimir Norov, former diplomat from Uzbekistan.
 - Before joining SCO, he served as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union.
 - SCO comprises: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Important News – India

1. India's first state-of-the-art water taxi services will be commissioned in which city of India _____ **Mumbai.**
Note:
- The services would be formally launched in January by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the exact dates are being finalised.
 - The project is a joint initiative of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).
 - Infinity Harbour Services LLP and West Coast Marine will be the two service operators.
2. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pawar has inaugurated Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS Wellness Centre in _____ **Nashik, Maharashtra.**
Note:
- After this, Nashik will be 4th city in Maharashtra after Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur to have CGHS Wellness Centre.
 - It will provide OPD Treatment including issue of medicines, indoor treatment at Government and Empanelled Hospitals, cashless facility available for treatment in empanelled centers for pensioners and other identified beneficiaries.
3. The foundation stone for the Heartfulness International Yoga academy for setting new benchmarks in yoga training has been laid down in which city by the Union Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal _____ **Hyderabad.**
Note:
- It comprises Yoga halls that can accommodate 100 Yoga students in each hall, therapeutic Yoga rooms for consultation, one to one training spaces or small group classes, pre-natal Yoga rooms, lecture hall with 200 sitting capacity, full-fledged recording studio, etc.
 - It will have trainers from India, Europe, Australia, Uzbekistan and US
4. Which ministry is organizing Climate Change Awareness Campaign and National Photography Competition _____ **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

Note:

- Campaign will have Municipal Commissioners and key heads of urban local bodies and Smart City CEOs creating awareness about Urban Climate Change and Sustainability
 - The competition will be open to all participants till 26th January 2022 on climate change
5. Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport is located in which city where Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building recently _____ **Agartala.**

Note:

- The airport is a blend of Tripura's culture, natural beauty and modern facilities.
 - It will play a big role in enhancing air connectivity in the North East.
 - This is turning Tripura into a new hub of business and industry as well as a trade corridor.
6. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) is flagship scheme of which ministry that has completed seven years of its implementation _____ **Ministry of Power.**

Note:

- The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.
 - Launched in 2015, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from ₹300-350 a bulb to ₹70-80.
7. 'Gram Ujala programme' is a flagship scheme of which ministry _____ **Ministry of Power.**

Note:

- It was launched by the Union minister of power and new and renewable energy RK Singh in March 2021.
 - State-owned CESL has achieved a milestone of 50 lakh LED bulb distribution under the flagship Gram Ujala programme.
8. Which ministry has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback _____ **Ministry of Civil Aviation.**

Note:

- As per an official release issued by the ministry the policy seeks to leverage India's potential for air sports and places a strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety.
 - The vision of the policy is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.
9. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award, that is being awarded for which sector _____ **Public Administration.**

Note:

- The award is being awarded for excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments.
 - Recently, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh today launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award.
10. What is the tagline of the 25th National Youth Festival 2022 to be held in Puducherry from 12th to 16th January 2022 _____ **Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva.**

Note:

- He also unveiled the tagline of National Youth Festival, Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth.
 - National Youth Festival is organized by Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States.
11. Which power generating company has signed a Promoters Agreement with the Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha (GEDCOL) for the development of 500 megawatts (MW) floating solar projects on different water bodies in the state _____ **NHPC Ltd.**

Note:

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the same was signed between NHPC and GEDCOL in July 2020.
 - NHPC and GEDCOL agree to establish a joint venture (JV) company for implementation of 500 MW floating solar power projects in Odisha and other such projects in subsequent periods as may be decided from time to time.
12. 24th conference on e-Governance (NceG) was held in which city of India _____ **Hyderabad.**

Note:

- The conference was inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Science and Technology and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions).
 - The national awards for e-Governance 2021 were presented under six categories during the event.
13. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by _____ **2024.**

Note:

- The ₹3.6 trillion JJM scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by 2024, with several states having presented their commitment to provide tap water connections to all rural households before 2024.
- Drinking water supply schemes totaling ₹6,872.28 crore have been approved in Rajasthan under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

14. 'Meri Saheli' is a team of which security forces which was seen in news recently _____ **Railway Protection Force.**

Note:

- The RPF has deployed 244 Meri Saheli teams at major railway stations across the country to provide security to lady passengers in long distance trains particularly travelling alone.
- RPF collects feedback from these lady passengers at the end of their journeys to assess the efficacy of the initiative.

15. What is the total outlay of the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor of the intra-state transmission system that was approved by the union cabinet in January 2022 _____ **₹ 12,000 crore.**

Note:

- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy (RE) projects in seven states — Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.

16. The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has partnered with which organization to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman _____ **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).**

Note:

- The partnership is a strategic force multiplier bringing deep work and experience together. India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world.
- A steering committee formed between these organisations would plan, discuss and mobilise financial resources to implement various activities.

Important News – State

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Road in which state has been renamed as 'Narendra Modi Marg' _____ **Sikkim.**

Note:

- The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road.
- The alternative double-lane road at 51 Kyongasala gram panchayat unit (GPU) -- spanning 19.51 km -- has been operational for almost a year now.

2. Which state government has signed an MoU with the natural gas firm GAIL for cooperation in the production of eco-friendly fuels in the state _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- The agreement was signed by the public sector unit and the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (Ipicol) in Bhubaneswar
- The MoU seeks to prepare a feasibility study for setting up plants in areas of green hydrogen, green ammonia and renewable energy like solar and wind.

3. The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the first such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022 in which state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- KTC is being set up by Aequs Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequs Pvt. Ltd.
- Six toy and toy-component makers have signed MoUs with Aequs Infra while another three players, including Viscon Polymers, manufacturer and exporter of custom rubber moulded products, have started construction of their production facilities at KTC.

4. Chilika lake is located in which state where a bird census has been conducted recently _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- Chilika is the largest brackish water lake. Birds come to the lake to spend their winter. Around 106 personnel were deployed in the survey.
- This included bird experts from non – governmental organizations and government organisations.

5. India's first open rock museum was inaugurated in which city _____ **Hyderabad.**

Note:

- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.
 - These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kilometres of distance from the surface of the earth.
6. The ICAR–Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) is located in which state that was seen in news recently ____
Tamil Nadu.
- Note:**
- Interventions by Institute for implementing STC, was finalized based on systematic need assessment by conduct of Focus groups among two tribes 'Malasar' and 'Malai malasar' tribes belonging to Nagaroothu, Old Sarkarpathy, Chinnarpathy.
7. Which state stood first in the country in the list of highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021 ____ **Telangana.**
- Note:**
- As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in the State are in the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%. This was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%). Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45%).
8. Which state becomes the first state in the country to become a smoke-free state under Ujjwala Yojana ____
Himachal Pradesh.
- Note:**
- Ujjwala Yojna was started by the Centre government with the view to free the women of the country from indoor pollution.
 - Along with this, the Himachal government also started the Grihini Suvidha Yojana to benefit as many women as possible, under the scheme.

Important News – World

1. Abdalla Hamdok resigned as Prime Minister of which country ____ **Sudan.**
- Note:**
- Hamdok, a former United Nations official seen as the civilian face of Sudan's transitional government, was reinstated in November amid international pressure in a deal that called for an independent technocratic cabinet under military oversight led by him.
 - Hamdok's resignation came after Sudanese security forces violently dispersed the pro-democracy protesters against the October 25 military coup, killing at least two people.
2. Which country takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time in 14 years with effect from 1st January 2022 till 30 June 2022 ____ **France.**
- Note:**
- Presidency of the Council (Council of Ministers) organizes meetings, brokers compromise, submits conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process.
 - Each Member State of EU holds the presidency of Council of the European Union for six months on a rotational basis.
3. Which neighbouring Country recently unveiled its National Security Policy (NSP) ____ **Pakistan.**
- Note:**
- The country placed "economic security at the core" of the first-of-its kind document to ensure a "citizen-centric approach to security".
 - The policy was presented and approved at the 36th meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC), chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan and attended by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and all Services Chiefs.
4. Which country becomes the 102nd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) ____ **Antigua and Barbuda.**
- Note:**

- The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.
 - K. J. Srinivasa became the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the 15-member CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) in 2019.
5. Sri Lanka has signed a deal with which Indian oil company to lease 75 oil tanks, as the island moved closer to securing a \$500 million fuel credit line from India _____ **Indian Oil Corporation.**
- Note:**
- The signing of the deal comes ahead of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Colombo this weekend, with China also vying for clout in Sri Lanka.
 - Previously Sri Lanka had agreed to lease all of its 99 tank oil farms to India in 2003.
6. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country on cooperation in disaster management that was approved by the Union cabinet in January 2022 _____ **Turkmenistan.**
- Note:**
- The MoU between India and Turkmenistan seeks to put in place a system whereby both countries will be benefitted from the disaster management mechanisms of each other.
 - It will also help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field.
7. What is full form of CSTO which was seen in news recently _____ **Collective Security Treaty Organization.**
- Note:**
- It is a Moscow-based alliance of six former Soviet countries, for assistance.
 - The CSTO has said that it will dispatch peacekeeping forces to Kazakhstan after the country's President asked for help in controlling protests that escalated into violence, including the seizure and setting afire of government buildings.

Honor & Awards

1. Name the person who has won the Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photo Journalism category _____ **Zishaan A Latif.**
- Note:**
- He won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in The Caravan in October 2019.
 - He documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and put a face to an untold human story.
2. What will be the prize money for the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22 _____ **Rs. 20 lakh.**
- Note:**
- India's governance model has become a Jan Andolan with people responding to the Prime Minister's call for Jan Bhagidari in major schemes.
 - The prize money was also doubled this year from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization which is to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.
3. JC Chaudhry has achieved a Guinness World Record recently he is noted _____ **numerologists.**
- Note:**
- He educated about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology from USA, UK, Middle East and India
 - The initiative was organized by Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd (CNPL) and Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology, which was prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt and India.
4. Which media group has won the WAN-IFRA South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021 _____ **The Hindu Group.**
- Note:**

- They include 'Bring Back Milk Bikis Classic', a week-long campaign for FMCG giant Britannia for the relaunch of Milk Bikis Classic won gold in best in audience engagement category and bronze in best branded/sponsored content campaign category.
- WAN-IFRA's South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021 received over 140 entries this year.

Sports News

1. Who won the World Rapid championship in Warsaw and become the youngest ever world champion in open competition _____ **Nodirbek Abdusattorov**.

Note:

- Incidentally he set sets a world age record.
- He becomes the youngest ever world champion in open competitions
- Nodirbek Abdusattorov won the World Rapid championship in Warsaw, claiming en route the scalps of Magnus Carlsen and the No 1's last two challengers, Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi.

2. Who has won the women's single title in the \$25,000 ITF tennis tournament at the Ganesh Naik Complex _____ **Ekaterina Reyngold**.

Note:

- She defeated Diana Marcinkevica of Latvia in the final by 6-3, 6-2.
- It was a maiden title in the professional circuit for the 20-year-old Ekaterina Reyngold.

3. Name the Indian women cricketer who has been nominated for the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award _____ **Smriti Mandhana**.

Note:

- She has scored 855 runs in 22 internationals, at an average of 38.86 with one century and five half-centuries
- Besides her, other three cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis are also being nominated.

4. Which country has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2021 cricket tournament _____ **India**.

Note:

- Yash Dhull-led young Indian side defeated Sri Lanka by 9 wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.
- Sri Lanka had scored 106/9 and India were given the target of 99 runs due to the DLS method.
- India suffered an early jolt as Harnoor Singh was plummed in front of the stumps in the fifth over.

5. Renowned cricketer Mohammad Hafeez announced his retirement from international cricket. Which country did he played for _____ **Pakistan**.

Note:

- He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches in which he scored 12,789 runs and took 253 wickets.
- He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs (One Day International) and 119 T20Is (Twenty20 International) including three ICC (International Cricket Council) ODI World Cups and six T20 World Cups.

6. Which state will host the 'Khelo India Youth Games' in 2022-23 _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- The approval has been given to host the games to be held in Bhopal city.
- The Government of Madhya Pradesh allocated Rs 176.59 crores for the first phase. Rs 15.56 crores is to be spent on operation and maintenance of International Sports Complex. Separate Funds are to be allocated for second and third phases.

7. Name the Indian women cricketer who has been selected to lead India's 15-member squad at Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 _____ **Mithali Raj**.

Note:

- India's 15-member squad for ICC Women's World Cup 2022 has been announced by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which will be played between March 4 and April 3 in New Zealand.
- Harmanpreett Kaur will be deputy lead at the World Cup.

Books and Authors

1. Who has authored the titled “Mamata: Beyond 2021” _____ **Jayanta Ghosal.**

Note:

- The announcement about the release of the book was made on 5th January 2022, the birthday of Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal and the leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party.
- The book will be published on 24th January 2022.

2. Who has authored the book titled “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India” _____ **Dhirendra K. Jha.**

Note:

- The book is published by Vintage Books.
- The book explores Godse’s relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse’s resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination.

Science and Defence

1. Which ship manufacturing company handed over the first of the 23 battery-powered electric boats being constructed for the water metro project under the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) _____ **Cochin Shipyard Limited.**

Note:

- This is the first of the 23 boats awarded for building to Cochin Shipyard under the Kochi Water Metro project.
- Five boats are under construction and will be handed over to KMRL in a couple of months by the CSL.
- The construction of water metro terminals is also progressing.

2. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at _____ **Chandigarh University.**

Note:

- He also launched Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 crore, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three Services.
- It is established with the objective of training students in space science, satellite development and meet future challenges in space research
- It would be the Ground Control Station for the Chandigarh University’s Student Satellite.

3. Multinational naval exercise Milan was conducted in which place _____ **Visakhapatnam.**

Note:

- The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration. This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies.
- The countries that have been extended invitations for participation include Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, Iran, France, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, among others.

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