

Weekly One-liners

15-21 December 2022



Weekly One Liners Updates 15 -21st December 2022

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the third **week** (15-21st) of **December 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to the Asian Development Bank revised forecast, what would be the growth of India for the fiscal 2022-23 _____7%.

Note:

- India will grow at 7.2% for FY 2023-24.
- Reason: Sustained by positive effects from structural reform and from public investment catalysing private investment.
- Inflation in India is still expected to rise to 6.7 % in 2022-23 before falling back to 5.8%.
- As per the bank, Asia will expand at 4.2% this year and accelerate to 4.6% in 2023.

2. Which fintech firms have been asked by RBI to pause onboarding of new online payment merchants _____ **Razorpay and Cashfree**.

Note:

- Reason: As the central bank requires to make certain changes and provide more information before it is granted the final payment aggregator (PA) licence.
- Another fintech firm, Cashfree has also been asked to temporarily stop onboarding new customers.
- It is one among several fintech companies to receive in-principle approval from the RBI for a PA licence.

3. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced performance benchmarking and categorisation for the PMS industry. What is the full form of PMS _____ **Portfolio Management Services**.

Note:

- The move will help investors assess and compare the performance of service providers.
- This move will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
- The SEBI has directed portfolio managers to adopt an additional layer of broadly defined investment strategies categorised as equity, debt, hybrid, and multi-asset.

4. Which small finance bank has joined hands with the HDFC Life for bancassurance business model ____ **AU Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- This partnership would enable diverse customers of AU Small Finance Bank to access the entire range of life insurance products offered by HDFC Life.
- According to the Swiss Re report (2019), India has the highest protection gap of 83% in comparison to other insurance markets.
- HDFC Life MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar

5. Which financial service provider has launched a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis named Roots _____ **HDFC Securities**.

Note:

- It offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets
- This platform produces content which are being searched on Google by current or prospective investors and traders.

6. Which bank has announced the ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on multiple banking services, including Passbook charges, NEFT charges _____ **IDFC FIRST Bank**.

Note:

- As per the bank, the customers maintaining as low as ₹10,000 Average Monthly Balance, and the ₹25,000 AMB savings account variant will get these benefits.
- IDFC Bank has celebrated its Foundation Day on 18 December.

- This is a customer friendly initiative from IDFC FIRST Bank.
7. Which bank has launched a new special retail term deposit dubbed as “Ind Shakti 555 days”, effective from December 19, 2022 _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- This product is offering higher rate of interest for investment starting from Rs. 5000 to less than 2 Crore for 555 days in the form of FD/MMD with callable options.
 - An interest rate of 7% for the general public and 7.15% for senior citizens.
 - It is offering an interest rate of 3.00% on deposits that mature in the next 30 to 45 days.
8. RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.66 crore on operations of which bank for non-compliance with directions on cyber security framework _____ **Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC.**

Note:

- The bank has failed to implement systems to detect unusual and unauthorised, internal or external activities in its database
 - RBI has also imposed penalty on 20 co-operative banks, including 17 from Gujarat for contravention of various norms
 - The penalty on 17 co-operative banks range between Rs 50,000 - Rs 7 lakh
9. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Controller General of Defence Accounts, Ministry of Defence for extending the banking services to the Defence Pensioners and their families _____ **Bandhan Bank.**

Note:

- The Bank will provide services to Defence Pensioners and their families through 557 branches.
 - The Bank is aligned with the vision of govt in being a one-stop solution to all pension-related activities of Defence pensioners under the Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on SPARSH.
10. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has informed that NiC has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98% to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022. What is the full form of NiC _____ **Note in Circulation.**

Note:

- The demand for currency depends upon several macroeconomic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rates.
 - The quantum of cash or banknotes in the economy depends on the requirement for meeting the demand for banknotes due to GDP growth, inflation, and replacement of soiled banknotes.
11. UT Ladakh and which bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide banking facilities to the UT employees _____ **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.**

Note:

- Under the MoU, J&K Bank would give the most favoured client status to the UT Administration as well as the active permanent employees who have their salary accounts in J&K Bank
 - Aim: To increase awareness about banking facilities
 - J&K Bank will also organize various financial literacy camps at its centres for UT employees.
12. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced that it will introduce a regulatory framework for EOP for direct plans of mutual fund schemes. What is the full form of EOP _____ **Execution Only Platforms.**

Note:

- The new rules will make it convenient for investors to make investment via Execution Only Platforms (EOPs) as well as appropriate investor protection mechanisms.
 - It will have investor protection mechanism, cyber security requirements, pricing of services and grievance redressal.
13. Paytm has partnered with which general insurance to launch a group insurance plan called ‘Paytm Payment Protect’ _____ **HDFC ERGO.**

Note:

- Aim: To insure transactions made through UPI across all apps and wallets.
- With the new insurance offering users would be able to secure themselves against mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs 10,000.
- To avail this insurance, users need to pay Rs 30 per annum.
- Higher cover options for cover up to Rs 1 lakh per annum will soon be added to the product

Obituaries

1. A BSF veteran, Bhairon Singh Rathore, who has been passed away, had fought which war _____ **1971 India-Pakistan War.**

Note:

- He served in the 14th BSF unit during the war and retired from service in 1987.
 - The BSF veteran's bravery at Rajasthan's Longewala post during the war was portrayed by actor Suniel Shetty in the Bollywood movie 'Border'.
 - He was awarded the Sena Medal in 1972 for his bravery.
2. Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, who has been passed away, was a princess of _____ **Hawai**.

Note:

- She was born on 23rd April 1926 in Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

Important Days

1. Which state has observed its Liberation day every year on December 19 in India to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free from 450 years of the Portuguese rule _____ **Goa**.

Note:

- Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia led the Goa liberation movement on June 18, 1946, with the aim of liberating Goa by gathering young Goans.
- The Union of India was completed with Goa's liberation on December 19, 1961.
- Goa continued to be a UT till 1987 and then was given statehood by becoming the 25th state of India.

2. International Human Solidarity Day (IHSD) is observed annually on which date across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity _____ **December 20**.

Note:

- IHSD highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to create awareness about poverty and the need to reduce poverty in independent nations.
- The annual celebration reminds world citizens of the issues faced by poor people and nations affected by poverty.

3. National Minorities Rights Day is commemorated on which date every year in India _____ **December 18**.

Note:

- Its aim is to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country.
- This day is a reminder about the rights of minorities and to raise awareness about it.

4. International Migrants Day is observed annually on which date to bring attention to the social and economic realities of migrants around the world _____ **December 18**.

Note:

- This day is observed to guarantee that the rights of migrants are equally respected and not violated.
- The mobility of people is still influenced by a range of factors despite the world's rapid growth and change.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the president of retail business of DealShare (Social e-commerce company) _____ **Kamaldeep Singh**.

Note:

- Prior to this role, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of Big Bazaar, where he was responsible for retail operations, organizational transformation, and business strategy execution.
- Recently, the DealShare startup owned and operated by Merabo Labs Pvt Ltd has raised an additional \$45 million from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

2. Who has been appointed as the inaugural CEO of the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane _____ **Cindy Hook**.

Note:

- She had stepped away from her role as CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific earlier this year.
- She had worked for the international professional services network in the U.S. and in Australia.
- The International Olympic Committee awarded the 2032 Games to Brisbane in July of last year.

3. Who has been appointed as the first black president of the Harvard University _____ **Dr Claudine Gay**.

Note:

- Dr Gay, who is a dean at Harvard, has been appointed as 30th president the university.
- She will replace Lawrence Bacow, who will retire on July 2023.
- She will also be the second woman to head the elite college in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- Notably, she is the daughter of Haitian immigrants and received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1992.
4. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Ltd, with effect from December 13, 2022 _____ **Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi**.

Note:

- He is also the CMD of Rishikesh-based THDC India Limited.
 - Earlier, Yamuna Kumar Chaubey, Director of NHPC (Technical) was holding the additional charge of CMD of the company.
 - NHPC Ltd is a Mini-Ratna Category-I Enterprise of the Government of India.
 - NHPC HQ: Faridabad, Haryana; Founded: 1975
5. Who has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Ireland in line with a coalition deal struck in 2020 _____ **Leo Varadkar**.

Note:

- He has replaced Micheal Martin as Taoiseach (premier) in a rotation deal between his Fine Gael (party) and Martin's Fianna Fail (party).
 - He was born in Dublin to an Irish mother who worked as a nurse and an Indian immigrant father, who was a qualified doctor.
 - In 2007, he secured election for Fine Gael in Dublin West.
6. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a period of three years _____ **Dinesh Kumar Shukla**.

Note:

- He has succeeded G. Nageswara Rao to the top post.
- Prior to this role, he has been the executive director of the AERB.
- He was a graduate in mechanical engineering from the Jabalpur University, Shukla joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1981.

Important News - India

1. Parliament has passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with Rajya Sabha to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as _____ **India International Arbitration Centre**.

Note:

- The bill was already passed in Lok Sabha.
- The Bill allows the govt to provide for removing any difficulties in implementing the Act up to five years from the date of commencement of the Act.

2. In December 2022, Gamocha has been received the GI tags, is associated with which state of India _____ **Assam**.

Note:

- The govt of India has granted the GIs tags to nine new items on 14th December 2022 including Gamocha (Assam), Tandur red gram (Telangana), Raktsey Karpo apricot (Ladakh), Alibag white onion (Maharashtra).
- Kerala has been awarded five GI tags for its agricultural produce.
- With this, the total number of GI tags in India comes to 432.
- Top five states holding the maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala.

3. A group of nine (G7, Norway and Denmark) rich industrialized nations have approved a deal to provide 15.5 billion US dollars to which country _____ **Vietnam**.

Note:

- Reason: To help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution.
- This grant will help Vietnam to reduce its emissions to "net zero" by 2050.
- It is a goal which experts say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

4. Nitin Gadkari (Minister of Road Transport and Highways) has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of how many National Highway development projects worth 45, 536 crore rupees in Kerala _____ **15**.

Note:

- The event was organised at the Travancore International Convention Centre at Karyavattom Sports Hub, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The event was presided by Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan

- It will also enhance tourism possibilities in Bekal, Kannur, Kozhikode, Fort Kochi, Alappuzha, Varkala and Kovalam
5. The eighth edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in which city of India in January 2023 _____ **Bhopal**.

Note:

- Agenda: To celebrate the country's achievements in the field of science, technology and innovation.
 - IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati.
 - 14 events will be organised during the four-day event beginning January 21 at the Maulana Azad Institute of Technology, Bhopal.
6. Which exchange has become first carbon-neutral power exchange of India, using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions _____ **Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)**.

Note:

- To reduce carbon footprint, IEX has voluntarily cancelled CERs (certified emissions reductions) from clean projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism, UNFCCC.
 - As per the UNEP 2022 report, global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut 45% by 2030 to get on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
7. Which edition of Youth Co:Lab was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India _____ **5th**.

Note:

- Youth Co:Lab is an initiative launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
 - Aim: To establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.
8. PM Modi has launched the "Grih Pravesh" programme in which state of India, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban and Rural schemes _____ **Agartala, Tripura**.

Note:

- PM Modi has visited Tripura and Meghalaya to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of projects worth over Rs 6,800 crore.
 - He has also inaugurated connectivity projects for the widening of the Agartala bypass (Khayerpur – Amtali) NH-08.
 - He has inaugurated spawn laboratory at the Mushroom Development Centre in Meghalaya.
9. Name the campaign which was launched by Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, under the Good Governance Week 2022 in New Delhi _____ **Prashasan Gaon ki Ore**.

Note:

- He has also launched the Good Governance Week portal, www.pgportal.gov.in.
 - In the 5 days campaign, over 300 New Services identified by District Collectors across the country will be added for Online Service Delivery.
10. Which tech giant company has granted a fund of \$1 million to IIT Madras to build India's first Responsible AI center _____ **Google**.

Note:

- In addition, Google has also planned to collaborate with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for project Vaani.
 - Furthermore, under the partnership, Google aims to build an artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) model to collect language samples from 773 districts across India.
 - Project Vaani aims to ensure the collected and produced data will be open-source.
11. Who has launched one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance products from Bajaj Allianz _____ **Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways**.

Note:

- Surety Bond Insurance:
 - It is a risk transfer tool for the principal and shields them from the losses that may arise in case the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.
 - It will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.
 - It will insulate the contractor as well as the principal.
12. MoS Civil Aviation, V. K. Singh has informed that the Rajya Sabha, that govt has accorded in-principle approval for setting up _____ Greenfield Airports across the country _____ **21**.

Note:

- So far nine Greenfield airports have already been operationalized and the tenth Greenfield airport at Mopa, Goa.
- Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008.
- For setting up of GFA, State Government need to send a proposal to MoCA for 2-stage approval.

13. Which tech giant company has announced a partnership with the DigiLocker to bring the govt issued ID to the local storage of Android devices _____ **Google**.

Note:

- DigiLocker is a govt authorised identification storage system,
- This partnership is a part of Google's AI offerings that include on-device processing of text and images to identify important documents, and organise them.
- The Android operating system of Google will also tap into the DigiLocker API.

14. Name the India's first Green Steel Brand that was launched by Jyotiraditya Scindia in New Delhi on 20th December 2022 _____ **KALYANI FeRRESTA**.

Note:

- This first-of-its-kind steel was manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group.
- It was manufactured by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- The plant where green steel is being produced has the capacity to manufacture 250,000 tonnes of steel.

15. According to the 2022 Social Progress Index, which state/UT has been emerged as the best-performing States, followed by Lakshadweep, and Goa _____ **Puducherry**.

Note:

- Top three performing districts: Shimla, Solan, and Aizawl
- The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions - Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.
- The report was prepared by Institute for Competitiveness and the Social Progress Imperative and mandated by EAC-PM.

16. Which institute has launched a programme to create Impact Leaders in the areas of Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) _____ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs**.

Note:

- IICA is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Leena Nandan (Environment Secretary) was the Chief Guest at the launch of the programme.
- IICA has also formed a National Association of Impact Leaders which is a membership-based association only for ESG professionals.

17. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Startup Hub has joined hands with Google to train how many startups under the Appscale Academy program of 2023 and help scale their app businesses _____ **100**.

Note:

- They will also launch a multi-city roadshow, aiming to engage over 1,000 startups in cities such as Surat, Indore, Coimbatore, Gangtok, and Jaipur.
- The startups will be trained on several aspects such as UX design, business model and monetization strategies and many more.

18. Which tech giant company has partnered with Viasat (global communications company) to deliver satellite internet access to 10 million people across the world by 2025 ____ **Microsoft**.

Note:

- Viasat is the first satellite partner to work with Airband Initiative of Microsoft.
- Both will provide pilot technologies including, satellites and fixed wireless.
- As per the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), around one-third of the world's population have still never used the internet.

19. How many Rafale aircraft has been received by India from France till 15th December 2022 _____ **36 (All)**.

Note:

- The aircraft has arrived after a quick en-route mid-air refuelling from a UAE Air Force tanker aircraft.
- India and France had signed the inter-government agreement in 2016 to provide 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around 60,000 crore rupees to India.
- The first batch of five Rafale jets had arrived on 29th July, 2020.

20. Which state government has signed an MoU with Hinduja group for an investment worth Rs 35,000 crore in 11 sectors _____ **Maharashtra**.

Note:

- Hinduja group has identified 11 sectors for investment in the state, which includes renewable energy, media and entertainment, cyber security, healthcare, infrastructure, education, manufacturing and new age technologies.
 - It also focuses on the economic development of the rural sector for creating opportunities and employment for the people of Maharashtra.
21. Which private Equity Company has agreed to acquire the Poonawalla Housing Finance (PHFL) at ₹3,900 crore valuation _____ **TPG**.
- Note:**
- TPG will infuse an additional equity of up to ₹1,000 crore in Poonawalla Housing Finance in the near term.
 - The existing management team led by Manish Jaiswal will continue to carry out the operations.
 - PHFL currently has over 153 branches spread across 20 states.
 - The group had planned for value unlocking for the housing finance business with an IPO planned in 2025.
22. Which renewable energy company has signed a renewable energy agreement of 150 MW with Microsoft India _____ **ReNew Power**.
- Note:**
- As part of the arrangement, ReNew will produce 150 MW of clean energy from a recently commissioned solar site near Bikaner, Rajasthan.
 - This partnership will pave the way for innovative models that will accelerate the energy transition.
 - This deal also signifies that corporates globally are increasingly integrating renewable energy into their operations in every form.
23. Doorstep fuel delivery service provider, FuelBuddy has announced a partnership with which petroleum refinery company for supply of its automotive and industrial lubricant, 'SERVO', to customers across the country _____ **Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.**
- Note:**
- All customers (new and existing) of FuelBuddy will soon be able to easily place orders of lubricants as per their requirement on the FuelBuddy app.
 - The physical delivery of the lubricants will be done at their doorstep at the time of their convenience.
24. What is the new name of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) _____ **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme**.
- Note:**
- The integrated scheme converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
 - The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission.
25. Which edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) has been inaugurated by the Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on 15th December 2022 _____ **7th**.
- Note:**
- 2022 Theme: Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin.
 - Focus: On the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.
 - Aim: To give an insight into the potential causes for divergence and formulate a strategy to achieve.
26. Which edition of the World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in February 2024 _____ **13th**.
- Note:**
- The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place in June 2022 in Geneva.
 - For the UAE, hosting the meeting is part of its own push to position itself as a global hub for business amid growing competition in the Middle East.
 - WTO was founded in 1995.
 - The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
27. Which ministry has organised Delhi International Arts Festival in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation at Kartavya Path, New Delhi _____ **Ministry of Culture**.
- Note:**
- The festival is being organised from 16th December to 30th December.
 - Tagline of festival: Where Bharat Meets India
 - In the opening ceremony of the event, Kuchipudi dance was performed, which was choreographed by Jayarama Rao.
 - On the occasion, Prism Theatre society performed Hindi theatre 'Veer Abhimanyu.'

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched the Alternative Farming System for Tribal Jhumias/Poppy Planters in ten districts of state _____ **Manipur**.

Note:

- Districts: Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Noney, Tamenglong, Senapati, Kangpokpi, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tengnoupal, and Chandel
- The programme was organized by the Eastern Border Areas Development Authority (EBADA), Govt of Manipur, under the funding of the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shilong.

2. CM Conrad K Sangmaat has inaugurated a football stadium at the P A Sangma Sports Complex, Dakopgre in Tura. He is a CM of which state of India _____ **Meghalaya**.

Note:

- The stadium and the two indoor stadiums are built over a combined area of over 17,000 sqm.
- The indoor stadiums, along with gymnasium, swimming pool, a table tennis Hall, squash hall and a badminton hall will be ready for inauguration by December 2023.
- The government has also launched a talent identification programme for athletes.

3. Tal Chhappar blackbuck sanctuary is located in which state of India _____ **Rajasthan**.

Note:

- The famous Tal Chhappar blackbuck sanctuary in Churu district of Rajasthan has received a protective cover against a proposed move of the State government to reduce the size of its eco-sensitive zone.
- The World Wildlife Fund for Nature has also taken up a major project for the conservation of raptors in the sanctuary, spread in an area measuring 7.19 sq. km.
- The Rajasthan High Court has intervened through a suo motu public interest litigation to protect the sanctuary.

4. Which state government has launched 'Friends of Library' programme, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi (School Education minister) has announced that volunteers' services would be employed for this.
- This project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library.

5. Which state government has made mandatory of Aadhaar number or Aadhaar identification for all those who are eligible for benefits (other than minor children) under various government schemes _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- According to the order, the Aadhaar card is mandatory for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes.
- The government has also announced remedial mechanisms if Aadhaar identification fails due to poor biometrics or any other reason.

Important News – World

1. Which country's wildlife officials have declared a Nevada wildflower as endangered species _____ **The U.S.**

Note:

- It is found on a high-desert ridge, where a lithium mine is planned to help meet the growing demand for electric car batteries.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has formally listed Tiehm's buckwheat and its accompanying area of 910 acres for the 6-inch-tall flower with yellow blooms.
- Ioneer (Australian mining company) is planning to dig for lithium where the flower grows.

2. Which country's capital has passed a new regulation, which stated that all new houses in capital city built by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 must install solar power panels to cut household carbon emissions _____ **Tokyo**.

Note:

- Currently, Japan stands at fifth spot in the world's largest carbon emitters list.
- This mandate requires about 50 major builders to equip homes of up to 2,000 square metres (21,500 square feet) with renewable energy power sources, mainly solar panels.

3. Which country has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers _____ **India**.

Note:

- EAM, S Jaishankar has announced that New Delhi will maintain a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets.
 - Along with India, contributing countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal were participated as its co-chairs
 - It represents the “political will” of member states, particularly of the troop and police contributing countries
4. Which organisations has adopted a plan for a global minimum 15 percent tax on multinational businesses, after leaders gave final approval following months of wrangling _____ **European Union**.

Note:

- The landmark agreement between nearly 140 countries is intended to stop governments racing to cut taxes to lure the world's richest firms to their territory.
- The plan was drawn up under the guidance of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Honor & Awards

1. Which movie was awarded Suvarna Chakoram for Best Film at the 27th edition of IFFK which was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala _____ **Utama (Bolivian movie)**.

Note:

- Director: Alejandro Loayza Grisi
- The Hungarian filmmaker, Bela Tarr was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Best Asian Film: Alam (Director: Firas Khoury)
- Rajata Chakoram for Best Director: Tayfun Pirselimoglu for Kerr
- Audience poll award: Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery

2. Which Indian personality has won the title of Mrs World 2022, after 21 years _____ **Sargam Koushal (Mumbai)**.

Note:

- Mrs World 2021, Shaylyn Ford (U.S.A) has presented the crown to Mrs. Koushal at a ceremony held at Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino.
- Mrs Polynesia was named the first runner-up, followed by Mrs Canada as the second runner-up.
- India has won this title after 21 years.
- Dr Aditi Govitrikar had won the Mrs World title in 2001.

3. Who has won the Fan’ Favorite singles title at the Association of Tennis Professionals, ATP Awards 2022 _____ **Rafael Nadal**.

Note:

- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) has won the title of Most Improved Player of the Year at the ATP awards 2022.
- Fan’s favourite (doubles): Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis
- Newcomer of the Year: Holger Rune
- Comeback Player of the Year: Borna Coric
- Coach of the Year: Juan Carlos Ferrero
- Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award: Andy Murray

4. Which National Mining company has won the coveted IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu _____ **NMDC**.

Note:

- The largest producer of the iron ore in the country was felicitated at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence.
- N R K Prasad, CGM (IE & MS), NMDC has received the award from Dr. K Ponmudy, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu.

5. ‘Duare Sarkar’ (Government at doorstep) has been selected for the Platinum Award at the Digital India Awards 2022, is a flagship scheme of which state _____ **West Bengal**.

Note:

- The scheme has been awarded in the ‘Public Digital Platforms — Central Ministries, Departments and States’ category.
- President Droupadi Murmu will give the award to the state on January 7,2023 at a function in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ‘Duare Sarkar’ scheme was launched in December 2020.

6. Which Indian film has bagged three awards at the 2022 Philadelphia Film Critics Circle Annual Awards _____ **RRR**.

Note:

- Categorizes: Best Foreign Language Film, Best Cinematography, and Best Score/Soundtrack categories.

- Earlier, the film has also received nominations in two categories for 2023 Golden Globes.
 - The film has been nominated in the Best Picture – Non-English Language category and “Naatu Naatu” in the Best Original Song – Motion Picture category.
7. Who has been honoured with the first Rohini Nayyar prize for outstanding contribution to rural development _____ **Sethrichem Sangtam.**

Note:

- Reason: To triple the incomes of 1,200 marginalised farmers in Eastern Nagaland.
 - He introduced them fruit growing, prompting the farmers to change from shifting farming to permanent farming.
 - He was awarded the prize by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Suman Bery.
 - The award was instituted by the family of late Dr. Rohini Nayyar.
8. Name three sites that have been added to the tentative list of UNCESO World Heritage Sites in December 2022 _____ **Vadnagar town, Sun Temple at Modhera, and the rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura.**

Note:

- The UNESCO tentative list is an “inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination”.
- With the addition of these three sites, India now has 52 sites on the UNESCO tentative list.
- India has a total of 40 sites which enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage tag.

Sports News

1. Which steel production company has signed an MoU with Hockey India to become an Official Partner of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 _____ **Tata Steel Limited.**

Note:

- The 15th edition of the Hockey Men's World Cup will take place in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023.
 - It will be the fourth time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament after having played hosts in 1982 in Bombay, 2010 in New Delhi, and 2018 in Odisha.
 - A total of 16 nations will take part in the tournament.
2. India has defeated which country by 120 runs to win their third consecutive title of the T20 World Cup 2022 for the Blind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- Sunil was declared Man of the Match in the final and also received the Man of the Series in the B3 category.
 - Ajay was adjudged Man of the Series in the B2 category while Bangladesh's Mohammed Mahmud Rashid was the Man of the Series in the B1 category.
 - Earlier, the Indian team has won the title in 2012 and 2017.
3. Indian Women's Hockey team has defeated which country by 1-0 in the final to win the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022, held in Valencia, Spain, from 11 to 17 December 2022 _____ **Spain.**

Note:

- Hockey India has announced Rs 2 Lakh for each player and 1 Lakh rupees for each support staff of the Indian Women's Hockey Team.
 - Indian has also got promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League.
 - Goalkeeper of the tournament: Savita Punia
4. Which country has defeated France by 4-2 on penalties to win the 2022 FIFA World Cup, held at the Lusail Stadium in Doha, Qatar _____ **Argentina.**

Note:

- This is third-ever World Cup victory of Argentina and first since 1986.
 - Kylian Mbappé (France) has won the 2022 FIFA World Cup Golden Boot award with 8 goals.
 - Lionel Messi won Golden Ball (best player award) at the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar.
 - Best goalkeeper (golden glove): Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)
 - Fair play award: England
5. Which team has defeated Puneri Paltan by 33-29 in the summit clash to emerge champions of the 2022 Pro Kabaddi League _____ **Jaipur Pink Panthers.**

Note:

- The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai.
- V Ajith, Sunil Kumar and Arjun Deshwal emerged as the best players for Jaipur side with six points each.

Books and Authors

1. Who has launched his book 'Fit At Any Age' at India International Centre, New Delhi _____ **Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.)**.

Note:

- He has penned his journey to fitness in the book and shared anecdotes from his life to explain how he became motivated to work out daily.
- The book, published by Bloomsbury India.

Science sand Defence

1. Which edition of India-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' has been conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from 15 to 28 December 2022 _____ **6th**.

Note:

- The Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk.
- In 2018, this exercise was upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind.
- This joint exercise enables the two armies to train, plan and execute a series of combined tactical drills for neutralising threats.

2. The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint army training exercise, SURYA KIRAN has been started in which city _____ **Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi, Nepal**.

Note:

- This exercise will continue till 29 December 2022.
- Aim: To enhance inter-operability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under UN mandate.
- Shree Bhawani Baksh Battalion (Nepal Army) and 5 GR (Indian Army) are participating in the exercise.

3. Name the second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, that has been commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on December 18, 2022 _____ **INS Mormugao (D67)**.

Note:

- It was designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Warship Design Bureau.
- It was constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- It has 70-km MRSAM system, torpedo and rocket launchers.
- The event marked the formal induction of the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers.

4. Which sailor boat has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023 _____ **INSV Tarini**.

Note:

- This ocean sailing race will be flagged off on 2nd January, 2023 from Cape Town and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Aim: To train crew onboard, in essential seamanship skills including Navigation, Communication, and Planning.
- The expedition is being undertaken by an Indian Navy crew of five officers including two women officers

5. Name the fifth indigenously-built Scorpène submarine of Project 75 Kalvari Class submarines, that has been received by Indian Navy _____ **Vagir**.

Note:

- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- The submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability.
- Project - 75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.

6. Name the first ship of ASW SWC Project, that has been launched by the Indian Navy at Kattupalli, Chennai _____ **Arnala**.

Note:

- This ship built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between Defence Ministry and GRSE, Kolkata in April 2019.

- Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low Intensity Maritime Operations.
7. The Indian defence forces will induct which ballistic missiles that can hit targets from 150 to 500 km _____ **Pralay**.

Note:

- Pralay is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile.
 - Pralay is powered with solid propellant rocket motor with the capability to destroy enemy targets within a range of 150 to 500km.
 - The proposal moved by the Indian defence forces is at an advanced stage and is scheduled to be taken up for clearance during a high-level meeting.
8. India has successfully carried out the night trials of which nuclear-capable ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha on 15th December, 2022 _____ **Agni-V**.

Note:

- The test was conducted to check the new technologies and equipment on the missile which is now lighter than before.
 - The missile has a capacity to hit targets beyond 5,000 kilometres.
 - The Agni series I to IV missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km.
9. According to the Ministry for Space, how much amount has been earned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the last five years from the launch of foreign satellites _____ **₹1,100 crore (approx)**.

Note:

- In the last five years (January 2018 - November 2022) ISRO, via its commercial arms has successfully launched 177 foreign satellites from 19 countries.
- Under commercial agreement, ISRO launched these satellites on-board PSLV and GSLV-MkIII.

10. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman, PD Vaghela has announced that India will be the first country to auction spectrum for SatCom, and it should be designed to attract investments in the sector. What is the full form of SatCom _____ **Satellite Communication**.

Note:

- Satellite communication: It refers to any communication link that involves the use of an artificial satellite in its propagation path.
 - They can be found in geostationary, Molniya, elliptical, and low Earth orbits.
11. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched the SWOT satellite from California to survey nearly all bodies of water on Earth, offering key insights on how they influence or are impacted by climate change. What is the full form of SWOT _____ **Surface Water and Ocean Topography**.

Note:

- This satellite project was jointly developed by NASA and CNES (France space agency).
- It will start collecting scientific data in about six months after undergoing checks and calibrations.

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Features :



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Comprehensive Study
Material



Daily Study Plan



Latest Pattern Test Series



Complete Doubt
Resolution



Regular Assessments with
Report Card

