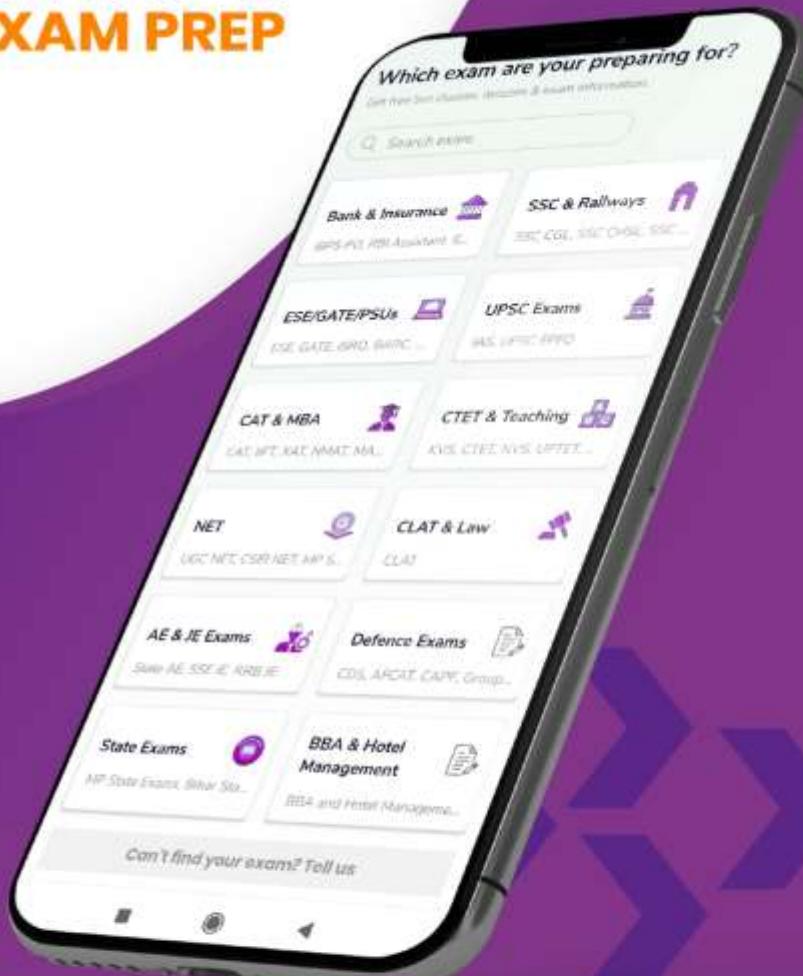




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Bi-Weekly Current Affairs (1-15 May) (English PDF)

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Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

1-15th May 2022

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of **May 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance exams.**

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. On which bank the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.12 crore for non-compliance _____ **Bank of Maharashtra**.

Note:

- The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited for non-compliance with its directions on Housing Finance.
- RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 12 lakh on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with 'Interest Rate on Deposits.'

2. Which regulatory body is planning to prepare a farmer distress index to identify, track, and support distressed farmers _____ **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.

Note:

- Under this, the government and the financial institutions can decide on an appropriate package of support instead of a distress package for all the farmers across the board.
- This index will not be uniform across the nation, as it will depend upon the place's stress levels.

3. Which bank has unveiled a pre-approved personal loan (PAPL) product under Project World of Advance Virtual Experience (WAVE) _____ **Indian Bank**.

Note:

- Aims: To provide customers with instant loan disbursements.
- The loan would carry an interest rate of 10% p.a. with no foreclosure charges.
- The service is available for existing customers (regular income and pension accounts) and can be availed of through a mobile application, website, and internet banking facility.

4. Which life insurance company has signed up for the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) with the objective of sustainable growth and long term value creation _____ **HDFC Life**.

Note:

- The Company currently has Assets Under Management of over Rs. 2 lakh crores.
- The company focuses on better understanding the investment implications of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

5. Which General Insurance Company has announced to launch of its 'Pay as you Drive' program, this insurance offers distance-based insurance to reduce upfront costs of premium _____ **HDFC ERGO**.

Note:

- The program will be available for owners of new Maruti Suzuki cars in selected cities up to May 14, 2022.
- This program is applicable for 10,000 policies or ₹50 lacs of premium whichever happens earlier.
- The driving distance will be measured with the help of a telematics device in the vehicle.

6. Which bank has partnered with Anthill Ventures (startup venture capital fund) and Headstart Network Foundation (evangelist network) to launch DBS Business Class foundED _____ **DBS Bank**.

Note:

- This forum will help modern-day founders, innovators, and game-changers to foster co-innovation and collaboration in the startup ecosystem.
- The first event of DBS BusinessClass foundED was held in Hyderabad with actor Rana Daggubati.

7. Which fintech API platform has joined hands with Yes Bank to expand the digital facility to a wide range of enterprises, including SMEs, fintech companies, and start-ups ____ **FidyPay**.

Note:

- The fintech platform will provide Yes Bank customers with a smooth connected banking experience as part of the partnership.
- FidyPay will also serve as UPI services solution provider.
- FidyPay is backed by Mr. Prateek Agarwal (the former CBO of BharatPe) and Mr. Ram Pathade (CEO of Mahagram).

8. What is the maximum investment ceiling for insurance companies in the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector has been set by The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) ____ **30%**.

Note:

- The existing sectoral investment cap of 25% has been fully utilised by most insurance firms.
- This will help insurance companies to take a higher exposure in the BFSI sector.

9. Which financial guarantee provider has signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) to set up a digital lending platform for MSMEs in the country ____ **Eqaro Surety**.

Note:

- The platform will provide collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to fulfil MSMEs need for urgent funds post due diligence of their businesses.
- The credit for MSMEs would be backed by guarantees from Eqaro.

10. What is the current repo rate ____ **4.40%**.

Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40% and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.50%.
- To bring down the raised inflation to the desired level and tackle the impact of geopolitical tensions.
- The hike in CRR by 50 bps will suck out Rs 87,000 crore from the banking system.

11. Which bank in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) has launched 'skill loans' ____ **Canara Bank**.

Note:

- Under this facility, the loan is ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹1.5 lakh.
- This loan can be availed of by students who are pursuing skill training programmes which are offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies.
- Collateral free loans will be provided to students and have a repayment period of three to seven years.

12. How many years have been completed for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) of providing social security net ____ **Seven**.

Note:

- The schemes were launched by PM Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- PMJJBY: More than 12.76 crore Cumulative Enrolments; PMSBY: More than 28.37 crore Cumulative Enrolments; APY: Over 4 Crore subscribers

13. Which bank has unveiled a digital broking solution named E-Broking, which allows customers to open a Demat and trading account ____ **Indian Bank**.

Note:

- E-Broking is a strategic step toward a complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers.
- IndOASIS (mobile banking application) also offer a seamless experience from Demat and trading account opening to discounted broking services. This will help the bank to increase its CASA (current account, savings account).

14. Which industry becomes the first Indian company to record annual revenue of more than a whopping \$100 billion ____ **Reliance Industries**.

Note:

- The company has recorded a 22.5% rise in net profit for the quarter ended March 2022.
- The company has also reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of ₹33,968 crores (28% up) year-on-year.

15. Name the National Securities Depository Limited's (NSDL) investor awareness programme for students which was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman _____ **Market Ka Eklavya**.

Note:

- To introduce the basics of the securities market and also impart training on financial markets for students.
- NSDL has launched a new investor awareness programme as part of its silver jubilee celebration.

16. Which bank has got RBI approval to merge with Equitas Holdings Ltd _____ **Equitas Small Finance Bank**.

Note:

- The merger will comply with the RBI norms on small finance banks which mandate the promoter to reduce the stake in the subsidiary to 40% within five years of commencement of operations by the SFB (Small Finance Bank).

17. Under the chairmanship of Navneet Munot, SEBI has constituted a committee for advising on which matters in the securities market _____ **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)**.

Note:

- The terms of reference of the committee include Enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings, and ESG investing.
- It will examine evolving disclosures/metrics relevant to the Indian context and suggest areas for assurance and a plan for implementation.

18. Name an end-to-end digital car loan scheme which was launched by the HDFC Bank for its existing customers as well as new customers _____ **Xpress Car Loans**.

Note:

- Buyers can apply for a maximum of Rs 20 lakh and the loan amount will be credited to the dealers' accounts within 30 minutes.
- The facility is currently available for four-wheelers and will be soon rolled out to two-wheelers as well. To simplify the car purchase process and increase car sales.

19. Which bank has partnered with Santander bank in Britain in a pact aimed at facilitating the banking requirements of corporates operating across both countries _____ **ICICI Bank**.

Note:

- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ICICI and Santander UK Plc is designed to establish a framework of the partnership between the banks to meet the financial service requirements of corporate customers operating within the India-UK corridor.

20. Which life insurance company has launched its financial literacy campaign 'InspiHERs- enabling an empowered future' _____ **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.

Note:

- It is a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women about financial decisions for a secured future.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA.

21. What would be India's growth forecast for FY23 estimated by the Morgan Stanley _____ **7.6%**.

Note:

- The reason: a slowdown in global growth, higher commodity prices and risk aversion in global capital markets expose Asia's third-largest economy to downside risks.
- Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also revised downwards its growth projection for FY23 to 7.2% from 7.8%.
- The World Bank also slashed its FY23 growth forecast for India to 8%.

22. To which bank the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will extend its financial support of USD 190 million _____ **SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL)**.

Note:

- Projects: Metro Express Project and other infrastructure projects in Mauritius

- The credit facility is an additional tranche to the existing Credit of USD 500 million which has been extended to SBMIDCL on the terms and conditions contained in the Dollar Credit Line Agreement dated May 27, 2017.
23. Which bank has launched a digital solution named 'Trade nxt' to enable corporates as well as MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions _____ **Union Bank of India (UBI)**.

Note:

- This online platform offers absolute entry and processing of letters of credit (LoC), bank guarantees, export and import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward & inward remittances, dealer financing, and much more.
- Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India: Rajkiran Rai G

Obituaries

1. Salim Ghose has passed away, was belong to which field _____ **Actor**.

Note:

- He made his debut with the film Swarg Narak in 1978 and acted in films like Charkha, Saransh, Manthan, Kalyug, Trikal, Aghaat, Drohi, Thiruda, Sardari Begum, Koyla, Soldier, Aks and several others.
- He also played the roles of Rama, Krishna, and Tipu Sultan in Shyam Benegal's TV Series Bharat Ek Khoj.
- He has also worked in Malayalam and Tamil films.

2. Tony Brooks has passed away, was belong to which sports _____ **Formula One**.

Note:

- He won six Formula One Grand Prix in the 1950s died at 90. He was known as a "Racing Dentist".
- He won his F1 debut at the non-championship 1955 Syracuse Grand Prix.

3. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma who passed away recently was a veteran _____ Santoor player.

Note:

- He was born in Jammu in 1938 and is believed to be the first musician to have played Indian classical music on the santoos.
- Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1986), Padma Shri (1991), and Padma Vibhushan (2001)

4. Yuri Averbakh who passed away recently associated with which sports _____ **Chess**.

Note:

- He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952. In 1954, he became the champion of the USSR. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

5. Renowned personality Pandit Sukh Ram passed away recently. He was a _____ **Former Union minister**.

Note:

- He was the Union Minister of State, Communications (Independent Charge) from 1993 to 1996 and a member of Lok Sabha from the Mandi constituency (Himachal Pradesh).
- He won the Lok Sabha elections three times and the Vidhan Sabha elections five times

6. Leonid Kravchuk, passed away who was the first president of which country _____ **Independent Ukraine**.

Note:

- Kravchuk was known as the "wily fox" as he rose through the ranks of Ukraine's Communist Party and take over as head of the parliament in 1990.
- He signed the Belovezha accords with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich in December 1991 which effectively triggered the Soviet Union's collapse.

7. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, passed away was a president of which country _____ **UAE**.

Note:

- He took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004 after his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi.
- He also rescued Dubai when it was hit by the global financial crisis in 2009.
- The UAE ministry has announced 40 days of mourning, with flags and work suspended in the public and private sectors for the first three days.

Important Days

1. International Labour Day is observed on which date _____ **1st of May**.

Note:

- Aim: To spread awareness about Labour's rights and mark their achievements.
- In India, the first Labour Day was celebrated by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923, in then Madras (now Chennai).
- May Day is also celebrated as the foundation day of Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day.

2. World Tuna Day is being observed on which date every year globally _____ **2nd May**.

Note:

- Aim: Promoting the importance of sustainable fishing practices and educating people on how Tuna become endangered species due to high demand. UNGA has declared this day as World Tuna Day to create awareness to preserve species in 2016.
- Tuna is an important source of Omega-3 and it also contains minerals, proteins, and vitamin B12, among other advantages.

3. World Asthma Day is observed every year on which date to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world _____ **first Tuesday of May**.

Note:

- This year the theme is 'Closing Gaps in Asthma Care'.

4. World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on which date every year _____ **3rd May**.

Note:

- It is also known as World Press Day.
- This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Journalism under digital siege".

5. Coal Miners Day is observed on which date every year to honour the coal miners _____ **4th May**.

Note:

- The day is celebrated to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands.

6. International Firefighter's Day is observed every year on which date to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty _____ **May 4**.

Note:

- A tragic incident in Australia's Linton led to the establishment of International Firefighters Day.
- This historical accident happened on December 02, 1998, which led to the taking of the lives of 5 firefighters.
- Therefore, a proposal was passed on January 04, 1999, to honour the firefighters who lost their lives on duty.

7. World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) is annually observed across the globe on which date to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care _____ **May 5**.

Note:

- Theme – "health care quality and safety climate or culture"
- The slogan is "Unite for safety: clean your hands".

8. International No Diet Day 2022 is celebrated all over the world on which date _____ **6 May**.

Note:

- On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes
- In the year 1992, International No Diet Day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans.

9. World Red Cross Day is observed every year on which date to mark the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant _____ **May 8**.

Note:

- Henry Dunant was a founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize (1901).
- The theme for 2022 is 'Be Human Kind'.

10. World Thalassemia Day is observed on which date every year to honour the struggles of patients suffering from thalassemia and make people aware of the disease and its symptoms ____ **May 8.**

Note:

- Thalassemia is a blood disease in which the body fails to create enough hemoglobin.
- The event was first observed by the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) in 1994.
- Theme 2022: Be Aware. Share. Care: Working with the global community as one to improve Thalassemia knowledge

11. World Lupus Day is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about Lupus disease that can cause damage to any part of the body ____ **May 10.**

Note:

- Lupus, autoimmune disease is one in which the immune system is unable to recognize the difference between healthy cells in the human body and the foreign cells it fights to remove.
- Common symptoms: Intermittent fever, recurrent mouth ulcers, joint and muscle pain, and extreme fatigue.

12. India observed National Technology Day on which date to celebrate the achievements made by the scientists, engineers, teachers and researchers across the nation ____ **May 11.**

Note:

- Theme 2022: Integrated Approach in science and technology for a sustainable future
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Former Prime Minister) declared 11 May as the National Technology Day as India has successfully carried out a series of nuclear tests in Pokhran on May 11, 1998.

13. International Nurses Day is celebrated worldwide on which date to mark the contribution made by nurses to society, in health care set up and in a community ____ **May 12.**

Note:

- Theme 2022: 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health'.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale (the founder of modern nursing).

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer Shivalik Small Finance Bank ____ **Anshul Swami.**

Note:

- The appointment of Swami has already been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- He has replaced Suveer Kumar Gupta, who is a co-founder of the bank. Prior to Shivalik SFB, he was worked with RBL Bank as Head – Retail & Inclusion, Products.

2. Who has been appointed as the chief national rifle coach by National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) ____ **Joydeep Karmakar.**

Note:

- He will oversee Indian continent till 2025, including the Paris Olympics 2024. He had missed a bronze medal by a whisker in men's 50-metre rifle prone event at 2012 London Olympics.
- He has been running his own shooting academy in Kolkata since 2015. NRAI was founded in 1951 to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.

3. Who has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), first line of defense for the United States ____ **Nand Mulchandani.**

Note:

- Prior to this, he served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Centre under US Department of Defence.
- He served as the CEO of multiple successful startups like Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina, OpenDNS and ScaleXtreme .

4. Who has been appointed as the advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi _____ **Tarun Kapoor (Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and former Petroleum Secretary).**

Note:

- He will superannuate as the secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021.
- Apart from him, Senior bureaucrats Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra have been appointed as the additional secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

5. Who has been appointed as the ex-officio member of the monetary policy committee by RBI's central board _____ **Rajiv Ranjan.**

Note:

- He replaced Mridul Saggar, who retired last month.
- Prior to this, he was an advisor in-charge in the monetary policy department, before he was elevated as an executive director.
- MPC is a 6-member body and is headed by RBI governor. There are 3 members from RBI and 3 members nominated by Govt.

6. Who has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for a period of three months or till a regular Chairman is appointed _____ **Sangeeta Singh.**

Note:

- She has replaced JB Mohapatra who retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30.
- She is currently holding charge of Audit and Judicial and an additional charge of Income Tax and Revenue and Tax Payers services.

7. Who has been elected to the Board of Directors as a Class B director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York _____ **Arvind Krishna (IBM Chairman and CEO).**

Note:

- He will remain in the office for the remaining portion of a three-year term ending December 31, 2023.
- He has been an undergraduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- He was senior VP of Cloud and Cognitive Software and also headed IBM Research.

8. Who has assumed charge as Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) _____ **Alkesh Kumar Sharma.**

Note:

- Prior to this, he served as the Additional Secretary and Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat.
- He was also chairman of Indian Highways Management Company and implemented FASTAG system of toll collection.
- Minister of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY): Ashwini Vaishnaw.

9. Who has taken over as the Managing Director of TVS Motor Company _____ **Sudarshan Venu.**

Note:

- Prior to this, he was the Joint Managing Director of the company. His elevation coincides with the appointment of Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth as the Chairman of the company.
- He succeeded Venu Srinivasan, who has become the Chairman Emeritus of the company. TVS Motor Company: Indian motorcycle manufacturer headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is the 3rd largest motorcycle company in India.

10. Who takes charge as a part-time chairman of City Union Bank Ltd. for a period of two years w.e.f. May 4 _____ **M. Narayanan.**

Note:

- Narayanan replaced R. Mohan, who laid down the office after completing a three-year term.
- Narayanan is a graduate in Mathematics from Loyola College. He is a qualified chartered accountant, cost accountant and system auditor.

11. Who becomes the chief executive of Hong Kong _____ **John Lee Ka-Chiu.**

Note:

- He will replace Carrie Lam. He will be the first security official to hold the Chief Executive position of Hong Kong which witnessed years of political unrest and recent debilitating pandemic controls.

12. Who has been appointed as the CEO of JioSaavn, Music app _____ **Sahas Malhotra**.

Note:

- He joined JioSaavn from Amazon Music where he was leading his team as a Director.
- He has worked with Sony Music India and Tips Industries. He was leading the business at Tips Music and marketing for Tips Film production.

13. Before being elevated to the Supreme Court Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia was a Chief Justice of which high court _____ **Gauhati High Court**.

Note:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has confirmed the appointment of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala as Judges of the Supreme Court.
- Justice Pardiwala was elevated as an additional judge of the Gujarat High Court and later confirmed as a permanent judge.

14. Who has been appointed as a Vice-Chair of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) _____ **Captain Rajesh Unni (Founder and CEO of Synergy Group)**.

Note:

- In 2006 he launched his own vessel ownership and management company named Synergy Marine Group.
- Captain Unni is joint CEO of Alpha Ori Technologies (AOT) which he founded in 2017 and is a Governor at the Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli.

15. Who was sworn in as Costa Rica's president for a four-years _____ **Rodrigo Chaves**.

Note:

- He will focus on reinvigorating one of Latin America's most stable economies, as foreign debt rises to 70% of GDP, the poverty rate of 23%, unemployment of 14% and public sector corruption.
- He was a senior official at the World Bank, where he worked for 30 years.

16. Who has been sworn in as the president of South Korea in a ceremony held at Seoul's National Assembly _____ **Yoon Suk-yeol (a conservative former prosecutor)**.

Note:

- He served as South Korea's prosecutor general from 2019 to 2021 under Moon Jae-in (former president) rule.
- He played an important role in the conviction of Park Geun-hye (former President) as a chief prosecutor of South Korea.

17. Who has been appointed as Louis Vuitton's first-ever Indian brand ambassador _____ **Deepika Padukone**.

Note:

- She was unveiled as part of a new handbag campaign with Emma Stone and Chinese actor Zhou Dongyu in a series of promotional shots.
- Recently, she has been named as a part of an eight-member jury presided by French actor Vincent Lindon at 75th Cannes Film Festival.

18. Who has taken an oath as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fifth time after the resignation of Mahinda Rajapaksa _____ **Ranil Wickremesinghe (the United National Party leader)**.

Note:

- President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has administrated his oath at a ceremony held in the President's office in Colombo.
- Wickremesinghe has been reappointed in an effort to bring stability to Sri Lanka, engulfed in a political and economic crisis.

19. Name the startup policy of Madhya Pradesh which was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing _____ **Startup Policy and Implementation Plan – 2022**.

Note:

- He also address the startup community during the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave held in Indore.
- Aim: To promote startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs in Madhya Pradesh.

- PM Modi will also launch the Madhya Pradesh Startup portal to promote the startup ecosystem.

20. Who has assumed the office of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for the year 2022-23 after replacing TV Narendran (CEO of Tata Steel) _____ **Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman of Bajaj Finserv Limited)**.

Note:

- The Chairman and CEO of Hero MotoCorp Limited, Pawan Munjal has taken over as CII President-Designate for 2022-23.
- Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, R Dinesh has been appointed as a Vice President of CII.

21. Who has been appointed by the Tata Group as Air India's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) _____ **Campbell Wilson**.

Note:

- Wilson is the second attempt of Tata Group as a CEO-MD for Air India after the former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci (declined to take up the position).
- The appointment of a foreign national as CEO of an airline in India needs government clearance before it can proceed.

22. Who has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from May 15 _____ **Rajiv Kumar**.

Note:

- He will replace CEC Sushil Chandra, who is due to retire.
- Rajiv Kumar took charge as the Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 1, 2020.
- He had been the chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. He joined as the PESB chairman in April 2020.

Important News – India

1. What percent of Pharma exports of India have been recorded since 2013-14 to 2021-22 _____ **103%**.

Note:

- 90,415 crores rupees in 2013-14 to 1,83,422 crores rupees in 2021-22. The export of Pharma Sector has performed best export performance in 2021-22.
- The exports grew by almost 10 billion US dollars in 8 years. The pharma exports in 2021-22 have shown positive growth despite the drop in demand for COVID-related medicines and global trade disruptions.

2. With which country India has signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18 February 2022 which is officially entered into force _____ **UAE**.

Note:

- BVR Subrahmanyam (Secretary, Department of Commerce) has flagged off the first consignment of goods comprising Jewellery products from India to UAE.
- The agreement is expected to escalate the total value of bilateral trade in goods and trade in services to over US\$100 billion and US\$ 15 billion respectively, within five years.

3. What is the Revenue collection of GST in the month of April 2022 _____ **Rs 1,67,540**.

Note:

- The gross revenue collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the month of April 2022 is Rs 1,67,540 crore out of which CGST is Rs 33,159 crores, SGST is Rs 41,793 crores, IGST is Rs 81,939 crores.
- The gross GST collection in April 2022 is Rs 25,000 crores more than the collection in March 2022 (Rs. 1,42,095 crores). This is the tenth month in a row that the GST revenues have crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

4. Who has launched the MSME Sustainable Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme _____ **Narayan Rane (Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)**.

Note:

- MSMEs will get subsidies as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification - Micro Enterprises: 80%; Small Enterprises: 60%; Medium Enterprises: 50%

- An additional subsidy of 10% for the MSMEs owned by Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs OR MSMEs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts.
5. Which software developer company has signed a pact with Ministry of Railways for the modernization of Telecommunication in Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security Services _____ **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**.

Note:

- It will be done using the LTE-R following world standards, 5G Use Cases in Indian Railways in line with Make in India policy, Internet of Things, Unified Network Management System, Network Management System, Chatting application, Routers and Switches.

6. In which campus Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) _____ **Bengaluru campus**.

Note:

- We should have an in-built mechanism for continuous up-gradation and will create a database of modes operandi of various crimes committed within the country. It will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all States and Union Territories.
- Technology partner: C-DAC, Pune.

7. Which force has launched a focused effort under "Operation Satark" from 5th April to 30th April 2022 _____ **Railway Protection Force(RPF)**.

Note:

- Aim: Taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold and any other items which are being transported through the railway network for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling.
- RPF is an armed force under the ownership of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.

8. Which government agency had designed and established a "Health Cloud" at Visakhapatnam premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ) _____ **The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd.**

Note:

- AMTZ is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub.
- The "Health Cloud" has been inaugurated by Louise Agersnap (Head of WHO Innovation Hub).
- Health Cloud can also be operationalised on wheels and can dispense the medicines by Health ATM through Mobile App having a digital payment interface.

9. Who has addressed the inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's - JITO Connect 2022 by video conferencing _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- JITO is a global organisation which connects Jains all over the world.
- JITO Connect is an attempt to help businesses and industries by providing a direction for mutual networking and personal interactions. This is a three-day event being organized at Gangadham Annex, Pune from 6th May 2022.

10. The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts will come into effect on which date _____ **June 1, 2022**.

Note:

- This phase will cover additional three caratages of gold jewellery and artefacts - 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats.
- BIS also has made a provision to permit a consumer to get the purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested at any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

11. What is the speed of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train sets are being manufactured under Make In India initiative _____ **180 km per hour**.

Note:

- India's first semi-high-speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) has been handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Alstom's Savli plant in Gujarat.
- It will be brought to Duhai Depot in Uttar Pradesh. Implementing agency of India's first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut: NCRTC.

12. Which company has approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a merger of Air India with Air Asia India _____ **Tata Sons.**

Note:

- AirAsia India was launched as a joint venture between the Tatas and Malaysia's AirAsia Group. Tatas had raised its stake in AirAsia India to 83.67% in December 2020.
- In January 2022, Tata acquired Air India and Air India Express. Tata group aviation companies: Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India SATS Airport Services

13. With which company L&T Infotech has announced a merger to create India's fifth-largest IT services provider _____ **Mindtree.**

Note:

- This combined entity will be known as LTIMindtree. This proposed integration will see Mindtree and LTI join strengths to create an efficient and scaled up IT services provider exceeding USD 3.5 billion
- It will create a more distinctive employee value proposition.

14. Which ministry has signed MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to promote renewable energy thereby moving towards a carbon neutral economy in Delhi _____ **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

Note:

- This MoU envisages collaboration between the two parties for jointly undertaking installation of Solar Rooftop PV Power Plants.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has estimated the total solar power potential of 71.68 MWs in the campuses of CAPFs & NSG.

15. Which force has signed MoU with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for a trafficking free nation _____ **Railway Protection Force (RPF).**

Note:

- It will enhance the scale, reach and effectiveness of Operation AAHT (Action against Human Trafficking) launched by RPF across the nation.
- RPF is entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway property, passenger area and passengers.
- RPF has also set up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) at more than 740 locations across India

16. Who has inaugurated National Seminar titled 'Indian Cinema and Soft Power' in Mumbai _____ **Shekhar Kapoor (Renowned Film Director).**

Note:

- Organized by: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Key topics: Cinematic colonialism, Indian Cinema as a Vehicle of spreading awareness about idea of India abroad, regional cinema and its global influence, Indian cinema's engagement with foreign audience, global influence of Indian cinematic music.

17. In association with which institute the first International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy was organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) _____ **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA).**

Note:

- Rao Inderjit Singh (Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation) has highlighted the journey of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
- Chairperson of IBBI: Dr. Navrang Saini

18. In which state Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated a three-day Swasthya Chintan Shivir (Health Summit) _____ **Kevadiya in Gujarat.**

Note:

- Aim: Detailed discussion on various topics and policies related to the health sector and recommend ways and means for better implementation of these policies/programmes.
- This summit is being organized as a part of the 14th Convention of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).

19. Who has inaugurated Conference of Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under Scheme of Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur _____ **Union Minister, Kailash Choudhary.**

Note:

- Focus areas: expectations from CBBOs, Knowledge sharing by CBBOs on best practices, discussion on Training and Capacity Building of Stakeholders, and Open discussion on various issues/ suggestions.

20. India will be the Official 'Country of Honour' in which upcoming film festival _____ **'Marche' Du Film in France.**

Note:

- The festival will be organised from 17th May 2022. This is for the first time when such an honour is being bestowed on any country.
- The theme of the India Pavilion 2022 is 'India the Content Hub of the World'. R Madhavan's film 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', based on the life of Nambi Narayanan will also premiere.

21. According to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on the Civil Registration System report 2020, which state/ UT has recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020 _____ **Ladakh (1104).**

Note:

- Followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala.
- Lowest sex ratio at birth: Manipur (880) followed by D& N Haveli & Daman & Diu (898) and Gujarat (909).
- Published by: The Registrar General of India (Ministry of Home Affairs).

22. Name the Maharashtrian girl who becomes the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres after her 5th climb Mount Kanchenjunga _____ **Priyanka Mohite (Satara in western Maharashtra).**

Note:

- Priyanka received the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020. Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) is the third highest mountain on the planet.
- She had climbed world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 m), Mount Lhotse (8,516 m) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 m), Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in 2016, Mt Annapurna (8,091 m).

23. Which Mini Ratna PSU has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based on access to its Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations across the country _____ **RailTel.**

Note:

- This service was virtually launched by RailTel chairman and managing director Puneet Chawla.
- Android users can access this WiFi network by downloading the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' from Google Play Store. This app has been developed in association with C-DOT.

24. Which ministry has participated in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai-2022 under its 'Incredible India' brand line _____ **Ministry of Tourism.**

Note:

- Showcase India's tourism potential and provide a platform to the tourism stakeholders.
- It also aimed to promote India as a 'Must See, Must Visit' destination. The India Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of Satpal Maharaj (Uttarakhand Tourism Minister) and other dignitaries.

25. Which global marketplace has partnered with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) and signed an MoU to support small sellers, weavers and artisans _____ **Etsy (global marketplace).**

Note:

- This will help to provide them with market access and enablement support.
- To equip artisans, creators and small entrepreneurs in the Indian handicrafts sector to start and manage online businesses.

26. How many domestic cargo terminals will be set up by 2024-2025 _____ **33.**

Note:

- Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia addressing the annual event of the Air Cargo Forum India.

- It will allow India's cargo sector to flourish and grow. Industry players need to focus on the transportation of smaller cargo loads from Tier II and III cities to metros to achieve the target of 10 million metric tons in cargo.

27. Which broadcasting agency of India has signed an MoU on cooperation and collaboration in Broadcasting with ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) in Madagascar ____ **Prasar Bharati**.

Note:

- It was signed by Abhay Kumar (India's Ambassador to Madagascar) and ORTM DG Belalay Jean Yves.
- This MoU will give international exposure to the Prasar Bharati as Madagascar National Television (TVM) will broadcast programmes from internal productions of Prasar Bharati.

28. Which institute has collaborated with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started the Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) at Delhi campus ____ **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**.

Note:

- To make Khadi trendier by diversifying its fabrics and clothing line and upgrading the quality standards.
- Narayan Rane (Union Minister of MSME) also launched CoEK spokes in Gandhinagar, Shillong, Kolkata and Bengaluru virtually.

29. Which zone of Indian Railways has added a 'baby berth' to their trains, an unusual setup allows women to travel by train while sleeping peacefully next to their children ____ **Northern Zone**.

Note:

- On the occasion of Mother's Day, the Lucknow Division of Northern Railways experimented with a baby berth in coach No.194129/B4, berths 12 and 60.
- The infant seat is collapsible and has a safety stopper. Division of Northern Railways: Lucknow and Delhi collaborated on the infant berth.

30. Which ministry has initiated the establishment of 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations ____ **Ministry of Tourism**.

Note:

- To nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism.
- To support this initiative, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has come forward and issued directions to all CBSE affiliated schools regarding the formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs.

31. Name the initiative which was launched by the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep S Puri at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition ____ **BHARAT TAP**.

Note:

- This exhibition caters to a fundamental service in the development of the nation: water and sanitation.
- He also launched NARDECO MAHI's 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative which will work for saving 500 crore ltr of water per year.

32. With which international organisation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of combined agriculture credit and crop insurance ____ **United Nations Development Programme**.

Note:

- Aim: To provide technical support towards the Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme (PMFBY) and Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.
- Chief Executive Officer of PMFBY: Ritesh Chauhan

33. Who has participated in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on the invitation of the President of the USA, Joseph R. Biden ____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- The theme of the summit: Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness.
- Highlights: India adopted a people-centric strategy to combat the pandemic; India plays an active role by sharing its low cost indigenous COVID mitigation technologies.

34. Name the portal which was launched by the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals in line with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan _____
GatiShakti Sanchar portal (www.sugamsanchar.gov.in).

Note:

- The portal has been developed keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission (NBM).
- NBM was set up by the Department of Telecommunication in 2019.

35. Who has led an Indian delegation at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) of the UNCCD at Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire _____ **Bhupender Yadav (Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister).**

Note:

- The theme of COP 15: Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity.
- Aim: To bring together world leaders to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.

Important News – State

1. In which district CM Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in Bihar _____ **Purnia district.**

Note:

- The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of ₹105 crores. Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021.
- It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant. Ethanol production will help to reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.

2. In which state/UT Mega Health Festival has been inaugurated _____ **Puducherry.**

Note:

- Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan(LG of Puducherry) and CM N. Rangasamy have inaugurated a Mega Health Festival, which is jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Puducherry Health and Family Welfare Services Department.
- The Mela is being organised at the Puducherry Rock Beach. Super-speciality medical consultation to the common public would be given free of cost.

3. Which state government has signed an MoU with ISMC Analog Fab Private Limited (Israel-based) for setting up a semiconductor fab plant in the state at a cost of Rs 22,900 crore (USD 3 billion) _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The project will be implemented over a period of seven years and generate 1,500 jobs. The ISMC has also requested 150 acres of land in Mysuru's Kochanahalli Industrial area.
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot; Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai

4. Which state government cabinet has approved to set up of a gene bank project in the state to conserve native and endangered animals and biological species _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- The Gene Bank will work on freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection, marine, crop, veterinary, and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests.
- An amount of ₹172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas. The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB).

5. Who has inaugurated the Maharashtra MSME Expo 2022 in Mumbai _____ **Narayan Rane (Union Minister for MSME).**

Note:

- The MSME sector contributes 50% of the country's total exports and 30% to economic growth. MSME will set up 37 clusters in Maharashtra in the next two years.
- During an event, he also launched the magazine 'Maharashtra MSME Achievers'. The event was organized in collaboration with the MSME ministry and MSME Development Organization named "Zhep, Udyoginichi" and "We MSME".

6. In which sports person native village Khandra, Panipat, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to build a stadium _____ **Neeraj Chopra**.

Note:

- A stadium would cost ₹10 crores to the government. In 2021, Chopra (Javelin thrower) became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field.
- Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised by the Haryana Government from June 4 to June 13.

7. Which state government has launched a doorstep delivery scheme named Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojna (Mitaan stands for a friend) _____ **Chhattisgarh**.

Note:

- The scheme will be implemented as a pilot project in 14 civic bodies.
- Citizens of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services, including delivery of birth, caste, income and marriage certificates, at their doorstep under a new scheme launched by the state government.

8. Which state government has announced the extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under 'Nethanna Bima' (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme _____ **Telangana Government**.

Note:

- The State Government has extended the insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with Rythu Bima insurance scheme.
- The insurance coverage would be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.
- Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; CM: K. Chandrashekhar Rao

9. Which state government has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app to track the vehicles carrying sand and other mining material _____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana.
- All vehicle details including vehicle type, vehicle number, moving from, moving to, and driver details will be stored in it.
- The non-registered individual will not be permitted to enter the zone of sand mining.

10. Which state has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for 18,000 registered farmers under Horticulture Department for Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Phase- III (2020-23) _____ **Manipur**.

Note:

- DBT of Rs. 11,250 per farmer, for the components of assistance for on-farm input for both 1st year and 2nd year and for off-farm inputs production for 1st was transferred to the individual registered farmer's account.

11. By which year Delhi government has set a target to encourage, facilitate, and support 15,000 startups _____ **2030**.

Note:

- The Delhi cabinet has approved the "Delhi Startup Policy" with an aim to create an ecosystem for people to launch startups and provide them with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, collateral-free loans, and free consultancy from experts, lawyers, and CA.
- The 20 members task force will be set up including government officials and experts from business and trade.

12. Which state has come up with an observatory that will establish a repository on the health of the tribal population in the state _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- This will be India's only tribal health observatory. An MoU was signed between the ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC (Regional centre of ICMR).
- It will perform systematic and ongoing observation on disease burden, health-seeking behaviour and healthcare delivery system pertaining to tribal health in the state.

13. Which state government has announced that all government primary school students from 1st to 5th standards will be provided nutritious breakfast on all working days _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Tamil Nadu is set to become the first state to offer breakfast along with midday meals.

- This includes the launch of integrated urban health centres within the Corporation and Municipal limits.
- Earlier, he also announced schools with modern facilities will be established.

14. Under which scheme Haryana government distributed nearly three lakh tablets to government school students of Classes 10 and 12 _____ **e-Adhigam scheme**.

Note:

- These tablets have pre-loaded content along with personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB of free data.
- The country has set a target to implement the New Education Policy (NEP) by 2030, but the Haryana government it is 2025.

15. Name the mobile application launched by the Kerala government to diagnose and control lifestyle diseases among people in the southern State _____ **Shaili App**.

Note:

- The app will help the citizen to provide an accurate picture of such ailments both locally and at the State-level.
- The app was set up under the e-Health initiative, and will provide data to the government so that health plans can be formulated to control such diseases.

16. Poumai tribe of which state has declared that Poumai inhabited areas to be a Drug-Free Zone supporting the State government's War on Drug campaign _____ **Manipur**.

Note:

- Tribes also informed CM N. Biren Singh that the poppy plantation will not be allowed in the Poumai areas.
- The Poumai Naga are one of the major Naga tribes in Manipur.

17. Which city's crossing of Uttar Pradesh will be named after legendary singer late Lata Mangeshkar _____ **Ayodhya**.

Note:

- The Ayodhya administration has received directions from CM Yogi Adityanath to identify a prominent crossing in Ayodhya and send a proposal to the state government in the next 15 days for renaming it.
- Construction of the Ram temple is likely to be completed by December 2023.

18. Which UT/state government will provide free sewer connections under the Mukhyamantri Mukt Sewer Connection Yojana to 25,000 households in East Delhi _____ **Delhi**.

Note:

- These free connections will be provided in 12 colonies in Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad.
- The household sewage system will be connected to the existing sewer network, which will carry the waste to the Yamuna Vihar sewage treatment plant. The decision was taken by the DJB chaired by Water Minister Satyendar Jain.

19. Which state government has launched the 'Chaara-Bijaee Yojana' scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre to grow fodder framers _____ **Haryana, JP Dalal (Haryana agriculture minister)**.

Note:

- Farmers need to grow fodder on up to 10 acres of land around the gaushalas (cowsheds) and provide it to them through mutual consent.
- The amount will be credited to the bank accounts of farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode.

20. In which state the nation's first organic waste-powered EV charging station has been inaugurated _____ **Near Haji Ali in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Note:

- The station will generate 220 units of electricity from food waste collected from its nearby areas.
- This station powers street lights and charge electric vehicles too.
- The project was done by the civic body in association AeroCare Clean Energy.

21. Which state government has issued a notification to restore the old pension scheme effective from April 1, 2022 _____ **Chhattisgarh government**.

Note:

- Also, the 10% deduction for monthly contribution from the salary of government employees as a contribution to the new pension scheme will be abolished from April 1, 2022.
- However, a minimum of 12% of the basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.

Important News - World

1. Which country has discovered a new gas field with the capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) at the Koilastila Gas field _____ **Bangladesh**.

Note:

- Koilastila Gas Field is one of the five gas fields which was purchased from the Shell Oil company by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.
- Now, it is possible to supply 17-19 million cubic feet of gas daily to the national grid from the newly discovered well number 6 by May 10.

2. Name the plan which was launched by the United Nations to catalyze large-scale action and support needed for transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions _____ **UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**.

Note:

- Energy Compact Action Network was also launched to match those govt seeking support for their clean energy goals with those govt and businesses that have pledged over \$600 billion
- It sets out a framework for collective action by nearly 30 UN and international organizations

3. What is the rank of India in Reporters Without Borders (RSF) which has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index 2022 _____ **150th**.

Note:

- Index topped by: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, and Finland
- India's neighbouring countries: India (150th, falls 8 positions), Pakistan (157th), Sri Lanka (146th), Bangladesh (162nd), and Maynmar(176th)
- North Korea is placed at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries.

4. How many Indian universities have been placed in the top 300 universities in the world in the 2022 edition of Impact Rankings _____ **8**.

Note:

- The ranking is topped by Western Sydney University (Australia); followed by Arizona State University (The US), Western University (Canada).
- In India: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (41st), Lovely Professional University (74th).
- The Times Higher Education (THE) also publishes THE World University Rankings.

5. Who has scaled Mount Everest (Height: 8,848.86m) mountain for the 26th time along the traditional southeast ridge route leading 10 other Sherpa climbers _____ **Kami Rita (Nepali Sherpa)**.

Note:

- Rita scaled Mt Everest for the first time on May 13, 1994. Besides Mt Everest, he has also scaled Mt Godwin-Austen (K2), Mt Lhotse, Mt Manaslu and Mt Cho Oyu.
- He also holds the record for most climbs over 8000m.

6. Which country has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines _____ **India**.

Note:

- Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA.
- The new member of the Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and the Philippines.

7. Which country has received approval from the UN General Assembly to replace Russia on the world organizations leading human rights body after its suspension over horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine ____ **Czech Republic.**

Note:

- The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the 47-member Human Rights Council.
- Out of 193 members, 180 of the General Assembly have deposited ballots (157 countries in favour).

8. Which country has become the first in Asia to join NATO's Cyber Defense Group (CDG) ____ **National Intelligence Service South Korea (spy agency).**

Note:

- The cyber defense group was founded in Tallinn in 2008 in response to a cyberattack that disrupted Estonia's state networks.
- It focuses on cyber security research, training, and exercises.
- NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (CCDCOE) now includes 27 NATO member countries and five non-NATO partners.

9. Which company has dethroned Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable company, underscoring the recent surge in oil prices that have boosted the energy giant this year ____ **Oil giant Saudi Aramco.**

Note:

- The current worth of Aramco is about \$2.43 trillion as compared with Apple's \$2.37 trillion.
- Saudi Aramco has reported a 124% surge in net profit in the last year from \$49.0 billion in 2020 to \$110.0 billion in 2021.
- President and CEO of Saudi Aramco: Amin H. Nasser

10. Who has topped the list of Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes 2022 with a reported income of \$130 million, followed by Basketball player, Lebron James with \$121.2 million while Cristiano Ronaldo was third with \$115m ____ **Lionel Messi.**

Note:

- Messi had moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2021 and Cristiano Ronaldo rejoined Manchester United from Juventus in the same month.
- Forbes calculates the estimates based on prize money, salaries and bonuses, and sponsorship deals.

11. Which country has topped the foreign remittance list by receiving USD 89 billion followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion, and China at USD 53 billion in 2021 as per the World Bank ____ **India.**

Note:

- The officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2% in 2022 to reach USD 630 billion.
- Bangladesh was the 7th highest recipient of remittance from abroad in 2021.
- Report: Migration and development brief

12. How much amount India has been contributed to the United Nations to promote the Hindi language in the United Nations ____ **USD 800,000.**

Note:

- India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra handed over a cheque for the UN project (Hindi @ UN project) launched by India in 2018 to disseminate information about the UN to the Hindi-speaking population across the world.

Honor & Awards

1. Which TV network has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series for its TV series based on pet care 'Best Friend Forever' at 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) ____ **Doordarshan.**

Note:

- Best Friend Forever: Half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National

- Here, two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues.
2. Name the startup of Bengaluru-based neo banking startup which has become the country's 100th unicorn after raising \$50 Mn from IIFL ____ **Open**.
- Note:**
- Open operates neobank that offers small and medium-sized businesses as well as enterprises nearly all the features of the bank with additional tools to better serve the customer's needs.
 - Co-founder and chief executive of Open: Anish Achuthan
 - The company is led by Google, Temasek, Visa, and Japan's SoftBank Investments.
3. Who has been awarded World Food Prize 2022 ____ **Cynthia Rosenzweig**.
- Note:**
- She is an agronomist and climatologist and spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate
 - She was awarded \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production. She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.
4. Name the Reuters photojournalist who has been posthumously honoured with his second prestigious Pulitzer Prize in the feature photography category with other three Indian journalists ____ **Danish Siddiqui (Reuters)**.
- Note:**
- Other three Indians: Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave.
 - He was honoured with the prestigious award in 2018 for their coverage of the Rohingya crisis.
5. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah presents the President's Colours award to which state Police for exemplary service during the past 25 years ____ **Assam**.
- Note:**
- Assam becomes the 10th state in the country to receive President's Colours honour.
 - President's Colours is the highest honour that is given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation.
6. Who will receive the Member of the Royal Order of British Empire (MBE) recognition from the Queen to meet the Ventilator requirement challenges in Britain during the pandemic ____ **Gurusamy Krishnamoorthy (chief executive officer of Penlon)**.
- Note:**
- He started his career with Wipro GE Medical Systems and later co-founded a Med-tech startup in Chennai.
 - Penlon deals with the design and manufacture of anaesthesia ventilators, anaesthesia machines and vaporizers.
7. Who has conferred Gallantry Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony- 2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi ____ **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
- Note:**
- He presented Shaurya Chakras (13) including six posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces for displaying courage, gallantry, and devotion to duty.
 - He also conferred Param Vishisht Seva Medals (14), Uttam Yudh Seva Medals(4), and Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (24) for distinguished service of an exceptional order.
8. Which Indian language translation of the French novel "Meursault, contre-enquête" (The Meursault Investigation) has won the 5th Romain Rolland Book Prize 2022 ____ **Bengali**.
- Note:**
- The award was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati.
 - Meursault, contre-enquête, originally written by Algerian writer and journalist Kamel Daoud.
 - This is the first time Patra Bharati has received such a prestigious award.
9. Who has been awarded the 2022 Templeton Prize ____ **Frank Wilczek**.
- Note:**

- He received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics along with David J. Gross, and H. David Politzer for his 1973 breakthrough in explaining the unusual properties of the strong force.
- Templeton Prize was established in 1972 by the late philanthropist Sir John Templeton.

10. Who has been awarded the Bangla Academy Award for her Kabita Bitan _____ Mamata Banerjee.

Note:

- Mamata Banerjee's 'Kabita Bitan' was launched at the 2020 Kolkata Book Fair.
- The book contains 946 poems written by the TMC supremo.
- Mamta Banerjee was given the award at the "Ravi Pranam" function organised by the government's information and culture department on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary.

Sports News

1. India has won a silver medal at the second Asian Girls Youth Beach Handball Championship which was held in which country _____ Bangkok.

Note:

- The team of Indian girls has defeated Hong Kong. India was represented by Anushka Chauhan, Jassi, Sanjana Kumari, Chetna Devi, Vanshika Mehta, and Isha Majumdar.
- With this medal, the team also earned a spot in the World Youth Beach Handball Championship. The senior women's team has finished with a bronze.

2. Who has become the first Indian to win a gold medal at IWF Junior World Championships 2022 in Heraklion, Greece _____ Harshada Sharad Garud.

Note:

- She lifted 153-kilogram in the 45-kg weight category, that included 70 kg in Snatch and 83 kg in Clean and Jerk to finish on top of the podium.
- Turkey's Bektas Cansu bagged silver medal and Moldova's Teodora-Luminita Hincu won the bronze medal.

3. Which team has defeated the 32-time champion West Bengal in a penalty shootout to win its 75th Santhosh Trophy National Tournament for the seventh time at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala _____ Kerala.

Note:

- This is the first time that Kerala has won on home soil since 1993. Player of the Tournament: Jijo Joseph (Midfielder, Kerala)
- Top goalscorer: Jesin Tk. Thonikkara (Forward, Kerala), 9 goals; Best goalkeeper: Priyant Singh (West Bengal)

4. Which university has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021 with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals _____ JAIN University(Deemed-to-be University).

Note:

- Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 golds has placed second and Punjab University placed third with 15 gold medals. Siva Sridhar has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold.
- The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

5. Who has won his seventh World Snooker Championship crown after beating Judd Trump (English snooker player) by 18-13 _____ Ronnie O'Sullivan (English snooker player).

Note:

- With this win, he has been equalled Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven world titles. O'Sullivan has won his first world title in 2001.
- He has also claimed snooker's biggest prize in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2020 before his triumph over the Bristolian.

6. Which Olympian discus thrower player has been suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance _____ Kamalpreet Kaur.

Note:

- The AIU has found the presence/use of the prohibited substance anabolic steroid called stanozolol in her sample. Kaur had finished sixth with a throw of 63.7m in the Tokyo Olympics final.

- Stanozolol was used by sprinter Ben Johnson during the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

7. Who has won gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition in the 24th Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, Brazil _____ **Shooter Dhanush Srikanth.**

Note:

- Shourya Saini has also won the bronze in the same event.
- Later, the Indian badminton team also won gold after beating Japan by 3-1 in the final to make it a double celebration for the country.
- Vedika Sharma won the bronze medal in the 10 m air pistol at the ongoing Deaflympics 2021 in Caxias do Sol, Brazil.

8. Which cricket team has been ranked as the world's number one in ICC T20 team ranking _____ **India cricket team.**

Note:

- New Zealand has bagged the top spot in the ODI rankings, followed by England, Australia, and India.
- Men's Test Team Rankings: Australia, India, and New Zealand
- International Cricket Council Chairman: Greg Barclay; CEO: Geoff Allardice; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

9. In which state Khelo India Youth Games 2021 will be held _____ **Haryana.**

Note:

- Mascot, Logo and Jersey and theme song of Khelo India Youth Games were launched in a special ceremony held at Indra Dhanush Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana.
- The Mascot and theme was launched by Haryana's Chief Minister Manohar Lal along with Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur.

10. Abhinav Deshwal has won the second gold medal for India in which games at the ongoing 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil _____ **Shooting.**

Note:

- He was tied with silver winning Ukrainian Oleksii Lazebnyk before winning gold in a shoot-off.
- India has four medals in the shooting competition at the 24th Deaflympics.
- Men's 10m air rifle: Dhanush Srikanth (Gold); Shourya Saini (Bronze)
- Women's 10m air pistol: Vedika Sharma(Bronze)

11. Who has won the inaugural Miami Grand Prix for Red Bull after defeating the Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- Leclerc (Ferrari) finished second and Spanish teammate Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) placed third in the Miami Grand Prix 2022.

12. Who has clinched the men's singles Madrid Open title 2022 after beating the defending champion Alexander Zverev (Germany) _____ **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain).**

Note:

- Alcaraz has also defeated Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic (world No.1) to reach the final.
- It is his second Masters 1000 crown after Miami 2022 and his fourth title of the year.
- Ons Jabeur (Tunisia) has clinched women's singles title to become the first African player to win a WTA 1000 event.

13. Name the Indian Grandmaster who has won the first Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament in Punta Prima _____ **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh.**

Note:

- GM Gukesh has defeated GM Haik M Martirosyan (Armenian) in the final round.
- This is his third title after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open.
- He had defeated K Sasikiran (Indian) in the ninth and penultimate round.

14. Name the athlete who has smashed the national record to clinch a gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles at Limassol in Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022 with a timing of 13.23 seconds _____ **Jyothi Yarraj (from Andhra Pradesh).**

Note:

- She break the 20-year-old national record (13.38 seconds) in the name of Anuradha Biswal in 2002.
- Another Indian athlete Lili Das has also won gold in the women's 1500 meter race and Amlan Borgohain won the bronze medal in the men's 200m.

15. Name the Indian pistol pairs who clinched the mixed team pistol gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany _____ **Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary**.

Note:

- The team of Palak and Sarabjot Singh has settled for the silver medal in the same event.
- Ramita and Paarth Makhija also won silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition.
- In all, India has so far won 10 medals, including four gold.

16. The Indian team of women archers Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami, and Sakshi Chaudhary has won India's first gold medal of the continental meet after defeating Kazakhstan which is being held in which country _____ **Iraq**.

Note:

- The men's team of Prathamesh Fuge, Rishabh Yadav, and Jawkar Samadhan has won the second gold for India.
- The compound mixed duo of Prathmesh Fuge & Parneet Kaur won the third Gold Medal at Asia Archery Cup.
- Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar has won the bronze medal in Asia Cup.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of Marathi book on Union Home Minister Amit Shah that chronicles his political journey _____ **Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi**.

Note:

- Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra BJP leader) has released a book titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal' records the life and journey of Shah and his contribution to building the BJP. The book has been translated into Marathi by Dr. Jyostna Kolhatkar.
- The book is published by Bloomsbury India.

2. Who is the editor of the 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors' book which was released by Rajnath Singh at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture _____ **Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan**.

Note:

- The book has 50 Swarnim articles which are penned in detailed narrations by veterans.
- Air Chief Marshal PC Lal was commissioned in the IAF in 1939 and awarded the Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (1972).

Science and Defence

1. By which year the Indian Space Research Organisation is planning to launch a spacecraft to orbit Venus with an orbital manoeuvre _____ **by December 2024**.

Note:

- To study the Venus atmosphere.
- The Orbital manoeuvre is the use of propulsion systems to change the orbit of a spacecraft. It permits a spacecraft to enter a planet's orbit.
- ISRO eyeing the December 2024 window as Earth and Venus would be aligned in a manner so that the minimum amount of propellant would be required.

2. Which division of the Indian Army has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India Foundation (SIBF) and training partner National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to establish a Centre for Excellence and wellness _____ **Red Shield Division**.

Note:

- The project is named Manipur Super 50 and will be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July 2022.
- Aim: To provide residential coaching for competitive examinations including the NEET and JEE.

3. Name the exercise which organised by the United States Armed Forces to build preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the USA and NATO ____ **DEFENDER-Europe 22**.

Note:

- Poland is one of the DE22 host countries and conduct training in Drawsko Pomorskie, Bemowo Piskie and Zagan.
- Apart from Polish troops, the forces from the USA, France, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Great Britain will also participate
- The exercises are scheduled to run from May 1-27.

4. Which government agency has commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG) at the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi ____ **Indian Coast Guard**.

Note:

- The new Air Squadron was commissioned by Coast Guard Director General V S Pathania.
- It is equipped with indigenously developed Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters.
- This second squadron of these choppers will boost the security of the western seaboard and enhance India's search and rescue capability.

5. Name the scheme/portal which was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs through Welfare & Rehabilitation Board (WARB) to facilitate retired Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel ____ '**CAPF Punarvaas**'.

Note:

- This portal will help the retired personnel to find an appropriate job match by uploading their personal details on the WARB website.
- MHA also runs a portal under Private Security Agencies Regulation Act (PSARA) for the registration of Private Security Agencies (PSAs).

6. Name the human-rated solid rocket booster which has been successfully tested by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for Gaganyaan at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh ____ **HS200**.

Note:

- HS200 is part of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MkIII (GSLV Mk III) rocket that will carry Indian astronauts to space.
- Stages of GSLV MK III: The first stage is powered by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third by liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

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