



Bi-weekly Current Affairs (1-15 Jan 2023) English PDF

Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates

1st -15th January 2023

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first two weeks** (1-15th) of **January 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which state government has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a power project worth Rs 2,275 crore _____ **Tripura.**

Note:

- Of the total cost of the project, the state government would spend an amount of Rs 455 crore.
 - The project include the replacement of Rokhia's existing 63 MW (3X21 MW) Open Cycle power project with a 120 MW Combined Cycle power project.
 - The project would also boost the efficiency of the Gumti hydroelectric power plant in Gomati district.
2. SBI Cards has partnered with which bank to launch three variants of co-brand credit cards i.e. ELITE, PRIME, and SimplySAVE for the bank's customer _____ **Punjab & Sind Bank.**

Note:

- PSB SBI Card ELITE and PSB SBI Card PRIME have been designed to offer lifestyle privileges and best in class experience to premium and mass premium customers, respectively.
 - PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card offers rewarding experience to value conscious customers.
3. Which Mutual Funds provider has signed an agreement with LIC MF to transfer its schemes of _____ to LIC MF to comply with Regulation 7B of SEBI MF Regulations _____ **IDBI MF.**

Note:

- MF rules prohibit a single promoter from owning more than 10% stake in multiple asset management companies.
 - Since LIC took over IDBI Bank in 2019, the insurance major ended up holding a majority stake in both LIC MF and IDFC MF.
 - Hence, the life insurer had only two options — either to sell one of MF or merge the two.
4. The government of India has collected how much gross GST revenue during December 2022 _____ **Rs 1,49,507 crore.**



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Note:

- Out of which, CGST is Rs 26,711 crore, SGST is Rs 33,357 crore, IGST is Rs 78,434 crore and Cess is Rs 11,005 crore.
 - The revenues for December 2022 are 15% higher than the GST revenues in December 2021.
 - The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular settlements in the month of December 2022 is Rs 63,380 crore for CGST and Rs 64,451 crore for the SGST.
5. Who has launched Utkarsh 2.0, the second phase of RBI's medium-term strategy for strengthening regulatory and supervisory mechanism _____ **RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.**

Note:

- The Vision in Utkarsh 2.0 that will guide RBI over the period 2023-25 are:
 - Excellence in performance of its functions
 - Strengthened trust of citizens and Institutions in the RBI
 - Enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles
 - Transparent, accountable and ethics-driven internal governance
6. India has signed various loan agreements with which International bank to boost the infrastructure sector of Maharashtra, Assam and Chennai (TN) _____ **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

Note:

- A loan agreement of 350 million US dollars was signed to improve connectivity in Maharashtra.
 - Govt also signed agreement worth 300 million US dollars to upgrade over 300 Km of State highways and district roads in Assam.
 - A 220 million dollar loan agreement was signed to improve energy security, and resilience of the power sector in Tripura.
7. Which bank has partnered with Microsoft in the next phase of its digital transformation _____ **HDFC Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To unlock business value by transforming the application portfolio, modernising the data landscape, and securing the enterprise with Microsoft Cloud.
 - The bank is developing in-house intellectual properties (IP) as well as partnering with several companies.
 - The bank has leveraged Microsoft Azure to consolidate and modernise its enterprise data landscape by Federated Data Lake.
8. Which organisation has launched a program created to nurture and co-innovate with the startup ecosystem in India named 'i3 Launchpad' _____ **India Accelerator.**



Note:

- This has been developed in collaboration with ICICI Bank and Infosys Finacle.
 - Objective: To support a community of entrepreneurs who are on a mission to create brands that can have a global impact.
 - The program is open to startups across all industries and will onboard two cohorts a year, with a target of 12-18 startups in each cohort.
9. Which health insurance provider has signed a corporate agency agreement with Sundaram Finance Limited to increase the customer portfolio _____ **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company.**

Note:

- Sundaram Finance will use its network across the country to reach out to customers as part of this partnership
 - Niva Bupa's select range of indemnity plans would be offered to Sundaram Finance's growing customers
10. Which bank has launched its campaign 'Jahaan _____, Wahaan Trust', featuring cricketer Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador _____ **Bandhan Bank.**

Note:

- The campaign was conceptualised by Leo Burnett Orchard.
 - Bandhan was constituted in 2001 as a not-for-profit entity.
 - The RBI had accorded 'universal banking licence', following which the Bank has started operating on August 23, 2015.
 - Objective: To bring in financial inclusion and women empowerment
11. According to the annual report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2021-22, released by the RBI, the complaints received under ombudsman schemes has been increased by how much percent in 2021-22 _____ **9.39%.**

Note:

- The volume of complaints received under the RB-IOS and consumer education and protection cells stood at 4,18,184 in 2021-22.
 - About 42% complaints were related to the digital modes of payment and transactions.
 - Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) was launched on November 12, 2021.
12. RBI has lifted restrictions on which financial institution for loan recovery via third-party services _____ **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited.**

Note:

- On September 22, 2022, RBI had directed Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services to immediately cease carrying out any recovery or repossession activity through outsourcing arrangements, till further orders.



- Mahindra Finance could continue recovery or repossession activities through its own employees.

13. Which bank has launched 'digital solutions for exporters', a comprehensive set of banking and value-added services on a single platform _____ **ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To simplify the journey of exporters by decongesting the current time-intensive manual procedures
- It will digitise the entire export life-cycle from discovery of export markets, foreign exchange services to receipt of export incentives.
- Key services: Insta EPC, Trade accounts, Paperless exports solutions, and many more

14. Which insurance company has launched iTerm Prime Insurance plan catering to the need of self-employed individuals with a special 10% discount on first-year premium _____ **Aegon Life Insurance.**

Note:

- It offers a minimum sum assured of ₹25 lakhs, with no upper limit on a consumer's requirement.
- It also offers a 'Special Exit Value' option that allows the policyholder to get all premiums back when they turn 55 years old.
- It is designed to encourage emerging India to gain access to life insurance.

15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the proposal of SBI Funds Management to acquire up to how much percent of the paid-up equity capital of Equitas Small Finance Bank through the schemes of SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) _____ **9.99%.**

Note:

- The banking regulator's approval is subject to compliance with the relevant regulations issued by RBI and SEBI and is valid for one year till 2 January 2024.

16. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a periodic updation of KYC details for customers. What is the full form of KYC _____ **Know Your Customer.**

Note:

- As per the release, a fresh process of KYC can be done by visiting a bank branch, or remotely through a video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).
- If there is no change in the KYC, a self-declaration from the individual customer is sufficient to complete the re-KYC process.
- Customers can use registered details (Such as ATMs) to do re-KYC.

17. RBI has selected how many entities for the 'Test Phase' under regulatory sandbox for the theme 'Prevention and Mitigation of Financial Frauds' _____ **Six.**



Note:

- The selected entities will commence testing of their products from February 2023.
- The six entities are Bahwan Cybertek, Crediwatch Information Analytics, enStage Software (Wibmo), HSBC in collaboration with Wibmo, napID Cybersec and Trusting Social.
- Aim: To promote efficiency and bring benefits to consumers

18. GoldenPi Technologies has issued a debt broker license from which organisation _____ **SEBI.**

Note:

- With the development, GoldenPi became the first online bond platform provider to receive a debt brokerage license from Sebi.
- In 2022, SEBI has introduced regulations for online debt trading platforms.
- As per this platform, no company or individual shall act as an online bond platform provider without the certificate of registration as a stock broker under the SEBI Regulations, 2021.

19. Which bank has partnered with OPEN to provide a fully native digital current account journey for its customers including SMEs, freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and more _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- This agreement offers the larger business community access to the holistic banking experience of Axis Bank with OPEN's end-to-end financial automation tools for business management.
- This is Axis Bank's first-ever partnership with a fintech player to launch a fully digital current account.

20. The Reserve Bank of India has announced that first Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) would be issued of _____ amount in two tranches _____ **Rs 16,000 crore.**

Note:

- The proceeds will be utilised for funding public sector projects seeking to reduce carbon emissions.
- The first auction would be done on January 25, 2023 while the second on February 9, 2023
- SGrBs will be issued through uniform price auction and 5% of the notified amount of sale will be reserved for retail investors

21. Neeru Yadav, who is fondly known as 'Hockey Wali Sarpanch' has signed an agreement with which bank to start the Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) with the assistance of SIIRD (Society of Indian Institute of Rural Development) _____ **NABARD.**

Note:

- This initiative will strengthen farmers of Lambi Ahir Village, Rajasthan.



- FPO: It is a legal entity formed by primary producers.
- Producers such as farmers, milk producers, fishermen, etc, can form a company basis equity share.

22. Which state government declared itself as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- It was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances in the banking sector.
- He has also announced that the ambitious Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project of the state government will reduce the digital divide.

23. RBI has imposed a monetary penalty on how many cooperative banks for non-compliance with varied central bank directions _____ **Five.**

Note:

- The monetary penalties slapped on these entities range between Rs 50,000 to Rs 3 lakh.
- Banks: Shree Mahayogi Lakshamma Co-operative Bank (Andhra Pradesh); The Attur Town Co-operative Bank (TN); Gondia District Central Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra); Shirpur Peoples' Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra); and Tirupati Urban Co-operative Bank (Maharashtra)

24. As per the guidelines issued by SEBI, the trading hours in case of an outage at a stock exchange along with standard operating procedures for stock exchanges for handling such an outage will be extended, What will be the new time at the time of outage _____ **5pm.**

Note:

- An outage would mean stoppage of continuous trading, either suo motu by the exchange or by reasons beyond their control.
- If there is a failure to start pre-opening by 2:15 pm, then trading hours will be extended till 5 pm for the day.

25. Which bank has launched a MSME online portal providing instant online 'In Principle' approval of up to ₹1 crore _____ **South Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide quick loans to micro and small businesses
- MSME enterprises are the most important pillars of the economy and the government is working towards making the sector stronger.
- This development is at the backdrop of central government considering to make India a \$5 trillion economy.

26. Which bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to establish a Centre for Mathematics and Computing at the Institute _____ **Axis Bank.**



Note:

- The centre will have labs and programmes benefitting faculty and students.
- Besides, it will also host the new IISc BTech programme in Mathematics and Computing and the ongoing Interdisciplinary PhD programme in Mathematical Sciences.

27. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the incentive scheme for the promotion of _____ Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions _____ **RuPay.**

Note:

- The scheme has a financial outlay of 2,600 crore rupees.
- Aim: To help in building a robust digital payment system.
- Besides, the Cabinet has also given its approval to rename the National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Quality at Joka, Kolkata as Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institution of Water and Sanitation.

28. Which bank has entered into a revised agreement with Max Financial to acquire the remaining 7% stake in the latter _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- The parties agreed that the valuation for the right to acquire the remaining 7% stake of Max Life will be through fair market value using discounted cash flow.
- Axis Entities have earlier acquired 12.99% stake in Max Life at Rs 35 per share with the right to purchase an additional 7% stake in the company.

29. Which platforms have received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator _____ **EnKash, Hitachi and BharatPe.**

Note:

- Payment aggregators: They facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept payment instruments from customers.
- They help to connect merchants with acquirers.
- BharatPe and Hitachi Payment Services have also received in-principle authorization to operate as payment aggregators.

30. The World Bank has projected that India's economy would grow at which percent in FY23, which is much lower than the 8.7% growth achieved by the country in the previous financial year (FY2021/22) _____ **6.9%.**

Note:

- Report title: Global Economic Prospects Report
- The World Bank has also predicted that global growth in 2023 would slow to 1.7% from the 3%.
- Reason: Elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment, and disruptions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine



31. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has allowed exchanges to introduce which type of derivatives on Corporate Bond Indices _____ **future contracts.**

Note:

- The index should be composed of corporate debt securities, constituents of the index should have adequate liquidity and diversification at the issuer level and the constituents of the index should be periodically reviewed.
- The single issuer should not have more than 15% weight in the index.

32. Which bank has associated with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) to launch e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility _____ **SBI.**

Note:

- It will bring a revolutionary change in the banking ecosystem, where bank guarantee is frequently used in large volumes.
- Presently, the bank issues these guarantees with physical stamping and wet signatures.
- It will replace this function with e-stamping and e-signature.
- This initiative will enhance transparency and reduce turnaround time from days to minutes.

33. Which organisation has allowed non-resident holders - NRE/ NRO accounts to get onboarded and transact through UPI _____ **NPCI.**

Note:

- The UPI ecosystem members must comply with NPCI's directions by April 30, 2023.
- Allowed countries (10 countries): Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom
- This is subject to the fact that the member banks must ensure that such accounts are only allowed as per extant FEMA regulations.

34. The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of how much amount on Delhi-based Bahadur Chand Investments _____ **₹30 lakh.**

Note:

- The penalty has been levied for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Core Investment Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016' and directions on 'Information Technology Framework for the NBFC Sector'.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

35. Which group has sold a 3.1% stake in Paytm worth \$125 million through a block deal _____ **Alibaba Group.**

Note:

- Alibaba retained a 6.26 % stake in Paytm as of end-September 2022.
- Paytm was listed in 2021 after a mega \$2.5 billion initial public offer (IPO).



- Block deal: Single transaction between two institutional players of a minimum quantity of 5 lakh shares or at least Rs. 5 Crores in value.
- It happens at the start of trading hours for about 35 minutes through a separate trading window.

Obituaries

1. Arata Isozaki, who has been passed away at the age of 91, was a veteran _____ **Architect.**

Note:

- He was also known as a post-modern giant, who blended culture and history of the East and the West in his designs.
 - He was awarded the awarded the RIBA Gold Medal in 1986 and the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2019.
 - He started his architectural career under the apprenticeship of Japanese legend Kenzo Tangem who won Pritzker prize in 1987.
2. Dr Manjula Subramaniam, who has been passed away at the age of 74 due to health complications, was a first woman chief secretary of which state _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- She was appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Gujarat in 2007.
 - PM Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat then.
 - After retirement, she was appointed as chief vigilance commissioner of Gujarat.
3. Veteran R Krishnakumar, who has been passed away at the age of 84, was associated with which organisation _____ **Tata group.**

Note:

- He started working for Tata Administrative Services in 1963 and joined Tata Global Beverages (erstwhile Tata Finlay) in 1965.
 - He had also worked through Tata Global Beverages' transformation into Tata Tea and became VP of South India Plantations in 1982.
 - He was honoured with the India's fourth highest civilian honour, Padma Shri in 2009 for contributions to the country's trade and business.
4. Siddeshwara Swamiji, who has been passed away at the age of 82, was one of the prominent Lingayat seers in which state _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- He was born and brought up in Bijjaragi, Vijayapura in Karnataka.
 - He was often referred to as the 'Walking God of North Karnataka'.
 - He was ordained as a math seer by his guru, Vedanta Kesari Sri Mallikarjuna Mahashivayogi.
5. Sumitra Sen, who has been passed away at the age of 89, was as noted exponent of which music form _____ **Rabindra Sangeet.**



Note:

- Her rendition of songs include Jekhona Porbe Na Mor, Sokhi Vabona Kahare Bole and Mone Ki Dwidha.
 - In 2012, she was honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award by West Bengal government.
 - Rabindra Sangeet also known as Tagore Songs, are songs from the Indian subcontinent written and composed by the Bengali polymath Rabindranath Tagore.
6. Walter Cunningham, who has been passed away at the age of 90, was the last surviving astronaut from which space mission of NASA _____ **NASA's Apollo programme.**

Note:

- He was one of the three astronauts of Apollo 7 mission, that was launched in 1968 and lasted for 11 days.
 - Before joining NASA, he was enlisted in the US Navy and began training as a pilot in 1952.
7. Keshari Nath Tripathi, who has been passed away recently, was a veteran _____ **Politician.**

Note:

- He was the governor of West Bengal from July 2014 to July 2019.
 - He had also served as the governor of Bihar, Meghalaya and Mizoram, and speaker of UP legislative assembly.
 - He had also worked as a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
 - He authored several books such as "The Age of Wings", "Sanchayita: Kesharinath Tripathi", "Destination Jesus".
8. Prof Rehman Rahi, who has been passed away recently, was a veteran _____ **Writer.**

Note:

- He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of poems 'Nawroz-i-Saba' in 1961.
 - He was honoured with the country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith, for his work "Siyah Rood-e-Jaerenn Manz" in 2007.
 - He has also awarded Padma Shri in 2000 by the govt of India.
9. Sharad Yadav, who has been passed away recently, was a veteran _____ **Politician.**

Note:

- He had started his political career during the anti-emergency movement of the mid-1970s.
- He was first elected to the Lok Sabha at the age of 27 in 1974.



- He was elected from Uttar Pradesh's Badaun parliamentary seat in 1989.
- He was also elected from Bihar's Madhepura Lok Sabha constituency in 1991, 1996, 1999, and 2009.

Important Days

1. World Braille Day has observed on which date to spread the significance of Braille as a form of communication for the partially sighted and blind _____ **January 4.**

Note:

- The United Nations has been commemorating the day since 2019.
 - World Braille Day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who was born on January 4, 1809.
2. The World Day of War Orphans is observed on which date every year _____ **January 6.**

Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness about children orphaned in wars.
 - These children are subjected to hardships that are more than just physical neglect after losing their caregivers.
3. Global Family Day is celebrated on which date each year _____ **January 1.**

Note:

- Aim: To create a sense of unity, community and brotherhood across nations and cultures through the idea of families.
 - This day is celebrated to discourage unwarranted negative attitudes towards other cultures, nations, which may breed hatred, encourage social aloofness and lead to violence.
4. Which country has sponsored the proposal to designate the year 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM) _____ **India.**

Note:

- It was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
 - The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM.
 - PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'.
5. Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has released the theme of National Science Day 2023. What is the theme of National Science Day 2023 _____ **Global Science for Global Wellbeing.**

Note:

- The theme has been selected for the purpose of raising public appreciation of scientific issues in a global context which is having a bearing on global Well-being



- National Science Day is celebrated every year on the 28th February to celebrate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian Physicist Sir C V Raman.
- 6. World Hindi Day is observed on which date every year to promote awareness about the language across the world _____ **January 10.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: "Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"
 - On this day, Hindi (India's national language) was spoken for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
 - The 12th World Hindi Conference will be organised in Fiji by the Foreign Ministry in collaboration with the Fiji government from February 15 to 17, 2023.
7. Which ministry observed the Road Safety Week from 11 - 17 January, 2023 across the country _____ **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.**

Note:

- Aim: To propagate the cause of safer roads for all under the Swachhata Pakhwada.
 - Various activities such as awareness campaigns related to causes of road accidents and measures to prevent them, will be organised throughout the Country.
 - Activities like Nukkad Nataks and Sensitization Campaigns will be conducted at various locations in New Delhi.
8. Which day is celebrated on 14th January to mark formally retirement of the first Indian Commander in Chief of Indian Army- Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who led Indian Forces to Victory in the 1947 war, from the Services _____ **Armed Forces Veterans Day.**

Note:

- The First Armed Forces Veterans Day was celebrated on January, 14, 2016
 - This year 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrates on 2023
9. National Youth Day is celebrated every year on which date _____ **January 12.**

Note:

- Reason: To mark the 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda The government organised National Youth Festival in collaboration with one state willing to host from January 12 to January 16.
 - This year Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the festival on January 12 in Huballi, Karnataka.
 - The theme for the four-day programme is "Viksit Yuva – Viksit Bharat (Developed Youth – Developed India).
10. The National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is observed every year in the United States on which date _____ **11th January.**



Note:

- Aim: To raise awareness about human trafficking
 - Even though the entire month of January has been recognised as the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 11 specifically aims towards the prevention of illegal practices.
- 11.** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has organised which week from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023 _____ **Startup India Innovation Week.**

Note:

- Aim: To celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem as well as National Startup Day (16th January 2023)
- 12.** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is formally observed on which date to celebrate the day when Gandhi Ji returned from South Africa to India _____ **9 January.**

Note:

- This year, it was conducted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 8–10 January, 2023.
- This is the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or NRI Day.
- The official theme of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 is "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal."

New Appointments

- 1.** IDBI Bank's Board of Directors have approved the re-appointment of whom as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) for a period of one year with effect from January 15, 2023 _____ **Suresh Kishinchand Khatanhar.**

Note:

- This re-appointment is as per approval of the Reserve Bank of India received in this regard.
 - Khatanhar has joined IDBI Bank in 1997 from Dena Bank.
 - He was appointed as DMD by IDBI Bank's Board on January 15, 2020 for a period of three years.
- 2.** USA Vice President, Kamala Harris has named which Indian American to a key national space advisory group _____ **Rajeev Badyal.**

Note:

- He will be responsible to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations.
 - Presently, he is serving as the vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon.
 - Prior to this role, he was the vice president of satellites at SpaceX.
- 3.** Who has been sworn in as the 39th president of Brazil _____ **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.**



Note:

- He has defeated Jair Bolsonaro in October 2022 to win an unprecedented third presidential term.
 - In election, he has secured 50.83% of the votes, whereas his opponent, Bolsonaro got 49.17% votes.
 - He was served as the president of Brazil for two terms from 2003 to 2006 and then 2007 to 2011.
4. Who has been appointed as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) with effect from January 1, 2023 _____ **Ajay Kumar Srivastava.**

Note:

- Presently, he is serving as the executive director of IOB.
 - He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank.
 - After the successful completion of about 27 years in Allahabad Bank he was elevated as Executive Director of IOB in October 2017.
5. The Union government has given an additional charge as Border Security Force (BSF) DG to whom _____ **CRPF Director General (DG), Sujoy Lal Thaosien.**

Note:

- He replaced Pankaj Kumar Singh, who retired on December 31, 2022.
6. Who has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Bank of Singapore, with effect from March 6, 2023 _____ **Jason Moo.**

Note:

- He will replace Vincent Choo, who assumed the role of interim CEO on January 1, 2023 after the retirement of former CEO Bahren Shaari on December 31, 2023.
 - He has more than 25 years of experience in private banking, wealth management and capital markets.
7. BharatPe has appointed whom as the interim chief executive officer (CEO) _____ **Nalin Negi.**

Note:

- He has replaced Suhail Sameer, who stepped down from the position.
 - He will take on the role of strategic advisor, effective January 7, 2023.
 - Negi has previously worked at GE Capital and SBI Card.
 - He was the CFO of SBI Card for over ten years.
8. Which payment bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the appointment of Surinder Chawla as its new chief executive _____ **Paytm Payments Bank.**

Note:

- He is currently serving as head of branch banking at RBL Bank.



- He had also worked with HDFC Bank as head of retail liabilities product group and senior executive VP.
- Paytm Payments Bank CEO, Satish Kumar Gupta was retired in October 2022.
- 9. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has elected whom as Chairman and Rajesh Rokde as Vice Chairman of the industry body for a period of two years (2023-24) _____ **Saiyam Mehra.**

Note:

- GJC represents over 6,00,000 industry players comprising manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, laboratories, gemologists, designers and allied services providers.
 - Aim: To promote and progress its growth, while protecting the industry's interests.
10. The government of India has extended the term of the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Michael Debabrata Patra, by _____ year with effect from January 15, 2023 _____ **One year.**

Note:

- His three-year tenure was coming to an end on January 14, 2023.
 - He looks after the monetary policy department as the deputy governor of the RBI.
 - He is also as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee.
 - The three other deputy governors of RBI are M K Jain, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar.
11. Who has been appointed as the Director of Facebook-parent Meta's Global Business Group in India _____ **Vikas Purohit.**

Note:

- He will lead the strategy and delivery units under the advertising wing.
 - He has served as the chief executive at Tata CLiQ till October 2022.
 - He will report to Arun Srinivas, Director and Head of Ads Business for Meta in India.
 - He has also worked in companies such as Amazon, Reliance Brands, Aditya Birla Group and Tommy Hilfiger.
12. President of Gabon, Ali Bongo appointed whom as the country's new vice-president _____ **Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda.**

Note:

- She was appointed as the country's PM in July 2020.
- She was also named budget minister in 2012 before being elected mayor of Libreville (Capital) in 2014.
- While, former minister, Alain-Claude Bilie By Nze will replace PM Ossouka Raponda to form a new government.



13. Who has been re-appointed as the chairman of the five-member BCCI's senior selection committee _____ **Chetan Sharma.**

Note:

- He was the head of the board's selection committee from December 2020.
- His name was recommended by the Cricket Advisory Committee.
- The committee also named Shiv Sundar Das (Central Zone), Subroto Banerjee (East Zone), Salil Ankola (West Zone) and Sridharan Sharath (South Zone).

14. The Central government has appointed whom as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, effective from January 12 _____ **Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh.**

Note:

- He replaced Chief Justice, Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, who superannuated on 11 January 2023.
- In May 2022, he was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- While Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years, high court judges retire at 62.

15. Who has been appointed as the new chief technologist of NASA _____ **AC Charania.**

Note:

- He will serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes.
- He joined the space agency in his new role on January 3, 2023.
- He has replaced Indian-American scientist, Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment.
- He has also served as vice president of product strategy at Reliable Robotics

16. Who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Cognizant with immediate effect _____ **Ravi Kumar.**

Note:

- He has succeeded CEO Brian Humphries, who will be departing from the company on March 15, 2023.
- The IT Giant Cognizant had previously announced the appointment of Ravi as President of Cognizant Americas, which will be given to Cognizant veteran Surya Gummedi.
- He has 20 years of experience in Infosys, where he held various leadership roles.

17. Who was named as president of this year's COP28 climate talks _____ **Sultan al-Jaber (President of the UAE's national oil company).**



Note:

- The chief executive of the ADNOC will be the first CEO to take the role at the UN summit.
- Jaber is also the Gulf state's special envoy for climate change and has taken part in more than 10 COP meetings.
- The Conference of Parties or COP is the world's biggest climate conference.

Important News – India

1. According to the data, released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate in December 2022 has been increased to a 16-month high at _____ from 8% in November 2022 _____ **8.30%**.

Note:

- The urban unemployment rate has been increased to 10.09% in December from 8.96%.
 - While, the rural unemployment rate has been slipped to 7.44% from 7.55%.
 - In December, the unemployment rate rose to 37.4% in Haryana, followed by Rajasthan (28.5) and Delhi (20.8%).
2. Which Maharatna Company has organized 'Bijli Utsav' in Anandapur Gaon of Baksa district and adjoining villages in Assam _____ **REC Limited.**

Note:

- The event has highlighted the consumer rights of electricity, benefits and the challenges faced during electrification in remote areas.
 - Various competitions and cultural programs were also organised.
 - It was concluded with distribution of LED bulbs and geometry boxes as prizes to the winners of the competitions.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate which edition of Indian Science Congress through video conferencing on 3rd January, 2023 _____ **108th.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment
 - The inaugural ceremony will be hosted by Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) at its Amravati Road Campus.
4. Which ministry under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission has launched the Prajjwala Challenge with an aim to invite ideas, solutions and actions that can transform rural economy _____ **Ministry of Rural Development.**

Note:

- The broad contours fall into following categories: Focus on Women and Marginalized section of community; Localised Models; Sustainability; Cost Effective solutions; Multi sectoral ideas and solutions



5. The government of India has constituted 17 member, High Powered Committee (HPC). Who is the head of this committee _____ **Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.**

Note:

- Reason: To discuss measures to protect unique culture, language and employment of Ladakh.
- The committee includes Ladakh LG, RK Mathur; MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Chairmans of Leh and Kargil Hill councils, representatives of Apex Body Leh, Kargil Democratic Alliance and nominee officials of Home ministry.

6. The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) have launched 'SMART' program. What is the full form of SMART _____ **Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- The program was launched by Vaidya Jayant Deopujari (Chairman, NCISM) and Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya (DG, CCRAS).

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 100-metre, Siyom Bridge in Siang district of which state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- This bridge will open an alternative route to the India-China border.
- The Siyom Bridge is one of the 28 projects completed by the Border Roads Organisation at a cost of Rs 724 crore to strengthen border infrastructure.
- He has virtually inaugurated other 27 projects in Ladakh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Punjab and J&K.

8. Along with Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Education (MoE), and all three Services, which ministry has signed MoUs to facilitate the continued education of Agniveers while serving in the Armed Forces _____ **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**

Note:

- National Institute of Open School and IGNOU will awarded 12th Class certificates and Bachelor's degrees to Agniveers.
- This will enable Agniveers to complete education in a timely manner and develop additional qualities and skills

9. The Government has approved the investment for the 382 MW Sunni Dam Hydro Electric Project in which state with an estimated cost of over 2,614 crore rupees (Rs 2,246.40 crore (Hard cost amounting), Rs 358.96 crore (Interest During Construction) and 9.15 crore (Financing Charges) _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**



Note:

- The project will be built on the Sutlej river.
- It will be constructed by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam limited in over 5 years.

10. The government has approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of how much amount _____ **19,744 crore rupees.**

Note:

- Aim: To make India a Global Hub for production, utilisation and export of Green Hydrogen.
- Of the Rs 19,744 crore outlay, 17,490 crore for Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT) programme.
- The ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) will also formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation of the respective components.

11. University Grants Commission's (UGC) Chairman has unveiled the draft norms to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India. Who is the chairman of UGC _____ **M Jagadesh Kumar.**

Note:

- As per the draft norms, foreign universities can set up their campuses in India after receiving the approval from UGC.
- The initial approval will be for 10 years.
- Foreign varsities with campuses in the country will only be allowed to offer full-time programmes in physical mode (No online or distance learning).

12. Which UT's tourism department has collaborated with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) to develop Hydro tourism at world's highest hydro power project on the Indus river, near Alchi _____ **Ladakh.**

Note:

- Aquatic sports like Jet Skiing, Motorboating, Ice Skating during winter, and boating during summer season will be rolled out in a phased manner.
- Similarly, tourism department is also introducing border tourism in cooperation with Fire and Fury Corps of Indian Army.

13. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbha-2023' in which state _____ **Meghalaya.**

Note:

- He also participated in the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam.
- The event included live demonstrations and exhibition of recent technologies through 102 stalls, by the host institute and its regional centers along with all the ICAR institutes.

14. The Govt has approved continuation of schemes of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, with an outlay of how much amount for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26) _____ **12,882 crore rupees.**



Note:

- Outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme will be Rs.8139.5 crore.
- Outlay for 'Schemes of NEC' will be Rs.3202.7 crore including committed liabilities of ongoing projects.

15. According to the Ministry of Culture report titled 'Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India' submit to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, how many India's centrally protected monuments have gone disappear _____ **50.**

Note:

- The rapid urbanisation has engulfed 14 monuments.
- As many as 12 monuments have been submerged by the constructions of reservoirs and dams, while 24 have gone missing.
- Only 248 monuments are protected by security guards.

16. As per the bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in December 2022, how many new bird species have been added to the existing list _____ **17.**

Note:

- So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.
- The survey was held in the last week of December 2022, to mark the 30th anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley.
- The first survey was held in the last week of December 1990.

17. Leh Sub Area and Looms of Ladakh Co-operative Limited under the aegis of which Corps have signed an MoU at Leh, Ladakh with an aim to impart weaving and tailoring training to Veer Naris, widows and dependent ladies of veterans from Ladakh in three cycles of two months each _____ **Fire and Fury Corps.**

Note:

- Looms of Ladakh will also employ them post-completion of their training.
- With this agreement, approximately, 200 Veer Naris, widows and dependent ladies of veterans will be benefitted.

18. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Central Sector Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme with an outlay of how much amount up to 2025-26 _____ **2,539.61 crore rupees.**

Note:

- Aim: For the infrastructure development of Prasar Bharati i.e. All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD).
- At present, Doordarshan operates 36 TV channels including 28 regional channels and All India Radio (AIR) operates more than 500 broadcasting centres.

19. The Jal Shakti Ministry has organised the first All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water in which state _____ **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**



Note:

- Theme: Water Vision @ 2047
- Aim: To bring together key policymakers to discuss ways to harness water resources for sustainable development and human progress.
- The Conference has also deliberated on '5P' mantra (Political will, Public financing, Partnerships, Public Participation and Persuasion for sustainability)

20. The G20 foreign minister meet is scheduled to take place in which state/UT in March 2023 _____ **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**

Note:

- The government has issued an expected guest list that includes Joe Biden (US President), Vladimir Putin (Russia President), Rishi Sunak (UK Prime Minister), Xi Jinping (China President), among others.
- Special invitee guest countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.

21. Which country will host a special 'Voice of Global South Summit' virtually on 12th and 13th of January 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- Theme of the Summit is Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose.
- The Summit aimed to bring together countries of the Global South and share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues.
- This initiative is inspired by PM Modi vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas Aur Sabka Prayas and India's principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

22. Which community of Manipur has celebrated the Gaan Ngai festival on 4th January 2023 _____ **Zeliangrong community.**

Note:

- This festival also marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrain in their granaries.
- They show their gratitude by offering to the almighty a good harvest and praying for a better life.
- It is a custom to produce new fire by rubbing dry wood and split bamboo pieces and distributing them.
- The Zeliangrong community comprises Rongmei, Liangmei, and Zeme tribes.

23. Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has launched BIS portal for mapping of Industrial Units and Laboratories. What is the full form of BIS _____ **Bureau of Indian Standards.**

Note:

- It is a centralised platform.
- Aim: To provide information on industrial units and laboratories across the country.



- It will enable analysis of test facilities in the country and help entrepreneurs in accessing information about testing facilities.
- He has also launched Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022- 27.

24. Who has launched the Aspirational Block Programme at the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi, to develop backward districts _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

- This programme is on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme (launched in 2018).
- The programme will cover 500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially.
- Over half of these blocks are in 6 states—UP (68 blocks), Bihar (61), MP (42), Jharkhand (34), Odisha (29) and WB (29).

25. Union chemicals and fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya has informed that the Fertilizer projects in Odisha's Talcher will be operational by which year _____ **October 2024.**

Note:

- It will be the largest and first coal gasification plant in India.
- Talcher Fertilizers Ltd has been mandated by the government to revive the erstwhile Talcher plant of FCIL by setting up a new coal gasification-based urea plant with an installed capacity of 12.7 lakh tonne per annum (LMTPA).

26. The India's first-of-its-kind inclusivity, 'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity' has been started in which state of India from January 6–8, 2023 _____ **Panjim, Goa.**

Note:

- The event was attended by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar; Goa CM, Dr Pramod Sawant; and Minister for Social Welfare, Goa government Subhash PhalDessai.
- Aim: To showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.

27. The National Health Authority (NHA) has introduced a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under AB PMJAY. What is the full form of AB PMJAY _____ **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.**

Note:

- Aim: To shift the focus of measuring the performance of hospitals from the volume of services provided to the value of healthcare services
- The Health Ministry announced that the new model with the reward system will consequently reduce the effects of the disease in the population in the long term

28. Which organisation has installed India's first 3x platform wind turbine generators (WTGs) in Gadag, Karnataka _____ **ReNew Power.**



Note:

- The WTGs have a nameplate capacity of 3.3-3.465 MW and are 128-140m in height.
- Aim: To improve capacity over models installed in India, which typically have a nameplate capacity of 2-3 MW.
- This project will produce enough energy to power over 1 million households in India annually.

29. The Indian High Commission has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University. This university is located in which country _____ **Sri Lanka.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed between Gopal Baglay (High Commissioner) and Prof. Udaya Rathnayake (Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University).
- Aim: To help in familiarizing students with India, its history, and culture as well as pave way for popularising Hindi by deputing Indian faculties.

30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 26th National Youth Festival in which state of India from 12th -16th January 2023 _____ **Hubballi, Karnataka.**

Note:

- This festival is held every year to provide exposure to our talented youth at the national level.
- It is being held on National Youth Day (12th January), which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- Theme of this event: "Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat"

31. PM Narendra Modi launched the World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas in which city of India via video conferencing on 13th Jan 2023 _____ **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- He has also inaugurated Tent City at Varanasi.
- It will begin its journey from Varanasi to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh.
- It will sail around 3,200 km in 51 days.
- It will cover major cities of India and Bangladesh - Patna (Bihar), Sahib Ganj (Jharkhand), Kolkata (WB), Dhaka (Bangladesh), and Guwahati (Assam)

32. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Tripura CM, Manik Saha have inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication in which city of India _____ **Agartala, Tripura.**

Note:

- Aim: To enable the talent to become world-class experts in the transportation and logistics sector.



- It has been set up under State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD), an autonomous body funded by the govt of Tripura and MoRD.

33. The Godavari estuary in which the state of India has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) _____ **Andhra Pradesh.**

Note:

- On January 10, as many as 250 Indian Skimmers were sighted in the southern part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (Andhra Pradesh) in a day during the Asian Waterbird Census-2023.
- Indian Skimmer migrates to the Godavari estuary for feeding.
- It is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
- IUCN status: Endangered

34. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified comprehensive regulatory standards for which rice for the first time and will come into effect from 1 August 2023 _____ **Basmati Rice.**

Note:

- Aim: To establish fair practices in the trade of Basmati rice and protect consumer interest.
- As per the standards, Basmati rice shall possess natural fragrance characteristics of basmati rice and be free from artificial colouring, polishing agents, and artificial fragrances.

35. Who has announced the "Aarogya Maitri" project during the Voice of Global South Summit _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

- Through this project, the country will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
- He also proposed setting up a 'centre of excellence' to facilitate development solutions to these countries
- Also, India will launch the Global South Science and Technology Initiative to share its expertise in space technology

36. A 'Soul of Steel' challenge was launched in which state of India that aimed to test one's high-altitude endurance _____ **Uttarakhand.**

Note:

- The general area of the expedition would be the Nanda Devi National Park.
- The challenge is an initiative of CLAW Global and is being supported by the Indian Army.
- The idea behind Soul of Steel is pooling of skill sets and creating a challenge that will unlock the human ability to survive, stabilise and thrive in high altitude areas.



37. Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Regional Office of EPFO in which city of India _____ **Alwar, Rajasthan.**

Note:

- The Regional Office will help more than 2 lakh workers, 12,000 establishments, and 8,500 pensioners from Alwar and the neighboring districts of Bharatpur and Dholpur.
- The major industrial areas served by Regional Office are Bhiwadi, Khushkhera, Tapukara, Karoli, Neemrana, Behror, Gheelot, and Khairthal.

38. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal will launch the MAARG platform. What is the full form of MAARG _____ **Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth.**

Note:

- The portal will facilitate mentorship between startups and entrepreneurs across sectors, stages, and functions.
- Goyal will also announce the results of the National Startup Awards 2022.
- The winning startups will be given a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh
- One exceptional Incubator and one Accelerator each will also get a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

39. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which country to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomat's _____ **Panama.**

Note:

- The agreement was signed by EAM, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Panama's Foreign Minister, Janaina Tewaney Mencomo.
- Both countries have also discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance and people to people linkages.
- Panamanian Minister has also joined the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore.

40. Which state-owned organisation signed non-binding MoUs with the UP govt to extend financial assistance for various projects during UP Global Investors Summit, Delhi _____ **REC.**

Note:

- It will help UP in employment generation as well as exponential growth in the state.
- REC, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation, is a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation under the Union Power ministry.
- The PSU provides loans to central or state sector power utilities in the country, state electricity boards etc



41. Minister of Youth Affairs has launched the themes, logo, and website of Y20 summit India in Curtain raiser event in New Delhi. Who is he _____ **Anurag Singh Thakur.**

Note:

- Themes:
 - Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century skills
 - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a way of life
 - Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an era of No War
 - Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance and Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth.

42. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the two-day Global Investors Summit in which city of Madhya Pradesh _____ **Indore.**

Note:

- The inaugural session of summit was attended by Chandrika Prasad Santokhi (President of Suriname) and Dr Mohammed Irfan Ali (President of Guyana).
- Theme of the Global Investors Summit is 'Madhya Pradesh - a future-ready state'.
- Environmental protection has been taken care of in this summit that will be completely based on Carbon Neutral and Zero Waste.

43. The first G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting under G20 India Presidency will be held on 16-17 January in which city of India _____ **Pune.**

Note:

- The meeting will be hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs along with Australia and Brazil as the co-chairs.
- The Group deliberates on various aspects of infrastructure investments, including developing infrastructure as an asset class

Important News – State

1. Which community of Manipur celebrated Imoinu Eratpa festival every year _____ **Meitei community.**

Note:

- They regard the Imoinu goddess as a goddess of wealth and prosperity.
- She is also associated as one of the incarnations of the goddess Leimarel Sidabi.
- This festival falls on the twelfth lunar day of Wakching month of Meitei calendar (falls either in December or January according to the Gregorian calendar).

2. Which state government has launched two programme named 'Didir Suraksha Kawach' and 'Didir Doot', ahead of the 2023 panchayat polls _____ **West Bengal.**

Note:

- The programme will focus on 15 state government schemes, covering various sectors such as food, housing, health, education, social security, income and employment.



- 'Didir Doot', a mobile application has also been developed for people to register their problems.
- 3. The Election Commission has appointed folk singer, Maithili Thakur as the state icon for which state _____ **Bihar**.

Note:

- She will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.
 - She was born in Madhubani district of Bihar.
 - She is a trained in Indian classical and folk music.
 - She was recently selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar for 2021.
4. Which state government has signed an MoU with six UAE-based companies worth Rs 18,590 crore ahead of the Global Investors Summit to be held in Lucknow in February 2023 _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- Aim: To create over 20,000 new employment opportunities.
 - Astha Green Energy Venture and Shree Siddharth Infratech and Services will invest in renewable energy worth Rs 4480 and Rs 8000 crore respectively.
 - Sharaf Group and Hindustan Port will invest in the Logistics Park sector.
5. Which state government has launched the Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana) at the Bagaj Mata temple complex in Tikamgarh district _____ **MP**.

Note:

- Under the scheme, plots worth about 129 crore rupees were distributed to 10 thousand 918 families of Tikamgarh district.
 - Aim: To provide free plots to the poor living in rural areas for building their houses.
6. Which state government has inaugurated the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, the largest hockey stadium in the country _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- Rourkela is the second venue of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 after the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar
 - Rourkela will host 20 of the 44 matches while the remaining 24 matches will be played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
7. Which stock exchange has joined hands with the government of Goa for the development of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the state _____ **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.

Note:

- The exchange will look at creating awareness amongst SMEs in the state on the benefits of listing on the exchange.



- BSE will also guide them on the efficient ways of raising capital through equity infusion.
- The exchange will also provide training and capacity-building support to District Industries Centre officials.

8. Which state has celebrated the traditional Cherchera festival at Dudhadhari Math _____ **Chhattisgarh.**

Note:

- This traditional festival is celebrated on the full moon night of 'Paush' Hindu calendar month.
- It is celebrated in the happiness of taking the crops to their homes after cultivation.
- According to mythological belief, on this day Lord Shankar has begged from Mata Annapurna, so people used to donate green vegetables along with paddy on this day.

9. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the _____ foot-high Sagol Kangjei Statue at the Ibudhou Marjing complex at Heingang in Imphal, Manipur _____ **122 foot-high.**

Note:

- He has also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several projects in the state.
- He has also inaugurated Churachandpur Medical College and hoisting of 175 feet tall National flag at INA headquarters, Moirang.
- Sagol Kangjei: It is the name of the game of polo played in Manipur.

10. Which state has organized the International Kite Festival 2023 from the 8th to 14th January, 2023 _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- The theme of this festival will be held with the theme of G20 - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- The event is organized after a gap of two years due to the covid 19 pandemic.
- The delegates from G20 countries have been invited to the inauguration of the international kite festival 2023 to exchange their culture.

11. Which state Tourism Board has signed MoUs with chapters of eight countries of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention, Indore _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost cooperation in the development of the Tourism sector of the State, and promotion, and publicity of tourist places.
- These MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius.



12. Which state government launched the shared school bus system, prime tourism vehicles, and agriculture response vehicle scheme _____ **Meghalaya.**

Note:

- The buses are part of Sustainable Transport and Efficient Mobility Society (STEMS) programme.
- Agriculture Response Vehicles: Provided to farmers' associations and groups for a strong transportation network
- Prime tourist vehicles: Step to improve the overall tourism sector, and to provide good transportation services to tourists

13. Which state government's state-level steering committee for CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority) has approved an annual plan of Rs 1,086 crore action plan for 2023-24 to reduce man-animal conflict _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- The plan was approved during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary S. C. Mohapatra
- He has also raised the issue relating to wildlife management activities that are being extensively being carried out through CAMPA funds.

Important News – World

1. Which country has assumed the chairmanship of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for one year on 1st January 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- At the 26th annual plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement, Eoin O'Leary (Ireland's ambassador) has handed over the chairmanship to Jaideep Mazumdar (India's ambassador).
- Jaideep Mazumdar is the permanent representative to the UN and international organisations in Vienna.
- India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 2017 as 42nd participating state.

2. Which country will take charge of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in Bangkok, Thailand from January 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of four years.
- The APPU is an intergovernmental organization of 32-member countries of the Asian-Pacific region.
- Aim of APPU: To extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services.

3. Which country has adopted the euro as its currency with effect from 1 January 2023 and become the 20th member of the eurozone _____ **Croatia.**



Note:

- Croatia has entered the EU in 2013.
 - It becomes the 27th country to join the Schengen area.
 - Schengen Area: It is an area that comprises 27 European countries that have abolished all passports and border control at their respective mutual borders
 - Eurozone: It is officially called the euro area.
4. According to aviation analytics firm Cirium, Along with Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, which Indian international airport was among the top 10 on-time airports globally _____ **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.**

Note:

- Bengaluru's airport was the second best airport globally in 2022 in terms of on-time arrivals and departures.
 - While, Japan's Haneda Airport was the best-performing airport.
 - Indira Gandhi Airport stood seventh in the on-time rankings globally.
5. According to the Nikkei Asia report, India has surpassed which country to become the third-largest auto market for the first time _____ **Japan.**

Note:

- As per the report, India's sales of new vehicles totalled at least 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan.
 - According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, New vehicles delivered in India totalled 4.13 million between January and November 2022
 - China has topped the list, followed by US
6. LKAB, has discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides in the northern area of which country _____ **Sweden.**

Note:

- This is the largest known deposit in Europe.
- Currently, no rare earths are mined in Europe and it mostly imports them from other regions.
- Almost 98 per cent of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China.

Honor & Awards

1. The government of India has selected how many people for the highest honour for overseas Indians, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) 2023 _____ **27.**

Note:

- The awards will be conferred by the President Droupadi Murmu at 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh from January 8-10, 2023.



- President of Guyana Mohamed Irfaan Ali will be the chief guest this year.
- PBW 2023 theme: Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal
- 2. Assam CM, Himanta Biswa Sarma has selected how many personalities for the Assam State Civilian Awards 2022 _____ **21.**
- The State's highest civilian award, 'Assam Baibhav' to Dr. Tapan Saikia for his contributions in the field of cancer care.
- Assam Saurav (Assam second highest civilian award) will be conferred to Krishna Roy; Gilbertson Sangma; Nayanmoni Saikia; Dr. Binoi Kumar Saikia and Dr. Shashidhar Phukan.
- Asom Gaurav (third highest civilian award) will be conferred to 15 people.
- 3. Which India filmmaker has honoured with the Best Director Award for RRR at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards 2022 _____ **SS Rajamouli.**

Note:

- RRR has also been nominated in the Best Foreign Film category, and Best Original Song (for Naatu Naatu Song) at the Golden Globe Awards 2023.
- Naatu Naatu has also shortlisted in the Best Song category at the 95th Academy Awards.
- Best Picture: Tar (Directed by Todd Field)
- Best Actor: Colin Farrell (Tar)
- Best Actress: Cate Blanchett
- 4. Which Indian state has won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission (5T initiative of the state) _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- 5T: Team work, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time limit.
- It is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program that aims to empower the lives of slum dwellers.
- Under this mission, 100% households in 2,724 slums have been provided with pipe water connections, and 8 cities become slum-free.
- 5. Jalna district police and Nagpur city police in which state have bagged the 'Best Police Unit' awards for 2021 in the state _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- The award has been given under different classes for maintaining law and order, and evolving community policing.
- The Jalna police got the award in 'Class A' and the Nagpur police in 'Class B'.
- Police units with less than 6,100 Indian Penal Code cases are grouped in 'Class A', while those with more than 6,100 IPC cases are grouped in 'Class B'.
- 6. Name the veteran actor-director, who was honoured with the lifetime achievement award at the opening ceremony of the 15th edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) _____ **Aparna Sen.**



Note:

- She made her film debut in Teen Kanya (directed by Satyajit Ray) in 1961.
 - She has directed acclaimed movies like 36 Chowringhee Lane (1981), Paroma (1985), Paromitar Ek Din (2000), and Mr and Mrs Iyer (2002).
 - 282 films from 63 countries are being screened from 6th -10th January 2023.
7. The e-NAM was awarded the platinum award in Digital Empowerment of Citizens category by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at the Digital India Awards 2022, is associated with which ministry _____ **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**

Note:

- The e-Vivechna App (Madhya Pradesh) was awarded the platinum award in Digital Initiatives at Grassroots Level.
 - The Mine Mitra (Uttar Pradesh) was awarded in Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business category.
8. Who has been selected for the "Award for Global Leadership" by the Harvard Law School Center _____ **CJI D.Y. Chandrachud.**

Note:

- Reason: In recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in the country and around the world.
 - The award will be presented to him at an online event on January 11, 2023.
 - He took over as the 50th CJI on November 9, 2022.
9. Which Indian movie has won the 2023 Golden Globe Awards for the best original song-motion picture for "Naatu Naatu" track _____ **RRR (Directed by SS Rajamouli).**

Note:

- The movie was also nominated for the 'best picture-non English'.
 - This track was composed by veteran music director, MM Keeravaani and sung by Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj
 - Best Film:
 - Drama: The Fabelmans
 - Musical or Comedy: The Banshees of Inisherin
 - Best Drama Series: House of the Dragon
 - Best Musical or Comedy Series: Abbott Elementary
10. Harry Brook has won his maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month crown for December 2022, is belonged to which country _____ **England.**

Note:

- Reason: His blistering run of scores which helped England win World Test Championship series in Pakistan.



- While, Australia's Ashleigh Gardner has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for December 2022
- Reason: For her contributions to win the T20I series in India
- She has scored 115 runs at an impressive strike rate of 166.66 and also took 7-wicket during T20I series.

Sports News

1. Which state has clinched the Qualifiers title of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 after defeating Odisha by 6-5 in the final at Bhubaneswar, Odisha _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Ali Ahmad, Mohammad Zaid Khan and Captain Ankit Pal netted one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
 - While, Haryana claimed third place in the competition with a win against Jharkhand.
 - With this, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Jharkhand have qualified for the 2023 Khelo India Youth Games to be held in MP.
2. Which entertainment platform has signed a partnership agreement with Manchester City to become the Official Mobile Communications Network Partner of Club in the country _____ **Jio Platforms Limited (Jio).**

Note:

- Man City's OTT platform 'CITY' will be integrated into the JioTV platform.
 - It will provide fans further access to exclusive club content including match highlights, live Manchester City Women's team and Elite Development Squad fixtures, matchday content and City Studios documentaries.
3. The president of World Boxing Council, Mauricio Sulaiman has announced that it will introduce which category from 2023 _____ **Transgender Category.**

Note:

- A 'at birth rule' will be used, which means a transgender boxer who is registered as male at birth will be allowed to fight others who have also been registered as male at birth.
 - While, those registered as female at birth will be allowed to fight others who have been registered as female at birth.
 - World Boxing Council HQ: Mexico
4. Who has become 78th Grandmaster of India at the MPL 59th National Senior Chess Championship in New Delhi _____ **Koustav Chatterjee.**

Note:

- He is also the tenth Grandmaster of West Bengal.
- He won his maiden GM-norm in October 2021 at Sheikh Russel GM 2021 in Bangladesh.



- He scored his second GM-norm at Asian Continental Championship in November 2022.
 - He has also crossed 2500 in the August FIDE rating list.
5. Who has secured the title in the 2022/2023 Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit, to become the 79th chess Grandmaster of India _____ **M Pranesh.**

Note:

- He has crossed the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.
 - He won his first norm at the 18th Delhi GM Open, second norm at the Sunway Sitges International Chess Festival in Spain and third norm at the Asian Continental Chess Championship in Stockholm, Sweden.
 - He was trained by renowned coach RB Ramesh.
6. Which female Indian tennis player has announced her retirement from professional Tennis _____ **Sania Mirza.**

Note:

- She will retire at the WTA 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023.
 - She became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title, when she won her hometown Hyderabad event in 2005.
 - She broke into the top 30 by 2007 and reached her career-high ranking of world number 27.
7. Which Indian squash prodigy has clinched the girl's Under-15 squash title at the 2023 British Junior Open tournament, held in Birmingham (United Kingdom) from January 4-8, 2023 _____ **Anahat Singh.**

Note:

- She defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt by 3-1 in the final.
 - The British Junior Open is held in January every year in the UK.
 - She has also won the 2022 Scottish Junior Open held in Edinburgh, Scotland in the Girls under-17 categories.
8. Which Indian batter has become the fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket in terms of balls faced _____ **Suryakumar Yadav.**

Note:

- He took only 843 balls to reach this landmark.
 - In 45 matches and 43 innings, Suryakumar has scored 1,578 runs at an average of 46.41.
 - He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the format, with the best individual score of 117.
9. The Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league organised at which university from January 10 to January 13, 2023 _____ **Chandigarh University, Punjab.**



Note:

- The league is being organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India.
- It will be held over three phases with full financial support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The Kho Kho women's league for junior and sub-junior age groups is scheduled from January 16 to 19 at the Alberta Ekka Kho Kho stadium in Hotwar, Ranchi.

10. Who has defeated America's Sebastian Korda to win the 2023 Adelaide International 1 men's singles title _____ **Novak Djokovic.**

Note:

- While, Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) has won women's singles title, after defeating Czech Republic's Linda Nosková.
- Men's doubles: Lloyd Glasspool(United Kingdom) / Harri Heliövaara(Finland)
- Women's doubles: Asia Muhammad (United States) / Taylor Townsend (United States)

11. Name the Indian cricketer, who has equalled Sachin Tendulkar record of slamming 20 One Day International centuries on the home soil _____ **Virat Kohli.**

Note:

- He has scored a hundred in just 80 balls against Sri Lanka in the first ODI of the three-match series.
- He took only 99 innings to score his 20th ODI hundred on home soil, while Sachin did so in 160 innings.
- Kohli now has 73 centuries to his credit across all formats, second only to Tendulkar's 100 centuries.

12. Who won a gold medal at the national level in the Sqay championship _____ **Falak Mumtaz.**

Note:

- Falak is one of them who won the gold medal in the Sqay championship that was played last week in Jammu.
- She is currently studying 6th standard at Aisha Ali Academy in Kulgam.
- Recently four girls were selected for the Sqay championship.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the writer of a book titled 'Ambedkar: A Life', that has been launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event _____ **Shashi Tharoor.**

Note:

- The event was organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) at the ITC Sonar presented by Shree Cement.
- The event was attended by bibliophiles young and old, members of Ehsaas Women and FICCI FLO.



- Other notable books of Shashi Tharoor: Riot (2001), Why I Am A Hindu (2018), The Paradoxical Prime Minister (2018), India: From Midnight to the Millennium (1997).
- 2. Name the former Chief Justice of India who has released a book titled 'Chief Minister's Diary No.1' _____ **Ranjan Gogoi.**

Note:

- This book containing the account of events of the first year in office of Assam CM, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - The book featured accounts of daily activities he undertook as a Chief Minister.
 - His diary essentially featured the growth initiatives that the state has witnessed over the last 11 months.
3. Who has released an autobiography of Techno-educationalist, Professor K.K. Abdul Gaffar 'Njaan Sakshi' (me as the witness) _____ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni.**

Note:

- It will provide an insight into the journey of Prof. Gaffar and how education and students have changed over the time.
 - The first copy of this book was received by Marwan Al Mulla, the CEO of Dubai Health Authority (DHA).
 - He also presented copies of the book to dignitaries including actor Tovino Thomas at the occasion.
4. Home Minister, Amit Shah has released a book titled Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom. This book was authored by veteran Economist _____ **Sanjeev Sanyal.**

Note:

- The book has written the stories of freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, V D Savarkar, Aurobindo Ghosh, Rashbehari Bose, and Bagha Jatin, in a collective manner.
5. Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya has officially launched the book titled Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story, was co-authored by _____ **Aashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir.**

Note:

- This book has explained the growth of India as a self-sufficient nation where all sections of society contributed to fighting the pandemic.
- The book was launched ahead of India's second anniversary of starting its COVID-19 vaccination drive in January 2021.



Science and Defence

1. Indian Space and Research Organization, National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and which university have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at Rushikonda beach and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors _____ **Andhra University (AU)**.

Note:

- They have set up equipment to identify Rip currents to warn marines and local police.
 - Rip currents are common at all beaches across the globe.
 - People can enter the waters in rip current zones up to knee-deep levels.
2. Which institution's Centre of Excellence (CoE) has collaborated with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop Advanced Defence Technologies _____ **IIT Madras**.

Note:

- IIT Madras CoE- 'DRDO Industry Academia- Ramanujan Centre of Excellence' (DIA-RCoE) will be conducting a directed research process to meet the national defence and security needs of the nation.
 - DIA-RCoE was initially established by DRDO and then IIT Madras took it over.
3. Which Space start-up has launched its second satellite Pushan-Alpha as rideshare onboard SpaceX's Transporter-6 mission from Cape Canaveral in Florida, US _____ **Digantara**.

Note:

- The satellite will serve as a space weather testbed in the sun synchronous orbit.
 - It will also enhance precision driven situational space awareness applications.
 - Its observations will help complement Digantara's ROBI (ROBust Integrating proton fluence meter) mission.
4. Who has become the first woman officer to be operationally deployed in Kumar Post (height: 15,632 feet) at the highest battlefield in the world-Siachen _____ **Captain Shiva Chauhan (Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps)**.

Note:

- She hails from Rajasthan.
 - She led an arduous 508-km long 'Sura Soi' Siachen Sappers cycling expedition from the Siachen War Memorial to Kargil War Memorial in July 2022.
 - She got inducted to the Siachen Glacier on January 2 after an arduous climb.
5. Which drone maker organisation and Former cricketer, Mahendra Singh Dhoni have launched a surveillance drone named 'Droni' _____ **Garuda Aerospace**.

Note:

- MS Dhoni is an investor-cum-ambassador of Garuda Aerospace.



- Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone.
 - Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO.
 - In 2022, he unveiled the camera drone called Droni at the Global Drone Expo in Chennai.
6. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully launched SRBM, Prithvi-II from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha coast. What is the full form of SRBM _____ **Short-Range Ballistic Missile.**

Note:

- Prithvi-II missile is a well-established system.
 - It has been an integral part of nuclear deterrence in India.
 - During the training launch, the missile hit its target with high accuracy and successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile.
 - Range: 350 km
7. DAC under the chairmanship of Rajnath Singh, has given its approval to the proposal of worth Rs 4,276 crore with an aim to strengthen the Indian defence system. What is the full form of DAC _____ **Defence Acquisition Council.**

Note:

- The amount will be utilised to procure the indigenous anti-tank missiles to be fitted onboard the advanced light helicopter and a new short-range air defence missile. All projects are under the Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) category.



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