

Weekly One-liners

22-31 December 2022



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st December 2022

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the fourth **week** (22-31st) of **December 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Which financial service authority has signed an MoU with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) for mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable finance _____ **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**.

Note:

- India recently launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) as an India-led global movement to protect and preserve the environment.
- CEEW research has estimated that India's net zero by 2070 target would require USD 10 trillion in investments.

- Which digital payments services platform has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to act as a payment aggregator (PA) _____ **Worldline ePayments India**.

Note:

- The authorisation by the RBI was under the provisions of the Guidelines on Regulation of Payment dated March 17, 2020.
- Payment Aggregator: It is a service provider that integrates various options of online payments together and brings them into one place for merchants.

- In December 2022, the total valuation of Indian Premier League (IPL) has been surpassed to _____ **\$10 billion**.

Note:

- According to the D and P Advisory report titled "Beyond 22 Yards" stated that the league is currently worth \$10.9 billion.
- According to the reports, the IPL attained the significant milestone after selling its media rights for the years 2023 to 2027.
- In less than 15 years since its beginning, the IPL has reached the milestone.

- In December 2022, which stock exchange has received in-principle approval from SEBI to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment _____ **National Stock Exchange of India**.

Note:

- The creation of the SSE was proposed by FM Sitharaman in her Union Budget speech for 2019-20.
- The SSE will work for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations working for the realisation of a social welfare objective.
- The SSE will help these organisations to raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund.

- Which organisation has collaborated with Online PSB Loans and MSME lender SIDBI to launch FIT Rank – a comprehensive ranking model for MSMEs _____ **TransUnion CIBIL**.

Note:

- FIT Rank will leverage the details available with Goods and Services Tax (GST) filings, Bank Statements, and Income Tax returns (ITR) information to provide a ranking model for MSME lending.
- This is the first-ever credit default predictor model developed by CIBIL in collaboration with OPL.

- As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), what would be the India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal year (2022-23) _____ **6.8 per cent**.

Note:

- IMF has also estimated the India's growth rate of 6.1 per cent in the next fiscal years (2023-24).
- In its report, IMF has stated that the growth of India is expected to moderate as it is navigating a "very difficult" external environment.
- IMF has also highlighted that Indian economy has rebounded from the deep pandemic-related downturn.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks in the country to renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by which date _____ **1st January, 2023**.

Note:

- All the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement.
- RBI has advised the banks to install CCTV camera at entry and exit points of the strong room and the common areas of operation.
- It mandates to preserve its recording for a period of not less than 180 days.

8. International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided a loan of USD 400 million to which finance institution to boost the green affordable housing finance in India _____ **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited.**

Note:

- The loan will support India's shift towards a more sustainable growth path, creating jobs and ensuring long-term business growth.
- It focuses on its green affordable housing portfolio, with 75 per cent (USD 300 million) of the proceeds earmarked for this sector.

9. According to the British consultancy, Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) report, India will become third largest economy by which year from the current fifth spot _____ **2035.**

Note:

- Report title: World Economic League Table
- India's annual rate of GDP growth is expected to average 6.4% after which growth is expected to average 6.5% in the subsequent nine years.
- The world gross domestic product will be doubled by 2037 as developing economies will catch up with the richer ones.

10. RBI has issued an order to migrate the payments fraud reporting module to which portal on January 1, 2023 _____ **DAKSH.**

Note:

- Aim: To streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process.
- Earlier, it was facilitated through Electronic Data Submission Portal (EDSP).
- As per the RBI, all authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) and payment system participants in India are required to report all payment frauds.

11. Which financial service provider has received Perpetual Licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its bill payments business, BillAvenue _____ **Infibeam Avenues Ltd.**

Note:

- The licence will allow BillAvenue to function as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- BillAvenue can operate as both biller and customer operating unit onboarding billers and agent institutions to service customers.
- It will help the company offer safe, secure and uninterrupted services.

12. India has signed a \$125 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in which state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- The tranche 3 loan for Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program signed between Rajat Kumar Mishra (Additional Secretary, DEA) and Hoe Yun Jeong (Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission).
- This loan will cover Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi

13. Which bank has launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs named 'MSME Prerana' in Rajasthan _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To empower MSME Entrepreneurs through skill development and capacity building training in their local languages.
- This program will also assist them in acquiring necessary financial and managerial skills, capacity to handle crisis in business.
- The training program will be provided in collaboration with M/s Poornatha & Co.

14. Along with State Bank of India (SBI), and ICICI Bank, which bank will start issuing RuPay credit cards over the UPI by March 2023 _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- Presently, the RuPay credit card segment on the UPI platform is live with Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and HDFC Bank.
- The RBI has authorised the connection of credit cards to UPI in June 2022.

- Users will benefit from more convenience as a result of the change, which will also expand the adoption of digital payments.
15. Recently SEBI has expanded the High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) members to eight members. Who is the head of this committee _____ **Navin Kumar Singh (DG at NCIIPC)**.
- Note:**
- SEBI has expanded two of its committees- (1) High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and (2) Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC).
 - SEBI has also expanded its panel on Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) to seven members, chaired by Prof Krishnamurthy.
16. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) annual report on trend and progress of banking in India, the health of Indian banks continued to improve in 2021–2022 with their balance sheet rising at double digits after a gap of how many years _____ **Seven years**.
- Note:**
- PSBs account for 62% of the deposits of scheduled commercial banks, while on loans, they corner 58% market share.
 - Credit growth of banks was at a 10-year high at the end September 2022.

Obituaries

1. H R Keshava Murthy, who has been passed away, was a great exponent of which music form _____ **Gamaka**.
- Note:**
- He training in music from his father and later from Venkateshaiah.
 - He was honoured with Shantala Natya Sri Award by the Government of Karnataka in 1998 and Padma Shri in 2022 by the Government of India in the field of arts.
 - Gamaka: It is a form of storytelling by singing that originated in Karnataka, India.
2. Veteran actor, Kaikala Satyanarayana, who has been passed away, was an actor of which regional cinema _____ **Telugu**.
- Note:**
- He was honoured with the several awards including Raghupati Venkaiah Award (2011), Filmfare Awards for lifetime achievement award for Telugu cinema (2017) and the Andhra Pradesh government's Nandi film awards.
 - He was also elected to the 11th Lok Sabha from Machilipatnam on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) but withdrew from politics after 1998.
3. Legend PM Sinha, who popularly known as Suman has been passed away, was associated with which organisation between 1992 and 2002 _____ **PepsiCo**.
- Note:**
- He started his career from Hindustan Lever Ltd (HLL, later HUL).
 - He served as the chairman of PepsiCo India between 1992 and 2002.
 - He was also credited with launching bottled water brand Aquafina in India.
 - He helped acquire Duke's in Mumbai and snack food company, Uncle Chipps.
4. Kathy Whitworth, who has been passed away, was associated with which sports _____ **Golf**.
- Note:**
- She is considered one of the greatest golfers of all time.
 - She had 88 wins on the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour which include six LPGA major championships.
 - Her 88 wins are six more than Sam Snead and Tiger Woods, who hold the record for the men's game.
5. Veteran scholar, Sribhashyam Vijayasarathi, who has been passed away, was a scholar in which language _____ **Sanskrit**.
- Note:**
- In 2020, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his excellent work in the field of Literature and Education.
 - He was also the founder of Sri Yagna Varaha Swamy Kshetram (temple complex).
 - He has written 100 books in Sanskrit and Telugu.
6. Legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, who was popularly known as Pele has been passed away, was associated with which sports _____ **Football**.
- Note:**
- He is the only player to win the World Cup three times (1958, 1962 and 1970).

- He was named Fifa's Player of the Century in 2000.
- During his 21-year career, he has scored the most career goals of 1,283 in 1,363 games including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country.

Important Days

1. India observed "Good Governance Day" on which date to mark the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister, Atal Vihari Vajpayee _____ **25th December**.

Note:

- In 2014, PM Narendra Modi has announced to observe "Good Governance Day" every year on December 25 in memory of the former PM.
- Purpose of this day: To increase public access to various government programmes and services via good governance.
- It was established with the slogan "Good Governance through e-Governance."

2. India has observed first 'Veer Bal Diwas' on which date to honor the 'Sahibzadas', the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh _____ **December 26**.

Note:

- This day is observed to pay honor and tribute to the sacrifices made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh (6) and Sahibzada Fateh Singh (9), who were laid down their lives while defending their faith in Sirhind, Punjab.
- Veer Bal Diwas has been celebrated at an event hosted by PM Narendra Modi at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi.

3. Every year on which date India observed the National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas _____ **December 24**.

Note:

- This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights.
- This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing.

4. Which date is observed as Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas across India _____ **December 23**.

Note:

- Farmers are the backbone of our economy and to honour their hardship, this day was coined by the government of India in 2001.
- This day also marks the birth anniversary of the 'Champion of Indian Peasants' and the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.

5. National Mathematics Day is celebrated on which date across the nation every year _____ **December 22**.

Note:

- The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887.
- This year nation celebrates his 135th birth anniversary of Ramanujan.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) _____ **Justice, Hemant Gupta**.

Note:

- The govt has also appointed Anant Vijay Palli as the part-time members of NIDAC.
- Justice Gupta was served as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- Purpose of NDIAC: To create an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.

2. Who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer of Air India's Low Cost Carrier (LCC) business from January 1, 2023 _____ **Aloke Singh**.

Note:

- The LCC business will comprise AirAsia India and Air India Express.
- The current AirAsia India CEO, Sunil Bhaskaran will assume the leadership of a new initiative -- an aviation training academy.
- AirAsia India was launched in 2014 while Air India Express started operations back in 2005.

3. Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) _____ **Shamsher Singh**.

Note:

- Prior to this role, he served as the Deputy MD of State Bank of India.
- He had joined SBI as probationary officer in June 1990.

- He has more than 32 years of rich experience working with SBI in various verticals, including investment banking, treasury, corporate banking and branch banking.
4. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia _____ **Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan.**
Note:
- He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer.
 - Presently, he is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon.
 - He has also served as a United Nations Pension Board member in 2016 and 2017.
5. Who has been reappointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank _____ **P.N. Vasudevan.**
Note:
- His current term as MD, CEO will expire on July 22, 2023.
 - The board of Bank has decided to renew his term for a further period of 3 years with effect from July 23, 2023, subject to approval from RBI.
 - He is the founder of Equitas and has been associated with its journey as a microfinance institution since 2007.
6. Who has become the 12th prime minister of Fiji after a coalition of parties voted to elect him _____ **Sitiveni Rabuka.**
Note:
- His appointment has ended 10 days of uncertainty after an election delivered a hung parliament.
 - Social Democratic Liberal party held the balance of power and voted to form a coalition with Rabuka's People's Alliance and the National Federation party.
7. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time _____ **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.**
Note:
- He will head the new government until 2025 as part of a deal reached with another party.
 - He has replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party.
 - Prachanda's Maoist Centre party has won 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives.
8. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Railway Board with effect from January 1, 2023 _____ **Anil Kumar Lahoti.**
Note:
- He will replace Vinay Kumar Tripathi.
 - Lahoti belongs to the 1984 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE).
 - Lahoti was appointed as the general manager of Central Railway in July 2021.
9. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointed whom as MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank for three years, with effect from 23 January 2023 _____ **Baskar Babu Ramachandran.**
Note:
- He has several years of experience in the banking and finance sector.
 - Prior to co-founding the Suryoday Micro Finance Private Limited, he had worked with various companies including GE Capital Transportation Financial Services and HDFC Bank.
10. Who has been appointed as chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) _____ **Santosh Kumar Yadav.**
Note:
- He is currently serving as an additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
 - Subhasish Panda has been appointed as vice chairman of Delhi Development Authority.
 - Ganji Kamala V Rao has been named CEO of FSSAI, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
11. Who has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) _____ **Praveen Kumar Srivastava.**
Note:
- He has replaced Suresh N Patel, who completed his term as the chief of CVC on December 24, 2022.
 - Srivastava is a 1988-batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
 - He was retired as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat on January 31, 2022
12. Who has been sworn-in as the new prime minister of Israel for a sixth time, after Israel's parliament (Knesset) has passed a vote of confidence in new government _____ **Benjamin Netanyahu.**
Note:
- Out of 120 members, 63 lawmakers have voted in favour of new government.
 - He is the longest-serving Prime Minister of Israel.
 - He served as premier of country from 1996 to 1999 and a record 12-year tenure from 2009 to 2021.
13. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres has appointed whom as UN Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative _____ **Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti of Kuwait.**

Note:

- He has replaced Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan.
- The Initiative was launched by Ukraine, Türkiye, Russian Federation and UN on 22 July 2022.

Important News – India

1. Which organisation has inked an MoU with the CSIR – Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR – IIP) to collaborate and work together towards ensuring clean energy solutions _____ **TATA Projects Limited.**

Note:

- As part of this agreement, clean energy solutions such as room temperature bio-diesel produced from CSIR-IIP shall be used across some of Tata Projects' ongoing sites.
- This partnership will also explore utilization of by-product Green Diesel from the existing DILSAAF™.

2. Which ministry has organised one of its kind musical event, Dance to Decarbonise at the National Stadium in New Delhi on 23rd Dec 2022 _____ **Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.**

Note:

- As per the ministry, the renewable energy generated through dance will be used to charge electric vehicles.
- Aim: To showcase the India's target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 weighing against the country's growing economy, and rising energy requirements over transformational energy systems for the future

3. Who is set to launch revamped probity portal and e-HRMS 2.0 portal for central government employees _____ **Jitendra Singh.**

Note:

- At the revamped e-HRMS 2.0 portal, employees could avail of limited services and it was not connected with other human resource applications.
- The revamped portal is the first digital system in the government of India to provide end-to-end HR services.
- The revamped e-HRMS 2.0 will save several thousand man-hours and tons of printing paper.

4. Union Minister of information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has informed that the Union Cabinet approved the revision of the pension for family pensioners of armed forces under One Rank One Pension (OROP) from which date _____ **July 1, 2019.**

- The revision will entail an estimated annual expenditure of Rs 8450 crore.
- The arrears will be with effect from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.
- The decision to implement OROP was taken by the Narendra Modi government on November 7, 2015.

5. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has inaugurated the Sports Science Centre in which state _____ **Udupi, Karnataka.**

Note:

- The government has increased the sports budget from 854 crores before 2014 to 3,100 crore rupees (2022) and spent 2700 crore rupees to enhance sporting infrastructure as against 630 crore rupees earlier.
- For Khelo India Games, the government has spent 3,136 crore rupees for a period of five years.

6. Which minister has introduced various initiatives, including a right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre _____ **Consumer Affairs Minister, Piyush Goyal.**

Note:

- On this portal, manufacturers would share the manual of product details with customers so that they could either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.
- Initially, mobile phones, automobiles and farming equipment will be covered.

7. President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the project "Development of Srisailam Temple" at Srisailam Temple Complex. This temple is located in which state _____ **Andhra Pradesh.**

Note:

- The project has been sanctioned and executed under PRASHAD scheme, under Ministry of Tourism.
- The project has been completed with a cost of Rs 43.08 crores.
- The project is 100% funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India.
- Srisailam Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Goddess Parvati.

8. Which IIT institution has developed an artificial heart that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems _____ **IIT Kanpur.**

Note:

- IIT Kanpur and cardiologists from across the country have developed this artificial heart.
- As per the IIT Kanpur Director, Abhay Karandikar, the trial on animals would begin next year, after success in the trial, transplantation can be done in humans in the next two years.

- Most of the implants and stents for heart patients are being imported.
9. The govt of India has designated which ministry as the nodal ministry to oversee the online gaming industry in India _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**

Note:

- The ministry will soon release rules for online gaming intermediaries and start public consultation on these rules
 - In May 2022, the govt set up a seven-member inter-ministerial task force, chaired by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS, IT.
 - Aim: To work on online gaming regulations and identify a nodal ministry.
10. Which institution has been named the Secretariat for Science 20 (S20), the G20 summit's science working group _____ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.**

Note:

- S20 2023 theme is 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development.'
 - S20 has been set up as part of efforts by G20 to address global challenges including climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
 - G20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.
11. Which government owned organisation has signed an MoU with the Central TB Division (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh to undertake intensified TB elimination project _____ **IndianOil.**

Note:

- Aim: To end TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of SDG
 - It also aims to provide sustainable and equitable access to free TB treatment, and support services to the citizens of UP and Chhattisgarh.
 - IndianOil will also introduce Mobile Medical Vans equipped with modern diagnostic technology.
12. Union Minister of Power, RK Singh has inaugurated the National Championship "Tehri Water Sports Cup" at Tehri Lake. Tehri Lake is located in which state _____ **Uttarakhand.**

Note:

- During the event, he has also announced that world-class Kayaking-Canoeing Academy will be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand.
 - This is the first time that the national-level sports competition is being organized at Tehri Lake.
 - CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami has also informed that the new sports policy has been implemented in the State.
13. Who has launched the "Stay Safe Online" campaign and "G20 Digital Innovation Alliance" (G20-DIA) _____ **Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of MeitY).**

Note:

- Aim of 'Stay Safe Online': To raise awareness about the online world due to the widespread use of social media and rapid adoption of digital payments
 - Aim of G20-DIA: To identify, recognize, and enable the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by startups
 - Nodal Ministry for G20 Digital Economy Working Group: MeitY
14. According to the report, released by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry, the road accidents in India have been decreased by how much percent in 2021 as compared to 2019 _____ **8.1%.**

Note:

- Report title: Road accidents in India -- 2021
 - The injuries due to road accidents have also decreased by 14.8%.
 - But the fatalities on account of road accidents have increased by 1.9% in 2021
 - The MoRTH has also implemented a scheme Grant of Financial Assistance for Administering Road Safely Advocacy and Awards
15. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has accorded which drone service provider with the DGCA Type Certification and Approval for its AG 365 Agricopter _____ **Marut Drones.**

Note:

- Marut Drones product, 'AG 365 Agricopter' is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive the prestigious certificate.
 - It is extensively tested in Agriculture in collaboration with agriculture universities and research institutes.
 - It is designed and developed for Indian conditions and can be used for multiple purposes.
16. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated railway projects worth over Rs 5,800 crore in which state through video-conferencing _____ **West Bengal.**

Note:

- The projects include Joka-Taratata stretch of the Joka-Esplanade Metro Project (Purple Line) and Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express.
 - Joka-Taratata project is 6.5-km stretch having six stations has been constructed at a cost of more than Rs 2,475 crore.
 - He has also laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of New Jalpaiguri Railway Station.
- 17. Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways) has inaugurated the phase 1 of Zuari bridge in which state _____ Goa.**
- Note:**
- It will connect North and South Goa.
 - It is located on the Zuari river at Cortalim village on Margao-Panaji National Highway
 - Under this phase, the 4 Lane Right Hand Side Corridor of the 8 Lane Stayed Cable bridge has been inaugurated.
 - This new bridge approaches from Bambolim to Verna and has a total project length of 13.20 KM.
- 18. HM Amit Shah has launched the Mobile App and Manual of Border Security Force in New Delhi. What is the name of the mobile application _____ Prahari.**
- Note:**
- This app will provide personal information and information related to accommodation, Ayushman CAPF and leaves on their mobiles to jawans.
 - It will also connect jawans with the portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - He has also launched revised version of manuals which will increase the understanding of operations, administration and training.
- 19. Which ministry has notified the National Geospatial Policy, 2022 to promote country's geospatial data industry and develop a national framework to use such data for improving citizen services, and more _____ Ministry of Science and Technology.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To develop high resolution topographical survey and mapping, and high-accuracy digital elevation model by 2030.
 - The government will also look to improve availability and access of "better location data" for companies by 2025.
- 20. Which ministry has launched two key initiative - City Finance Rankings and City Beauty Competition _____ MoHUA.**
- Note:**
- City Finance Rankings: To evaluate, recognize and reward Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on the basis of three financial parameters - resource mobilization, expenditure performance and fiscal governance systems.
 - City Beauty Competition: To recognize the transformational efforts made by cities in India to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.
- 21. Who has inaugurated Incubation Centre at National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), Delhi to provide multi-prong support to StartUps _____ Union Minister of State Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh.**
- Note:**
- NRDC has created incubating start-ups facility and is also promoting beneficial schemes to provide support in terms of funding, mentoring, IP assistance and other allied services to the Start-ups.
 - NRDC was established in 1953 with headquarters in Delhi.
- 22. Centre will roll out new integrated Food Security Scheme from _____ to provide free food grains to over 81 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, NFSA in 2023 _____ 1st January 2023.**
- Note:**
- It will also ensure effective and uniform implementation of the Act and free foodgrains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under One Nation One Ration Card across the country.
 - Under this scheme, Centre will provide free foodgrains to all NFSA beneficiaries.
- 23. iDEX, flagship initiative of Department of Defence Production, has signed its 150th contract in New Delhi. What is the full form of iDEX _____ Innovations for Defence Excellence.**
- Note:**
- The contract was related to an Indian Navy project of the Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 7) SPRINT edition.
 - The challenge was titled 'Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Target (EMATT) capable of simulating the sound and movement of a submarine'.
 - The iDEX framework was launched by the Prime Minister in 2018.

24. Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has signed an agreements with ____ for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products _____ **MSMEs**.

Note:

- The agreements were signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to hasten conversion of products from research labs to the market.
- The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality).

25. Which government organisation has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tecnimont Private Limited (Indian Subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy) to evaluate and explore the possibility to develop commercial scale Green Methanol Production facility at NTPC project in India _____ **NTPC**.

Note:

- This project involves capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into a green fuel.
- It is also considered as a substitute fuel for maritime fuel applications.

26. Which ministry has signed an MoU with DRDO for the implementation of Early Warning System (EWS) for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations _____ **Ministry of Power**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Power) and Dr. Samir V Kamat (Chairman, DRDO).
- Both will work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, and other geo-hazards
- Ministry of Power has already signed MoUs with CSIR-NGRI, IMD, WIHG and NRSC-ISRO for implementation of EWS

27. The government of India and Manipur government have signed a peace agreement with which insurgent group of Manipur for providing the rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres _____ **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF)**.

Note:

- The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and ZUF.
- The ZUF represents Zeliangrong people of the Naga tribes.
- The ZUF is listed as one of the 13 active insurgent group in Manipur by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP).

28. Along with IIT Guwahati, which institution has joined hands with European universities to develop a technology to check the quality of potable and other water in India _____ **IIT Bombay**.

Note:

- The LOTUS Indo-European project is an initiative of the Dept of Science and Technology and the European Commission
- Aim: To provide solutions for issues related to the quality of water supplied across Indian households
- The LOTUS project is built around a novel water quality sensor developed at Ecole Polytechnique in Paris

29. India and which country have signed agreements in various areas including on Defence and Military Cooperation _____ **Cyprus**.

Note:

- Both countries have also signed a Letter of Intent on Migration and Mobility Partnership to provide a common framework of arrangement and cooperation to facilitate the mobility of students, business people and professionals.
- It will also help in combating irregular migration.
- The agreements were signed between EAM Dr. S Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Cyprus.

30. Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has informed that Department of Fisheries, under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has provided an insurance coverage to fishers. Who is he _____ **Parshottam Rupala**.

Note:

- The insurance coverage provided under the PMMSY includes:
- Rs.5,00,000/- against accidental death or permanent total disability
- Rs.2,50,000/- for permanent partial disability
- Hospitalization expenses in the event of accident for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-

31. Name the scheme launched by the Ministry of Railways for the modernisation of railway stations across the country _____ **Amrit Bharat Station scheme**.

Note:

- Aim: Infrastructural development of more than 1,000 stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision.
- High level platforms (760 to 840 mm) will be provided at all categories of the railway stations.
- The plan has provision to provide free WiFi access to its users.

- The amenities for Divyangjan will be provided at railway stations.

Important News – State

1. Which state/UT government has announced three new schemes- (1) Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied Sectors, (2) Aspirational Towns, and (3) Aspirational Panchayat for state/UT _____ **Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note:

- Aim: To transform the agriculture economy of the Union Territory putting it on a new trajectory of growth.
- The projects have an outlay of Rs 5013 crores over the next five years.
- These schemes have been approved by the administrative council, chaired by the L-G.

2. Which UT government has decided to introduce mini snack breaks to battle malnutrition in children _____ **Delhi**.

Note:

- According to a circular by the Directorate of Education (DoE), schools have been directed to include a 10-minute mini snack break in the school timetable.
- The mini break should be 2.5 hours before the lunch break.
- Schools have been asked to prepare a weekly planner of snacks offering three food choices every day which may include food items such as seasonal fruits etc.

3. Which state government is being hosting the Bekal International Beach Festival from 24 Dec - 2 Jan 2022 at the Spice Coast, in the far north of Kerala _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- Aim: To revitalise the district's development by showcasing its potential.
- The festival will be staged at the three venues of Chandragiri, Thejaswini, and Payaswini.
- The event will organised by Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kudumbashree, Asmi Holidays.

4. Which state government has approved the proposal for grant of industry status to the tourism sector in the state _____ **Assam**.

Note:

- Aim: To boost investments and generate employment.
- The industry status, fresh investments in tourism infrastructure, permanent in nature, will contribute towards rapid employment generation, public-private partnership and development.
- Tourism is to be one of the main sources of income generation for the people over the years.

5. Which state government has launched the 'Drink From Tap' project in 19 cities and towns of the state _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- Aim: To provide safe drinking water provision at every home in the state
- Earlier, this facility was unveiled in Puri and Gopalpur.
- Under the project, drinking water will be supplied round the clock through taps installed in households.

6. Which state/UT has celebrated Losar Festival on December 24, to mark the New Year _____ **Ladakh**.

Note:

- Ladakhi New Year is the major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated in winter.
- The Losar festivities continue for nine more days from the new year with the offering of prayers in the name of God and Goddess, dances and songs in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.
- During the festival, they perform the traditional role of the three Lama Jogis and Grandparents.

7. Which state government has received the 'no-objection' certificates from the ministry of home affairs to change the names of two places in state ie. Mundera Bazaarmunicipal council and Chauri Chaura _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- With this consent, 'Mundera Bazaar' municipal council in Gorakhpur district has been renamed to 'Chauri Chaura' and 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria district to 'Telia Shukla'
- MHA gives a 'no-objection' certificate to change the name of any place after taking consent from ministry of railways, department of posts and Survey of India

8. Which state government has launched an initiative for the conservation of the Nilgiri Tahr (State animal) at a cost of ₹25.14 crore _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Aim: To develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population through surveys and radio telemetry studies; reintroduce the Tahrs to their historical habitat
- The project is to be implemented from 2022 to 2027.
- Nilgiris Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), endemic to the Western ghats and locally known as 'Varaiaadu'.

9. Which state government has launched the 10th phase of Rythu Bandhu, the investment support scheme for farmers _____ **Telangana**.

Note:

- Under this phase, 7,676 crores rupees will be deposited in the bank accounts of over 70 lakh 54 thousand farmers towards investment support for the Rabi crop season.
- It is a cash transfer programme.
- It provides investment support for agriculture and horticulture crops by way of a grant of Rs 5,000 per acre to farmers each season.

10. Which state Cabinet has approved the provision of Rs 367.19 crores for five years (2022-23 to 2026-27) for implementation of “empowerment of women in agriculture-promotion of entrepreneurship for women SHG” _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- The cabinet was headed by Odisha CM, Naveen Patnaik.
- Aim: To double the mushroom production across the State through area expansion involving women beneficiaries and to make the state self-sufficient in the production of button mushroom and loose flowers

Important News – World

1. Pokhara Regional International Airport will be officially brought into operation from 1st January 2023. This airport is located in which country _____ **Nepal**.

Note:

- Inauguration programme of the airport will include different processions, fashion shows at coordination of Pokhara Metropolitan City and Pokhara Tourism Council.
- This airport is going to be a milestone for the promotion of tourism not only in Pokhara.
- This is constructed by a Chinese construction company.

2. According to a government survey, the Associated Press reported, which animal in Western Hudson Bay of Canada, an inland sea connected to the Arctic Ocean, are dying at a fast rate _____ **Polar bears**.

Note:

- The study has also revealed that females and younger polar bears are the worst affected.
- When the last survey took place in 2016, there were 842 bears in the area, but now only 618 bears left in Western Hudson Bay.
- The polar bear is classified as “vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List

3. Bangladesh PM, Sheikh Hasina has flagged off the first metro rail in Dhaka for its first journey between which two stations _____ **Diabari and Agargaon station**.

Note:

- This is part of the ambitious Bangladesh project of Mass Rapid Transit to be completed by 2030, that will cover a total length of 129 kilometres out of which 61 kilometres will be underground.
- The rail service was built with financial and technical support from Japan.
- The event was attended by Kiminori Iwama (Japanese Ambassador).

4. Which country has fired three short-range ballistic missiles towards the sea to the east of the Korean peninsula _____ **North Korea**.

Note:

- South Korea's military has said that these ballistic missiles launch is a grave provocation that undermines peace and stability on Korean Peninsula as well as the international community.
- This latest volley comes 5 days after North Korea flew drones into South Korea's airspace for the first time since 2017.

Honor & Awards

1. Sudeep Sen was honoured with the prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 for which book _____ **Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021)**.

Note:

- The prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar.
- Sudeep Sen has been recognised for
- While, Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021).

- The winner receives \$10,000 along with a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, while the shortlisted authors each receive \$500.
2. Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in how many languages on 22nd December 2022
23.

Note:

- 7 books of poetry, 6 of novel, 2 of short stories, 3 Play/Dramas, 2 Literary Criticism, one each of Autobiographical Essays, Collection of Articles and Literary History have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022.
 - The awardee will receive an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and Rs.1,00,000 in Cash.
 - It also announced the 'Sahitya Akademi Translation' awards for 2022.
3. Name the Indian professor, who has received the VinFuture Prize 2022 instituted by the VinFuture Prize Council to honour breakthrough research projects _____ **Pradeep Thalappil.**

Note:

- He has been awarded the 'Special Prize dedicated to Innovators from Developing Countries' for his development of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.
 - He was also honoured with the Padma Shri (2020), Nikkei Asia Prize (2020).
4. Who is the only Indian female player, who listed in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world _____ **PV Sindhu.**

Note:

- Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list.
 - Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list.
 - The 27-year-old made 7 million US Dollars of her earnings.
 - For the 3rd straight year, Osaka tops Forbes' annual list of the World's highest-paid female athletes.
5. Who has been awarded the 2022 BBC Sports Personality of the Year as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at Euro 2022 _____ **English football player, Beth Mead.**

Note:

- Beth Mead has defeated Germany in the finals at Wembley to win England's first major women's football trophy.
 - She has competed against Ben Stokes and Ronnie O'Sullivan for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 award.
 - While, Sarina Wiegman (England's manager) has won the Coach of the Year.
6. Which government owned organisation has won Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) award 2022 in Best Security Practices in Government Sector category _____ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**

Note:

- The award was given to UIDAI during DSCI's three-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) in New Delhi.
 - Reason: For its significant role in securing national critical Aadhaar infrastructure that provides digital identity-based welfare services to residents.
 - UIDAI CEO: Dr. Saurabh Garg
7. Which government owned organisation has been awarded the 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India – Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' award at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022' _____ **NHPC Limited.**

Note:

- Reason: For its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW.
 - The award also recognizes that NHPC has more than 5000 MW of projects under construction and an ambitious 7000 MW plus plan for Solar capacity addition.
8. Dr Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first KR Gouri Amma national award 2022. She is associated with which country _____ **Cuba.**

Note:

- She is an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission that works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America.
 - The award will be presented by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Olympia Hall at Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium.
 - The award consists of \$3,000, a statute and a citation
9. Which Indian institution programmes on BS Data Science and NPTEL in collaboration with IISc Bangalore, have won the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022 for the best programmes _____ **IIT Madras.**

Note:

- The BS in Data Science and Applications programme won Silver in the 'Best Online Program' category.
- The NPTEL-National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning, has won the Gold in the 'Lifelong Learning' category.

10. Who was honoured with the prestigious Atal Samman Award during the 9th Atal Samman Samaroh, organised in New Delhi _____ **Prabhu Chandra Mishra.**

Note:

- He was awarded for his excellence in field of science & research.
- He has worked in the area of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when In vitro fertilization (IVF) failed.
- Under his work, diseases like premature ovarian failure, and Asherman syndrome have shown satisfactory results with body's own cells.

11. The anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign of which state police named 'Nijaat' has been selected for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 2022 award under the 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' in the institutional category _____ **Chhattisgarh.**

Note:

- This campaign was launched under the leadership of the IPS officer Santosh Kumar Singh.
- Under this campaign, strict action taken against illegal drug dealers, intensive public awareness and rehabilitation of the addicts.

Sports News

1. Which media company has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the Olympic Games Paris 2024 _____ **Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18).**

Note:

- It has also secured the non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- In 2024, Olympics will be hosted by France in Paris, beginning from July 26 to August 11.

2. India's first ever World Table Tennis (WTT) series event will be hosted by which state from February 27 to March 5 2023 _____ **Goa.**

Note:

- The event will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus.
- Stupa Analytics, a homegrown sports analytics firm, will be the tournament host with active support from the Goa government.

3. Who has emerged as the most expensive player in the IPL's history as Punjab Kings bought him for Rs 18.50 crore _____ **England all-rounder Sam Curran.**

Note:

- The most expensive player in IPL so far was South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who received Rs 16.25 crore at the 2021 auction.
- Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was the second-highest earner, fetching ₹17.5 crore bid from Mumbai Indians.

4. Badminton player, Geto Sora (7) has won title of 2022 Junior International Badminton Championship in the below 9 years category, organised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She hails from which Indian state _____ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- He has defeated Jaryl Teh from Malaysia in straight sets 21-5, 21-16.
- In November 2022, he had won the U-9 boys singles title in the Yonex-Singha-BTY Championships 2022, held at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand.

5. Lovlina Borgohain has defeated Arundhati Choudhary of Services in which category at Women's National Boxing Championship 2022, organised in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **75kg.**

Note:

- Nikhat Zareen defeated Anamika of Railways in the 50kg category.
- While, The Railways team has topped the medals tally with 10 medals – five golds, three silvers and two bronze.
- MP placed second in medal tally, followed by Haryana.

6. Which country has renamed the men's Test Player of the Year award to honour legendary spinner Shane Warne _____ **Australia.**

Note:

- The Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards.
 - Warne himself won the award once, in 2006 after an incredible year that included a record 40 wickets in the famous 2005 Ashes series in England.
 - This Australian Cricket Awards will be announced on January 30, 2023.
7. Who has secured his fourth title of 2022 World Rapid Championship, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan _____ **GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway)**.

Note:

- Vincent Keymer (Germany) has settled for silver and Fabiano Caruana (America) has secured bronze.
 - While, Tan Zhongyi (China) has won gold in 2022 Women's World Rapid Champion.
 - Indian chess player, B Savitha Shri has won bronze medal in women's event and became third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and Humpy to win a medal at the world rapid championship.
8. Portugal Football team captain Cristiano Ronaldo has joined which football club on a contract until 2025 with worth over USD 75 million per year _____ **Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr**.

Note:

- Al Nassr have won the Saudi top-flight titles 9 times, last in 2019.
 - This move inspires their league, nation, and future generations, boys, and girls to be the best version of themselves.
 - Portugal captain was free after leaving Manchester United following a controversial interview in which he had criticized the club.
9. Name the Indian female chess player, who has won India's first-ever silver medal in FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan after defeating China's Zhongyi Tan _____ **Koneru Humpy**.

Note:

- He scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
 - He is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.
10. Which hockey women's team has won Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar _____ **Hockey Haryana**.

Note:

- Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to make the team the trophy winner
- Odisha stepped up to claim 3rd place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in MP in 2023

Books and Authors

1. A book titled "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond" has been authored by which former governor of RBI _____ **C Rangarajan**.

Note:

- It was published by the Penguin Business (Penguin Group).
- The book is the memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The book is divided into 3 parts. Part 1- 'RBI and Planning Commission', Part 2-'Governor of RBI' and Part 3-'Beyond RBI'

Science and Defence

1. India and which country will organise their maiden bilateral air combat exercise, Veer Guardian 2023 from January 16 to 26 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base _____ **Japan**.

Note:

- Reason: To promote the mutual understanding and strengthen defence cooperation between the Air Forces and enhance JASDF's tactical skill.
- India will deploy four Sukhoi-30MKI fighters supported by two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic lift aircraft, one IL-78 mid-air refueler and around 150 IAF personnel.

2. Which country will begin supplying India with the third squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system in January or February of next year _____ **Russia.**

Note:

- India has already put its first two missile system squadrons into service.
- India and Russia have agreed to a three-year, more than ₹35,000 crore deal for India to buy five squadrons of S-400 air defence missiles, and all deliveries are anticipated to be completed by the end of the following fiscal year.

3. The Indian Air Force has successfully test-fired the extended range version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile against a ship target in Bay of Bengal from which fighter jet _____ **Sukhoi-30MKI.**

Note:

- Achievement: Carry out precision strikes from Sukhoi against land and sea targets over very long ranges.
- The current weight of missile is 2.65 tonnes, which will come down to 1.33 tonnes with BrahMos-NG (under development).
- BrahMos is a JV between DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya of Russia

4. Which space agency has announced that Mars InSight lander has been retired four years after it touched down on the surface of the red planet _____ **Nasa.**

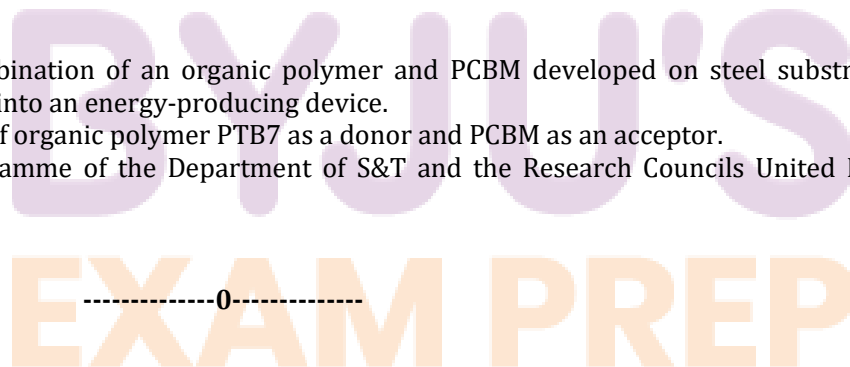
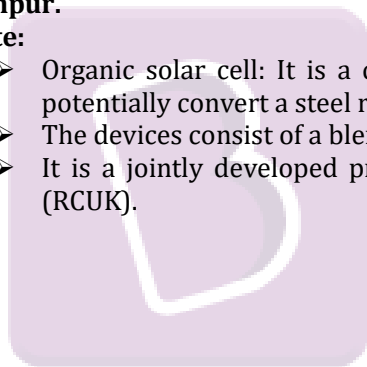
Note:

- It was the first robotic probe, which was specially designed to study the deep interior of a distant world.
- Mission controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) concluded that the mission had ended when two consecutive attempts to re-establish radio contact with the lander failed.
- InSight landed on Mars in late November 2018.

5. Researchers at which institution have developed organic solar cells under the DST-RCUK APEX project _____ **IIT Kanpur.**

Note:

- Organic solar cell: It is a combination of an organic polymer and PCBM developed on steel substrates can potentially convert a steel roof into an energy-producing device.
- The devices consist of a blend of organic polymer PTB7 as a donor and PCBM as an acceptor.
- It is a jointly developed programme of the Department of S&T and the Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK).



Features :



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