



Bi-weekly Current Affairs (16-31 Jan) English PDF

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

16-31st January 2023

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of **November 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to SBI Research's latest Ecowrap report, what would be the retail inflation rate of India based on CPI by March 2023 ____ **5%**.

Note:

- Reason: Latest figures showed a marginal decline and further moderation in retail inflation as compared with the last month.
 - The retail inflation for December 2022 was at 5.72%.
 - For Jan-Mar 2023, the average retail inflation is seen at 4.7%.
2. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry data, what was the WPI for December 2022 ____ **4.95%**.

Note:

- Reason: Due to falling in prices of food articles, especially vegetables, and oilseeds
 - The WPI inflation was 5.85% in November 2022 and 14.27% in December 2021.
 - In a reported period, food articles segment slipped to 0.65 %.
 - The Fuel and power increased marginally from 17.35% in November to 18.09% in December 2022.
3. Which payment bank has received final approval from RBI to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) ____ **Paytm Payments Bank**.

Note:

- Under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services for electricity, phone, gas insurance, loan repayments, credit card bill, and municipal taxes.
 - BBPS is owned by the National Payments Corporation of India.
 - So far, Paytm Payments Bank was undertaking this activity under in-principle authorization from RBI.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a framework for the adoption of an _____ for provisioning by banks, instead of an 'incurred loss' approach ____ **Expected Loss**.

Note:

- Presently, banks are required to make loan loss provisions based on an 'incurred loss' approach.
 - Aim: To enhance the resilience of the banking system
 - Adopting the forward-looking expected credit loss approach to estimating loss provisions is likely to result in excess provisions as compared to a shortfall in provisions.
5. According to the RBI report, the GFD of states is budgeted to narrow to 3.4 % of GDP in 2022-23 from 4.1% in 2020-21. In this context of this, what is the full form of GFD ____ **Gross Fiscal Deficit**.

Note:

- While states' debt is budgeted to ease to 29.5% of GDP in 2022-23 as against 31.1% in 2020-21.
 - But, it is higher than the 20% recommended by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Review Committee in 2018.
 - The RBI has also advised governments to set up a fund for long-term expenditure when revenue collection is strong.
6. Which bank and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) signed an agreement to provide financial assistance to the dealers of SAIL across the country ____ **South Indian Bank**.

Note:

- With the vast network of the bank, they will be able to serve the MSME and corporate customers of SAIL located in different geographies.
- SAIL has a vast network of dealers who ensure availability of quality steel in virtually all districts of the country.



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7. Which organisation has received approval from RBI for its wholly-owned subsidiary to operate as an account aggregator _____ **Protean eGov Technologies**.

Note:

- Account aggregators: They help individuals securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution (they have an account with) to another regulated financial entity.
 - It has also collaborated with the govt to create digital public infrastructure and develop innovative citizen-centric e-governance solutions.
8. As per the directions on "Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies", issued by the RBI, allowed promoters to hold _____ of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the bank after the completion of 15 years from the commencement of its business _____ **26%**.

Note:

- The promoters of banking companies may be allowed to hold a higher percentage of shareholding as part of the licensing conditions.
9. Which financial service provider has launched the new phase of its flagship programme 'Girls4Tech' in India _____ **Mastercard**.

Note:

- This programme is supported by the Mastercard Impact Fund and American India Foundation.
 - Aim: To reach female students across the country by 2024 to encourage them to take up STEM education.
 - STEM refers to Science, Technology, engineering and mathematics.
 - STEM courses will be offered to girls aged 8 to 14.
10. Which insurance organisation has launched Jeevan Azad to offer an attractive combination of protection and savings _____ **LIC**.

Note:

- Aim: To offer Individual savings and life insurance
 - It is a limited-period payment endowment plan.
 - It provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.
 - The minimum age of entry is 90 days completed and the maximum age at entry is 50 years.
11. Which bank becomes the first public sector bank to launch credit cards against fixed deposits digitally _____ **PNB**.

Note:

- Aim: To offer for those account holders, who don't meet the eligibility criteria for regular credit cards.
- The bank offers RuPay or VISA credit cards digitally against single or multiple FDs with 80% credit limit.
- PNB has raised the Interest rates on term deposits below ₹2 crore between one year and three years by 50 basis points to 6.75%.

12. Which General Insurance has partnered with Doers NGO to assist Himachal Pradesh police in reducing the number of traffic accidents under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative _____ **SBI General Insurance**.

Note:

- Under this, SBI General has donated a well-equipped ambulance which would provide timely medical care to the road accident victims in Mandi district within the 'Golden hour'.
- MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance: Kishore Kumar Poludasu.

13. Which bank would sell its stake in the Russian joint venture 'Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL)' to the other venture partner State Bank of India (SBI) for Rs 114 crore (approx) _____ **Canara Bank**.

Note:

- CIBL was incorporated in 2003, a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60%) and Canara Bank (40%).
- Canara Bank has entered into a share sale agreement in relation to the sale of equity shares held by it in CIBL with SBI.
- The Canara Bank entered into the agreement for sale on November 11, 2022.



14. What is the total merchandise exports made by India between April 2022 and November 2022
_____ **298 billion USD.**

Note:

- Earlier it was 276 billion USD.
- The import bill is now estimated to be \$493.5 billion, about \$1.7 billion higher than initial numbers.
- The trade deficit was 10 billion USD lower than the estimates made previously.

15. Which organisation has launched an information database on municipal bonds in a programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance, organized in New Delhi _____ **SEBI.**

Note:

- The event was participated by representatives from various stakeholders, including MoHUA.
- Municipal Bonds:
- It is also known as 'muni bonds'.
- It is a debt instrument that municipal corporations and other associated bodies in India issue them.
- Whenever the local government body wants to raise funds, they issue these bonds.

16. Which organisation will acquire a 100% equity stake in Khargone Transmission at an enterprise value of around ₹1,497.5 crores _____ **India Grid Trust.**

Note:

- IndiGrid signed a share purchase agreement on January 21, 2023.
- Khargone Transmission was incorporated on November 28, 2015.
- The transmission project was awarded by the ministry of power for a 35-year period from the scheduled commercial operation date on a build, own, operate, and maintain (BOOM) basis.

17. Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL) has entered into a co-lending agreement with which bank to offer home loans at competitive interest rates _____ **PNB.**

Note:

- Aim: To reach out to a large section of society for providing easy, and efficient home finance solutions.
- The co-lending framework of the RBI provides a tool for the Banks and NBFCs/HFCs to collaborate, and leverage their respective strengths to provide an affordable solution to the unserved and underserved sections of society.

18. Which bank has received an order from RBI to stop all transactions under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) with immediate effect till further orders _____ **SBM Bank (India).**

Note:

- Reason: Certain material supervisory concerns were observed in the bank
- Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, Indian residents (including minors) are allowed to freely remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April - March) for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both

19. Which bank has launched SwipeUp platform that will allow other bank credit cardholders to upgrade their card to one of credit cards _____ **AU Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- The bank has provided a platform to compare existing credit cards of customers within seconds.
- They can upgrade credit limits, cashback, and reward points with a quick end-to-end digital process.
- They can continue according to their lifestyle at the time of submitting the credit card application.

20. According to the United Nations, what would be the India's growth for the 2023 calendar year
_____ **5.8 percent.**

Note:

- Reason: Higher interest rates and recession risks in the developed world weighing on investment and exports.
- The report has projected that global trade will contract 0.4 percent and the world economy will grow at 1.9 percent in 2023.
- For the fiscal year 2023-24, the agency kept its growth forecast unchanged for India at 6 percent.

21. What are the components of Stressed Assets _____ **NPA, written-off assets, and restructured loans.**



Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a discussion paper on the securitization of stressed assets.
 - Aim: To provide an alternative mechanism for the sale of bad loans, in addition to the existing asset reconstruction route.
 - In September 2022, RBI announced that it will introduce a framework for the securitization of stressed assets
 - The discussion paper broadly covers nine relevant areas of the framework
22. As per the Reserve Bank of India release, what was India's foreign exchange reserves in the week ended January 20, 2023 _____ **\$573.727 billion.**

Note:

- It was increased by \$1.727 billion.
 - As on January 13, 2023, the forex reserves of India stood at \$561.583 billion.
 - The Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) stood at \$503.65 billion.
 - FCA includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
23. Which insurance company has renewed its strategic corporate agency tie-up for bancassurance with Punjab National Bank (PNB) for a long-term period _____ **Star Health and Allied Insurance.**

Note:

- PNB will continue to distribute Star Health's insurance products across all their branches pan India.
 - It is a testament to Star Health's customer service, and track record.
 - Bancassurance: Contract between bank and insurance company to allow the insurance company to sell its products to the bank's client base.
24. Which financial service provider has unveiled "Timepay Evok" as a UPI API engine to articulate its mission and relationship with digital merchants _____ **Network People Services Technologies Ltd (NPST).**

Note:

- With unique API services, UPI as a payment gateway can be integrated for both websites and App driven solutions for large-scale merchants.
 - UPI has been identified as a revolutionary product in the payment ecosystem.
 - It was launched in 2016.
 - Co-founder, NPST: Deepak Chand Thakur
25. Which insurance provider has launched its first line of customized health insurance products 'Health Wellness plan' _____ **RenewBuy.**

Note

- Focus: On the large uninsured segment beyond the tier 1 markets.
 - It is available in three variants: Gold Plan, Silver Plan, Wellness Plan.
 - The product has new-age health insurance benefits, ranging from coverage of ₹2-5 lakhs.
 - Up to 70% lower premiums are offered for senior citizens, and up to 50% lower premiums for people till 59 years.
26. According to the Futures Industry Association (FIA), which stock exchange emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022, in terms of the number of contracts traded _____ **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).**

Note:

- This is the fourth consecutive year when the exchange earned the top spot.
- In addition, the exchange was ranked third in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022.



Obituaries

1. Santokh Singh Chaudhary, who passed away at 76, was associated with which political party _____ **Congress**.

Note:

- He was a Cabinet Minister of Punjab and a member of parliament from Jalandhar (Lok Sabha constituency).
- He won the 2014 Indian general election and the Indian general election in 2019.
- He was a cabinet minister from Phillaur in 1992, 1997, and 2002.
- He lost two assembly elections in 2007 and 2012.

2. Mukarram Jah Bahadur who passed away recently was descendants of which royal dynasty _____ **Nizam of Hyderabad**.

Note:

- He was the successor and grandson of the last Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur.
- He was born to Prince Azam Jah and Princess Durru Shehvar, the imperial princess of the Ottoman Empire, on October 6, 1933, in France.
- He was coronated as Asaf Jah the Eighth on April 6, 1967, after the passing away of Mir Osman Ali Khan in February 1967.

3. David Crosby, who passed away recently, was a veteran _____ **Rock Singer**.

Note:

- He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with two different groups.
- He was a founding member of Byrds, and Crosby, Stills & Nash.
- He was known for his intricate vocal harmonies, unorthodox open tunings on the guitar, and incisive songwriting.
- He was awarded the Grammy for Best New Artist of 1969 for his debut album "I See You".

4. Lakshmi Vishwanathan, who passed away, was a renowned dancer of which of the following classical dances _____ **Bharatanatyam**.

Note:

- She was awarded many awards such as Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu government, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- She was a gold medallist in English literature from Madras University.
- She authored four books Kunjamma-Ode to a Nightingale (a biography of M.S. Subbulakshmi); Women of Pride-the Devadasi Heritage; Kapaliswara Temple; and Bharatanatyam: The Tamil Heritage.

5. Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, who passed away, was a veteran _____ **Architect**.

Note:

- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan (2020), Pritzker Architecture Prize (2018), Padma Shri (1976), and many more awards.
- He was credited with designing some of the most iconic structures in the country such as IIM Bangalore, NIFT Delhi, and CEPT University in Ahmedabad.
- He also worked under Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

6. Jamuna, who passed away, was a veteran _____ **Film actress**.

Note:

- She was born in 1936 in Hampi in Karnataka and started her career as a stage artist, debuting with Puttillu on Silver Screen.
- She acted in about 200 Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi films.
- She was identified with her role in 'Satyabhama' and became a household name for the mythological character.
- She was a former Lok Sabha MP from Rajahmundry in 1989 from the Congress.

7. KV Tirumalesh, who passed away, was a well-known _____ **Writer**.

Note:

- In 2016, he was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi award for his collection of poems - Akshaya Kavya - along with several other literary awards.
- His critical works include an essay on Da Ra Bendre's poems and existentialism in Kannada.



- He was also a retired professor, who taught at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

Important Days

1. India has observed the 75th India Army Day on which date _____ **January 15.**

Note:

- This day was observed to mark Field Marshall, K M Cariappa, who took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor in 1949.
- The 75th Army Day Parade was held at the MEG and Centre in Bengaluru.
- The event featured a fly-past by the Army Aviation Dhruv and Rudra helicopters and Indian Air Force's Sukhoi-30Mki

2. UNESCO has decided to dedicate the International Day of Education on which date _____ **24th January.**

Note:

- According to UNESCO, currently, around 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under Taliban rule, as they denied them access to secondary schools and universities.
- UNESCO will also publish a global report, 2023 SDG4 Scorecard

3. India observed which date as National Startup Day _____ **January 16.**

Note:

- The inaugural National Startup Day 2023 Summit and Bharat Startup Awards were hosted in Bangalore.
- In 2022, PM Modi designated this day as National Startup Day.

4. India observed Parakram Diwas on which date to mark the birth of Indian freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose _____ **January 23.**

Note:

- In 2022, the nation celebrates the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji SC Bose.
 - He was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha.
 - He acquired a degree in philosophy and was later selected for the Indian Civil Services.
 - Netaji joined the Indian National Congress in 1921.
5. India celebrates National Girl Child Day on which date every year to highlight the prejudice and injustice that girl children face _____ **24 January.**

Note:

- This day was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - Aim: To encourage awareness about women's rights in our country.
 - The government has not officially announced a theme for National Girl Child Day 2023.
 - Government initiatives to raise the status of girl children: Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, and BBBP.
6. The Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated the National Voters' Day on which date _____ **25th January.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure
- It was first observed in 2011 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (25th January 1950).
- Aim: To create electoral awareness amongst citizens and encourage them to participate in the electoral process

7. India observed its _____ Republic Day on 26th January 2023 _____ **74th.**

Note:

- Theme: Jan Bhagidari
- Chief Guest: Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (Egyptian President))
- For the first time, 21-gun salute was given with 105-mm Indian Field Guns, replacing the vintage 25-pounder gun.
- Female BSF camel riders participated in the parade showcasing women's empowerment.



- The Naval contingent of 144 young sailors was led by women officer Lieutenant Commander Disha Amrith.
- 8. International Customs Day (ICD) is observed every year on which date globally to commemorate the maiden session of the World Customs Organization (WCO) held in 1953 _____ **January 26.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs
- The WCO was previously known as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).
- It was formed in 1952 in Brussels.
- Aim of WCO: To boost the efficiency of customs authorities.
- 9. Which organisation designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day _____ **United Nations.**

Note:

- Reason: In honour of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust and millions of other Nazism victims under the Hitler regime between 1933 and 1945.
- Theme 2023: Home and Belonging
- The day commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in January 1945 from Nazi control
- 10. Data Privacy Day (DPD) is observed across the world on which date annually to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles _____ **January 28.**

Note:

- It encourages everyone to own their privacy responsibilities to create a culture of privacy.
- The theme for this year (2023) is 'Think Privacy First'.
- On April 26, 2006, the Council of Europe decided to coin a Data Protection Day and announced that it will be observed each year on January 28.
- 11. World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day is annually observed across the world on which date to create awareness about Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) _____ **30th January.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Focus: On strengthening the interventions to promote equitable health services for all
- The first World NTD Day was observed on 30 January 2020.
- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of 20 diseases caused by a variety of pathogens.
- 12. World Leprosy Day (WLD) is celebrated on which day of January _____ **Last Sunday.**

Note:

- In 2023, World Leprosy Day is observed on 29 January.
- Aim: To raise awareness of the disease and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.
- This day was observed selected by French humanitarian, Raoul Follereau as a tribute to the life of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Theme 2023: Act Now. End Leprosy.

New Appointments

1. Which has been recommended for the position of MD & CEO at the Bank of Baroda by the FSIB _____ **Debadatta Chand.**

Note:

- While Rajneesh Karnatak was selected for MD & CEO at the Bank of India.
- The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi.
- 2. Who has been selected as the next Chief Economist of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with effect from 2 May 2023 _____ **Clare Lombardelli (UK Treasury Adviser).**

Note:

- She has 20 years of experience in economic analysis and policy-making in the United Kingdom.



- She started her career as an economist at the Bank of England.
- She has also worked at 10 Downing Street, and as a technical advisor for the International Monetary Fund.
- 3. Who was appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) in National Security Council Secretariat for two years _____ **Pankaj Kumar Singh**.

Note:

- He is a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre.
- He retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022.
- Earlier, he served as Inspector General of the CRPF in Chhattisgarh and IG (Operations) at CRPF, Delhi.
- He has also served in the Rajasthan Police and CBI.
- 4. Who has been selected as the new chief executive officer (CEO) Cairn Oil & Gas vertical of Vedanta Limited _____ **Nick Walker**.

Note:

- Prior to this post, he served as the president and CEO at Lundin Energy.
- He has also worked in various companies like BP, Talisman Energy, and Africa Oil.
- He has over 30 years of diverse international experience in technical, commercial, and executive leadership roles.
- 5. Who has been appointed as the administrator of Shooting World Cup 2023 by Delhi High Court _____ **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri**.

Note:

- He has been appointed to oversee the utilization of funds for the upcoming International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup, which is scheduled to be held in India in March.
- ISSF is the governing body of Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines, and of several non-Olympic shooting sport events.
- 6. Who would replace Jacinda Ardern as the new Prime Minister of New Zealand _____ **Chris Hipkins**.

Note:

- New Zealand's police and education minister Chris Hipkins (44 years) will replace Jacinda Ardern as Prime Minister after emerging as the only candidate nominated to lead the ruling Labour Party.
- He was first elected to parliament for the Labour Party in 2008 and was later being appointed minister for COVID-19 in November 2020.
- New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean and is the sixth-largest island country by area.
- 7. Who has been appointed as the new chief of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) _____ **Sanjay Mohan**.

Note:

- Apart from him, Rikant Pittie, co-founder of EaseMyTrip, and Yang Li, head-public affairs (APAC), Booking.com, will be the new co-chairs of IMAI.
- This committee's membership includes MakeMyTrip, Airbnb India, ConfirmTkt, Zophop Technologies and Booking.com.
- 8. Reed Hastings, who recently stepped down from the post of CEO, was CEO of which organization _____ **Netflix**.

Note:

- Netflix Inc co-founder Reed Hastings is stepping down as chief executive officer (CEO), handing the reins of the streaming service to longtime partner and co-CEO Ted Sarandos and the company's chief operating officer, Greg Peters.
- He had co-founded Netflix as a DVD-by-mail business in 1997, saying the idea came from his frustration at having returned a rental of Apollo 13 to the local Blockbuster, a chain of physical stores in the US from where movies could be rented.
- 9. Who has been appointed as the next director general in the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with effect from February 28, 2023 _____ **Vikram Dev Dutt**.



Note:

- He is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territory) cadre.
- He will be succeeding the incumbent DGCA chief, Arun Kumar.
- He was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd in 2022.

10. Who has been appointed as the new director of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) for five years, effective from March 1, 2023 _____ **Professor Bharat Bhasker.**

Note:

- Presently, he is working as a professor of Information Technology and Systems at IIM Lucknow.
- The term of the incumbent director, Prof Errol D'Souza, will be ended on January 31.
- Meanwhile, the Board of Governors has appointed Prof Arindam Banerjee as the Director-In-Charge from 1st -28th February 2023.

11. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Charitable Foundation Tata Trusts _____ **Siddharth Sharma.**

Note:

- Aparna Uppaluri as the Trust's Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- Their appointment will come into effect from 1 April 2023.
- Siddharth Sharma will succeed N Srinath, who stepped down from the CEO's post in 2022.
- Tata Trusts has created the COO post for the first time.
- Aparna Uppaluri is currently serving as the programme director at the Ford Foundation.

12. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co (India) for three years _____ **Prabdev Singh.**

Note:

- In November 2022, he replaced Madhav Kalyan as interim CEO, who was named head of payments for Asia Pacific.
- He was a trained engineer and worked at HSBC Holdings Plc before joining JPMorgan in 2010.

13. Who was sworn in as the 41st prime minister of New Zealand by the governor-general during a ceremony in Wellington _____ **Chris Hipkins.**

Note:

- His appointment came after the resignation of former PM Jacinda Ardern.
- He will have less than nine months before contesting a tough general election, with opinion polls indicating his Labour Party is trailing its conservative opposition.
- He served as education and police minister under Ardern.

14. Who has been nominated for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general by the US president Joe Biden _____ **Raja J. Chari.**

Note:

- His appointment will have to be confirmed by the Senate, which approves all senior civilian and military appointments
- Currently, he is working as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut at Johnson Space Center, NASA
- He also served as an Expedition 66 flight engineer aboard the station

15. Name the sports personality, who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of National Mineral Development Corporation _____ **Nikhath Zareen (Boxer).**

Note:

- She won a gold medal at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the 2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships (52 kg category).
- She became the fifth Indian woman to win a gold medal at the IBA World Boxing Championships.

16. Who has become the new president of the Czech Republic _____ **Petr Pavel.**

Note:

- He succeeded the former President of the Czech Republic, Milos Zeman.
- In a run-off vote, he defeated billionaire Andrej Babis.
- He has been a vocal supporter of the European Union and NATO, seeing the Czech Republic's future as inextricably linked to their membership.



17. Who has been appointed as the new head of Morgan Stanley (India) _____ **Arun Kohli**.

Note:

- He has replaced Sanjay Shah, who is set to retire.
- He has been associated with Morgan Stanley for the past 15 years.
- Currently, he is serving as the chief operating officer (COO) for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region.
- Earlier, he was the MD for firm strategy and execution for five years, stretching from 2007 to 2012.

18. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Puma India (Sports brand) _____ **Harmanpreet Kaur**.

Note:

- She will endorse the footwear, apparel, and accessories throughout the year.
- With this, Harmanpreet joins PUMA's roster of brand ambassadors which includes Virat Kohli, Neymar Jr, Sunil Chhetri, MC Mary Kom, Harleen Deol, K L Rahul, and Avani Lekhara.

Important News – India

1. PM Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express train that connects Secunderabad (Telangana) with which city in Andhra Pradesh on 15th January 2023 _____ **Visakhapatnam**.

Note:

- As per the Railway officials, it will cover a distance of around 700 km in 8 hours and 30 minutes.
- It is the eighth Vande Bharat Express to be introduced by Indian Railways.
- The first Vande Bharat train was launched in 2019, between New Delhi and Varanasi.
- It will enhance the ease of living, and benefit the economy.

2. Union Minister for Science and Technology has launched Geospatial Hackathon to promote Innovation and Start-Ups in India's Geospatial ecosystem. Who is he _____ **Dr. Jitendra Singh**.

Note:

- This hackathon also aims to promote partnerships among the public and private geospatial.
- It was jointly launched by the Survey of India, the Ministry of Science and Technology, IIIT Hyderabad, and Microsoft India.
- There will be two sets of challenges - (1) Research Challenge and (2) Start-Up Challenge

3. The GeM has organized an event to celebrate the success of "Womaniya on GeM" in New Delhi. What is the full form of GeM _____ **Government eMarketplace**.

Note:

- This event was organized in partnership with the Self-Employed Women's Association, Bharat.
- Presently, over 1,44,000 Udyam-verified women Micro, Small Enterprises are registered on GeM, known as "Womaniya".
- This initiative was launched in 2019 to encourage women entrepreneurs' participation and SHG from the informal sector on GeM.

4. Earth Sciences Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that India will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by which year _____ **2025**.

Note:

- This announcement was made at the 148th Foundation Day of the Indian Meteorological Department.
- Aim: To predict extreme weather events more accurately
- It will enhance weather monitoring capabilities and benefit the farmers to contribute significantly to the economy.
- IMD has taken proactive steps to increase the Radar Network from a mere 15 in 2013 to 37 in 2023.

5. Which Indian Railway's wholly owned subsidiary has received an order worth ₹170.11 crores from the Puducherry government _____ **RailTel Corporation of India Ltd**.



Note:

- Agenda: To design, develop, supply, install, test, commission, and operations, and maintenance of integrated command control centre (ICCC) and other associated activities for the smart city.
 - The contract is for five years and will be completed in 10 months.
6. he Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), New Delhi Municipal Council, and which ministry have organized 'Music in the Park' series under the name 'Shruti Amrut' _____ **Ministry of Culture.**

Note:

- Under this series, the first event of 2023 was organized in Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
 - The concert started with a Sarod performance by Aman Ali Bangash (7th Generation musician from Senia Bangash Gharana)
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second phase of Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 in which district of Uttar Pradesh _____ **Basti District of Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- It organizes diverse competitions in both indoor and outdoor sports.
 - Apart from these, competitions in essay writing, painting, rangoli making will also be organized.
 - This event is being organized in two phases.
8. Which of the following districts was declared the country's first Constitution-literate district _____ **Kollam.**

Note:

- It is achieved through 'The Citizen', a Constitution literacy campaign.
 - This campaign was jointly launched by the Kollam district panchayat, the District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration.
 - Aim: To provide constitution literacy to 23 lakh citizens belonging to 7 lakh families in the district.
9. Who has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several projects in the northern districts of Yadgiri, and Kalaburagi (Karnataka), and Maharashtra _____ **PM Modi.**

Note:

- Developmental projects in Yadgiri district: Related to irrigation, drinking water, and NH development project
 - Kalaburagi district: Distribution of title deeds to the eligible beneficiaries of newly declared revenue villages.
 - Maharashtra: Inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth around ₹38,800 crores
10. The Ministry of Tourism will organize the first Global Tourism Investors Summit from 10th to 12th April 2023 in which state/UT _____ **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**

Note:

- Aim: To bring together global policymakers and business leaders to understand and explore Tourism Business opportunities in India
 - In this regard, Tourism Ministry has organized a Roadshow for the Northern region, Chandigarh.
 - Focus: Promoting India as an investment destination for travel, tourism, and hospitality
11. Along with Adani Enterprises, and Ashok Leyland, which organization has signed a deal to develop Asia's first hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation _____ **Ballard Power.**

Note:

- The FCET is scheduled to be launched in India in 2023.
- The demonstration project will be led by Adani Enterprises Limited.
- Ballard will supply the FCmove™ fuel cell engine for the hydrogen truck.
- Ashok Leyland will provide the vehicle platform and technical support.



12. Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) signed an MoU with which bank to facilitate farmers in providing low-interest rate loans _____ **SBI**.

Note:

- Reason: To promote awareness about the new loan product called Produce Marketing Loan to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt).
- It also aimed to provide information to depositors about the benefits, besides doing further outreach activities to improve agricultural pledge finance in India.

13. The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum started in which country from 16-20 January, 2023 _____ **Davos, Switzerland**.

Note:

- The theme of the 53rd annual event is 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'.
- Aim: To address the pressing issues the world is facing and promote innovative solutions
- A range of topics will be discussed at the 2023 meeting - New Energy, Climate Change, Jobs, Travel and Tourism, Health, Tech, and Banking.

14. The first G20 Health Working Group meeting has started at which state _____ **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

Note:

- It was attended by Bharati Pravin Pawar (MoS Health and Family Welfare) and V. Muraleedharan (MoS External Affairs).
- Focus: Health emergencies prevention, preparedness and response; strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector; and digital health innovations to aid universal health coverage
- Other locations of HWG meetings: Goa, Hyderabad, and Gandhinagar

15. First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting of G20 will be held from 9th to 11th Feb in which city of India _____ **Bengaluru**.

Note:

- Aim: promotion of the blue economy along with coastal sustainability, restoration of degraded lands and ecosystems, enhancement of biodiversity and circular economy
- Conference focused on Master Planning and Building the National Capacity for species Management & Conservation Breeding

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended All India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police 2022 in which state/UT _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- It is a three-day conference which was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Conference held discussions on futuristic themes in policing and security, Cyber Crime, Technology in Policing, Counter Terrorism challenges, Left Wing Extremism, Capacity Building, and Prison Reforms.

17. Business20 (B20) inception meeting will be held in which state of India from January 22-24 as a part of India's G 20 presidency _____ **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Note:

- It will be held to formulate policy recommendations to be submitted to G20 ahead of the leaders' summit and will be the first of 15 events that the state is set to organize as part of India's G20 presidency.
- More than 150 policymakers, business executives, CEOs, and senior executives will take part in the inaugural meeting.

18. Which ministry has released 'Endorsements Know-hows!' guidelines for celebrities, influencers, and virtual influencers on social media platforms _____ **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution**.



Note:

- Aim: To ensure that individuals do not mislead their audiences.
- It also ensures that they are in compliance with the Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- Endorsements must be made in simple terms such as "advertisement," "sponsored," or "paid promotion" can be used.

19. Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has organized a 5 km marathon from Pashupatinath Temple premises in Nepal. What is the name of marathon _____ **Run for Life.**

Note:

- 2023 Theme: lifestyle for Environment
- It was participated by college-going students, rescued human trafficking victims, sports persons, health enthusiasts, medics, and children.
- The Run for life marathon celebrates 75 years of diplomatic ties between India and Nepal as well as 75 years of India's Independence.

20. The American India Foundation (AIF) has inaugurated India's first STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC) in which state of India _____ **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- It was inaugurated under the scheme of Vanavil Mandram.
- AIF is an award-winning flagship education Program 'Digital Equalizer (DE)'.
- It has designed the Center to be a one-stop solution for STEM among students and teachers.
- AIF's DE has also launched Drone and Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLV) Mission on the occasion.

21. How many unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar was named after Param Vir Chakra awardees on January 23, 2023 _____ **21.**

Note:

- He has also unveiled the model of the National Memorial dedicated to Netaji, to be constructed on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep (earlier known as Ross Islands).
- The event was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief of Defence Staff General, Anil Chauhan.

22. Which power generator group has crossed 71 GW with the successful completion of the trial operation of the first unit of 660 MW North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project, Jharkhand (3x660 MW) _____ **NTPC.**

Note:

- Impact: It will provide affordable power to Jharkhand, Bihar, WB, and Odisha.
- With this addition, the total installed capacity of NTPC has become 71544 MW
- The foundation for this NTPC project in Jharkhand was laid by the former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee

23. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has organized a two-day event, 'Krishi-Mahotsav: Pradarshani evam Prashikshan' in which state of India _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- It was organized in association with the Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan.
- Aim: To make Kota Division advanced and leading in the field of agriculture and rural development.
- Through the exhibition, the government can also spread awareness about the schemes of governments.

24. Which beverage organization's foundation joined hands with CARE to launch a programme 'She Feeds the World' _____ **PepsiCo Foundation.**

Note:

- It is a USD 18.2-million global agriculture-focused women empowerment programme in India.
- It commenced from two districts in North Bengal of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh could be the next state.



- The PepsiCo Foundation invested USD 18.2 million to scale CARE's 'She Feeds the World' initiative in six countries.

25. The government of India has launched the U-WIN platform to digitize India's UIP. In this context, what is the full form of UIP _____ **Universal Immunisation Programme.**

Note:

- It has been launched in pilot mode across two districts of each state and union territory.
- This platform will help in registering and vaccinating every pregnant woman, recording her delivery outcome, and administering birth vaccinations and all immunizations.
- It will also act as a single source of information for reminders of upcoming vaccine doses.

26. Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has unveiled the world's first intranasal COVID-19 vaccine in New Delhi. What is the name of vaccine _____ **iNNCOVACC.**

Note:

- It is developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in collaboration with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance.
- According to the statement of the ministry, the intranasal COVID-19 vaccine is to receive approval for the primary 2-dose schedule and as a heterologous booster dose.

27. Which organisation has launched a massive District Outreach Programme "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0" _____ **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).**

Note:

- This programme was launched by Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Arti Ahuja.
- It is a grievance redressal platform and information exchange network for employers.
- It also exchanges information with the district-level authorities of various State and Central Government departments.

28. Who has laid the foundation stone for a National Forensic Sciences University at the premises of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad in Karnataka _____ **Home Minister, Amit Shah.**

Note:

- Aim: It will help to create expert manpower for the country to combat crime and result in the prosecution of criminals.
- He was also part of a road show in Dharwad and addressed a public rally in Belagavi district.
- He had a darshan of God Shambulingeshwara and visit Sri Basavanna Devara mutt in Dharwad.

29. Asia's second and country's first cable suspension bridge "Bajrang Setu" is being constructed in which state of India _____ **Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.**

Note:

- It will be completed by July 2023.
- This bridge is coming up next to the famous 90-year-old Laxman Jhula.
- Laxman Jhula was closed in 2022 when it was found that it wasn't safe for pedestrians anymore.
- However, it will not be removed and will be preserved as a heritage.
- The construction of the new bridge would cost Rs 67 crores.

30. Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has inaugurated National Logistics Portal (marine). Who is the minister of Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways _____ **Sarbananda Sonowal.**

Note:

- Aim: To connect all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT
- It will improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and promoting the growth of the logistics sector
- It will be a single window for all trade processes of the logistics sector spread across the country
- It will cover all modes of transport in the waterways, roadways, and airways



31. Meta and which ministry released the list of 120 startups and innovators for the XR Startup Programme _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

Note:

- It includes an Accelerator and a Grand Challenge.
- Aim: To boost the emerging Tech ecosystem
- Out of the startups selected in the Accelerator Programme, over 30% are from tier II or tier III cities across India.
- It will discover, nurture, and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) Technology startups and innovators.

32. What is the new name of the iconic Mughal Gardens in Rashtrapati Bhavan _____ **Amrit Udyan.**

Note:

- It would be open to the public from 31st January to 26 March 2023.
- This decision is said to be part of the government of India's 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The cluster of about 15 gardens will collectively be known as Amrit Udyan.
- Individual gardens within the sprawling Presidential Estate - Herbal Garden, Musical Garden, and Spiritual Garden - will retain their names.

33. Which car manufacturing company will use cow dung to power its CNG cars _____ **Suzuki Motor Corporation.**

Note:

- Suzuki signed an MoU with Asia's largest dairy manufacturer, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- Suzuki has invested in Fujisan Asagiri Biomass which generates power from biogas derived from cow dung in Japan.
- The biogas could be used for Suzuki's CNG models which account for approximately 70 percent of the CNG car market in India.

34. According to the latest ranking by the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF), which instituted is the best college to pursue the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course in India _____ **IIM Ahmedabad.**

Note:

- IIM Ahmedabad is followed by IIM Bengaluru and IIM Kolkata at second and third spots, respectively.
- Among private colleges, the Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur has topped the rankings.

35. India signed an MoU with which country to facilitate content exchange and Co-Productions between Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority _____ **Egypt.**

Note:

- It was signed by Anurag Singh Thakur (I&B Minister) and Sameh Hassan Shoukry (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt).
- Aim: To expand the reach of DD India Channel to showcase the country's progress through programmes.
- It will be valid for three years and will also facilitate co-productions and training of the officials.

36. Atal Innovation Mission and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have collaborated with which software organization to bring a change in the education sector _____ **Intel India.**

Note:

- They will embed future skills such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Tinkering in the formal curriculum.
- Aim: To align the National Education Policy 2020's guidance to increase the pace of tech integration for youth, the need to bridge the future skills gap in the country, and optimize the current infrastructure.



37. India and which country signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce 12 African Cheetahs annually over the next eight to ten years _____ **South Africa**.

Note:

- An initial batch of 12 cheetahs will be flown from South Africa to India in February 2023.
- The cats will join eight Cheetah brought to India from Namibia in 2022.
- Aim: To reintroduce cheetah to a former range state is being carried out following the local extinction of this iconic species due to overhunting and loss of habitat

38. SAMEER has signed a memorandum of understanding with Siemens Healthineers to make available low-cost MRIs, a step towards affordable healthcare, and diagnostic access for every Indian. In this context, what is the full form of SAMEER _____ **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research**.

Note:

- SAMEER is specialized in RF Microwaves Radar and Communication Systems.
- It is India's premier R&D Institute of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

39. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed an MoU with which organisation for the manufacture of high-quality marine diesel engines at the former's plant in Ranchi _____ **Rolls Royce Solutions**.

Note:

- The MoU deals with the transfer of technology related to engine assembly, painting, parts sourcing, and after-sales service for these engines.
- Both will co-operate in the license production and localization of the technologically advanced MTU S4000 governmental marine engines.

40. Which organization has hosted the 2nd International Conference in New Delhi, India from 23-24 January 2023 with the theme of Use of Technology and Elections Integrity _____ **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.

Note:

- The two-day international conference was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar.
- Around 43 Participants from 17 Countries including Angola, Argentina, Australia, Croatia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, and Suriname have joined the conference.

41. The Smart Cities CEOs Conference on Data and Technology was organised in which state of India _____ **Panaji, Goa**.

Note:

- The two-day conference was organized by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in coordination with Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL).
- The conference has witnessed the participation of Chief Executive Officers/Municipal Commissioners of 100 Smart Cities.

42. The 30th National Child Science Congress was organized in which state of India _____ **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

Note:

- It is being organized at Science City and will conclude on 31st January 2023.
- Focal theme: Understanding Ecosystem for Mental and Wellbeing
- The program is being hosted by the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology, the Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education.
- More than 1400 delegates including child scientists and government officials will attend the congress.



43. Which edition of BRICS summit will be held in Durban, South Africa in August 2023 _____ **15th.**

Note:

- It was announced by the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov in a joint conference with Foreign Minister of the State of Eritrea Osman Saleh in Massawa, Eritrea.
- The fifth annual BRICS summit was held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
- BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

44. The 3rd INTERPOL Young Global Police Leaders Programme (YGPLP) is being organized from 25 January to 2 February 2023 in which state of India _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- It was virtually addressed by INTERPOL Secretary General, Jurgen Stock.
- The event was organized by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- As many as 59 participants from 44 countries participate in the programme.

45. The first Employment Working Group Meeting under the Sherpa track of the G20 will be held from February 2 to 4 in which city _____ **Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**

Note:

- Focus areas: Addressing Global Skill Gaps, Gig and Platform Economy and Social Protection, and Sustainable Financing of Social Security.
- The city has been decorated with Rajasthani culture and a special theme.

46. The first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency has organized in which city of India _____ **Chandigarh.**

Note:

- The meeting was inaugurated by Union agriculture minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, and food processing industries minister, Pashupati Kumar Paras
- Focus: On strengthening the international financial architecture.

47. National Centre for Good Governance Director General has addressed a Conference on "Water Security for high Economic Growth and Prosperity" at the 14th South Asia Conference on Think20@G20, New Delhi. Who is he _____ **Bharat Lal.**

Note:

- The "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" drive under Jal Jeevan Mission will be completed by 2024.
- It is being implemented in a unique bottom-up and decentralized approach by mobilizing Village Water and Sanitation Committees to manage the village water supply infrastructure.

48. The Central Government has sanctioned 2,600 crore rupees to Uttarakhand under the RDSS. In this context, what is the full form of RDSS _____ **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.**

Note:

- Reason: For the construction of new power lines, sub-stations, and underground power lines
- Aim: To strengthen the power supply system, the capacity of sub-stations will be increased in several districts including Dehradun
- All power lines in Haldwani will be underground
- The State's project has been approved in the Regional Power Committee meeting

Important News – State

1. Which state has become the first State in India to implement a blindness control policy to ensure the "right to sight" _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- This drive aims to reduce the rate of blindness and bring light into the lives of people suffering from visual impairment
- The prevalence rate of blindness was 1.1% in 2020, aimed to bring it down to 0.3% through the policy
- The State government would mandatorily run keratoplasty centres for cornea transplants and eye banks in medical colleges



2. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which state government for the development of Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects in the state _____ **Tripura**.

Note:

- This MoU was signed by Rajiv Gupta (Chief GM, NTPC REL) and Mahananda Debbarma (DG and CEO, Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency).
 - It also embarks upon the journey towards the development of large-sized Renewable Energy Projects in Tripura.
3. Which state government launched its first major education project, 'Schools of Eminence' on 21st January 2023 _____ **Punjab**.

Note:

- It will be launched at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali.
 - Under the project, the state government will upgrade existing govt schools into 'Schools of Eminence' for classes 9 to 12.
 - Under phase 1, the govt plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as 'Schools of Eminence'.
 - The Punjab govt had set aside a fund of Rs 200 crore for this project.
4. Kanti Velugu initiative was launched by which state government _____ **Telangana**.

Note:

- Telangana CM, K Chandrasekhar Rao launched the second phase of 'Kanti Velugu' initiative in Khammam district on January 18, 2023.
 - It is considered to be the world's largest eye screening programme.
 - It is a free eye screening programme
 - It will be organized at the special health camps for 100 days with 1500 medical teams
 - 1st phase: It was conducted for eight months by 827 health teams
 - The health camps will commence on January 19 in the rest of the state.
5. Which state government has signed a deal with Taiwan's Gogoro and automotive system maker Belrise Industries for an investment of \$2.5 billion for eight years _____ **Maharashtra**.

Note:

- Reason: To establish batteries as a leading source for mobility and energy storage in Maharashtra
 - Gogoro is known for its green-hued battery swap distribution network for riders in Taiwan.
 - India's Belrise Industries Ltd produces about one-third of all two-wheel and three-wheel chassis made in the country.
6. Which state observed the third edition of the annual Orange festival 2023 at Rusoma village _____ **Nagaland**.

Note:

- The two-day festival was organized in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Resources, and Kohima Smart City.
 - Aim: To recognize and celebrate the hard work of the orange growers.
 - It also facilitates the market linkages to sell their produce at one hub.
7. Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated an 'International Craft Summit' in which city of Odisha _____ **Jajpur**.

Note:

- This is the first-of-its-kind craft summit featuring a confluence of pioneering craftspeople, culture, and art enthusiasts.
 - International delegates from 15 countries have joined with the local artisans and other stakeholders.
 - Four UN agencies and five UNESCO Creative Cities have partnered with the District to realize this event on behalf of the State Government.
8. Which state government is planning to make the state as the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025 _____ **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note:

- The state government would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24.



- He also directed HIMURJA to ensure 5% premium for the state in each solar power project up to 5 MW and 10% share in the solar power projects of more than 5 MW capacity.
- 9. The annual Ethnic Mamani Festival was organized at Historical Styangkung Village and Chiktan Shagaran by the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and which state/UT tourism department _____ **Ladakh**.

Note:

- This village is being developed as one of the well-maintained heritage villages in Ladakh.
 - During Mamani, people would exchange food with their relatives and neighbours and worship a variety of spirits.
 - These festivals have helped in the revival of more than 35 cuisines of Kargil Ladakh
10. The Governor of Punjab, Banwari Lal Purohit inaugurated North India's largest floating Solar project of 2000kWp at Water Works in which city _____ **Chandigarh**.

Note:

- He has also inaugurated a 500kWp floating Solar Project with Fountains at Dhanas Lake in Chandigarh.
 - These projects were designed and executed by CREST (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society).
 - It will generate a minimum of 35 Lac Units(kWh) of Solar Energy per year with 20% module efficiency.
11. Which state government in association with the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has decided to conduct a 'Trees Outside Forest' (TOF) field survey _____ **Bihar**.

Note:

- Aim: To identify the dominant tree species that are growing outside the recorded forest areas (RFA)
 - As per the FSI India State of Forest Report, 2021, Bihar has registered an increase of 3.79% in growing stock in RFA and 0.58% in TOF
 - The overall tree cover has also increased in the state from 2,003 sq km in 2019 to 2,341 sq km in 2021
12. Which state cabinet has cleared the inclusion of 22 castes in the list of Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC) _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- The state government has approved the proposed Amendment of the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 by inserting subsection 3 under Section 9
 - This enables the State Government to include such Backward Classes in the State list of SEBCs
 - Article 15(4): It enables the State to make any special provisions for the advancement of any SEBC
13. Which state government approved a state floriculture mission with an initial investment of Rs 150 crore that covers 20,000 farmers _____ **Assam**.

Note:

- The cabinet has also approved several other essential decisions including setting up a different CM secretariat at Dibrugarh and building a new Raj Bhavan in Tezpur.
 - Under State Floriculture Mission, the flower cultivation area will be expanded from 2,200 hectares to 3,288 hectares within three years.
14. Which state/UT government has inaugurated a "super site" and a mobile van to collect real-time pollution data and tell its constituents _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- Delhi would become the first city in the country to get a real-time source segmentation of air pollution.
- It will identify factors that are responsible for the increase in air pollution in Delhi.
- The project has been initiated by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, and TERI.

Important News – World

1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) awarded \$ 425 million to which aircraft industry company for the agency's sustainable flight demonstrator project _____ **Boeing**.

Note:

- Boeing and NASA will work together to build, test, and fly a full-scale demonstrator aircraft.
- They will also validate technologies, that aimed to lower emissions.



- NASA will invest \$425 million and the remaining amount of the agreement funding (estimated at 725 million dollars) will be contributed by the Boeing and its partners.
- 2. During the visit to Maldives, EAM Dr. S Jaishankar announced an additional grant of how much Maldivian Rufiyaa for community development projects in Maldives _____ **100 Million Maldivian Rufiyaa.**

Note:

- He also witnessed an MoU between Maldivian National University and Kochi University of Science & Technology.
- He has also announced that India has handed over two sea ambulances to help the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).
- India has completed 23 out of 45 impactful community development projects.
- 3. Which mobile application was fined 5.5 million euros (\$5.95 million) by the Data Privacy Commissioner (DPC) of Ireland for an additional breach of the EU's privacy laws _____ **WhatsApp.**

Note:

- The DPC acts as the EU's lead privacy regulator for Meta.
- The DPC has issued a similar order to Meta's other main platforms, Facebook and Instagram, which stated Meta must reassess the legal basis upon which it targets advertising through the use of personal data.
- 4. How many Indian companies have been featured in the list of the world's top 10 most valuable IT service brands list, released by Brand Finance's rankings for 2023 _____ **Four.**

Note:

- Four Indian companies are TCS (2), Infosys (3), HCLTech (8), and Wipro (9).
- While Accenture has succeeded in retaining its position as the most valuable IT services brand for the fifth consecutive year.
- While IBM ranked fourth followed by Capgemini, NTT Data, Cognizant.
- 5. According to the report, released by the Dealroom and London & Partners, India ranked ____ globally with USD \$24.1\$ billion worth of venture capital (VC) investments in 2022 _____ **4th.**

Note:

- The United States of America (USA) with a USD \$233.3\$ billion tech investment topped the list, followed by China (USD 48 billion) and the United Kingdom (UK) (USD \$29.9\$ billion).
- As per the research, USD \$10.7\$ billions of the total tech investment to India went into Bengaluru-based companies.
- 6. Name the Indian, who has been ranked second on Brand Finance's list of the world's top CEOs _____ **Mukesh Ambani**

Note:

- Top performer of Brand Guardianship Index 2023: Jensen Huang (Nvidia CEO).
- The Index was released annually by brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance, celebrates CEOs who balance the needs of commercial success with long-term brand building and personal reputation management.
- Satya Nadella has been slipped to 3rd place, followed by Sundar Pichai.
- 7. Which country's government has declared a medical emergency in the Yanomami territory, after the reports of children dying of malnutrition and other diseases caused by illegal gold mining _____ **Brazil.**

Note:

- Reason: To restore health services to the Yanomami people that had been dismantled by the previous government.
- The government announced food packages that be provided to the Yanomamis lives in a region of rainforest and tropical savanna the size of Portugal.
- 8. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had designated the historic center of Odesa as a World Heritage in Danger site. This is located in which country _____ **Ukraine.**



Note:

- The status was awarded by a UNESCO panel meeting in Paris.
- This status will help to protect Odesa's cultural heritage, which has been under threat since Russia's invasion and enable access to financial and technical international aid.

Honor & Awards

1. R'Bonney Gabriel is associated with which country who has been crowned the Miss Universe 2022 at the 71st Miss Universe pageant organized in New Orleans, Louisiana ____ **USA**.

Note:

- She is a model, fashion designer, and sewing instructor who prioritizes the environment in her work.
 - She is also the first Filipino American to win Miss USA.
 - Amanda Dudamel from Venezuela was the first runner-up, and Andreína Martínez from the Dominican Republic was the second runner-up.
2. DNPA has announced Digital Impact awards 2023 in eight categories. What is the full form of DNPA ____ **Digital News Publishers Association**.

Note:

- The Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) has announced Digital Impact awards 2023 in eight categories.
 - Categories (Best Use of Digital Media):
 - For Health – CoWIN App
 - For Women & Child Welfare Reforms – (A) Poshan Tracker App, (B) Himmat Plus Ap
 - For Ease of Living – Digilocker
 - For Financial Reforms – PMJDY
 - For Human Resource Development & Education – DIKSHA
 - For Sustainability and Environment Protection – CAMPA
3. Name the writer who won the first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha' ____ **K Venu**.

Note:

- The award was presented by the chairman and independent director of the Federal Bank, Balagopal Chandrasekhar.
 - It was presented at an event held as part of the ongoing sixth edition Kerala Literature Festival, Kozhikode beach.
 - The prize money was handed over by Nandakumar V (executive vice-president of the bank).
4. Which Indian film has won the Critics Choice Awards 2023 in the Best Foreign Language Film category ____ **RRR**.

Note:

- India's 'RRR' directed by SS Rajamouli has won the Critics Choice Awards 2023 in the Best Foreign Language Film category and Best Song category for 'Naatu Naatu'
 - Television:
 - Best Actor: Bob Odenkirk (Best Drama Series: Better Call Saul)
 - Best Actress: Zendaya (Euphoria)
 - Film:
 - Best Actor: Brendan Fraser (The Whale as Charlie)
 - Best Actress: Cate Blanchett (Tár)
 - Best Director: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (Best Movie: Everything Everywhere All at Once)
5. Which bank was awarded the Best Small Bank Award 2022 under the category of banks with a book size of less than ₹1 lakh crore, in the Best Banks Survey for the year 2022 conducted by Business Today-KPMG ____ **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)**.



Note:

- The award was presented by Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari to S.Krishnan (TMB MD and CEO).
 - TMB was awarded under the category of banks with a book size of less than ₹1 lakh crore.
 - BT-KPMG: It is conducting BT-KPMG Best banks survey and awarding the best banks with 37 parameters.
6. The writer of the book titled, 'Broke to Breakthrough' has won Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2022. Who is he _____ **Harish Damodaran.**

Note:

- This book is a detailed and perceptive account of the rise of dairy company Hatsun Agro and its founder R.G. Chandramogan.
 - Gaja Capital Business Book Prize:
 - It was instituted in 2019.
 - Aim: To encourage Indian entrepreneurs, writers, and journalists to tell stories
7. "Naanera" has won the 'Golden Kailasha' award for the best movie at the 8th Ajanta-Ellora film festival. This movie belongs to which regional cinema _____ **Rajasthani.**

Note:

- It was directed by Deepankar Prakash.
 - It has also bagged awards for best director, best screenplay, and best editor.
 - Best Actress: Akshatha Pandavapura
 - Best Actor: Jeetu Kamal (Bengali film: Aparajito)
 - As many as 55 films were screened in this five day film festival.
8. Dr Sanduk Ruit, who won the top civilian award of Bahrain, the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, is associated with which country _____ **Nepal.**

Note:

- He is a co-founder of the Himalayan Cataract Project.
 - He is a pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps.
 - The award carries a cash prize (\$1 million), a certificate, and a gold medal
 - He was awarded the Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia (2007), the Ramon Magsaysay Award (2006), and Padma Shri (2018).
9. Who was awarded the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award _____ **Dr. Prabha Atre.**

Note:

- The award was conferred by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde to her, at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan in Mumbai.
 - She was also presented with a citation and Rs 1 lakh.
 - She is an Indian classical vocalist from the Kirana Gharana.
 - She has been awarded Padma Shri (1990), Padma Bhushan (2002), and Padma Vibhushan (2022) by the Government of India.
10. Which Indian movie was awarded for the best script writer in the Asian Film Competition section at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival organized from 14-22 Jan 2023 _____ **Aparajito.**

Note:

- Aparajito (directed by: Anik Dutta) won the best scriptwriting award.
- Ketaki Narayan won the best actress award for Prappeda (directed by: Krishnendu Kalesh).
- Best Actor: Japanese Ikkei Watanabe (for Nakodo- Matchmakers)
- Best Director: Iranian Ali Ghavitan (for Zendegi va Zendegi)



11. Which bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions to advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth ____ **ESAF Small Finance Bank.**

Note:

- K. Paul Thomas (MD and CEO, ESAF Bank) received the award from Anantha Nageswaran (Chief Economic Advisor) at the 19th Inclusive Finance India Summit in New Delhi.
- This award recognized ESAF's unique spectrum of Financial Inclusion projects ESAF Dhansree, and ESAF Udyog Jyothi.

12. How many exceptional children were awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2023 by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd January 2023? ____ **11**

Note:

- The awards are conferred upon children in the age group 5 – 18 years.
- This award is given in six categories - Art & Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Scholastic, Social Service, and Sports.
- Each awardee of PMRBP is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh and a Certificate.

13. In January 2023, who was awarded the "most distinguished scientist of the year 2022" award at the Indian Achievers Award ceremony held in Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi ____ **R Vishnu Prasad.**

Note:

- The award recognized individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation.
- He contributed to smart cities, solid waste management, large-scale water treatment, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

14. Who won the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the year 2022 ____ **Ben Stokes.**

Note:

- England all-rounder, Nat Sciver won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2022.
- Other winners (Cricketer of the Year 2022):
- Women's ODI: Nat Sciver
- Men's ODI: Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- Women's T20: Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
- Men's T20: Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy: Babar Azam

15. How many Padma Awards 2023 were announced on the eve of the 74th Republic Day ____ **106.**

Note:

- Of the 106 Padma awards, six are Padma Vibhushan, nine are Padma Bhushan and 91 are Padma Shri.
- Nineteen of the Padma awardees are women.
- ORS pioneer, Dilip Mahalanobis will be awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in the field of Medicine (Pediatrics).
- Mulayam Singh Yadav will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously in the field of public affairs.

16. How many gallantry awards and other Defence decorations were awarded to Armed Forces personnel and others by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu ____ **412.**

Note:

- These awards include six Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras.
- It also includes one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals.
- President has also awarded President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to ICG Personnel.



17. Which railway station of East Coast Railway has been awarded the 'Green Railway Station Certification with the highest rating of Platinum' _____ **Visakhapatnam railway station.**

Note:

- The award was presented by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- Reason: For adopting green concepts and reducing the adverse environmental impact.
- Visakhapatnam is one of the few railway stations to get this prestigious certificate.
- It has secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.

18. Who has claimed the inaugural Shane Warne Award as the men's Test player of the year in 2023 _____ **Usman Khawaja.**

Note:

- He has been Australia's top run-scorer in the five-day format since rejoining the Test team, with 1020 runs at 78.46 during the voting period.
- Belinda Clark Award (Women's): Beth Mooney
- Allan Border Medal (Men's): Steve Smith
- Men's ODI Player of the Year: David Warner
- Women's ODI Player of the Year: Beth Mooney

Sports News

1. Name the Indian duo in tennis who won the men's double Bangkok Open title 2023 organized at Nonthaburi, Thailand _____ **Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni.**

Note:

- They defeated Christopher Rungkat and Akira Santillan (Indonesian-Australian team).
 - With this win, Yuki will get a career-high doubles rank of 90 and Saketh should also touch a career-best 74 in the ATP doubles chart.
 - They will next compete in the Australian Open where they have been given a wild card entry.
2. Yonex- Sunrise India Open 2023, also known as India Open, is being organized in which sports complex from 17-22 January 2023 _____ **KD Jadhav Indoor Hall.**

Note:

- The tournament organized at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall.
 - Since 2008, it will be the first time when India Open is organized in the super 750 status category.
 - The tournament will see some top players from 29 countries, and a total of 97 players will compete in various categories.
3. Which media company has won the bid for the media rights for the Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years _____ **Viacom 18.**

Note:

- The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Mumbai.
 - BCCI will launch the Women's Indian Premier League in March 2023.
 - The detailed terms and conditions governing the tender process including eligibility requirements etc. are contained in the 'Invitation to Tender' (ITT).
4. Who won the men's singles Malaysia Open title 2023, after defeating Kodai Naraoka from Japan _____ **Viktor Axelsen.**

Note:

- While Akane Yamaguchi (Japanese player) lifted the title in the women's final, after beating South Korea's An Se-young.
 - Men's doubles: Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia)
 - Women's doubles: Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)
 - Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)
5. Name the India cricketer who become the fifth Indian player to score a double-hundred in the One Day International (ODI) match against New Zealand _____ **Shubman Gill.**



Note:

- With this feat, he has broken several records including the fastest Indian to score 1,000 runs in ODI cricket (19 ODI innings).
 - He has also broken the records of Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli, who complete 1,000 runs in 24 innings.
 - He also broke Tendulkar's record of the highest individual score against New Zealand in an ODI.
6. Who has defeated Aditya Mehta by 9-6 to win the final of the 'Baulkline' NSCI All India Snooker Open 2023 _____ **Laxman Rawat of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB).**

Note:

- Cash prize: Rs 3 lakh (winner); Rs 1.5 lakh (Runner-up)
 - NSCI Snooker Open Crown is a snooker tournament, organized by the National Sports Club of India (NSCI).
 - This is open to players from all over India and features a best-of-17-frame final.
7. Which team has lifted the 14th CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2023 in the men's category, after defeating the Humas Warriors Drass _____ **Friends Pashkum.**

Note:

- While in the women's category, DownHill Kargil won the cup, after beating Wakha Mulbekh.
 - CEC LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad was the chief guest of this event.
 - The tournament was held in Ladakh and was participated by 27 teams, including 4 Women's teams.
 - The efforts of the Rural Development Dept and Youths service and Sports Dept were appreciated.
8. Who won the India Open title 2023 after defeating Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles of the India Open Badminton Championship, held at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi _____ **Kunlavut Vitidsarn.**

Note:

- While An Seyoung (Korean) won the Women's singles final after defeating Japanese Akane Yamaguchi.
 - Other winners (doubles):
 - Men's: Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang (China)
 - Women's: Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Japan)
9. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a partnership with which foundation for its development programs and FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela as a Global Partner _____ **JSP Foundation.**

Note:

- FIH will be working closely with JSP Foundation for some of its key initiatives for hockey development.
 - JSP Foundation is the social arm of Jindal Steel & Power.
10. Which men's cricket team has become the No. 1 team in the ICC ODI rankings after defeating New Zealand by 90 runs _____ **India.**

Note:

- India won the first match by 12 runs in Hyderabad and the second match by 8 wickets in Raipur.
 - This was India's second consecutive clean sweep after defeating Sri Lanka last week.
 - At present, England with 113 ratings placed second, followed by Australia (112), New Zealand (111), Pakistan (106), and South Africa (100).
11. In January 2023, which women's teams was sold for the highest price at the BCCI Women's IPL teams auction for the inaugural edition _____ **Adani Group.**

Note:

- Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Adani Group, and Capri Global won the bid for the inaugural edition.
- The teams will be based in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow respectively.
- The Ahmedabad team was sold for the highest price INR 1289 crore, followed by Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, and Lucknow.
- BCCI secretary, Jay Shah has confirmed that the total bids received from the winners were worth Rs 4,669.99 crore (USD 572.78 million).



12. India women's cricket team defeated which team by 7 wickets in the final to win the first-ever ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023, held in Potchefstroom, South Africa _____ **England**.

Note:

- BCCI secretary, Jay Shah announced a whopping cash reward of ₹5 crores for the entire India squad.
- England captain and stellar all-rounder, Grace Scrivens has been named Player of the Tournament.
- Player of the Match: Titas Sadhu (India)
- India's Captain for U-19 Women's T20: Shafali Verma

13. Who defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas to win Men's singles 2023 Australian Open title in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia _____ **Novak Djokovic**.

Note:

- It is the 10th Australian Open championship and 22nd Grand Slam title (overall) of Novak Djokovic.
- While Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) won the Women's singles.
- Men's doubles: Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler (Australia)
- Women's doubles: Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)

14. Which country lifted the title of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India _____ **Germany**.

Note:

- Germany defeated Belgium by 5-4 in the penalty shootout.
- With this win, Germany became the fourth team to have won three or more hockey World Cup titles, after Pakistan, Netherlands, and Australia.
- Best Player: Niklas Wellen (Germany)
- Best Goalkeeper: Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
- Best Junior Player: Mustapha Cassiem
- Fair Play Award: Belgium

15. Which edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 started at TT Nagar Stadium in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **Fifth**.

Note:

- The event was inaugurated by Anurag Singh Thakur (Union sports minister) and MP CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- The event will be continued till February 11 in eight cities of MP (Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Mandla, Balaghat, and Maheshwar)
- The Khelo India Youth Games was started in 2018

16. Which country's cricket board introduced the Debbie Hockley Medal annual awards ceremony, to honour the outstanding female cricketer of the year _____ **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)**.

Note:

- The medal will be the women's equivalent of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal.
- Debbie is the only woman to have won the supreme New Zealand Cricketer of the Year Award in 1998.
- She was the fourth woman to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- She was also the first woman to be elected President of NZC.

17. Murali Vijay (38) announced his retirement. He was associated with which sports _____ **Cricket**.

Note:

- He last represented India in 2018 against Australia in the Perth Test.
- He had played 61 Tests, 17 ODIs, and 9 T20Is for India since making his debut in November 2008 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.
- He scored 3,982 runs for India in the longest format that including 12 centuries and 15 fifties.

Books and Authors

1. Who is a writer of a book titled 'COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team' _____ **R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar**.

Note:

- The book reflects primarily on R. Sridhar's seven-year coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.



- This book isn't as technical as it is anecdotal.
2. Who authored a new book titled "The Poverty Of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor" _____ **Meghnad Desai**.

Note:

- This book highlighted how the discipline of economics, since the time it evolved from the late 18th century, systematically kept the interests of the poor at the periphery.
- The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers India

3. Who authored a book titled "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn" _____ **Dr Ashwin Fernandes**.

Note:

- This book was launched by Honourable Minister of Education of India Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.
- It was launched focuses on India's knowledge supremacy, journey showcasing changing trends in newly emerging India.

4. Who authored a book titled 'COACHING BEYOND: My Days _____ **R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar**.

Note:

- The book has reflected primarily on R. Sridhar's seven-year coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.
- It throws light for instance, on how Virat Kohli overcame a dismal Test series in England in 2014 to smash four hundred in as many matches in his next overseas outing, in Australia.

Science and Defence

1. European officials and Carl XVI Gustaf (Swedish King) have inaugurated the first mainland orbital launch complex of the European Union in which country _____ **Sweden**.

Note:

- Aim: To bolster the capacity to launch small satellites into space with a new launchpad in Arctic Sweden.
- The new facility should complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana.

2. Astronomers from McGill University in Canada and which institute detected a radio signal, originating from atomic hydrogen in a distant galaxy _____ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**.

Note:

- The signal was detected with the help of data from the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune.
- The findings have been published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.
- It is also the first confirmed detection of strong lensing of 21 cm emission from a galaxy.
3. According to a report, the Shukrayaan I, the ISRO Venus mission may be delayed until which year _____ **2031**.

Note:

- The mission was scheduled to launch in December 2024
- The concept was conceived in 2012
- After five years, the Department of Space received a 23% increase in the 2017-2018 budget and ISRO started preliminary investigations
- The best time to launch from Earth to Venus is once every 19 months or thereabouts
4. Which Indian institute incubated firm has developed an Indigenous Mobile Operating System named 'BharOS' _____ **IIT Madras**.

Note:

- About BharOS:
- It can be installed on commercial off-the-shelf handsets.
- It provides access to trusted apps from organization-specific Private App Store Services (PASS).
- It comes with No Default Apps (NDA), which means that users are not forced to use apps that they may not be familiar with or that they may not trust.



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5. A Science Literature Festival 'Vigyanika' will be organized from 22-23 January 2023 at the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) in which state of India _____ **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- "Science Literature Festival" is being organized as part of the 8th IISF.
- In 2023, IISF is being coordinated and organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science & Technology, and Vijnana Bharati.
6. The Geotail spacecraft ended after 30 years in orbit due to the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder. This was a mission operation of NASA and which space agency _____ **JAXA.**

Note:

- Reason: Failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder.
- This mission was launched on July 24, 1992.
- Geotail orbited Earth had gathered an immense dataset on the structure and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble.
- It was originally slated for a four-year run, but the mission was extended due to its high-quality data return.
7. The fifth and last vessel of the series of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV), the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship 'Kamla Devi' was commissioned at Kolkata, West Bengal. It was designed, built, and delivered by which ship building and repairing company _____ **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.**

Note:

- ICGS Kamla Devi:
- It is 48.9 meters long and 7.5 meters wide with a displacement of 308 Tons.
- It has three engines and water jets.
- It is capable of a top speed of 34 knots and an endurance of over 1,500 nautical miles.
8. Which edition of the bilateral naval exercise between India and France 'VARUNA' was organized on the Western Seaboard from 16 -20 January 2023 _____ **21st.**

Note:

- It will witness advanced air defense exercises, tactical manoeuvres, surface firings, underway replenishment, and other maritime operations.
- This exercise will provide an opportunity to learn best practices from each other.
- It was initiated in 1993 and was christened 'VARUNA' in 2001.
9. Which edition of "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" was organized by the Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command from October 2022 to January 2023 _____ **Second.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide a platform to identify indigenous talent in niche domains and enhance the standard of training in domains of Cyber Deterrence, Security Software Coding, Electro Magnetic Spectrum Operations.
10. The 14th edition of Aero India 2023 will be held in which city from 13-17 February 2023 _____ **Yelahanka, Bengaluru.**

Note:

- This event will be a combination of the major trade exhibition of the aerospace and defence industries as well as an aerial display by IAF.
- It will also be participated by global leaders and big investors in the aerospace industry.
- This platform provides a unique opportunity for the exchange of information, and new developments in the aviation industry.
11. Which space agency will launch Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) from the agency's spaceport in French Guiana in April 2023 _____ **European Space Agency.**

Note:

- Aim: To explore the large, frigid worlds that orbit Jupiter, Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa
- Ariane 5 will carry the satellite.
- JUICE will be the first satellite from the earth to enter the orbit of Ganymede.



- If launched in April 2023, the satellite is expected to enter Jupiter orbit by 2034 and will be deorbited in 2035.

12. NASA and which military's research and development agency will join hands to develop nuclear-powered rockets that could fly astronauts to Mars _____ **DARPA**.

Note:

- This mission could allow spacecraft to travel faster, reduce transit time, and have other benefits
- US Space agency could develop and demonstrate advanced nuclear thermal propulsion technology as soon as 2027
- NASA also believes that they could be ready to send humans to Mars by the late 2030s

13. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the Aditya-L1 mission by which year _____ **June or July 2023**.

Note:

- Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona.
- The ISRO recently received the Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC), which is the primary payload onboard Aditya-L1, from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).
- VELC is the first scientific mission of India for studying the sun.

14. Which edition of Kalvari class submarine INS Vagir has been inducted into Indian Navy on January 23, 2023 _____ **Fifth**.

Note:

- It was built by Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in collaboration with the France-based Naval Group.
- It was commissioned by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- It will boost the capabilities of the Indian Navy as it is capable of undertaking diverse missions including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, etc.

15. The Indian Navy has organized a six-day-long mega biennial tri-services amphibious exercise 'AMPHEX 2023' in which state of India _____ **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- The military exercise was organized between the Indian Navy, Army, and IAF.
- It included complex activities in all domains that demonstrated and validated the high level of preparedness and excellent coordination
- It took place amid growing concerns over China's increasing military forays into the Indian Ocean

16. Which paramilitary force started an "Ops Alert" exercise with an aim to enhance security along the India-Pakistan border in the Kutch district of Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan _____ **Border Security Force (BSF)**.

Note:

- As per the release, this exercise commenced on January 21 and will continue till January 28 along the International Border from Sir Creek (marshy area).

It is being carried out to "thwart any ill-designs of anti-national elements" during the Republic Day celebrations.



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