

# Weekly One-liners

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15-21 February 2023



## Weekly One Liners Updates 15 -21st February 2023

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liners Update** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the third week (15-21st) of February 2023. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which bank has signed an MoU with Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) to help dealer partners streamline vehicle inventory funding \_\_\_\_\_ **South Indian Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - Under this partnership, they will also offer convenient and comprehensive retail financing solutions to their customers.
  - It will cater to the business requirements of both companies and produce a significant synergistic effect.
  - South Indian Bank MD and CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan; Headquarters: Thrissur
2. Which bank has proposed to sell its entire stake of 9.95% (1,65,731 shares) in Softcell Technologies Global Pvt Ltd for ₹9.94 crore at ₹600.36 per share \_\_\_\_\_ **HDFC Bank**.  
**Note:**
  - In 2020, HDFC Bank sold a 2.05% stake (34,150 shares) in Softcell for Rs 1.47 crore.
  - Softcell was founded on 6h September 2018 to sell Information Technology products and offers software and related services.
  - HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan; Headquarters: Mumbai
3. IICI Bank and which European bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding to fulfill the banking needs of European corporates operating in India and Indian companies in the European Union \_\_\_\_\_ **BNP Paribas**.  
**Note:**
  - This MoU will set up a framework between the two banks for providing financial services to corporate customers operating in the India–Europe corridor.
  - BNP Paribas Group has been in India since 1860.
  - BNP Paribas provides a wide range of financial services.
4. Which edition of the global hackathon -- 'HARBINGER 2023 - Innovation for Transformation' has been announced by the RBI \_\_\_\_\_ **Second**.  
**Note:**
  - Theme: Inclusive Digital Services
  - Aim: To develop solutions that have the potential to make digital financial services accessible
  - The RBI has invited innovative ideas in four segments.
    - Differently-abled
    - Facilitate efficient compliance
    - Extend the reach of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC)
    - Enhance the scalability of blockchains
5. RBI governor: Shaktikanta Das The Income Tax Department has notified the New ITR filing forms for individuals and businesses for Assessment Year 2023-24 (FY 2022-23). What is the full form of ITR \_\_\_\_\_ **Income Tax Return**.  
**Note:**
  - The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified six ITR forms - ITR-1 SAHAJ, ITR-2, ITR-3, ITR-4 SUGAM, ITR-5, ITR-6
  - The CBDT has also notified ITR-V (verification form), and ITR acknowledgment form.
  - The forms will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
  - CBDT Chairman: Nitin Gupta
6. Which bank has launched the facility of issuance of the e-BG (Electronic Bank Guarantee) scheme in association with the National e-Governance Services Ltd \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Overseas Bank**.  
**Note:**

- e-BG: An instrument issued by the bank in which the bank agrees to guarantee a particular sum in the event that the applicant fails to fulfill an action/performance.
  - It is a paperless mode with digital stamping and digital signature.
  - Real-time issuance would make it available for the beneficiary instantly.
7. Which financial company has introduced 'Vyapar Mitra Business Loans' to provide working capital and business loans to micro and small businesses like traders \_\_\_\_\_ **Muthoot FinCorp.**
- Note:**
- This new feature can offer business loans based on their daily cash flow without additional collateral.
  - Besides, one can receive a business loan without Income Tax Return (ITR) papers and no prior CIBIL score records.
  - Benefits: No prepayment charges, loan renewals up to three times a year, and simple and fast documentation
8. Which payment bank has launched the UPI LITE feature, which is enabled by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for multiple small-value UPI transactions \_\_\_\_\_ **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL).**
- Note:**
- The feature enables faster real-time transactions with a single click through Paytm.
  - Aim: To drive the adoption of digital payments across the country
  - UPI LITE was launched by the RBI in September 2022.
  - A UPI LITE wallet allows a user to do instant transactions of up to ₹200.
9. Which financial corporation has become the first company in India to launch and enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for foreign nationals visiting India \_\_\_\_\_ **EbixCash Limited.**
- Note:**
- It will offer UPI services to international delegates attending the G-20 summit, being held in India.
  - This facility will be enabled across all other entry points in the country.
  - It can be extended to foreign travelers after physical verification of the Passport and Visa of the customers at the point of issuance.
10. Which financial organization has received in-principle approval from RBI to operate as a payment aggregator \_\_\_\_\_ **CAMSPay.**
- Note:**
- It is a part of Chennai-based Computer Age Management Services (CAMS)
  - CAMS is India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds.
  - CAMSPAY is a payment platform specializing in solving the banking and finance services sector's payment challenges.
  - Payment aggregators are entities that on-board digital merchants and accept payments on their behalf after getting a licence.
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made necessary changes in NEFT and RTGS systems for FCRA related transactions. What is the full form of FCRA \_\_\_\_\_ **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.**
- Note:**
- Under the FCRA, foreign contributions must be received only in the "FCRA account" of the State Bank of India (SBI), New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB).
  - The contributions to the FCRA account are received directly from foreign banks through SWIFT and from Indian intermediary banks through NEFT and RTGS systems.
12. Who has been appointed as the member of the Advisory Committee on Reliance Capital by the Reserve Bank of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Bank of Baroda ED, Vikramaditya Singh Khichi.**
- Note:**
- The move follows the resignation of former Axis Bank Deputy MD Srinivasan Varadarajan.
  - The Advisory Committee on Reliance Capital was set up to advise the administrator of crisis-ridden Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital.
  - Other members: Sanjeev Nautiyal (former DMD, SBI) and Praveen P Kadle (former MD, Tata Capital).
13. Who has announced that the GST Council adopted the Group of Ministers (GoM) report on the GST Appellate Tribunal with certain modifications \_\_\_\_\_ **FM Nirmala Sitharaman.**
- Note:**
- The GoM on Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunals was set up under the chairmanship of Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala in July 2022.
- Suggestions:**
- The tribunals should consist of two judicial members.

- One technical member each from the Centre and States, besides a retired Supreme Court Judge as president.

14. GBBC Digital Finance has joined the IOSCO as an affiliate member. What is the full form of IOSCO \_\_\_\_\_  
**International Organisation of Securities Commissions.**

**Note:**

- GBBC Digital Finance has joined the Affiliate Members Consultative Committee, which is the 70th member of the committee.
- This committee contributes to IOSCO policy and standards development.
- IOSCO is a global organization that creates and advocates for global securities standards.
- It consists of 35 national securities regulators.

15. The first G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under the G20 Indian Presidency will be held on the 24th and 25th of February in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

**Note:**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will chair the meeting.
- It will see the participation of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G20 members, invitee members, and heads of International Organisations.

16. According to an analysis of the latest financial results of public sector banks (PSBs), which bank has emerged as the top performer in terms of loan growth percentage during the third quarter of 2022-23 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM).**

**Note:**

- The BoM recorded a 21.67% increase in gross advances on a year-on-year basis.
- BoM was followed by the Union Bank of India (19.80%) growth.
- While the State Bank of India (SBI) ranked fourth with 16.91% rise in advances growth.

17. The RBI issued the final guidelines on IRR in the Banking Book. What is the full form of IRR \_\_\_\_\_ **Interest Rate Risk.**

**Note:**

- Banks use this to measure, monitor, and disclose their exposure to IRRBB, which may impact the capital base and future earnings of lenders.
- IRRBB: The current or prospective risk to banks' capital and earnings arising from adverse movements in interest rates that affect their banking book positions.
- Excessive IRRBB: Risk to banks' current capital base and/or future earnings

18. Indian PM Narendra Modi and Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong witnessed the launch of the cross-border linkage between UPI and which payment system \_\_\_\_\_ **PayNow.**

**Note:**

- The launch was done by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and MD of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Ravi Menon.
- It enables residents of both countries to transfer cross-border remittances faster and more cost-efficient.
- It will also help the Indian diaspora in Singapore to transfer money from Singapore to India and vice-versa.

19. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of which co-operative bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Garha Co-operative Bank, Guna, Madhya Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Reason: The lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects
- About 98.4% of the depositors of the bank are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- The bank is prohibited from conducting various activities, such as acceptance, and repayment of deposits with immediate effect.

20. Which life insurance provider has launched Signature Guaranteed Income Plan \_\_\_\_\_ **Aviva Life Insurance.**

**Note:**

- It is a non-linked, non-participating savings life insurance plan, that helps build long-term wealth.
- It also helps customers save tax and guarantees a steady income stream in the long run.
- It aims to meet the diverse financial needs of policyholders at different phases of their lives.
- The options include Signature MoneyMaker, Signature Investor, Signature Builder, and Signature Saver.

## Obituaries

1. Javed Khan Amrohi, who passed away, was a noted \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor.**



**Note:**

- He was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor in 2001 for the film 'Lagaan'.
  - He worked in about 150 movies including Andaz Apna Apna (1994), and Chak De! India (2007).
  - He also worked in TV series such as Mirza Ghalib (directed by Gulzar) and Karim (the barber) in Nukkad (directed by Saeed Akhtar Mirza).
  - He was also a member of the acting faculty at the Zee Institute of Media Arts.
2. Balipa Narayana Bhagavatha, who passed away at 85, was a noted playback singer of which kind of music \_\_\_\_\_

**Noted Yakshagana Bhagavatha (playback singer).**

**Note:**

- He gained fame with his 'Balipa style' of singing.
  - His grandfather Balipa Narayana Bhagavatha was also a famous Bhagavatha who had first popularised the Balipa style of singing.
  - He has written more than 30 Yakshagana 'Prasanga' (scripts).
  - He was the chief Bhagwat of Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali (Kateel Mela).
3. Nandamuri Taraka Ratna, who passed away, was a well-known \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor and Politician.**

**Note:**

- He was the grandson of the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and founder of the TDP, N.T. Rama Rao.
  - He made his debut with Okato Number Kurraadu (2002) followed by Yuva Rathna (2003), Taarak (2003), and Bhadradri Ramudu.
  - He was also awarded the Nandi Award 2009 for Best Villain in Amaravathi.
4. Legendary manga artist, Leiji Matsumoto, who passed away, was a famous artist of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Tokyo, Japan.**

**Note:**

- His manga works Galaxy Express 999 and Space Pirate Captain Herlock were adapted into television anime series in the 1970s and became huge hits in and outside Japan.
  - Many of his manga was in the "battlefield comics" genre with more than 150 stories depicting the tragedy of war.
  - Mangas are comics or graphic novels originating from Japan.
5. Om Prakash Kohli, who passed away, was a former governor which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Gujarat Governor.**

**Note:**

- He joined the political arena in January 1991.
- He was the 19th Governor of Gujarat between 2014 and 2019 during the term of chief ministers Anandiben Patel and Vijay Rupani.
- He also held the additional charge as Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 2016 to 2018 and Goa governor for three weeks in 2014.
- He was a lecturer at Hansraj College and Deshbandhu College in Delhi.

**Important Days**

1. World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **February 20.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To raise a voice against social injustice and to bring together diverse communities to eradicate poverty, physical discrimination, gender inequalities, religious discrimination, and illiteracy.
  - Theme 2023: Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice
2. World Pangolin Day is observed annually on which day in February \_\_\_\_\_ **Third Saturday.**

**Note:**

- In 2023, this day falls on February 18.
  - Aim: To remember and celebrate pangolins, raise awareness, and fight against global pangolin capture in Africa and Asia.
  - Pangolin Day marks the 12th edition of the event.
3. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution from Jamaica to declare the first-ever Global Tourism Resilience Day on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **17th February.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To future-proof the sustainability of tourism.
- This day also aims to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable tourism, in accordance with local, regional, and national priorities and through education, activities, and events

4. International Childhood Cancer Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness and show support for children who are suffering from cancer \_\_\_\_\_ **February 15.**

**Note:**

- In 2021, the three-year campaign for International Childhood Cancer Day was started.
- The theme for the three-year campaign is 'Better Survival'.
- The campaign is an attempt to meet the WHO Global Childhood Cancer Initiative's goal of at least 60% of children diagnosed with cancer worldwide surviving by 2030.

5. India observed the 8th edition of the Soil Health Card Day on which date to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card Scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **19 February.**

**Note:**

- It provides information to farmers on the nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosages of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health.
- It also aims to provide financial assistance to farmers to apply corrective measures for deficiencies.
- In 2015, PM Modi has launched this scheme in Rajasthan.

6. International Mother Language Day is observed on every year which date to highlight the cultural and linguistic diversity in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **February 21.**

**Note:**

- Theme 2023: Multilingual education - a necessity to transform education
- This day was first initiated by Bangladesh and it was accepted at the UNESCO General Conference held in 1999.
- UNESCO decided to observe this day to understand the value of the mother tongue.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of YouTube \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian-American, Neal Mohan.**

**Note:**

- He will replace the current head, Susan Wojcicki, who will step down after 25 years.
- He joined Google in 2008, and later he was appointed chief product officer at YouTube in 2015.
- Prior to Google, he worked as a Senior Analyst at Accenture and later joined Microsoft.
- He is an MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

2. Who has been appointed as the managing director of Jaguar Land Rover India, effective from 1st March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajan Amba.**

**Note:**

- He will replace Rohit Suri, who announced his retirement from the position of MD and President in January 2023.
- Prior to this role, he worked as the Vice President - Sales, Marketing, and Customer Care of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.
- He has also worked as a Chief Operating Officer with Carat Lane (a subsidiary company of Titan).

3. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff \_\_\_\_\_ **Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar.**

**Note:**

- He is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) in the Army Headquarters.
- He will succeed Lt Gen B S Raju, who has been appointed as the Jaipur- headquartered South Western Army Commander.
- While Lt Gen NSR Subramani has been appointed as the next Central Army Commander in Lucknow.
- All the new appointments will come into effect on March 1.

4. The government has approved the appointment of an IAS officer of the 1987 batch of the Chhattisgarh cadre, BVR Subrahmanyam as the CEO of which organization \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog.**

**Note:**

- He would succeed Parameswaran Iyer, who has been appointed as executive director of the World Bank for a period of two years.
- Earlier, he served as the chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and Additional Chief Secretary (Home) in Chhattisgarh.
- He also served as private secretary to then PM Manmohan Singh from 2004 to 2008.

5. Who has been appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust \_\_\_\_\_ **Professor Meghana Pandit.**

**Note:**

- She becomes the first female chief of the trust.

- She is also the first person of Indian heritage to be appointed CEO of any National Health Service (NHS) trust in the Shelford Group.
6. Which male actor has been appointed as the National Ambassador of UNICEF India \_\_\_\_\_ **Ayushmann Khurrana**.
- Note:**
- The actor signed the contract in presence of a UNICEF representative.
  - He keeps up a strong voice for children's rights, especially for the most vulnerable supporting solutions for issues that impact them the most.

### Important News - India

1. According to the government data, which States/UTs allocated a higher portion of their budget expenditure on education \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Delhi spent 22% of its budget, while Assam spent 20% and HP spent 19%.
  - Among the big States, such as Chhattisgarh and Bihar allocate 18.82% and 18.3% respectively, of the State's estimated net budget expenditure to education.
  - Other allocations: Maharashtra: Rs 80,437; UP: Rs 75,165 crores; WB: Rs 43,466 crores
2. The government has approved Namami Gange Mission-II with a budgetary outlay of Rs.22,500 crore till which year \_\_\_\_\_ **2026**.
- Note:**
- It also includes the projects for existing liabilities of Rs.11,225 crore and new projects/interventions of ₹11,275 crore.
  - The Government has released a total of Rs.14,084.72 crore to the NMCG, from 2014-15 till 31st January 2023.
  - Out of which, NMCG has released Rs.13,607.18 crore to State Governments to implement Ganga-related projects.
3. The Union Cabinet has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Vibrant Villages Programme" for the Financial Years 2022-23 to which year with a financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore \_\_\_\_\_ **2025-26**.
- Note:**
- The scheme will provide funds for the development of essential infrastructure and the creation of livelihood opportunities.
  - In the first phase, 663 Villages will be taken up in the program.
  - Aim: To improve the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
4. The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi, has approved the signing MoU between India and which country for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied sectors \_\_\_\_\_ **Chile**.
- Note:**
- Main areas of cooperation: Agricultural policies for the development of modern agriculture; Organic agriculture to facilitate the bilateral trade of organic products; Promote innovation in the agricultural sector; Both countries will constitute a Chile-India Agricultural Working Group.
  - Chile Capital: Santiago
5. The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and which country for cooperation in the Disability Sector \_\_\_\_\_ **South Africa**.
- Note:**
- The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - Aim: To encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in India and South Africa
  - This MoU will strengthen the bilateral ties between India and South Africa.
  - South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart had a telephone conversation to discuss ways to further strengthen the growing relationship between both countries. Who is the PM of Spain \_\_\_\_\_ **Pedro Sánchez**.
- Note:**
- Both leaders discussed a number of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.
  - They also agreed to collaborate on issues such as digital infrastructure, climate action, clean energy transition, and sustainable development.
  - Spain Capital: Madrid
7. The I&B Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur has informed that the Union Cabinet has approved the construction of the Shinku La Tunnel in which state/UT \_\_\_\_\_ **Ladakh**.
- Note:**

- Reason: To provide all-weather connectivity in Ladakh region
  - The construction work of this 4.1-kilometer tunnel will be completed by December 2025.
  - The total expenditure on this project will be 1,681 crore rupees.
  - The tunnel will lead to the development of the region and boost the tourism, Health, and education sectors.
8. Name the national-level hackathon, which was launched in New Delhi to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions for addressing the cybersecurity and cybercrime challenges of the 21st century \_\_\_\_\_ **KAVACH-2023**.

**Note:**

- A 36-hour long event participated by youth from educational institutions and registered start-ups.
  - This Hackathon was jointly conducted by AICTE, the Bureau of Police Research and Development, and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.
  - Chairman, AICTE: T G Sitharam
9. Which Indian institute has developed an energy-efficient compressed air-based pipeline system \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur**.

**Note:**

- Reason: For transporting coal and minerals, offering round-the-clock monitoring with considerable savings in time and costs
  - The cargo-based hyperloop system was developed by Professor, Bishakh Bhattacharya, and research scientists, Kanhaiya Lal Chaurasia and Yashasvi Sinha.
  - It will address challenges such as material loss, uncertainty in delivery time, and air pollution.
10. Name the chatbot launched by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to help people get an answer to their queries related to the Aadhaar card \_\_\_\_\_ **Aadhaar Mitra**.

**Note:**

- The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-based chatbot can answer queries related to enrolment number, PVC Card order status, and complaint status.
  - It is available in both English and Hindi languages.
  - It also shows videos to help the users understand its features and how to use them.
11. Which AIIMS conducted a trial to test the feasibility of drones supplying medicines to primary health centers or smaller hospitals by Vertiplane X3 drone \_\_\_\_\_ **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Rishikesh**.

**Note:**

- This drone was used to deliver a 2kg package of anti-tubercular drugs to a district hospital in Tehri Garhwal during the trial.
  - The aerial distance of nearly 40 kilometers between the helipad at AIIMS and the hospital was covered in 30 minutes.
12. The UAE and India have launched the UIBCUC. What is the full form of UIBCUC \_\_\_\_\_ **UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To robust the economic ties and support their joint mission to increase bilateral trade and investment
  - Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi (UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade) has launched the UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC) in Dubai.
  - Shared Goals: To increase the bilateral trade to \$100 billion; To attract \$75 billion in investment from the UAE to India
13. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala launched the Sagar Parikrama Phase-III from which port \_\_\_\_\_ **Hazira Port, Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- It started towards the coastal line of Maharashtra at Satpati, Vasai, Versova, and Parikrama and ended at Sasson Dock, Mumbai.
  - Aim: To disseminate information on various fisheries-related schemes and programs being implemented by the government
  - It also aimed to promote responsible fisheries and protect marine ecosystems.
14. Union MoS, Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh announced that North India's first nuclear power plant would be set up in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Gorakhpur in Fatehabad district, Haryana**.

**Note:**

- The plant will be built on 560 hectares of land.
- Aim: To generate 2800 MW
- The first phase will be completed by 2025 and the second by 2028.
- As the second phase completes, the plant will be fully operational to generate 2800 MW.



- The project will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 20,594 crores.
15. Name the mobile application that was launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to streamline and expedite the police verification process for passport issuance \_\_\_\_\_ **mPassport Police App.**

**Note:**

- The App was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the 76th Raising Day Parade of Delhi Police.
- The mPassport Police App will cut the verification time period to 5 days.
- He also dedicated 350 mobile Tablets to personnel of the Delhi Police Special Branch, on the occasion of the force's Raising Day.

16. Name the Learning-Teaching Material that was launched by Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan \_\_\_\_\_ **Jaadui Pitara.**

**Note:**

- It was launched for the Foundational Stages of children.
- It is a unique initiative of the government that will help students of foundational stages to learn in a play-way method with ease.
- The Jaadui Pitara consists of playbooks, activity books, flashcards, posters depicting various stories, games, puzzles, puppets, and many more items.

17. Senior Janata Dal (United) leader, Upendra Kushwaha has resigned from all party positions and launched a new political party. What is the name his new party \_\_\_\_\_ **Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal (RLJD).**

**Note:**

- He has also resigned from the post of MLC.
- He was a key political aide of Nitish Kumar.
- He quit the JD(U) in 2013 to float Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP).
- He allied with the NDA and won the Lok Sabha polls a year later.

18. Which state/UT has created history by successfully conducting its maiden 21-km trail running event in sub-zero temperature at 13,862 feet high Pangong Tso \_\_\_\_\_ **Ladakh.**

**Note:**

- It was registered in the Guinness world record as the world's highest frozen lake half marathon.
- The four-hour-long marathon started from Lukung and ended at Maan village.
- Five energy stations, consisting of energy drinks, medical teams, oxygen support, and mobile ambulances were set up along the route.

19. Which trust has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Centre for Brain Research (CBR) for research, innovation, and translation in deep science \_\_\_\_\_ **Pratiksha Trust.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To support the fundamental and translational research on neurodegenerative diseases of the elderly population.
- For this research, Pratiksha Trust commit over 450 crore rupees over the next 10 years.
- Pratiksha Trust: It was established by Kris Gopalakrishnan and Sudha Gopalakrishnan.

20. The Central Water Commission (CWC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with which Indian institute for the development of the International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED) \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Roorkee.**

**Note:**

- The Centre will be developed under the externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and Phase III.
- It will remain valid for ten years or till the duration of the DRIP Phase-II and Phase-II Scheme, whichever is earlier, from the date of signing.

21. The FSSAI, and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Hyderabad (NIPER Hyderabad) signed a tripartite MoU with which ministry to create nutritional supplement testing capacity in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.**

**Note:**

- This will provide information & build awareness about the risks associated with the use of nutritional supplements.
- It also increases the research opportunities in the clean sport & anti-doping domain.

22. Which state/UT government has approved Rs 30.40 crore for the Sensor-based Smart Agriculture project \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Note:**

- It aims to integrate agriculture with technology driven by Artificial Insemination and IoT to automate practices, enhance resource use efficiency, and improve profitability.

- The project would enable the use of Hi-tech poly houses to cultivate cash crops around the year.
  - In J&K, over 70% of the economy is based on agriculture.
23. Minister of Tourism, G Kishan Reddy has announced that the Tourism Ministry will organize the first Global Tourism Investors' Summit from 17 to 19 May 2023 in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- Agenda: To showcase opportunities in the Tourism and hospitality sector.
  - This Summit will deliberate on potential opportunities for investment across tourism segments including hotels and restaurants and other related sectors.
  - He also informed that the govt is working to promote the Tourism sector.
24. Which country will host the Permanent Mission Roundtables at United Nations Head Quarter as Chair of G- 20 and ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit 2023 to be held in New York \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- A roundtable titled 'Gandhian Trusteeship: A panel discussion on Sustainable Lifestyles and Enduring Pace' will be held on the 23rd of February 2023.
- Focus: India's growth story and achievements and how these might be scaled for the potential benefit of the global South

**Important News – State**

1. Which state government has launched the monthly stipend scheme for junior lawyers in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala**.

**Note:**

- Under this scheme, a monthly stipend of Rs. 3,000 will be provided to junior lawyers in the State.
- Eligibility for stipend:
- Lawyers below 30 years of age with less than three years of practice.
- Annual income less than Rs. 1 lakh.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Bar Council of the state.
- Junior lawyers are law graduates who work under attorneys or legal associates.

2. Which phase of Sujalam-Sufalam Jal Abhiyan has been started in Gujarat on 17th February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Sixth**.

**Note:**

- The state-wide campaign was launched by the Gujarat CM, Bhupendra Patel at Khoraj in Gandhinagar.
- Aim: To raise the groundwater level and maximize the use of rainwater.
- This phase will be held for 104 days and continue till 31st May 2023
- Developmental works like the deepening of lakes, delisting works of check dams and reservoirs, and cleaning of canals will be carried out

**Important News – World**

1. According to the latest report, released by TomTom, which Indian city's traffic has made it the second slowest place to drive through in the world in 2022 with about half an hour of travel time by road to cover 10 km \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru**.

**Note:**

- While London ranks first with an average of 36 minutes and 20 seconds to travel 10 km in 2022.
- Dublin (Ireland), Sapporo (Japan's town), and Milan (Italy) rank third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

2. Bharat Electronics Limited and which Aerospace and defense company have concluded an MoA to form a JV aiming at a single point of contact for extending long-term product support services for India's defense forces \_\_\_\_\_ **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

**Note:**

- The new JV is being established to provide life cycle support for MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile) air defense systems.
- MRSAM is an advanced air and missile defence system.
- The IAF, Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Israeli Defence Forces use it.

3. According to the services trade restrictiveness index (STRI), conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), what is the rank of India out of 50 countries \_\_\_\_\_ **47**.

**Note:**

- As per the report, India had been progressively introducing reforms over the past years, contributing to a slight liberalization of services trade in some sectors.
- Top 5: Japan (1), UK, Netherlands, Czech Republic, and Chile (5)
- Bottom: Indonesia (50), Thailand(49), and Russia (48)

## Honor & Awards

- Who has been honored with UNESCO's International Mother Language Award 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For the promotion of the mother language in India
- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina will present this award to Dr. Mahendra Kumar Mishra at the International Mother Language Institute, Dhaka.
- He is the first Indian to receive this prestigious award for the promotion of a language.
- He is also the recipient of Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

- Which bank was honored with the 'Prathista Puraskar' under the 'Digidhan Awards 2021-22' by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka Bank.**

**Note:**

- Reason: To achieve the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions in the private sector bank category.
- DigiDhan award is a recognition for the top-performing banks in the digital payments space.
- MD& CEO of Karnataka Bank: Mahabaleshwara MS

- A campaign 'Don't Choose Extinction' has won Gold and Silver in two different categories at the 2nd Annual Anthem Awards. This campaign was launched by which international organization \_\_\_\_\_ **UN Development Programme (UNDP).**

**Note:**

- The campaign aims to raise awareness about the climate emergency.
- This campaign won Gold in Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Non-Profit Campaign Category, while Silver in Sustainability, Environment & Climate – Global Awareness Campaign Category.

- Who has been selected for the 32nd Ramashramam Unneerikkutty Award \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Health Minister, K.K. Shailaja.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For her services as a minister during the times of the Nipah outbreak, the COVID-19 pandemic, and her services to the State.
- This is an annual award, which is given to individuals who have made a mark in the fields of art, literature, culture, politics, or social service.
- She is the fourth woman to win the award ever since its inception in 1985.

- Who was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual awards, organized by the Rotary Club of Madras, T. Nagar (RCMT), Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ **Former India Davis Cup tennis player, Ramesh Krishnan.**

**Note:**

- Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president and ace tennis player Vijay Amritraj presented the award.
- Vijay Amritraj was the recipient of the first award in 2010.
- Golf player, Uttam Singh Mundy was awarded for vocational excellence.

- Who won the 76th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) Awards 2023 in the Best Leading Actor category for Elvis \_\_\_\_\_ **Austin Butler.**

**Note:**

- Cate Blanchett won the Best Leading Actress Award for her performance in TÁR.
- A German anti-war drama, 'All Quiet on the Western Front' won a maximum of seven awards including Best Film and Director.
- This movie is a screen adaptation of the 1928 novel by Erich Maria Remarque.
- 'The Banshees of Inisherin' and 'Elvis' both movies won four BAFTA awards.

- Who has been selected for Jnanappana Puraskaram 2023 for his contribution to the field of literature \_\_\_\_\_ **V Madhusoodanan Nair.**

**Note:**

- The award consists of a Rs 50,001 cash prize, a 10-gram gold locket with an image of Sree Guruvayoorappan, a citation, and a memento.
- This award was instituted by Guruvayur Devaswom in memory of 'Poonthanam Namboothiri', the ardent devotee of Guruvayoorappan, who wrote Jnanappana.
- The award will be presented on February 24, 2023.

- Who was awarded the Best Actor award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Awards 2023 in Mumbai \_\_\_\_\_ **Ranbir Kapoor.**

**Note:**

- He was awarded for his role in Brahmastra Part One-Shiva.
- Alia Bhatt won the Best Actress award for Gangubai Kathiawadi.
- Best Film: The Kashmir Files
- Film Of The Year: RRR
- Most Promising Actor: Rishab Shetty (Kantara)
- Critics Best Actor: Varun Dhawan (Bhediya)
- Critics Best Actress: Vidya Balan (Jalsa)
- Best Director: R Balki (Chup)

**Sports News**

1. Which Indian Women's cricket player became the most expensive women's pick in the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction \_\_\_\_\_ **Smriti Mandhana**.

**Note:**

- She has been bought by the Royal Challengers Bangalore for 3.40 Cr.
- A total of 87 players were bought by the five franchises for a sum total of Rs. 59.50 Cr.
- The second costliest Indian player is all-rounder Deepti Sharma who was bought by UP Warriorz for Rs 2.6 crore.
- Indian skipper, Harmanpreet Kaur was bought by Mumbai Indians.

2. Which cricket team has defeated Bengal by nine wickets to lift their second Ranji Trophy title 2023, organized at Eden Gardens, Kolkata \_\_\_\_\_ **Saurashtra**.

**Note:**

- Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat was declared Man of the Match for his impressive performance.
- While Batter Arpit Vasavada was named the player of the series.
- Most runs: Mayank Agarwal (Karnataka) (990)
- Most wickets: Jalaj Saxena (Kerala) (50)
- Saurashtra won their first title in 2019-20 after beating Bengal.

3. Which team won the bronze medal at the Asia Mixed Team Championships 2023, held at the Dubai Exhibition Centre in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 14 to 19 February 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- P.V. Sindhu-led side faced a 2-3 defeat against China in the semifinals and settled for the bronze medal.
- Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won the Women's Doubles.
- While team China won the Gold medal, South Korea won the Silver medal.

4. India has won two gold medals in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed team and which shooting category at the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Cup, Cairo in Egypt \_\_\_\_\_ **10m Air Pistol Mixed team**.

**Note:**

- Indian 10m Air Rifle Mixed team of Narmada Nithin Raju and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil defeated Hungary's Eszter Denes and Istvan Peni by 16-6 to bag the top spot on the podium.
- While the 10m Air Pistol Mixed team of Rhythm Sangwan and Varun Tomar won gold.

**Books and Authors**

1. Who is the writer of the 'Book of Hours: An Almanac for The Seasons of The Soul' \_\_\_\_\_ **Letty McHugh**.

**Note:**

- She has been announced as the winner of the Barbellion Prize.
- She was awarded for her 'Book of Hours: An Almanac for The Seasons of The Soul'.
- The Barbellion Prize is dedicated to ill and disabled writers whose work represents the experience of chronic illness or disability.
- This prize was named after the English diarist W N P Barbellion, who wrote about his life with multiple sclerosis.

**Science and Defence**

1. Bengaluru-based start-up, NewSpace Research has delivered which drone to Indian Army \_\_\_\_\_ **SWARM drones**.

**Note:**



- These drone systems will make the Army the first major armed force in the world to operationalize with these high-density SWARM drones.
  - The swarm of 100 drones is capable of hitting targets at least 50 km away into enemy territory.
  - It is a part of the Aatmanirbhar effort to indigenize critical and disruptive military technologies.
2. Which edition of a joint military exercise, "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN" between India and Japan is being started at Camp Imazu in Shiga province of Japan from 17th February - 2nd March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_**4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- This exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi-urban or urban terrain.
  - Indian Army's Garhwal Rifles Regiment troops and Japan's Infantry Regiment troops participated in the exercise.
3. Which Indian armed force has developed an innovative solution named 'Vayulink' to send radio communication to the base station when the signals are low \_\_\_\_\_**Indian Air Force.**

**Note:**

- It would help pilots to deal with bad weather and also provide them with jammer-proof uninterrupted communication with the base station.
  - It is an ad-hoc data link communication system.
  - It will be installed in an aircraft and provide information about other aircraft close by, encrypted traffic data over a secured channel.
4. Which edition of the biennial training Ex DUSTLIK 2023, between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army is being conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 20th February to 5th March 2023 \_\_\_\_\_**4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To enhance the military capability to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario
  - The 14th Battalion, the GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command represented the Indian contingent
  - The troops of the North Western Military District represented the Uzbekistan Army
5. Which INS has reached Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2023 and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) 2023 \_\_\_\_\_**Indian Naval Ship Sumedha.**

**Note:**

- Agenda: To showcase the strengths of India's indigenous shipbuilding and underscore the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
  - It is the third ship of the indigenously built Saryu class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels.
  - It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2014.
6. Who will become the first woman astronaut from Saudi Arabia to go on a space mission \_\_\_\_\_**Rayyana Barnawi.**

**Note:**

- She will join fellow Saudi astronaut, Ali Al-Qarni on a 10-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS).
  - Barnawi and Al-Qarni will fly to the ISS aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft as part of a mission by Axiom Space.
  - The Ax-2 mission will be launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A, NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
7. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India in association with which foundation launched the APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite launch vehicle mission 2023 in Chengalpattu, Chennai, Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_\_**Martin Foundation.**

**Note:**

- It can be used for weather research and to assess atmospheric conditions and radiation.
  - It was designed and constructed by students from grades 6 to 12 from different parts of the nation including 200 students from the fishermen's community.
8. Which India's lunar mission has successfully underwent Electro-Magnetic Interference/ Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMI-EMC) \_\_\_\_\_**Chandrayaan-3.**

**Note:**

- EMI-EMC test: It is conducted for satellite missions to ensure the functionality of the satellite subsystems in the space environment.
- It also ensures compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels.
- The test was conducted by the ISRO at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.
- The performance of the systems was satisfactory.

# Features :

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