

Weekly One-liners

22-31st January 2023



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st January 2023

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the fourth week (22-31st) of January 2023. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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.

14. 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. Balkrishna Vitaldas 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 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.

2. 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 Samridhi Yojana, and BBBP.

3. 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

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 (DSL) Mission on the occasion.
4. 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.
5. 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
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 _____ **iNNOVACC.**
- 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.
10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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.

- 16. 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.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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
21. 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).
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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

5. 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.

6. 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

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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. 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.

2. 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. 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.

2. 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)

3. 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 Nageshwaran (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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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. 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)

2. 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.

3. 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).

4. 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).
5. 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
6. 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)
7. 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
8. 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
9. 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.
10. 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

- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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.

- 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.

- 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
6. 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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