



Bi-weekly Current Affairs (16-28 Feb) English PDF

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates **16-28th February 2023**

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-28th) of **February 2022**. 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 6th September 2018 to sell Information Technology products and offers software and related services.
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan; Headquarters: Mumbai

3. ICICI 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.



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- 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.

21. The Reserve Bank of India has restricted the withdrawal limit of what amount for savings and current account customers of Uravakonda Co-operative Town Bank and Shankarrao Mohite Patil Sahakari Bank Ltd _____ **₹5,000.**

Note:

- Reason: Due to the poor liquidity position of these banks
- This restriction shall remain in force for a period of six months from the close of business on February 24, 2023.
- Without prior approval of RBI, these banks shall not grant or renew any loans and advances, etc.

22. Which bank has signed a co-lending agreement with Moneywise Financial Services Pvt Ltd (MFSPL) for lending to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) _____ **Central Bank of India.**

Note:

- This partnership will help to expand the portfolio for both entities.
- The said loans would be subject to compliance with the applicable laws and guidelines issued by RBI.
- MFSPL is an RBI-regulated non-banking financial company (NBFC) focused on MSME Lending.

23. The SEBI has proposed that the listed entities should take approval from shareholders at least once in _____ for the appointment of directors to serve on their boards _____ **5 years.**

Note:

- Reason: To curb the practice of occupying permanent directorship in a company
- SEBI also proposed norms, related to special rights granted to certain shareholders; sale, disposal, or lease of assets of a listed entity outside the 'scheme of arrangement' framework and on agreements binding listed entities

24. According to the Credit rating and research agency, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), what would be the growth of the Indian economy during 2023-24 _____ **5.9%.**

Note:

- The GDP growth estimate of the agency is lower than the 6.4% real GDP growth projected by the RBI for FY24.



- According to the agency, there are fault lines in the economic recovery that is happening in the Private final consumption expenditure, Government Final Consumption Expenditure, and net exports.
25. Which private lender has signed an MoU with the UAE-based Lulu Exchange to strengthen the cross-border payments between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region _____ **HDFC Bank.**
- Note:**
- In the beginning, the expertise and regulatory framework of Lulu Exchange would be utilized to launch a digital inward remittance service - 'RemitNow2India'.
- It will allow UAE individuals resident to send money to any bank account in India via IMPS and NEFT through HDFC digital banking channels.
26. Which public lender has partnered with PayNow (Singapore Payment System) for cross-border payments _____ **State Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- The facility is offered through SBI's Bhim SBIPay mobile application.
- This partnership will allow fund transfers from India to Singapore through registered mobile numbers, and from Singapore to India using the UPI ID.
- This initiative will boost the digitization initiatives, providing an easy, seamless cross-border payment facility to users.
27. Which health insurance organization has launched a new health insurance policy named 'ReAssure 2.0' _____ **Niva Bupa Health Insurance.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To encourage customers to start investing for their health and financial security at an early age
- This new-age indemnity plan offers a 'live healthy' benefit.
- It gives a premium discount of up to 30% on policy renewal basis health points earned.
- It is available as an individual, multi-individual, and family floater starting from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- Age: 18 -65 yrs
28. Pine Labs and Thomas Cook (India) partnered with which organization to enable payments via UPI for foreign nationals from G20 countries _____ **National Payments Corporation of India.**
- Note:**
- Pine Labs will issue the prepaid payment product under the PPI authorization from RBI.
- This facility can be accessed on arrival in India at Thomas Cook's airport counters.
- When encashing foreign currency at Thomas Cook's counter, the customer can open a Pine Labs Fave Money prepaid account loaded with the rupee value
29. Which NBFC entered into a co-lending loan agreement with Karnataka Bank to meet the funding requirements of priority segments such as agriculture and MSME _____ **Paisalo Digital Ltd.**
- Note:**
- This agreement will enable Paisalo Digital to drive financial inclusion by providing low-cost financial solutions to priority sectors.
- As per the RBI circular, released on November 5, 2020, banks and NBFCs can enter into tie-ups for the joint contribution of funding for priority sectors.
30. Which delivery partner joined hands with Alliance Insurance Brokers to provide insurance to its national network of delivery partners _____ **Dunzo.**
- Note:**
- With this initiative, Alliance Insurance Brokers is providing insurance protection to almost 20,000 delivery partners, insured on a daily basis, while they are active on the platform.
- In case of an accident, the policy offers a benefit of Rs 5 lakh to cover children's education and reimburse business losses and hospitalization expenses.
31. Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a unified portal named 'Kotak fyn' for which type of customers _____ **Corporate.**



Note:

- Aim: To track their payments, collections, trade, and other services related to their bank accounts
- The bank is also planning to introduce a new loan origination and management system that would digitize the process from the loan application, to sanction, to disbursal.
- This system would reduce the turnaround time for corporate borrowers and make the process more transparent.

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 Bhadradi 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.

6. Kanak Rele passed away at the age of 85, was a veteran _____ **Classical dancer**.

Note:

- She was an exponent of Mohiniyattam
 - She was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala.
 - She played a major role in popularizing Mohiniyattam and making it globally prominent.
7. A retired TCA Ramanujam passed away at an age of 88, was a _____ **Chief Commissioner of Income Taxes.**

Note:

- He serves as Chief Commissioner of Income Tax until his retirement in 1992.
 - He also spent a year as a member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.
 - In 2002, he began his advocacy career again and served as a senior standing counsel for the Income Tax division.
8. Subi Suresh, an actor and television host, passed away at an age of 41, was associated with which regional cinema _____ **Malayalam.**

Note:

- She also performed a variety of comedic roles on programs like Cinemala.
- She has appeared in a number of Malayalam television programmes as well as the films Grihanathan, Thaksara Lahala, and Elsamma Enna Aankut.

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.

7. The World Organization of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has observed World Thinking Day every year on which date _____ **22nd February.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Our Planet, Our Peaceful Future
- Aim: To create awareness about issues that affect girls and young women
- This day also aims to celebrate sisterhood, solidarity, and women's empowerment.
- In 1999, at the World Conference in Dublin, the name of the day was changed from Thinking Day to World Thinking Day.

8. India observed National Science Day on which date to honor the Indian scientist and physician, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman as C.V. Raman for discovering the Raman Effect _____ **February 28.**

Note:

- Sir C V Raman received the Nobel Prize in 1930 for his discovery.
- Theme 2023: Global Science for Global Wellness
- Theme highlights: India's emerging role on the global stage and its increasing visibility in the international community

9. The 4th National Protein Day is observed across the nation on which date as an annual awareness day to highlight the importance of adequate protein consumption _____ **27th February.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Easy Access to Protein for All
- It was first observed on 27th February 2020.
- This day was initiated by the Right To Protein (RTP) with a focus on raising awareness of adequate protein consumption for better health and nutrition.

10. World Scout Day is observed annually on which date by Boy Scouts worldwide to honor Lord Robert Baden-Powell _____ **February 22.**

Note:

- Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scout Movement, on the day of his birthday.
- The day is observed by National Scout Organizations all over the world through events including fundraising campaigns, food drives, and other types of volunteer work.

11. Central Excise Day is observed every year on which date to recognize and honor the contributions made by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) _____ **February 24.**

Note:

- Every year, Central Excise Day is observed to raise public awareness of the dedication and labor-intensiveness of CBIC.
- Primary responsibility: To prevent tampering with manufactured items.

12. World NGO Day is an annual international observance on which date _____ **February 27.**

Note:

- Aim: To recognize the contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- This day was first celebrated in 2010 and has since become an annual event that highlights the work of NGOs around the world.

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.
7. Who has defeated BJP candidate Rekha Gupta to become the new Delhi Mayor _____ **Aam Aadmi Party's Shelly Oberoi.**

Note:

- She received 150 votes while Rekha Gupta got 116 seats.
- She also becomes Delhi's first woman mayor in 10 years.
- The election was held after the Supreme Court ruled out the possibility of nominated members participating in the voting process.
- In Delhi MCD polls, the AAP had bagged 134 seats, BJP got 104 seats, and Congress bagged nine seats.



8. Who has been selected as the External Auditor of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva _____ **CAG Girish Chandra Murmu.**

Note:

- He has been selected for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.
- CAG will take over from the incumbent External Auditor of ILO, the Supreme Audit Institution of the Philippines.
- CAG's appointment is a recognition of its standing among the international community and its professionalism, and its global audit experience.

9. US President, Joe Biden has nominated whom as the president of the World Bank _____ **Ajay Banga.**

Note:

- He would replace David Malpass, who will step down from his role this June before completing his tenure in April 2024.
- He was nominated for his expertise in handling global challenges including climate change.
- Presently, he is serving as the vice chairman at private equity firm General Atlantic.

10. Who took over as the Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA) on 24th February, 2023 _____ **Lt Gen RS Reen.**

Note:

- DGQA is an Inter-Service Organization functioning under the Department of Defence Production in Ministry of Defence.
- He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt from Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and has headed a Senior Quality Assurance, Brig at Headquarters of DGQA and was Controller (Missile System) in Secunderabad.

11. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Defence _____ **Aramane Giridhar.**

Note:

- He will remain in his post until October 31, 2024, or till further order whichever is earlier.
- This extension is beyond his age of superannuation.
- He was due to retire in June 2023, after completing 60 years of superannuation.
- He is a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

12. Who has been appointed as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) secretary general, with effect from 1 March 2023 _____ **Shailesh Pathak.**

Note:

- FICCI also announced that director general, Arun Chawla will be superannuated on June 30, 2023, and transition to an advisory role.
- He has worked with the government as an IAS officer as well as helmed large companies in the private sector.

13. Which beverage maker company has appointed actor Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador and also unveiled a new campaign targeting younger consumers _____ **PepsiCo.**

Note:

- He joined Pepsi's growing league of celebrity endorsers.
- The brand roped in actor Salman Khan in 2019.
- More recently, it also announced KGF actor, Yash as the brand's new face.
- "Rise up Baby" is a youth movement that brings alive in different flavors.

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%.



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- 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 Singapore _____ **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.

25. Who has officially inaugurated the Power Pavilion, ELECRAMA 2023 at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida _____ **Minister of Power, RK Singh.**

Note:

- The event was attended by Vivek Kumar Dewangan (Chairman & Managing Director, REC Limited) and other officials from REC.
- Theme 2023: Re-imagining the Future: Metamorphosis of the Power Sector in India.
- Vision: To showcase innovation in the power sector such as Smart Meters, Smart Feeder Management Systems, Methanol production etc

26. Which organization has developed a new wheat variety called HD-3385 _____ **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**

Note:

- It can overcome the challenges arising out due to changes in weather patterns and rising heat levels.
- It is amenable to early sowing, escaping the impact of heat spikes, and can be harvested before March's end.
- Recently, the Centre announced to set up of a committee to monitor the situation arising from the increase in temperatures and its impact on the current wheat crop.

27. Which high court has become the first high court in the country to publish judgments in the regional language _____ **Kerala High Court.**

Note:



- On February 21 (International Mother Language Day), Kerala published two of its recent judgments in Malayalam.
 - The judgments in Malayalam were uploaded on the court's website just below the English version.
 - The Kerala High Court made use of SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuwad Software) tool to translate the judgments.
28. The Namami Gange Executive Committee, headed by NMCG Director General G. Asok Kumar, has approved how many projects, worth over 1,200 crore rupees for Pollution abatement in Ganga Basin and Ghat Development _____ **Nine.**
- Note:**
- Out of these projects, seven pertain to the abatement of pollution in the Ganga Basin and two to ghat development.
 - The decision was taken during the 47th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
29. Which country has been selected as the New Delhi World Book Fair, that was started at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from 25th February and continue till 5th March 2023 _____ **France.**
- Note:**
- The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the fair.
 - The 2023 theme of the fair is Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
 - The G20 theme has been integrated with the book fair, and exhibitions of books from G20 member countries will be organized during the fair.
30. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the term of the 22nd Law Commission of India from 20th February 2023 to _____ **31st August 2024.**
- Note:**
- The 22nd law panel was constituted for three years on 21st February 2020.
 - Law Commission of India:
 - It is a non-statutory body and is constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
 - It was originally constituted in 1955.
31. Which organization has topped the ranking of Independent Power Producers and Energy Traders Globally in the S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings 2022 _____ **NTPC Limited.**
- Note:**
- These rankings are based on four key metrics: Asset worth, Revenues, Profits, and Return on Investment (ROI).
 - Presently, NTPC contributes 24% of the total electricity produced in India.
 - NTPC is targeting non-fossil fuel-based capacity to make up nearly 50% of the company's portfolio by 2032.
32. India has slipped to which position in the International Intellectual Property Rights Index 2023 out of 55 countries for 2022 _____ **42nd.**
- Note:**
- India was ranked 40th in the index in 2021.
 - It was launched by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre and is monitored by the Indian government.
 - It evaluates the protection of IP rights in 55 of the world's leading economies, together representing approximately 90% of global GDP.
33. World's longest river cruise 'MV Ganga Vilas' will culminate its journey on 28th February in which city of India _____ **Dibrugarh.**
- Note:**
- It will cover a distance of 3,200 km in over 50 days before reaching Dibrugarh on the 28th of February via Patna Sahib, Bodh Gaya, Vikramshila, Dhaka, the Suderbans and the Kaziranga national park.



- It is built with a unique design and a futuristic vision, three decks and 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists.

34. Who has launched the 'neutral citations' to ensure a uniform pattern of citing the decisions of the Supreme Court _____ **CJI D Y Chandrachud.**

Note:

- Earlier, the apex court had taken various steps to implement a uniform, reliable, and secure methodology for identifying and citing decisions in the apex court.
- Other initiative: Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project, which is aimed to provide free access to about 34,000 judgments to lawyers, law students, and the common public.

35. Chairman of EAC-PM has released the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy report. Who is he _____ **Dr. Bibek Debroy.**

Note:

- Prepared by: Institute for Competitiveness
- Punjab has emerged as the top-performing state on education and health-related indicators.
- Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra, J&K, Kerala, Rajasthan, Sikkim, TN, and Puducherry were ranked as high-performing states and UTs.
- Meghalaya, D&N Haveli, Nagaland, Telangana, UP, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh were among underperformed.

36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Shivamogga airport in which state of India on 27 February 2023 _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The airport has been built on 663 acres of land with an investment of ₹449.22 crore.
- Apart from this, the prime minister has also inaugurated several other development projects in the poll-bound state.
- The Passenger Terminal Building of the airport can handle 300 passengers per hour.
- The foundation was laid in June 2020 by former CM B S Yediyurappa.

37. PM Narendra Modi has released which installment of financial benefits worth Rs 16,800 crore to over eight crore eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme _____ **13th.**

Note:

- PM-KISAN refers to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi .
- Under this scheme, eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.
- The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

38. The government is planning to set up how many 'Clean Plant Centres' to boost the domestic production of the selected crops _____ **10.**

Note:

- These centres were already established in developed countries such as the US, Netherlands, and Israel.
- They will be set up under the 'Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program'.
- It was announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- These centres will be established for fruit crops with a budget of Rs 2,200 crore in the next seven years till 2030.

39. Indian Oil Corporation Chairman, Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has revealed that the company is planning to set up green hydrogen plants at all its refineries by which year _____ **2047.**

Note:

- It is part of a Rs 2-lakh crore green transition plan to achieve net-zero emissions.
- It is also planning to set up a 7,000 tonnes p.a. green hydrogen-producing facility.
- IOC is restructuring its business with a greater emphasis on petrochemicals to hedge volatility in the fuel business.

40. Union Cabinet has approved the signing Air Services Agreement between India and which country _____ **Guyana.**

Note:



- This agreement will come into force after the exchange of diplomatic notes between parties.
 - Aim: To enable a framework for the provision of air services between the two countries
 - Indians have a sizeable presence in Guyana and are the largest ethnic group comprising about 40% of the population.
 - It will provide an enabling environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity.
41. Which department has signed Letter of Intent (LoI) with Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (Fraunhofer ISE) for a long-term collaboration focusing on hydrogen technologies _____ **Department of Science and Technology (DST).**
- Note**
- It will trigger development of higher Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for hydrogen energy clusters being set up by DST and identify existing technologies and potential interventions from Fraunhofer in green hydrogen, integrate them with indigenous technologies.
42. Which edition of the UIC World Security Congress has been started commenced in Jaipur, India on 21st February 2023 _____ **18th.**
- Note:**
- The 3-day Conference is being jointly organized by the International Union of Railways, Paris and Railway Protection Force.
 - Theme 2023: Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future
 - The World Security Congress is a globally recognized security platform.
 - The Union International Des Chemins (UIC) or International Union of Railways was established in 1922.
43. An annual flagship event of the External Affairs Ministry on Geo-economics, Asia Economic Dialogue is being conducted in which city of India from 23 -25 February 2023 _____ **Pune, Maharashtra.**
- Note:**
- This event is being co-hosted in collaboration with Pune International Centre.
 - Theme 2023: Asia and the Emerging World Order
 - The Dialogue also discusses themes such as Global Growth Prospects, How the Global South Will Shape the G20 Agenda and the Metaverse.
44. Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has inaugurated International Conference on Biotechnology for the first time since Independence in which region of India _____ **North East Region.**
- Note:**
- He has also inaugurated the 22nd Congress of the International Society for Ethno-pharmacology and the 10th Congress of Society for Ethno-pharmacology (ISE SFEC-2023).
 - It will be held from February 24-26, 2023 at the City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur.
 - Theme: Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalization of Traditional Medicine.
45. Who has inaugurated New Delhi World Book Fair 2023, which is being held from 25 February to 5th March 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi _____ **Union Minister, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.**
- Note:**
- It was organized by National Book Trust, India, in collaboration with ITPO (India Trade Promotion Organization).
 - It will also have an NEP pavilion to mark the successful introduction of the National Education Policy 2020 and will have hundreds of authors, publishers from across the world.

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
3. Which state govt has approved a five-year project on Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalising Agriculture _____ **J&K.**

Note:

- Aim: To give a push to sustainable agriculture
 - The project, worth 463 crore rupees, is also aimed to empower farmers and educated youth through technology-driven and inclusive agri-extension services.
 - One of the critical outcomes would be the creation of 2,000 Kissan Khidmat Ghars, which will serve as One Stop Centre for farmer-oriented services
4. Which state government has become the first state in the country to use robotic technology to clean all its commissioned manholes _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- The robotic scavenger named 'Bandicoot'.
 - It was launched under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project in Thrissur district by the Kerala Water Authority (KWA).
 - It is a part of the 100-day action plan of the state government.
 - It was developed by Kerala-based Genrobotics, which had recently bagged the 'Kerala Pride' award at the Huddle Global 2022.
5. Which government signed an agreement with the UN Women to boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- The MoU was signed by Kerala Tourism Director P B Nooh and UN Women India representative Susan Ferguson.
 - Both parties agreed to work towards promoting gender-inclusive tourism sites in the State.
 - It would be implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission.
 - It will be done by creating modules and capacity-building of relevant stakeholders.
6. CM Basavaraj Bommai has confirmed, that state will get India's first Marina which will be constructed at Byndoor in the Udupi district. He is a CM of which state _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- Aim: To promote coastal tourism in the state
 - The state government has received permission from the Government of India for the relaxation of Coastal Regulation Zone rules.
 - The government also proposed to build a corridor of ancient temples like Madhukeshwara (Banavasi) and Dattatreya (Ganagapura) and promote Yatra tourism.
7. Which state government has signed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) of over Rs 5,000 crore with Tata Technologies to upgrade 150 ITIs in the state _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- Aim: To help the youth upgrade their skills and make them fit for the modern-day industry
- This MoA will also help in the skill development of the youth of the state and will be helpful in taking forward the programs of Tata Technologies.
- The trained youth will be able to get jobs in prestigious institutions of Tata and abroad.



8. Which state government has approved the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana to empower women at every level _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- Under this scheme, Rs 1000 (month) will be deposited in the account of women, irrespective of their class or caste, whose age is above 23 years.
- The Yojana will be launched on March 5, 2023.
- The applications are very simple, the team will visit to fill out the application in their village itself.

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)

4. Which country's government signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to increase the use of solar energy in the country _____ **Bangladesh**.

Note:

- The agreement was signed between the ISA Director General Ajay Mathur and the Bangladesh Power Division Secretary Md. Habibur Rahman.
- The agreement is to be implemented by December 2026.
- The government aims to generate 40% of its total energy through renewable sources by 2041 and to produce 4000 MW of solar power by 2030.

5. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has suspended its membership in which country after violated the organization's principles _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- FATF Core Principle: To promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system
- FATF is an inter-governmental organization set up to combat money laundering and terrorism financing by setting global standards and checking if countries respect them.
- The FATF also added South Africa and Nigeria to its grey list.



6. Italy PM will be on a two-day visit to India on 2nd March 2023 with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani and a high-powered business delegation. Who is the PM of Italy _____ **Giorgia Meloni**.

Note:

- The Italian Prime Minister will be the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the 8th Raisina Dialogue, 2023.
- Indian PM Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart will hold discussions on bilateral, regional, and global issues.
- Both countries are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations.

Honor & Awards

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.



6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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)

9. Noted classical singer, Pt Prem Kumar Mallick has been selected for the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for which year _____ **2019**.

Note:

- Reason: Contributions in the field of music (Hindustani Vocal).
- He is a professor in the department of music and performing arts at Allahabad University.
- He will receive this award along with other artists from across the country for the award for years 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- President Droupadi Murmu will present the award on February 23.

10. Who has won the prestigious National Geographic 'Pictures of The Year' award with his photograph titled "Dance of the Eagles" _____ **Karthik Subramaniam**.

Note:

- The award-winning photograph captured a bald eagle intimidating its peers to claim a prime log while salmon hunting in the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in Alaska.
- He titled the picture 'Dance of the Eagles' as a homage to the fictional dragon war in George R.R. Martin's novel 'A Dance with Dragons'.

11. In a first for the Indian Navy, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Harikumar awarded an 'on the spot' Unit Citation to which INS in Kochi _____ **INS Nireekshak**.

Note:

- Reason: For deep sea diving and undertaking salvage operations under the most challenging circumstances
- He also awarded commendations to the crew involved in the salvage operation.
- **INS Nireekshak:**
 - It is a Dive Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of the Indian Navy.
 - It was built in 1985 by Mazgaon Shipbuilders.



12. Who has been honored with the Sansad Ratna Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 _____ **T K Rangarajan.**

Note:

- Thirteen MPs were nominated for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023.
- The 13th edition of the award ceremony will be held on March 25 in New Delhi.
- **Sansad Ratna Awards:**
 - It was instituted in 2010 and inspired by the teachings of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
 - It recognizes and felicitates the top-performing MPs based on their work in the apex legislative body

13. Who was honored with the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022 _____ **Sajjan Jindal.**

Note:

- Reason: For his exceptional entrepreneurial journey in scaling the global conglomerate with a presence in steel, cement, infrastructure, energy, and paints
- He will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEYO) at Monte Carlo in June 2023.
- While K P Singh, Chairman Emeritus, DLF Group, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

14. Which state/UT Tourism has been chosen by India Today Tourism Survey for best adventure tourism award in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as an adventure destination of international order _____ **Jammu & Kashmir.**

Note:

- India Today award comes just within a month of South Asian Travel Trade Expo(SATTE) in which the J&K Tourism Department was awarded for its efforts in post COVID-19 recovery of the tourism sector.

15. Which Indian movie has won four awards at Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards 2023 _____ **RRR.**

Note:

- The movie has received awards in Best Action Film, Best International Feature, Best Original Song (Naatu Naatu), and Best Stunts categories.
- The RRR has also been nominated for the Oscars 2023 in Best Original Song (Naatu Naatu).
- The song 'Naatu Naatu' has already bagged the prestigious awards Best Original Song award at the 80th Golden Globe Awards.

16. Which Computer scientist has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize _____ **Hari Balakrishnan.**

Note:

- He is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- The Marconi Prize is a top honor for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation.
- It is given to those who have made a significant contribution to increasing digital inclusivity through advanced information and communications technology.

17. Who won FIFA's best men's player of the year for 2022 after winning his maiden World Cup title with Argentina in December 2022 in Qatar _____ **Lionel Messi.**

Note:

- While Alexia Putellas (Spain) was awarded the best women's player for a second straight year.
- **Other awardees:**
 - Best fans award: Argentina
 - Fairplay award: Luka Lochoshvili (Georgia)
 - Best men's coach: Lionel Scaloni (Argentina)
 - Best women's coach: Sarina Wiegman
 - Best goal (Puskas award): Marcin Oleksy



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 Rudrankksh 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.

5. Which Indian shooter clinched his first World Cup individual gold in the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt _____ **Rudrankksh Patil**.

Note:

- He defeated Maximilian Ulbrich of Germany, who was settled for silver.
- While Miran Maricic of Croatia won the bronze medal.
- In women's 10m air rifle, Tilottama Sen (14) won the second bronze for India.
- Seonaid McIntosh (Great Britain) won gold and Nina Christen (Switzerland) settled for silver.

6. Which organization has bagged the title rights for the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 _____ **TATA Group**.

Note:

- The first match of WPL 2023 will begin between Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians on March 4 at the DY Patil Stadium.
- In its first season, the WPL will stage a total of 20 league matches and two Playoff games that will be played.
- Five teams: Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore & UP Warriorz



7. Which Indian shooter has secured the gold medal in the men's individual 50m rifle 3 positions competition at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt _____ **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.**

Note:

- In the event, he defeated Alexander Schmirer from Austria by 16-6.
- With this gold, India topped the medal tally with four gold and Hungary at second.
- 10m air rifle mixed team: Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil and R Narmada Nithin
- 10m air pistol mixed team: Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan
- Men's 10m air rifle: Rudranksh Patil

8. Which women's cricket team has defeated South Africa by 9 runs to lift the ICC T20 World Cup Trophy 2023 at Newlands, Cricket Ground in Cape Town, South Africa _____ **Australia.**

Note:

- Australian women's cricket team has won this title for the sixth time.
- They have completed a 'three-peat' under the captaincy of Meg Lanning, winning in 2018, 2020, and 2023.
- Player of the series: Australia Ashleigh Gardner
- Most runs: South Africa Laura Wolvaardt (230)

9. Which football team defeated Newcastle to win the Carabao Cup title in 2023 after six years _____ **Manchester United.**

Note:

- Newcastle is a Saudi Arabia-backed club.
- The Carabao cup is also known as the EFL cup, a major football trophy played in England.
- The competition was open to all clubs participating in the Premier League and the English Football League.
- Liverpool is the most successful club in the competition and has won more than nine championships.

10. Which Indian Greco-Roman wrestler won a bronze medal in the men's 72 kg division of the Ibrahim Moustafa ranking series in Alexandria, Egypt _____ **Ankit Gulia.**

Note:

- He lost to Otar Abuladze (Georgia) and got the better of Nurzhigit Keneshbek Uulu (Kyrgyzstan) in the repechage round.
- The Indian grappler won the medal after Iranian 67kg Olympic champion Mohammadreza Abdolhamid Geraei withdrew from the bronze medal match due to an injury.

11. Which state women's hockey team won the 13th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2023 held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- MP defeated Hockey Maharashtra by 5-1 in the final.
- MP's Pratibha Arya was adjudged the best defender of the championship.
- She was also awarded the player of the match title.
- The team of Hockey Jharkhand secured third place after defeating Hockey Haryana in the third-place match.

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'.



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- 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.
2. Who has released two books — Pt. Deendayal Udadhya: Dispersions of Thought and Pt. Deendayal Udpadhyaya: Integral Humanism in Chennai _____ **Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi.**
- Note:**
- The book was authored by Professor B. Dharmalingam.
 - Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was an Indian politician and a proponent of integral humanism ideology.
 - He also started the monthly publication Rashtra Dharma (National Duty).
 - He also served as the 10th President of Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1967 – 1968).
3. Who has launched a book "Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux" in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi _____ **BJP national president, JP Nadda.**

Note:

- The book is forewarded by S. Jaishankar (Union External Affairs Minister) and edited by Sujan Chinoy, Vijay Chauthaiwala, and Uttam Kumar Sinha.
- Over 23 chapters, the book features write-ups by the likes of Amitabh Kant (former CEO of NITI Aayog), Chauthaiwale, Chinoy, Anurag Saxena, Amish Tripathi, and D.B. Venkatesh Varma (former diplomat).

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 _____ **4th.**

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 _____ **4th.**

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 undergone 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.
9. Which Indian Institute has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to promote the development of indigenous technologies _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.**

Note:

- They also aim to develop equipment through Research and Development in areas of mutual interest.
 - The MoU was signed at Bengaluru during Aero India 2023.
 - The IIT Roorkee will provide its expertise and cooperation in research for feasibility studies and prototype development.
10. Which navratna PSU has signed an MoU with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), DRDO and Cisco _____ **Bharat Electronics (BEL).**

Note:

- BEL & ADA agreement: For the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme
- BEL & Cisco: For long-term strategic cooperation in the areas of networking, collaboration, and security among other associated services
- Aim: To leverage the complementary strengths and capabilities
- These MoUs were signed during the Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru.



11. Which defense group of UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) _____ **EDGE**.

Note:

- Aim: To explore the areas of cooperation, including joint design and development of missile systems and Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones)
- Besides, both companies will also explore the utilization of HAL's small gas turbine engines on EDGE's guided weapons.

12. Which INS has become the first Indian submarine to dock in Indonesia and is a 3,000-tonne Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine _____ **INS Sindhukesari**.

Note:

- The submarine made its way to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta to dock after traversing through the nearby Sunda Strait and was part of INS Sindhukesari's first operational turnaround.
- It was designed as part of Project 877 and built under a contract between Rosvooruzhenie, Russia, and Ministry of Defence, India.

13. A contingent of the Indian Air Force will participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior, which is being conducted in which country _____ **Waddington Air Force Base, UK**.

Note:

- The exercise is scheduled to be held from 6th -24th March 2023.
- It is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, the USA, and Singapore would also participate.
- In 2023, IAF is participating in the exercise with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globemaster, and an IL-78 mid-air refueller aircraft.

14. The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Ex-Desert Flag VIII, organized at the Al Dahfra airbase of the which country _____ **United Arab Emirates**.

Note:

- The exercise will be scheduled from 27th February to 17th March 2023.
- The IAF has participated with five Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas, and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.
- The Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, South Korea, and the USA would join this multilateral air exercise.

15. Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) and which Auckland University signed an MoU to engage in long-term cooperation in cancer care _____ **Waipapa Taumata Rau**.

Note:

- TMH is the most renowned cancer care hospital and research center in India.
- Initial projects envisaged for the partnership include a digital platform:
- For clinical trials to track study-related activities for patients, investigators, and regulators
- To make outpatient clinics more efficient
- To enhance prescription medicine safety

16. Which National University's researchers are trying to reveal the fifth layer of the Earth _____ **Australia**.

Note:

- Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core.
- The team believes that presented evidence of a distinct layer inside Earth known as the innermost inner core
- This layer is a solid 'metallic ball' that sits within the center of the inner core
- So far, scientists believed that there are only four layers on the Earth

17. The Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA) is set to get software and hardware upgrades. This is a _____ **Radio telescope**.

Note:



- Reason: To collect more data and produce sharper images than ever before
- ALMA is a radio telescope comprising 66 antennas located in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.
- The upgradation would take around five years to finish.
- It is operated under a partnership between the US, and 16 countries in Europe, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Chile.

18. Which platform has introduced a new research tool LLaMA that will soon aid in building AI-based chatbots _____ **Meta**.

Note:

- The company has publicly released its Large Language Model Meta AI (LLaMA).
- LLaMA is a state-of-the-art foundational language model.
- It is developed to assist researchers in their work in the subfield of AI.
- This would be Meta's third LLM after Glactica and Blender Bot 3 that were shut down immediately after incorrect results.

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