

Weekly One-liners

1-7 April 2023



Weekly One Liners Updates 1st -7th April 2023

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **April 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Which payment bank has renewed its association with Rajasthan Royals (RR) for Season 16 of the Indian premier cricket competition, IPL _____ **Fino Payments Bank**.

Note:

- Fino Bank will be RR's official digital banking partner.
- The bank made its maiden foray with the mega sporting event last season by partnering with RR as the digital payments partner.
- The newly launched FinoPay digital savings account is expected to get more traction through this engagement.

- What is revised interest rate of the National Savings Certificate _____ **7.7%**.

Note:

- The rate for Sukanya Samriddhi has increased to 8% from 7.6%.
- The interest rates for PPF and savings deposits have been retained at 7.1% and 4%.
- Senior citizen savings scheme: 8.2%.
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.5%
- KVP will now mature in 115 months as against 120 months earlier.

- India's GST revenue collection for March 2023 stood at 1.6 lakh crore rupees, which is ___higher than the GST revenues in March 2022 _____ **13%**.

Note:

- It is for the fourth time, in the current financial year that the gross GST collection has crossed 1.5 lakh crore rupees, since the implementation of GST.
- Out of the total collection, CGST is 29,546 crore rupees, SGST is 37,314 crore rupees and IGST is 82,907 crore rupees.
- The gross revenues in 2022-23 were 22% higher than in 2021-22.

- Which payment collaborated with Airtel to launched WhatsApp Banking Services for its customers in New Delhi _____ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.

Note:

- This channel will enable IPPB customers to seamlessly connect with the bank on WhatsApp and effortlessly avail of a host of banking services.
- It includes doorstep service requests, locating the nearest Post Office, and much more.
- Airtel has been working with IPPB to deliver as many as 250 million messages per month to the bank's customers.

- How much amount of support package was approved by the IMF for Ukraine to assist with the conflict-hit country's economic recovery _____ **15.6 billion US dollar**.

Note:

- The loan is part of a broader 115 billion US dollar international support package to help the country meet urgent funding needs.
- Of the total amount, 2.7 billion dollars is being made available to Ukraine immediately and the rest of the funds are due to be released over the next four years.

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's CAD has narrowed to \$18.2 billion (2.2% of GDP) in the October to December quarter (Q3FY23) from 4.4% of the GDP in the quarter ending September 2022. What is the full form of CAD _____ **Current Account Deficit**.

Note:

- Reason: The decline was mainly due to the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit.
- Services exports reported a growth of 24.5% on a y-o-y basis.

- CAD: It is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange.
7. Which bank has become the first Indian bank to open its 'Special Rupee Vostro' account through its corresponding bank in Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia for trade settlement in rupee _____ **Union Bank of India.**

Note:

- The trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the Indian rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies.
 - In July 2022, RBI decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee.
 - Malaysia currency: Ringgit
8. According to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the government's fiscal deficit for April 2022-February 2023 has widened to what amount _____ **Rs 14.54 lakh crore.**

Note:

- It is accounted for 82.8% of the full-year target for 2022-23.
 - In 2021-22, the Fiscal deficit in the first 11 months was 82.7% of that year's target.
 - The Centre made an upward revision in its fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 in the 2023 Budget to Rs 17.55 lakh crore from Rs 16.61 lakh crore.
9. Name three insurance organizations that was has identified as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) for 2022-23 by IRDAI _____ **LIC, New India Assurance, and GIC Re.**

Note:

- These were the same institutions identified as DSII in 2021-22.
 - D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance, and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
10. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$5.98 billion to _____ on March 24, 2023 _____ **\$578.78 billion.**

Note:

- Data for the previous week showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$572.8 billion, the highest level since early February 2023.
 - India's foreign currency assets (FCA) also increased from \$4.38 billion to \$509.72 billion.
 - India's gold reserves rose by \$1.37 billion to \$45.48 billion.
11. The Public sector banks (PSBs) have transferred unclaimed deposits of what amount as of February 2023 to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) _____ **₹35,012 crore.**

Note:

- These deposits have not been operated for 10 years or more.
 - SBI tops the list with an unclaimed amount of ₹8,086 crore, while PNB has ₹5,340 crore and Canara Bank has ₹4,558 crore.
 - These unclaimed deposits belong to 10.24 crore accounts transferred to the RBI.
 - MoS for Finance Bhagwat Karad shared this information in Lok Sabha.
12. Which private lender and VISA jointly launched a mobile application, 'Digital Dukaan' to empower merchants to accept payments through various digital modes _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- It is designed to address business requirements such as accepting digital payments, inventory management, and billing.
 - This Android Smart POS application has an in-built camera with an LED flashlight to enable scanning of product barcodes and allow a tap-and-pay option for transactions up to Rs 5,000.
13. World Bank has predicted India's economy to slow in the 2023-24 to what percent on the back of shrinkage in consumption due to slower income growth _____ **6.3%.**

Note:

- The report estimates India's inflation to moderate from 6.6% to 5.5% in the current fiscal.
 - The Current Account Deficit (CAD) is expected to be 5.2% in FY24.
 - The Economic Survey had projected a growth of 6.5% for the current fiscal while RBI's latest projection pegs growth for FY24 at 6.4%.
14. Which bank has introduced a "Premium Payroll Package" for Salary account holders with competitive features _____ **Canara Bank.**

Note:

- This product has been designed to meet all Banking requirements of Salaried Customers.

- Features: Free Term Life Insurance, Insta over Draft, free Personal & Air Accident Insurance coverage, Premium Cards, etc.
 - All employees of a firm/company with a minimum of 5 employees.
 - Age: 18-65 years
 - Salary Band: Rs. 50,000-Rs.1,00,000
- 15.** According to the latest edition of ADB's flagship economic publication, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023, what would be India's GDP growth in FY24 (2023-24) _____ **6.4%**.
- Note:**
- Reason: Risks arising from global and domestic factors
 - ADB has also highlighted that India's GDP will rise in FY25 to 6.7%.
 - While inflation will likely moderate to 5% in 2023-24, assuming moderation in oil and food prices.
 - Inflation will be at 4.5% in FY25.
- 16.** Which tax was removed by India government on crude oil production to nil from 3,500 rupees (\$42.56) per tonne and on diesel has been slashed to Rs 0.5 per litre from Re 1 per litre, effective from April 4, 2023 _____ **Windfall tax**.
- Note:**
- Windfall tax: It is levied by governments when an industry unexpectedly earns large profits.
 - The tax was levied in July 2022 as high energy prices led to soaring profits for oil producers.
 - The decision comes at a time when OPEC+ decided to cut production.
- 17.** Which fintech organization has launched a new consumer-facing application named Pincode, which will be a part of India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework _____ **PhonePe**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To strengthen its e-commerce forays
 - Pincode is a buyer app that focuses on hyperlocal commerce and is available for download on both Google Play and the App Store.
 - It will launch in six major categories including grocery, food, pharma, electronics, home decor, and fashion.
- 18.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its bimonthly monetary policy and kept the repo rate unchanged at what percent _____ **6.50%**.
- Note:**
- The GDP is expected to jump 6.5% in the current financial year.
 - Retail inflation is expected to moderate to 5.2% in FY2023-24.
 - The standing deposit facility (SDF) would remain unchanged at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and the bank rate at 6.75%.
 - In Q1FY24, CPI-based inflation is expected to be 5.1%.
 - The real GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7%.
- 19.** According to the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, released by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), what would be the global merchandise trade volume grow in 2023 _____ **1.7%**.
- Note:**
- It would be lower than 2.7% growth in 2022.
 - The expectation would be 'subpar' due to multiple factors, including Russia-Ukraine conflict, high inflation, tighter monetary policy, and financial uncertainty.
 - WTO DG: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- 20.** According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the Bank credit rose by ____ year-on-year (YoY) in 2022-23 (FY23), against 9.6% YoY in 2021-22 (FY22) _____ **15%**.
- Note:**
- FY23 credit growth is the highest since 2011-12, when it was 19.3%.
 - Bank deposits expanded 9.58% YoY in FY23, against 8.9% YoY growth seen in the previous financial year (FY22).
 - The outstanding credit stood at Rs 136.75 trillion at the end of the last fortnight of FY23 (March 24, 2023).

Obituaries

- 1.** Sara Thomas, who passed away at 88 due to age-related ailments, was a noted _____ **Author**.

Note:

- She is a two-time recipient of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.
- Her noted work 'Narmadipudava' won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1979.
- She was also awarded the academy's award in 2010 for her overall contribution to Malayalam literature.

- Her second novel 'Muripadukal' was made into a movie titled 'Manimuzhakkam' in 1976, which won several national and state awards.
2. Salim Durani, who passed away at the age of 88 in Jamnagar, Gujarat, was associated with which sports _____ **Cricket**.
- Note:**
- He played 29 Tests for India from 1960 to 1973, scoring 1,202 runs at an average of 25.04, with one century (104 against West Indies in 1962) and seven fifties.
 - He was a left-arm spinner and claimed 75 wickets at 35.42 apiece.
 - In first-class cricket, he played for Saurashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.
 - He was born in Kabul (Afghanistan) in 1934 and was raised in Jamnagar.
3. Thottathil B Radhakrishnan, who passed away in Kochi at the age of 63, was a _____ **Former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court**.
- Note:**
- He also served as the Chief Justice of Telangana and Chattisgarh HC and was a judge of the Kerala HC.
 - He was an expert in civil, constitutional, and administrative matters.
 - He also chaired the expert committee formed by the Kerala Forest Department to record details of houses and commercial establishments that surround wildlife sanctuaries.
4. Ryuichi Sakamoto, who passed away at the age of 71 due to cancer, was a veteran _____ **Composer**.
- Note:**
- He was a Japanese composer, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO).
 - As a film-score composer, he won an Oscar, a BAFTA, a Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards.
 - He won an Academy Award with his score for the 1987 period epic "The Last Emperor".
5. Jagarnath Mahto, who passed away at 56 in Chennai, was an Education minister of which state _____ **Jharkhand**.
- Note:**
- He was the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in the Giridih district, Jharkhand.
 - He was also known as Tiger Mahto or Tiger Jagarnath Da.
 - He was born on January 1, 1967, in the Alargo village of Bokaro District in Jharkhand and dropped out of high school and attended Nehru High School in 1995 before leaving his studies to pursue a career in politics.

Important Days

1. World Autism day is observed annually on which date to promote awareness and advocacy for the rights of people with autism _____ **April 2**.
- Note:**
- This year marks the 16th anniversary of the day.
 - This year the theme is "Contribution of Autistic Individuals at Home, at Work, in the Arts, and Policymaking."
 - In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day, following a proposal put forward by the State of Qatar.
2. International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on which date to raise awareness against explosive mines and gather assistance towards their eradication _____ **April 4**.
- Note:**
- Theme 2023: Mine Action Cannot Wait
 - The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) leads the mine action community, which plays an important role in achieving the goals of mine action.
 - On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April to observe as this day.
3. India observed which edition of National Maritime Day on April 5, 2023, to commemorate the sailing of the first Indian commercial vessel, SS Loyalty _____ **60th**.
- Note:**
- The ship sailed from Mumbai to London.
 - This day was started by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways in 1964.
 - The theme for 2023 has not yet been announced.
 - The theme for National Maritime Week 2023 is 'Amrit Kaal in Shipping'.
 - World Maritime Day is observed on 28 September.
4. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDS DP) takes place on which date to celebrate the role of sports and physical activity in our lives across the globe _____ **April 6**.
- Note:**

- 2023 theme: Scoring for People and the Planet
 - On August 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 67/296 to proclaim April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.
 - This day was supported by the International Olympic Committee.
5. World Health Day is celebrated every year on which date to spread awareness about health-related issues that affect people all over the world _____ **April 7.**
- Note:**
- On this day, World Health Organisation (WHO) was founded in 1948 and this year marks the 75th founding anniversary of WHO.
 - This year, the theme for World Health Day is 'Health for All'.
 - The theme highlights an opportunity for the world to look back at public health successes that have helped improve the quality of life.
6. International Conscience Day is celebrated on which date to promote peace _____ **April 5.**
- Note:**
- Conscience is the ability of a person to distinguish between what's right and what's wrong.
 - It allows people to have a moral backbone and to protect those who are weak.
7. The Indian Government organized the Prevention of Blindness Week from ____ every year _____ **April 1-7.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To raise awareness about the causes and prevention of blindness.
 - The annual event aims to support individuals with visual impairments and to promote access to eye care services.

New Appointments

1. Who was appointed as the first head of NASA's Moon to Mars Programme, with immediate effect _____ **Amit Kshatriya.**
- Note:**
- The new office aims to carry out the agency's human exploration activities on the Moon and Mars for the benefit of humanity.
 - He will be responsible for planning and executing human missions to these celestial bodies for the betterment of humanity.
 - NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson
2. Adani Group has appointed whom as the Executive Chairman of the Haifa Port Company _____ **Ron Malka.**
- Note:**
- He served as the ambassador of Israel to India from 2018-2021.
 - It is the second-largest port in Israel in terms of shipping containers.
 - The Adani Group officially took over this port in January 2023.
 - Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Israel's Gadot Group won the tender in July 2022 to privatize the Port of Haifa for USD 1.18 billion.
3. Who assumed the charge of the vice chief of naval staff on April 2, 2023 _____ **Vice Admiral, Sanjay Jasjit Singh.**
- Note:**
- He succeeded Vice Admiral SN Ghormade who retired after over 39 years of service.
 - He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and was commissioned in 1986 in the executive branch of the Indian Navy.
 - In his career, he has served on most classes of ships of the Indian Navy and has held a range of command, training, and staff appointments.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed whom as executive director (ED) _____ **Neeraj Nigam.**
- Note:**
- Before being promoted to ED, he was heading the Bhopal regional office of the RBI as director.
 - During his long career, he served in Regulation and Supervision, human resource management, premises, currency management, bank accounts, and other areas in the Reserve Bank.
5. Who has been selected as the first woman astronaut by the American Space Agency, NASA for its Artemis II mission _____ **Christina Koch.**
- Note:**
- Other crew members: Victor Glover (First Black Astronaut) and Reid Wiseman of NASA, and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

- It will involve a fly-by of the moon and a 10-day journey back to Earth.
 - It is part of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.
6. Who has assumed the charge as the 40th president of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) at the 39th annual session _____ **Sudha Shivkumar.**

Note:

- FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber in Southeast Asia.
 - She is a lawyer and investment banker by profession and presently serving as a director at auto ancillaries.
 - She was the Chairperson of the FLO Chennai Chapter in 2016-17.
 - FLO is the women's wing of the FICCI
7. The Board member of Suzlon Energy has appointed whom as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) _____ **J P Chalasani.**

Note:

- He has replaced Ashwani Kumar, who resigned from the post on account of personal reasons.
- He had been Group CEO of Suzlon from April 2016 to July 2020 and continued as Strategic Advisor to the Suzlon Group thereafter.
- He was also the Group CEO and Managing Director of Punj Lloyd.

Important News - India

1. According to the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate increased to what percent in March 2023 _____ **7.8%.**

Note:

- The unemployment rate in the country surged in December 2022 to 8.30% but declined in January to 7.14%.
 - It edged up again in February 2023 to 7.45%.
 - In March 2023, the unemployment rate in urban areas of India reached 8.4%, while in rural areas it stood at 7.5%.
 - In March 2023, unemployment was the highest in Haryana at 26.8%.
2. Union Minister for Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched the App Version of the National Logistics Portal (Marine) What is the name this application _____ **Sagar-Setu.**

Note:

- The app has been envisaged with deliverables covering features like a Login Module, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee, Certification, and Track & Trace etc.
 - Benefits for Traders
 - Improve convenience with the reduced turnaround time for approval and compliance.
 - Increase the visibility of operations and tracking.
3. According to the report titled 'Women and Men in India 2022', an average Indian woman aged between 15 and 29 spends 5.5 hours doing unpaid labor. This report was released by which ministry _____ **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

Note:

- While a man between 15 and 29 spends about 50 minutes daily doing work that yields no money.
 - A senior woman (above 60) spends four hours a day doing unpaid labor, while a senior man spends 1.5 hours on the same.
4. Bhutan king arrived in India for a two-day visit and was received by EAM S Jaishankar in New Delhi. Who is he _____ **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.**

Note:

- Both countries will discuss hydro-power cooperation, economic and trade partnership, space cooperation, scholarships, youth-centric and STEM-based initiatives, and establishing digital infrastructure matters.
 - The defense and security ties between the two countries have seen significant growth in the last few years.
5. According to the new joint report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics, India could become the world's second-largest solar photovoltaic manufacturer by 2026, after which country _____ **China.**

Note:

- India's cumulative module manufacturing nameplate capacity more than doubled from 18GW in March 2022 to 38GW in March 2023.

- In terms of upcoming PV manufacturing installations, Gujarat would be the leading state in India.
6. According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, an initiative of Tata Trusts, which state emerged at the top among the 18 large and mid-sized states with a population of over one crore _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Tamil Nadu ranked second, followed by Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.
 - Small States (population less than 1 Crore): Sikkim (top), followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram
 - Four core pillars of the justice system: Police, Prisons, Judiciary, and Legal aid
7. Which two countries will set up the first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing _____ **India and Bhutan**.

Note:

- The two sides will set up the first integrated check post (ICP) along the border near Jaigaon and Phuntsholing.
 - The two sides agreed to find a technically sound and cost-effective way forward for the Punatsangchhu-I plant.
 - They also agreed to expedite the operationalization of the third international internet gateway for Bhutan.
8. The Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has set up a 14-members committee to examine stalled real estate projects and recommend ways to complete them. Who is the head of this committee _____ **Amitabh Kant**.

Note:

- Presently, Amitabh Kant is serving as the India's G20 Sherpa.
 - Other members: NOIDA CEO, Finances Services secretary of the Union Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs secretary, chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, and other officials.
9. The government has announced a plan to add _____ of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030 _____ **250 GW**.

Note:

- The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years (2023-28).
 - These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.
10. India plans to give green hydrogen fuel producers incentives worth at least _____ of their costs under a \$2 billion scheme by the end of June 2023 _____ **10%**.

Note:

- The govt has approved a 174.9 billion rupee incentive plan to promote green hydrogen to cut CO2 emissions and become a major exporter in the sector.
- The cost of manufacturing green hydrogen in India is about Rs 300/ kg and the government will give incentives worth at least Rs 30/kg for the production of green hydrogen fuel.

11. Under the chairmanship of whom, the Union Cabinet approved the Indian Space Policy, 2023 _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- Under this policy roles and responsibilities of ISRO, NewSpace India Limited, and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) have been laid down.
 - It enables the ISRO to channelize its focus on research and development of advanced space technologies.
 - This policy would increase the participation of private players in the space sector.
 - ISRO Chairman: S Somanath
12. The CCEA has approved the revised domestic natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced from nomination fields of ONGC/OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy blocks, and which block _____ **Pre-NELP blocks**.

Note:

- The price of natural gas shall be 10% of the monthly average of Indian Crude Basket and shall be notified on a monthly basis.
- For the gas produced by ONGC & OIL from their nomination blocks, the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price shall be subject to a floor and a ceiling.

13. The Information & Broadcasting Ministry and which organization have signed a collaboration agreement to boost India's creative economy _____ **Amazon India**.

Note:

- Amazon Prime Video will sponsor scholarships, create internship programs and job opportunities for students of the FTII and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute.
- International Film Festival of India Award-winning films and films produced as part of India's international co-production treaties will be onboarded by Amazon Prime Video.

14. Which Indian state will host the first-ever G20 summit of the State commencing on the 3rd of April 2023 _____

Tripura.

Note:

- The meeting will delve into 'Clean Energy for Greener Future.'
- After the first session of the summit, the second session will see the opening of exhibition stalls and an Investor Meet.
- A light and sound show will be organised for the G20 delegates at the Ujjayanta Palace.
- Chief Minister of Tripura: Manik Saha

15. Which Indian institution is being hosted the Youth20 (Y20) Consultation under the G20 Presidency of India on April 5, 2023 _____ **IIT Kanpur.**

Note:

- The two-day event was attended by more than 1,200 youth delegates from across India and abroad.
- It is a platform that brings young people together to connect and share ideas on finding innovative solutions to pressing global concerns.
- It is a pan-India activity in the run-up to the final Y20 Summit to be held in Varanasi, UP

Important News – State

1. Which state government has released Rs 877 crore to 43 lakh farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode on the occasion of Utkal Divas _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- The state government has extended another round of funds to Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) for undertaking the Kharif operation.
- About KALIA scheme:
 - It was launched in December 2018.
 - Aim: To reduce poverty and accelerate agricultural prosperity

2. Which state govt has launched India's first Cool Roof Policy 2023-2028 _____ **Telangana.**

Note:

- It is jointly launched by the state's municipal administration and urban development department.
- The policy aims to drive state-wide adoption of cool roofs by making it mandatory to install cool roofing materials, such as solar reflective paints, tiles, or sheets.
- It is a five-year policy, that came into force on April 1, 2023, and continues till March 31, 2028.

3. The world-famous Basohli Paintings from which district of Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh Wood Carving of Ladakh have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag _____ **Kathua.**

Note:

- The process for GI Tagging of these products was started by NABARD in consultation with and support from the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom in December 2020.
- A GI tag is a sign used on a product that has a special geographical origin.

4. Which state government has launched the 'CM di Yogshala' program and portal in state _____ **Punjab.**

Note:

- Aim: To create a mass movement to carve out a healthy and prosperous Punjab
- The initiative was initially launched for four cities of the state: Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara
- The formation of these Yogshalas will be under a pilot project.
- Trained Yoga instructors will impart free Yoga training to people in open parks and other public places.

5. A flagship initiative of which state government to prevent controllable blindness, 'Kanti Velugu program', has achieved a milestone by screening 1 crore people for eye problems _____ **Telangana.**

Note:

- The second phase of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June.
- Health staff is screening all individuals over 18 years old at Kanti Velugu camps set up in all Gram Panchayats in the State.
- A total of 1,500 teams are working towards creating a Guinness World Record.

6. Which North East state has been given the best state award in the northeastern region by the Centre for the successful implementation of e-procurement _____ **Tripura.**

Note:

- To maintain transparency, the state has made it mandatory to go for e-procurement if the value of any government purchase or contract goes beyond Rs 25,000.

- The total value of payments made through e-procurement and Government eMarketplace (GeM) portals increased from Rs 4,451 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 7441 crore in 2021-22.
7. Which state CM has inaugurated the Indian Institute of Technology Madras' (IIT-M) initiative which connects one lakh government school students to electronic devices _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- This outreach programme on STEM, which is part of the 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IITM for all) initiative, aims to connect one lakh rural Tamil Nadu students.
- The CM also distributed electronic kits to government school students which were developed by IIT Madras.

Important News – World

1. Which International NGO launched an initiative to distribute three million meals and food parcels to disadvantaged individuals and families during Ramadan _____ **UAE Food Bank**.

Note:

- The Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Jens Stoltenberg has informed that Finland has become the 31st member of the alliance.
- Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO.
- Finland shares a long border (over 1,300 kilometers) with Russia, and its decision to join NATO was prompted by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- However, Turkey and Hungary have declined Sweden's application to join NATO.

2. OPEC members including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, and Algeria have announced voluntary oil production cuts exceeding _____ million barrels per day from May 2023 until the end of the year _____ **One million barrels**.

Note:

- Reason: It is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market.
- OPEC slashed its collective output by two million barrels per day last year.
- OPEC is a group of 23 oil-producing countries.

3. Which country has invited PM Narendra Modi to visit Paris as a guest at the annual Bastille Day parade, which will be held in July 2023 _____ **France**.

Note:

- The PM and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to discuss several major agreements including those on the Indo-Pacific region, nuclear power, and defense, as the two countries mark the 25th year of their strategic partnership.
- Earlier, Manmohan Singh was invited as the Bastille Day parade guest in 2009.

4. Which country's government has launched a new initiative called 'Golden Licence' to incentivize investments and the creation of jobs _____ **Bahrain**.

Note:

- It is designed to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain.
- Eligibility for the Licence: Companies with significant strategic projects and investments exceeding US\$50 million or those creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain.

5. According to the Forbes Billionaire 2023 list, who has regained his spot as Asia's richest person after rival Gautam Adani (USD 47.2 billion) tumbled to No. 24 _____ **Mukesh Ambani**.

Note:

- Ambani (65) was ranked at No. 9 on the world billionaire list with a net worth of USD 83.4 billion.
- Bernard Arnault (CEO of LVMH) topped the Forbes Billionaires 2023 Rankings with an estimated net worth of a whopping 211 billion.
- Elon Musk placed second, followed by Jeff Bezos and Larry Ellison.

6. Which country has been elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2024 _____ **India**.

Note:

- India received a resounding 46 out of 53 votes, ahead of South Korea (23), China (19), and UAE (15).
- India was elected by secret ballot while Argentina, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America were elected by acclamation.
- UNSC is the highest body of the global statistical system.

Honor & Awards

1. Anjali Sharma of which district of Himachal Pradesh has conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, wearing Lunachari _____ **Kangra district.**

Note:

- She is working to promote Gaddi culture on the peaks of the mountains.
- Lunachari is a traditional dress of Himachal Pradesh.
- Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters) is the tallest mountain in Africa and the world's largest free-standing mountain.
- It has three main volcanic peaks namely Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.

2. Who was conferred "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain in April 2023 _____ **Kiran Nadar.**

Note:

- Reason: In recognition of her contribution to the field of art, her commitment to providing greater access to culture both nationally and internationally, and her leading role in fostering Indo-French cultural ties
- She is a chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.

3. Bihar's West Champaran was awarded the GI tag for its which food product _____ **Mircha rice.**

Note:

- The size and shape of the grain appear like that of black pepper, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice.
- This rice is famous for its aroma, palatability, and its aromatic chura (rice flakes) making qualities.
- The cooked rice is fluffy, non-sticky, sweet, and easily digestible with a popcorn-like aroma.

4. MS Dhoni was named among the five Indians to have been inducted with which honorary life membership _____ **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).**

Note:

- Other four Indian Cricketers: Yuvraj Singh, Maithali Raj, Suresh Raina, and Jhulan Goswami
- MS Dhoni had featured in 538 international games across formats, scoring over 17,000 runs during the same.
- Yuvraj Singh was an integral part of the Indian team that won the first T20 World Cup in 2007.

5. Who was honored with the Young Urologist of the Year Award by the American Urological Association (AUA) _____ **Dr. Nitya Abraham.**

Note:

- She is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency program.
- Other honorees: Rena Malik, Jesse D. Sammon, Sarah Vij, Alexander J. Ernest, Kerri Thurmon, Zachary Klaassen, and Yahir Santiago- Lastra

6. According to the data shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, which Indian airport has secured the ninth position in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022 _____ **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.**

Note:

- As per the data, this airport is handling 59.5 million passengers annually.
- IGI Airport has improved its ranking from 2021 (13th).
- Top: Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (93.6 million passengers)

Sports News

1. Who has clinched the Women's title in the 2023 Spain Masters, held in Madrid, Spain from 28 March-2 April 2023 _____ **Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Indonesia).**

Note:

- She defeated Indian Badminton player, PV Sindhu.
- While Japanese badminton player, Kenta Nishimoto won the men's title.
- Other winners:
 - Men's doubles: He Jiting and Zhou Haodong (China)
 - Women's doubles: Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China)
 - Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Bøje (Denmark)

2. Who won his first Australian Grand Prix 2023, held at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit, Australia _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- While Seven-time world champion, L. Hamilton (Mercedes driver) finished second followed by F. Alonso (Aston Martin) and L. Stroll (Aston Martin).
 - The Australian Grand Prix is a motor race held annually in Australia since 1928.
 - The next F1 Azerbaijan GP will be held in Baku City Circuit, Azerbaijan on April 30, 2023.
3. According to the latest FIFA rankings in April 2023, the Indian men's football team is now ranked at _____ **101**.

Note:

- Reason: Recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament, helped them secure 8.57 rating points.
 - Argentina continues to hold the top spot as the world champions.
 - France ranked second, followed by Brazil, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Croatia, and Italy
 - Japan holds the highest rank among Asian countries.
4. Who has won the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024 medal design competition _____ **Brazilian artist Dante Akira Uwai**.

Note:

- Akira Uwai's creation – 'A Sparkling Future' – was chosen by a panel of judges.
 - His design will feature on the medals for Gangwon 2024 which will be awarded in the Republic of Korea from 19 January to 1 February 2024.
5. FIFA withdrew hosting rights of which country for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023 _____ **Peru**.

Note:

- The decision was made after extensive discussions between FIFA and the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF).
 - FIFA officials cited concerns over the country's ability to meet the requirements for hosting such a major tournament.
6. Sanjita Chanu has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India. She is a _____ **Indian Wrestler**.

Note:

- Reason: She tested positive for banned drugs.
 - She has won the Commonwealth Games twice.
 - The testing took place during the National Games held in Gujarat in September-October 2022, and the results showed the presence of drostanolone, an anabolic-androgenic steroid prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
7. Who has won his fourth title of the year by defeating Jannik Sinner in Miami Opens 2023 _____ **Daniil Medvedev**.

Note:

- Women's singles: Petra Kvitová (Czech Republic)
- Men's doubles: Santiago González (Mexico) / Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
- Women's doubles: Coco Gauff / Jessica Pegula (United States)

Books and Authors

1. A new book titled Gandhi: Siyasat aur Sampradaiykta (' Gandhi: Politics and Communalism') was released in Hindi, was written by whom _____ **Piyush Babele**.

Note:

- Currently, he is the head of the Madhya Pradesh Congress' media department
 - He cites extracts from Dr. Ambedkar's book Pakistan or the Partition of India and other sources and claims to contextualize the developments leading up to India's Partition in 1947 to bust the illusion spread by the Hindu right-wing that Mahatma Gandhi was responsible for the Partition.
2. "Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire" is a book written by whom _____ **Nandini Das**.
- Note:**
- She is a professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool.
 - The book explores the complex relationship between England and Mughal India in the early modern period.
 - This book also focuses on the cultural and literary exchanges that took place between these two worlds.
3. A book entitled "War and Women" released, was written by whom _____ **Dr. M A Hasan**.

Note:

- It was launched during the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

- This book highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war.
 - The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue.
4. Who has written her debut children's book titled "Why Can't Elephants be Red??" _____ **Vani Tripathi Tikoo.**
- Note:**
- It was published by Niyogi Books.
 - The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore.
5. A new book titled 'Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema' has been released, was written by whom _____ **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee.**
- Note:**
- This book chronicles the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker Basu Chatterjee.
 - It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

Science and Defence

1. Which edition of the annual Indian - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise, SLINEX-2023 is scheduled to be held in Colombo on April 3, 2023 _____ **10th.**
- Note:**
- It is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase.
 - The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura.
 - The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.
2. In Financial Year 2022-23, India's defense exports have reached an all-time high of _____, which is almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year (2021-22) _____ **15920 crore rupees.**
- Note:**
- At present, India is now exporting to over 85 countries.
 - India exports major platforms like Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns (ATAGs), Brahmos Missiles, Akash Missile System, Simulators, Mine Protected Vehicles, Armoured Vehicles, PINAKA Rockets & Launchers, etc.
3. The Indian Air Force and which country's Air Force started the joint exercise 'Cope India' at Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal from April 10 to 21, 2023 _____ **The US Air Force.**
- Note:**
- This exercise will enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two air forces.
 - While Japan will also join as an "observer" in the exercise and witness "air combat and mobility elements" operating from multiple air bases like Kalaikunda, Panagarh, Agra, and Hindon.
4. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Lok Sabha that the central government approved the induction of women in which regiment _____ **Artillery.**
- Note:**
- In January 2023, the proposal to induct woman officers in the Regiment of Artillery was sent to the government.
 - The exact number of woman officers who will be inducted into the Artillery will only be known at the time of the commission of the next batch from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai.
5. Which country has successfully launched the "Ofek-13" spy satellite into space by the Shavit launch vehicle, from Palmachim Airbase spaceport _____ **Israel.**
- Note:**
- This satellite was manufactured by state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
 - It is the latest in a series of domestically produced satellites that were first put into orbit in 1988.
 - Immediately after launch, the satellite successfully entered orbit and started transmitting data, and completed an initial series of tests
6. Which space agency in association with these DRDO and IAF successfully demonstrated a precise landing experiment for a Reusable Launch Vehicle Autonomous Landing Mission (RLV LEX) test _____ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- Note:**
- It was conducted at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka.

- This is a part of ISRO's efforts to develop RLVs, or space planes/shuttles, which can travel to low earth orbits to deliver payloads and return to earth for use again.
7. Which space start-up has successfully test-fired a fully 3D-printed 'Dhawan II' cryogenic engine for 200 seconds _____ **Skyroot Aerospace.**

Note:

- The company developed the engine for its heavier vehicle, Vikram II.
- This engine will be used as the upper stage of the updated version of Vikram-II.
- A cryogenic upper stage instead of a solid fuel stage enhances the payload-carrying capacity of a rocket.
- In 2022, Skyroot Aerospace became the first Indian private company to send a rocket into space.

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Features :



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