

Weekly One-liners

22-31 March 2023



Weekly One Liners Updates 22- 31st March 2023

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

- According to the data shared by the Union MoS for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in Rajya Sabha, the enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana have shown a hike of what percent in FY 2021-22 from FY 2019-20 _____ **More than 40%**.

Note:

- The total fund allocated under APY for Government Co-contribution, Payment of Incentives to Banks, Promotional Campaigns, and Gap fund is Rs. 2078.94 crore (2015 to Feb 2023).
- Out of the total amount, Rs. 1529.41 crores has been released till February 2023.

- According to the Finance Ministry report, the Indian economy is expected to grow at what percent in FY23 despite global headwinds _____ **7%**.

Note:

- Retail inflation would moderate in line with wholesale inflation which fell to a 25-month low in January 2023.
- It will be supported by the gains from high services exports, the moderation in oil prices, and the recent fall in import-intensive consumption demand.
- The current account deficit (CAD) of India is estimated to fall in FY23 and FY24.

- Which bank has entered into a co-lending pact with Autotractor Finance (AFL) through YubiCo.Lend platform to offer new tractor loans for agricultural and allied activities in rural segments of the country _____ **Axis Bank**.

Note:

- This partnership will leverage the wide customer experience of Autotractor Finance and the deep financial expertise of Axis Bank to enable easy credit availability for farmers.
- They would be able to reach out to potential customers.
- Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

- Which government department has launched a free-of-cost Mobile app namely AIS for taxpayers _____ **Income Tax Department**.

Note:

- Aim: To facilitate the taxpayers to view their information as available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS)
- In the app, taxpayers can view various information related to TDS, interest, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds, and GST Data among others.
- It will also have the option and the facility to provide feedback.

- Which fintech organization has collaborated with Bharat BillPay to strengthen its loan repayment facility _____ **Amazon Pay**.

Note:

- Bharat BillPay is a biller platform of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Loan repayment is one of the top categories in terms of bill payment, amongst other options such as electricity and municipal tax payments.
- The category facilitates loan repayment options for customers who avail of their loans through banks, microfinance institutions, and NBFCs.

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a "Greenfield Data Centre" and 'Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute' in which state _____ **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Note:

- The Governor also highlighted the need for augmenting the existing computing infrastructure of the RBI supported by cutting-edge facilities for research and capacity building.
- It will cater to the emerging requirements of the RBI and the financial sector.

7. Which country joined the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) as an official member _____ **Egypt**.

Note:

- Egypt completed all the necessary procedures to become an eligible member on February 20, 2023.
- BRICS' New Development bank was established in July 2014, after an intergovernmental agreement was signed by the partner nations at the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza.
- NDB bank includes India, Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa as member countries.

8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on which bank for violating rules _____ **Karur Vysya Bank**.

Note:

- Reason: For non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Reserve Bank of India (Frauds - Classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) directions 2016'
- The penalty was imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

9. The central government has increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) by how much percent, taking the total to 42% of the Basic Pay for central government employees and pensioners _____ **4%**.

Note:

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to release an additional installment of DA to Central Governments employees and Dearness Relief to Pensioners with effect from 1st January 2023.
- The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and Dearness Relief will be over 12,815 crore rupees per annum.

10. Which bank signed an agreement as an additional bancassurance partner in the life insurance category with SBI Life _____ **Karur Vysya Bank**.

Note:

- Under this arrangement, banks earn additional revenue from the sale of insurance products via commission.
- And, insurance companies can reach a wider set of customers without increasing their manpower.
- Bancassurance: It is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance firm through which the insurer sell its products to the bank's customers.

11. Which international organization will provide a loan of up to Rs 754 crore to SAEL Industries Ltd for setting up biomass power plants in Rajasthan _____ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

Note:

- SAEL is a solar and agricultural waste-to-energy company.
- It has developed a business model where crop residues are used as fuel in waste-to-energy projects.
- The company aims to grow its portfolio to 3.5 GW over the next four years by adding 100 MW of new biomass and 600 MW of new solar capacity annually.

12. The Centre has notified a hike in wage rates up to 10% under MGNREGS for 2023-24, which state having the highest daily wage at ₹357 per day _____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at ₹221.
- The wage hikes, which range from ₹7 to ₹26, will come into effect from April 1, 2023.
- It is a flagship program aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment.

13. Which General Insurance launched the 'Anywhere Cashless' feature for health insurance policyholders to avail of cashless facilities at any hospital _____ **ICICI Lombard**.

Note:

- The feature will be subject to the hospital's acceptance of the cashless facility.
- Policyholders must inform the company 24 hours prior to the date of admission by giving basic information about the patient, policy details, hospital name, diagnosis, and treating doctor, among others.

14. S&P Global Ratings has kept its forecast for India's economic growth unchanged at what percent for 2023-24 and 6.9% for 2024-25 _____ **6%**.

Note:

- In the quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P highlighted that the inflation rate will be eased to 5% in 2023-24 from 6.8% in the current financial year (2022-23).
- It has also been forecasted that the GDP of India will grow by 7% in the current financial year ending March 31 (2022-23).
- S&P Global HQ: New York, U.S.

15. According to the World Bank's report titled 'Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies', the global economy's 'speed limit' is on track to crash to a three-decade low by which year _____ **2030**.

Note:

- The 'speed limit' refers to the maximum long-term growth rate without sparking inflation concerns.
- At 2.2%, the global average potential GDP growth rate would be sharply lower than the 3.5% recorded in the first decade of the century.

16. Aditya Birla Group has agreed to sell its insurance broking business, Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Ltd (ABIBL) to which private equity firm for ₹455 crore _____ **Samara Capital**.

Note:

- ABIBL is specialized in providing integrated insurance broking and advisory services to companies and individuals.
- It also offers reinsurance solutions to insurance companies.
- It is subject to receipt of the approval of IRDAI and other regulatory and statutory approvals.

17. Which bank will acquire Silicon Valley Bank and assume control of all its deposits and loans _____ **First Citizens Bank**.

Note:

- As part of the deal, North Carolina-based First Citizens Bank has agreed to purchase \$72 billion worth of SVB's assets at a \$16.5 billion discount from the FDIC.
- First Citizens Bank will take control of \$56 billion in deposits.
- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) will continue to retain receivership of around \$90 billion worth of SVB's assets.

18. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has fixed what percent interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2022-23 _____ **8.15%**.

Note:

- In March 2022, EPFO lowered the interest on EPF for 2021-22 to 8.1% for its about five crore subscribers, from 8.5% in 2020-21.
- After the CBT's decision, the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2022-23 will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for concurrence.
- EPFO provides the interest rate only after finance ministry ratification.

19. The government has set a maximum rate of GST compensating cess on pan masala, cigarettes, and other kinds of tobacco, with the highest rate tied to the retail sale price. What is the full form of GST _____ **Goods and Services Tax**.

Note:

- The cess rate was capped as part of amendments to the Finance Bill 2023.
- According to the amendment, the maximum GST compensation cess rate for pan masala will be 51% of the retail sale price per unit, from the current cess charge at 135% ad valorem.

20. Which organization has received approval from RBI to commence operations as an NBFC Account Aggregator (AA) _____ **CRIF Connect Private**.

Note:

- CRIF Connect is uniquely positioned to benefit both consumers and financial institutions.
- It is an end-to-end encrypted platform that securely fetches and transfers a consumer's financial data based on their explicit consent between financial institutions, making data sharing extremely safe based on RBI-approved guidelines.

21. The SEBI has simplified the procedural requirements for FPIs onboarding. What is the full form FPI _____ **Foreign Portfolio Investors**.

Note:

- SEBI has allowed designated depository participants (DDPs) to grant FPI registration based on scanned copies of application forms and supporting documents.
- Trading can only be activated following the verification of the physical documents.
- It has allowed DDPs to accept the use of digital signatures by FPIs for the execution of registration-related documents.

22. SEBI has imposed penalties totaling of what amount on PNB Finance and Industries Ltd, Camac Commercial Company Ltd, and various other entities _____ **₹35.67 crore**.

Note:

- It includes promoters Samir Jain and Meera Jain who have also been barred from the securities market.
- Reason: Comply with the minimum public shareholding requirement under Sebi norms
- Listed companies are required to have at least 25% public shareholding.

- SEBI imposed a fine of Rs 12 crore on PNBFIL.
23. Which organization has recommended an interchange fee of up to 1.1% on merchant UPI transactions done using prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)–wallets/cards–with effect from April 1, 2023 _____ **NPCI**.

Note:

- The charges will be levied on UPI payments of over ₹2,000 made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants.
 - However, on certain merchant categories, a lower interchange starting from 0.5%, might be levied as per applicable caps.
24. Under the IRDAI (Payment of Commission) Regulations, 2023, the IRDAI has replaced the earlier individual cap on commission payments on insurance products with an overall cap on EoM of insurers _____ **Expenses of Management**.

Note:

- EoM: It is computed as a percentage of premiums collected, and includes commissions/other expenses.
 - It is applicable for life and non-life insurers.
 - The EoM of general insurers cannot exceed 30% of the gross premium written in India in a financial year.
25. The Finance Ministry informed that the government has decided to make a gross market borrowing of what amount in the first half of FY24 _____ **₹8.88 trillion**.

Note:

- It is accounting for 57.55% of the overall market borrowings planned for the year.
 - The borrowing is scheduled to be completed in 26 weekly tranches of Rs 31,000-39,000 crore.
 - The Centre has budgeted a gross market borrowing of ₹15.43 trillion in FY 2024.
 - The borrowing program is finalized in consultation with the RBI.
26. According to data presented in the Rajya Sabha, the public sector banks (PSBs) have written off around what amount in the first 9 months of the current fiscal year _____ **₹91,000 crores**.

Note:

- PSBs have just managed to recover a little over ₹1 out of ₹5 in written-off accounts during FY22.
 - However, the pace of recovery has picked up from around 8% in 2017-18 to a little over 21% in FY22.
 - Bank-wise details: SBI (₹17,356 cr) followed by Union Bank of India (₹16,497 crore), and BoB (₹13,032 cr)
27. SEBI has approved a framework for an ASBA like facility for secondary market trading. What is the full form of ASBA _____ **Application Supported by a Blocked Amount**.

Note:

- It is based on the blocking of funds for trading in the secondary market through UPI.
 - ASBA:
 - It is an IPO application process under which the application money by an investor is blocked in that investor's bank account.
 - And once the IPO application is approved, the application money is debited from the investor's account.
28. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed PE funds to sponsor Mutual Fund schemes. What is the full form of PE _____ **Private Equity.s**

Note:

- The decision comes in the backdrop of IDFC Mutual Fund getting acquired by a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Sovereign Wealth Fund GIC, and private equity fund ChryCapital.
 - It has also permitted the set-up of self-sponsored asset management companies (AMCs).
 - SEBI chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch
29. The Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank has approved a \$100 million loan to which Indian state _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- Reason: To robust its early forecasting systems for improved response to disasters and enhance its social protection coverage for poor and vulnerable households through digital platforms
 - Odisha is vulnerable to natural disasters with cyclones hitting the state every 15 months on average.
 - The Program has a maturity of 12.5 years with a grace period of 3 years.
30. Which fintech organization has joined hands with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to extend its support to women entrepreneurs in the country _____ **BharatPe**.

Note:

- Focus area: To facilitate the development of a first-of-its-kind aggregator platform that gives access to peer support, mentorship, networking channels
- According to the 6th economic census, women comprise only 13.76% of the total entrepreneurs in India.

31. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd. (ABHICL) has signed a bancassurance pact with which bank for the distribution of health insurance products _____ **UCO Bank**.

Note:

- This partnership enables ABHICL to expand its national footprint by leveraging UCO Bank's widely distributed network of 3,164 branches.
- ABHICL now has 17 bancassurance partners with over 80,000 direct-selling agents, across the country.
- CEO, Aditya Birla Health Insurance: Mayank Bathwal

32. Which capital firm has signed a strategic MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) for various financial products and offerings _____ **Godrej Capital**.

Note:

- Both organizations joined together to make financial solutions more accessible and affordable, unlocking opportunities for financial inclusion.
- The association leverages the strengths of both groups by facilitating a gamut of financial services provided by the bank such as banking products, credit cards, and wealth management.

33. Axis Bank and which Housing Finance Limited signed a partnership agreement under the co-lending model through the Yubi Co.Lend platform _____ **Shriram Housing Finance Limited**.

Note:

- Both lenders will offer secured MSME loans and home loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers based in rural and semi-urban regions.
- It will leverage the financial expertise of bank, and the loan processing technology of SHFL to assess the credit profile of borrowers and provide loans at competitive interest rate

34. Ambit Finvest has partnered with SKALEUP (digital technology services arm of Bajaj Finserv Direct) to develop a D2C instant loan application. What is the full form of D2C _____ **Direct-to-customer**.

Note:

- Under this partnership, they will provide give business loans to MSME business owners through a completely paperless and automated digital onboarding process.
- Ambit Finvest is the NBFC of the Ambit Group.
- CEO of Bajaj Finserv Direct: Ashish Panchal

35. The World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved a USD 363 million loan to which Indian state _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Reason: To provide a clean drinking water supply to two million rural households in the state through a piped water connection in their homes
- The USD 363 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The loan has a maturity of 13.5 years including a grace period of two years.

Obituaries

1. Jag Mohan Nath (ret'd), who passed away, was a veteran _____ **IAF Wing Commander**.

Note:

- He was honoured with the Maha Vir Chakra, for gathering information during his missions which proved vital to Indian air efforts during the wars.
- Wing Commander Nath retired in 1970 and later joined Air India as a commercial pilot.

2. Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamy of which mutt, passed away at 73 due to health-related issues _____ **Jain mutt**.

Note:

- The seer was a scholar in Sanskrit and Prakrit.
- During his tenure as head of the mutt, he conducted mahamastakabhisheka, the grand anointment of the 57-foot tall Gomateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola four times (1981, 1993, 2006, and 2018).
- The ceremony is organized once in 12 years.

3. Naidunia Abhay Chhajlani, who passed away at 88 due to health-related issues, was associated with which field _____ **Journalism**.

Note:

- He entered the field of journalism in 1955 and graduated from the Thomson Foundation, Cardiff (UK).
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

- He also served as the president of the Indian Language Newspaper Association (ILNA) and Indian Newspaper Society (INS).
4. Gordon Moore, who passed away, was the creator of which semiconductor company _____ **Intel**.

Note:

- He was the driving force behind the development of modern computing devices.
- He started working on semiconductors in the 1950s and co-founded the Intel Corporation in 1968.
- He was best known for coining Moore's law which predicted the speed of advances in computer chips that came to explain the exponential improvement in technology of all kinds.

5. Renowned actor 'Innocent' Vareed Thekkethala, who passed away at 75, was associated with which regional cinema _____ **Malayalam**.

Note:

- He joined the film industry in 1972 with the movie 'Nriyashala' starring Prem Nazir and Jayabharathi.
- He acted in over 700 films and was known for his comic roles.
- He was also a former Lok Sabha MP.
- He had won the 2014 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate backed by the Left Democratic Front, from Chalakudy.
- He also acted in a few Hindi films, notably 'Malamaal Weekly'.

6. Vivan Sundaram, who passed away in Delhi at the age of 79, was a veteran _____ **Artist**.

Note:

- His work has been showcased in museums and exhibitions across the world.
- He worked with different media – painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, and video art.
- He was a founding member of the Kasauli Art Center, the Journal of Arts & Ideas, the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT), and a managing trustee of the Sher-Gil Sundaram Arts Foundation.

Important Days

1. World Water day is celebrated on which date every year to spread awareness about the water crisis all over the world _____ **March 22**.

Note:

- UNGA adopted World Water Day in 1992.
- The theme for 2023 is "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis."
- In 2015, the world was committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 agenda.
- A promise to provide safely managed water and sanitation by 2030.
- The report is published on World Water Day every year.

2. World Meteorological Day is observed on which date every year to celebrate the formation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950 _____ **March 23**.

Note:

- This day was designated to raise awareness about various weather-related issues and to encourage people to take action to address them.
- 2023 theme: The future of weather, climate, and water across generations
- The theme highlights the changes in weather and climatic conditions and their effects on Earth.

3. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on which date to educate the world about the impact of tuberculosis, globally _____ **March 24**.

Note:

- The theme for 2023 World Tuberculosis Day is "Yes! We can end TB!".
- On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.
- The elimination of Tuberculosis is one of the sustainable development targets to be achieved by 2030 by the world.

4. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on which date to raise awareness of the history of the transatlantic slave trade, its impact on the modern world, and its legacies, including racism and prejudice _____ **March 25**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Through Transformative Education
- It was established in 2007 with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 62/122.

5. Earth Hour was observed annually on which day in March from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm _____ **Last Saturday**.

Note:

- In 2023, this day was observed on March 25 at 8.30 pm local time.
- It is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour.
- It was first started in Sydney, Australia on March 31, 2007, at 7:30 pm local time and has since gained popularity and momentum.

6. The international theatre community and ITI centers celebrate World Theatre Day on which date every year to raise awareness about their importance in entertainment and the changes they bring to society _____ **March 27th**.

Note:

- The theme for 2023 is "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."
- The International Theatre Institute founded World Theatre Day in 1961.
- ITI is a worldwide organization that promotes international exchange in theatre arts and promotes the values of UNESCO.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO (Additional charge) of Invest India _____ **Manmeet K Nanda**.

Note:

- She is joint secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- She has replaced Deepak Bagla, who resigned from the post.
- Deepak Bagla has served the organization for nearly 8 years and contributed to Invest India's development.

2. Who has been selected by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) as the new chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) _____ **Siddhartha Mohanty**.

Note:

- As per the guidelines, the chairman is selected from the four managing directors of the company.
- At present, he is an MD of LIC and was earlier given interim charge as chairman for a period of three months, effective from March 14, 2023.
- The final decision will be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

3. Former Brazilian President, Dilma Vana Rousseff has been appointed as the new President of which international bank, with immediate effect _____ **New Development Bank (NDB)**.

Note:

- She has replaced Marcus Troyjo.
- She served as the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil between January 2011 to August 2016.
- She was elected the President of Brazil for two consecutive terms.
- NDB is a multilateral financial institution set up by the five BRICS countries.

4. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court _____ **Justice Pritinker Diwaker**.

Note:

- Justice Ramesh Sinha of Allahabad has been appointed as Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Justice K Vinod Chandaran of Kerala High Court as Chief Justice of Patna HC.
- In February 2023, the SC Collegium recommended several judges as Chief Justices of HC.

5. The 14th Dalai Lama has named an 8-year-old Mongolian boy as the 10th Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoche - the third highest rank in which country's Buddhism _____ **Tibetan Buddhism**.

Note:

- The ceremony was organized in Dharamsala, where the Dalai Lama (87) lives in exile.
- The eight-year-old boy is the son of a university professor and has a twin brother.
- In 1995, the Dalai Lama named a new Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in the faith.
- The boy was arrested by Chinese authorities.

6. Which private news channel has appointed U.K. Sinha and Dipali Goenka as the Independent Directors of NDTV for two years effective March 27, 2023 _____ **NDTV**.

Note:

- U.K. Sinha has also been designated as the Non-Executive Chairperson of NDTV.
- U.K. Sinha served as the Chairman of SEBI between 2011 and 2017 and also served as the Chairman of UTI Asset Management for 6 years.
- Dipali Goenka is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Welspun India Limited.

7. Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar appointed whom as the Vice Chancellor of Panjab University for a term of three years _____ **Prof (Dr.) Renu Cheema Vig**.

Note:

- She is also the first woman to hold the position in the varsity's 141-year history.
- She was working as the Acting Vice Chancellor of Panjab University since January 16, 2023, after the resignation of Prof. Raj Kumar amid allegations of corruption.
- A three-member selection committee was formed for recommending names for the position

8. The board of Hero Motocorp has appointed whom as the new CEO with effect from May 1, 2023 _____ **Niranjan Gupta.**

Note:

- He has been elevated from his current designation of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Head-Strategy and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A).
- He has played an important role in Hero Motocorp's partnerships with Harley Davidson and Zero Motorcycles.
- While Pawan Munjal will continue as Executive Chairman and Whole-Time Director on the company's Board.

9. Which organization has approved the reappointment of Praveer Sinha as CEO and MD for four years, effective from May 1, 2023 _____ **Tata Power.**

Note:

- His present tenure as a CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023.
- Currently, He is also serving as the Chairman of the CII Western Region council and co-chairs the CII National Committee on Power.
- He has also contributed to setting up the first international incubator in India for promoting innovations in the clean energy space.

10. The central government has approved the appointment of whom as Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court with effect from March 31, 2023 _____ **Justice TS Sivagnanam.**

Note:

- He succeeded the current Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava who retired.
- He enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in September 1986.
- He was appointed as an additional judge of the Madras High Court in March 2009.
- He was transferred to the Calcutta High Court in October 2021.

Important News - India

1. According to a Parliamentary Standing Committee report, the groundwater levels in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and 20 other cities dipped by how much meter from 2017 to 2020 _____ **More than 20 meters.**

Note:

- While Faridabad (Haryana) becomes 100% dependent on groundwater use and cities like Ghaziabad (UP) are on the verge of becoming totally dependent on it.
- The total annual extractable groundwater resource of 398 billion cubic meters (BCM) in the country till 2020, 245 BCM was being extracted.

2. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a DigiClaim, under the ambit of which scheme for claim disbursement through National Crop Insurance Portal _____ **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.**

Note:

- With the DigiClaim Module, insurance claims of over 1,260 crore rupees have been disbursed to insured farmers of six states on March 23, 2023.
- The states are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana.

3. BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover launched a cricket-focused fantasy sports app. What is the name of this application _____ **CrickPe.**

Note:

- The launch comes ahead of the marquee Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament that is set to begin on March 31, 2023.
- This sports app can be available on the Google Play store and Apple store.
- He has raised about \$4 million in seed funding for his venture Third Unicorn Pvt Ltd.
- Notably, the cricket app has been launched to take on rivals like Dream11, MPL, and My11Circle.

4. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has extended the subsidy of what amount per LPG cylinder for a period of one year, under the PM Ujjwala Yojana _____ **200 rupees.**

Note:

- It will be provided to the Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for up to 12 refills per year.
- The total expenditure on it in 2022-23 will be 6,100 crore rupees and in 2023-24 will be 7,680 crore rupees.

- The government launched PM Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to women of poor households.
5. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for which fiber at 5,050 rupees per quintal for 2023-24 _____ **Raw Jute**.
- Note:**
- The approval is based on the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommendations.
 - This would ensure a return of 63.20% over the all-India weighted average cost of production.
 - The Jute Corporation of India will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any.
6. FM Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the government has established a committee to review the New Pension System (NPS). Who is the head of this panel _____ **TV Somanathan**.
- Note:**
- From January 2004, the government has opted to move to NPS for all new recruits, with the government employees contributing 10% of their salary towards pension and the govt making a matching contribution.
 - Recently, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, HP, and Punjab have decided to opt out of NPS.
7. The first Urban Climate Film Festival under U20 engagement events was organized by which organization from 24-26 March 2023 _____ **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**.
- Note:**
- A curated selection of 11 films from nine countries was showcased in the festival to create wider awareness of the impact of climate change on life in cities.
 - The festival was organized with support from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency, and the European Union.
8. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched which project to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states _____ **Aravalli Green Wall Project**.
- Note:**
- He also unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions and a FAQ on Agro-forestry published by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.
9. The Government has constituted a Committee to monitor the stock of which pulse held by entities such as importers, millers, stockists, and traders in close coordination with the state governments _____ **Tur**.
- Note:**
- The decision has come against the backdrop of reports of market players not releasing stocks despite the regular arrival of imports in good quantities.
 - The Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare.
10. Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh has onboarded 19 Captive Employers under which scheme _____ **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**.
- Note:**
- Captive employers will train Rural Poor Youth and employ trained youth in their company or subsidiary.
 - MoRD and the Captive Employers also signed MoU towards this aim.
 - DDU-GKY is a placement-linked skilling program of the Ministry of Rural Development under the aegis of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
11. The Union government has sanctioned how much amount under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme Phase -2 for setting up 7432 public fast charging stations across the country _____ **800 crore rupees**.
- Note:**
- At present, there are about 6,586 charging stations across the country.
 - This move will boost the electric vehicle ecosystem in India and encourage more people to switch to cleaner modes of transportation.
 - The government has formulated FAME India Scheme in 2015.
12. The Ministry of Education has shortlisted around how many schools across the country for its flagship Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) _____ **9,000**.
- Note:**
- The institutions were selected based on six broad parameters including curriculum, access and infrastructure, human resources, and gender equity were assessed.
 - PM Modi announced this scheme on 5th September 2022.
 - It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 - Aim: To upgrade and develop around 14,500 schools

13. Which ministry has constituted a nine-member task force to make India a 'product developer and manufacturing nation' _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

Note:

- It will be chaired by the additional secretary (MeitY), Bhuvnesh Kumar with the joint secretary (electronics), Amitesh Kumar Sinha as the member convenor.
- This is an effort to position itself as an alternative to the likes of China and Vietnam.

14. According to the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report 2021-22, which sector has the highest estimated percentage distribution of female workers _____ **Agriculture**.

Note:

- Nearly 63% of workers are female in the agriculture sector at the pan-India level, followed by 11.2% in the manufacturing sector.
- The government has incorporated several protective provisions in the labor laws for equal opportunity and a congenial work environment for women workers.

15. Which ministry has issued PAHCHAN cards to 30.53 lakhs handicrafts artisans and 30.90 lakhs handloom weavers across the country under the PAHCHAN initiative _____ **Ministry of Textiles**.

Note:

- The cardholder's details are available on the website of the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handicraft and Handloom.
- PAHCHAN card is an initiative to issue Aadhar link identity cards to handicrafts artisans under this initiative.
- The Union MoS for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh informed in Lok Sabha.

16. Which renewable organization has signed an MoU with Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects in its establishments on Build, Own, and Operate (BOO) model _____ **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.**

Note:

- Aim: To reduce complex logistics and dependence on fossil fuels and to accelerate decarbonization.
- NTPC REL CEO, Mohit Bhargava and Lt. General Rajinder Dewan signed MoU.
- NTPC REL will also design, develop, and install renewable energy projects for the Indian Army.
- NTPC REL is a wholly subsidiary of NTPC.

17. Which government department signed an MoU with the Sant Nirankari Mandal for spreading the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan among the youth, women, and students _____ **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE)**.

Note:

- Aim: To create awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with a focus on higher education institutes, and university campuses.
- It was signed in the presence of Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar and MoS, SJE Pratima Bhoumik.

18. Which government organization and the Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS) collaborated to do joint R&D leading for the development of tools and products in deep tech domains _____ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.

Note:

- Both organizations will also conduct joint research on emerging tech areas like Cyber Security, IoT Security, etc.
- Aim: To improve self-reliance on information and cyber security and to reduce dependence on tools developed outside the country.

19. PM Modi addressed the One World TB Summit 2023 in which city on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24) _____ **Varanasi**.

Note:

- Organized by: Health and Family Welfare Ministry and Stop TB Partnership
- In March 2018, the PM called on India to achieve TB-related SDG targets by 2025.
- The PM also awarded select States/UTs and districts for their progress toward ending TB.
- State level: Karnataka and J&K
- District level: Nilgiris, Pulwama, and Anantnag

20. The second G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting is being organized in which state from March 28-29, 2023 _____ **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- It is being conducted under the theme of Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable.
- The conference is attended by 63 representatives of G-20 countries and other invited organizations, ADB and World Bank.

- The first G-20 IWG summit was held in Pune (Maharashtra) under the presidency of India.
21. The first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) Meeting under India's G20 Presidency is being organized in which city from March 28– 30, 2023 _____ **Mumbai (Maharashtra).**

Note:

- The event was attended by 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings, and international organizations.
 - On the first day, an International Conference will be held on 'Trade Finance'.
 - On the second day, the focus will be on making trade work for growth and prosperity.
22. Which country hosted a meeting of National Security Advisors (NSA)- SCO and top officials on March 29, 2023, _____

India.

Note:

- National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval addressed the meeting.
 - Pakistan and China attended the SCO-NSA meeting virtually.
 - SCO is an intergovernmental organization established in 2001.
 - Members: India, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
23. The First G20 Disaster Risk Reduction WGM under India's G20 Presidency is being held in which state from 30th March to 1st April 2023 _____ **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

Note:

- The meeting was inaugurated by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. P K Mishra and MoS for Communications Devusinh Chauhan.
 - Five priority areas have been identified for the meeting which include an early warning for all, resilient infrastructure, and improving the National system for financing Disaster Risk Reduction.
24. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board approved a unified tariff for a natural gas pipeline of Rs 73.93 per metric million British thermal units (MMBtu), effective from which date _____ **April 1, 2023.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost the consumption of natural gas and increase its share in India's energy basket from 6.2% to 15% by 2030
- Three zones for unified tariff:
- 1st: Up to the distance of 300 km from the source
- 2nd: More than 300 km and up to 1,200 km
- 3rd: Remaining length of the grid system

Important News - State

1. Which state observed its 111th foundation day on March 22, 2023 _____ **Bihar.**

Note:

- On this day, the state of Bihar was carved out from the Bengal presidency in 1912.
 - The theme of the 2023 event is "Yuva Shakti Bihar ki Pragati".
 - This year, a number of events are being organized in Gandhi Maidan, Patna from March 22 to 24, 2023.
 - Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar have congratulated people on the occasion of Bihar Divas.
2. Which state government has notified Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- It is spread over 80,567 hectares in the forest areas of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district.
 - It is close to Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cauvery wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka.
 - It also acts as a connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. Which state government signed an MoU with the French Development Agency Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) for Rs 817.12 crore project _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- Objective: To develop better sewerage facilities in five towns of the state - Manali, Bilaspur, Palampur, Nahan and Karsog.
- It also aims to improve drinking water supply in Manali and Palampur towns.
- The beneficiaries of the project would receive house service connections in these five cities

4. The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a penalty of what amount on the Kerala government for its failure to check the indiscriminate pollution of the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes _____ **₹10 crore.**

Note:

- The Bench was led by its chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel.
- The penalty of ₹10 crore had to be utilized for conservation/restoration measures by preparing an action plan to be preferably executed within six months.

5. Which state becomes the first state in India to pass the 'Right to Health (RTH) Bill' _____ **Rajasthan.**

Note:

- Under this bill, private hospitals will not be able to charge emergency patients and will be compensated by the state.
- Free healthcare services including diagnostics, drugs, emergency transport, emergency care, and procedure will be provided at public institutions.
- In the case of medico-legal nature, no private or public hospital can delay treatment on grounds of police clearance.

Important News – World

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

Note:

- Aim: To raise public awareness regarding the crucial goal of achieving zero food waste
- For this initiative, the organization has partnered with Ne'ma -the national initiative to reduce food loss and wastage, to enhance community awareness, education, and empowerment in making better decisions regarding food consumption.

2. Which country has launched its National Genome Strategy to provide a comprehensive legislative and governance framework to support the development and implementation of genomic programs _____ **UAE.**

Note:

- The strategy will last ten years and will focus on delivering public health priorities while improving the country's well-being.
- The Emirates Genome Council will oversee the National Genome Strategy.
- It will advance the nation's preventive and personalized healthcare agenda.

3. According to a Kroll report 'Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream', with a brand value of \$181.7 million, who is India's most valued celebrity of 2022 _____ **Actor Ranveer Singh.**

Note:

- He surpassed cricketer Virat Kohli, who occupied the top spot for five years.
- Kohli ranked second, followed by actors Akshay Kumar, and Alia Bhatt.
- Notably, the aggregate brand value of the top 25 celebrities is \$1.6 billion in 2022 (estimated), a 29.1% rise from 2021.

4. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023, how many programs from various campuses have been featured in the global top 100 list _____ **44.**

Note:

- In 2022, only 35 Indian programs were featured in the list.
- Five broader areas of University ranking: Engineering and Technology, Arts and Humanities, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Science and Social Sciences and Management.
- IIT Delhi's Electrical engineering ranked 49 and IIT Bombay's mathematics ranked 92.

5. According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, released by Hurun India and M3M India, who is the only Indian in the world's top 10 billionaires list (rank 9) _____ **Mukesh Ambani.**

Note:

- The list is topped by Elon Musk, followed by Jeff Bezos, Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and Sergey Brin.
- Indian billionaires list: Gautam Adani and family (Rank 23); Cyrus S Poonawalla (Rank 46); Shiv Nadar and family (Rank 50); Lakshmi N Mittal (Rank 76)

6. According to UN World Water Development Report 2023, what percent of the world's population does not have safe drinking water, and 46% lack access to safely managed sanitation _____ **About 26%.**

Note:

- Between 2-3 billion, people experience water shortages for at least 1 month per year.

- This poses severe risks to livelihoods and access to electricity.
 - The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from 930 million (2016) to 1.7 -2.4 billion (2050).
7. According to the Passport Index 2023, released by Arton Capital, what is the rank of India passport _____ **144**.

Note:

- In 2023, India ranked 138th out of 199 countries.
- The ranking was topped by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a mobility score of 181, followed by Sweden, Germany, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Austria.
- Note: India ranked 85th out of 199 countries in the Henley Passport Index 2023.

Honor & Awards

1. US President Joe Biden has awarded the prestigious 2021 National Humanities Medal to whom _____ **Mindy Kaling**.

Note:

- Reason: For empowering the new generation to tell their stories with irreverence and sincerity
- The National Medal of Arts is the highest award, given to artists, arts patrons, and groups by the US government.
- Other notable recipients: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bruce Springsteen, Vera Wang, Gladys Knight, Judith Francisca Baca

2. Who was honored with the 2023 Abel Prize for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation _____ **Luis Caffarelli**.

Note:

- The prize includes a monetary award of 7.5 million kroner and a glass plaque (designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan).
- It is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

3. Who won the GenNext Entrepreneur Award at the 12th Forbes India Leadership Awards 2023 _____ **Isha Ambani**.

Note:

- She is the head of the \$800 billion Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd and launched the JioMart.
- CEO of the year: CK Venkataraman (MD of Titan)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: AM Naik (Chairman L&T)
- Emerging Innovator: Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka (founders of Skyroot Aerospace)
- Turnaround Star: Tata Communications

4. Which NGO was conferred with the Children's Champion Award 2023 _____ **Assam's Pathsala**.

Note:

- The Mission popularly known as Tapoban has been awarded in the health and nutrition category.
- The founder president of the Mission, Kumud Kalita, received the award that carries Rs 75,000, a certificate and a plaque.
- This award was instituted by the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights.

5. Sacred to the Hopi Native has been awarded a 'Water and Heritage Shield' by the International Committee on Monuments and Sites International Science Committee. This native belongs to which country _____ **American Nation**.

Note:

- The Shield was awarded to the Black Mesa Trust (BMT), a Hopi grassroots organization.
- Purpose of Shield: To aware public of the significance of water and indigenous sacred sites all over the world and the right to cultural and historical memory

6. The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) conferred Special Literary Award 2023 to whom in its 63rd Literature Festival _____ **Bangladesh's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.

Note:

- He was awarded for his trilogy- The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and New China 1952.
- In a citation issued by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature, he is compared to Mahatma Gandhi.
- SAARC Literary Award is an annual award conferred by the FOSWAL since 2001

7. Who has been honoured with the Wildlife Conservation Award 2023 by the administration for her conservation efforts in the region _____ **Alia Mir**.

Note:

- J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha facilitated her with the wildlife honour award.
- She is also the first woman from Kashmir who works for the charity Wildlife SOS organization which is part of the Wildlife Rescue Team.

- She was awarded for her achievements in bear rescue in Kashmir, rescue, and release of wild animals.
8. Who was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the University of Texas at Dallas _____ **Naveen Jindal**.

Note:

- He was conferred in recognition of his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education.
- He was an alumnus of the University of Texas at Dallas' 1992 batch.s
- He is the second person to receive this award from the University of Texas, after Nobel Laureate Aziz Sancar.
- Currently, he is serving as the Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.

Sports News

1. Who has clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup 2023 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **Sarabjot Singh**.

Note:

- While Varun Tomar secured bronze in the same event.
- In the women's 10m Air Pistol event, Li Xue from China won the gold and Germany's Doreen Vennekamp settled for silver.
- China's Qian Wei completed the podium with a bronze medal finish.

2. Who has become the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her, in Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh _____ **Rani Rampal**.

Note:

- The MCF Rae Bareli has renamed the hockey stadium as 'Rani's Girls Hockey Turf'.
- Earlier this year, she made a successful comeback to the Indian hockey team during the tour of South Africa, where she was selected as one of the 22 players in the squad.

3. Which country clinched both men's and women's titles of the Asian Kho Kho Championship 2023 held at Tamulpur in Assam _____ **India**.

Note:

- In the women's category, Indian Eves defeated Nepal by an inning and 33 points.
- On the other hand, the men's team also defeated Nepal by an inning and six points.
- India remained unbeaten in both categories throughout the tournament.
- A total of nine countries participated in the event.

4. Which team has secured the bronze in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF 2023, held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh _____ **Rudraksh Patil and R. Narmada Nitin**.

Note:

- While Varun Tomar and Rhythm Sangwan won silver in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Competition.
- With these medals, India's medal tally to three including one gold, one silver, and one bronze.
- China topped the medal tally with three gold and two bronze medals.

5. Which woman boxer has clinched Gold in the 48-kg category of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 held at the K.D. Jadhav Hall IG Stadium New Delhi _____ **Nitu Ghanghas**.

Note:

- She defeated Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan from Mongolia by 5-0.
- She became the only sixth Indian boxer (male or female) to win a World championship.
- In the semifinals, she defeated Kazakh Alua Balkibekova.
- International Boxing Association (IBA) Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

6. Which India's men's doubles badminton pair won the Swiss Open Super 300 title in 2023, held in Basel, Switzerland _____ **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**.

Note:

- They beat Ren Xiang Yu and Tan Qiang from China by 21-19, and 24-22.
- Men's singles: Koki Watanabe (Japan)
- Women's singles: Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand)
- Women's doubles: Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan)
- Mixed doubles: Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin (China)

7. Which women cricket team have won the inaugural Women's Premier League final, held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai from 4-26 March 2023 _____ **Mumbai Indians**.

Note:

- They defeated Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets.
- Mumbai Indians captain: Harmanpreet Kaur
- Most valuable player of the tournament: Hayley Matthews
- Orange cap: Meg Lanning
- Purple Cap: Hayley Matthews
- Emerging Player of the season: Yastika Bhatia
- Fairplay award: Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals
- Catch of the season: Harmanpreet Kaur

8. Indian Women Boxer, Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain have managed to win a gold medal at the Women's World Championships 2023, was held in which state/UT _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Nikhat Zareen won gold in the 50kg light flyweight division after defeating two-time Asian champion Nguyen Thi Tam of Vietnam by 5-0
- Lovlina Borgohain has secured her first gold at the competition after settling for bronze in the 2018 and 2019 editions.
- She defeated Australia's Caitlin Parker in the 75kg middle-weight category.

9. Archana Suseendran has clinched two gold medals in 100m and 200m at the AFI Indian Grand Prix 2, held in Kerala on March 27, 2023, belongs to which state _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- In the Women's 100m final, she defeated Assam sprinter Hima Das and completed her 100m race in 11.52 seconds.
- While she completed the 200m race in 23.21 seconds.
- In the Men's 100m race category Sanjeet from Haryana clinched the gold.
- The AFI Indian Grands Prix 3 and 4 will be held in Bengaluru on April 10 and 15.

Books and Authors

1. The English translation of the Nepali novel "Phoolange" will be released on April 17, 2023. It was written by which author _____ **Lekhnath Chhetri.**

Note:

- Published by: Penguin Random House India (PRHI)
- This book focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state.
- The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the Madan Puraskar, which is Nepal's most prestigious literary award, in 2021.

2. A new book titled 'Basu Chatterji: And Middle-of-the-Road Cinema' has been released. Who is the author of this book _____ **Aniruddha Bhattacharjee.**

Note:

- It is a chronicle of the life and times of the veteran Indian filmmaker Basu Chatterjee.
- Published by: Penguin Random House India (PRHI)

3. Ghulam Nabi Azad, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography. What is the title of this book _____ **Azaad.**

Note:

- It will be launched in New Delhi on April 5, 2023.
- This book chronicles Azad's political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades.
- Published by: Rupa Publications India

4. Who has recently released his first English book titled "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)" _____ **Shrimant Kokate.**

Note:

- It was translated by Dilip Chavan.
- The book was released by Amol Kolhe.
- He has written a total of 10 books on various subjects.

5. Who has authored a new travel book titled "A Matter of the Heart: Education in India" _____ **Anurag Behar.**

Note:

- He is the CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and the founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University.
- The book has been published by Westland Nonfiction.

Science and Defence

1. Indian Navy launched INS Androth, the second in a series of eight indigenous ships built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), is located in which city _____ **Kolkata**.

Note:

- It is an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC).
- It is a 77.6-meter-long and 10.5-meter-wide vessel, propelled by three diesel-driven water jets that will pack a punch.
- The ship is capable of a maximum 25 knots speed and will carry lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets, and mines.

2. A joint maritime exercise, Konkan 2023 was conducted between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy from 20-22 March has concluded in which location _____ **Arabian Sea**.

Note:

- It is a joint drill by the two navies to demonstrate operational readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations.
- INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster participated.
- It covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface, and subsurface.

3. The Defence Ministry signed two separate contracts with which organization at a total cost of over Rs 3,700 crore _____ **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

Note:

- Reason: To enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- First contract: Worth over Rs 2,800 crore, pertains to the supply of Medium Power Radars (MPR) 'Arudhra' for the IAF.
- Second contract: Worth over Rs 950 crore, relates to 129 DR-118 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR)
- Both projects are under Buy Indian- IDMM category.

4. The Indian Army and which armed force have conducted a 96-hour multi-domain air and land exercise named 'Vayu Prahar' in the eastern sector _____ **Indian Air Force**.

Note:

- The exercise was conducted in the second week of March 2023 to formulate plans that can lead to synergy in multi-domain operations.
- The scope of the joint exercise included the rapid mobilisation of a rapid reaction force from the hinterland.

5. Which armed force has conducted Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise from 28 -29 March 2023 at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.

Note:

- Aim: To simulate a real-time maritime distress scenario and highlight the functioning of the SAR organization for a mass rescue operation
- It involved all stakeholders with the effective use of available resources towards M-SAR (Maritime Search and Rescue) contingency efficiently.
- ICG founded: 1 February 1977

6. The Defence Ministry has signed three contracts worth of _____ with BEL and New Space India Limited to boost the defence capabilities _____ **5400 crore rupees**.

Note:

- Two contracts were signed with Bharat Electronics Ltd for the procurement of Automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System Project Akashteer and the acquisition of Sarang Electronic Support Measure systems
- The third was with New Space India Limited for the procurement of an advanced Communication Satellite, GSAT 7B for the Indian Army.

7. Union MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated Asia's largest 4-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) in which city _____ **Devasthal, Uttarakhand**.

Note:

- It is situated at an altitude of 2450 meters at the observatory, which lies at the campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences.
- The ILMT employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror, which was made up of a thin layer of liquid mercury, to collect and focus light.

8. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched India's Launch Vehicle Mark (LVM) 3 -M3 satellite with 36 satellites of the One Web India-2 mission from the second launch pad from which city _____ **Sriharikota**.

Note:

- With this launch, OneWeb will have 616 of its satellites in orbit.
 - The 43m-tall launch vehicle has successfully completed the three stages in the prescribed time limit including the involvement of the ignition of the cryogenic engine.
9. Which institution Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.

Note:

- This device can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
 - The test could be even performed at home.
 - It can detect multiple substances commonly used as adulterating agents including Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate, and salt, among others.
10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 'Rising India Conclave', which is held in which city on March 30, 2023 _____ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- During the event, he informed that India aims to achieve defence equipment exports target worth 40 thousand crore rupees by 2026.
- In the last few years, defence exports have witnessed a quantum jump from 900 crore rupees to 14 thousand crore rupees (FY23).
- He also highlighted the progress made by the country in all sectors.



Features :



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Regular Assessments with
Report Card

