

Weekly One-liners

8-14th June 2023



Weekly One Liners Updates

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Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of June 2023. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee in its second bi-monthly monetary policy FY24 has kept the repo rate unchanged at what percent 6.5%.
Note:
 - Aim: Focus remains on withdrawal of accommodation
 - The RBI also retained FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5%, while expects FY24 CPI inflation to be at 5.1% (from 5.2%).
 - Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 6.25%
 - Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
 - Bank Rate: 6.75%
 - Foreign exchange reserves(as on June 2): \$595.1 billion
2. The World Bank and which bank signed two financing agreements totaling USD 858 million to enhance climate-resilient agricultural growth, and improve road safety Bangladesh.
Note:
 - The World Bank will provide USD 500 million to Bangladesh for Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, and Resilience.
 - USD 358 million will be provided to Bangladesh for Road Safety Project, a first dedicated road safety project in South Asia supported by the World Bank
3. SIDBI has signed an MoU with which bank for providing financial solutions to MSMEs HDFC Bank.
Note:
 - Under the MoU, SIDBI and HDFC Bank will work together to provide complete financial product and services to the customers under MSMEs.
 - Aim: To facilitate providing complete financial solutions to MSMEs in a seamless manner
 - This arrangement will enable MSMEs to avail financial products and services of both the banks.
4. Which bank has launched a campaign named 'I am Adyar, Adyar is me' Federal Bank.
Note:
 - Aim: To celebrate people and their culture by transforming an entire bank branch into a museum of local stories.
 - The campaign has handpicked 40 compelling stories of individuals, which are showcased in an exclusive exhibition at the Adyar branch of Federal Bank.
 - This art exhibition will run for two weeks.
 - The campaign is a first-of-its-kind micro-marketing initiative in the banking industry.
5. According to the rating agency ICRA, bond issuances by banks may fall below at what amount in FY24 due to easing liquidity conditions Rs 90,000 crore.
Note:
 - Banks issued a record Rs 1.1 trillion bonds in FY23.
 - Stronger foreign institutional investor (FII)/foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows, as seen recently, the derecognition of the Rs 2,000 note and an anticipated dividend by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could ease liquidity conditions in the interim.
6. According to the new rankings released by Brand Finance, which organization has retained its position as the most valued brand in India Tata Group.
Note:
 - With a value growth of 10.3% in 2023 as compared to 2022.
 - Notably, Tata Group is the only Indian brand to feature in the top 100 of the Brand Finance Global 500 2023.

- While Infosys retained the second spot in the rankings with a brand value of \$13 billion, followed by LIC with a value of \$9.7 billion.
7. RBI has notified four key measures to strengthen how many Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the country _____ **1,514**.
- Note:**
- UCBs can now open new branches up to 10% of the number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation.
 - UCBs have to get the policy approved by their board and comply with the Financially Sound and Well Managed Norms.
 - The deadline to achieve PSL target of 60% also extended to March 31, 2024.
8. According to the MyGovIndia govt data, which country has topped the global rankings in digital payments for the year 2022 _____ **India**.
- Note:**
- During the year under review, there were 5 million digital transactions in the country.
 - India accounted for 46% of the global real-time payments in 2022, which was more than the combined digital payments the next four top countries.
 - This shows the robustness of India's payment ecosystem as well as the country's acceptance of the digital.
9. Which bank has received board approval to raise ₹50,000 crore through debt instruments _____ **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- Note:**
- These debt instruments could include long-term bonds, Long Term Bonds, Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 Bonds and Basel III compliant Tier 2 Bonds.
 - The resources will be raised through private placement mode to Indian and/or overseas investors during FY24, subject to the government's approval wherever required.
10. The central government and which international bank signed a loan agreement worth \$130 million to boost agricultural productivity and horticulture agribusinesses _____ **ADB**.
- Note:**
- The deal aims to increase farmers' income and improve access to irrigation in Himachal Pradesh
 - The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts in the state: Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una.
11. Which bank in partnership with NGO Dhruvansh has organised a lake cleaning drive, 'Cleanathon', in Hyderabad _____ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- This initiative was recorded in the Asia Book of Record as it was the largest cleaning drive conducted across the country.
 - In Hyderabad, over 100 volunteers participated in cleaning Mushki Cheruvu and Neknampur Lake to restore these water bodies.
 - The campaign aligned with the United Nations' theme for World Environment Day 2023, 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
12. Which organization has received the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's approval to commence life insurance operations _____ **Go Digit**.
- Note:**
- In 2022, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank announced that they will both acquire up to 9.94% stake each in Go Digit-Life Insurance through the investment of ₹50-70 crore, possibly in tranches, subject to executive of certain terms and agreements.
 - Digit Insurance already has general insurance operations through Go Digit General Insurance.
13. Which bank has launched a Unique feature named 'My Account My Name' for IOB SB HNI and IOB SB MAX account holders _____ **Indian Overseas Bank**.
- Note:**
- This feature allows customers to choose any name as their account number.
 - The account name can only be a numeric, alphabetic, or alphanumeric combination of seven characters.
 - For example, a customer's account number can be 'Jackson' or '1234567' or 'Jack123'.
14. RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 60.20 lakh on which co-operative bank for a slew of shortcomings and violations _____ **Bihar State Co-operative Bank Limited, Patna**.
- Note:**

- A statutory inspection of the Patna-based bank by Nabard after FY20 revealed that it failed to put in robust software for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions and submit statutory returns within prescribed timelines.
 - The RBI also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 6 lakh on Jowai Cooperative Urban Bank Limited, Meghalaya.
15. Which organization became the first Indian stock to touch the rupee one lakh per share mark on June 13, 2023 - **MRF**.

Note:

- The stock opened at ₹99,500 on BSE against the previous close of ₹98,939.70 and touched an all-time high of ₹1,00,300 in morning trade.
 - The stock has witnessed strong gains in the last one year.
 - It is up 45% in the last one year against a 19% gain in the benchmark Sensex.
 - MRF shares hit their 52-week low of ₹65,900.05 on BSE on June 17, 2022.
16. Which organization has surrendered its NBFC licence and accordingly, its registration has been cancelled **Equitas Holdings**.

Note:

- The RBI, in the exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has therefore cancelled its CoR (certificate of registration).
 - Reason: The company does not hold public funds
 - Therefore, it may have voluntarily surrendered its certificate of registration.
17. Hubble has joined hands with which payment bank for introducing India's first spending account **Fino Payments Bank**.

Note:

- Depositors can save money in the account and earn up to 10% cash back on all purchases they make from the account.
 - They can track expenses over 50 partnered brands and potentially save up to Rs. 20,000 annually.
 - Users earn an interest rate of 2.75% annually on their parked funds.
 - It will be integrated with Fino Payments Bank's digital savings account.
18. SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for online investment platforms that facilitate investments in commission-free _____ schemes **Mutual fund**.

Note:

- It also addresses investor concerns about associated risks and introduces a grievance redressal mechanism.
 - Platforms providing MF investment services in direct (commission-free) plans will have to apply for an 'execution only platform' licence through Sebi or AMFI within three months of the regulation coming into force.
19. Which bank has launched a new deposit scheme 'Vikas Ashadeep 400 days' **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**.

Note:

- The scheme is of a tenor of 400 days with an interest rate of 7.5% for senior citizens and 7% for the general public.
 - Prospective customers of the scheme will earn higher interest for a shorter period (almost 13 months).
 - Under the scheme, a minimum of Rs 10,000 and a maximum of Rs 2 crore can be deposited.
 - KVGB chairman: Shreekant Bhandiwad
20. Which digital credit platform has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India to add its newly launched UPI plug-in functionality to RING's pre-existing suite of digital services **RING**.

Note:

- Aim: To help RING offer 'scan & pay' options to its existing customers and acquire new customers who use UPI as a preferred mode of payment
- It will become a one-stop integrated payment and credit solution where a customer can avail credit and pay merchants across the country.

Obituaries

1. Gitanjali Aiyar, who passed away, was a veteran **Journalist**.

Note:

- Aiyar joined Doordarshan in 1971 and was awarded the best anchor four times.
- She also won the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for Outstanding Women in 1989.
- She was a diploma holder from the National School of Drama (NSD).

- She had also been a popular face in several print advertisements and even acted in Sridhar Kshirsagar's TV drama "Khandaan".
- 2. Silvio Berlusconi, who passed away at 86, was a former PM of which country _____ **Italy**.
Note:
 - Berlusconi founded Forza Italia, a center-right party, in 1994 with the aim of defeating the 'communists'.
 - His party introduced a populist style of politics in Italy, propelling him to the upper ranks of the political establishment.
 - He was also known as 'Il Cavaliere' (The Knight) and remained a flamboyant and influential figure in Italian politics.
- 3. Cormac McCarthy passed away at 89 in the USA, was a veteran _____ **Novelist**.
Note:
 - "All the Pretty Horses," "The Road" and "No Country for Old Men" were among his acclaimed books that explore a bleak world of violence and outsiders.
 - He was awarded the National Book Award in 1992 for his novel 'All the Pretty Horses'.
 - He also won a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for 'The Road'.
 - Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men

Important Days

1. World Oceans Day is observed every year on which date to create awareness about the significance of oceans, and importance of preserving and conserving oceanic resources _____ **8 June**.
Note:
 - 2023 theme: Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing
 - The concept was originally proposed by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 - This day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.
2. World Brain Tumor Day is celebrated annually on which date for creating awareness about brain tumors _____ **June 8**.
Note:
 - Theme 2023: Protect yourself – keep away from stress
 - Brain tumor is characterised by abnormal growth of cells in the brain, it can be grown in any part of the brain or skull including the underside of the brain, brainstem and nasal cavity among others
 - Researchers have identified more than 120 types of brain tumors which are based on the brain tissue that it impacts
3. World Accreditation Day is an annual global observance held on which date to recognize and promote the role of accreditation across various sectors _____ **June 9**.
Note:
 - Aim: To raise awareness about the value and benefits of accreditation in ensuring competence, reliability, and credibility in industries such as healthcare, laboratories, certification bodies, and conformity assessment services
 - 2023 theme: Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade
4. The World Day against Child Labour is observed annually on which date to support the expanding anti-child labour movement _____ **June 12**.
Note:
 - ILO declared June 12 to be the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to raise awareness of this problem.
 - "Week of Action against Child Labour" is the theme for the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour.
 - The ILO intends to start a week-long campaign to raise public awareness of the injustice of child labour and inspire people to take action.
5. International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on which date to ensure the inclusion of the voices of persons with albinism in all sectors of life _____ **June 13**.
Note:
 - 2023 theme: Inclusion is Strength
 - Albinism is a genetic condition that can lead to the absence of melanin production in the human body.
 - In 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Commission passed a resolution called Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

6. World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on which date to raise awareness for the necessity of blood donation and thank the altruistic acts of selflessness of voluntary blood donors and celebrate life and humanity _____ **June 14.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often
- This day was first distinguished by the WHO in 2004.
- At the 58th World Health Assembly (2005), it was declared an annual global event on June 14 (the birthday of Karl Landsteiner).

New Appointments

1. TransUnion CIBIL has appointed whom as a new non-executive chairman _____ **V Anantharaman.**

Note:

- He replaced M V Nair, who has stepped down from his post, after eleven years.
- He has worked in the banking industry to lead corporate and investment banking teams in Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Bank of America.
- He also served on the boards of The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Axis Asset Management Company, IIFL Home Finance Ltd and Ecom Express Ltd.

2. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) _____ **Amit Agrawal.**

Note:

- While Subodh Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Testing Agency.
- Both Agrawal and Singh are Indian Administrative Service officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- Rashmi Chowdhary, additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been appointed as secretary in the Central Information Commission.

3. Who has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) _____ **Nitin Agarwal.**

Note:

- This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position.
- Presently, he is serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the CRPF in Delhi.
- The additional charge of the BSF has been held by Sujoy Lal Thaosen, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

4. The government of India has appointed whom as the new Power Secretary _____ **Pankaj Agrawal.**

Note:

- He would replace present Secretary Alok Kumar, who will retire on June 30.
- While Rajat Mishra will be the new Fertiliser Secretary, and Chanchal Kumar to join the Civil Aviation Ministry as Secretary.
- Sudhansh Pant will move from the Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry to Health Ministry.
- Subhas Chandra Lal Das will move to the Ministry of MSME as Secretary.

Important News – India

1. Who has unveiled the 5th State Food Safety Index on the occasion of World Food Safety Day 2023 _____ **Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.**

Note:

- Among the larger states, Kerala secured the top ranking, followed by Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- Smaller states: Goa, Manipur and Sikkim
- UTs: J&K, Delhi and Chandigarh
- The index has evaluated the performance of states and UTs across six different aspects of food safety.
- He has also unveiled Rapid Food Testing Kit (RAFT) portal.

2. Union Cabinet has approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of what amount, includes an allotment of 4G/5G spectrum through equity infusion _____ **89,047 crore rupees.**

Note:

- The authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from 1,50,000 crore rupees to 2,10,000 crore rupees.
- BSNL will emerge as a stable telecom service provider focused on providing connectivity to the remotest parts of India.
- First revival package approved in 2019, amounting to 69,000 crore rupees.

3. The union cabinet has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme of "Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme" with an estimated expenditure of what amount _____ **Rs. 2980 crore.**

Note:

- It has been approved with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2980 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26 co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.
- Two broad stages conducted under this scheme: (i) Promotional (Regional) Exploration (Outlay: Rs.1650 crore), (ii) Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited blocks (Outlay: Rs.1330 crore)

4. Which government organization has launched the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2023, a four-week residential workshop program for 40 underprivileged rural girls _____ **NTPC Kanti.**

Note:

- This is the first time NTPC Kanti is organizing the GEM program.
- The participants will receive academic training and development skill sets such as soft skills, life skill training, sports, meditation, yoga, self-defence, computer application, communication skills, and other extra-curricular activities.

5. Researchers at which IITs have developed smart biodegradable microgels to make agricultural practices more sustainable and minimize the adverse impact caused by the use of insecticides and agrochemicals _____ **IIT Mandi.**

Note:

- The research has been published in the "Carbohydrate Polymers" journal.
- Modern agriculture relies heavily on the application of various agrochemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on crops to meet the demand for food for the growing population.

6. According to data released by the private economic think tank CMIE, the unemployment rate in India fell to what percent in May due to a decline in labor participation at 441.9 million _____ **7.7%.**

Note:

- The unemployment rate in India among people aged 15 years and above fell to 7.7% in May 2023, from 8.5% in the previous month.
- The urban labour market recorded a fall in the number of employed as well as unemployed people.
- The rural labour force reduced to 299.4 million in May.

7. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, the index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased to what percentage on an annual basis in April 2023 from 1.1% in March 2023 _____ **4.2%.**

Note:

- Manufacturing sector output rose to 4.9% in April 2023 against 5.6% and Power generation declined by 1.1% in April 2023 against a growth of 11.8%
- Mining output rose by 5.1% during the month under review compared to a growth of 8.4% in the year-ago period

8. The Union Government has released the third instalment of tax devolution to State governments amounting to what amount, as against the normal monthly devolution of 59,140 crores _____ **1,18,280 crore rupees.**

Note:

- One advance instalment in addition to the regular instalment due in June is being released to States.
- Reason: To speed up capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditure
- UP received the highest share of Rs 21,218 crore and Goa the least at Rs 457 crore

9. Vigyan -Vidushi – 2023 has been commenced at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), in which Indian state _____ **Mumbai.**

Note:

- It is an initiative to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level.
- 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India have attended this program which gave them exposure to advanced physics courses.
- This program is an initiative of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), through its HBCSE.

10. Which IT giant and AirJaldi network signed a three-year MoU to provide internet access for underserved communities in 12 states _____ **Microsoft.**

Note:

- Aim: To advance access to high-speed internet and meaningful connectivity, build solutions for broadband adoption and digital transformation
- The program will expand AirJaldi Networks into three new states namely, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, with an increase in the number of network locations from 40 to 62 in 12 states.

11. Which organization has signed a MoU with Amazon Kisan to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations _____ **ICAR**.

Note:

- Aim: To guide the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income
- ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network
- It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield.
- This MoU will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India.

12. Which organization and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed an MoU for academic and research collaboration _____ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**.

Note:

- Aim: To synergise the professional capabilities towards capacity building, education, research and consulting in the domain of Internal Security, Financial Crimes, Law Enforcement, Corporate Frauds and other subject matters common to their mandate and objectives
- It provides for exchange of knowledge and resources

13. Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare signed an MoU with which life insurance organization to generate employment _____ **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited**.

Note:

- Aim: To bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services
- This partnership would bring in more visibility of our Ex-servicemen to the industry and corporates.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has launched 'Ladli Bahna' scheme to make women financially independent _____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- In this scheme, each woman will be given 1000 rupees per month.
- MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has deposited the first month's amount of this scheme in the bank accounts of about 1.25 crore women at a State-level function in Jabalpur.
- The State government has also issued a phone number 181 for the help of women.
- Ladli Bahna Army also formed for women empowerment and security.

2. The central government has agreed to sanction Rs 12,911 crore to which state for completing the first phase of Polavaram Project _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- The sanctioned amount of Rs 12,911 crore also includes Rs 2,000 crore for the construction of the diaphragm wall, which was washed away due to flood.
- Polavaram Project is an under construction multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.

3. Haryana CM Manohar Lal has launched an integrated Water Resources Action Plan-2023-25 under Amrit Jal Kranti in which city _____ **Chandigarh**.

Note:

- A two-day water conservation seminar was organized in Panchkula in April, 2023, in which many departments of Haryana, including experts from India and abroad doing research on water conservation participated.
- Several initiatives like Mera Pani-Meri Virasat Yojana, have been taken towards water conservation which have drawn significant results.

4. Which state government has launched a new scheme to reward for reporting illegal waste dumping on roads _____ **Kerala**.

Note:

- This scheme is a part of the 'Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam' campaign to make the state garbage-free.
- Under this scheme, citizens would report about the littering/dumping (solid and liquid waste) in public spaces, private property and water bodies.
- The person who informs authorities of such violations will be given Rs 2,500 (maximum) or 25% of the fine imposed.

5. Which state government has decided to gift GI-tagged Gulabi meenakari handicrafts for the visiting delegates from G20 nations _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

- A group of more than 100 trained artisans were mobilized to fulfil the order of Gulabi meenakari peacocks for the G20 delegates.
 - Gulabi meenakari is one of the rarest crafts in India that is practised in the by lanes of Varanasi, near Gai Ghat.
 - The GI certification and ODOP initiative have got new recognition all over the world.
6. Which state government has rolled out its first of the five poll guarantees, the 'Shakti' scheme _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Aim: To offer free travel to women and transgender people in government-run buses in the state
- The scheme was launched by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, deputy CM DK Shivakumar and transport minister Ramalinga Reddy.
- They have also issued smart cards to five beneficiaries at an event on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

Important News – World

1. According to Mercer's Cost of Living survey 2023, which city has ranked the most expensive city in India for expatriates _____ **Mumbai**.

Note:

- After Mumbai, cities like New Delhi and Bengaluru fall on the second and third place in the most expensive list for ex-pats list in India.
- In the global ranking, Mumbai has been positioned at 147, New Delhi (169), Chennai (184), Bengaluru (189), and Pune (213).
- Hong Kong and Singapore are the most expensive cities for international employees this year.

2. According to a report, _____ people around the world are still using polluting fuels to cook and 675 million don't have electricity _____ **Up to 2.3 billion**.

Note:

- Report by: IEA, International Renewable Energy Agency, U.N. Statistics Division, World Bank, and WHO
- The report also highlighted that 1.9 billion won't have clean cooking opportunities by 2030.
- The global access to electricity increased from 84% in 2010 to 91% (2021), but the pace of growth slowed in 2019-2021.

3. India and which country have agreed to set a target for bilateral trade from the present 320 million euros to one billion euros by the end of the decade _____ **Serbia**.

Note:

- Indian President is on a three-day State visit to Serbia from the 7th to the 9th of June.
- President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic also promised simplification of the issue of Visa to Indians and also hoped that direct flights between the two countries will begin soon.

4. Which International organization report has highlighted significant impacts of 'Har Ghar Jal' Programme on public health and economic savings _____ **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

Note:

- The report on 'Har Ghar Jal' estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households in the country.
- The 'Har Ghar Jal' report focuses on diarrheal diseases as they contribute significantly to the overall disease burden related to water, sanitation, and hygiene issues.

5. Which country and the United States have backed a new "Atlantic Declaration" _____ **Britain**.

Note:

- Aim: Greater cooperation on pressing economic challenges in areas like clean energy, critical minerals and artificial intelligence
- The joint declaration described the partnership covering the broad spectrum of the two countries' economic, technological, commercial and trade relations.
- They will strengthen their supply chains, develop technologies of the future and invest in one another's industries.

6. Which international organization and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed a new Strategic Framework _____ **WHO**.

Note:

- Reason: For Collaboration to build stronger and more resilient health systems and maximize collaboration and impact in support of country, regional and global responses to major communicable diseases.
- The new five-year framework builds on the previous agreement signed in 2018.
- It aligns with the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy and the WHO General Programme of Work.

7. Which IT giant has launched a new 'voice chat' feature to its AI-powered Bing Chat on the desktop _____ **Microsoft.**

Note:

- Aim: It will help users to talk to the AI chatbot by clicking on the microphone icon in the Bing Chat box
- Currently, the voice chat feature supports five languages- English, Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin.
- More languages will be added soon.
- Bing Chat supports text-to-speech answers, which will respond to your questions in its own voice.

8. According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, which country has the lowest prevalence of modern slavery _____ **Switzerland.**

Note:

- Produced by: ILO, Walk Free, and International Organisation for Migration
- Walk Free has reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million.
- Countries with the highest prevalence: North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey
- Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany

Honor & Awards

1. Who was conferred with the 2023 Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize for his debut novel 'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho' _____ **Author Paterson Joseph.**

Note:

- This book is a historical fiction novel that tells the story of Charles Ignatius Sancho, who was the first Black man to vote in England
- RSL Christopher Bland Prize:
 - It is an annual award that is awarded to a debut writer for their work of fiction or non-fiction.
 - Cash Prize: £10,000

2. Name the book which has won the £5,000 Elizabeth Longford Prize 2023 for Historical Biography _____ **Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom.**

Note:

- This book was authored by Ramachandra Guha.
- This book tells the story of seven foreigners (4 British, 2 American, and 1 Iris) who joined India's freedom struggle.
- The list includes Annie Besant, B.G. Horniman, Philip Spratt, Richard Ralph Keithahn, Samuel Stokes, Madeline Slade, and Catherine Mary Heilemann.
- Prize money: £5,000

3. Which institution has been awarded accreditation as 'Athi Uttam' by the National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET) _____ **Geological Survey of India Training Institute.**

Note:

- The assessment was made on the basis of the inspection of all standard operating procedures and methodologies.
- The team of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), NABET, and Quality Control of India conducted the on-site assessment.
- GSITI was established in 1976 and its headquarters located in Hyderabad.

4. Which organization will gain access to professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services, and support from the International Social Security Association (ISSA) _____ **EPFO.**

Note:

- The move comes after the central board of trustees of EPFO gave its approval to change its membership status with ISSA from associate member to affiliate member now.
- The organization became an associate member in 1962.
- Other than EPFO, the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation is the only ISSA affiliate member from India.

Sports News

1. Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur send off how many special athletes to the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 to be held in Berlin _____ **198.**

Note:

- The Government spent 450 crore rupees in the current Olympic cycle on training, equipment, and facilities

- It will provide more assistance if needed to ensure India makes a new record in the Paris Olympics 2024.
 - India has given the best-ever performance at the last Olympics with improvements in facilities.
2. Who has defeated top-ranked Alfie Hewett from Britain 6-1, 6-4 to win the 2023 French Open wheelchair Men's singles title _____ **Japan's Tokito Oda.**
- Note:**
- With this win, he also become the sport's youngest Grand Slam champion.
 - While Diede de Groot from Netherlands has secured the 2023 French Open – Wheelchair women's singles.
 - Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid (Britain) won the Men's Double title, and Yui Kamiji and Kgothatso Montjane won the Women's Double title.
3. Which Women's hockey team defeated Republic of Korea to win the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title in Kakamigahara, Japan _____ **India.**
- Note:**
- This is the first time India have won the Women's Junior Asia Cup.
 - Recently, India had secured a spot in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile.
 - Japan beat China 2-1 to become the third team to qualify for the World Cup scheduled this year.
 - For India, Annu and Neelam were on target while Seoyeon Park scored the solitary goal for Korea.
4. Which country defeated Argentina 2-1 in its final FIH Pro League 2022-23 match in Eindhoven, the Netherlands _____ **India.**
- Note:**
- Akashdeep Singh and Sukhjeet Singh scored goals for India while Lucas Toscani netted the only goal for Argentina
 - India consolidated their position atop the FIH Pro League standings with 30 points from 16 matches.
 - Argentina is fifth with 13 points from 14 matches
 - The Indian men's hockey team finished in fourth place in their debut FIH Pro League campaign back in 2020-21.
5. The World Cup Squash championship is being organized in which Indian city _____ **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- Note:**
- It was formally inaugurated by the State Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Udhayanidhi Stalin.
 - On the first day, India will play against Hongkong and China in the pool B matches and in another match Japan will play against South Africa.
 - Each match will be played to the best of five games, each to seven points with a total of 11 points in general.
6. Which country beat Italy 1-0 to win its first FIFA U-20 World Cup 2023 _____ **Uruguay.**
- Note:**
- The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament.
 - Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute with a header from close range, giving Uruguay a much-deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy.
 - Earlier, debutant Israel beat South Korea 3-1 to secure third place in the same stadium in La Plata.
7. Who has secured a third place, with a jump of 8.09m, in the 2023 Diamond League Meet at Paris, France _____ **Murali Sreeshankar.**
- Note:**
- With this, he also became the only third Indian to finish in the top three of a Diamond League after Neeraj Chopra (Javelin thrower) and Vikas Gowda (former discus thrower).
 - Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece secured Gold with a jump of 8.13m and Simon Ehammer of Switzerland won silver with a jump of 8.11m.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of the new graphic novel for young readers titled 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' based on the life journey of Yogi Adityanath _____ **Shantanu Gupta.**
- Note:**
- More than 5,000 children from over 51 schools across different districts of Uttar Pradesh participated in the launch ceremony.
 - Prior to this, author Shantanu Gupta has written two bestseller titles on Yogi Adityanath- The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh and The Monk Who Became Chief Minister.
2. The book titled, 'The Snow Forest', will be released in February 2024, is authored by whom _____ **Elizabeth Gilbert.**
- Note:**
- This book is published by Bloomsbury.

- The novel, "The Snow Forest", is inspired by the true story of the family of religious hermits discovered in Siberia in 1978 who had escaped early 20th century Russia for a life in one of the most inhospitable and uninhabited places on earth.
- He has also authored 'Eat, Pray, Love'.

Science and Defence

1. GalaxEye is building the world's first multi-sensor earth observation satellite, is an incubated space-tech startup of which institute _____ **IIT-Madras**.

Note:

- It will launch its first satellite 'Drishti Mission' in 2024.
- It is being build with the help of a visible spectrum camera providing synchronised imaging that can take multiple images at the same time.
- GalaxEye is working on deploying a satellite constellation to provide the comprehensive imagery dataset from space.

2. Which organization has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for the upcoming Gaganyaan Mission _____ **Tata Elxsi**.

Note:

- It has designed and developed the crew module recovery models (CMRM) for the recovery team training of the space mission.
- ISRO's Gaganyaan project envisions a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching the crew into a 400-kilometer orbit for a three-day mission and safely bringing them to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

3. Which organization has successfully flight-tested New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 07, 2023 _____ **DRDO**.

Note:

- Aim: To validate the accuracy and reliability of the system
- During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated.
- This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile.

4. The Ministry of Defence informed that first India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise has started in which location _____ **Gulf of Oman**.

Note:

- It involves the Indian Navy frigate, INS Tarkash, the French Navy ship Surcouf along with Rafale fighter jets, and UAE Navy maritime patrol aircraft.
- The two-day exercise involve a wide range of naval operations, including helicopter cross-deck landing operations, advanced air defense exercises, and boarding operations.

5. The Indian Army has sealed a deal which organization to procure the indigenously-developed "tactical LAN radio" _____ **Astrom Tech Pvt Ltd**.

Note:

- Tactical LAN radio: It is a state-of-the-art high-bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for the provisioning of reliable communication.
- It is the second contract that the Army has firmed up under the framework of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).
- iDEX was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

6. Which edition of a joint military exercise between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force, 'Ex Ekuverin' is being commenced at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand _____ **12th**.

Note:

- Ekuverin meaning 'Friends', is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.
- Aim: To enhance the interoperability in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism Operations under the UN mandate
- The 11th edition of the exercise was held in Maldives in 2021.

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