



Bi-weekly Current Affairs 16-30 June PDF (English)

Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates

16-30th June 2023

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One-Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-30th) of **June 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which Russian lender has launched Indian rupee accounts for individuals _____ **Sberbank**.

Note:

- Aim: To expand the range of foreign currencies available to reduce dependency on the U.S. dollar and euro
- Sberbank has more than 100 million retail clients and already offers deposits in China's yuan and UAE dirhams.
- Rupee accounts would also be available to clients.
- Sberbank would also raise rates on dirham deposits by 100 basis points for a six-week period.

2. Which AMC will acquire up to 10% of the total paid-up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase _____ **SBI Mutual Fund**.

Note:

- The approval of IRDAI is valid for one year from the date of the Irdai approval letter.
- This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015.

3. Microfinance loan portfolio increased by what percent to Rs 3.48 lakh crore during 2022-23 _____ **22%**.

Note:

- Gross loan portfolio stood at Rs 2.85 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022.
- Microfinance loan disbursements during FY 2022-23 improved by 23% to Rs 2,96,423 crores compared to Rs 2,39,433 crore in the previous financial year.
- About 7.17 crore loans were disbursed during FY 22-23 as against 6.30 crore in the previous year.

4. According to RBI data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew by what percent at ₹96,847 crore in the year 2022-23 _____ **17%**.

Note:

- In the previous year, education loans were recorded at ₹82,723 crore
- For the first time in five years, growth in education loans not only turned positive but also registered a 17% surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023.
- The NPA in education advances stood at 7.82% of a total outstanding portfolio of ₹80,000 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY23.

5. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of what amount on Manappuram Finance _____ **₹20 lakh**.

Note:

- Reason: For non-compliance with certain provisions of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)
- RBI imposed this penalty as it did not classify certain gold loan accounts with overdues of more than 90 days as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).
- NBFC: It is a company registered under the Companies Act 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, and acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/securities issued.



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6. Which Fintech organization has introduced a UPI software development kit (SDK) _____ **Paytm.**

Note:

- Reason: For customers to make payments to online merchants without any failure of the system
- UPI SDK has also assured fail-proof transactions.
- Paytm UPI SDK will let users pay directly from bank accounts through UPI PIN without having to jump between merchant and payment app.
- Along with Paytm UPI Lite, the company is enhancing two-sided payments, for both merchants and customers.

7. The World Bank has approved a \$150 million loan to support the Resilient program of which Indian state _____ **Kerala.**

Note:

- Reason: To continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks
- Aim: To deepen the state's resilience in critical areas of coastal erosion and water resource management
- This loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 14 years, including a grace period of six years.

8. Which bank has launched its ActivMoney feature _____ **Kotak Mahindra Bank.**

Note:

- It is an auto sweep feature that is offered by other banks, including Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank.
- Benefit: This feature gives customers the benefit of FD like interest up to 7% per annum, and the flexibility to access their funds at any time from the linked savings account
- It allows a savings account holder to earn higher interest as offered in FDs while retaining the liquidity offered by a saving account.

9. Which regulatory body has restricted online bond platform providers from offering products other than listed debt securities on their platforms _____ **SEBI.**

Note:

- SEBI also allowed them to offer securities such as Government Securities, Treasury Bills, listed SBGs, listed municipal debt securities, and listed securitized debt instruments on their platforms.
- Under the rules, Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) need to register themselves as stock brokers in the debt segment of the stock exchange.

10. SEBI has banned which organization from onboarding any new clients for two years _____ **India Infoline Ltd (IIFL) Securities.**

Note:

- Reason: Mixing clients' funds with proprietary funds by routing transactions through common control accounts; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of debit balance clients; Utilizing funds of credit balance clients for settlement obligation of proprietary trades

11. Which bank has launched the Union Unnati account scheme _____ **Union Bank of India.**

Note:

- Recently, the Union Bank of India has launched four bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies.
- The bank has launched Union Unnati specifically designed for women entrepreneurs and professionals.
- This account offers free cancer care coverage and personal accident cover.
- Union Samridhi has targeted women.
- The third product is Union Samman, a savings account aimed at pensioners.



12. Which bank has launched its latest feature 'One-View', on Axis Mobile Application _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- It also becomes the first private sector Bank to introduce this new-age banking feature leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem.
- Aim: To create a seamless banking experience for its customers
- It helps in managing finances for customers, by providing them access to multiple bank accounts on a single platform
- It also enables them to track their balances and spending on a real-time basis.

13. Lloyds Banking Group would set up a technology center in which Indian city _____ **Hyderabad.**

Note:

- The group, which has brands such as Lloyds Bank, Halifax, and Bank of Scotland under its belt, is planning to expand its digital capabilities through the tech center.
- It won't offer banking services in the country, rather it will focus on using technology and digital data, and analytics capabilities to drive innovation and end-to-end product delivery

14. Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) has partnered with which bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customized banking products _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To build a sustainable network of corporate business correspondents (CBCs).
- It will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas.
- MTL will work closely with Indian Bank to offer tailor-made banking products in rural locations.

15. The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on which bank for non-compliance with directions related to time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls _____ **Jammu and Kashmir Bank.**

Note:

- A penalty of Rs 1.45 crore was also imposed on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on Man in the Middle Attacks in ATMs'.
- The RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Axis Bank.

16. Which international bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan to enhance the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India _____ **World Bank.**

Note:

- This funding will support approximately 275 selected government-run technical institutions over the course of the next five years.
- The Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education Project will focus on improving student skills and employability through various measures.

17. Which insurance provider launched a new close-ended plan Dhan Vridhhi _____ **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).**

Note:

- It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life plan, offering a combination of protection and savings.
- This plan provides financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.
- It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount on the date of maturity to the assured.
- Minimum assured sum: Rs 1,25,000

18. Which bank has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State and provide them with vital financial support _____ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).**

Note:

- TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with IOB.



- Aim: To streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the State

19. The Asian Development Bank has signed an agreement with which country to provide a 400 million US dollars loan for the construction of 102 km-long dual gauge railways between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar to promote trade, investment, and tourism _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- Aim: To transport 2.9 million passengers annually between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar by 2024
- Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway is part of the Trans-Asia Railway network, an initiative led by the UN.

20. Which life insurance provider launched 'Nishchit Pension Plan' _____ **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance.**

Note:

- It is a non-linked, non-participating individual pension plan that enables the policyholders to plan for their retirement.
- Under this plan, the insurer provides accrued guaranteed additions during the policy term and loyalty addition at the end of the policy term.
- The policyholders will be able to accumulate a 100% guaranteed corpus at desired retirement age.

21. Which insurance provider has launched three insurance products focusing on MSMEs — MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy, Property All Risk (PAR) Policy, and i-Select Liability _____ **ICICI Lombard.**

Note:

- Aim: To make MSMEs more risk aware and provide them with the benefit of comprehensive coverage to safeguard their businesses
- MSME Suraksha Kavach Policy protects MSMEs against loss or damage to property due to defined insured perils.
- PAR policy covers a range of properties against damage caused by accidents

22. S&P Global Ratings has retained India's GDP growth forecast at what percent for 2023-24 _____ **6%.**

Note:

- Reason: The fastest growing economy among Asia Pacific nations
- In its quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P Global Ratings forecasted the same growth for Vietnam and the Philippines alongside India.
- In its latest report, S&P has kept the GDP growth forecast for India unchanged for the current and the next fiscal, FY25 partly on account of domestic resilience.

23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of which bank and allowed function only as a non-banking institution _____ **Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad.**

Note:

- The cancellation of the license is with effect from the close of business on June 27, 2023.
- RBI has also been instructed to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.

24. According to the data released by the Reserve Bank, the CAD of India has been narrowed to 1.3 billion dollars or 0.2% of GDP in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal. What is the full form of CAD _____ **Current Account Deficit.**

Note:

- The decline was mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports.
- RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.



25. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a total of \$391 million loan to which two Indian states _____ **Assam and Tripura.**

Note:

- Aim: To improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities
- Out of \$391 million, \$251 million was approved for the Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project.
- While \$140 million was approved for the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project.

26. Which general insurance provider has partnered with WhatsApp and PayU to make payments through Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI) for their consumers more efficient _____ **Tata AIA.**

Note:

- This feature provides an instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options.
- The company has enabled the renewal of premium collections via multiple Digital modes and enhanced its language capability to 5 Languages–English, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, and Bengali.

27. The World Bank has approved how much amount to accelerate the development of India's low-carbon energy sector _____ **\$1.5 billion.**

Note:

- Aim: To help India promote low-carbon energy by scaling up renewable energy, developing green hydrogen, and stimulating climate finance for low-carbon energy investments
- The program will support the successful implementation of the National Green Hydrogen Mission which aims to stimulate \$100 billion in private-sector investment by 2030.

28. According to Bloomberg, after the tie-up of HDFC Bank Ltd and Housing Development Finance Corp, the lender would rank at what place in equity market capitalization _____ **Fourth.**

Note:

- It's valued at about \$172 billion.
- With the merger likely effective July 1, the new HDFC Bank entity will have around 120 million customers, which is greater than the population of Germany.
- JPMorgan Chase & Co ranked first, followed by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd and Bank of America Corp.

29. ICICI Lombard General Insurance and which life insurance have jointly launched a combi product, 'iShield' _____ **ICICI Prudential.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide customers with both health and life insurance under the "use and file" procedure
- The "use and file" procedure allows an insurer to launch a product without prior approval of the regulator.
- A combi product offers the benefits of life insurance, along with that of general or other insurance covers.

Obituaries

1. Dr. M. A. Kuttappan, who passed away, was associated with which field _____ **Politics.**

Note:

- He began his career as a doctor at Alappuzha Medical College and Cochin Port Trust Hospital.
- Later he become a four-time MLA in the Kerala assembly and was a member of the AK Antony ministry in 2001 as minister for the welfare of backward classes and SC/ST.
- He was elected to the state assembly from Wandoor, Chelakkara, and twice from Njarakkal constituencies.
- Other novels: Suttree, Blood Meridian, The Border Trilogy, No Country for Old Men.

2. Sylvester daCunha, the man behind the iconic Amul Girl 'utterly butterfly' campaign, passed away, was a veteran _____ **Advertiser.**



Note:

- He conceived the 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul, the brand owned by Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), in 1966.
 - In 1969, daCunha solidified his legacy by establishing daCunha Communications.
 - The 'Utterly Butterly' campaign for Amul had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.
3. Co-inventor of lithium-ion batteries, John Bannister Goodenough passed away at 101, was honoured with the Nobel Prize in which year _____ **2019**.

Note:

- He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize with Stan Whittingham, a British-American scientist, for discovering that lithium may be held within sheets of titanium sulphide.
- He was also instrumental in the invention of computer RAM (Random Access Memory).
- He also worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Oxford University.

Important Days

1. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about the abuse experienced by older adults _____ **June 15**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses
 - In 2006, this day was started by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).
 - In 2011, the United Nations adopted it as a designated day for the prevention of abuse of older people.
2. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promote efforts to combat these challenges _____ **June 17th**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Her land. Her rights
 - The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was established in 1994 following a convention held at the United Nations General Assembly.
 - The inaugural observance took place in 1995.
3. The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is observed on which date, every year to address the pressing global problem of hate speech _____ **June 18**.

Note:

- This day holds great importance as it calls for collective action to counter the spread of divisive rhetoric and promote understanding, respect, and inclusivity.
 - The Day marked by UNGA recognized the devastating consequences of hate speech and reaffirms the commitment to human rights and equality.
4. World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed every year on which each year to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) _____ **June 19th**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Building and strengthening global sickle cell communities, formalizing newborn screening, and knowing your sickle cell disease status
 - It is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that take on a crescent or sickle shape.
 - These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels.
5. World Refugee Day is commemorated every year on which date to serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence _____ **20th June**.

Note:

- 2023 theme: Hope Away from Home



- This year's theme highlighted the resilience and challenges faced by refugees, who lost everything.
 - On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established this day through Resolution 55/76.
6. The International Day of Yoga is observed every year on which date since 2015 _____ **June 21.**
- Note:**
- This year, the theme for International Yoga Day is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".
 - This year's theme highlighted beautifully encapsulates collective aspiration for "One Earth, One Family, One Future."
 - On 11 December 2014, the UN proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.
 - The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India.
7. World Music Day is an annual event that is observed on which date every year to celebrate the global language of music _____ **June 21.**
- Note:**
- The theme for World Music Day 2023 is "Music on the Intersections".
 - Aim: To promote peace and bring together people of different nationalities, cultures, races and ethnicity together through the power of music
 - World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.
8. International Widows Day is observed annually on which date to spread awareness about the plight of millions of widows facing poverty _____ **June 23.**
- Note:**
- 2023 theme: Innovation and technology for gender equality
 - The first-ever International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation back on June 23rd, 2005.
 - In 2010, the UNGA recognized the importance of this day and they officially adopted International Widows Day to share its importance on a global level.
9. International Women in Engineering Day is observed every year on which date for improving the participation of young girls in the field of engineering _____ **June 23.**
- Note:**
- The theme of the special day this year is 'Make Safety Seen'.
 - In 2014, the United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field.
 - In 2017, UNESCO celebrated this day for the first time, to mark the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.
10. The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on which date to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse _____ **June 26.**
- Note:**
- Various campaigns, rallies, and awareness programs are held worldwide on this day.
 - This is observed to honour Lin Zexu, who played a key role in the demolition of the opium trade in the Guangdong region of China.
 - 2023 theme: People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention
11. World MSME Day is observed on which date every year to raise awareness about the importance of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable development worldwide _____ **June 27.**
- Note:**
- The Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade is celebrating the day with "Building a Stronger Future Together" theme of this year.
 - The theme of MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100."
12. India observed National Statistics Day on which date every year, to celebrate the birth anniversary of statistician P.C. Mahalanobis _____ **June 29.**



Note:

- This day was first celebrated in 2007 in India.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2023 is “Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals”.
- Statistics Day in India is celebrated by conducting seminars, conferences, and other interactive events.

13. International Asteroid Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the potential hazards posed by asteroid impacts _____ **30 June.**

Note:

- It also aims to educate people about the global crisis communication measures to be taken in the event of a credible near-Earth object threat.
- In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution (A/RES/71/90) establishing June 30th as International Asteroid Day.
- World Music Day is also known as Fête de la Musique as it has its origin in France.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as Australia's next High Commissioner to India _____ **Philip Green.**

Note:

- He would succeed incumbent Barry O'Farrell, who served as Australian high commissioner to India since 2020.
- Presently, he is serving as Australia's ambassador to Germany.
- Previously, he has also served as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, South Africa, and Kenya.
- Hilary McGeachy has been appointed as Australia's first Consul-General in Bengaluru

2. Who has assumed charge as the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) _____ **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal.**

Note:

- He has replaced Sanjay Kumar, who has taken over as Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India) Ltd.
- Prior to this role, he was working as an executive director and head of zonal marketing of GAIL in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) with the Delhi government holding 5% stake.

3. Who has been appointed as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan _____ **Jane Marriott.**

Note:

- She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019.
- She also becomes the first female British envoy to Islamabad.
- Prior to this role, she was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019.
- She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

4. Who has been appointed as MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank _____ **P Vasudevan.**

Note:

- He has been reappointed for a period of 3 years, from July 23, 2023, to July 23, 2026.
- Headquarters of Equitas SFB: Chennai
- After receiving license from RBI on 30 June 2016, Equitas Small Finance bank began banking on 5 September 2016 and with effect from 4 February 2017, Equitas became a scheduled bank.

5. Axis Bank has appointed whom as the non-executive chairman for three years _____ **NS Vishwanathan.**

Note:

- His appointment will be effective from October 27, 2023, or the date of approval of his appointment by the RBI.



- NS Vishwanathan was a seasoned banker, who handled critical areas like regulation.
 - He has also served as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 2016 and 2020.
6. Who has been appointed as the new head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) for a tenure of two years _____ **Ravi Sinha**.

Note:

- He would succeed Samant Goel, who completes his four-year tenure on June 30, 2023.
 - Ravi Sinha is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
 - At present, he is serving as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.
 - Earlier, Sinha served in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and foreign countries.
7. Who has been appointed as the deputy governor of Reserve Bank India for three years _____ **Swaminathan Janakiraman**.

Note:

- He would succeed Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was serving as a deputy governor since 2018, is set to retire.
 - Prior to this role, he held various assignments across Corporate and International Banking, Retail and Digital Banking, Finance, and Assurance functions with SBI.
 - He also served as a Nominee Director of SBI on the Boards of Yes Bank and Jio Payments Bank.
8. Who has been appointed as chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City _____ **Hasmukh Adhia**.

Note:

- In addition to this role, he was also appointed as the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).
 - He replaced Sudhir Mankad, to take the helm of GIFT City.
 - He has also served as the Principal advisor to Narendra Modi when he was CM of Gujarat.
9. Who was appointed the chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), by the President of India _____ **Umesh Kumar**.

Note:

- President Droupadi Murmu has exercised the powers conferred by Section 45(b) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, read with sub-section 2 of Section 84 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
 - He served as the justice of Allahabad High Court till July 2022.
10. Finland's parliament elected whom as prime minister at the head of a four-party coalition _____ **Petteri Orpo**.

Note:

- Parliament voted in favor of Orpo, who won the April elections.
 - He was formally appointed as prime minister by President Sauli Niinisto.
 - He took over from Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats finished third behind Orpo's National Coalition Party and the Finns Party.
 - The new coalition is made up of the smaller Swedish People's Party and Christian Democrats.
11. Who will take over as the chief executive of the Alibaba Group _____ **Eddie Wu**.

Note:

- He is one of the co-founders of Alibaba, who first served it as a technology director back in 1999.
 - While Joe Tsai will take over as chairman on September 10th, 2023.
 - He was appointed as the company's CFO until 2013.
 - The present CEO and Chairman Daniel Zhang is planning to step down this year.
12. WHO has appointed whom as the first-ever WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health _____ **Dr Vanessa Kerry**.

Note:

- She is a renowned global health expert and medical doctor and CEO of Seed Global Health.
- She will play a pivotal role in amplifying WHO's climate and health messaging and undertake high-level advocacy.



- Climate change is emerging as the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, impacting various aspects of human well-being.

13. DBS Bank India has appointed whom as managing director and head of institutional banking _____ **Rajat Verma**.

Note:

- He will succeed Niraj Mittal, who will be taking up a new role as country head of DBS Bank in Australia.
- Rajat Verma was formerly with HSBC as the MD and country head of Commercial Banking in India.
- He will lead the growth of the institutional banking franchise for DBS Bank in India given the significantly expanded footprint of the lender.

14. Who has been sworn in as the PM of Greece for a second term, after winning the Prime Minister election _____ **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**.

Note:

- He took the oath of office in the presidential palace at a ceremony.
- In the election, he bagged 40.55% of the votes, more than twice the main opposition Syriza's 17.84%.
- He vowed to accelerate institutional and economic reforms.
- He became the PM for the first time in 2019 when his party defeated Syriza in an election.

15. The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the Federal Bank for the appointment of whom as part-time chairman, with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026 _____ **AP Hota**.

Note:

- In 2018, he was appointed as an Independent Director of Federal Bank Limited.
- He has also worked at RBI as a nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and Andhra Bank.
- He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009- 2017.

16. Who has assumed charge as the Managing Director and CEO of FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) _____ **Rohit Jawa**.

Note:

- He has replaced Sanjiv Mehta who retired after the company's annual general meeting.
- Mehta handed over the baton to Jawa, who was appointed as an Additional Director and CEO-Designate from April 1, 2023.
- Prior to this role, Jawa was the Chief of Transformation for Unilever in London.
- He started his career with HUL as a management trainee in 1988.

17. Who has been appointed as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effective until his superannuation on November 20, 2024 _____ **Ajay Bhatnagar**.

Note:

- At present, he is serving as Additional Director in the agency.
- While Anurag and Manoj Sashidhar have been promoted to the position of Additional Director.
- The government has also extended the tenure of Sharad Agarwal as Joint Director.

18. Audi has appointed whom as Chairman of the Board of Management, effective September 1, 2023 _____ **Gernot Dollner**.

Note:

- He will take over Markus Duesmann.
- Gernot Dollner joined Volkswagen as a Ph.D. candidate in 1993 and subsequently served in a number of management roles at Porsche, including as head of Concept Development and head of the Panamera Series



Important News – India

1. What was the Wholesale Price Index (Provisional) for the month of May 2023 _____ (-) 3.48%.

Note:

- In April 2023, it was recorded (-) 0.92%.
- Reason: Fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, and chemical & chemical products
- The food index has declined to 1.59%, while fuel and power fell to 9.17%
- Manufactured product prices fell 2.97% in May 2023.

2. Who has flagged off the first Agri- SEZ project of Gabon from New Delhi _____ **Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan.**

Note:

- This project will be implemented by the AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner.
- In the first phase 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agri and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, Odisha will be traveling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

3. Vivek Johri has released the National Time Release Study 2023 report. He is a Chairman of which government agency _____ **CBIC.**

Note:

- Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool.
- Aim: To present quantitative measure of the cargo release time
- Import Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the period between 'arrival of Goods' and the Customs'granting of 'Out of Charge'
- Export Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the time between cargo's arrival at the port and its physical departure from the port/Customs station.

4. Google has joined hands with which organization to drive citizen awareness 'G20-Stay Safe Online' campaign on online cyber safety in the country _____ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

Note:

- Aim: To foster citizen awareness about online safety and security
- Google will raise awareness on the fundamentals of online safety through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme.
- Both are working to enhance user awareness on cyber fraud and helping people identify common types of online scams.

5. Which ministry has released National Working Plan Code-2023 for scientific management of forests _____ **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.**

Note:

- It has evolved new approaches during the 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' organized by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun on 17th June 2023.
- It will act as a guiding principle for State Forest Departments in preparation for the working plan for different forest divisions.

6. Which department has set up a panel to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act _____ **Department of Legal Affairs.**

Note:

- The committee would be led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan.
- Aim: To reduce the burden on courts
- Other members: Rajiv Mani (Law Ministry additional secretary), some senior advocates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, NHAI, railways, and CPWD



7. PM Narendra Modi has collaborated with which Indian singer to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger _____ **Falguni Shah.**

Note:

- Title of the song track: Abundance in Millets
- Falu was awarded the Grammy Award in 2022.
- The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's FAO Governing Bodies.

8. Who has launched the "Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App" in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand _____ **Union minister of heavy industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey.**

Note:

- This mobile application was developed by Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Limited (REIL), a CPSE Mini Ratna under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- Aim: To bring about a significant transformation in the Indian dairy industry by addressing key challenges in the milk collection process.

9. Gross Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (till now) have registered a growth of what percent to 4,19,338 crore rupees _____ **12.73%.**

Note:

- In the preceding financial year, the government recorded a growth of 3,71,982 crores rupees.
- Net collections are at three lakh 79 thousand 760 crores, showing a growth of 11.18%.
- The Gross collections include Corporation Tax at 1,87,311 crore and Personal Income Tax at two lakh 31 thousand 391 crore.

10. Which pharmaceutical organization's mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine has received Emergency Use Authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India _____ **Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.**

Note:

- The vaccine, 'GEMCOVAC-OM' is approved against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.
- GEMCOVAC-OM has demonstrated robust immune responses in phase 3 clinical trials conducted at 20 centers across 13 cities in India.
- Presently approved vaccines are used as precautionary/ booster doses.

11. Who has donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay _____ **Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani.**

Note:

- Reason: Fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay
- An MoU was signed between Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay.
- His contribution will catalyze philanthropic contributions toward advancing research and development at universities in India.

12. The Indian cabinet has granted approval for which US chipmaker to proceed with its \$2.7 billion plan for a semiconductor testing and packaging unit _____ **Micron Technology.**

Note:

- It has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees for the plant in Gujarat.
- The necessary approval stems from the significant size of the incentive package.
- Micron Technology's venture coincides with the White House's efforts to encourage U.S. chip companies to invest in India.

13. India will host the 2025 International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference in which Indian state _____ **Kochi, Kerala.**

Note:

- Theme: Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile
- The hosting decision has been conveyed to the IIAS's Council of Administration via video conference.



- IIAS was established in 1930; HQ: Brussels
 - Aim: To elaborate the public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day
14. The two-day conference of Science-20 under G-20 is being organized in which Indian city _____ **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- The theme of the conference is "Connecting Science to Society and Culture".
 - The conference will be chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
 - The conference will be attended by representatives of G-20 countries, invited states and international organisations.
15. The concluding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting along with the Tourism Ministerial Meeting started in which Indian state _____ **Goa.**

Note:

- Union Minister For Culture, G Kishan Reddy has addressed the first session of "Making Cruise Tourism a Model for Sustainable and Responsible Travel".
 - The minister highlighted that India is one of the potential cruise tourism destinations with many of its best tourist destinations yet to be disclosed to the world.
16. Which Indian steel organization and Germany's SMS group have signed an MoU to collaborate on the decarbonization of steel making process _____ **Tata Steel Limited.**

Note:

- Under this MoU, the companies shall undertake further technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt technology (developed by SMS group).
 - The demonstration will be executed at 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO2 emission.
17. Which Indian organization and the United Nations, India has signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation (GoI-UNSDC) Framework 2023-2027 _____ **NITI Aayog.**

Note:

- This framework represents the UN development system's collective offer to the Government of India, in line with the national vision for development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights.
18. Which semiconductor organization has signed an agreement with the German government for investing more than 30 billion euros in a chip manufacturing site in Magdeburg, Germany _____ **Intel.**

Note:

- An agreement was signed between German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger.
 - Intel has acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November 2022 and is expected to start production in four or five years.
19. Which international organization has joined hands with India's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) _____ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

Note:

- Reason: To empower women to make well-informed career choices in the field of entrepreneurship
 - The partnership will provide support for women looking to start and expand their own enterprises, particularly in sectors such as the care economy, digital economy, electric mobility, waste management, food packaging, and more
20. The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission unanimously elected which country as chair of the Standing Committee on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the biennium 2023-24 _____ **India.**



Note:

- The APPPC Workshop on Systems Approach for the management of fruit flies on mango has been scheduled from 19-23 June 2023 in Navi Mumbai.
- The Minister of State for Agriculture, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the workshop.

21. Name the Agriculture Minister, who has unveiled a new feature on the PM-Kisan mobile app _____ **Narendra Singh Tomar.**

Note:

- Farmers can be registered by scanning their faces without a one-time password or fingerprint, by using the "face authentication" feature on the mobile application.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.

22. Which organization has started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India to the US _____ **IFFCO.**

Note:

- An agreement to export Nano urea was signed between IFFCO and Kapoor Enterprises Inc of California.
- The nano urea is a revolution in the agriculture sector as it has the potential to reduce storage space and money.
- A 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid has the capacity to replace at least one bag of conventional Urea.

23. The first hydrogen-powered trains in India are expected to start from the Jind district of which state by the end of this year, 2023 _____ **Haryana.**

Note:

- The officials informed that the plant development has entered the final phase and hydrogen will be produced from water.
- The Hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environment-friendly.
- Presently, trains are being run on diesel and electricity.
- The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.

24. Which organization has decided to extend financial assistance of Rs. 3,045 crores to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) _____ **REC Limited.**

Note:

- Reason: For establishment and development of Metro Lines under the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro
- The Phase-II project of Namma Metro will enhance connectivity and ease traffic in the densely populated city of Bengaluru.
- REC is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power.

25. The Finance Ministry has approved an investment of worth Rs 56,415 crore in which states as part of the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme _____ **16.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost capital spending by states
- The Departments of Expenditure has approved investment projects in several sectors including health, education, roads, and railways among others.
- It has also included the state share of two projects - Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

26. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala today launched NANDI. What is the full form of NANDI _____ **NOC Approvals for New Drugs & Inoculation System.**

Note:

- This portal has been developed to pave the way to a resilient Animal Health Sector in India by streamlining and digitizing the regulatory approval process.
- Aim: To speed up the process to assess and examine the safety, efficacy, and essentiality of veterinary product proposals received in the Department



27. Which Indian airport has created a personalised digital travel buddy named BLR Pulse to cater to the needs of flyers _____ **Bangalore International Airport Limited.**

Note:

- It is an omnichannel platform, developed in collaboration with GrayMatter Software Services.
- It will allow passengers to navigate within the terminal buildings and provide essential information about the airport in real-time.
- The interactive chatbot feature in the app will enable a self-sufficient mode of finding answers.

28. Name the Union Minister for Fisheries, who has launched the Report Fish Disease App _____ **Parshottam Rupala.**

Note:

- The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD).
- It is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- This app will help the farmers to report the incidences of diseases in finfish and shrimps on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts.

29. Which edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan has been started _____ **8th.**

Note:

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023.
- Swachh Survekshan 2023 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, Divyang-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management, and cleaning backlanes.

30. The Centre government has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to _____ in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021 _____ **30 September 2023.**

Note:

- Aim: To boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange, and cut air pollution
- The decision has been taken under the 'scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity'.

31. The CCEA has approved the fair and remunerative price of _____ per quintal for sugarcane farmers for the season 2023-24 _____ **Rs 315 per quintal.**

Note:

- It will be applicable for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers by sugar mills from Oct 1, 2023
- It will be applicable for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%
- A premium of Rs.3.07 per quintal will be provided for every 0.1% increase in recovery above 10.25%
- Conversely, the FRP will be reduced by Rs 3.07 per quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

32. The Centre has provided financial incentives of 66,000 crore rupees to how many states to accelerate power sector reforms _____ **12.**

Note:

- These states include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur and Andhra Pradesh.
- The primary objectives of granting financial incentives for undertaking power sector reforms are to improve operational and economic efficiency within the sector and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption.

33. The Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the NRF Bill, 2023, in parliament. What is the full form of NRF _____ **National Research Foundation.**



Note:

- Aim: To pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF.

34. Which airline has become India's leading airline to cross ₹1 trillion in market capitalization _____ **InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo).**

Note:

- The stock hit a 52-week high of ₹2,634.25 on the BSE, with a market value of ₹1.01 trillion.
- Shares of IndiGo settled 3.55% higher at ₹2,619.85 apiece on the BSE, compared to the previous close of ₹2,529.95.
- IndiGo placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft in the largest order in the history of commercial aviation.

35. Who has unveiled India's first-ever report on Critical Minerals for India _____ **Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi.**

Note:

- The report identifies 30 critical minerals essential for sectors including defense, agriculture, and telecom.
- This list marks a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in mineral resources, aligning with the vision of achieving 'Net Zero' targets.
- Aim: To guide policy formulation, strategic planning, and investment decisions in this sector

36. Which organization declared a fresh Mixed Reality program in India that has an award of \$250,000 for homegrown new companies and developers to construct applications and experiences _____ **Meta.**

Note:

- They can assemble applications utilizing the expansive scope of machine perception, and AI capabilities for the Meta Quest Platform and Metaverse
- Aim: To foster innovation and establish a national XR technology ecosystem
- A selected group of 5 Indian developers and new companies will get a monetary grant

37. PM Modi will inaugurate which edition of the Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on July 1st, 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi _____ **17th.**

Note:

- The two days Indian Cooperative Congress would be organized by the National Cooperative Union of India.
- Theme 2023: Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India
- Chaired by: HM Amit Shah
- Aim: To discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, to showcase the best practices being adopted by the successful cooperatives

38. Which Indian organizations has signed an MoU with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency _____ **Indian Railways.**

Note:

- It was signed in the presence of the Chairman of the Railway Board, Anil Kumar Lahoti.
- As Indian Railways is proactively working towards the achievement of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- As part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways is taking several initiatives.

39. India and which country formally inked an agreement on the sidelines of the 141st/142nd sessions of the World Customs Organization's Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels _____ **UAE.**



Note:

- Both countries have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators.
- Aim: To promote greater trade facilitation and ease of doing business
- The agreement establishes a framework that enables the recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both countries.

40. Which country has signed the Artemis Accords with the USA with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond _____ **India**.

Note:

- Artemis Accord is a US-led effort to send humans to the moon again by 2025.
- Aim: To build a permanent presence in lunar orbit and on the surface after the Apollo missions ended
- It will boost the cooperation between the two nations and explore the domain beyond the boundaries of Earth.
- India has become the 27th signatory of the Artemis Accords.

41. Which organization has bagged a \$454-million deal for the digital transformation of Denmark's Danske Bank _____ **Infosys**.

Note:

- The deal is for a period of five years, which could be ramped up to \$900 million and also renewed for up to another three years.
- The collaboration with Infosys would help achieve its strategic priorities regarding customer experience and operational excellence.
- Infosys was selected to help with the bank's technology transformation, optimize access to talent and capabilities.

42. Which ministry has signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited to develop various geospatial solutions on a pro bono basis for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem, with the help of Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset _____ **Ministry of Agriculture**.

Note:

- This project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites.
- It will develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.

43. The Ministry of Culture and which bank signed an MoU for the disbursement of financial assistance to veteran artists under the "Scheme for Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists" _____ **Canara Bank**.

Note:

- Ministry of Culture has administered a Scheme under which financial assistance of Rs. 6000 per month is provided to artists and scholars above 60 years
- Eligibility: Contributed in their specialized fields of performing arts and culture in their active age or are still contributing

44. The Central government has allocated what amount for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland _____ **₹145 crore**.

Note:

- Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings
- The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls.
- The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.



Important News – State

1. Which state government launched a monthly pension of ₹ 10,000 for the Padma awardees from the state ____ **Haryana**.

Note:

- Besides the monthly pension, a free travel facility in the 'Volvo bus' service of the state government for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardees from Haryana.
- The state government is also giving the benefit of health insurance up to ₹ 5 lakh to families with an annual income of up to ₹ 1.80 lakh.

2. Which state will get its seventh tiger reserve with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined protected area ____ **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary: It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and acts as a corridor for Panna Tiger Reserve and Satpura Tiger Reserve
- Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary: It is located in the Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh and hosts 18 species of mammals.

3. Which state launched a web portal for cattle transportation ____ **Assam**.

Note:

- Aim: To prevent the illegal transportation of cattle
- From now, Livestock farmers and cattle traders can obtain permits required for inter-state transportation of cattle through the website ahvd-cattletrans.assam.gov.in.
- This system is prepared under the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021.

4. Which state would release the Kharif installment of financial assistance to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme from June 26, 2023 ____ **Telangana**.

Note:

- He directed State's FM Harish Rao to take steps to deposit the Rythu Bandhu funds to the farmers in their respective bank accounts.
- The Podu land farmers will also be considered for the Rythu Bandhu assistance.
- In Rabi season 2022-23, over 70 lakh farmers received Rythu Bandhu assistance.

5. Which state government has launched a free power scheme named 'Gruha Jyothi scheme' for providing free electricity up to 200 units a month ____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah also stated that the scheme also extends to tenants living on rent if their electricity consumption matches the scheme's criteria.
- The beneficiaries will get a 'zero bill' starting August 1 if usage is within their entitlement.
- The Gruha Jyothi scheme is part of the Congress government's five poll promises.

6. Which state government launched the panchayat-level drugs shop scheme to make essential medicines available in remote areas ____ **Jharkhand**.

Note:

- The scheme was inaugurated in Chatra district by handing over licenses to three persons for operating the medicine shops in panchayats.
- A total of 15 people have been selected for licenses in the district so far.
- The programs like 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' will be restarted to establish a "real connection with people".

7. Which state government has decided to give cash instead of rice till rice is procured ____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- It was one of the guarantees of the Siddaramaiah govt was to provide 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household.
- The government has decided to pay beneficiaries cash at the rate of ₹34 per kilo, for the additional 5kg of the foodgrain promised under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme.
- The disbursement of money will start on July 1.



8. Which city of Gujarat has set a Guinness World Record with over 1.53 lakh people participating in a yoga event at one place on the International Day of Yoga (IDY), organized on 21st June _____

Surat.

Note:

- Guinness officials handed over the certificate to chief minister Bhupendra Patel at the venue.
- Two 4km-long stretches of roads, each around 300 meters wide, connecting the Y junction were covered with carpet for participants
- The participants were divided into groups of 1,000 each

9. Which state government will collaborate with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to set up a state-of-the-art milk processing plant at Dagwar in Kangra district _____ **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note:

- The dairy development board's assistance would be taken for its operation and marketing.
- The Dagwar plant's capacity would range from 1 lakh to 3 lakh liters, in which high-quality milk products would also be prepared.

10. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of Balidaan Stambh' at Pratap Park, near the Lal Chowk city centre the commercial hub of which city _____ **Srinagar city.**

Note:

- Home Minister has laid the foundation stone in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

11. Who signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park to create a startup ecosystem for the youth _____ **Paytm Payment Services Limited.**

Note:

- Under an MoU, Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage startups at a discounted price.
- It also offers free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid youths' business ventures in their early growth stage.
- This will nurture the startup ecosystem in the state and motivate young entrepreneurs

12. Which state Police Department launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- The initiative will expedite the prosecution of cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, cow slaughter, religious conversion, and murder.
- It ensures the immediate arrest of criminals, the collection of strong evidence against them, quality investigation, and effective representation of cases in courts.

13. How many products of Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai _____ **Seven.**

Note:

- Seven products are: Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, and Kalpi Handmade Paper
- The Amroha Dholak is a musical instrument made of natural wood.
- Mango, jackfruit, and teakwood are preferred for making the dholak.

14. Which state government signed an MoU with the US-based computer storage chip maker Micron for setting up a \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- It will be the first semiconductor manufacturing facility in India and will be manufactured within 18 months.
- Micron will receive 50% fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian government and incentives representing 20% of the total project cost from the Gujarat government.



Important News – World

1. Which country has drafted resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers _____ **India**.

Note:

- The UNGA has adopted a draft resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers.
- Ruchira Kamboj (India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador) has introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers.'
- The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda, and the US.

2. Which country's embassy in association with the United Nations (UN) Habitat Office in Kuwait, has organized a Beach Cleaning Event _____ **Embassy of India in Kuwait**.

Note:

- Aim: To promote environmental awareness and community participation.
- This part was organized as part of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) initiative of the Government of India, that aims to bring individual behaviors to the forefront of global climate action by promoting a circular economy and mindful utilization.

3. According to a new report, Glaciers in Asia's Hindu Kush Himalaya could lose up to what percent of their volume by the end of the century _____ **75%**.

Note:

- Reason: Global warming, is causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for the 240 million people who live in the mountainous region.
- The international scientist team found that ice loss on the peaks of Everest and K2 is speeding up.
- In 2010, the glaciers shed as much as 65% of ice, which was faster than they had in the preceding decade.

4. Which organization has adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life on the high seas, approved by delegates from the 193 member nations _____ **UN**.

Note:

- The treaty will create a new body to manage the conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas on the high seas.
- It also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.
- The new treaty is under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, came into force in 1994.

5. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, the number of refugees globally stood at _____ by the end of 2022 _____ **35.3 million**.

Note:

- It also shows an increase in the number of more than 8 million from the year before.
- Around 52% of all refugees came from Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.
- According to international law, refugees are people who are forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution or a serious threat to their life or freedom.

6. According to the 2023 Forbes' -The Global 2000, India's largest power generation company, which Indian organization has climbed 52 positions to secure the 433rd rank in the list _____ **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)**.

Note:

- In the 2022 ranking, the company was on 485th rank.
- The climb of 52 positions has demonstrated the NTPC's emergence as a strong force in the global market.
- 'The Global 2000' List recognizes the world's largest companies based on sales, profits, assets, and market value.



7. According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the growth in demand for oil in India will overtake that in China by which year _____ **2027**.

Note:

- 'Oil 2023', the multilateral agency's outlook highlighted that China's demand will fall consistently from 2024 after a massive rise this year.
- The United States, China, and India are the world's three largest oil consumers in that order.
- IEA also raised its forecast for world oil growth demand to 2.4 million barrels per day in 2023.

8. Which organization released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023, which covered 85% of the global population _____ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Note:

- The index has revealed that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women.
- Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one bias against women.
- This index has tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions i.e. political, educational, economic and physical integrity.

9. As per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, which organization is the most valuable private company in India, with a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore _____ **Reliance Industries Ltd.**

Note:

- TCS with Rs 11.8 lakh crore ranked second in India, followed by HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore.
- The value of Reliance decreased by 5.1% in the last six months, while the total value of TCS increased marginally by 0.7% and HDFC Bank increased by 12.9%.
- Countries with the lowest prevalence: Switzerland, Norway, and Germany.

10. According to a Gender Gap Index 2023, released by World Economic Forum, what is the rank of India _____ **127**.

Note:

- The report reflects an improvement of 1.4% points.
- India's neighboring countries rank: Bangladesh (59), Bhutan (103), China (107), and Pakistan (142)
- For the 14th year running, Iceland (91.2%) takes the top position.
- While Norway ranked 2nd, followed by Finland, and Sweden.

11. According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), which city has topped the ranking of the most liveable cities _____ **Vienna in Austria**.

Note:

- While Copenhagen in Denmark placed second on the list, followed by Melbourne and Sydney.
- Damascus in Syria and Tripoli in Libya remained at the bottom of the liveability index.
- From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.

12. Forbes has ranked whom as among the top ten most influential Chief Marketing Officers (CMO) for the second consecutive year _____ **Tata Group's brand custodian Harish Bhat**.

Note:

- Last year, he was in the ninth position.
- William White, CMO of Walmart has topped the Forbes list of most influential CMOs 2023.
- While Ashimita Dubey, chief digital and marketing officer at L'Oreal, is ranked 21 and Infosys chief marketing officer Sumit Virmani is at 41.

13. According to the Global competitiveness index 2023, published by International Institute for Management Development (IMD), what is the rank of India _____ **40**.

Note:

- Denmark, Ireland, and Switzerland took the top three places.
- Switzerland ranked fourth, followed by the Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sweden, the USA, and UAE.



- The report uses a combination of surveys, statistical data, and trends to benchmark competitiveness around the world.

14. According to the 20th QS World University Rankings 2023, which Indian institute has climbed 23 positions to secure the 149th rank globally _____ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.**

Note:

- While in the overall ranking, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States topped the rankings for the twelfth consecutive year.
- UK's Cambridge University ranked second followed by Oxford University.
- India is the seventh most represented country globally, with 45 universities ranked.

15. India bagged which position globally in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index _____ **67th.**

Note:

- WEF informed that India is the only major economy whose energy transition accelerated across all dimensions.
- Top 5: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland
- The global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.

16. INDUS X was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21st June 2023, what does INDUS stand for _____ **India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem.**

Note:

- The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the Ministry of Defence, and the US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion), MoD, Anurag Bajpai led the Indian delegation in the two-day INDUS-X event.

17. Which Indian minister met with Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- After the meeting, it was informed that Google is investing 10 billion dollars in India's digitization fund and will open Google's global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- While Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy has already invested 11 billion dollars and with an intention to invest another 15 billion dollars.

18. Which country's Parliament has approved a new immigration law designed to attract skilled workers to the country _____ **Germany.**

Note:

- Reason: The nation is suffering from an unprecedented labour shortage
- The law was initiated by the governing center-left coalition of the Social Democrats, the liberal Free Democrats, and the Greens.
- The law includes a points-based system that lowers entry hurdles for work visa applicants according to their professional qualifications, age, and language skills.

19. A US\$5 billion 'smart' city named Arkadag was inaugurated in which country _____ **Turkmenistan.**

Note:

- Turkmenistan President, Serdar Berdimukhamedov has unveiled the city around 30km southwest of the capital, Ashgabat.
- The new city is built in the foothills of the picturesque Kopet-Dag mountains and named after Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov.
- He ruled the country between 2006 and 2022 and now carries the title Hero Arkadag (Protector).



Honor & Awards

1. Who was honored with the title of 'Governor of the Year 2023' by Central Banking in London _____
RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.

Note:

- Reason: For his role in managing inflation and handling India's banking system during crises like the COVID pandemic and global turmoils
- He is the second RBI governor after Raghuram Rajan, who was honored with this title in 2015.
- While the National Bank of Ukraine was presented with the 2023 Central Bank of the Year.

2. Which organization has unveiled its version of the metaverse called Bharatmeta at the prestigious VivaTech event held in Paris 2023 _____ **Kiya.ai.**

Note:

- The demonstration took place at the India Pavilion during the event 'VivaTech'.
- VivaTech is recognized as Europe's largest annual technology and startup gathering.
- Bharatmeta offers practical use cases for banking, commerce, culture, and collaboration within the metaverse.

3. Who has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi' _____ **Arundhati Roy.**

Note:

- The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in the leading French publishing group, Gallimard.
- The award ceremony will take place on September 12 at the Lausanne Palace.
- At the award ceremony, Arundhati Roy will discuss the environment and globalization, caste and language.

4. Which organization has been selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 in recognition of its outstanding contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods _____ **Gita Press, Gorakhpur.**

Note:

- The award given by the Ministry of Culture, the Gandhi Peace Prize carries an amount of one crore rupees, a citation, and a plaque.
- Gita Press was established in 1923, having published over 41 crore books in 14 languages.

5. Who has been selected for the prestigious German Peace Prize 2023 for his literary work and his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger _____ **British-American author, Salman Rushdie.**

Note:

- He would receive the award in Frankfurt on October 22, 2023.
- Cash prize: €25,000 (\$27,300)
- This prize was established in 1950 to recognize a personality committed to serving international understanding between nations and cultures through their work.

6. Who has been selected for the first-ever Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award, instituted by Bharat Jagruthi _____ **Acharya N. Gopi.**

Note:

- The award would be presented to Acharya Gopi at an event to be organized at Telangana Saraswatha Parishath in Abids on June 21.
- The award has been instituted for honoring the litterateurs every year.
- Acharya Gopi has penned 56 books including 26 compilations of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books.

7. Which Indian airline has won a top award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia at the prestigious 2023 Skytrax World Airline Awards _____ **IndiGo.**

Note:

- It is the thirteenth time that IndiGo has won this award as the Best Low-Cost Airline in India and South Asia.



- Recently, IndiGo has placed a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft, which will provide IndiGo with a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035.
8. Who has been named the prestigious (Kendra) Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 _____ **Priya A S.**

Note:

- She was awarded for children's literature in Malayalam for her 2018 novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal.
 - She won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel in 2020.
 - The book was featured in the Sammanapothi series by Poorna Books.
 - Bal Sahitya Puraskar consists of a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.
9. Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has conferred the 'Order of the Nile' to which Indian minister _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- The 'Order of the Nile' was instituted in 1915, which is conferred upon heads of state, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.
 - Over the last 9 years, PM Modi has received many international awards and this is the 13th highest state honour conferred upon PM Modi.
10. Who was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Birmingham City University (BCU) in London, England _____ **Shankar Mahadevan.**

Note:

- Reason: To celebrate his contribution to music and the arts
 - He was honoured by the BCU Vice-Chancellor Professor Philip Plowden at the ceremony.
 - He was accompanied by fellow musicians Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin at the ceremony.
11. Who has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day on July 1 _____ **Dr. K. Venugopal.**

Note:

- He was selected under the category of community service.
 - He will receive the award at a function to be held at IMA headquarters in New Delhi on July 1.
 - Indian Medical Association was formed in 1928 & is headquartered in New Delhi.
12. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak honored whom with a Points of Light award on June 28th, 2023 _____ **Rajindar Singh Dhatt.**

Note:

- He was recognized for his service and work running the 'Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association'.
- The Points of Light award recognize outstanding people whose service is making a difference in their communities and whose stories can inspire others towards innovative solutions to social challenges in their own communities and beyond.
-

Sports News

1. The Asia Cup 2023 will take place in Pakistan and which country between August 31 and September 17, 2023 _____ **Sri Lanka.**

Note:

- Earlier, the tournament was originally meant to be held entirely in Pakistan.
 - Recently, the Asian Cricket Council has approved the hybrid model, in which four of the 13 matches will be played in Pakistan and the remaining nine in Sri Lanka.
 - In Pakistan, matches will be held in Lahore while the games to be played in Sri Lanka will be held in Kandy and Pallekele.
2. Which country has retained the World Squash Championship, after beating Malaysia by 2-1 in the final _____ **Egypt.**



Note:

- Malaysia won the silver, and third place (bronze) was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan.
- India was defeated by Malaysia 3-0 in the semi-final.
- The championship was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu with eight countries as participants and was held from June 13 to 17.
- Egypt won the World Cup when it was last held here in 2011.

3. The inaugural edition of India's first-ever Women's Kabaddi League (WKL) has been commenced in which city _____ **Dubai.**

Note:

- It marks the first time that women kabaddi players from across India have been given the opportunity to exhibit their skills and prowess on a global stage.
- This league consists of eight teams, featuring a total of 96 players, each representing Indian states.
- The victorious team will be awarded a prize of approximately half a million dirhams (1 crore INR).

4. Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant has launched the mascot named 'Moga' for the upcoming which edition of the National Games at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao _____ **37th.**

Note:

- The event was organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Authority of Goa.
- The ceremony was attended by the Sports Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude, President of the Indian Olympic Association, Dr. P.T Usha, and Olympic medalist MC Mary Kom.

5. Which country's men's senior football team has clinched the Intercontinental Cup 2023 after defeating Lebanon in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha _____ **Indian.**

Note:

- This is India's second title in the tournament, following their win in the inaugural edition in 2018.
- The first half was goalless while in the second half, the hosts made it 1-0 in the 46th minute with Indian captain Sunil Chhetri's goal.
- Lallianzuala Chhangte netted the second goal in the 65th -minute, making it 2-0.

6. Who has secured the bronze medal at Asian Fencing Championships 2023 held in China _____ **C.A. Bhavani Devi.**

Note:

- In the quarterfinal, she created history by defeating reigning World Champion Misaki Emura and secured India its first-ever medal at the event.
- She stunned the world number one 15-10 to enter the women's sabre semifinal.
- However, Bhavani lost to Uzbekistan's Zaynab Dayibekova in the semifinals by 15-14, securing a bronze medal.

7. Which country's U-23 women's team won the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup T20 title after defeating Bangladesh in the final held at the Mission Round Ground in Hong Kong _____ **India.**

Note:

- India has scored 127 for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.
- India's Kanika Ahuja was named the Player of the Match, who stayed not out on 30 off 23 with four fours in the final.
- While India's Shreyanka Patil was named the Player of the Series, as she was the highest-wicket taker.

8. Who has unveiled the first ticket for the first race of MotoGP 2023, to be hosted by Uttar Pradesh _____ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath.**

Note:

- For the first time, the motorbike race is being held in India.



- The event is scheduled to be held at the Buddha International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, 2023.
- The event would firmly establish 'Brand Uttar Pradesh' at the global level.
- This is the first time the event is being held outside Europe.

9. Who has received the Guinness World Record Award certificate to become the first men's player to make 200 international appearances _____ **Cristiano Ronaldo**.

Note:

- He celebrated the milestone by scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute as Portugal beat Iceland in European Championship qualifying.
- He received a Guinness World Records certificate before the game.
- The closest to Ronaldo's tally is Bader Al-Mutawa, who was capped by Kuwait on 196 occasions.

10. Who has secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open 2023 _____ **Diksha Dagar**.

Note:

- In the final, she defeated Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand.
- She hails from Jhajjar in Haryana.
- In 2019, she won her first LET title at the South African Women's Open, held in Cape Town.
- After Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar is the only other Indian woman golfer to have won two or more LET titles.

11. Wanindu Hasaranga has achieved a remarkable feat in cricket by becoming the first spinner and second overall player in history to take three consecutive 5-wicket hauls in the One Day Internationals (ODIs). He belongs to which country _____ **Sri Lanka**.

Note:

- It was achieved, when Sri Lanka bundled out Ireland at 192 to secure the Super Six spot in ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifiers match.
- He has placed himself equal to the legendary Pakistani bowler Waqar Younis.

12. Which Indian women's doubles pair won the 2023 World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender tournament in Tunis _____ **Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee**.

Note:

- The Indian pair won the title after beating the Japanese pair of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto.
- The pair also became the first Indians to win a Contender title this year.
- Meanwhile, the Indian mixed doubles pair as well as the men's doubles duo had lost their respective semifinal matches.

13. The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has confirmed that the 2023 U-17 World Cup will be hosted by which country _____ **Indonesia**.

Note:s

- Initially, the host of the youngest World Cup event was Peru.
- This announcement was made after the FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, Switzerland.
- FIFA also announced Colombia as the host of the 2024 U-20 Women's World Cup and Dominica as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup.
- FIFA President: Gianni Infantino

14. Name the Indian woman cricketer, who has joined England women's team captain Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan to become a member of the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC) _____ **Jhulan Goswami**.

Note:

- This committee is an independent body that consists of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from various countries.
- Jhulan Goswami retired from international cricket in 2022.
- She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April 2023.



15. Which country has finished its Special Olympics World Games 2023 campaign by winning 202 medals (76 gold, 75 silver, and 51 bronze) _____ **India**.

Note:

- Indian athletes notched six medals from the track events (2 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze).
- Aanchal Goyal (400m, Level B Female) and Ravimathi Arumugam (400m, Level C Female) blew away their competition to take the top of the podium.
- Saket Kundu, who grabbed a silver medal in the mini javelin Level B, also won a bronze in the Level B 400m.

Books and Authors

1. Who has penned a book titled 'A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service' _____ Satish Chandra.

Note:

- It chronicles his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005.
- The book was published by the Rupa Publications.
- The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework.

2. Who is the author of the book 'Non-Cooperation in India: Non-Violent Strategy and Protest' _____ **David Hardiman**.

Note:

- It is published by Westland Books.
- The non-cooperation movement by the Indian National Congress (INC) was the first mass movement organized nationwide during India's struggle for freedom, which was organized and led by Gandhi Ji.
- The book is comprising seven chapters and is a detailed account of India's first mass movement.

3. A book titled 'The New New-Delhi Book Club', authored by whom _____ **Radhika Swarup**.

Note:

- The book will be published by Westland Books publishing house.
- The book is an interconnected collection of short stories, showing both the hopes and fears of life during the pandemic.
- Her debut novel, "Where the River Parts", was longlisted by the Author & Club for the best first novel award.
- Her last novel 'Civil Lines' was out in 2021.

Science and Defence

1. Which IIT's researchers have recently developed a low-cost mobile air pollution monitoring framework _____ **IIT Madras**.

Note:

- The pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution.
- Traditionally, ambient air quality is measured in monitoring stations and reported by the Air Quality Index (AQI).
- Since these stations are at fixed locations, they only measure the air quality of a small geographic area.

2. Which IIT's researchers have devised a mathematical model on contract farming to predict farmers' delivery of commodities using a decision-theoretic framework based on the 'Prospect Theory' _____ **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)**.



Note:

- Prospect Theory is a psychology theory that describes how people make decisions when presented with alternatives that involve risk, probability, and uncertainty.
 - It was introduced by two psychologists, Daniel Kahneman, and Amos Tversky.
3. Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked a contract with which organization for the procurement of 1,035 numbers of 5/7.5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers _____ **ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad.**

Note:

- The value of the contract under Buy (Indian) Category is nearly Rs 500 crore.
 - The delivery of the containers is scheduled to commence from the current Financial Year 2023-24.
 - Aim: To boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and incentivize the private sector
4. The Defence Ministry has approved the deal for acquiring the Predator (MQ-9 Reaper) drones from which country _____ **America.**

Note:

- The final decision would be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
 - The deal for the Predator drones was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council meeting.
 - The DAC is the highest body in the Defence Ministry to take decisions on acquisitions.
 - All high value acquisitions are given final approval by the CCS.
5. Which INS has embarked on an operational visit to Colombo from 19-22 June 2023 to commemorate the 9th edition of the International Day of Yoga and aligns with the theme of 'Global Ocean Ring' _____ **INS 'Vagir'.**

Note:

- During the visit, the Commanding Officer of the Indian Naval submarine would meet Rear Admiral Suresh De Silva, the Commander of the Western Naval Area.
 - INS 'Vagir' will also be visited by the visitors and school children to explore the submarine firsthand.
6. India will gift Missile Corvette INS Kirpan to which country as a friendly gesture and to expand military ties between the nations _____ **Vietnam.**

Note:

- INS Kirpan is a Khukri-class warship commissioned in 1991.
 - The announcement was made during a meeting between Rajnath Singh (India's defence minister) and General Phan Van Gang (Vietnamese defence minister).
 - The Vietnamese defence minister is on a visit to enhance the military ties, with maritime security and defence industrial cooperation.
7. The Indian Army Contingent has participated in the multinational peacekeeping Joint Exercise Ex Khaan Quest 2023, organized in which country _____ **Mongolia.**

Note:

- This exercise was participated by Military contingents and observers from over 20 countries.
 - A contingent from the Garhwal Rifles represented the Indian Army.
 - Aim: To enhance the interoperability of the participating nations, sharing experience, and training uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.
8. Which organization has started delivering Armado to the Indian armed forces _____ **Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS).**

Note:

- It is an Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle, which is designed by and developed by Mahindra.
 - It has been designed keeping in mind a variety of roles the armed forces may use it for.
 - It gets ballistic protection up to B7, Stanag Level II.
 - It can be utilised in counter-terrorist operations by facilitating patrolling in conflict-hit areas.
9. Which Indian institute has successfully conducted a test flight for cloud seeding _____ **IIT Kanpur.**



Note:

- The project was initiated at IIT Kanpur a few years ago and is headed by Prof. Manindra Agrawal from the Computer Science and Engineering Department.
- The experiment was conducted with due approval from the DGCA.
- Cloud seeding involves the utilization of various chemical agents such as silver iodide, dry ice, common salt, and other elements with the aim of enhancing the probability of precipitation.

10. US-based GE Aerospace has signed a memorandum of understanding with which Indian organization to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force _____ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.**

Note:

- Aerospace's F414 engines will be co-produced in India to power the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk2.
- The development comes amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US.
- It is part of an effort to improve defense- and technology-sharing between the India and US.

11. Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) 'Dhruv' in which city _____ **Kochi, Kerala.**

Note:

- The ISC 'Dhruv' hosts modern state-of-the-art indigenously-built simulators which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy.
- These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience in navigation, fleet operations, and Naval tactics.
- These simulators will also be utilized for training of personnel from friendly countries.

12. The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out which exercise in UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility from June 16-23 _____ **Exercise Ranvijay.**

Note:

- The focus was on Integrated operations while optimally exploiting the electronic warfare capabilities
- The exercise was carried out from different air bases of the command headquartered in Prayagraj.
- Different IAF commands have been carrying out wargames and aerial drills to enhance jointness with the other two services

13. India and which country decided to collaborate in the defense sector, with a particular focus on the maritime domain at Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation _____ **Philippines.**

Note:

- Both will develop their ties through different initiatives including official-level interactions, the resident Defense Attaché office in Manila, and the consideration of a concessional Line of Credit.
- The bilateral ties will strengthen the partnership between the two countries in various fields.



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