



Bi-weekly Current Affairs for Govt Exams 1-15 July (English PDF)

Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates **1st -15th July 2023**

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first two weeks (1-15th) of July 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The government raised the interest rates on select saving schemes by up to what percentage for the July-September quarter _____ **0.3%.**

Note:

- The govt. has raised interest rates on select saving schemes by up to 0.3% for the July-September quarter in line with the high-interest rates in the banking system.
- The highest increase of 0.3% was for the five-year recurring deposit (RD)
- During the second quarter of the current fiscal, RD holders would get 6.5% against the existing 6.2%
- With the revision, a one-year term deposit with post offices will now earn 0.1% higher point at 6.9% and 7% for the two years tenor

2. How much amount of GST was collected by the government in June 2023 _____ **Rs 1.61 lakh crore.**

Note:

- The government collected over Rs 1.61 lakh crore of Goods and Services Tax in June 2023, which rose 12% from May 2023.
- The gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark for the fourth time since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime six years ago on July 1, 2017.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2023 is Rs 1,61,497 crore of which Central GST is Rs 31,013 crore, State GST is Rs 38,292 crore, and Integrated GST is Rs 80,292 crore.

3. The fiscal deficit of the government for April-May 2023 has been narrowed to what percent of annual estimates to ₹2.10 trillion _____ **11.8%.**

Note:

- Reason: Sharp jump in non-tax revenue and lower revenue spending, which combined to offset a robust increase in capital expenditure and decline in net tax revenue
- Total receipts during April-May 2023 stood at ₹4.16 trillion (15.3% of the annual estimates) of which tax receipts stood at ₹2.78 trillion.

4. Which bank has pledged a grant of ₹22.5 crore to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) _____ **SBI.**

Note:

- Reason: To establish a Banking Data and Analytics Hub at IIT-B
- The focus of the Hub will be to address the unique challenges faced by the Indian banking and financial services sector.



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- The collaboration aims to leverage SBI's extensive experience in banking and IIT Bombay's research expertise.

5. India's external debt has increased marginally to how much amount annually in end-March 2023 _____ **\$624.7 billion.**

Note:

- Although the debt-GDP ratio declined.
- The external debt increased by \$5.6 billion from \$619.1 billion at end-March 2022.
- Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the US dollar compared to the Indian rupee and major currencies were placed at \$20.6 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$26.2 billion instead of \$5.6 billion in March 2023.

6. Which bank launched 34 Transaction Banking Hubs at 21 district centers across the country _____ **State Bank of India.**

Note:

- Aim: To provide quick and efficient Transaction Banking solutions to customers
- Dinesh Khara, the chairman of the SBI, inaugurated the hubs, on the occasion of the 68th foundation day of the bank.
- The bank's goal is to meet all customers' needs and provide comprehensive solutions for their transaction, payment, and collection requirements under one roof.

7. Which bank has unveiled new services under its digital transformation initiative 'Project WAVE' _____ **Indian Bank.**

Note:

- The bank in collaboration with National E-Governance Services Ltd, has introduced an electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) service to ease traditional paper-based processes.
- This move will also reduce the turnaround time of the bank guarantee issuance and delivery to the beneficiary from an industry average of 3-4 working days to a few minutes.

8. Which bank has launched a new RuPay Select Debit card, to provide luxury, convenience, and security, all in one card _____ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).**

Note:

- One is required to have a savings account or a certificate of deposit with IOB
- Maintaining an average daily balance of ₹ 1 lakh
- The cash withdrawal limit is set to ₹50,000.
- The daily limit for usage in merchant establishments (PoS) is set at ₹ five lakh.
- Daily usage limit in e-commerce platforms: up to ₹3,50,000

9. India has doubled its share of global commercial services exports to 4.4% in 2022 from 2% in 2005. This report was published by which organization _____ **World Bank and WTO.**

Note:

- Report title: Trade in services for development
- The report highlighted that China has also doubled its share of global commercial services exports from 2005 to 2022, from 3% to 5.4%.



- India, South Africa, and Türkiye, jobs directly linked to cross-border services exports account for more than 10% of total services sector jobs

10. What recommendations were given by the RBI's working group to the internationalization of the rupee _____ **SDR, recalibration of the FPI.**

- RBI's working group has recommended the inclusion of the rupee in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket and recalibration of the foreign portfolio investor (FPI) regime to accelerate the pace of internationalization of the rupee.
- The recommendations by an Inter-Departmental Group (IDG), headed by RBI Executive Director Radha Shyam Ratho.
- The group was constituted by RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar to review the position of the rupee as an international currency.

11. As per the Global Payments Report 2023, by FIS, the global e-commerce market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 9% during 2022-26 with transaction value rising to over \$8.5 trillion in which year _____ **2026.**

Note:

- During 2021-22, all regions except Europe saw double-digit growth with the highest growth of 21% in the Middle East and Africa
- Of the 40 markets, 37 saw double-digit YoY growth from 2021 to 2022.
- The report predicts a mid-teens CAGR in the regions through 2026.

12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking licenses of two cooperative banks in Maharashtra and which state _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- The licenses of Malkapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Buldhana, and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Bengaluru have been canceled.
- The two cooperative banks ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 5.
- These banks did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

13. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023, FDI in developing countries in Asia remained flat at what amount during 2022 _____ **\$662 billion.**

Note:

- During 2022, FDI inflows to India rose by 10% on an annual basis to \$49 billion, while China registered a 5% yearly growth to \$189 billion.
- Overall global FDI declined by 12% to \$1.3 trillion in 2022 after a strong rebound in 2021 following the steep drop induced by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

14. Which bank has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme _____ **Bank of India.**

Note:

- The account will mature after two years from the date of opening.
- Accounts under this scheme can be opened until March 31, 2025.
- The scheme offers an interest rate of 7.5% per annum, compounded quarterly.
- Individual girls or women can open an account under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme or a guardian can open an account on behalf of a minor girl



15. According to a report, published by Crif High Mark, which state has overtaken Tamil Nadu to become the state with the highest microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023 _____
Bihar.

Note:

- It highlighted Bihar's impressive growth with a 13.5% increase in the gross lending portfolio during the March quarter compared to the previous quarter.
- NBFC holds the largest share in the market (37.3% of the overall MFI loans), while Banks at 33.1% and small finance banks at 16.6%

16. Which bank has launched its virtual branch, Metaverse _____ **Punjab National Bank (PNB).**

Note:

- It is a virtual branch of the bank, which will deliver a unique experience of banking to existing and new customers.
- With the help of this, customers can explore the bank's products and services such as bank deposits, retail/MSME loans, digital products, women/senior citizens, 'Do It Yourself', and government flagship schemes.
- The bank will offer an immersive 3D experience to the customers.

17. Which e-commerce site has joined hands with Axis Bank to offer loans for up to Rs 5 lakh to customers _____ **Flipkart.**

Note:

- The lending service is accessible through Flipkart's app and boasts a 30-second approval time while removing the need for document submission.
- By introducing personal loans, Flipkart is expanding its range of financial services, which already includes a 'buy now, pay later' option, EMI payments, and a co-branded credit card.
- It will empower consumers to make big-ticket purchases.

18. In July 2023, which organization released regulations for the introduction of general information and important information document concepts _____ **SEBI.**

Note:

- Aim: To prevent debt securities issuers from filing numerous copies of the same document
- At the time of the initial offering, a General Information Document (GID) including the details and disclosures listed in the common schedule will be lodged with the stock exchanges.

19. Which organization has constituted a five-member working group for implementing the recommendations of the RBI committee on the "working of the Asset Reconstruction Companies" _____ **Indian Banks' Association.**

Note:

- Primary focus: To review assignment agreements and trust deed templates related to the acquisition of distressed assets by ARCs from lenders
- Aim: To update these templates to align with the evolving changes and expectations within the ARC sector.

20. National Housing Bank (NHB) has operationalized the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) with an initial corpus of what amount _____ **Rs 10,000 crore.**

Note:



- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2023-24 Budget speech announced the setting up of the UIDF through the use of priority sector lending shortfall for the creation of urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- The interest rate on UIDF loans has been kept at Bank Rate minus 1.5%, i.e., 5.25% (at present).

21. Which organization has filed its Draft Red Herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for an IPO _____ **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).**

Note:

- The IPO will see IDBI Bank, NSE, SBI, HDFC Bank, and Union Bank of India paring stakes.
- IDBI Bank and National Stock Exchange (NSE) hold 26% and 24% stakes in the company, respectively.
- SBI (5%), Union Bank of India (2.8%), and Canara Bank (2.3%) are other key stakeholders.

22. According to the RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.853 billion to what amount in the week ended on June 30, 2023, _____ **\$595.051 billion.**

Note:

- The overall reserve had dropped by \$2.901 billion to \$593.198 billion in the previous reporting week.
- In October 2021, the country's forex reserve had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion.
- The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

23. According to the Investment Bank Goldman Sachs, India is poised to become the world's second-largest economy by which year _____ **2075.**

Note:

- As per the report, India would cross Japan, Germany, and the US with a population of 1.4 billion people.
- India's GDP is estimated to expand remarkably, reaching 52.5 trillion dollars surpassing the US GDP projection.
- The labour force participation set to make India the second-largest economy in the world by 2075.

24. According to a study by Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management, India has overtaken which country to become the most attractive emerging market for investing in sovereign wealth funds in 2023 _____ **China.**

Note:

- Reason: This is due to its solid demographics, political stability, and proactive regulation
- Positives for the nation also include the rapidly expanding demography, strong regulatory actions, and a welcoming climate for sovereign investors.

25. In July 2023, which edition of the GST Council meeting, headed by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, has been concluded in New Delhi _____ **50th.**

Note:

- 28% GST rate has been levied on the full value of gaming, horse racing, and casino



- Exempted GST on pharma products like cancer drug Dinutuximab, and Food for Special Medical Purposes
- Reduced GST on Uncooked, unfried & extruded snack palettes to 5%
- Reduced GST on Fish soluble paste to 5%
- Imitation zari thread brought down from 12% to 5%

26. In July 2023, the RBI canceled the license of two cooperative banks Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank and which bank _____ **Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank.**

Note:

- Reason: As the lenders do not have adequate capital and earning prospects
- About 99.96% of the depositors of Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank and 97.82% of the depositors of Sri Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

27. India and which country launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees to reduce the dependence on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- This is the first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.
- The transaction costs during trade with India would reduce with the introduction of the Taka-Rupee dual currency card which would be launched in September 2023.

28. Who launched a month-long campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund _____ **Manoj Ahuja (Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture).**

Note:

- Title of the campaign: BHARAT (Banks Herald Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)
- Target: Rs 7,200 Crore
- Aim: To promote Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for the creation of necessary infrastructure in the farm sector.
- The AIF is a financing facility launched on July 8, 2020.

29. India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation has raised for the first time in five months to what percentage in June 2023 _____ **4.81%.**

Note:

- The rise in inflation is higher than the street's expectations of 4.58%, but it is still below RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%.
- Reason: Due to a less supportive base and the onset of a surge in vegetable prices.
- Consumer food price inflation surged to 4.49% in June 2023.
- Retail inflation in the food and beverages basket also rose sharply to 4.63%.

30. According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the index of industrial production (IIP) in India has increased by what percent in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2023 _____ **5.2%.**

Note:

- In May 2022, the factory output was at all-time high-growth of 19.6%.



- India's industrial production growth (IIP) declined to its lowest level in five months at 1.1% in March 2023.
- The lowest growth rate was observed in October 2022 when it contracted by 4.1%.

31. Which fintech unicorn has launched its first international payment gateway for the Malaysian market with Curlec _____ **Razorpay**.

Note:

- In February 2022, Razorpay acquired a majority stake in the Malaysia-based startup which is now known as Curlec by Razorpay
- Aim: To widen its reach in the international markets and make its capabilities available in emerging markets
- As per the report, digital trade in Malaysia contributes 22.6% to the country's GDP and is expected to rise to 25.5% by 2025

Obituaries

1. Bir Devinder Singh, who passed away was a _____ **Politician**.

Note:

- Former deputy speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha and two-time Congress MLA Bir Devinder Singh passed away at 73.
- The senior politician was diagnosed with cancer in his food pipe (esophagus) around 10 to 15 days ago.
- He was known to be a politician who called a spade a spade without caring about political repercussions.
- During his political career, he was associated with the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), People's Party of Punjab, SAD (Taksali), and SAD (Sanyukt).

2. Alan Arkin, who passed away, was a veteran _____ **Actor**.

Note:

- Alan Arkin, the wry character actor who demonstrated his versatility in comedy and drama as he received four Academy Award nominations and won an Oscar in 2007 for "Little Miss Sunshine," has died.
- In recent years he starred opposite Michael Douglas in the Netflix comedy series "The Kominsky Method," a role that earned him two Emmy nominations.
- He also directed the film version of Jules Feiffer's 1971 dark comedy "Little Murders".

3. K M Vasudevan Namboothiri, who passed away at Kottakkal in Malappuram district, was a veteran _____ **Artist**.

Note:

- His iconic illustrations gave life to many mythical characters in Malayalam literature.
- He inspired a golden era of painting and sculpture in Kerala through his unique three-dimensional sketches.
- He had received many honors like Kerala Lalita Kala Akademi's Raja Ravi Varma Award and the State Institute of Children's Literature award.

4. Milan Kundera, who passed away at 94, was a veteran _____ **Author**.



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Note:

- He won accolades for his style depicting themes and characters that floated between the mundane reality of everyday life and the lofty world of ideas.
- Other works: The Joke, The Book of Laughter and Forgetting
- Awards: Jerusalem Prize (1985), Austrian State Prize for European Literature (1987), Vilenica International Literary Festival (1992), Herder Prize (2000)

Important Days

1. India observed National Doctor's Day on which date to recognize the contributions of doctors and medical professionals toward society _____ **July 1.**

Note:

- Aim: To create awareness about the importance of doctors, their selfless service, and their valuable role in improving health
- 2023 theme: Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands
- This day is observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.

2. National Chartered Accountants Day is observed every year on which date to honor the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) _____ **July 1.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Empowering Financial Excellence
- It recognizes the contributions of the ICAI, which serves as the regulatory authority for the accounting profession and financial auditing in the country.
- ICAI is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament (Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949))

3. National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on which date to give tribute to the hardships of the postal workers of the postal service department _____ **July 1.**

Note:

- It was first observed in 1997 by the postal carrier in the Seattle area to respect the efforts of his employees.
- First post office in India was established by East India Company in 1727 and later in 1774 Calcutta GPO was established.
- However, Warren Hastings (1773-1784) opened the posts to the public in March 1774.

4. International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed annually on which date to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastic bags on the environment _____ **July 3.**

Note:

- The initiative was started by the Bag Free World campaign, a global movement.
- Aim: To reduce the use of single-use plastic bags that inspired other parts of the world to participate in Plastic Bag Free Day
- There is no specific theme for International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023.



5. India observed the National Fish Farmer's Day on which date annually to commemorate the contribution of eminent fisheries scientist professor Hiralal Chaudhary and his colleague Alikunhi _____ **July 10.**

Note:

- On July 10, 1957, they successfully achieved the induced breeding of Indian Major Carps in the country, at Angul in Odisha.
- This is celebrated to highlight and encourage the dedicated supremacy of fish farmers.
- Aim: To excel in delivering employment chances in this sector.

6. World Population Day is observed every year on which date in order to raise awareness about global population issues, including population control _____ **July 11.**

Note:

- 2023 theme: Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities
- It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, after the day the world approximately reached a population of five billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

7. World Paper Bag Day is observed on which date annually to recognize and celebrate the use of this more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags _____ **July 12.**

Note:

- The primary objective of this day is to enhance public awareness regarding the detrimental effects that plastic bags can have on the environment.
- The history of Paper Bags can be traced back to the 19th century when the first paper bag machine was invented by Francis Wolle in 1852.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as Solicitor General of India for three years _____ **Tushar Mehta.**

Note:

- He has been continuing as Solicitor General of India since October 2018.
- In 2020, he was re-appointed as the SG for a term of three years with effect from July 1, 2020.
- The center has also re-appointed Vikramjit Banerjee, KM Nataraj, Balbir Singh, SV Raju, N Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati as the Additional Solicitors General (ASGs).

2. The State Bank of India board has appointed whom as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective from July 1, 2023 _____ **Kameshwar Kodavanti.**

Note:

- He has replaced Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra, who has resigned from his post.
- He has an extensive career in banking, with over 31 years of experience at SBI, starting from August 1, 1991.
- He brings expertise in banking, forex, finance, and accounting to his new position.
- Kodavanti holds the qualification of a Chartered Accountant.



3. Who assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Baroda _____ **Debadatta Chand.**

Note:

- He has taken over charge from Sanjiv Chadha, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2023.
- Before this role, Chand was serving as the Executive Director at the bank since March 2021.
- He was overseeing corporate & institutional credit, corporate & institutional banking, treasury & global markets, mid-corporate business, and trade & foreign exchange.

4. Who has been appointed as chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee _____ **Ajit Agarkar.**

Note:

- The Selection Committee now consists of Ajit Agarkar, Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola, and Sridharan Sharath.
- Ajit Agarkar represented India in 26 Tests, 191 ODIs, and four T20Is, in addition to playing 110 first-class, 270 List A, and 62 T20 matches.
- He also held the record for being the fastest to reach 50 ODI wickets for a decade.

5. Who has been re-elected as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for a second term _____ **QU Dongyu (China).**

Note:

- In the ballot of FAO member countries, Qu received a total of 168 out of 182 votes deposited.
- His new term will run from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2027.
- He was elected as FAO Director-General for the first time in 2019.
- Under the leadership of QU, the World Food Forum (WFF) was created in 2021.

6. Who has been appointed as the Head of the National Cyber Coordination Centre, after replacing Lt Gen (ret.) Dr. Rajesh Pant _____ **Lt Gen MU Nair.**

Note:

- Additionally, he has served as the additional director general, head of signal intelligence, chief of staff of a corps, and command
- Previously, Lt Gen Nair served as Army Headquarters' chief signal officer
- He is a distinguished National Defence Academy alumni
- Nair has extensive knowledge of both domestic and international communication

7. Who has been appointed as Acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), till further order _____ **Justice Sheo Kumar Singh.**

Note:

- He has replaced Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, who retired on July 6, 2023.
- He was appointed as Judicial Member of the NGT on March 11, 2020.
- He worked as a district judge in various districts of Uttar Pradesh (UP), as Registrar (Judicial) at the Supreme Court of India, and as Registrar General, Allahabad High Court.

8. The Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) of India has appointed whom as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 August 2023 _____ **Krishan Mishra.**

Note:



- He will lead the strategy and operations of FPSB India and champion the advancement of the financial planning profession in India.
- FPSB is the global standards-setting body for the financial planning profession and owner of the international Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification program.

9. Who has been appointed as the next Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for three years, or till attaining the age of 65 years _____ **K Rajaraman.**

Note:

- He succeeded the first IFSCA Chairperson Injeti Srinivas, who led the authority since 2020.
- IFSCA was set up in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

10. Who has been elected as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) _____ **Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait).**

Note:

- He replaced his older brother Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the OCA for 30 years until 2021.
- The OCA was founded in 1982 by his father Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who led it until 1990.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) is a governing body of sports in Asia, currently with 45 member National Olympic Committees.

11. Who has been named director-in-charge of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Zanzibar campus in Tanzania _____ **Preeti Aghalayam.**

Note:

- She is an IIT Madras alumna and professor in the Department of chemical engineering.
- Recently, India and Tanzania inked an MoU, which facilitated IIT Madras to launch its first international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania'.
- The institute would offer two full-time academic programs and the applications for admission are already open.

12. Along with Justices Ujjal Bhuyan, who has been appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court _____ **SV Bhatti.**

Note:

- Justice Ujjal Bhuyan: He is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana HC.
- His parent High Court is the Gauhati HC.
- Justice SV Bhatti: Presently, he is working as the Chief Justice of the Kerala HC.
- Prior, he was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and later transferred to the Kerala High Court in March 2019.

13. Who has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court _____ **Justice Alexander Thomas.**

Note:

- He has replaced Chief Justice SV Bhatti, who was transferred to the Supreme Court.
- He was appointed additional judge of the Kerala High Court on January 23, 2014, and was made a permanent judge on March 10, 2016.



- He served as a government pleader (1996-1998) and senior government pleader (1998-2001) in the High Court of Kerala.

Important News – India

1. PM Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in the Shahdol district of which Indian state _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- Aim: To eradicate anemia by 2047
- He also distributed sickle cell genetic status cards to the beneficiaries at the event.
- The mission would be implemented in 278 districts of 17 states in India (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, MP, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, WB, Odisha, TN, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, UP, Kerala, Bihar, and UK).

2. The Union Government has revised the Crop Residue Management guidelines enabling efficient ex-situ management of paddy straw generated in Punjab, Haryana, UP and which state/UT _____ **Delhi.**

Note:

- As per the revised guidelines, techno-commercial pilot projects for Paddy Straw Supply Chain will be established under bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary or Aggregator (Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of FPOs and Panchayats) and Industries utilizing the paddy straw.

3. Which department has successfully organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi _____ **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**

Note:

- IPRS was launched by DPIIT in 2018 with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) platform which features more than 4,500 industrial parks.

4. Union Minister of Ports, Sarbananda Sonowal launched a campaign to transform how many historic Lighthouses into Tourism Spots in India _____ **75.**

Note:

- Under this campaign, the historic lighthouses were renovated with adequate facilities to act as tourist spots.
- It is in line with the visionary approach of PM Modi to transform India's distinctive lighthouses into captivating tourism sites.
- Aim: To showcase the rich culture, significance, and allure of these magnificent structures

5. Which ministry has organized a one-day Regional Symposium on Child Protection, Safety, and Child Welfare in New Delhi _____ **Ministry of Women and Child Development.**

Note:

- The event was participated by the states and UTs i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh, J&K, and Ladakh.



- It started with a series of regional symposiums to be held across the country to raise awareness and outreach about child protection, safety, and welfare issues.
6. Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a three-day celebration program of the 108th Zoological Survey of India Day in which Indian city _____ **Kolkata**.

Note:

- The Special Focus of this day is 'Mission Life'.
 - ZSI has completed its 108 glorious years dedicated to the service of faunal diversity.
 - Minister has also appreciated the efforts of ZSI in establishing globally well-known protected areas.
7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the release of Rs 6,194.40 crore to how many state under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) _____ **19 states**.

Note:

- The amount includes Rs 1,209.60 crore as a central share of the SDRF to four states (Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh) for 2022-23.
 - Rs 4,984.80 crore will also be given to 15 states (Andhra Pradesh, AP Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, HP, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, TN, and Tripura)
8. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched a which mobile App _____ **eSARAS**.

Note:

- It will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.
 - Aim: To strengthen the marketing support for products made by women of SHGs
 - The eSARAS fulfillment center will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust).
9. According to the Exports data, released by the government for FY23, which state has emerged as the top exporter of electronics in India _____ **Tamil Nadu (\$5.37 billion)**.

Note:

- As per the data, TN overtook UP and Karnataka to emerge as India's top electronics exporter in March 2023.
 - Reason: The global giants Foxconn and Pegatron accelerated iPhone exports last year
 - In FY23, UP placed second in electronics exports, exporting \$4.90 billion, and Karnataka third with \$4.52 billion.
10. Which department has launched Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology _____ **Department of Telecommunications**.

Note:

- Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.
 - The website for Bharat6G Alliance has been also launched.
 - Bharat 6G Alliance will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances.
11. Who has inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi in Satya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh via video conferencing _____ **PM Narendra Modi**.

Note:



- The inauguration witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and devotees from around the world.
- The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has constructed a new facility at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi.
- Prasanthi Nilayam is the main ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- The Convention Centre was donated by philanthropist Ryuko Hira

12. Indian Coast Guard and which Indian armed force signed an MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for the planning, development, construction, and commissioning of a gallery _____ **Indian Navy**.

Note:

- Theme of the gallery "Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard".
- The Government of India is building the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

13. Which Indian agency has signed an MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sports _____ **National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India)**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed between Ritu Sain (DG & CEO, NADA India) and Mohamed Mahid Shareef (DG, SARADO), in the presence of Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur.
- SARADO members include anti-doping organizations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

14. Which e-commerce website has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Vision & AI Lab of the Indian Institute of Science for one year _____ **Meesho**.

Note:

- Aim: To collaborate in the area of generative artificial intelligence
- The goal of this partnership is to foster innovation in generative artificial intelligence and multimodal large language models in the e-commerce industry, thus enhancing user experience.

15. Which organization and the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) have signed an MoU to promote mutual growth and development in the food and agriculture sectors of the UAE and India _____ **Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)**.

Note:

- The agreement strengthens the strategic collaboration between the two countries.
- The partnership aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, trade promotion, investment, and research and development collaboration.

16. Which Indian agency has signed an MoU with the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) for cooperation in Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility _____ **DGCA**.

Note:

- It will focus on collaboration on unmanned aircraft and innovative air mobility between the two civil aviation authorities.



- It would include cooperation in the areas of development of certification standards and environmental standards and related requirements for the certification.

17. The Ministry of External Affairs signed an MoU with which IIT and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar (Tanzania) to set up the first-ever IIT campus outside India _____ **IIT Madras.**

Note:

- It was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Zanzibar's President Hussein Ali Mwinyi.
- The National Education Policy 2020 recommends that high-performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries.

18. Which ministry has launched a Scheme for the Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States with a total outlay of Rs.5,000 Crore _____ **Ministry of Home Affairs.**

Note:

- Objective: To expand and modernize Fire Services within National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)
- Out of the total outlay, Rs. 500 crore has been kept for incentivizing the States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.
- This scheme was announced by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.

19. Who hosted the 23rd edition of the SCO Summit virtually on July 4, 2023 _____ **PM Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- Theme 2023: Towards a SECURE SCO
- SECURE stands for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- The summit was attended by SCO Members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Observer States: Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia
- Guest of the Chair: Turkmenistan

20. The G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting started in which Indian city on July 4, 2023 _____ **Mumbai.**

Note:

- In 2023, a total of 5 RIIG meetings were hosted by India under the theme "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society".
- More than 100 foreign delegates including Research Ministers from 29 G-20 members, invited guest countries and international organizations to participate in the meeting.

21. Which edition of the Space Economy Leaders Meeting has started in Bengaluru on July 6 _____ **4th.**

Note:

- It dwell upon the sharing of the space mission economy, the responsibilities of space agencies, and alliances in space missions.
- The goal will be to improve the space economy share in the global economy in a responsible and sustainable manner



- Cultural Programmes representing India's culture and tradition are also organized for foreign dignitaries.

22. Who has inaugurated the International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2023, which is being organized in New Delhi from 5-7 July 2023 _____ **Union Power Minister R. K. Singh.**

Note:

- Aim: To discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain
- It is being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, CSIR, and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India in collaboration with CII.

23. Which ministry has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs _____ **Ministry of Education.**

Note:

- Aim: To assesses the performance of the school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis
- The PGI - States/UTs was first released for the year 2017-18 and so far, has been released up to the year 2020-21.
- The new PGI structure covers 73 indicators and focuses on qualitative assessment including digital initiatives and teacher education.

24. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with which organization launched a unique industry visit initiative under Atal Tinkering labs in Vapi, Gujarat _____ **Bayer.**

Note:

- Aim: To introduce students to the latest manufacturing techniques and technologies used in industry
- Bayer has partnered with Niti Aayog since 2021 to support various initiatives of the AIM.
- Bayer has adopted a total of 125 ATL schools in seven states to nurture and strengthen science-based learning.

25. The Union Cabinet has approved the draft Data Protection Bill 2022 which is expected to be tabled in the Monsoon session of Parliament for consideration and passage to _____ **safeguard the personal data.**

Note:

- If it is passed, the law will become India's core data governance framework.
- Key provisions include requiring companies collecting data to cease retaining personal information or remove any means by which personal data can be linked to specific data principles.

26. The Central Government issued a notification to bring the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the purview of the PMLA. What is the full form of PMLA _____ **Prevention of Money Laundering Act.**

Note:

- Information stored on GSTN can be now shared under PMLA Act.
- Due to this, it will be possible to take strict action against those involved in tax evasion and manipulation of documents.



- Due to this, crimes under GST like fake input tax credits, fake invoices, etc. will be included in the PMLA Act.

27. The GST Network (GSTN) has made the geocoding functionality live for all states and UTs, which converts an address or description of a location into which type of coordinate _____
Geographic coordinates.

Note:

- Aim: To ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records and streamline the address location and verification process
- The functionality is available for normal, composition, SEZ units, SEZ developers, input service distributors, and casual taxpayers who are active, canceled, and suspended.

28. AB-HWCs programme of India has grown to more than 1.60 lakh centres and registered a footfall of over 178.87 crore (as of June end). What is the full form of AB-HWCs _____ **Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres.**

Note:

- The government will add more services including screening, prevention, control, etc. by August-end.
- The essential list of medicines and diagnostics has been expanded to make available 171 medicines at Primary HWCs and 105 at Secondary Health Care-HWC and 63 diagnostics at PHC-HWC.

29. The Department of School Education and Literacy released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 and which year _____ **2021-22.**

Note:

- This report assesses the performance of the school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- Highest grade: Daksh (scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall)
- Lowest grade: Akanshi-3 (Scores upto 10% of the total points)

30. Which ministry organized a review-cum-workshop to evaluate and accelerate the planning and implementation of the SBM-Urban 2.0 _____ **Housing Ministry.**

Note:

- PM Modi launched the 2.0 versions of SBM-U and AMRUT on October 1, 2021.
- SBM-U 2.0: Achieving 100% waste segregation in all households and premises and 100% door-to-door collection of segregated waste from each
- AMRUT 2.0: To provide complete coverage of water supply to all households and sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities

31. Which institution launched Eklavya, a 'Research Affiliate' program, for those who do not have a traditional law degree _____ **National Law University (NLU), Delhi.**

Note:

- Aim: To emphasize its commitment to actively seek partnerships outside the varsity and draw from their experiences and perspectives to develop quality legal scholarship
- It is open to those who have at least three years of demonstrable experience working on issues that have a significant interface with the law.



32. Who inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'SAGAR SAMPARK' _____ **Union Minister of Ports Sarbananda Sonowal.**

Note:

- It would provide more accurate information to the ships for safe navigation.
- **About DGNSS:**
 - It is a terrestrial-based enhancement system.
 - It corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).
 - It will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, and accidents

33. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd which will be based at which airport _____ **Salem Airport, Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- This will be the first flying training organization (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.
- India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.
- This will provide aspiring pilots of Tamil Nadu training opportunities as per DGCA standards and contribute to the growth of the aviation industry in the country.

34. PM Modi has embarked on his two-nation tour of France and which country _____ **The United Arab Emirates.**

Note:

- During his visit to France, he will be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent would be participating.
- This year (2023) also marks the 25th anniversary of the India - France Strategic Partnership.
- During his visit to UAE, he will hold talks with the UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

35. Which Indian railway tunnel will adopt the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) for undertaking the tunneling works _____ **Vizhinjam railway tunnel.**

Note:

- This tunnel connects the under-construction Vizhinjam International Seaport.
- It is being developed by the Adani Port with the railway mainline at Balaramapuram near Thiruvananthapuram.
- India's largest 12.75 km long railway tunnel (T-49) is built as part of the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramula Rail Link (USBRL).

36. The Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit was inaugurated by Bhupendrabhai Patel (Chief Minister of Gujarat) and Kaushal Kishore (Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs) in which city _____ **Gandhinagar.**

Note:

- Gujarat CM highlighted forward-looking urban initiatives being implemented in the State.
- While Kaushal Kishore highlighted the policies and programs initiated by the Government to promote green development, including the LIFE mission, promotion of renewable energy, etc.



37. The inaugural session of the third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting was organized in which city _____ **Hampi, Karnataka.**

Note:

- Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi addressed the session.
- Four priority areas:
 - Protection and restitution of cultural property
 - Harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future
 - Promotion of cultural and creative industries and creative economy
 - Leveraging digital technologies for the protection and promotion of culture

38. Which country would host the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- The conference would be conducted by the Ministry of Ayush, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Mission to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat.
- Aim: To strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN Countries to share their best practices and draw a roadmap for future cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines
- ASEAN founded: 8 August 1967, HQ: Jakarta

39. The Election Commission of India and which country's Election Tribunal signed an MoU to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration _____ **Panama.**

Note:

- ECI has already signed MoUs with Mexico, Brazil, and Chile to expand its links and cooperation with foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) through its 'International Cooperation Programme'.
- This is the fourth MoU signed by ECI in the Latin Americas region

40. Which organization will acquire online marketplace OLX India's auto sales business for Rs 537 crore _____ **CarTrade Tech Ltd.**

Note:

- CarTrade will acquire a 100% stake in Sobek Auto India Pvt Ltd, the entity that houses OLX India's automotive business, in an all-cash deal.
- The acquisition will likely to be completed in 21-30 days.
- Sobek is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, of 2013.
- It is engaged in the business of running an automotive digital platform.

41. Which Indian organization has signed a teaming agreement with Spanish-based Navantia for the submission of a techno-commercial bid for the Indian Navy's prestigious P75 (India) submarine program _____ **L&T.**

Note:

- P75 (India) Submarine Project is expected to be valued at €4.8 billion.
- Navantia would carry out the design of P75(I) submarines based on its S80 class of submarines.



- The first S80 class submarine was launched in 2021 and is undergoing sea trials prior to its delivery to Spanish Navy.

42. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and which organization have signed an MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation _____ **Climate Policy Initiative**.

Note:

- Aim: To increase mobilization of global sustainable capital flows into India
- Sustainable development is a key priority of G20 working groups.
- Mobilization of sustainable finance is critical to achieving the transition to green and resilient economies.
- IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the IFSC Authority Act, 2019

43. International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and which incubator signed an MoU at the IIM Lucknow EIC, Uttar Pradesh _____ **IIML-EIC**.

Note:

- Aim: To collaborate in supporting and facilitating FinTech and TechFin entities
- IFSCA: It is responsible for the development and regulation of international financial services.
- IIML -EIC: It is promoted by IIM Lucknow and supported by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Department of Science and Technology.

44. The Ministry of Defense and which organization signed an MoU to promote the use of millet & healthy eating practices among the Armed Forces and ensure safe & nutritious food _____ **FSSAI**.

Note:

- The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajnath Singh (Defense Minister) and Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Health).
- During the event, both ministers also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence'.
- FSSAI CEO: G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Important News – State

1. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on which riverfront _____ **Sabarmati**.

Note:

- This cruise was developed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited.
- It is the first passenger catamaran built in the country under Make in India at a cost of Rs 15 crore with twin engines where 165 passengers can travel safely for one-and-a-half hours
- Impact: It will boost Gujarat's tourism

2. Which state government has doubled the insurance coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, effective from July 11, 2023 _____ **Gujarat**.

Note:



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- The State Health Minister Rushikesh Patel informed that the decision will benefit nearly 1.78 crore Ayushman Bharat cardholders in the state.
 - The beneficiaries will get free of cost medical treatment from over two thousand government hospitals and 795 private hospitals in the state under PMAY.
3. India's first Vedic-themed park has been opened to the public in which Indian city _____ **Noida**.

Note:

- It was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.
 - This park is also known as Ved Van Park.
 - It will also highlight excerpts from the four Vedic literature pieces- Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Yajur Veda, and Sama Veda- via laser shows, wall paintings, and sculptures.
 - The place is home to over 50,000 plants, such as banyan, kalpavriksha, and coconut, which have been mentioned in Vedic literature.
4. Which state government has launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' to saturate recognition of rights pertaining to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and speed up the post-rights recognition activities within the prescribed time frame _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- Under the scheme, designed by the ST & SC Development department, it has been decided to constitute forest rights cells at the tehsil and district level with human resources to ensure and assist in the effective implementation of FRA, 2006.
5. India's first Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) chatbot was launched in which Indian UT _____ **Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note:

- The service was launched by J&K LG Manoj Sinha.
 - This chatbot will start an instant conversation with people in distress.
 - Tele-MANAS is a two-tier system - Tier 1 comprises State Tele MANAS cells and Tier 2 comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme /Medical College resources for physical consultation.
6. CM Siddaramaiah has unveiled the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 and has introduced a notable provision. He is a CM of which Indian state _____ **Karnataka**.

Note:

- The budget now includes a provision for life and accident insurance, offering coverage of 4 lakhs to e-commerce delivery personnel.
 - The government recognized the need to establish a social security net to support these workers.
 - The government will provide additional financial aid of ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 a month to each household.
7. Which state government launched 'Ama Pokhari' Yojana to rejuvenate around 2,000 large water bodies in all 115 urban local bodies of the state _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- The state government would invest 120 crore rupees in the implementation of the initiative.



- The project will be implemented using natural and organic methodology to improve the climate of surrounding areas.
- The water bodies will also be developed for recreation of citizens and their surroundings will get an aesthetic facelift.

8. Which state government has signed six MoUs with private industries for the mangrove plantation under the MISHTI scheme _____ **Gujarat**.

Note:

- In Gujarat, the mangroves will be planted over 3000 hectares area of land to conserve coastal ecosystems.
- The MoUs were signed in the presence of the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- The initiative will aid the restoration and conservation of mangroves and achieve India's carbon sink targets.

9. Which state government launched the Antyodaya Shram Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme from Kheda _____ **Gujarat**.

Note:

- All those registered under the e-Shram portal from Nadiad will benefit from the scheme.
- It is being implemented through the Indian Postal Department, the IPPB, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Under this scheme, insurance with a premium of Rs. 289 and Rs. 499 per year will be a big support to workers in the event of death or partial disability.

10. Which state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India _____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- Aim: Help in the preservation, promotion, and propagation of the language and culture
- Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- It is primarily spoken in the state of Odisha.
- Kui is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

11. Which UT government has launched a path-breaking Mobile-Dost-App in sync with the vision of Apka -Mobile-Hamara-Daftar _____ **J&K**.

Note:

- It is a pioneering initiative for mobile-based delivery of citizen-centric services in the UT.
- Aim: To enhance accessibility and convenience ensuring that every individual of J&K will get benefited from government services at their fingertips
- It will provide access to all the Government Services directly.



Important News- World

1. Which country is developing a scheme to attract digital nomads to the country _____
Canada.

Note:

- This plan aims to make Canada a go-to destination for digital nomads.
- Under current Canadian immigration rules, digital nomads can stay in Canada for up to six months under a visitor status while still working for foreign companies.
- They are also planning to collaborate with public and private partners to access if more policies were needed to attract global remote workers.

2. Which country has become the new permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping _____ **Iran.**

Note:

- With the addition of Iran as a new member, the total membership of the SCO reaches nine.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan became permanent members of SCO in 2017.
- SCO headquarters: Beijing, China

3. Which organization has recently joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) community _____ **Nord Security.**

Note:

- UNGC: Launched: 2000
- It is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world
- It is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with 10 Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.
- It promotes activities that contribute to sustainable development goals to create a better world.

4. Which organization is planning to launch a microblogging app 'Threads', Instagram's text-based conversation app _____ **Meta Platforms.**

Note:

- It is expected to be released soon and will allow users to follow the accounts they follow on the photo-sharing platform and keep the same username.
- The launch comes after Twitter announced a slate of restrictions on the app, including the need to be verified in order to use TweetDeck.

5. Unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under the age of five in 2019. This report is published by which organization _____ **WHO.**

Note:

- Report title: Burden of Disease Attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and Hygiene: 2019 Update
- Out of these, 273,000 deaths are attributed to diarrhea, while 112,000 deaths are from acute respiratory infections.



- Half of the world's population still does not have adequate access to WASH.
6. According to the 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI), released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, what is the rank of India _____ **126**.

Note:

- With an overall score of 2.31, India falls below the global average of 2.314.
 - Iceland has remained the most peaceful country in the world since the study was first released in 2008.
 - It measures the state of peace across three domains: Societal safety and security, Ongoing domestic and international conflict, and Militarisation.
7. Which country has launched its first homegrown open-source operating system named OpenKylin for computers _____ **China**.

Note:

- Aim: To reduce its foreign dependence at a time of increased rivalry with the United States
 - The system has been designed as a rival to the ubiquitous Windows and MacOS systems.
 - Previous versions of the software had already been deployed on the computers of some government departments.
 - It is based on the popular open-source Linux operating system.
8. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar informed that India and which country have started trade settlements in local currencies _____ **Tanzania**.

Note:

- This new initiative will help in promoting commerce between the two countries.
 - India-Tanzania bilateral trade has seen very strong growth and stood at USD 6.4 billion in 2022-23.
 - Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Canara Bank have operations in Tanzania.
 - About 18 countries have already opened special vostro accounts with Indian banks
9. Which country would join Britain in supplying long-range SCALP missiles to Ukraine _____ **France**.

Note:

- This announcement was made at a summit of the NATO alliance in Lithuania.
 - Reason: To boost military aid to Ukraine to help its counteroffensive
 - SCALP missile is equipped with inertial, GPS, and terrain-referencing navigation, and its pre-set target systems make it highly resistant.
 - About NATO: Founded: 4 April 1949; HQ: Brussels, Belgium
10. What is the name of Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup _____ **xAI**.

Note:

- Musk registered a firm named X.AI Corp, incorporated in Nevada.
- The startup will be led by Musk, who is already the CEO of electric car maker Tesla, CEO of SpaceX, and owner of Twitter.
- He co-founded OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, in 2015, but stepped down from the company's board in 2018.
- He is also an investor in Microsoft's OpenAI.



11. Which country's parliament has approved a bill that limits some Supreme Court power _____
Israel.

Note:

- The new bill seeks a curb on the Supreme Court's power to void decisions made by the government, ministers, and elected officials by ruling them unreasonably.
- It now returns to the committee for discussion and could be altered before being brought for the final votes.
- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
- Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

12. According to the latest Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), by UNDP, how many people exited poverty within a span of just 15 years between 2005 and 2021 in India _____ **Around 415 million people.**

Note:

- India is also one of the 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- It is based on trends from 2000 to 2022 covering 81 countries.
- It monitors both poverty reduction and how people experience poverty in different aspects of their daily lives

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2023 _____ **Michael Rosen.**

Note:

- This prestigious award is given to a writer from the UK, Ireland, and the Commonwealth whose work is committed to a fearless exposition of truth about contemporary life.
- This prize was named after English writer Harold Pinter.
- It was established in 2009.
- Previous winners: Hanif Kureishi (2010), Salman Rushdie (2014), and Lemn Sissay (2019).

2. Who has been named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23 _____ **Lallianzuala Chhangte.**

Note:

- He beat Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh of East Bengal to win the award.
- While Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.
- AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Akash Mishra
- AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2022-23: Shilji Shaji
- AIFF President: Kalyan Chaubey.

3. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) awarded the highest honor, 'Philippe Chatrier Award 2023', to whom _____ **Belgian tennis player Justine Henin.**

Note:



- She has won seven Grand Slam singles titles and an Olympic gold medal and won the Fed Cup (Billie Jean King Cup) in 2001.
- The award was named after the former ITF president and was introduced in 1996.
- This award recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court.

4. Which Navratna company bagged the GeM award in the category "Timely Payments (CPSEs)" for the year 2023 _____ **NLC India Limited.**

Note:

- Reason: For its outstanding contribution to improving the reliability of e-market practices in line with the vision of GeM
- NLCIL registered and on-boarded in GeM portal in the year 2017.
- GeM is a dedicated e-Market service platform for marketing different goods and services.

5. The Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust (Hind Swaraj Sangh) would confer the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 to whom _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

Note:

- Reason: This award recognizes PM Modi's supreme leadership under which India has climbed the ladder of progress
- It is presented annually on the occasion of Lokmanya Tilak's death anniversary.
- Other awardees: Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sharad Pawar, Cyrus Poonawalla, and Manmohan Singh

6. Which bank has been felicitated for the Best Performance in CASA-India (1st Runner up in Small Bank Category) at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2022 _____ **Jammu & Kashmir Bank.**

Note:

- The event was participated by banks from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Myanmar.
- The function was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Goa.
- Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group headquartered in Calcutta.

7. Which life insurance organization has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at the 8th World Digital Insurance Awards, hosted by TDI - The Digital Insurer _____ **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.**

Note:

- Recognition: Bajaj Allianz Life's ground-breaking WhatsApp Conversational Platform - empowering customers to digitally services their policies seamlessly
- The award entries were shortlisted by industry experts and the winner was selected by the community through pre-voting and live event voting.

8. Which country topped the medals tally at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023 held in Al Ain, UAE from 3 July to 11 July 2023 _____ **India.**

Note:

- This is the first time that India won all gold medals at IBO and also the first time that India has topped the medals tally at the Olympiad.



- The students this year were:
 - Dhruv Advani from Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - Ishan Pednekar from Kota, Rajasthan
 - Megh Chhabda from Jalna, Maharashtra
 - Rohit Panda from Risali, Chattisgarh
9. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Wanindu Hasaranga as the recipients of the 'Men's Player of the Month' award for June 2023 _____ **Sri Lanka**.

Note:

- Ashleigh Gardner (Australian women's team all-rounder) named Women's Player of the Month' award for June 2023.
 - He was honored for his outstanding achievements during the World Cup Qualifier matches in Zimbabwe, where he set new records.
 - Ashleigh Gardner became the first player to win the Player-of-the-Month accolade three times.
10. Which Indian personlaity was honoured with France's highest civilian and military honour, 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', by French President Emmanuel Macron _____ **PM Modi**.

Note:

- With this honour, he also becomes the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this honour.
 - He also joined the French National Day (July 14) celebrations as the Guest of Honour.
 - Other awardees: Nelson Mandela, King Charles, Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali
11. Which state/UT Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award 2023 under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in the Gold category _____ **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Note:

- Reason: For its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory
- The SKOCH award marks a significant milestone for JKRLM, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.
- It represents a remarkable accomplishment for the organization

Sports News

1. Which country won the 2023 Asian Kabaddi Championship title for the eighth time by defeating Iran in a final match, organized in Busan, South Korea _____ **India**.

Note:

- In the initial stages of the final, Iran surged ahead, putting pressure on the Indian team.
 - However, the Indian defenders countered effectively, notching up crucial tackle points.
 - After winning this Championship, India sets its sights on the Asian Games 2023, which will be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8.
2. Who has clinched the 2023 Lausanne Diamond League title with the best throw of 87.66 meters _____ **Neeraj Chopra**.

Note:



- While Julian Webber from Germany secured second place with a best throw of 87.03 meters and Jakub Vadlech of the Czech Republic got third place with an 86.13-meter throw.
 - He won his first Diamond League Trophy when he won the Lausanne leg in August 2022 and went on to win the Diamond League Trophy in the final later that year.
3. Who has clinched the Austrian Grand Prix 2023, held at the Red Bull Ring, Spielberg in Austria _____ **Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- Ferrari driver, Charles Leclerc has ranked second, while Red Bull's Sergio Pérez placed third in the Austrian Grand Prix 2023.
 - Previous GP 2023 winners:
 - Canadian GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
 - Spanish GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
 - Monaco GP: M. Verstappen (Red Bull)
 - Miami GP: M. Verstappen
 - Azerbaijan GP: S. Pérez (Red Bull)
4. Which country has won the 2023 Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou _____ **India.**

Note:

- India's squash players, Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, showcased their excellence by clinching the gold medal at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou.
 - India's campaign at the championship saw another shining moment as Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh partnered together to claim a bronze medal.
 - They faced a tough semifinal battle against Malaysia's Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold.
5. Which country defeated Kuwait 5-4 in the penalty shoot-out to lift the SAFF Championships trophy 2023 held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka _____ **India.**

Note:

- India recorded its win for the ninth time in the SAFF Championships trophy.
 - Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh turned out as the hero for the Indian side, saving the final kick from the Kuwaiti captain.
 - In the semi-final, India defeated Lebanon while Kuwait defeated Bangladesh 1-0 in the other last-four clash.
6. Which country has won the final of the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland _____ **India.**

Note:

- Indian pair Priyansh and Avneet Kaur won gold in the junior mixed-team compound event in the final of the World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland.
- In the final, the Indian pair defeated Israel 146-144.
- While India's Manav Jadhav and Aishwarya Sharma also won a bronze medal after defeating Mexico in the cadet mixed compound event.
- The World Archery Youth Championships event is taking place at the University of Limerick, Ireland from July 3 to 9.



7. Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket, is associated with which country _____ **Bangladesh.**

Note:

- He played 70 Test matches for Bangladesh scoring 5134 runs at an average of 38.89 with 10 tons to his name.
- As far as the ODIs is concerned, he played 241 matches amassing 8313 runs at an average of 36.62 with 14 centuries and 56 half-centuries.
- He last played in the format in April against Ireland.

8. Who has clinched F1 2023 British Grand Prix title, held at the Silverstone Circuit, England _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- Lando Norris for McLaren placed second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton placed third on the podium.
- Previous F1 GP winners (2023):
- Canadian Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Spanish Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Monaco Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Bahrain Grand Prix: Max Verstappen
- Saudi Arabia Grand Prix: Sergio Pérez

9. Who has clinched Men's Singles title of the Canada Open 2023 badminton tournament in Calgary, Canada _____ **Lakshya Sen.**

Note:

- In the final, he defeated Li Shi Feng of China 21-18, 22-20.
- In the second set he was down four game points but saved all and ended up winning the game in straight sets.
- This is the first BWF World Tour title of Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen after almost a year.

10. Who became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships 2023 _____ **Parth Salunkhe.**

Note:

- He defeated a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final, in Limerick, Ireland.
- He hailed from Satara in Maharashtra.
- With this medal, India finished with their highest-ever tally of 11 medals including six gold, one silver, and four bronze.
- Of the 11 medals India won, six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.

11. Who has clinched a silver medal in the ongoing Para Athletics World Championships 2023 in Paris _____ **Nishad Kumar.**

Note:

- He bagged this medal in the High Jump T47 Event.
- With this win, he also becomes the second athlete to grab a medal in this event.



- The top-four ranked athletes at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games, also to be held in Paris.

12. India's top table tennis league Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) tournament is being organized in which city _____ **Pune**.

Note:

- It is being organized under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India, after a gap of four years.
- The event is joined by India's table tennis player Sharath Kamal.
- He will be leading the Indian team to the 26th Asian Championships to be held from 3-10 September 2023 in South Korea.

13. Who has won India's first gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships 2023, held at the Supachalasai Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand _____ **Jyothi Yarraji**.

Note:

- She won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles race.
- She clocked 13.09 seconds to win the final race ahead of two Japanese runners Terada Asuka (13.13s) and Aoki Masumi (13.26s).
- She holds a national record of 12.82 seconds.
- While Abhishek Pal had opened India's medal account with a bronze in the men's 10,000m race.

Books and Authors

1. Who is the writer of the novel "Dudiya: In your Burning Land" _____ **Vishwas Patil**.

Note:

- The fast-paced novel "Dudiya: In your Burning Land", written by Sahitya Akademi award-winning Marathi novelist Vishwas Patil, has been translated into English by Nadeem Khan.
- The book originally written in Marathi, is a story of a spirited young Adivasi girl who challenges conventional norms both within her impoverished tribe and inside a Naxal camp by simply trying to live a life of dignity and independence.
- The book was published by Niyogi Books.

2. Name the book which has been released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh _____ **Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow**.

Note:

- The book was authored by Vinod Mankara (National award-winning filmmaker-writer).
- It was released by S Somanath (ISRO Chairman) and handed over to S Unnikrishnan Nair (VSSC Director).
- It is a collection of science articles, which is published by Kozhikode-based Lipi Books.

Science and Defence



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1. Indian Naval ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with French Navy ship FS Surcouf in which location _____ **Bay of Bengal.**

Note:

- INS Rana is a guided missile destroyer and INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel were from the Indian Navy side.
- This Exercise included tactical manoeuvres, replenishment at sea approaches, air defence against fighter aircraft and cross deck helicopter operations.

2. Indian Navy is being hosted the seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023, 'JIMEX 23' at which location _____ **Visakhapatnam.**

Note:

- This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- Indian Navy participated with the INS Delhi (India's first indigenously built Guided Missile Destroyer) INS Kamorta (an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette), fleet tanker INS Shakti, etc.

3. Which edition of the Indian Navy and US Navy Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun – 06 Jul 23 at Kochi _____ **Seventh.**

Note:

- Both the navies have participated with their ships – INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor in addition to Specialist Diving and EOD teams.
- Aim: To enhance the skill sets of the Diving teams in a number of diverse disciplines such as mine detection and neutralization, wreck location, and salvage.

4. Which organization launched the European Space Agency's Euclid observatory toward its ultimate destination 1.5 million km away _____ **SpaceX.**

Note:

- This telescope has been named after the ancient Greek mathematician, Euclid.
- It will take a month to get there and another two months before it starts its ambitious six-year survey this autumn.
- Euclid will measure dark energy and dark matter with unprecedented precision.
- It is four meters tall and almost as wide.

5. Which organization has signed an MoU with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to foster collaboration in spacecraft launch and deployment opportunities on board NSIL's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) _____ **Voyager Space.**

Note:

- NSIL is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- The two organizations will also study the use of space-qualified components from NSIL in support of spacecraft manufacturing, deployment, etc.

6. Which country has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit _____ **India.**

Note:

- The Zhuque-2 carrier rocket was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.
- The rocket successfully delivered a test payload into sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), the first in the world to make such an achievement.



- Methane-powered engines, with their high performance and low operational costs, are particularly suited for the developing trend of reusable rockets.
- 7. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with which organization for the procurement of two Dornier Aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) along with an associated Engineering Support package at an overall cost of Rs 458.87 crore _____ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**

Note:

- The aircraft will be procured under the Buy (Indian) Category.
 - The Dornier aircraft are being indigenously manufactured at HAL, Kanpur, and will significantly contribute to achieving Aatmanirbharta in defense.
8. India and which country jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System _____ **The USA.**

Note:

- It targeted shipments of illicit, potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors shipped through International Mail Facilities.
 - The operation resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.
9. Which organization has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement with the US Navy to strengthen the partnership between the two countries in the defense sector _____ **Larsen & Toubro.**

Note:

- L&T' Kattupalli Shipyard, near Chennai, a major node in the Southern Defence Corridor, has been undertaking voyage repairs of the Military Sealift Command vessels.
 - USNS Salvor ship was received at Kattupalli Shipyard for voyage repairs.
 - This is the third US ship coming to the shipyard for voyage repairs.
10. Which INS has participated in the 'Op Southern Readiness 2023' exercise conducted by Combined Maritime Forces(CMF) in Seychelles from 10-12 July 2023 _____ **INS Sunayna.**

Note:

- Aim: To strengthen multilateral ties and enhance cooperation
- It is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure the region's safety and freedom of navigation.

Participating Navies: USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, EUNAVFOR members



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