

Weekly One-liners

22-31 August 2023



Weekly One Liners Updates 22-31st August 2023

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which bank launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application _____ **Canara Bank**.
Note:
 - It becomes the first bank in both the public and commercial sectors to offer this feature via its CBDC mobile app called the Canara Digital Rupee.
 - Aim: To empower merchants to accept digital currency payments using their existing UPI QR codes in addition to UPI-based payments without the requirement of a separate onboarding process for CBDC.
 - CEO of Canara Bank is K. Satyanarayana Raju
2. Which insurance organization has acquired a 6.66 per cent stake in Jio Financial Services owing to the de-merger action by Reliance Industries _____ **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
Note:
 - According to the LIC the cost of acquisition is equivalent to 4.68 per cent of the pre de-merged cost of Reliance Industries.
 - The country's largest insurer held a 6.49 per cent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023.
 - JFS shares hit its lower circuit limits for the second straight session on August 21.
3. Which bank has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy _____ Credit Card' _____ **HDFC Bank**.
Note:
 - This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country.
 - This card brings together the strengths of these two prominent brands, presenting consumers with an unparalleled selection of travel benefits.
4. Which institution has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABFFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as CBI _____ **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.
Note:
 - The reconstituted APBFFF will be chaired by former CVC Suresh N Patel.
 - There are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years.
5. Which bank has partnered with commodities trader Maptrusco, and announced the completion of the first "live" transaction of electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) for shipments between Singapore and India _____ **DBS**.
Note:
 - This landmark first shipment marks a pivotal moment for businesses operating in both Singapore and India.
 - It grants them the opportunity to engage with the TradeTrust network through their preferred TradeTrust-enabled platforms.
6. India in partnership with which International bank to open a climate change and health hub in Delhi _____ **Asian Development Bank**.
Note:
 - Objective: To facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries.
 - Climate change affects all of us and this centre will give us the opportunity to have different partners discussing this important issue and learning from each other.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of which bank with the Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank _____ **Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank**.

Note:

- Aim: To streamline operations and services for customers under a unified entity.
- The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches would operate as branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank.
- The merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was also given the go-ahead by the central bank

8. Which payment bank has joined hands with the Frontier Markets, and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth have announced the launch of 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam', a first-of-its-kind initiative _____ **Airtel Payments Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To elevate women-owned small businesses(WOSB) with resources, tools, and opportunities to grow and diversify their incomes.
- Objective: To bring together the private sector, and social enterprise, to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to unlock ways for WOSB to increase their incomes.

9. RBI has announced to enhance transaction limits for small value digital payments in offline mode to what amount from the earlier cap of ₹200 _____ **₹500.**

Note:

- Aim: To enable faster, more reliable, and contactless payments for everyday small value purchases, transit payments, and so on by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for small value transactions.
- This effectively means that transacting parties can carry out digital transactions amounting to ₹500 each in the offline mode.

10. Which bank has launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card in collaboration with the spend management platform Zaggle to provide businesses with direct control over company expenditures _____ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- Objective: To empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures.
- This includes the ability to set individual spending limits, apply merchant category restrictions, and implement diverse controls.

11. Which Insurance organization has recently tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai _____ **Life Insurance Corporation of India.**

Note:

- Saraswat Cooperative Bank is the India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank.
- Citizens in general and customers of Saraswat Bank, in particular, will now have the opportunity to fulfill their life insurance protection needs through the Bank itself by purchasing insurance products LIC.

12. Which International Bank has joined hands with the Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Rs to construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

Note:

- Aim: To increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers.
- The power plant, located in Tamil Nadu in India, is expected to generate about 50.7 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and will directly sell power to commercial and industrial users.

13. Which bank launched a new savings account variant – 'Infinity Savings Account' to cater to digitally savvy customers who are frequent adopters of subscription-based models _____ **Axis Bank.**

Note:

- Objective: To offer Axis Bank's customers exclusive privileges, such as waived Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement, complimentary debit cards, and waiver of all the domestic charges against a small monthly recurring fee of Rs 150 or annual fee of Rs 1,650.

Obituaries

1. Former John Warnock, who passed away, was a co-founder of which system _____ **Adobe Systems.**

Note:

- He worked for Xerox before he and colleague Charles Geschke created a company around a rejected idea in 1982.
- Later, he outlined an early version of the Portable Document Format, or PDF, transforming the way documents are exchanged.

- In 1964, he solved the Jacobson radical, an abstract algebra problem that had been a mystery since it was posed eight years before.
2. Raju Punjabi, who passed away, was veteran _____ **Singer**.
- Note:**
- A well-established name in the Haryanvi music industry, he had charted out several hit songs as “Desi desi na bolya kar”, “Solid Body”, “Sandal”, “Aacha lage Se”, “Tu Cheez Lajawab”, “Bhang Mere Yaara Ne”, and “Last Peg” among others.
 - Born Raja Kumar at village of Rawtsar in Rajasthan’s Hunamangarh district.
3. Terry Funk, who passed away at 79, was related to which sports _____ **Wrestler**.
- Note:**
- He had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017).
 - He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business.
 - He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes.
 - In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.
4. Dev Kohli, who passed away in Mumbai, was veteran _____ **Poet**.
- Note:**
- He had penned over a hundred songs for Bollywood films such as Baazigar, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Maine Pyaar Kiya, Shoot Out At Lokhandwala, among many others.
 - He last wrote songs for the Kangana Ranaut-starrer Rajjo, which had music by Uttam Singh.
 - From Shankar-Jaikishan to Vishal-Shekhar, Dev Kohli worked with different generations of composers in a career that spanned from 1969 to 2013.
5. Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away at the age of 95, was a famous _____ **Eminent littérateur and poet**.
- Note:**
- He was the first Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry.
 - He was also conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2009. However, he returned it in 2015 to protest against “rising intolerance in India”.
 - He is best known for authoring poems such as “Indian Summer” and “Hunger”, regarded as classics in modern Indian English literature.

Important Days

1. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on which date _____ **August 23**.
- Note:**
- Aim: To raise awareness about the horrifying nature of the slave trade and remind people about the transatlantic slave trade and its implications.
 - Theme of international Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023 is “Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education”
2. The Prime Minister announced which date will be celebrated as the National Space Day _____ **August 23**.
- Note:**
- It was on this day that the ISRO Chandrayaan mission made history by landing near the south pole of the moon.
 - On this day our Scientific and technological progress will be celebrated.
 - He suggested that a National Hackathon must be organized by the Central and State Governments and Universities on ideas that will ensure good governance and find solutions to problems.
3. Women’s Equality Day is celebrated on which date _____ **26th August**.
- Note:**
- This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women’s rights.
 - The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is “Embrace Equity,”
 - Aim: To commemorate the Nineteenth Amendment being adopted in the 1920s in the United States.
 - This act stopped the federal government and states from preventing people from the right to vote based on their gender.
4. The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on which date every year _____ **29 August**.
- Note:**
- It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh.
 - The day also serves as a reminder for all of us to recall the contributions, determination and extraordinary achievements of the athletes and their influence in shaping societies.

- The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

New Appointments

1. Viacom18 has appointed whom as CEO overseeing digital business operations in August 2023 _____ **Kiran Mani**.

Note:

- Currently, he holds the position of General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region at Google.
- He has been associated with the company for over 13 years now.
- Mani, in his role as the head of the digital business, will have the responsibility of leading the expansion of JioCinema, according to the sources.

2. Who has become Thailand's prime minister after clinching parliamentary support _____ **Srettha Thavisin**.

Note:

- He co-founded Sansiri in 1988, which later became one of Thailand's largest real estate developers, leading Srettha to become a property tycoon.
- He was the former chief executive and president of Sansiri.
- Srettha will lead an alliance of 11 parties that includes two pro-military parties affiliated with outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

3. Who has been re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe, for a second and final five-year term in August 2023 _____

Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Note:

- His victory over his closest competitor, Nelson Chamisa after his first full term in office, strengthened ZANU-PF's grip on power.
- Zimbabwe has over the past two decades suffered under disastrous economic policies that have led to soaring prices, high unemployment, and a medical system lacking basic drugs and equipment.

4. The Finance Industry Development Council has appointed whom as its new chairman _____ **Umesh Revankar**.

Note:

- He currently holds the position of executive vice chairman for Shriram Finance and have decades of experience and expertise in the financial services industry.
- He has risen through the ranks, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles in business operations.
- He played a pivotal role in making Shriram Transport Finance Company the largest commercial vehicle financier in India.

5. The IndianOil has been appointed whom as the brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand _____ **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor**.

Note:

- This announcement was made at the prestigious Indane XtraTej Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru.
- The event witnessed the unveiling of the new XTRATEJ TV commercial featuring Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, who commended IndianOil's commitment to culinary innovation and efficiency.
- Indian Oil Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

Important News - India

1. Who launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur _____ **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh**.

Note:

- Jitendra Singh focused on the role of Agri StartUps in India's economy and called for the adoption of new and AI-driven technologies in Agriculture.
- An increasing number of new Startups are venturing into the Agriculture sector, focussing on niche technology.

2. The 1st Foreign Office Consultations FOC between India and which country was held in Apia _____ **Samoa**.

Note:

- Aim: To discuss their wide-ranging bilateral relations including their development partnership covering areas such as health, Information and Communications Technology ICT, Education, and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises SME
- They also discussed follow-up on Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation FIPIC III Summit, as well as regional and global issues

3. The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin in which city in August 2023 _____ **Varanasi**.

Note:

- Aim: To arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making.
- G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth". will be launched in Varanasi as a part of the Culture Ministers' Meeting.
- The CWG will also release a special stamp to commemorate the Culture Unites All' campaign to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism.

4. Who has been appointed as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the election commission of India _____ **Sachin Tendulkar.**

Note:

- MoU will be signed with Sachin for a period of three years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in New Delhi.
- Aim: To bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy.

5. Who launched "NBRI Namoh 108", a unique variety of Lotus (Nelumbo nucifera) with 108 petals, in Lucknow _____, _____ **Minister of Science Jitendra Singh.**

Note:

- It was developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow
- He also introduced apparel made from lotus fibre and perfume 'Frotus'.
- The perfume is extracted from lotus flowers and was developed by NBRI, and the Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre.

6. Government e-Marketplace, GeM has crossed what amount Gross Merchandise Value in the current financial year 23-24 _____ **One lakh crore rupees.**

Note:

- The average GMV per day has also witnessed growth from INR 412 crore per day in FY 22-23 to INR 690 crore per day in FY 23-24.
- About GeM:
- It is an online platform for the procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies
- It is working towards promoting the Make in India initiative.

7. The standard issued by which ministry to outline the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources _____ **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**

Note:

- The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods.
- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission of not more than 2 kg CO₂ equivalent/kg H₂.

8. India has handed over the B20 presidency to which country to host G20 in 2024 _____ **Brazil.**

Note:

- According to B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran India's B20 Presidency under the its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).
- Worked on 9 themes which included the empowerment of women and youth, the transition towards an Artificial Intelligence world, building a global resilient supply chain, and financing for the global economic recovery.

9. Who launched Tele-Law- 2.0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice in New Delhi _____ **Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.**

Note:

- Aim: To enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance, and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law.
- The Minister called upon legal professionals to contribute pro bono services to ensure that no citizen is deprived of essential legal assistance.

10. The Ministry of Education and which organization have launched the sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2023 _____ **All India Council of Technical Education.**

Note:

- Aim: To showcase the growing culture of innovation in India's education sector.

- Objective: To bring together the creativity of India's young minds with real-world challenges faced by various government departments.
 - It has become a global model for hackathons and innovation frameworks, reflecting its dynamic evolution over time.
- 11. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in partnership with which Institution and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to enable innovation in green hydrogen _____ IIT Bombay.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To provide a roadmap towards reducing carbon intensity in the economy and enable the creation of green job opportunities.
 - Green hydrogen has a pivotal role to play as we counter climate change and work towards enabling a low-carbon and self-reliant economy
- 12. Who launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi _____ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainable mobility, and decrease the country's dependency on traditional fuel sources.
 - According to Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with the implementation of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol, the country will save 35 thousand crore rupees annually as import bill.
- 13. Which ministry will organize the first edition of the Global IndiaAI 2023 in October 2023 _____ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- Note:**
- The leading AI players, researchers, startups, and investors in India and worldwide will participate in the event.
 - Union MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar chairs the conference's steering committee which is entrusted with the task of shaping the contours of the Global IndiaAI 2023.
- 14. Two world-famous local specialty products of which State/UT, namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag _____ Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Note:**
- The process for GI Tagging of these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu.
 - GI tagging will also promote the economic prosperity of locals in the geographical territory and will act as a tool for social economic growth of the producer.
- 15. Which organization has signed a performance-based MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India _____ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).**
- Note:**
- The Ministry of Finance outlines strategic targets that IREDA aims to achieve during the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
 - IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category - I), Government of India, enterprise
 - The Gov of India has set a Revenue from Operation target of Rs 4,350 crores for the FY 2023-24 and Rs 5,220 crores for 2024-25
- 16. Which State-owned hydro power giant signed MoU with Rail India Technical and Economic Service to construct railway siding for a 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project _____ NHPC.**
- Note:**
- NHPC's total installed capacity is 7,097.2 MW of renewable power (including wind and solar) through its 25 power stations, including 1,520 MW through its subsidiary.
 - RITES will provide comprehensive and efficient solutions for developing rail infrastructure facilities for NHPC Dibang
- 17. Which Indian defence agency has signed a MoU with the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation in New Delhi _____ Indian Coast Guard.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To enhance bilateral maritime cooperation between the two nations for ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas in the region.
 - Objective: To enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Search and Rescue, and Marine Pollution Response.
- 18. Which organization has signed an MoU with APGENCO for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in Andhra Pradesh _____ NHPC Limited.**

Note:

- The MoU envisages the implementation of two identified Pumped Hydro Storage Projects with a total capacity of 1,950 MW.
- The projects will be implemented under Joint Venture mode.
- The MoU seeks to harness Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to achieve the national objective of clean and green energy.

19. An MoU was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and which refinery limited to use the National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route _____ **Numaligarh Refinery Limited.**

Note:

- Reason: For export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries in Guwahati
- Aim: To fulfill the 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast' by enabling inland waterways transportation via NW2 and IBPR, unveiling a new chapter of EXIM trade for the Northeast region

20. NITI Aayog and which International organization signed an MoU to formalize a cooperative framework to fast-track India's pursuit to achieve its sustainable development goals (SDGs) _____ **United Nations Development Programme.**

Note:

- Objective: To focus on the two organizations' cooperation in a range of areas, including SDG localization, and data-driven monitoring, among others.
- NITI Aayog is the nodal Institution for coordinating the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.

21. India and which country have signed a MoU to boost cooperation in civil aviation in New Delhi _____ **New Zealand.**

Note:

- Aim: To cover the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement.
- The designated airlines of New Zealand may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft, with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to and from six points in India, namely New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.

22. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) signed an MoU for which year _____ **2023-25.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, and their dependants focusing on empowering these marginalized communities across the nation
- The MoU underscores the commitment to accelerate inclusive growth through the effective allocation and utilization of funds for targeted welfare programs.

23. South African President and BRICS Chair Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the group has invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to become full members of the bloc from which date _____ **January 1, 2024.**

Note:

- Aim: To open the doors for numerous interested countries to align with a coalition committed to championing the interests of the "Global South".
- It can be an example of reforms in other global institutions that were established in the 20th century

24. Which edition of the National Conference on e-Governance is being organized in Indore to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens _____ **26th.**

Note:

- Theme: 'Developed India: Empowering Citizens'.
- Aim: To focus on 11 subjects including district level initiatives, emerging technologies for providing citizen-centric facilities and data governance.
- Organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Ministry of Electronics in collaboration with Gov of MP

25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 15th BRICS Summit, which was held under chairship of which country _____ **South Africa.**

Note:

- Aim: To discuss global economic recovery, partnership with Africa and the Global South, and review the progress made on the BRICS agenda so far.
- During his address, the PM called for a strengthened BRICS that is:
- B - Breaking barriers

- R - Revitalising economies
- I - Inspiring Innovation
- C - Creating opportunities
- S - Shaping the future

26. The B20 Summit India 2023 has been started in which Indian city on August 25th, 2023 _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- The three-day Summit will be attended by Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 India Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Trade Ministers of various countries, and several business leaders.
- PM Narendra Modi will attend the special session on the 27th of August as Chief Guest.
- Theme of B20 India: R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.

27. Who has inaugurated the scheme Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna means 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in Madhya Pradesh _____ **CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan.**

Note:

- The scheme has facilitated on-the-job training on the lines of 'learn and earn along with skill development, and has been started for the youth in the age group of 18 to 29 yrs
- Under the scheme, the selected youth will be given training according to the requirements of the industries and also get an 8 to 10 thousand rupees stipend.

28. The cabinet approved the continuation of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved outlay of what amount _____ **Rs. 8139.50 crore.**

Note:

- Objective: To support infrastructure development in identified sectors including connectivity in the North Eastern States.
- For the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, Cabinet approved two components: NESIDS-Road and NESIDS-Other Than Road Infrastructure.
- The scheme is a central sector scheme with 100% central funding.

29. Which bank introduced a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by just furnishing an Aadhaar card _____ **State Bank of India.**

Note:

- Aim: To make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler.
- Customers visiting CSPs will need only their Aadhaar cards to enrol in schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana.

30. Which ministry released the report on the sixth census on minor irrigation schemes _____ **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

Note:

- 23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes have been reported in the country, out of which 21.93 million are groundwater and 1.21 million are Surface Water schemes.
- UP has the largest number of MI schemes in the country followed by Maharashtra
- For the first time, information about the gender of the owner of the MI scheme was also collected in case of individual ownership.

31. Which state government has raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month _____ **Madhya Pradesh.**

Note:

- He also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and provided gas cylinders for Rs 450.
- Under the programme, women between the ages of 23 and 60, who do not pay income taxes and whose families make less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually, receive Rs 1,000 every month.

32. Which state government launched the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme at Thirukkuvalai _____ **Tamil Nadu.**

Note:

- The scheme has been extended to 31,000 government schools across the state benefitting 17 lakh students.
- Initially, the scheme was devised to provide nutritious breakfast to 1,14,095 students of classes 1 to 5 studying in 1,545 government schools and an amount of Rs 33.56 crore was allocated for this scheme.

33. Government to launch a new scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma- Med Sector with a total outlay of what amount _____ **Five thousand crore rupees.**

Note:

- Objective: To transform the Indian Pharma Med Tech sector from cost-based competitiveness to innovation-based growth by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country.

- Aim: To promote the growth of the pharma industry in the country, enhance manufacturing of drugs and promote research and innovation in the sector.
34. Which state government launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru _____ **Karnataka.**

Note:

- Under this scheme, about 1.1 crore women heads of family will get ₹2,000 each at a function in Mysuru.
 - 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the Karnataka Assembly election held in May.
 - The government has earmarked ₹17,500 crore for 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.
35. The Textiles Ministry released the guidelines of the GREAT scheme, under which they will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment. What is the full form of GREAT _____ **Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles.**

Note:

- They would grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months.
 - Additionally, they will provide 10% of the total grant-in-aid to incubators.
36. Who has inaugurated the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative _____ **Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.**

Note:

- Aim: To educate grassroots workers and enable them to raise awareness about sickle cell anemia, particularly in tribal regions
- The government aims to eradicate the disease by 2047, under its National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission targets.
- PM Narendra Modi formally launched the mission on July 1 in Shahdol district, MP.

Important News – State

1. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport became the first in the northeast to launch Digi Yatra for hassle-free travel, is located in which city _____ **Guwahati.**

Note:

- Aim: To eliminate the need for verification of tickets and IDs at various touchpoints.
 - The Digi Yatra service will be available in three major areas namely - first entrance, check-in and boarding areas.
 - Passengers will be able to register their documents on the 'Digi Yatra' app and enter the airport by scanning their faces.
2. Who inaugurated Kerala's first AI (Artificial intelligence) school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram _____ **Former President Ram Nath Kovind.**
3. National Tiger Conservation Authority approved India's _____ tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts _____ **54th.**

Note:

- This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari
 - The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6%
 - The number of tigers in Rajasthan has increased from 32 in 2006 to 88 in 2022
 - Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers in the country (785).
4. Which country hosted its very first Karnataka cultural festival organized by the International Cultural Council of India in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and M.E Global Peace Foundation _____ **Sri Lanka.**

Note:

- Aim: To celebrate cultural diversity and mark a significant moment in the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka
- The event showcased performances by over 30 artists from Karnataka including dances, folk songs, multi-lingual poems, and captivating puppet shows

5. The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting officially began in which Indian city in August 2023
_____ **Gandhinagar.**

Note:

- Science advisors, Scientists, researchers from G20 countries, and invited countries will participate.
- Themes Include:
 - Opportunities in One Health
 - Synergizing Global Efforts to Expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge
 - Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science & Technology
 - Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive Global S&T Policy Dialogue

6. Who chaired the 26th Western Zonal Council (WZC) meeting at Gandhinagar _____ **Union Home Minister Amit Shah.**

Note:

- Aim: To enhance cooperation between the states through regular dialogue and discussion.
- The meeting is being organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat.
- The WZC comprises the states of Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

7. Keralalites across the globe are celebrating "Thiruonam" on the 10th and the most auspicious day of which festival
_____ **Onam.**

Note:

- Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, symbolises prosperity, secularism, and harmony.
- Keralites celebrate the festival welcoming the visit of the righteous and mythical king Mahabali, in the memory of good old days.
- Thiruonam is being celebrated in all its cultural and traditional glory instilling the minds with hope.

8. Which state government has signed an MoU with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga', to build a football team for players under the age of 14 _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- Aim: To help young footballers to develop their skills and potentially compete at a high level.
- The Bundesliga is Germany's premier professional football league.
- It is one of the leading football leagues in Europe and the best football players and teams belong to the league.

9. Which state government announced a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes in local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations _____ **Gujarat.**

Note:

- In the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas notified areas, the reservation for OBCs will continue to be 10 percent to protect the interest of tribals.
- The existing quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will remain unchanged and there has been no breach of the 50 percent reservation ceiling.

Important News- World

1. Which country's Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI) _____ **Saudi Arabia.**

Note:

- Aim: To study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the "Green Saudi" initiative.
- It will use AI to analyze satellite imagery to identify areas that are most vulnerable to desertification.
- Remote sensing technologies will be used to monitor vegetation cover, and track its changes over time.

Honor & Awards

1. Who conferred the first-ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde _____ **Ratan Tata.**

Note:

- The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).

- The aim of the Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Awards is to honour those people and groups who have significantly impacted Maharashtra's business, industry, education, financial services, fashion, and other sectors.
2. Who won the Best Actor award at the 69th National Film Awards _____ **Allu Arjun**.

Note:

- He was awarded for his movie 'Pushpa: The Rise' (Directed by: Sukumar).
 - Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won the Best Actress award for their phenomenal roles in Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively.
 - Other awards:
 - Best Feature Film: Rocketry
 - Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan (Godavari)
 - Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR
 - Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files
3. Which Indian city was awarded with the national smart city award 2022 _____ **Indore**.

Note:

- While MP received the state award and Chandigarh received the UT award.
 - Aim: To provide core infrastructure, clean environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.
 - It includes 35 in Project Award, six in Innovation Award, 13 in the National/Zonal City Award, five in State/UT Award and seven in Partner Award categories.
4. Which Indian personality was awarded with 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' award by Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou _____ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

Note:

- This is the second-highest civilian honour in Greece.
- The Greek State Honours the Prime Minister of India, a statesman who has tirelessly promoted the global reach of his country and who works systematically for India's economic progress and prosperity, bringing about bold reforms.

Sports News

1. Who secured the Men's single title of Cincinnati Open 2023 after defeating Carlos Alcaraz of Spain _____ **Novak Djokovic**.

Note:

- The win delivered Djokovic his 95th career title and 39th Masters 1000 crown.
 - The Spaniard is currently ranked at number one in the ATP Tour rankings, with Djokovic ranked just behind him at number two.
 - Djokovic is the only player in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across all three different surfaces
2. Who clinched first-ever gold and silver respectively in the junior men's 72kg category at the World Para Powerlifting Championships 2023 in Dubai _____ **Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya**.

Note:

- Dabas lifted a best total of 135kg while Jograjya had his best total lift of 132kg.
 - Dabas has two gold medals from the Dubai 2022 Fazza World Cup.
 - India's only medal at a World Championships has been claimed by Parmjeet Kumar (men's -49kg) at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships.
3. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as _____ **Asmita Women's League**.

Note:

- ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action.
 - The Asmita Portal serves as a comprehensive resource, offering valuable insights into upcoming leagues among other features.
 - It will enable any school, college, government, or private organization to host the 'Asmita Women's League'.
4. How many Khelo India Centres (KIC) in Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur _____ **33**.

Note:

- He also announced that a National Center of Excellence with a sports science center will be set up in Rajasthan along with an additional 18 KIC, thus taking the total number of KIC in the State to 51.
- The total number of KICs across India is 960, out of which 715 are operational KICs

5. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a sponsorship agreement with which financial services corporation _____ **Mastercard**.
Note:
 - Under this deal, the brand has become a global partner for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which is set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023.
 - The advantages are to interact with legendary cricketers, see the Men's Cricket World Cup trophy up close, and gain special access to games.
6. Who won the gold medal in the Men's 25 metre standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku _____ **Amanpreet Singh**.
Note:
 - South Korea's Gunhyeok Lee had to settle for silver while France's Kevin Chapon secured a bronze
 - In the Women's 25-meter Standard Pistol shooting event, Tiwana, Yashita Shokeen, and Kritika bagged bronze.
 - The two medals on the day took India's tally in the Championship to nine - five gold and four bronze medals.
7. Who has secured a shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics _____ **Rajeshwari Kumari**.
Note:
 - She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
 - The ISSF World Championship 2023 serves as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024.
 - The best four finishers (one from each country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events receive a seat on their national teams, giving a total of 48 shooters
8. Who bagged a bronze medal in badminton at BWF World Championships 2023 in Denmark _____ **HS Prannoy**.
Note:
 - He registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals at the Championships and went down to world number three position.
 - This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships.
 - This includes one gold, four silvers and nine bronze medals.
 - China is the most successful team in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.
9. Indian women's visually impaired team won the T-20 final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023, held at which location _____ **Birmingham**.
Note:
 - The Indian team defeated Australia by nine wickets in the rain-interrupted match.
 - The Indian men's blind cricket team lost to Pakistan in the IBSA World Games final to settle for a silver medal.
 - Cricket for the visually challenged made its debut in the International Blind Sports Federation World Games in 2023.
10. Who made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw (88.17 meters) event at the World Athletics Championships 2023 held in Budapest, Hungary _____ **Neeraj Chopra**.
Note:
 - He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics.
 - Neeraj faced tough competition, notably from Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who secured the silver medal with a commendable throw of 87.82 meters.
11. The Indian men's 4x400 metres relay team comprising of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh ended with what position in the 4x400 metres relay race final at the World Athletics Championships 2023 _____ **Neeraj Chopra**.
Note:
 - The USA relay team of Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson, and Rai Benjamin won finished first and won the gold.
 - France clocked bagged silver while Great Britain claimed bronze.
12. Who became the first Thai to win the men's singles title at the World Championships 2023 and became the badminton world champion after a victory over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in Copenhagen _____ **Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn**.
Note:
 - Earlier, world No. 1 An Se-young also became the first South Korean to win the women's singles gold at the World Championships 2023 after defeating Carolina Marin.
 - She had knocked out Tokyo 2020 gold medallist Chen Yufei in straight games in the semi-finals
13. Who has won the Dutch Grand Prix 2023 for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race held at Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands _____ **Max Verstappen**.

Note:

- With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row.
- The second position was secured by Fernando ALONSO of the team Aston Martin and third position was secured by Pierre GASLY of the team Alpine

14. Who finished in the eleventh position in the 3000 meters steeplechase final of the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest Hungary _____ **Parul Chaudhary.**

Note:

- She broke the national record in the World Athletics Championships and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Brunei athlete Winfred Mutile Yavi clinched the gold medal, Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech won silver and another Kenya athlete Faith Cherotich achieved winning bronze.

15. Who has announced that 1,000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country _____ **Youth Affairs Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur.**

Note:

- He also informed that each player will receive 5 lakh rupees to procure equipment for their centres and per year another 5 lakh rupees for operational expenses.
- He also launched an Information booklet on Sports Infrastructure Projects sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme as well as launched a National Sports Federations portal.

Books and Authors

1. The book titled 'Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir', was authored by whom _____ **Vipul Rikhi.**

Note:

- Published by: HarperCollins India
- It presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.
- A new book captures the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision, and his poetry which has been quoted and translated extensively.
- It brings into one place stories from Kabir's life, his most famous songs.

2. The book 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' was authored by whom _____ **Amrit Mathur.**

Note:

- Through anecdotes, events, and matches, he provides an insider's view garnered over a span of more than 30 years of closely observing the game and its players.
- With experience as a cricket administrator, he notably managed the Indian team during the historic 1992 tour of South Africa

3. Along with Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who has released books based on speeches of PM Narendra Modi titled "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" _____ **Union Minister for Sports Anurag Thakur.**

Note:

- The book is launched at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal.
- The second and third volumes focusing on the addresses of PM Narendra Modi from June 2020 to May 2022 were released.

4. BJP President J P Nadda released the Outlook Group's Coffee Table Book 'Sikhs and Modi (A Journey of Nine Years), which was authored by whom _____ **Prabhleen Singh.**

Note:

- The teachings of Sikh Gurus contributed towards the unity of the society, patriotism, and dedication towards religion.
- It was the first time after Independence that the country has started observing 'Veer Bal Diwas' on the day of sacrifice by young sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh for unity and integrity of the country.

Science and Defence

1. Who has bagged a silver medal at the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge 2023 (SIMOC) _____ **Raja Anirudh Sriram.**

Note:

- His journey of success has been marked by numerous national and international awards that highlight his extraordinary capabilities.

- More than 2000 students from 32 countries participated in the prestigious event, where Raja Anirudh came up with flying colours.
2. Which Country's FDA has approved the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for use in women during pregnancy to protect the baby _____ **USA**.

Note:

- Aim: To prevent lower respiratory tract infection and severe disease in infants until they are six months old.
 - This vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and the approval allows the vaccine to be given to women 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy
3. Which country sent a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-12 04 into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center _____ **China**.

Note:

- The satellite, Gaofen-12 04, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully.
 - It will be used in a variety of fields, including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster relief.
 - The launch marks the 484th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.
4. Which country has created history as it became the first country to land (Vikram Lander) on the South Pole of the lunar surface on 23rd August 2023 _____ **India**.

Note:

- The Lander Module comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), landed on the Moon.
 - Aim: To study the composition of the lunar soil and probe for water and ice, while listening for small seismic tremors.
 - India was the fourth nation to succeed at the task after the United States, the Soviet Union, and China.
5. Which LCA has successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa _____ **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**.

Note:

- ASTRA, a state of the art air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets
 - Aim: To enhance the combat prowess of Tejas and reduce the dependency on imported weapons.
 - It is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Research Centre Imarat and other laboratories of DRDO.
6. PM Narendra Modi has announced that the site where Vikram Lander and Rover Pragyan landed on the Lunar surface will be named as _____ **Shiva Shakti Point**.

Note:

- Another site on the Moon where the Chandrayaan 2 lander crash landed will be known as Tiranga Point.
 - He said that Shiva Shakti point will remind the world about Shiv which is devoting oneself to the welfare of mankind and Shakti that gives inherent strength to accomplish that will incline towards the good of mankind.
7. Which device developed by ISRO-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) for the safety of fishermen, was tested at Neendakara _____ **Nabhmitra**.

Note:

- Satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging services from and to the sea.
 - Weather and cyclone warnings will be communicated in the local language, the boats can also send distress messages to the authorities.
 - In capsizing and fire, fishers can press a button on the device and get in touch with the control centre.
8. Which organization manufactured India's first set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants _____ **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**.

Note:

- The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana, were flagged, from the company's Solar Business Division (SBD) unit in Bengaluru
 - BHEL is India's largest engineering and manufacturing company of its kind.
9. NASA and which spacecraft has blasted off carrying four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) _____

SpaceX's Dragon.

Note:

- The Dragon spacecraft carried by a Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Four astronauts from four countries, including the US, Denmark, Japan, and Russia.
- The agency's SpaceX Crew-7 mission is the seventh commercial crew rotation mission for NASA.

10. The Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that the Pragyan rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy confirmed the presence of which element in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements _____ **sulphur**.

Note:

- The rover's spectroscopy also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Ferrous (Iron), Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon, and Oxygen as expected and the search for hydrogen is underway.

11. Which organization is launching a groundbreaking technology demonstration known as the Integrated LCRD Low Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T) to the Space Station _____ **NASA**.

Note:

- ILLUMA-T is scheduled to launch on SpaceX's 29th Commercial Resupply mission.
- Aim: To enhance space communications capabilities
- The ILLUMA-T, along with the Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) launched in December 2021, will complete NASA's first two-way, end-to-end laser relay system.

12. Which space agency released a graph of the temperature variation between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below _____ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

Note:

- It was measured by an instrument named ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment).
- The graph shows that the temperature at 8 cm (80 mm) depth into the Moon's surface drops to -10 degrees Celsius and at 6 cm (60 mm) depth, the temperature is around 5-10 degrees Celsius.

13. Who has set up a nine-member committee of experts to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) _____ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**.

Note:

- The committee headed by Prof K VijayRaghavan to review and redefine the role of the department and submit a report within three months.
- Prof Vijay Raghavan is a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and one of the key architects of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

14. Which Indian force contingent participated for the first time in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise _____ **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

Note:

- It is being held at Cairo Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023
- Aim: To strengthen strategic partnerships and enhance joint operational capabilities.
- Objective: To practice planning and execution of joint operations
- The IAF contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.

15. The Indian Army has signed contracts for the procurement of _____ tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators under Emergency Procurement (EP) _____ **130**.

Note:

- The armed forces are currently executing the fourth tranche of EPs sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.
- Tethered drone:
- It is an unmanned aerial vehicle tethered to the ground.
- It consists of a base station on the ground and the drone, which is connected to the station through the tether (cable).

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