

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Second Week of January (08<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022)

**National /State News**

1. Recently In January Which State Government signed an agreement with the National Dairy Development Board to establish Rs 2000 crore joint venture ?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Assam**
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Guajart

The Assam Government recently signed an agreement with the National Dairy Development Board. Under the agreement, the signatories agreed to establish Rs 2000 crore joint venture.

- The joint venture to be established can process ten lakh litres of milk. Around six new units will be established. The units are to be established in seven years
- NDDDB is a statutory body. The Operation Flood was launched under NDDDB in 1970 in order to modernize the dairy sector**

2. Recently In January An agreement has been signed between World Food Programme in India with which of the following to enhance food safety and hygiene projects at school meals?

- A. Ohium International
- B. Akshaya Patra Foundation**
- C. Food Free Foundation
- D. InvestIndia

The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India have entered into a partnership to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (formerly mid-day meal scheme)

- India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world."**
- Since its inception in 1961, school meals have been part of WFP's mission World Food Programme Founded: 1961; Headquarters: Rome, Italy**

3. Recently In January Which Of The Following City Became The **First City With Water Metro Project ?**

- A. Kolkata
- B. Kochi**
- C. Mumbai
- D. Pune

With the launch of the first in a series of battery powered electric boats, Kochi has become India's first city to have a water metro project

□ Operated by Kochi Metro Rail Ltd, The project intended to introduce modern, energy efficient, environment friendly and safe boats

□ Kochi Metro Rail plans to operate 23 boats — each having a capacity to carry 100 passengers— this year on 15 routes

□ The project has a total cost of ₹819 crore and a major part is financed under IndoGerman Financial Cooperation with a long term loan agreement of 85 million euros (₹579 crore) with German funding agency, KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau).

□ The Kerala government will provide ₹102 crore and land acquisition cost of ₹72 crore. There is a PPP component of around ₹66 crore

## Kochi becomes first city with water metro project

The project envisages an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes

V SAJEEV KUMAR

With the launch of the first in a series of battery powered electric boats, Kochi has become India's first city to have a water metro project.

Operated by Kochi Metro Rail Ltd, the project envisages an integrated water transport system with the development of 15 identified routes, connecting 10 islands along a network of routes that span 76 km with a fleet of 78 fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries plying to 38 jetties.

More than one lakh islanders will benefit from the water metro, which is designed to be a socially inclusive transport system, rather than being just a transport service, with focus on improved livelihoods through commercial property development and tourism-based initiatives.

The project intended to introduce modern, energy efficient, environment friendly and safe boats with low wake and draft characteristics at a high frequency to increase ridership. It is expected to reduce pollution and traffic congestions in the city and ease access to business areas on the mainland for urban households situated along the Kochi lakeshore.

### Easy commuting

Constructed at Cochin Shipyard Ltd, the fully air-conditioned boats with wide windows offer comfortable travel, with exotic view of the banks and backwaters, which would be an exciting experience to the passengers and tourists.

Kochi Metro Rail plans to operate 23 boats — each having a capacity to carry 100 passengers — this year on 15 routes. The headways would vary between

10 to 20 minutes across various routes at peak hours.

In the present transportation scenario, with the ferries having the average trip length of 8.9 km as compared to the average trip length of 11.3 km for public transport in general, the significance of the system for people's commute between the islands and the mainland is further justified. Currently, the State Water Transport Department is the main operator in the water transport system in Kochi, besides various private operators and the localised



All aboard Kochi Metro Rail plans to operate 23 boats that can carry 100 passengers each

### 'Jangar' Ro-Ro services.

The project has a total cost of ₹819 crore and a major part is financed under Indo-German Financial Cooperation with a long-term loan agreement of 85 million euros (₹579 crore) with German funding agency, KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau). The Kerala government will provide ₹102 crore and land acquisition cost of ₹72 crore. There is a PPP component of around ₹66 crore.

Officials claim that it is the first time in the world a centrally controlled integrated water transport system with a large fleet is powered by battery. It uses LTO batteries, which is the latest in battery technology with a capability for fast charging. The hull of aluminium catamaran water metro boats are designed for 10 knot speed which is considerably faster than the vintage system of boat, sources added.

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4. The Haryana government has proposed to set up the **first heli-hub of the country** in Which Of The Following Place Which Is designed to have many aviation facilities like heliport, hangars, repairs, and any other related services ?

- a. Sonipat
- b. Gurugram**
- c. Noida
- d. Ranikhet

The Haryana government has proposed to set up the first heli-hub of the country in Gurugram designed to have many aviation facilities like heliport, hangars, repairs, and any other related services

- heli-hub is proposed to be the first of its kind in the country to have all the facilities at one place for helicopters. One of the 10 helicopter hubs and corridors proposed under the new Helicopter Policy of the Civil Aviation Ministry

5. Recently In JAnuary Which **State Art And Craft Has Won The won the 2021 International Craft Award for the best craft village of the year** ?

- a. Telanagana
- b. Kerala**
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Uttar Pradesh

The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village near Kovalam has won the 2021 International Craft Award for the best craft village of the year

- The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village is an institution established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society for the state tourism department
- S hahrbanoo Arabian from Iran and Dalavayi Kullayappa from India were selected as the craft persons of the year
- Zohra Said from Morocco and Ismael Arturo Rodriguez Moreno from Mexico have been selected as the craft designers of the year

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6. Which Of The Following State Government Forest Department Has Launched *First Of Its Kind Mobilwe APP “URBAN Forest Park “ ?*

- A. **Telanagana**
- B. Assam
- C. Mizoram
- D. Manipur

The forest department has come up with an exclusive mobile app that gives all information about theme based Urban Forest Parks and facilitate the visitors to plan their visits and journey

- Forest Minister A Indrakaran Reddy launched the first of its kind mobile app “Urban Forest Parks”
- Urban Forest Parks app has been developed by PamTen Software Solutions Private Limited

7. Which edition of the *North East Festival* has recently concluded in Guwahati on 9 January?

- A. Seventh
- B. Eight
- C. Sixth
- D. **Ninth**

The 9th edition of the North East Festival concluded in Guwahati on 9 January.

The main objective of this festival is to promote and highlight the commercial and tourism potential of the North East region.

North East Festival was inaugurated by Governor Jagdish Mukhi on 7 January.

During this festival, seminars have been organized and handloom and handicraft products were displayed. It was supposed to be organized at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi but got cancelled due to high covid cases in Delhi.

8. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **NATIONAL Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Report**

1. The Centre's NCAP was implemented across India in 2019 to reduce particulate matter levels in 132 cities by 20-30% in 2024.

2. Delhi was the most polluted city in the list of cities with the highest PM 2.5 level

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 and 2

D. None Of The Above

Delhi and most of the other non-attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) have shown only a marginal improvement

- Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh as the most polluted city out of the 132 non-attainment cities with highest levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10
- Delhi was the second most polluted city in the list of cities with the highest PM 2.5 level and fourth in cities with the highest PM 10 level
- The Centre's NCAP was implemented across India in 2019 to reduce particulate matter levels in 132 cities by 20-30% in 2024.

## Ghaziabad most polluted city, says NCAP report

Delhi in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot with highest PM 2.5 level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Delhi and most of the other non-attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) have shown only a marginal improvement, said a new analysis released on Monday.

Some of the cities have even recorded an increase in particulate matter (PM) levels, it said. Cities are declared non-attainment if they consistently fail to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) over a five-year period.

The Centre's NCAP was implemented across India in 2019 to reduce particulate matter levels in 132 cities by 20-30% in 2024.

The analysis by NCAP Tracker, a joint project by news portal *Carbon Copy* and a Maharashtra-based start-up 'Respirer Living Sciences', designed to track India's progress in achieving the clean air targets, ranked Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh as the most polluted city out of the 132 non-attainment cities with highest levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10.

Delhi was the second most polluted city in the list of cities with the highest PM 2.5 level and fourth in cities with the highest PM 10 level.

Despite the constant focus on the air pollution woes of the Capital city, Delhi reduced its PM levels only marginally, the analysis said.

"Based on the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Moni-



Smog engulfed the Yamuna in Delhi on Monday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

toring System (CAAQMS) data, its PM 2.5 levels dropped from 108 ug/m3 in 2019 to 102 ug/m3 in 2021 and its PM 10 levels reduced from 217 ug/m3 to 207 ug/m3 during the same period, it said. It added that Delhi's PM 2.5 level continues to be more than 2.5 times the CPCB's safe limit of 40 ug/m3 and 20 times the WHO's safe limit of 5ug/m3," it said.

"The data shows there has been little or no progress on ground. An analysis of the government's air quality data shows that not only have most non-attainment cities reduced PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels only marginally but some have also recorded an increase," the analysis pointed out.

According to the three-year comparative analysis, Ghaziabad, with annual PM 2.5 level above 100, remained at the top of the table in the most polluted cities, except in 2020, when Lucknow ranked first with an annual PM 2.5 level of 116.

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9. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the *new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil*. It is located in which city of India?
- A. Madurai
  - B. Chennai**
  - C. Coimbatore
  - D. Thanjavur

These new 11 medical colleges were established at an estimated cost of about Rs 4000 crore.

The new medical colleges will add a capacity of 1450 seats in the state.

These medical colleges are established in districts that don't have any government or private medical colleges.

Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated a new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai. Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT):It was formerly known as the Centre of Excellence for Classical Tamil (CECT).

10. Which of the following statements is correct about the 'Mission Amanat'?

- 1. It has been launched by *the Ministry of Transport and Highways*.
- 2. It has been launched *to track lost belongings of passengers*.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only**
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Indian Railway has launched a new initiative 'Mission Amanat' to track lost belongings of passengers

□ This new initiative has been launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF). Under this initiative, the Railway Protection Force will upload the information of the lost luggage and belonging on the official website of the western zonal railway

□ Railway Protection Force (RPF): It was established under Railway Protection Force Act 1957. The women percentage in the RPF is the highest among all central paramilitary forces in India

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11. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to *Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022*?

1. Total 40 schools will be chosen for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar this year at the national level.
  2. This year, the award money has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 per school.
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar, has virtually launched Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022 on 12 January 2022.

- Total 40 schools will be chosen for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar this year at the national level
- The award money has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 per school under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.  Government for the first time has introduced 6 sub-category wise awards, with award money of Rs 20,000 per school.
- Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) was first started by the Department of School Education and Literacy in 2016-17.

12. *Kevadiya Railway Station* has been renamed *Ekta Nagar Railway Station*. It is situated in which state?

- A. Madhya Pradesh  
B. Gujarat  
C. Punjab  
D. Uttar Pradesh

The renaming of the Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station has been approved by the Ministry of Railways.

- The Kevadiya Railway Station is part of the Vadodara division in Gujarat, which has been renamed as "Ekta Nagar Railway Station"
- Ekta Nagar railway station's code will be EKNR, while the station's numerical number will be 08224620.  The Vadodara Division has received a first-of-its-kind contract for the establishment of an art gallery with a souvenir shop at Gujarat's Kevadiya Railway Station

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13. Which of the following ports has become the first government-run major port to handle 100 million tonnes (MT) cargo?

- A. Deendayal Port
- B. Chennai Port
- C. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port
- D. Mumbai Port

Deendayal Port has become the first government-run major port to handle 100 million tonnes (MT) cargo.

- Deendayal Port's cargo growth in the third quarter of the current fiscal was the highest among all government major ports.
  - It is expected that the port's cargo handling will cross 127 MT by end of the current fiscal.
  - Kandla, officially Deendayal Port, is a seaport in Kutch district, Gujarat.

14. Which of the following departments has launched the Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge in association with Startup India?

- A. Department of Agriculture Research and Education
- B. Department of Fisheries
- C. Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- D. Department of Horticulture

Department of Fisheries in association with Startup India has launched the "Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge".

This competition has been launched for startups to showcase their innovative solutions in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The four themes have been identified for submission of problem statements under the Fisheries Start-up Grand Challenge.

The selected 12 winners of the challenge will get a cash grant of Rs 2.00 Lakh each.

In the final round, INR 20 lakh (General category) and INR 30 Lakh (SC/ST/Women) will be given to the winner for converting their ideas into an effective pilot project. Fisheries is one of the fastest-growing sectors among the primary producing sectors of India.



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15. On the occasion of Army Day 2022, monumental national flag was put to public display along India - Pakistan Border at Longewala in which of the following districts of Rajasthan?

- A. Alwar
- B. Bharatpur
- C. Jaisalmer**
- D. Dholpur

Indian Army Day is Celebrating 74th Army Day on 15 January to remember sacrifice of our soldiers to protect India and its citizens

- The monumental national Was put to a grand public display along India - Pakistan Border at Longewala in Jaisalmer to celebrate Army Day. This is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric
- A song 'Maati' was released on the occasion of Army Day 2022. Song 'Maati' is sung by singer Hariharan
- The 'Tiranga' made up of Khadi cloth is the largest such national flag in the world. The national flag has a length of 225 feet, a width of 150 feet & weighs 1000 kilogram.

16. Magh or Bhogali bihu is celebrated in which of the following northeastern states of India?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam**
- D. Meghalaya

People in different parts of India celebrate 14th January as Makar Sankranti, Bihu and Pongal.

- In Tamil Nadu, the beginning of the month Thai is celebrated as Pongal. It marks the onset of Spring Harvest season
  - In Assam, this day is celebrated as Magh or Bhogali Bihu .
  - In the north Indian states, the day (14th January) is celebrated as Makar Sankranti. It is dedicated to Sun God

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17. Recently In January *Kachai Lemon Festival* has begun in which state?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur**
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

18th edition of the two-day Kachai Lemon Festival kicked out in Manipur at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in the Ukhrul district

- Manipur's Kachai Lemon has got Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag and is widely grown in the Kachai village of Ukhrul district
- Theme of the Kachai Lemon Festival 2021 is 'Organic Kachai Lemon for a Safe Environment and Rural Transformation'

18. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a directive to *which organization to immediately issue ratings of news channels?*

- A. Indian Television Audience Measurement
- B. Broadcasters Audience and Research Council**
- C. National Portal of India
- D. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

The Information and Broadcasting ministry made public the recommendations of the Bimal Julka-led expert committee's report on rationalisation, closure and merger of film media

- In 2020, the Union Cabinet had approved the merger of all branches of the Films Division (FD), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Children's Film Society of India (CFAI) with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
- DFF is headquartered in Delhi, NFAI is in Pune and CFSI and FD are based in Mumbai. The Mumbai-based NFDC is expected to turn around its finances once the merger takes place.
- Chairman Of NFDC – Ravinder Bhakar

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19. Who among the following has recently **launched AI-driven startup for water purification?**

- A. Hardeep Singh Puri
- B. Anurag Singh Thakur
- C. Jitendra Singh**
- D. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Science & Technology Minister, Jitendra Singh, has launched AI-driven startup for water purification through innovative technology

- It will provide clean drinking water at a cheaper rate. Under this project, solar water purification units will be used for slums, villages and high utility areas
- With this innovation, the cost of purified water can be brought down to 25 paise per litre. This Gurugram based company was founded by ex-IITians.
- This company has also developed Water ATMs for providing clean drinking water solutions. Water ATM will use solar energy to pump water from rivers, wells, ponds or groundwater
- An MoU has been also signed between Technology Development Board (TDB) and swajal water private limited.

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20. Consider The Following Statement Regarding India State of Forest Report 2021 :

1. Environment, Forest and Climate Change minister Bhupender Yadav released 'India State of Forest Report 2021'. It has been prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
2. Forest Survey report 2021 has included a new chapter related to the assessment of forest cover in the Tiger Reserves, Corridors and Lion conservation area of India.
3. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
4. Mangrove cover has increased by 17 sq Km as compared to the last year.
5. As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of 2,261 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country. Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1 , 2 , 4  
B. All Of The Above  
C. Only 2 , 3 , 4  
D. Only 1 And 4

Environment, Forest and Climate Change minister Bhupender Yadav released 'India State of Forest Report 2021'. It has been prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

- Forest Survey report 2021 has included a new chapter related to the assessment of forest cover in the Tiger Reserves, Corridors and Lion conservation area of India □ In 2021, the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares. It is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of India.
  - As compared to 2019, the total forest and tree cover has increased by 2,261 sq km.
  - Currently, 17 states/UT's have more than 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. □ Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km) are the top three states that have shown an increase in forest cover.
  - Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra. □ Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover. □ In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%), and Nagaland (73.90%) are the top five states.
- The total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km. Mangrove cover has increased by 17 sq Km as compared to the last year. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Odisha (8 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km).
- India's carbon stock is 7,204 million tonnes. It has increased by 79.4 million tonnes as compared to the last year

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FOREST SURVEY REPORT 2021 } TRACKING TREE COVER

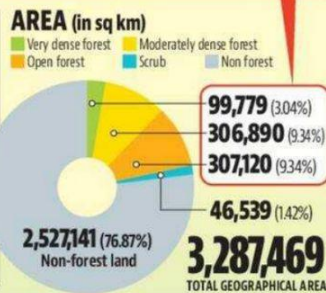
# Forest cover up by 0.28%

Forest cover across the country increased by 1,540 sq km (by 0.21% released by Forest Survey of India said on Thursday, even as all n

**FOREST COVER ACROSS INDIA**  
**713,789 SQ KM (21.71%)**  
TOTAL FOREST COVER IN INDIA AS PER ISF 2021

**↑1,540 sq km**  
(0.21%) INCREASE FROM 2019

**21.71%**  
of India's total geographical area is under forest cover, against 21.67% in 2019



Tree cover has also increased by 721 sq km taking total tree cover to 2.91% of total geographical area. Overall, there is an increase of 2,261 sq km (0.28%) of total forest and tree cover in the country compared to 2019, the report said.

## Highest Temp Rise Likely In HP, J&K, U'khand

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New Delhi: The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) has for the first time mapped climate change hotspots in the country in three future time period scenarios of 2030, 2050 and 2085. It observed that Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are projected to witness the highest temperature increase whereas Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh may face least temperature rise over these short, medium and long time periods.

The report on the hotspots also shows that north-eastern states and Upper Malabar Coast are projected to experience the highest increase in rainfall whereas part of the northeastern states like Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim and north-west parts of the country such as Ladakh, J&K and Himachal Pradesh are projected to experience "least increase and sometimes even decline" in rainfall.

Mapping of the climate change hotspots over the forest areas of the country was done by the Forest Survey of

## INDIA'S GREEN COVER INCREASES

Change in forest & tree cover

| Class        | Area (sq km)    |                 | % of GA*     |              | Net increase (in 2021 compared to 2019) | % increase  |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---|-------------|
|              | 2021            | 2019            | 2021         | 2019         |   |             |
| Forest Cover | 7,13,789        | 7,12,249        | 21.71        | 21.67        | 1,540                                   | 0.22        |
| Tree Cover** | 95,748          | 95,027          | 2.91         | 2.89         | 721                                     | 0.76        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>8,09,537</b> | <b>8,07,276</b> | <b>24.62</b> | <b>24.56</b> | <b>2,261</b>                            | <b>0.28</b> |

\*GA - geographical area; \*\*Tree Cover (patches of size less than 1 hectare outside recorded forest area)

### States/UTs showing gain/loss in forest cover in 2021

| Gain in sq km  |     | Loss in sq km     |     |
|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Andhra Pradesh | 647 | Arunachal Pradesh | 257 |
| Telangana      | 632 | Manipur           | 249 |
| Odisha         | 537 | Nagaland          | 235 |
| Karnataka      | 155 | Mizoram           | 186 |
| Jharkhand      | 110 | Meghalaya         | 73  |

### Forest cover in major mega cities in 2021

| Cities    | Area (sq km) | Decadal change** |
|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| Delhi     | 194          | (+11%)           |
| Mumbai    | 111          | (+9%)            |
| Bengaluru | 89           | (-5%)            |
| Hyderabad | 82           | (+15%)           |
| Chennai   | 23           | (+26%)           |
| Ahmedabad | 9            | (-48%)           |
| Kolkata   | 2            | (-30%)           |

\*\* Decadal change between 2011 and 2021 in %

## Delhi forest cover largest among cities

► Continued from P 1

Releasing ISFR 2021, environment minister Bhupender Yadav emphasised on the government's priority to focus not just on increasing/conserving the forest cover quantitatively but also enriching it qualitatively, and noted that 17 states/UTs have above 33% of the geographical area under forest cover.

ISFR 2021 shows that five states/UTs — Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman

& Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya — have more than 75% forest cover while 12 states/UTs — Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Assam, Odisha — have forest cover between 33% and 75%.

Overall, the increase in forest cover has, however, been mainly observed in the "open forest" category followed by "very dense forest". The top three states showing

an increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).

The biennial report has also for the first time included a special chapter on forest cover assessment in tiger reserves, tiger corridor areas, lion conservation areas and in seven major cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. It is seen that Delhi has the largest forest cover, followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru.

India in collaboration with the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani (Goa campus). "The collabo-

rative study was carried out with objective to map climatic hotspots over forest cover in India, using computer model-

based projection of temperature and rainfall data for the three future time periods," said environment ministry.

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## Forest & Tree Cover Rose by 2,261 sq km in Last 2 Years, but NE Decline a Concern: ISFR Report

India's forest cover, mangrove area and carbon stock have increased, but concerns remain over diminishing forest cover in the northeast and shrinking denser forest area, according to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 report. Details:

### BIG PICTURE

ISFR 2021 says India's total forest cover has increased by 1,540 sq km between 2019 and 2021 and its tree cover by 721 sq km in the same period. The total increase adds up to 2,261 sq km.

### STATE-WISE

Top three states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).

### AREA-WISE

Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra

17 states/union territories (UTs) have more than 33% of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these, 5 have more than 75% forest cover while 12 states and UTs have between 33% and 75%

### DIP IN COVER

Eleven states have reported a loss in forest cover while 21 states and UTs have reported reduction in moderately dense forest cover.

### MANGROVE COVER

Total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km, with a 17 sq km increase vis a vis 2019 in Odisha (8 sq km), followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km)

### CARBON STOCK

Total carbon stock in country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes - an increase of 79.4 million tonnes as compared to the last assessment of 2019.

### TIGER COUNTRY

20 of the 52 tiger reserves, including Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh) and Buxa (West Bengal), have shown an increase in forest cover while 32 reserves, including the Sundarbans, have seen a decline.

### CHALLENGE

Forest cover alone is now at 21.71% of the total geographical area of the country while India is targeting taking it to 33%.

### WORRY

A recurrent concern is about the reduction in forest cover in the northeastern states, which account for 23.75% of the country's total forest cover. The highest loss is in Manipur (249 sq kms), followed by Nagaland (235 sq kms) and Mizoram (186 sq kms) and attributed to shifting cultivation and natural disasters.

### THE DENSE FOREST QUESTION

Increase in forest cover has been observed mostly in open forest - by 2,612 sq km - which is considered mostly led by plantation. While a small area of very dense forests - 501sq km - has increased, there has been a decline in moderately dense forests over the years. 1,582 sq km of MDF has been lost between 2019 and 2021.

### 9.34% of India's

forest cover is through open forests and just 3.04% by way of very dense forests (untouched natural forests). Moderately dense forests account for 9.33% of total forest cover.



**21. The Centre will make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of *How Many* airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers for enhanced safety of occupants ?**

- A. 7
- B. 6**
- C. 5
- D. 4

## Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 people: Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, January 14

THE CENTRE WILL make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to eight passengers for enhanced safety of occupants, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

In a series of tweets, the road transport and highways minister said his ministry had already mandated the implementation of fitment of the driver airbag with effect from July 1, 2019, and front co-passenger airbag with effect from January 1, 2022.

"In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying up to eight passengers, I have now approved a Draft GSR Notification to make a minimum of 6 airbags compulsory," Gadkari said. GSR here stands for general statutory rules.



He further said to minimise the impact of frontal and lateral collisions on the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments, it has been decided that four additional airbags be mandated in the M1 vehicle category.

"...i.e two side/side torso airbags and two side curtain/tube airbags covering all outboard passengers. This is a crucial step to make motor vehicles in India safer than

Last year, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, in an interview to PTI, had said small cars, mostly purchased by lower middle-class people, should also have an adequate number of airbags

ever," he said.

According to Gadkari, this will ultimately ensure the safety of passengers across all segments, irrespective of the cost/variant of the vehicle. According to latest government data, total 1,16,496 road accidents occurred on national highways (NHs), including expressways, in 2020, causing 47,984 deaths.

Last year, Gadkari, in an interview to PTI, had said small cars, mostly purchased by lower middle-class people,

should also have an adequate number of airbags and had wondered why automakers are providing eight airbags only in big cars bought by the rich. His remarks had come against the backdrop of the automobile industry raising concerns that high taxation and stricter safety and emission norms for vehicles have made their products expensive.

Mostly, lower middle-class people buy small economy cars and "if their car won't have airbags and when accidents happen, then it may result in deaths. So, I appeal to all car manufacturers to provide a minimum of six airbags across all variants and segments of the vehicle," he had said.

The minister had acknowledged that additional airbags in small cars will increase their cost by at least ₹3,000-₹4,000.

The Road Transport Ministry has made it mandatory to provide six airbags in a vehicle carrying up to 8 passengers from October 2022

- The Ministry has taken this decision in order to enhance the safety of occupants of the motor vehicle against lateral impact. The Road Transport Ministry has decided to enhance safety features by amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989
- The government has made mandatory fitment of the airbag for driver from 1 July 2019 and the airbag for co-passenger from 1 January 2022.
- Airbags are made of cotton, with a silicone coating on them. The airbag is filled with sodium azide gas. It prevents serious injuries during an accident. Allen K Breed was the inventor of airbags

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**22. South Korea's POSCO has signed an MoU with Adani Group to set up an integrated Mundra steel mill in which state with an investment of around \$5 billion?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat**
- D. Uttar Pradesh

South Korea's POSCO has signed an MoU with Adani Group to set up an integrated steel mill at Mundra, Gujarat with an investment of around \$5 billion

- The MoU intends to further collaborate at the group business level in various industries such as hydrogen
- The companies have also signed an MoU with the govt of Gujarat for support and cooperation from the government for the collaboration.
- The companies intend to utilise renewable energy resources and green hydrogen, in line with both partners' ESG (environmental, social and governance) commitments to sustainability and energy efficiency.

# Adani, Posco to build Mundra steel plant

Rituraj Baruah

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** South Korea's Posco and Adani Group have agreed to jointly build a \$5 billion integrated steel plant in Gujarat in the third attempt by the South Korean steel giant to have a significant manufacturing presence in India.

As part of an initial non-binding agreement between Posco and Adani, the environment-friendly steel mill would be built at Mundra in Gujarat, the home state of the billionaire Gautam Adani-led conglomerate. Details such as the investment and manufacturing capacity of the new plant were not disclosed.

The alliance is a significant move for the diversified Adani Group, which has interests in logistics, ports, airports, mining, power generation and distribution, renewable energy, gas and infrastructure.

Adani has recently announced major investment plans as part of an ambitious plan to become the world's top renewable energy company.

The group is also venturing into new-age businesses with plans for a super app and investing big in data centres.

Both Posco and Adani plan to further collaborate at the group level in other sectors such as renewable energy, hydrogen



The Gautam Adani-led company has announced major investment plans with the aim to become the world's top green energy firm.

and logistics to respond to their global carbon reduction requirements, according to a joint statement.

They said they plan to tap renewable energy sources and green hydrogen, in line with their ESG (environmental, social and governance) commitments to sustainability and energy efficiency. Both parties are also examining various options to cooperate and leverage the technical, financial and operational strengths of each company, according to the statement. The companies have also signed an initial agreement with the Gujarat government for support and cooperation for the partnership.

Posco has had a chequered journey in India so far, with unsuccessful attempts of setting up mega steel projects in Odisha

and Karnataka.

It had agreed in June 2005 to incorporate an Indian subsidiary and build a steel plant in Odisha, but the project didn't materialize following protests, controversies and delays in land acquisition. Similarly, in 2010, the company signed a pact with the Karnataka government but shelved the investment plans in 2013 amid a delay in acquisition of land by the state government.

Posco at present has a 1.8 MT cold-rolled and galvanised steel mill in Maharashtra, India's most advanced automotive steel supplier, and processing centres in Pune, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, said, "the partnership will contribute to the growth of India's manufacturing industry..."

• 1 1 • 1 1



23. As per the latest data by Finance Ministry, What is the approx amount deposited in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme as on December-end 2021?

- A. Rs 2.0 lakh crore
- B. Rs 1.0 lakh crore
- C. Rs 2.5 lakh crore
- D. Rs 1.5 lakh crore

## Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross ₹1.5 lakh cr

DEPOSITS IN BANK accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme, launched about seven and half years ago by the government, have crossed the ₹1.5 lakh crore mark.

As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 44.23 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts was at



₹1,50,939.36 crore at December end, 2021.

PMJDY, the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, had completed seven years of implementation in August last year. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014.

As per the finance ministry

data, of the total 44.23 crore accounts, 34.9 crore were with the public sector banks, 8.05 crore with regional rural banks, and the rest 1.28 crore with private sector banks.

Also, 31.28 crore PMJDY beneficiaries were issued RuPay debit cards. It may be noted that the number of RuPay cards and their usage

has increased over time.

As per the data, 29.54 crore Jan Dhan accounts were held in rural and semi-urban bank branches. Nearly 24.61 crore account holders were women as of December 29, 2021.

During the first year of the scheme 17.90 crore PMJDY accounts were opened.

—PTI

Deposits in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme, launched about seven and half years ago by the government, have crossed the Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark

- per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 44.23 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts was at Rs 1,50,939.36 crore at December end, 2021
- PMJDY, the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, had completed seven years of implementation in August last year
- It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014.

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24. Recently In January State Owned **RailTel** Has Announced To Set Up “**Edge Data Centre**” Across How Many Railway Locations In Public Private Partnership ?

- A. 100
- B. 102**
- C. 112
- D. 115

## RailTel to build ‘edge data’ centres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

State-owned RailTel on Wednesday said it will set up several ‘edge data centres’ in railway premises across 102 locations in public-private partnership mode.

The project is expected to attract investments of more than ₹500 crore.

“The major benefit of an edge data centre is the quick delivery of services with minimal latency,” the company said in a statement. “The move will accelerate the pace of digital transformation and efficient digital delivery in rural and semi-rural areas.”

It added the process to establish these centres had been set in motion with the floating of ‘expression of interest’ by the company.

RailTel Corp. has decided to create edge data centres across 102 locations in rural and semi-urban areas to accelerate the pace of digital transformation and efficient digital delivery.

- The estimated cost of the project is ₹500 core and will done under the PPP model.

The initial capacity of the proposed data centres at each location is 20 racks (5 KW to 10 KW each).

- RailTel has around 9300-plus Points of Presence (PoPs) and extensive optical fibre connectivity along rail tracks and across premises of Indian Railways

- Puneet Chawla, CMD, RailTel

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25. Recently In January India and which of the following country recently launched Free Trade Agreement Negotiations?

- A. U.K
- B. China
- C. Pakistan
- D. Australia

India and UK Launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal launched the Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the United Kingdom along with Rt. Hon. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, UK Secretary of State for International Trade in New Delhi. The FTA is expected to facilitate the target of doubling bilateral trade between India and United Kingdom by 2030, set by the Prime Ministers of both the nations, Shri Narendra Modi and Mr. Boris Johnson in May 2021.

The FTA with UK is expected to provide certainty, predictability and transparency and will create a more liberal, facilitative and competitive services regime. The FTA negotiations with the UK is expected to increase our exports in Leather, Textile, Jewellery and processed Agri products.

India is also expected to register a quantum jump in the export of Marine Products through the recognition of 56 marine units of India.

**International News**

1. In a major boost to India-US bilateral trade, Which Of The Following Fruit have got market access in USA with the Government’s Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (DAC&FW) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) signing a framework agreement for implementing the '2 Vs 2' agri market access issues ?

- a. Mango
- b. Cherry
- c. Pomegranates
- d. Banana
- e. Indian mangoes and pomegranates

## US allows import of mangoes from India



The US has approved import of mangoes and pomegranates from India and secured New Delhi’s approval to supply of cherries, alfalfa hay, pork and pork products to India, the two governments said in separate statements. The export of Indian mangoes and pomegranates to the US is in accordance with a recent agreement between India’s Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for implementing the “2 Vs 2 Agri market access” issues, the commerce ministry said in a statement. “Under the agreement, India and the US would follow joint protocol on irradiation for India’s mango exports and pomegranate exports to the US and import of cherries and Alfalfa hay from the US,” it added. The agreement was signed in pursuant to the 12th India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) meeting held on November 23, 2021.

→pg

In a major boost to India-US bilateral trade, Indian mangoes and pomegranates have got market access in USA with the Government’s Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (DAC&FW) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) signing a framework agreement for implementing the '2 Vs 2' agri market access issues

- While Mango and Pomegranate exports will start from January-February 2022, exports of pomegranate arils to the US and that of Alfalfa hay and cherries from USA will begin in April 2022
- New Delhi has agreed to allow imports of US pork and pork products into India for the first time

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2. *The US Treasury has minted coins featuring image of Maya Angelou, the first black woman to have been on the US 25-cent coin. Maya Angelou Was Related To Which Of The Following Field ?*

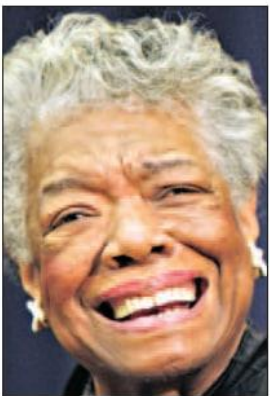
- A. Actress
- B. Poet**
- C. Politician
- D. SportsPerson

The United States Mint said Monday it has begun shipping quarters featuring the image of poet Maya Angelou, the first coins in its American Women Quarters Program

- Angelou, an American author, poet and Civil Rights activist, rose to prominence with the publication of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" in 1969
- Additional honorees in 2022 will be physicist and first woman astronaut Sally Ride, and Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, the nation's first female Treasury secretary

{ **POET AND ACTIVIST** } 'WOMEN QUARTERS PROGRAM'

## *Angelou becomes first Black woman to appear on US coin*



Maya Angelou at a 2008 event in Washington, and the reverse (tails) quarter honouring the poet unveiled by the US Mint on Monday. AP

**NEW YORK:** Poet and activist Maya Angelou has become the first Black woman to appear on the US quarter, in a new version of the coin unveiled by the US Mint on Monday.

Angelou, author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," will also be the first figure commemorated through the American Women Quarters Program, which was signed into law in January 2021.

The US Mint "has begun shipping the first coins" with Angelou's likeness on the American quarter, a 25-cent piece, according to a press release from the

agency.

"It is my honor to present our nation's first circulating coins dedicated to celebrating American women and their contributions to American history," said Mint Deputy Director Ventris Gibson.

"Each 2022 quarter is designed to reflect the breadth and depth of accomplishments being celebrated throughout this historic coin program. Maya Angelou, featured on the reverse of this first coin in the series, used words to inspire and uplift."

The programme directs the

US Mint to issue quarters each year between 2022 and 2025 featuring five different female American trailblazers.

The other figures set to appear on the coin in 2022 are: Sally Ride, the first American woman in space; Wilma Mankiller, first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; Nina Otero-Warren, a suffrage leader; and Anna May Wong, a Chinese-American film star.

For much of the last 90 years the quarter has depicted the first US president, George Washington, on one side and an eagle on the other. AFP

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3. The *first on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon* has been found by Chang'e 5 lunar probe of which country?
- A. Japan
  - B. Israel
  - C. China**
  - D. North Korea

China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon, lending new evidence to the dryness of the satellite.

- The **Chang'e-5 spacecraft landed on one of the youngest mare basalts located at a mid-high latitude on the moon**
  - **Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).**
- revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 grams water per ton

**Banking And Economy**

**1. According to NPCI's limits on cash withdrawals AePS transactions, acquiring bank should limit the number of approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day at How Many Transactions ?**

- A. Three transactions
- B. Five transactions**
- C. Seven transactions
- D. Ten transactions

## NPCI aims to standardise AePS

Sets limits on cash withdrawals, mini statements

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, January 7

In what could standardise transactions through Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems and help customers, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements.

**Limit of five**

According to the guidelines, acquiring banks will have to implement a maximum limit of five approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day.

Issuers will implement a standardised limit of a minimum of five approved cash withdrawal transactions per month for every customer. Further, issuers will also implement a standardised limit of a minimum of five mini statement transactions per customer per month.



9.6 crore transactions worth ₹25,860.92 crore took place through AePS in December

These limits have to be implemented by January 15 this year, the NPCI has said in a recent circular.

**Two-factor authentication**

It also said that acquirers must implement two-factor authentication for login of business correspondents, agents and merchants at least once a day with one of the factors as Aadhaar based biometric authentication.

"Two factor authentication shall also be required in case of change in BC, agent or merchant operating the terminal," the NPCI has further

said. It has fixed a deadline of January 31 for the implementation of this measure.

NPCI had in March 2021 asked banks to implement a minimum monthly limit of five mini statement transactions. Post five transactions, issuer banks can either decline the request or charge a fee.

**'Customer-friendly'**

Players have welcomed the decision and said it will ensure uniformity and standardisation of transactions and also prove to be customer-friendly.

"A few of the larger acquiring banks had set lower limits for the number of cash withdrawals per customer," two companies said.

Cash withdrawal from micro ATMs of AePS has a limit of ₹10,000 per transaction.

Transactions via AePS have become very popular, especially since the onset of the pandemic. A total of 9.6 crore transactions worth ₹25,860.92 crore took place through AePS in December 2021.

NPCI has placed limits on cash withdrawals and mini statements on Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems (AePS) transactions

- Acquiring banks will be required to implement a maximum limit of 5 approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day
- Cash withdrawal from micro ATMs of Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems (AePS) has a limit of Rs 10,000 per transaction.
- AePS allows online transactions at PoS (MicroATM) through Business correspondent (BC) of any bank by using Aadhaar authentication.

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- 2. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has expanded the scope of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) to cover all fraud cases that involve the amount of What and above ?**
- ₹1 crore
  - ₹2 crore
  - ₹3 crore
  - ₹4 crore

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has expanded the scope of ABBFF in consultation with RBI and Department of Financial Services

- Till now, ABBFF was examining only banking and financial frauds of ₹50 crore and above
- ABBFF is headed by T M Bhasin, the former vigilance commissioner
- It was constituted by CVC in consultation with RBI in August 2019 for two years. Its term was extended by two years in August 2021
- It conducts first level examination of bank frauds before the bank makes references to investigative agencies such as Central Bureau Investigation (CBI)

## CVC expands scope of banking frauds panel to cases above ₹3 cr

Earlier, advisory panel was examining large fraud cases only above ₹50 crore

**KR SRIVATS**  
New Delhi, January 7

In a move that could help remove the "fear psychosis" among public sector bankers, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has expanded the scope of the advisory board that conducts first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative agencies such as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the respective PSBs.

Against a current threshold of bank frauds above ₹50 crore, the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) will now cover all fraud cases involving amounts of ₹3 crore and above, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) said in an order on Thursday. Hitherto, the ABBFF was only examining large bank fraud cases above ₹50 crore.

Moreover, the scope of ABBFF has also now been expanded to examine the role of all levels of officials/wholetime directors, including ex-officials/ex-wholetime directors. The CVC has made these changes to the scope of the

advisory group after consultations with the Reserve Bank of India.

This lowering of threshold should give assurance to bankers that somebody else is also looking into the cases before they are investigated by government agencies, said a former PSB chief executive.

"Now there is some cushion available. But people have to get convinced", he noted.

### Effort to push credit growth

Many bankers also see the latest move as an effort to push credit growth in the banking system, which has been quite tepid at about 6 per cent. Bankers have, in the recent years, been cautious in their credit sanction decisions especially in the wake of the fear of the 3 Cs – CBI, CVC and CAG. This, along with rising NPAs in the banking system, had made them wary of being aggressive on the corporate lending front, banking industry observers said.

The current norms require every PSB and financial institution to file complaints with the CBI on all bank frauds



The scope of ABBFF has also now been expanded to examine the role of all levels of officials/wholetime directors

above ₹3 crore. However, these complaints were earlier being filed only in large bank fraud cases (above ₹50 crore) after due approval by ABBFF.

Meanwhile, the CVC has clarified that ABBFF will examine all cases of amounts involving ₹3 crore and up to ₹50 crore also, which are classified as fraud and reported to the RBI by the PSBs and, in case of public financial institutions, fraud declared, on or after January 6, 2022.

### IBA suggestion

The Indian Banks Association (IBA) had made several suggestions to the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Finance Ministry to provide comfort for the bankers so that they can take lending de-

isions without fear of action of the 3Cs. One of the suggestion was introduction of sunset clause – this would have meant that no action can be taken by any investigative agency against a banker for a credit decision after lapse of a specified period. However, IBA's suggestion did not find acceptance with DFS and, therefore, did not form part of the latest CVC announced norm changes, sources in IBA said.

In effect, this would mean that the government-controlled investigative authorities still enjoy the right to open a matter against bank officials even if they had retired or if the bank they had worked for had later been amalgamated with another PSB, they added.



**3. Recently In January Hero Future Energies Has Partnered With Which Of The Following For o set up 1,000 MW of green hydrogen production facilities in India, UK and Europe?**

- A. Essar Ltd
- B. Ohmium International**
- C. NTPC
- D. Solar Power Ltd

Hero Future Energies (HFE), a leading developer of Solar, Wind and Hybrid/BESS projects, and Ohmium International, a company specialized in the design announced a strategic partnership to develop and build 1000 MW of Green Hydrogen production facilities in India, the UK and Europe

- Ohmium will be responsible for the design, construction, and operations and maintenance of the hydrogen production facilities.
- Hero Future Energies will be the Build - Operate - Own partner, generating green energy to power the production facilities and assuming overall ownership of the assets.
- India's demand for Hydrogen is estimated to increase 5-fold and reach nearly 28 MTPA by 2050.

## 1 GW CAPACITY Hero, Ohmium to make green H<sub>2</sub>

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, January 6

HERO FUTURE ENERGIES and Ohmium International on Thursday announced a strategic partnership to build 1,000 MW of green hydrogen production facilities in India, the UK and Europe. While Hero Future will assume overall ownership of the assets, Ohmium will be responsible for the design, construction, and operations and maintenance of the facilities. Hero Future will also supply renewable energy to produce green hydrogen. The financial details of the tie-up were not disclosed.

The development comes at a time when the government is planning to come up with a PLI scheme for setting up electrolyser manufacturing capacities to expedite the uptake of green hydrogen. Electrolysers are used to make green hydrogen using electricity generated from renewable sources. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on August

Hero Future Energies to have overall ownership of the assets

Ohmium to be responsible for design, construction, operations and maintenance of the production facilities

Hero Future to also supply renewable energy to produce green hydrogen



India consumes around 6 million tonne of hydrogen annually

15 last year announced the National Hydrogen Mission as the government explores ways to reduce dependence on imported products such as crude oil and natural gas.

Continued on Page 2

## Cabinet clears ₹12,031-crore green power transmission scheme

THE CABINET committee on economic affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved the second phase of the green energy corridor scheme, reports **fe Bureau in New Delhi**. Under the second phase, about 10,750 circuit km of transmission lines and around 27,500 mega volt-amperes (MVA) of sub-station capacity will be installed to facilitate

electricity evacuation of around 20 GW of renewable energy projects in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The estimated cost of the scheme is ₹12,031 crore, and 33% project cost — around ₹3,970.3 crore — will be met as central financial assistance. ■ Page 2

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4. Recently In January Which Of The Following company has acquired *Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 million?*

- A. Meta
- B. Google
- C. Microsoft**
- D. Apple Inc.

Alphabet Inc-owned, Google has acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify, in a deal worth \$500 million.

- Siemplify, led by co-founder and chief executive Amos Stern, provides security orchestration, automation and response solutions.
- The buyout, Google's first Israeli cybersecurity firm deal, will help the tech giant take advantage of the Middle Eastern nation's deep pool of cybersecurity talent.

5. Recently In January *Google Cloud Has Entered In Partnership With Which Of The Following For The Development Of The Cryptowire Ecosytstem ?*

- A. TickerPlant**
- B. Bitcoin
- C. Ertherium
- D. Theter

TickerPlant, a subsidiary of 63 Moons technologies limited, today announced its collaboration with Google Cloud for the development of the CryptoWire eco-system, catering to all stakeholders of crypto and the blockchain industry on a common platform As an exchange neutral global platform, CryptoWire aims to simplify the digital asset class,

TickerPlant will tap Google Cloud's scalable, reliable, and high-performance data management infrastructure to build and expand CryptoWire's applications, CryptoWire, a global crypto super app that is a special business unit of TickerPlant, launched India's first index of Cryptocurrencies - IC15 to empower knowledge on crypto and blockchain ecosystem.

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6. Recently The Central Government Has Planned To Merged How **Many Film Bodies With National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) ?**

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 4**
- D. 7

The Information and Broadcasting ministry made public the recommendations of the Bimal Julka-led expert committee's report on rationalisation, closure and merger of film media

- In 2020, the Union Cabinet had approved the merger of all branches of the Films Division (FD), Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and Children's Film Society of India (CFAI) with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).
- DFF is headquartered in Delhi, NFAI is in Pune and CFSI and FD are based in Mumbai. The Mumbai-based NFDC is expected to turn around its finances once the merger takes place.
- Chairman Of NFDC – Ravinder Bhakar

7. Recently In January Whom Among The Following Has Joined The **Fintech Platform As An Investor And Advisor Of The Company ?**

- A. Satya Nadella**
- B. Sundar Pichai
- C. Rajnish Kumar
- D. Urjit Patel

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella has invested in investment platform Groww. He will also act as its advisor

- Established in 2016, founded by four ex-Flipsters Lalit Keshre, Harsh Jain, Neeraj Singh and Ishan Bansal, Groww in April 2021 entered the unicorn club
- Groww allows individuals to invest and trade in stocks, mutual funds, US stocks, and gold. It also has fixed deposit options for conventional investors. Recently, the start-up launched Groww Academy

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8. Recently In January Reliance Industrial Investment And Holdings Ltd , A Wholly Owned Subsidiary Of RIL , Has Acquired 73.37 % Stake In New York Mandarin Oriental Hotel For An Amount Of What ?

- a. USD 88.15 million
- b. USD 78.15 million
- c. USD 98.15 million
- d. USD 68.15 million

## Reliance acquires 73.37% in New York's Mandarin Oriental hotel

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 8

RELiance INDUSTRIAL Investments and Holdings Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has entered into an agreement to acquire the entire share capital of Columbus Centre Corporation, Cayman Islands, for an equity consideration of \$98.15 million (Rs 735 crore).

Columbus Centre is the indirect owner of a 73.37 per cent stake in Mandarin Oriental New York, one of the premium luxury hotels in New York City.

Set up in 2003, Mandarin Oriental New York is an iconic luxury hotel located at 80 Columbus Circle, directly adja-

cent to the pristine Central Park and Columbus Circle, read a filing by RIL on Saturday.

Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd, an RIL arm, has inked a deal to buy the entire share capital of Columbus Centre Corporation, the indirect owner of Mandarin Oriental New York

cent to the pristine Central Park and Columbus Circle, read a filing by RIL on Saturday.

If the other owners of the hotel decide to participate in the sale transaction, RIHL would acquire the remaining 26.63 per cent, based on the same valuation used for the acquisition of the indirect 73.37 per cent stake.

Mandarin Oriental had revenues of \$115 million in 2018, \$113 million in 2019 and \$ 15 million in 2020. This acquisition will add to the consumer and

hospitality footprint of the Reliance group.

The group already has investments in EIH Ltd (Oberoi Hotels), Stoke Park Ltd in the UK and is developing state-of-the-art convention centre, hotel and managed residences in BKC Mumbai, the filing added.

The closing of the transaction is anticipated to occur by the end of March and is subject to certain customary regulatory and other approvals and the satisfaction of certain other conditions.

Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Limited (RIHL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited ("RIL"), has today, entered into an agreement to acquire the entire issued share capital of Columbus Centre Corporation (Cayman), a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands and the indirect owner of a 73.37 per cent stake in Mandarin Oriental New York

- one of the premium luxury hotels in New York City for an equity consideration of approximately USD 98.15 million
- This is the second acquisition of an iconic hotel by Reliance in less than a year
- In April last year, Reliance acquired Stoke Park Ltd in the UK - an iconic locale that's been the setting for two James Bond films

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9. *Recently In January Resrve BaNK Of India Has Introduced A New Department Department of payment and settlement systems For Which Of The Following Purpose ?*

- A. Innovation In Fintech Space**
- B. For Fraud Comparitibility
- C. For Disbursion Of Loans
- D. For Setting Up Of New Branches Under RBI

After setting up a financial technology unit back in 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it will now put together a separate fintech department in view of the sector's rapidly changing landscape

- “Accordingly, a new department has been created with effect from January 4, 2022, by subsuming the fintech division of DPSS, Department Department of payment and settlement systems
- DPSS is the department of payment and settlement systems, which works on policy formation and authorisation of payment and settlement system operators in the country According to the central bank,
- As part of the new rules, online merchants are barred from storing card details of users on their platforms. This is meant to curtail online payment fraud

10. *Recently In January Which Of The Following Bank Has announced a strategic collaboration with Google to fuel its customer experience strategy and expand its value proposition to serve its rapidly growing customer base through its digital platform, Abacus 2.0 ?*

- A. DBS Bank
- B. CSB Bank
- C. RBL Bank**
- D. SBM Bank

RBL Bank and Google today announced a strategic collaboration to fuel the Bank's customer experience strategy and expand its value proposition to serve its rapidly growing customer base through its digital platform, Abacus 2.0

- Through Abacus 2.0, the Bank aims to provide a superior and holistic one stop solution to its existing and new customers, to seamlessly deliver its different product offerings across channels
- RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai and founded in 1943

11. Recently In January Edelweiss Housing Finance Have Entered With Which Of The Following Bank For Co- Lending Agreement For Priority Sector Areas ?

- A. Indian Bank
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. Yes Bank

## Edelweiss partners Indian Bank for co-lending

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, January 10

**DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL GROUP** Edelweiss on Monday said Edelweiss Housing Finance (EHFL) and ECL Finance (ECLF) have entered into co-lending partnership with Indian Bank for lending to priority sector areas.

Agriculture, micro-enterprises and advances to weaker sections of society are amongst the categories that form the priority sector in lending space.

Edelweiss Housing Finance (EHFL) and ECL Finance (ECLF) announce a strategic co-lending agreement for priority sector lending with Indian Bank, one of the largest public sector banks in the country, Edelweiss said in a release.

EHFL and ECLF are Edelweiss group companies. The lenders recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU)



**Agriculture, micro-enterprises and advances to weaker sections of the society are among categories that form the priority sector in lending space**

under RBI's CLM (co-lending model), significantly expanding the portfolio of lending products available to the target customers, increasing their access to credit, it said. Indian Bank brings capital flows at low costs, which when combined with

Edelweiss' expertise on customer acquisition, credit assessment, servicing and robust technology, will help meet the expanding credit needs of customers, Edelweiss said.

This will expand the reach to under-served markets, enabling priority sector borrowers to get credit at lower costs, given the blended rate of interest. As the country gradually moves out of the pandemic, the credit offered through this partnership will provide customers with access to cost-effective capital, aiding their economic revival and growth, the release stated.

"As we step up lending, delivering a digitally enhanced experience to customers, this co-lending partnership ties into our strategy of being asset light and building a high-quality lending book along with our partner bank," Deepak Mittal, head, Edelweiss Credit Cluster, said.

Diversified financial group Edelweiss said Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd (EHFL) and ECL Finance Ltd (ECLF) have entered into co-lending partnership with Indian Bank for lending to priority sector areas

- Indian Bank is a major nationalised bank. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established in 1907 and is headquartered in Chennai, India
- Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited is a Finance company and has headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. It was founded in 2008

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**12. Recently In January Pine Labs An Asian Digital Payment Provider Backed By Sequio India And Mastercard Has Announced For US Listing IPO For How Much Amount ?**

- A. \$ 500 Mn**
- B. \$ 400 Mn**
- C. \$ 300 Mn**
- D. \$ 200 Mn**

**FUNDRAISING**

**Pine Labs to seek \$500 m in US IPO**

Fintech firm eyes valuation of up to \$7 billion

**MANUEL BAIGORRI, SARITHA RAI & BAIJU KALESH**  
January 10

**PINE LABS, AN** Asian digital payments provider backed by Sequoia India and Mastercard, is moving ahead with preparations for a US listing and seeks to raise about \$500 million, according to people familiar with the matter.

The company has filed confidentially with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for an initial public offering in New York as soon as in the first half of this year, the people said. The listing could give Pine Labs a valuation of about \$5.5 billion to \$7 billion, they said, asking not to be identified because

■ Backed by Sequoia India and Mastercard, the start-up filed confidentially with the US SEC



■ Eyes listing in New York as soon as in the first half of this year

■ Talks are ongoing, details such as the size and timing could still change

■ Pine Labs serves over **150,000** merchants in India, West Asia and Southeast Asia

the matter is private. Goldman Sachs Group and Morgan Stanley are the lead banks on the deal, the people said.

**Continued on Page 2**

Pine Labs Pvt, an Asian digital payments provider backed by Sequoia India and Mastercard Inc., is moving ahead with preparations for a US listing and seeks to raise about \$500 million, according to people familiar with the matter.

The company has filed confidentially with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for an initial public offering in New York as soon as in the first half of this year, the people said. The listing could give Pine Labs a valuation of about \$5.5 billion to \$7 billion

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley are the lead banks on the deal

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13. Recently In January 115 Companies Both Domestic And Global Have Filed Applications To Take Advantage Of How Much Amount **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme For Automobile And Component Industries ?**

- A. Rs 25 918 Cr
- B. Rs 60 420 Cr
- C. Rs 6738 Cr
- D. Rs 12400 Cr

The Centre on Monday informed that a total of 115 companies have filed their application under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry which was notified on 23rd September 2021.

The scheme was open for receiving applications till 9th January 2022. Incentives are applicable under the scheme for determined sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products (vehicles and components) manufactured in India from 1st April 2022 onwards for a period of 5 consecutive years, the Ministry of Heavy Industries said in a statement.

The government has approved the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components Industry in India for enhancing country's manufacturing capabilities for advanced automotive products with a budgetary outlay of ₹25,938 crore. The PLI scheme for the auto sector will incentivize high value vehicles and products.

14. Which Of The Following Bank Has Announced A New scheme **"Mahagramin Baliraja Taranhar Yojna" For The Farmers Unpaid Loans ?**

- A. Karnataka Gramin Bank
- B. Maharashtra Gramin Bank
- C. Telangana Gramin Bank
- D. Uttar Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

**MAHARASHTRA GRAMIN BANK  
LAUNCHED "MAHAGRAMIN BALIRAJA  
TARAN HAR YOJANA"**

The Chairman of Maharashtra Gramin Bank announced recently at a press conference "Mahagramin Baliraja Taran Har Yojana" for the Farmers and Unpaid loans.

The debtors were compelled to approach private moneylenders for further monetary assistance due to natural crises such as incessant rains, drought and Financial losses due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bank committed to bring ease to such customers, and ordered 415 branches to offer concessions, and eventually close the loan accounts. Stating further about the scheme Hon'ble Chairman said that the Board has advised to extend additional 10% concessions on interest to customers who contacted with COVID-19. The customers are advised to avail the services of the scheme and make it successful. The debtor shall immediately get a new loan after repayment of previous unpaid loan according to the policy of the Bank. Considerable concessions in Interest and new loan immediately after repayment shall definitely be savior of the debtor as the name of the scheme suggests. The concession on interest shall be between 60 and 75 per cent of unpaid loan. To streamline the implementation the scheme the Bank has come up with a dedicated Online Portal, where the Name and Unpaid amount shall be determined, and an application shall be downloaded from the portal to fill up with signature of the customer in the presence of Bank officer. To reach up to maximum number of Farmers and debtors the scheme has been designed rationally. The scheme will be implemented for a limited period from 1st January to 31st March 2022.



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**15. According to a recently released report on the second round of the Quarterly Employment Survey, nine sectors hired around How Much more people during July-September 2021 as compared to April-June 2021 ?**

- A. One lakh
- B. Two lakhs**
- C. Three lakhs
- D. Four lakhs

## Two lakh more got jobs in 9 sectors: govt. survey

Union Labour Ministry releases July-Sept. 2021 employment figures; three more reports in progress

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Nine sectors that account for about 85% of total employment in establishments with 10 or more workers hired two lakh more people in July-September 2021 compared to April-June 2021, according to the second round of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) released by the Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday.

"The estimated total employment in the nine selected sectors from the second round of QES (July-September, 2021) came out as 3.10 crore approximately, which is 2 lakh higher than the estimated employment (3.08 crore) from the first round of QES (April 1, 2021)," the



report stated.

The report, released by Union Labour Minister Bhupinder Yadav, covers manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation

and restaurants, IT/BPOs and financial services sectors.

Speaking during the virtual launch event, Mr. Yadav said that the other three surveys launched by the Mi-

nistry last year were progressing well.

The report of the survey on migrant labour should be out by July or August.

**'Jobs rose amid pandemic'**  
The survey on domestic workers was in progress and quarterly reports under the area-based employment survey would be released soon, he said. The QES showed that employment had increased even during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, the second QES report that covered 11,503 establishments said nearly 90% of the establishments had less than 100 workers, while 30% of the IT/BPO establishments had at least 100 workers.

"The overall percentage

of female workers stood at 32.1%, higher than 29.3% reported during the first round of QES.

Regular workers constitute 87% of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2% being casual workers.

However, in the construction sector, 20% of the workers were contractual and 6.4% were casual workers," it noted.

**4.3 lakh vacancies**

It also said 5.6% of the total establishments had reported vacancies, a total of 4.3 lakh. While most of the vacancies (65.8%) were for unspecified reasons, 23% were due to resignation and 11.7% due to retirement of employees.

Nine sectors hired around two lakhs more people during July-September 2021 as compared to April-June 2021

- These nine sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.
- These nine sectors have generated 3.10 crore employment in the July-September 2021 quarter. It was 3.08 crore during the April-June 2021 quarter

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16. Which of the following regional rural banks has signed *MoU with Mecwin Technologies Ltd* to introduce *farmer-friendly solar powered pumps sets*?

- A. J&K Grameen Bank
- B. Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank
- C. Aryavart Bank
- D. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Vikas Bank**

Bengaluru-based Mecwin Technologies Ltd is specialized in production and management of solar irrigation pump-sets.

KVG Bank was the first bank to introduce solar loan schemes. It has the largest branch network in rural areas

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVG Bank) is an Indian Regional Rural Bank sponsored by Canara Bank.

17. RBI has recently extended the validity of its directions for *Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha*. When was this bank placed under RBI's directions?

- a. December 2019
- b. January 2020**
- c. March 2020
- d. April 2021

The validity of RBI's Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru extended till May 10, 2022.

RBI has brought the bank under its directions with effect from the close of business on January 10, 2020.

Rs 1 lakh per depositor is the withdrawal limit for depositors of the bank during the entire period it remains under RBI Directions

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18. Recently Who has recently signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50 to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis ?

A. POWERGRID

B. NTPC

C. SJVN

D. NHPC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022

## POWERGRID, Africa50 sign Joint Development Agreement

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.

The project entails the development, financing, construction, and operation of the 400kV Lessos – Loosuk and 220kV Kisumu – Musaga transmission lines under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

Once completed, the project will be the first Independent Power Transmission (IPT) in Kenya and will set a reference point in Africa as the first financing of transmission lines on a PPP basis. This Project will also improve

both the supply and reliability of power transmission in Western Kenya and further create a demonstration effect to help increase private sector investments into the expansion of Africa's power transmission networks, which is critical to bridging the continent's electricity access gap. In this development partnership, POWERGRID, will provide technical and operational know-how to the project, while Africa50 will bring its project development and finance expertise and will act as a bridge between the Kenyan government and private investors.

The signing of this agreement underscores POWERGRID and Africa50's commitment to continue to dedicate resources to accelerate development activities on the project until financial close.

Secretary (UI) inaugurates

MUDC signs MoU with MIT

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50,

- Africa50 the pan-African infrastructure investment platform to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, Africa's first transmission PPP project
- Once completed, the project will be the first Independent Power Transmission (IPT) in Kenya and will set a reference point in Africa as the first financing of transmission lines on a PPP basis.

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19. Recently In January What Is The Name Of **Federal Bank's subsidiary company** which has been approved by Federal Bank's board to publicly list in January 2022?

- A. FedFina
- B. FedJet
- C. FedMarket
- D. FedFurry

## Federal Bank's arm FedFina gets board nod for IPO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, January 11

Federal Bank subsidiary Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (FedFina) has initiated the process of an initial public offering (IPO), the bank said on Tuesday.

The board of FedFina on January 11 approved initiating the process of an IPO by way of fresh issue and offer for sale, Federal Bank said in a regulatory filing. The board approval is subject to market conditions and receipt of applicable approvals, it said.

"The size of the IPO, portion of an offer for sale (if any), price and other details with respect to the proposed IPO by FedFina will be determined in due course," the lender said.

Federal Bank approved a plan to publicly list its subsidiary Fedbank Financial Services (FedFina)

- FedFina is the retail focused non-banking finance company (NBFC) of the Kerala-based lender.
- FedFina will remain a unit of Federal Bank post the public listing
- FedFina, which received its NBFC licence in 2010, has more than 435 branches across the country

20. Recently In January which of the following companies has signed a trading agreement with India's **Manikaran Power Ltd.** to sell electricity produced by the domestic private sector to India?

- A. Nepal Power Exchange Ltd (NPEL)
- B. Indian Oil Corporation
- C. National Thermal Power Corporation
- D. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Nepal Power Exchange Ltd on Monday signed a trading agreement with India's Manikaran Power Ltd under which it will sell electricity produced by the domestic private sector to India via the Indian energy firm.

- Nepal Power Exchange Ltd (NPE) is a subsidiary of Independent Power Producers' Association of Nepal (IPPAN), a non-profit, non-government autonomous organisation which encourages the private sector to work in the area of hydropower in Nepal.
- This is for the first time that the private sector of Nepal and India have signed an agreement to facilitate power trading between the two countries, The agreement will allow Nepal to sell 500 MW of electricity to India in the initial phase

**21. Recently In January Federal Bank has launched an online lending platform**

***federalinstaloans.com to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India. Where Is The HQ Of Federal Bank ?***

- A. Aluva**
- B. Thirsur**
- C. Manglore**
- D. Pune**

## Federal Bank launches online lending platform

### OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 11

Federal Bank has launched an online lending platform, federalinstaloans.com, to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals of up to ₹50 lakh for Micro, Small & Medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

The platform enables borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally by uploading their income tax returns, bank account statement and online verification of GST details, per the private sector bank's statement.

The platform also uses algorithms to read and analyse data points from various sources such as I-T returns, GST data, bank statements, Credit Bureau, capturing the borrower's basic details using analytics, said the statement.

### In the comfort of home

"Most importantly, clients can avail business loan approvals from the comfort of their home without visiting the bank's branches.

Data entry by the client is kept minimal, as majority of the details are auto popu-



The platform enables MSME borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally

lated from the uploaded documents, i.e., GST, ITR & Bank account statements," the bank said.

After a suitable product is identified for the borrower in the platform, an in-principle offer letter will be issued, the statement added.

Loan will be made available after the documentation process gets completed.

For completing the documentation, the borrower needs to visit the bank branch.

The MSME borrowers also have the liberty to choose their Federal Bank branch while applying for the loan approval.

Private sector lender Federal Bank said it has launched an online lending platform federalinstaloans.com to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India

□ Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kochi The Bank was incorporated on April 23, 1931,

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**22. Indira Gandhi National Open University has signed an MoU with Whom Among The Following to promote Investor Education and Financial literacy ?**

- a. Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India
- b. India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd
- c. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority**
- d. Small Industries Development Bank of India

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Indira Gandhi National Open University have signed an MoU for promoting Investor Education and Financial literacy.

Gyan Darshan channel of IGNOU will help in propagating the message of Investor Education and Awareness among stakeholders.

The proposed lecture series of 75 episodes will be taken by experts from professional institutions. It will be a tele-lecturing series on 24x7 Gyan Darshan TV channel. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA):

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) was established for the administration of the IEPF fund under the Companies Act 2013. It works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**23. Which bank has been chosen as India's best private bank at Global Private Banking Awards 2021?**

- A. HDFC Bank**
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. City Union Bank

HDFC Bank has been chosen as India's best private bank at Global Private Banking Awards 2021. Professional Wealth Management (PWM) organized Global Private Banking Awards 2021

- HDFC Bank Limited is headquartered in Mumbai. HDFC Bank is India's largest private sector bank. It was founded in 1994. CEO of HDFC Bank is Sashidhar Jagdishan**

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24. According to the latest *Global Economic Prospects report*, the global economy will grow by How Much Percent in 2022 ?

- A. 4.1%
- B. 5.2%
- C. 3.2%
- D. 7..6%

According to the latest Global Economic Prospects report, the global economy will grow by 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023.

□ India's economy will grow by 8.3% in the current fiscal year, 8.7% in 2022-23, and 6.8% in 2023-24. Advanced economies growth will slow from 5% in 2021 to 3.8% in 2022

□ Global Economic Prospects and World Development Report are published by the World Bank

25. RBI has recently proposed new norms for the *classification of investment portfolio of banks*. They will come into effect from Which Of Ther Following Date ?

- A. January 1, 2023
- B. February 1, 2023
- C. March 1, 2023
- D. April 1, 2023

## INDIA TO GROW AT 8.3% AMID GLOBAL DIP: WORLD BANK

Prashant Jha

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Global economic growth will dip sharply from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, even as India's annual growth is projected to be 8.3% in the current fiscal year, 8.7% in 2022-23, and 6.8% in 2023-24, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Report, released on Tuesday. The report also flags the risks posed by growing inequality and rising inflation.

In its outlook for South Asia, India stands as a relatively bright spot. The Bank's 8.3% growth projection for India in 21-22 is unchanged from its June 2021 outlook. But the forecast for FY2022/23 and FY2023/24 has been upgraded to 8.7% and 6.8%, respectively.

→ FULL REPORT ON P16

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- Consider The Following Statement Regarding proposed norms, **banks' investment portfolio's** By Reserve Bank Of India
  1. proposed norms, banks' investment portfolios will Be Classifieds in 3 category These categories are held-to-maturity (HTM), available for sale (AFS), Held For Trading (HFT)
  2. Held-for-trading (HFT) shall be a sub-category within fair value through profit and loss account (FVTPL).
  3. New norms will come into effect from April 1, 2022

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2 And 3
- C. Only 1 And 2
- D. Only 2

As per proposed norms, banks' investment portfolios will be divided into three categories

- These categories are held-to-maturity (HTM), available for sale (AFS), and fair value through profit and loss account (FVTPL).
- Held-for-trading (HFT) shall be a sub-category within fair value through profit and loss account (FVTPL).
- New norms will come into effect from April 1, 2023. RBI has proposed new norms to align the investment portfolio of banks with the global prudential framework and accounting standards

## Banks' investment portfolio: RBI pitches for new classification, valuation norms

**ENSECONOMICBUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

AIMING TO align the investment portfolio of banks with the global prudential framework and accounting standards, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday proposed new norms for their classification and valuation.

According to a discussion paper by the central bank, 'Review of Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operations of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks', the new bank portfolio classification norms will come into effect from April 1, 2023. It has invited comments on the paper from stakeholders by February 15.

As per the proposed norms, the investment portfolio of banks will be divided into three categories – held-to-maturity (HTM), available for sale (AFS), and fair value through profit and loss account (FVTPL). Within FVTPL, held-for-trading (HFT) shall be a sub-category aligned with the specifications of 'Trading Book' as per the Basel-III framework.

The new norms propose to bridge the gap between the existing guidelines and global standards and practices with regards to classification, valuation and operations of the investment portfolio of commercial banks.

The extant instructions pertaining to the prudential norms on the classification and valuation of the investment portfolio are largely based on the Report of



The Reserve Bank has invited comments on the discussion paper from stakeholders by February 15. File

Informal Group on Valuation of Banks' Investment Portfolio, which was submitted in 1999.

The recommendations of this informal group culminated in the issue of prudential guidelines on the investment portfolio in October 2002, which forms the basis of the current norms.

While the RBI has been tweaking the guidelines in response to situations as they emerge, a comprehensive review has not been undertaken so far, resulting in a wide gap between the country's norms and the global standards and practices, the regulator said.

It is against this backdrop that a discussion paper reviews the rationale and the evolution of the current framework, the corresponding global standards, and developments in the financial markets before framing its proposals. WITHPTI



26. Which of the following Indian e-commerce companies has joined hands with BOB Financial and NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card?

- A. Myntra
- B. Snapdeal**
- C. IndiaMART
- D. Flipkart

Snapdeal has joined hands with BOB Financial and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card

- The co-branded credit card will be offered on Rupay platform. Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless card will be officially launched by March 2022.
- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB).
- Snapdeal is an Indian e-commerce company. It was founded by Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal

27. In January 2022, RBI has authorized Which Of The Following Bank to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of CBDT and CBIC ?

- A. IDBI Bank
- B. YES Bank
- C. South Indian Bank**
- D. Nainital Bank

South Indian Bank has been authorized by RBI to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of CBDT and CBIC.

It has signed an MoU with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) for the collection of various taxes.

South Indian Bank's customers can now pay their direct and indirect taxes through its digital channels as well as through its branches.

South Indian Bank is a private sector bank. It is headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala

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## RBI authorises South Indian Bank to collect taxes

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, January 13

The Reserve Bank of India has authorised South Indian Bank to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

The Kerala based bank signed an MoU with the CBDT and CBIC for collection of various taxes. The bank was earlier appointed as the Agency Bank of the RBI.

Customers of the bank will soon be able to pay their direct and indirect taxes through its digital channels such as SiBerNet Internet Banking and SIB Mirror+ Mobile Banking, as well as through its branches.

### 'More opportunities'

Murali Ramakrishnan, MD and CEO of South Indian Bank, said, "This is a milestone achievement for our or-

ganisation. This opens up a wide spectrum of opportunities for us. With this authorisation, our bank will enhance customer convenience for retail customers, small and medium enterprises and large corporates for government related banking transactions, taxes and other revenue payment facilities."

The agreement was signed between South Indian Bank's SGM & Country Head - Retail Banking Department Sanchay Sinha and the officials of CBDT and CBIC.

### BusinessLine

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**28. Which of the following has become India's first bank**

**to receive 926 million monthly UPI transactions?**

- A. Airtel Payments Bank
- B. Paytm Payments Bank**
- C. Jio Payments Bank
- D. Fino Payments Bank

## Paytm Payments Bank leads UPI beneficiary chart; SBI biggest remitter in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, January 13

PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK has emerged as the biggest receiver of UPI amount with 926.17 million transactions while public sector State Bank of India (SBI) topped the chart of being the biggest remitter in December, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) claimed to have become the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month.

"We are humbled to receive such an encouraging response from our users who have helped us become the most preferred beneficiary bank for UPI payments," PPBL managing director and CEO Satish Gupta said in a statement.

SBI followed PPBL as the second-largest beneficiary with 664.89 million transactions.

According to the NPCI, 98.79% of the transactions were approved on the PPBL platform.

"In the October-December 2021 quarter, PPBL registered a total of 2,507.47 million beneficiary transactions, compared with 964.95 million beneficiary transactions in the same quarter in 2020.

"This is a year-on-year increase of 159.85%. It has remained the largest UPI beneficiary bank throughout the year (except in May 2021), and continues to grow month-on-month," PPBL said in a statement.

Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma on Tuesday had said the company is betting big on the payments business.

It expects revenue from payments services, including merchants transfers, to be around \$140 million (about ₹1,034 crore) in the current quarter, he had said.

According to the NPCI data, Standard Chartered Bank had the highest approval rate of 96.74% in remittance of UPI transactions, while Citi Bank registered the highest approval rate of 99.84% among UPI beneficiaries.

Paytm Payments Bank has become India's first bank to receive 926 million monthly UPI transactions.

- has also become most preferred UPI beneficiary bank. It has remained the largest UPI beneficiary bank throughout the year (except in May 2021).
- received 964.95 million beneficiary transactions in the same quarter in 2020. This is a year-on-year increase of 159.85%.
- State Bank of India followed Paytm Payments Bank as the second-largest beneficiary with 664.89 million transactions. Beneficiary banks are the banks of the account holder who is receiving money

**29. Which of the following has signed an MoU with India INX to launch**

**India's first Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF?**

- A. Torus Kling Blockchain**
- B. Kling Blockchain Trading**
- C. Cosmea Financial Holding**
- D. Dash Blockchain Technologies**

Torus Kling Blockchain has signed an MoU with India INX to launch India's first Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF.

- Bitcoin & Ethereum Futures ETF will be the first crypto-backed futures ETF outside of US
- Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC is a 50:50 joint venture between Cosmea Financial Holdings (CFH) and Kling Trading India.
- India INX is India's first international exchange at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located at GIFT City. V Balasubramaniam is its Managing Director & CEO

## Torus Kling eyes 1st crypto futures ETF

Abhinav Kaul  
abhinav.kaul@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

**T**orus Kling Blockchain IFSC, a joint venture between Cosmea Financial Holdings and Kling Trading India, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India INX to launch the country's first bitcoin and ethereum futures exchange-traded funds (ETFs) -- the first outside of the US.

As per the MoU, India INX will be the trading platform and Cosmea Financial Holdings will do the distribution, while Kling Trading will be the technology partner.

Cosmea, promoted by ex-Reliance Capital CEO Sam Ghosh, has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for a small finance bank licence and is awaiting regulatory approval.

India INX, BSE's international arm, started trading activities in 2017 and is India's first international exchange set up at the GIFT IFSC.

Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC will be the liquidity provider to India INX by providing round-the-clock liquidity with smart order routing.

The ETF futures are expected to be launched by the end of this fiscal under a sandbox construct of the International Financial Services Centres Authority. The launch of the products is subject to IFSCA and other regulatory approvals. "Exchange trade products allow trading through regular investment accounts, bypassing the hassle and secu-



Torus Kling has signed an MoU with India INX for launching the ETF, a first in India. BLOOMBERG

rity concerns of cryptocurrency exchanges," said Krishna Mohan Meenavalli, CEO, Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC.

Apart from the digital assets, the Gift City startup is also launching US-listed large-cap discount certificates of metaverse companies. The company says, these will be the first Asian discount certificates tracking metaverse large-cap stocks in the US and European markets.

Torus Kling Blockchain is targeting \$1 billion in assets under management in the first two years from customers participating in blockchain-backed products through ETFs and discount certificates.

According to the company, these targets are based on getting regulatory approvals for launching these products.

"India INX at GIFT IFSC is looking at exploring launch of digital asset-based products and has already made an application to IFSCA under regulatory sandbox," said V. Balasubramaniam, managing director and CEO, India INX.

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30. Recently, United Nations has projected that the Indian economy will grow at How Much Percent in 2022 ?

- A. 3.5%
- B. 4%
- C. 6.5%
- D. 5.9%

The United Nations has projected that the world economy will grow by 4% in 2022 and 3.5% in 2023.

- Indian economy will grow at 6.5% in 2022 and by 5.9% in 2023
- Recently, World Bank has projected that the global economy will grow by 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023.

31. In December 2021, wholesale inflation declined to What Percent ?

- A. 5.59%
- B. 9.60%
- C. 13.56%
- D. 14.23%

Wholesale inflation declined to 13.56% in December as compared to 14.23% in November.

- Wholesale inflation is also known as producers' inflation. Retail inflation reached a five month high level of 5.59% in December

WPI inflation is high due to an increase in primary food and non-food inflation

## WPI inflation

New Delhi: Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation bucked the 4-month rising trend in December 2021, and eased to 13.56 per cent.

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**32. Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to a five-month high of How Much Percent in December ?**

- A. 3.59%
- B. 4.59%
- C. 5.59%**
- D. 6.59%

## Retail inflation accelerates to 5.59%

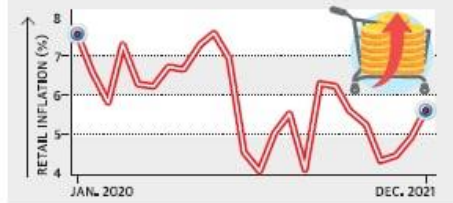
Industrial output growth slows to 1.4% in Nov.: NSO

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation quickened to 5.59% in December due to an uptick in food prices, while India's industrial output grew at a subdued 1.4% in November 2021, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compares with 4.91% seen a month earlier and 4.59% in December 2020. Consumer

**Rising trend** | Retail inflation increased for the third consecutive month in December 2021 and stood at 5.59%. It had touched 6.26% in June 2021 after falling slightly to 5.59% in July, the same figure recorded in December



food price inflation accelerated to 4.05% in December, as against 1.87% seen in November 2021.

CPI inflation surged to a six-month high, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA. The in-

crease relative to the previous month was primarily led by food and beverages, and clothing and footwear, with a welcome moderation in the prints for fuel and light, she added.

Ms. Nayar pointed out that the unfavourable base led the inflation for food and beverages to jump to 4.5% in December from 2.6% in November, driven by vegetables and eggs, and that early data pointed towards a 'broad-based moderation in prices of many food items' this month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

India's benchmark inflation rate, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) firmed up to 5.59% year-on-year in December 2021

- Indian retail inflation rose to 5.80%. In November, the retail inflation had firmed up to 4.91% year-on-year, up from 4.48% in October 2021.
- Industrial growth, based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) declined to 1.4 % in November 2021.

**33. RBI has released the annual report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21. The report covers how many Ombudsman Schemes?**

- A. Two
- B. Three**
- C. Four
- D. Five

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**34. According to the RBI's report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21, volume of complaints received under all the three Ombudsman Schemes has increased by How Much Percent ?**

- A. 19.54%
- B. 22.27%**
- C. 31.63%
- D. 35.45%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21

- The report covers Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006, the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019
- There were three Ombudsman Schemes till 11 November 2021. Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 (RB-IOS) was launched with effect from November 12, 2021
- which has been prepared for the nine-month period, i.e., July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, in alignment with the change in the Financial Year of RBI from 'July – June' to 'April – March' with effect from July 1, 2020
- The volume of complaints received under all the three Ombudsman Schemes increased by 22.27 percent on an annualized basis and stood at 3,03,107 during the reported period
- The BOS (Banking Ombudsman Scheme )accounted for 90.13 percent of total complaints (i.e. 2,73,204) received under the three Ombudsman Schemes. □ On an annualized basis, the total number of complaints received during the year under the three Ombudsman Schemes stood at 4,04,143, showing an increase of 22.27% over the previous year

{ **ROUGH RIDE** } A MAJORITY OF COMPLAINTS WERE RELATED TO DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS, AND ONLINE BANKING

## Consumer complaints rose by 22% during FY21: RBI report

**Gopika Gopakumar**  
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**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) saw a 22.3% jump in consumer complaints under the various Ombudsman schemes in FY21, with a majority related to debit and credit card transactions, and online banking.

The 2021 annual report of ombudsman schemes for the 9-month period between July 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, said while 90.13% of complaints were under the banking ombudsman scheme, non-banking financial companies accounted for 8.89% and the ombudsman scheme for digital transactions accounted for 0.97% of the complaints.



The ombudsman received 2,73,000 complaints in FY21. MINT

The banking ombudsman received 2,73,000 complaints in FY21, down from 3,08,000 in FY20. Complaints related to ATM-debit card transactions, mobile and electronic banking and credit cards accounted for 42.7% in 2020-21 compared to

44.65% in FY20. The scheme for NBFCs saw a 38.7% jump to 26,957 complaints in FY21, up from 19,432 in FY20. Complaints related to non-adherence to the fair practices code, non-observance of RBI directions and levy of charges without any notice, accounted for 75.32% of the complaints compared to 63.23% in FY20.

"The disposal rate improved significantly from 92.36% during 1 July 2019-30 June 2020 to 96.67% in 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021, despite the volumes being higher than the previous year on an annualized basis, and the human resources remaining the same, which can be attributed to end-to-end digitization of the complaint processing in the

CMS," said RBI in its report.

In FY21, complaints related to fund transfers, Unified Payments Interface, Bharat Bill Pay and Bharat QR code constituted 51.15% of complaints, followed by electronic fund transfers and mobile banking (22.57%) and non-reversal of funds due to wrong beneficiary transfer by system participants (8.18%).

Around 73.69% of the complaints were resolved through mutual settlement, or through interventions of the ombudsman's mediation process.

RBI seeks to improve the grievance redressal mechanism by enhancing capabilities of the CMS and undertaking an annual assessment of banks under the framework.

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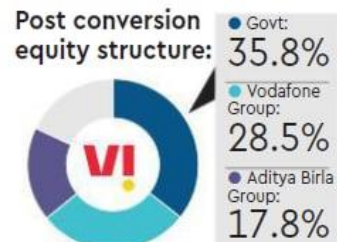
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**35. Vodafone Idea has recently offered How Much Percent equity stake to the government against its payment dues ?**

- A. 17.8%
- B. 27.7%
- C. 28.5%
- D. 35.8%**

## Govt to become largest Voda-Idea shareholder

To hold 35.8% in telco as the company's board opts for converting interest on dues into equity



Equity shares will be issued to the govt at par value of ₹10 per share subject to the final confirmation by DoT

■ Vodafone Idea's total AGR dues: **₹58,254 CRORE**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, January 11

■ NPV of the interest amount: **₹16,000 CRORE**

■ Paid so far: **₹7,854 CRORE**

VODAFONE IDEA'S BOARD on Tuesday informed the department of telecommunications (DoT) that it will opt for converting the interest on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) and spectrum dues into government equity. Once the plan goes through over a period of four years, the government will become the single largest shareholder in the company with a stake of 35.8%.

Post the equity conversion, the government will also



become a creditor for the company, which would have some positives as well as negatives for Vodafone Idea. On the positive side, the company would be in a better financial position

to raise external funds and there will be a possibility of flexibility in future payments to the government.

Continued on Page 2

**TTL (MAHARASHTRA)\*\***  
 Tata Group, public & large shareholders **90.5%**  
 Govt of India **9.5**

\*\*Quantum of Gol's proposed holding in TTSL, an unlisted co having services in 17 telecom circles, still not public

Vodafone Idea and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) have decided to offer an equity stake against their spectrum auction instalments and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) payment dues.

- While Vodafone Idea has offered 35.8% stake to the government, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) has offered 9.5% stake.
- After this, the government is set to own 35.8% in Vodafone Idea and 9.5% in Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra).
- Vodafone Plc's shareholding in Vodafone Idea (Vi) will come down from 44.4% to 28.5% and Aditya Birla Group's stake in Vodafone Idea (Vi) will decline to 17.8% from 27.7% at present

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36. According to the *Henley Passport Index*, Indian passport has become Which Number most powerful in the world. ?

- A. 83<sup>rd</sup>
- B. 84<sup>th</sup>**
- C. 85<sup>th</sup>
- D. 86<sup>th</sup>

According to the Henley Passport Index, Indian passport has become 84th most powerful in the world. Its rank has improved by Six places from the 90th rank of last year

- The report shows that the Indian passport now has visa-free access to 59 destinations around the world.
  - Japan and Singapore share the first position in the Henley Passport Index 2022.
  - The second place on the passport index was acquired by Germany and South Korea.
- Henley Passport Index : It was launched in 2006. It provides a ranking of the 199 passports of the world

37. Which of the following is not included in top five threats to India as per *World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022*?

- A. Digital inequality
- B. Widespread youth disillusionment
- C. Fracture of interstate relations
- D. Infectious diseases**

According to World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022, digital inequality is one of the top five threats to India in the next two years

- The report includes widespread youth disillusionment, fracture of interstate relations, debt crises in large economies, and failure of technology governance in the category of top five threats to India in the next two years.
- Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022 has been released ahead of its online Davos Agenda meeting scheduled from 17-21 January
- Global Risks Report: It is published annually by World Economic Forum ahead of its Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland  Global Risks Report 2022 is the 17th edition of Global Risks Report. It presents the results of the latest Global Risks Perception Survey



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38. Which of the following statements is correct about the **India EdTech Consortium**?

1. It has been launched to uphold the code of **conduct by edtech platforms**.
2. It has been established by the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above

### **IAMAI forms EdTech Consortium for upholding the code of conduct**

**New Delhi:**The Internet and Mobile association of India has formed the India EdTech Consortium (IEC) which will focus to ensure that every learner has access to quality and affordable education, which not only improves their academic performance but also makes them future-ready. EdTech entities such as Byju's, Careers 360, Classplus, Doubtnut, Great Learning, Harappa, Times Edutech & Events Ltd, Scaler, Simplilearn, Toppr, Unacademy, upGrad, UNext Learning, Vedantu & WhiteHat Jr have joined the consortium.

VCCIRCLE

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has announced the formation of the India EdTech Consortium to uphold the code of conduct by edtech platforms.

India's leading edtech companies like Byju's, Careers 360, Great Learning, Harappa, Times Edutech & Events Ltd, Scaler, etc have joined this India EdTech Consortium (IEC).

The IEC will ensure that every learner gets access to quality and affordable education. Apart from the common code of conduct, Edtech companies have to establish a two-tier grievance redressal mechanism.

The consortium said that a framework will be formed to protect the right of learners and companies.

This framework will cover ethical sales practices, marketing communication, loans and refunds, and grievance redressal mechanism. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI): It was formed in 2004. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Sanjay Gupta is the Chairman of IAMAI.

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39. *Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has signed a preliminary agreement with which state to invest Rs 5.95 lakh crore, mainly in green energy?*

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed an MoU with Gujarat Government for investing Rs 5.95 lakh crore in various projects.

- These projects are part of the Investment Promotion Activity for Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022. Reliance will develop an eco-system for helping Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs
- Reliance will also set up a 100GW renewable energy power project in Kutch, Banaskantha and Dholera.
- Reliance has also proposed to invest Rs 7,500 crore over 3 to 5 years for Jio Network up-gradation to 5G

DESTINATION GUJARAT

# Reliance Lines Up ₹5.95 Lakh Cr for Green Projects

To set up 100 GW power plants in 10-15 years

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Reliance Industries has signed a preliminary agreement with Gujarat to invest ₹5.95 lakh crore, mainly in green energy, in the state.

"To make Gujarat net-zero and carbon-free, RIL proposes to invest ₹5 lakh crore in the state over the span of 10 to 15 years to set up 100 GW renewable energy power plants and green hydrogen eco-system development," the company said in a statement.

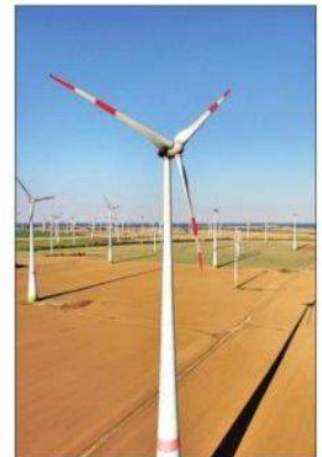
In consultation with the state government, RIL has begun scouting for land for renewable energy power projects in Kutch, Banaskantha, and Dholera, the company said, adding that it has requested 450,000 acres of land in Kutch.

The investments will create one million direct and indirect job opportunities in the state, it said.

The agreement with the state government was signed as part of investment promotion activity for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022.

Gujarat is home to the world's largest refinery complex operated by Reliance.

"RIL will develop an ecosystem for assisting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and encourage entrepreneurs to embrace new technologies and innovations leading to captive use of re-



GETTY IMAGES

newable energy and green hydrogen," the company said.

RIL will invest ₹60,000 crore in setting up manufacturing facilities for solar PV modules, electrolyzers, batteries, and fuel cells.

Another ₹25,000 crore will be invested in existing projects and new ventures over the next 3 to 5 years, as per the statement. RIL has also proposed to invest Rs 7,500 crore over 3 to 5 years for Jio Network upgradation to 5G and another Rs 3,000 crore over 5 years in Reliance Retail.

RIL has made a string of acquisitions in the last few months to help build its new energy business.

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40. **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company** has entered into a collaboration with which of the following to launch a strategic metal and energy equity fund of funds?-

- A. Bajaj Capital Limited
- B. First Trust Advisors**
- C. CapitalVia Global Research Limited
- D. Unit Trust of India

ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company has entered into a collaboration with the US-based First Trust Advisors

- Under the agreement, ICICI Prudential AMC will first launch a strategic metal and energy equity fund of funds,
- ICICI Prudential AMC aims to bring many of First Trust's innovative active and exchange-listed offerings to domestic investors.  ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited of India operates as an investment management firm

41. In January 2022, Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL) has received SEBI's approval to set up an Accreditation Agency for a period of how many years?

- A. 5
- B. 2
- C. 3**
- D. 4

Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL)'s wholly-owned subsidiary – CDSL Ventures Limited, has received SEBI's approval to set up an Accreditation Agency for a period of 3 years.

With the recognition, CDSL Ventures will be able to issue accreditation certificates to "accredited investors".

It will come in effect from February 01, 2022, for accreditation of eligible Investors. **CDSL is the first listed Indian central securities depository and a division of SEBI, Ministry of Finance, based in Mumbai. It was founded in February 1999. It is headquartered in Mumbai**

### CDSL to set up accreditation agency

Mumbai, January 13

CDSL Ventures has received SEBI's approval to set up an accreditation agency for a period of 3 years with effect from February 1, 2022, for accreditation of eligible investors. SEBI, in August 2021, introduced a concept of 'Accredited Investors (AI)' in the Indian securities market. Under the framework, which covers Alternative Investment Funds, Portfolio Managers and Investment Advisors, AIs may avail flexibility in minimum investment amount or concessions from specific regulatory requirements applicable to investment products, subject to conditions applicable for specific products or services. Nehal Vora, MD & CEO, CDSL, said, "This approval will be a catalyst in further achieving our vision to build a financial eco-system that is convenient, secured and dependable for the investors." OUR BUREAU

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42. Which among the following company has/have received the *World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards in January 2022?*

- A. NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd.
- B. InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- C. Star Health and Allied Insurance
- D. Both A and B

The World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association awarded DBT-BIRAC supported start-ups InnAccel and NIRAMAI with Global Women's HealthTech Awards

- This award is given to innovative startups which use technology to improve women's health and safety.
- This award was launched in August 2021. 70 companies from 35 countries submitted their innovative products and services for this award
- NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd, won this award for its software-based medical device. It can detect early-stage breast cancer in all age groups of women.
- This software is named 'Thermalytix'. It is a machine learning and AI-based Computer Diagnostic Engine

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43. **NABARD** has projected the overall credit potential of which state for the financial year 2022-23 at Rs 1,34,665 crore?

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Punjab

**'Odisha credit potential at ₹1,34,665 cr'**

THE NATIONAL Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has projected Odisha's overall credit potential for FY23 at ₹1,34,665 crore

**18.2 min Twitter**

The National Bank for Agricultural Development (NABARD) has made an overall projection of credit potential under priority sector at ₹1,34,665 crore for Odisha for the year 2022-23, with an increase of around 21.61% over credit projection of 2021-22.

- Out of the total credit potential for priority sector, an amount of ₹52,050.78 crore has been assessed under agriculture,
- Credit potential under agriculture constitutes around 38.65% of the total priority sector, of which ₹48,221.10 crore (92.64%) is estimated under farm credit,"

government had been giving a lot of support through various schemes like Balaram, Kalia, Samrudhi and Millet Mission

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44. Recently In January Which Of The Following Asset Management Fund Has Renamed Its Name To “White Oak Capital Mutual Fund “ ?

- A. Motilala Oswal Asset Management Fund
- B. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Fund
- C. Indiabulls Asset Management
- D. YES Mutual Fund

The name of YES Asset Management has been rechristened as WhiteOak Capital Asset Management and therefore the name of YES Mutual Fund has been changed to WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund

- The change in the names are effective from January 12, 2022. White Oak got the license to run a mutual fund. White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for equity assets of over Rs 42,000 crore
- In November 2021, White Oak Capital Group, through its subsidiary, GPL Finance and Investments, acquired the mutual fund business, Yes Asset Management, of Yes Bank

## Yes Mutual Fund is now White Oak Capital MF

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, January 13

Yes Asset Management's name has been changed to White Oak Capital Asset Management with effect from January 12. Further, Yes Mutual Fund will now be called White Oak Capital Mutual Fund, Aashish P Sommaiya, CEO of White Oak Capital, announced in a tweet on Thursday.

In November, White Oak Capital group announced the completion of the transaction to acquire the mutual fund business of Yes Bank. GPL Finance and Investments, a subsidiary of White Oak Capital group, had received SEBI's approval to acquire Yes Asset Management from YES Bank in September.

In August 2020, the private lender had executed a definitive agreement for the sale of Yes Asset Management (India) Ltd and Yes Trustee Ltd to GPL Finance.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
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**Appointment News**

1. In January 2022, RBI has approved re-appointment of **Anup Bagchi** as Executive Director of which of the following banks?

- a. PNB
- b. SBI
- c. HDFC Bank
- d. ICICI Bank

Re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as Executive Director (ED) of ICICI Bank has been approved by RBI. RBI has approved re-appointment for a period of three years

- ICICI Bank has two more executive directors -- Sandeep Batra and Vishakha Mulye
- ICICI Bank (ICICI Bank Limited) is a private sector bank. Girish Chandra Chaturvedi is chairman of its board of directors. Its MD & CEO is Sandeep Bakhshi

## RBI approves re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as ED, ICICI Bank

### OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 7

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as an Executive Director of ICICI Bank for a



period of three years, with effect from February 1, 2022.

“The shareholders at the annual general meeting held on August 20, 2021, had already approved his re-appointment for a period of five years effective February 1, 2022,” ICICI Bank said in a stock exchange filing on Friday.

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2. Recently In January CVR Ravendran Has Resigned From The Post Of MD And CEO Of Which Of The Following Bank ?

- A. DBS Bank
- B. CSB Bank**
- C. SBM Bank
- D. DCB Bank

## CSB Bank MD & CEO takes early retirement

FE BUREAU  
Kochi, January 8

CSB BANK IN a regulatory filing said on Saturday that C V R Rajendran, managing director & CEO of the bank, has decided to take an early retirement from the post to take care of his health under the advice of his physicians.



CSB Bank MD & CEO  
C V R Rajendran

Rajendran will continue to lead the Bank till March 31, 2022. CSB sources further said that the Board has decided to constitute a search committee to identify and evaluate candidates from internally or externally for the position of MD & CEO. It has also been decided to engage an independent executive search firm in this connection. His decision to move on from the post of MD & CEO has been approved by the board of directors in a meeting held on Saturday. Rajendran has been MD & CEO since December 9, 2016, and the current term is up to December 8, 2022. He was instrumental in bringing ₹1,208 crore of primary capital in CSB Bank from FIH Mauritius Investments (a subsidiary of Fairfax India Holdings) and also led CSB Bank through a successful initial public offering.

CSB Bank's Managing Director and CEO C. VR. Rajendran has decided to take an early retirement, the lender said on Saturday.

Accordingly, Rajendran will continue to lead the bank till March 31, 2022. C. VR. Rajendran has decided to take an early retirement from the post of Managing Director and CEO to take care of his health under the advice of his physicians,"

His decision to move on from the post of Managing Director and CEO has been approved by the Board of Directors in a meeting held on Saturday.

Rajendran has been holding the position of Managing Director & CEO since December 9, 2016 and the current term is up to December 8, 2022.



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3. Recently In January Who has been appointed as a Vice President of the Beijing-based multilateral funding institution Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) ?

- a. Satya Nadella
- b. **Urjit Patel**
- c. Rajnish Kumar
- d. Sundar Pichai

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as a Vice President of the Beijing-based multilateral funding institution AIIB. Patel was the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

India is a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with the second highest voting share after China.

- He will succeed outgoing Vice President DJ Pandian, who is in charge of sovereign and non-sovereign lending of the AIIB in South Asia,
- AIIB is headed by former Chinese vice minister for finance Jin Liqun

## Former RBI Gov appointed AIIB VP



Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as one of the five vice-presidents of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a Beijing-based multilateral funding institution, officials aware of the development said on Sunday. India is a founding member of the AIIB with the second highest voting share after China. It is headed by former Chinese vice minister for finance Jin Liqun. Patel, 58, will succeed outgoing vice-president D J Pandian for a three-year tenure. Patel had taken over as the 24th Governor of the RBI, succeeding Raghuram Rajan on September 5, 2016. Patel resigned in December, 2018 "on account of personal reasons", saying "I have decided to step down from my current position effective immediately".

PTI

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4. **Haitham Al-Ghais** has been selected as the new Secretary-General of the **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**. He Is From Which Of The Following Country ?
- A. South Africa
  - B. Kuwait**
  - C. China
  - D. South Korea

## New OPEC head

Cairo: OPEC secretary general-elect Haitham al-Ghais said global oil demand should return to pre-Covid levels by 2022-end.

Haitham Al-Ghais has been selected as the new Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

- He will take place of Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, whose term as OPEC secretary-general will end in July 2022.
- Al-Ghais is a veteran member of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and he was Kuwait's OPEC Governor from 2017 to June 2021 Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):
- It is an intergovernmental organization that was founded in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference. Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.

5. Recently In January Who has been named as the **new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan**?
- A. Alikhan Smailov**
  - B. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
  - C. Karim Massimov
  - D. Serik Akhmetov

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev appointed Alikhan Smailov as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

- Alikhan Smailov is Kazakhstan's first Deputy Prime Minister
- Nur-Sultan is the capital and Tenge is the currency of Kazakhstan. The lower house of Kazakhstan's parliament is known as Majilis

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6. **What is the name of the former RBI Executive Director appointed by EbixCash Pvt Ltd as an independent director to its board?**

- A. Uma Shankar**
- B. Rohit Jain
- C. R. Subramanian
- D. Jayant Kumar Dash

EbixCash Pvt Ltd has appointed former RBI Executive Director Uma Shankar as an independent director to its board

- She is currently an Independent Director on the Boards of Karnataka Bank and IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd.
- She was Chairperson of the Standing Committees on Cyber security and Data analytics

## Ex-RBI ED Uma Shankar joins EbixCash board

**KR SRIVATS**

New Delhi, January 11

EbixCash Private Limited, a subsidiary of Nasdaq-listed Ebix, Inc, has appointed Uma Shankar, former Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as the new independent director to the Ebix-Cash Board.

She is presently an Independent Director on the boards of Karnataka Bank and IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Ltd.

Uma Shankar is a career banker, having retired as the Executive Director at the RBI, after 37 years of service.

Shankar has also served as the Co-Chair of the committees relating to financial regulation and as a member of the audit and supervision groups of several international financial bodies.

On the national front, she was the Chairperson of the Standing Committees on Cyber security and Data Analytics.

She was also the head of the



Uma Shankar

interdepartmental group to explore the feasibility of introducing Central Bank digital currency.

"I am delighted to join the board of EbixCash and to be able to humbly contribute to the EbixCash efforts to bring increased digitisation to the financial industry worldwide," said Shankar.

Robin Raina, Chairman of the Board, EbixCash, said, "Uma brings a deep blend of regulatory, administration, technology, strategic, and corporate governance experience across the banking and financial sector to the board ... We are excited to have her on the board."

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7. Who will be the **head of the committee formed by the Supreme Court to probe the security breach during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab?**

- A. Indu Malhotra
- B. Sunil Kumar Saxena
- C. TV Rajendran
- D. NV Rammana

{ PM SECURITY BREACH }

# SC sets up 5-member panel headed by justice Malhotra

Utkarsh Anand

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the constitution of a five-member independent committee to be headed by a retired judge of the court, justice Indu Malhotra, to investigate and fix responsibility on those responsible for the breach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security in Punjab last week.

A bench, headed by Chief Jus-

stice of India NV Ramana, was critical of the "blame game" between the Centre and the state government over the issue, and directed that the committee to ascertain the causes of the breach and those accountable for it. "Not only are the officer(s)/ authority responsible for the above-stated lapse liable to be identified, but there is also a greater urgency to evolve new measures that may ensure there is no recurrence of such lapses", held the bench.

→PI2

### PM's breach probe

**Committee head:** Retired SC Judge Justice Indu Malhotra

**Other members:** Registrar general of the Punjab and Haryana HC; Director general of Chandigarh Police; NIA director general, or his nominee not below the rank of inspector general of police; Additional director general of police (security) in Punjab Police



The Supreme Court has formed an inquiry committee under the chairmanship of former judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab

- The committee will look into the matter and will decide who was responsible for the security breach.
- It will also suggest necessary safeguards for the security of PM and Constitutional functionaries
- Ministry of Home Affairs has also set up a three-member committee to enquire into security lapses during PM Modi's Punjab visit. It will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
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8. Who has been appointed as chairman of the *Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)*?

- A. Atul Chakraborty
- B. Raghuvendra Tanwar**
- C. Vinay Sahasrabudhe
- D. Mukesh Kumar Srivastava

Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for three years.

Professor Tanwar is known for his study of India's Partition, particularly Punjab. He was the director of the Haryana Academy of History and Culture in 2016.

His most recent study is an illustrated Story of India's Partition. He has also written the biography of Bansi Lal and on Sir Chhotu Ram. He was awarded the UGC National Fellowship (Research Award) 2002-2005.

**Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR):** It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education. It was established on 27 March 1972 on the recommendation of a Working Group set up by the Government of India.

9. Who has been appointed the *next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)*?

- A. Olaf Sanchez
- B. Andres Sanchez
- C. Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas**
- D. Geta Gopinath

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been appointed as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

□ He is an economist at the University of California-Berkeley. He has replaced Indian origin Gita Gopinath.

□ **Gopinath has been appointed as the IMF's first Deputy Managing Director**

□ **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** IMF is an international organization. It is designed to promote global monetary cooperation. Its headquarters is located in Washington DC. It was established in 1945. The Managing Director of IMF is Kristalina Georgieva

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10. Who has been appointed the next chairman and Space Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- A. Alka Mittal
- B. G Padmanabhan
- C. Atul Keshap
- D. S Somanath**

Somanath, a renowned rocket scientist, has been appointed as the next chairman and Space Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- He will succeed K Sivan, who has completed his tenure as ISRO director
- Mr. Somanath will be ISRO's tenth chairman. He currently serves as the Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) It is a space agency of the Indian government It was founded in 1969 by Vikram Sarabhai. Headquarters: Bengaluru

{ MY INDIA } SUCCEEDS K SIVAN

## S Somanath named new chief of Isro



Senior rocket scientist S Somanath was on Wednesday appointed the next chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the space secretary, an order issued by the central government said. Somanath, currently the director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, will take over from K Sivan, who is set to retire on Friday. Somanath, 58, who will become the 10th Isro chairperson, has previously held the position of team leader for the Integration of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). He is a graduate in mechanical engineering from Kerala University, and completed his postgraduation in aerospace engineering from the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. Somanath said that the aim during his tenure will be to expand the space programme on a bigger scale. →P6

11. Who has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) For 1 Year Term ?

- A. Atul Kumar Goel
- B. Ittira Davis**
- C. Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- D. Padmaja Chunduru

Ittira Davis has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB).

- The appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term from 14 January 2022 □ Nitin Chugh, the former MD, and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank had resigned on September 30
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB). started banking operations on February 1, 2017. Its headquarters is in Bengaluru

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12. Who has been named as the **brand ambassador of RenewBuy**?

- A. Jhulan Goswami
- B. Vicky Kaushal
- C. Rohit Sharma
- D. Rajkummar Rao**

Insurance Tech company RenewBuy has named Rajkummar Rao as its first brand ambassador.

- It will launch the 'Smart Tech, Right Advice' campaign with Rajkummar Rao
- Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami has been roped as the ambassador of Legends League Cricket. She will promote women's empowerment initiatives.
- Pearson India named Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal as its new brand ambassador

13. **Daniel Ortega** has been elected as the **President** of which country in January 2022?

- A. Costa Rica
- B. Venezuela
- C. Nicaragua**
- D. Ecuador

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was sworn into office for his fourth consecutive term on 10 January 2022.

- Alongside him was first lady Rosario Murillo, sworn in for her second term as his Vice President.
- Nicaraguan is the largest country in the Central American isthmus Managua is the capital of the country**

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**14. Recently In January Adani Power Has Appointed Whom As Its New CEO With Immediated Effect ?**

- A. Navrang Saini
- B. Shersingh Khaliya**
- C. Rajkumar Singh
- D. Vijay Dagga

## IS Adani Power board appoints Shersingh B Khyalia as its CEO

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**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, January 11

**ADANI POWER'S BOARD** on Tuesday approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as the company's chief executive officer (CEO) with effect from January 11, 2022. "Board of directors of the company, at its meeting held

on January 11, 2022, has considered and approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as a chief executive officer of the company with effect from January 11, 2022," according to a BSE filing.

According to the filing, Shersingh B Khyalia is not related inter-se to any of the directors of the company.

Shersingh B Khyalia is a chartered accountant and brings with him over 32 years of experience in managing complex business in the power industry, including generation, transmission and distribution.

His experience spans across power trading, legal, regulatory and commercial, finance & accounts and PPA management aspects of the power business.

Earlier, Khyalia has worked as the managing director in Gujarat Power Corporation, where he got experience of the renewable power sector especially the development of ultra-mega renewable parks.

The Board of Directors of Adani Power Limited (APL), a subsidiary of Adani Group, approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adani Powers with effect from 11th January 2022.

□ He is a Chartered Accountant, who has served as the Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation.

□ Earlier, Khyalia has worked as Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation, where he got experience of the Renewable Power Sector especially the development of Ultra Mega Renewable Parks

### FOR SALE OF ASSETS LIMITED (In Liquidation)

1101UP1972PLC003612)  
Agency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)

ed (In Liquidation), applications are invited for  
e following assets on "As is where is basis", "As is  
re is basis" and "No recourse" basis:

|                       | Block No. | Reserve Price |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| and other Receivables | 1         | Rs.1,01,000   |

ty, January 20, 2022  
January 21, 2022

rd.in and <https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net>

No.: 011-41066313, Mob. No.: +91 9899224476  
L.com

Sd/-

Arun Gupta, Liquidator

g. No: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00051/2016-17/10095  
34, LGF, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048  
Read. Email: arungupta2211@gmail.com



**Days And Obituary**

1. **First Black actor to win Academy Award, Sidney Poitier has passed away in January 2022. He belongs to which of the following countries?**

- A. Canada
- B. The United States of America (USA)**
- C. Ghana
- D. Kenya

## Sidney Poitier, first Black man to win Best Actor Oscar, dies

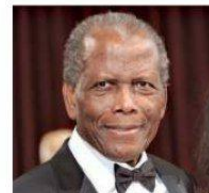
He gained mainstream popularity with groundbreaking roles

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON

Sidney Poitier, who broke through racial barriers as the first Black winner of the Best Actor Oscar for his role in *Lilies of the Field*, and inspired a generation during the civil rights movement, has died at age 94, an official from the Bahamian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday.

Mr. Poitier created a distinguished film legacy in a single year with three 1967 films at a time when segregation prevailed in much of the United States.

In *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* he played a Black



Sidney Poitier

man with a white fiancée and *In the Heat of the Night* he was Virgil Tibbs, a Black police officer confronting racism during a murder probe. He also played a teacher in a tough London school that year in *To Sir, With Love*.

Mr. Poitier had won his

history-making Best Actor Oscar for *Lilies of the Field* in 1963, playing a handyman who helps German nuns build a chapel in the desert.

He was born in Miami on February 20, 1927, and raised on a tomato farm in the Bahamas, and had just one year of formal schooling. He struggled against poverty, illiteracy and prejudice to become one of the first Black actors to be known and accepted in major roles by mainstream audiences.

In 2009, Mr. Poitier was awarded the highest U.S. civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Barack Obama.

Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964, has died at the age of 94.

□ 1963, Poitier had made a film in Arizona, *Lilies of the Field*. For Which He Won Award

□ He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work

2. **What Is The Name Of The Famous Entrepreneur Who Was Of The Rotomac Global And Was Called India's Pen King Who Passed Away Recently ?**

- A. Anil Mukhi
- B. Vikram Kothari**
- C. Sanjay Mathur
- D. Sudhir Saxena

Vikram Kothari, the promoter of Rotomac Global Private Limited, passed away

□ Once known as 'India's pen king', Vikram rose to fame with the launch of the writing instrument brand, Rotomac in 1992

□ In the year 1997, he was awarded as the best exporter by the Prime Minister. His Rotomac company's worth in next 10 years (1995-2005) rose to Rs 100 crore.

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the public on the auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti on January 9, 2022 declared that starting this year, Which Day shall be marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas' ?

- A. A. 16TH December
- B. B. 26th December
- C. C. 18TH December
- D. D. 20TH December

Prime Minister declared that starting this year, 26th December shall be marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas

- Veer Baal Diwas' will be observed on the same day Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall
- The Sahibzades were the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who sacrificed their lives in an important battle against the Mughals.

## Veer Baal Diwas to be observed on Dec. 26: PM

'Tribute to courage of Sahibzades'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared that December 26 shall henceforth be marked as *Veer Baal Diwas* to pay homage to the courage of the *Sahibzades*, four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru. While all four were martyred, the date has been chosen as it was the day observed as the martyrdom day of the *Sahibzadas* Zora-

war Singh and Fateh Singh, who were killed at the tender age of six and nine in Sirhind by Mughal forces.

In a series of tweets, PM said: "Today, on the auspicious occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singhji, I am honoured to share that starting this year, December 26 shall be marked as *Veer Baal Diwas*. This is a fitting tribute to the courage of the *Sahibzades* and their quest for justice."

4. Every year on 12th January, National Youth Day is celebrated in India, which is also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas. Which personality's birth anniversary is celebrated every year as National Youth Day?

- A. Ramakrishna
- B. Swami Vivekananda
- C. Mother Teresa
- D. B. R. Ambedkar

Every year on 12th January, National Youth Day is celebrated in India, which is also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas.

- On January 13, a National Youth Summit will be held with the goal of bringing India's diverse cultures together and combining them into a single thread of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat
- January 12 was marked as National Youth Day by the Indian government in 1984 to honour one of India's greatest philosophers and spiritual leaders, Swami Vivekananda, and his legacy

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5. **Armed Forces Veterans Day** is observed every year on 14 January. **Armed Forces Veterans Day** was first celebrated in Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 2018
- B. 2019
- C. 2016
- D. 2017**

Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed every year on 14 January.

- It is celebrated in memory of the retirement of M. Cariappa
- 1953. It is observed to honour the sacrifice made by veterans while serving the nation. It was first celebrated in 2017.
- M. Cariappa was the first commander-in-chief of the Indian Army. He led the Indian Forces during the Indo-Pakistan W

6. **David Sassoli** who has passed away recently was the President of which of these organizations?

- A. European Commission
- B. European Council
- C. European Parliament**
- D. European Central Bank



European Parliament head David Sassoli AP

European Parliament President David Sassoli passed away early on January 11, 2022 in a hospital in Italy. ar of 1947.

David Sassoli was an Italian journalist and politician, who was elected as a member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the first time in 2009

- He was proposed as the new president of the European Parliament on July 2, 2019 by the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D).

**European parl president David Sassoli dies at 65**  
BRUSSELS/ROME: David Sassoli, the European Parliament president, died early on Tuesday following an immune complication. Sassoli, who was 65, had been under care in Aviano, Italy. Sassoli was a former journalist and decade-long veteran of the EU Parliament. Lawmakers are due to elect a new president January 18. BLOOMBERG

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7. Which of the following will organize *Startup India Innovation Week from January 10th to 16th 2022?*
- A. Department of Commerce
  - B. Department of Revenue
  - C. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**
  - D. NITI Aayog

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will organize Startup India Innovation Week from January 10th to 16th, 2022.

Startup India Innovation Week is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.

Startup India Innovation Week celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

DPIIT is celebrating Startup India Innovation Week to highlight exemplary growth of the startup ecosystem in India. Indian startup ecosystem is currently the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world.

Startup India initiative was launched on 16 January 2016. DPIIT is the implementing agency of the initiative

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**Sports Awards Books**

1. Recently In Janaury **Bharath Subramaniyam** Became The **73<sup>rd</sup> Grand Master Of The Country** He Hails From Which Of The Following State ?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Goa
- D. Telanagana

Fourteen-year old From Bharath Subramaniyam became India's 73rd chess Grandmaster, securing the third and final GM norm at an event in Italy. The Chennai-based player scored 6.5 points from nine rounds along with four others to finish seventh overall in the event held at Cattolica

- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points
- Mitrabha Guha had become the country's 72nd GM in November last, two days after Sankalp Gupta became the 71st GM.**

2. **Ajaz Patel** won the **ICC Player of the Month award for December** following his stupendous **10-wicket haul** . He Represent Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. New Zeland**
- C. England
- D. Australia

New Zealand's Ajaz Patel on Monday won the ICC Player of the Month award for December 2021

- During the **2nd game of the 2-match Test series**, the left-arm spinner bagged a **10-wicket haul**
- Becoming only the third player in Test history**, after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, to achieve the remarkable milestone

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**3. Which Of The Following Will Replace VIVO As The Title Sponsorship Of The Indian Premier League's title sponsor, the IPL governing council decided ?**

- A. MPL
- B. Dream 11
- C. Tata Group**
- D. Adani Group

Tata Group to replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as IPL title sponsor next year, Indian Premier League (IPL)

- the Tatas will be paying around Rs 670 crore for two years of title sponsorship while Vivo will pay a total of Rs 454 crore for termination of contract
- It is learnt that Tata Group could remain title sponsors for the IPL's 2023 season too as that was the one year concession given to Vivo since it lost a season of sponsorship in 2020.
- Vivo had a deal of Rs 2200 crore for title sponsorship rights initially from 2018-2022. Galwan Valley military face-off between the Indian and Chinese Army soldiers, the brand took a break for a year in view of a public backlash and Dream11 replaced it in the IPL

## BCCI stitches deal with Tatas for IPL title sponsorship



Conglomerate comes on board for next two editions as Vivo exits as title sponsor for second time

**SURAJEET DAS GUPTA**  
New Delhi, 11 January

The Tata group is replacing mobile device maker Vivo as title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after the Chinese firm pulled out of the contract for the second time in less than two years. The decision to rope in the Tata group was taken in a governing council meeting of the IPL on Tuesday.

"The Tata group will come on board as the title sponsor for the next two editions," IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel told *Reuters*, confirming Vivo had transferred its title rights to the Indian conglomerate.

Vivo had initially signed a contract for the IPL title sponsorship for five years, 2018-2022, for a staggering ₹2,200 crore. It, however, withdrew from the 2020 edition of the

tournament amid anti-China sentiments in the country following a border clash between the Indian and Chinese army soldiers.

Fantasy gaming platform Dream11 had replaced Vivo as title sponsor of the 2020 edition, which was held in the United Arab Emirates because of the Covid crisis. Vivo returned last year, but sources said it had been looking for an exit route. Vivo was given one-year concession since it had lost a season of sponsorship in 2020.

According to sources, the Tatas would be paying the same amount that Vivo had committed — around

**"IN THIS DECADE, INDIA WILL LEAD THE GLOBAL GROWTH RATES"**

**N Chandrasekaran,**  
Chairman,  
Tata group



**PAGE 2**

₹440 crore for 60 matches. However, it was not immediately clear whether some adjustments had been made as the number of matches would go up to 74 from this year because of the addition of two new teams — Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah welcomed the Tata group in the new role.

"We are truly happy that India's largest and most trusted business group has believed in the IPL growth story, and together with the Tata Group, we will look to take Indian cricket and the IPL forward to greater

heights," he was quoted as saying in a media release.

The Tatas are sponsors of many key events across the world. These include the TCS New York City Marathon, Amsterdam Marathon, and London Marathon, while JLR is a presenting partner in the Invictus Games since its launch in London in 2014. They also own and run the Jamshedpur FC football team in the Indian Super League. Tata Motors has a three-year association with the Wrestling Federation of India and supports tennis through Tata Open.

The BCCI, according to sources, made over ₹708 crore through sponsorship in 2021, which, apart from Vivo's fee, included ₹220 crore from other official sponsors, ₹28 crore from umpire sponsors, and ₹30 crore from official strategic time-out sponsors. Turn to Page 13

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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4. Recently In January **Cricket All Rounder Chris Morris** Announced His Retirement From International Cricket . He Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. New Zeland
- B. Australia
- C. South Africa**
- D. England

member for South Africa, particularly in the white ball formats, all-rounder Chris Morris has announced his retirement from the game to take up a coaching role

The 34-year-old declared that he'd be calling time after a nine-year international career,

- The all-rounder's next chapter is in coaching, taking up a role with Titans in South African domestic cricket.
- Chris Morris Was The Most Expensive Player When , Rajasthan Royals purchased Chris Morris for Rs 16.25 crore, In 2021**

5. Who has won the **Best Actor** award in the **79th Golden Globes** award?

- A. Denis Villeneuve
- B. Will Smith**
- C. Tom Hanks
- D. Tom Cruise

Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced the winners of the Golden Globes award for this year.

- Will Smith has got the best actor award in a motion picture (drama) for his role in King Richard

**Nicole Kidman** received the best actress award in a motion picture (drama) for his role in "Being the Ricardos".

- Best motion picture — musical or comedy award is given to "West Side Story".
- In the TV category, "Succession" series has won the Best TV Series award

### 2022 GOLDEN GLOBES: KEY WINNERS

**BEST MOVIE, DRAMA**

*The Power of the Dog*

**BEST MUSICAL OR COMEDY**

*West Side Story*

**BEST DIRECTOR, MOVIE**

Jane Campion, *The Power of the Dog*

**BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA**

Nicole Kidman, *Being the Ricardos*

**BEST ACTOR, DRAMA**

Will Smith, *King Richard*

**BEST SCREENPLAY**

Kenneth Branagh, *Belfast*

**BEST TV SERIES, DRAMA**

*Succession*

**BEST TV SERIES, MUSICAL OR COMEDY**

*Hacks*

**BEST LIMITED SERIES, ANTHOLOGY SERIES OR TV MOVIE**

*The Underground Railroad*

**BEST ACTRESS, TV DRAMA**

Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, *Pose*

**BEST ACTOR, TV DRAMA**

Jeremy Strong, *Succession*

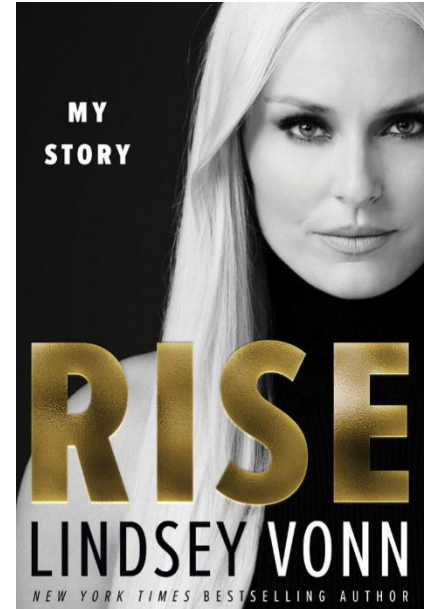
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6. Who Is The Author Of The Book Titled “ RISE – My Story “ ?

- A. Lindsey Vonn
- B. Shane WARNE
- C. Tiger Woods
- D. Lewis Hamilton

Lindsey Vonn Authored The Book Titled “ RISE – My Story

- The first ever memoir from the World most decorated female skier of all time, revealing never-before-told stories of her life in the fast lane,
- She Has Won 82 World Cup . 20 World Cup titles. 3 Olympic medals. 7 World Championship Medals. Country US



7. Tasnim Mir become the *first Indian to clinch world no 1 ranking in Under-19 girls singles* She Hails From Which Of The Following State ?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Indian shuttler From Gujarat Tasnim Mir has become the first Indian to grab the world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles BWF junior rankings.

- In 2021, she has won four junior championships including Bulgarian Junior Championship, Alpes International, and Belgian Junior.
- She is currently placed at 602nd position in the Women's Single world ranking

### U-19 shuttler Tasnim ranked World No. 1

NEW DELHI

Young shuttler Tasnim Mir on Wednesday became the first Indian to grab the world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings. The 16-year-old from Gujarat was rewarded for last year's stellar run when she had secured titles in three junior international tournaments. PTI



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8. Who has been selected as *Batonbearer for the ongoing 16th official Queen's Baton Relay*?
- A. Sunita Narain
  - B. Kinkri Devi
  - C. Tulsi Gowda
  - D. Vinisha Umashankar**

The Queen's Baton for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth games has arrived in India after visiting 72 countries

- Vinisha Umashankar is selected as a "changemaker" and Batonbearer for the ongoing 16th official Queen's Baton Relay
- The 16th official Queen's Baton Relay was started at Buckingham Palace, London on 7th October 2021. It will conclude at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games on 28th July 2022
- The 2022 Commonwealth Games will be organized in venues across Birmingham and the West Midlands from 28 July until 8 August 2022

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**Science Tech And Environment**

1. Which of the following pairs of countries has taken part in the 'Sea Dragon 22' exercise along with India?

- A. South Korea, Australia, and Japan only
- B. United States, Japan and Canada only
- C. Australia, Canada, Japan, United States, and South Korea**
- D. Italy, China, Pakistan, Russia, and United States

The 'Sea Dragon 22' is an anti-submarine warfare training exercise of 270 hours

- Sea Dragon is an annual, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) multi-national high-end exercise hosted by the U.S. Navy. This year, it had deployed two P-8A Poseidon aircraft.
- It will help pilots and flight officers in improving their strategies and tactics. India, Japan, Australia, and the United States are part of the QUAD and take part in the Malabar exercise

2. India on Tuesday successfully test fired advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile from Indian Navy's newest indigenously-built guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between India and Which Country ?

- A. Israel
- B. USA
- C. Russia**
- D. France

An extended range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said.

"Advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile was tested from INS Visakhapatnam today. Missile hit the designated target ship precisely," BrahMos, deployed by the Navy on its warships first in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon.

The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, respectively.

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3. With reference to *Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)*, consider the following statements:

1. The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is low weight and fire & forget missile.
2. It was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

DRDO successfully flight tested final deliverable configuration of Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- DRDO successfully flight tested final deliverable configuration of Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)
- The present test was to prove the consistent performance for the minimum range. The missile has a range of 2.5 km The missile performance has been proven for the maximum range in earlier test trail

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4. Which organization has successfully completed the qualification test of cryogenic engine for Gaganyaan manned space programme?

- A. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- B. Indian Space Research Organization**
- C. Bhabha Atomic Research Center
- D. Satish Dhawan Space Centre

## IN BRIEF

### Isro successfully conducts cryo engine test Gaganyaan

The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully conducted the qualification test of cryogenic engine for the Gaganyaan programme for a duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The performance of the engine met the test objectives and the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test on Wednesday, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said. "This successful long-duration test is a major milestone for the Human Space Programme – Gaganyaan. It ensures the reliability and robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan", an ISRO statement said. **PTI**

The Cryogenic Engine for the Gaganyaan human space program has successfully completed qualification tests by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

- The test was conducted for 720 seconds and met the test objectives at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu. The engine will next undergo four more tests, each lasting 1810 seconds
- The name of this engine developed by ISRO is 'Vikas'. The cryogenic engine of India's human-rated GSLV rocket will be used in the country's maiden human spaceflight mission in 2023.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**5. Recently In January Which OF The Following Was Awarded As The *Miniratna Status 1* By The Central Government ?**

- A. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd,**
- B. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd**
- C. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation**
- D. Indian Rail Institute Of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering**

The Kolkata-headquartered firm has been granted the Mini Ratna-I status, and such recognition will help it achieve the next phase of growth.

The Mini Ratna-I status will also facilitate Braithwaite to structure and implement schemes for human resource management and training,

State-run Braithwaite & Co Ltd is aiming at a four-fold increase in its revenue to Rs 2,500 crore and planning to hit the capital market with an Initial Public Offer by the 2025-26 fiscal

the PSU company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways is expecting to touch Rs 700 crore topline in the current fiscal.

chairman and managing director Yatish Kumar

## Braithwaite conferred Miniratna-1 status, govt plans to merge it with RITES

FE BUREAU  
Kolkata, January 13

**RAILWAY PSU BRAITHWAITE & Co** has been declared a Mini-ratna-1 category company as the government also plans its merger with Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES).

Braithwaite chairman and managing director Yatish Kumar said the company would go by what the government decides. A railway board official, meanwhile, said that the merger was a part of the plan to restructure six railway PSUs, proposed by Sanjeev Sanyal, chief economic advisor to the finance minister. The idea was to merge Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) with Indian Railway Construction (IRCON), Railtel Corporation with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Braithwaite with RITES. The announcement was likely to be made in the Budget, the official said.

Kumar added that Braith-



Braithwaite CMD  
Yatish Kumar

waite has become a debt-free company and it has been awarded Miniratna-1 status since it has already achieved above ₹30-crore profit before tax and has been reporting net profit for consecutive three years, a criteria for getting Miniratna -1 status.

The company will likely end the fiscal with a ₹700-crore turnover, up from ₹609 crore achieved in FY21. The company's turnover was ₹130.89 crore in FY 18. Kumar said at the company level, Braithwaite was eyeing an IPO in 2025-26 and aims a turnover of ₹2,500 crore by then.



RERA REGISTRATION NO.:  
RC/REP/HARERA/IGN/383/115/2019/77

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6. On 13 January 2022, Indian Navy's ships, Shivalik and Kadmatt, carried out Maritime Partnership Exercise with ships of the navy of which of the following countries?

- A. France
- B. USA
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Japan**

Indian Navy's ships, Shivalik and Kadmatt, carried out Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japanese Navy's ships, Uraga and Hirado, in the Bay of Bengal

- Japanese Navy's ships, Uraga and Hirado, were on deployment in Indian Ocean Region.
  - The exercise was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing mutual understanding and inter-operability between two navies
- Japanese Navy is also known as Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF). It is a maritime warfare branch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces

7. Which among the following Data center and managed service providers has deployed Asia's largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai in January 2022?

- a. Tata Communications
- b. NTPC
- c. Capengimini
- d. CtrlS**

technologies.

STAFF WRITER

### CtrlS installs Asia's largest gas insulated substation in Mumbai

**New Delhi:** Data centre and managed service provider CtrlS has deployed Asia's largest gas insulated substation (GIS) in Mumbai, which is currently equipped with 300MW and can scale up to 700MW. The GIS is backed by three different sources and diversified paths ensuring 100% availability of power at all times, thus powering the two million square feet CtrlS data centre campus spread across 10 data centres.

STAFF WRITER

### FDI Technologies raises \$75 million

Data center and managed service provider, CtrlS has deployed Asia's largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai, which is currently equipped with 300MW and can scale up to 700MW

- The GIS deployed by CtrlS is one of the first large-scale deployments in Asia, powered by three-line configuration (N+N+1). It has three source substations backed by two or more substations.
  - Sridhar Pinnappureddy, Founder and CEO, CtrlS Datacenters.

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**8. Recently In January Swaraj Green Has Announced That It Will Set Up Asia's Largest Ethanol Production Unit At Which Of The Following Place In Maharashtra With Capacity Of 1100 Kilolitres Per Day ?**

- A. Palghar
- B. Phaltan**
- C. Jaitpur
- D. Aurangabad

Swaraj Green Power & Fuel Limited (Swaraj) announced plans to set up the largest ethanol plant (1100 KLPD)

**in Maharashtra Phaltan (Sataraa) in two stages**

- first stage capacity of 500-kilo litres /day (KLPD) and in second stage capacity will be of 1100 KLPD based on sugarcane juice & BIOSYRUP®. Necessary permissions have been obtained to expand the plant capacity up to 1100 KLPD in near future
- With this, Swaraj will become the largest capacity plant to produce Ethanol in India as well as Asia.
- **Swaraj once again decided to work with Praj Industries Limited (Praj) as a technology partner for this proposed expansion project at Phaltan in Maharashtra**
- **Established in the year 2010 Swaraj is recognized as one of the most progressive sugar mills and ethanol producers in India**

on- wind turbine original equipment company said.

## Swaraj Green to set up Asia's largest ethanol unit in Maha

FE BUREAU  
Pune, January 13

**SWARAJ GREEN POWER & Fuel** will set up Asia's largest ethanol production unit at Phaltan (Satara) in Maharashtra. The plant's targeted capacity will be 1,100 kilolitres per day (KLPD).

In the first stage, it will have a capacity of 500 kilolitres per day KLPD and in the second, the capacity would be enhanced to 1,100 KLPD. The unit will use sugarcane juice and Biosyrup as raw materials based on technology supplied by Praj Industries. At full capacity, Swaraj will become the largest capacity plant to produce Ethanol in India and Asia. Swaraj is a sugar and ethanol producer. It already has a 60 KLPD capacity plant for the production of ethanol set up by Praj based on molasses as feedstock. Swaraj and Praj have now signed an agreement for expanding up to 500 KLPD capacity that is expected to be operational by the third quar-

**At full capacity, Swaraj will become the largest capacity plant to produce ethanol in India and Asia**

ter of FY22-23. Praj will design, engineering, supply, commission the plant, deploying its advanced sugarcane juice and Biosyrup to ethanol technology.

Ranjeetsinh Naik-Nimbhalkar, founder & promoter, Swaraj said, they were aligning with the Indian government's ethanol blending program (E20). Pramod Chaudhari, founder chairman of Praj, said Swaraj was always willing to adopt innovative technologies to ensure efficient plant operations. This landmark project in Maharashtra is a significant step forward towards meeting the government of India blending mandates while helping decarbonise the transportation sector, Chaudhari said.

New Delhi

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022

9. The **Philippines** has approved How Much Amount deal with India to purchase a shore-based anti-ship variant of the **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missile system ?

- A. \$255 million
- B. \$444 million
- C. \$375 million**
- D. \$590 million

Philippines has approved a \$374.96 (2770 Crore )million deal with India to purchase a shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system

- supersonic cruise missile "BrahMos" is produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia
  - It may be fired from submarines, ships, aeroplanes, or ground platforms. The BrahMos missile travels at 2.8 Mach, or almost three times the speed of sound With A Strike Range Of 290 Km
- Atul Dinkar Rane, a senior scientist, was recently appointed as the new CEO of BrahMos Aerospace Limited. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi

{ **MY INDIA** } TO ACQUIRE 3 BATTERIES  
**Philippines confirms \$375m BrahMos deal**



**The Philippines confirmed on Friday it will** acquire three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia in a deal worth almost \$375 million, a development expected to boost India's efforts to become one of the world's major exporter of defence hardware. The defence deal is unlikely to go down well with China, whose aggressive behaviour in the disputed South China Sea has taken relations with the Philippines to a fresh low. The Philippine Marines intend to use the BrahMos as a shore-based anti-ship missile. Philippine defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he had recently signed the "notice of award" – or the acceptance of India's proposal for supplying the missile – for the Philippine Navy's shore-based anti-ship missile acquisition project. →P8



## Gold bond issue priced at ₹4,786/gm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at ₹4,786 per gram, the RBI said on Friday.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series IX will be open for subscription for the period January 10-14, 2022.

The nominal value of the bond "works out to ₹4,786 per gram of gold", the RBI said in a statement.

The Government of India has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value to investors applying online and the payment made through digital mode.

## At \$1.17 bn, REC closes largest syndicated loan by Indian NBFC

State-owned REC has raised \$1.175 billion from a consortium of seven banks as the Mandated Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners (MLABs), a statement said. According to the statement, this is the single largest syndicated loan raised in the International Bank Loan market by any Indian NBFC. The deal, benchmarked to USD LIBOR, was anchored by seven Indian and International banks, namely Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, DBS, MUFG and SMBC, it stated. The deal will be launched in the Asian Loan Syndication market shortly to capture interest from the wider investor community. The proceeds from this facility will be utilised to fund infrastructure power sector projects as permitted under the ECB guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. Sanjay Malhotra, Chairman and Managing Director of REC, said, "This ECB represents REC's efforts in diversifying its sources of borrowings at competitive pricing while remaining attractive to the Indian and International lenders. We are pleased with the overwhelming response of banks to this ECB, which is the largest ever offshore term loan facility for any Indian NBFC."

PTI

# Paytm to Shut Canada App to Focus on India

Canada R&D division  
Paytm Labs to focus  
on India business

Tarush.Bhalla@timesinternet.in

**Bengaluru:** Paytm has decided to shut its app in Canada effective March 14, the digital payments company owned by One97 Communications informed its customers in the North American country. It stopped providing some of the services from Friday. Paytm had launched its Canada division, called Paytm Labs Inc, in 2014, and started offering a bill payments rewards programme for users in 2018.

Paytm told ET that the decision was made to focus the efforts of Paytm Labs on opportunities in India and that it did not expect any job loss from this.

A Paytm executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told ET that the app was not contributing significantly to its overall revenue.

"It did not make sense for Paytm to continue operations of the consumer app in Canada... The mandate for (Paytm's) Canada (business) for now is innovation and R&D," the executive said.

In a blogpost, Paytm Canada said it "had to" charge customers a convenience fee for bill payments starting 2019 and has now decided to shut the consumer app completely. "During these unprecedented times we have had to make some tough business decisions. Unfortunately, as of March 14, 2022, the Paytm Canada App will be shut



**Paytm started offering a bill payments rewards programme for Canadian users in 2018**

## Zomato Shuttters S Africa Subsidiary

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** Food delivery company Zomato has completed the process of shutting down its South Africa subsidiary.

The Gurgaon-based company said in a filing with the BSE on Friday that Zomato South Africa Proprietary (Pty) Ltd, the step-down subsidiary, has been shut down from January 3, 2022. The company had initiated the process of deregistration in November.

In a filing with the bourses last year, Zomato had said that Zomato SA did not have any active business operations and was not a material subsidiary, adding that the closure of Zomato SA would not affect its turnover or revenue.

ting down permanently," it said, adding: "Effective January 14, 2022, we will be disabling scheduled payments and top-ups for Paytm Cash which includes EMT transfers (email money transfers), Canada Post and bank transfers."

The primary work of the Paytm Labs team in Canada is research and development analytics of customer data and provision of technical support for the company's products and services across the world, a spokesperson said.

In order to focus all our resources on the massive India opportunity, and given the immateriality of the Canada B2C app, we have decided to sunset the Canada B2C app only from March 14, 2022," the spokesperson said in response to ET's questions.

# 2021 fifth warmest year since 1901: IMD

2012-2021 warmest decade on record; extreme weather events claimed 1,750 lives last year, shows latest report

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE  
New Delhi, 14 January

India is getting hotter. The latest annual report on the country's climate by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) states that 2021 was not only the fifth warmest year since 1901, but that the last decade, 2012-2021, was also the warmest on record.

Moreover, 11 of the 15 warmest years on record were between 2007 and 2021, the met department said. The rise in average temperatures could have a cascading effect on extreme weather events, crop patterns and urban disaster management. In 2021, the annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.44 degree Celsius above the long period average (LPA). The LPA is based on temperatures between 1981 and 2010.

The met department also said that the country's averaged annual mean temperature during 1901 to 2021 showed an increasing trend, particularly in the case of maximum temperatures.

"This could be due to climate change. Globally, too, the average mean temperatures are rising while incidents of some extreme weather events are also rising," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of IMD, told *Business Standard*.

The five warmest years on record so far are: 2016, which was 0.71 degree Celsius over the LPA, 2009 (+0.55 degree Celsius), 2017 (+0.541 degree Celsius), 2010 (+0.539 degree Celsius), and 2021 (+0.44 degree Celsius).

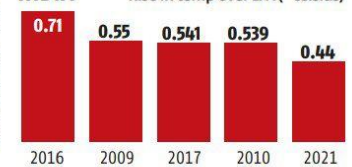
The year 2021 also saw 1750 lives being lost due to extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, floods, landslides, lightning, cyclonic storms and cold waves. Among the states that experienced such calamities, Maharashtra topped the list with 340 deaths.

"In 2021, five tropical cyclones formed over the north Indian Ocean, with three forming over the Bay of Bengal and two forming over the Arabian Sea," the IMD's annual report said.

Turn to Page 13 ▶



### WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD IN INDIA



### DEATHS DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER IN 2021

No. of deaths



Note: LPA: Long period average  
Source: India Meteorological Department report

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or 40 per cent, higher than the 30.2 per cent delivered by the risk and delivered more returns while maintaining liquidity," said Such portfolios increase the year, Kastogi said. According to experts, 2021 was ment that regulations allow is ₹50 lakh.

# Adani Wilmar cuts IPO size to ₹3,600 crore

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, 14 January

Edible oil major Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) has cut the size of its initial share-sale to ₹3,600 crore from the ₹4,500 crore planned earlier, people familiar with the development said on Friday. The company, which sells cooking oils under the Fortune brand, is expected to float its initial public offering (IPO) this month, they added.

AWL is a 50:50 joint venture company between Ahmedabad-based Adani group and Singapore's Wilmar group.

Now, the IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹3,600 crore. There will not be any secondary offering.

According to the draft red herring prospectus, it was aiming to raise ₹4,500 crore from the market



by issuing fresh shares.

The company has only reduced the portion of general corporate purposes and not reduced the core objects of the issue.

Out of the IPO proceeds, ₹1,900 crore will be used for capital expenditure, ₹1,100 crore will be used for the repayment of debt and ₹500 crore in funding strategic acquisitions and investments.

When contacted to confirm the development, a company's spokesperson declined to comment.

The move to cut the IPO size is perceived to be a good move by investors as the issue size optimisation will help the company have better return of capital employed (ROCE) and return on equity (ROE).

This indicates the operating leverage and efficiency the company is able to demonstrate through minimal investment and it also suggests the revenues the company is able to churn at minimum capital employed and generate returns.

Despite the issue size reduction, the company will be flooded with high cash generation as it will repay the full long term borrowing of ₹1,100 crore and save on interest cost and also fund the entire capex (capital expenditure) requirement through equity.

# AGS Transact Tech prices IPO at ₹166-175 per share

**SUNDAR SETHURAMAN**  
Mumbai, 14 January

AGS Transact Technologies has priced its initial public offering (IPO) between ₹166 to ₹175 per share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 85 Equity Shares and in multiples of 85 Equity Shares after that.

The IPO is an offer for sale of ₹680 crore. The IPO will open on January 19 and conclude on January 21. The company is a payment solutions provider in India, providing digital and cash-based solutions to banks

and corporates.

The company provides customised products and services comprising ATM and CRM outsourcing, cash management and digital payment solutions, including merchant solutions, transaction processing services and mobile wallets. As of March 31, 2021, AGS Transact was the second largest company in India in terms of revenue from ATM managed services under the outsourcing model, revenue from cash management, and the number of ATMs replenished.

## THE COMPASS

# JSW Steel to expand Vijayanagar plant by 5 mtpa, invest ₹15,000 cr

**SURESH P. IYENGAR**  
Mumbai, January 7

JSW Steel has laid the foundation stone for enhancing the production capacity by 5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 18 mtpa at its Vijayanagar plant in Bellari, Karnataka, with an investment of ₹15,000 crore.

This brownfield expansion project, which is being undertaken through JSW Steel's wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Vijayanagar Metallics, is expected to be completed by FY24.

The expansion project will be spread over 600 acres and include a 4.5 mtpa blast furnace, two steel melt shops of 350 tonnes each, and a 5 mtpa hot strip mill besides other allied and auxiliary facilities.

JSW Steel has already received the environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and preliminary clearance from the Single Window



Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Steel

High-Level Clearance Committee of the Karnataka government.

### Increasing capacity

The company is already in the process of increasing the capacity at Vijayanagar by one mtpa to 13 mtpa in 12 months as part of the roadmap to achieve 18 mtpa at the Vijayanagar Works Steel facility.

Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Union Minister for Steel, who was

at the stone-laying ceremony on Friday, said the expansion projects will help in augmenting the availability of quality steel.

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Steel, said the project will be executed by leveraging on the company's strong project capabilities and track record. The new investments planned will create new job opportunities and generate immense value for all stakeholders. Through introduction of artificial intelligence and other industry 4.0 interventions at this facility, it will become an integral part of the company's network of digitally connected smart steel factories in India, he added.

JSW Steel's manufacturing unit in Vijayanagar is the largest single-location integrated steel-making facility in India with a current capacity of 12 mtpa. As part of its next phase of growth, the company is targeting an overall capacity of 37.5 mtpa in India and the US by FY25.

# Dilip Buildcon at 1-yr lo

## Indifi ties up with Google Pay to source loans

Indifi announced a partnership with Alphabet's Google Pay for helping it source new lending opportunities from merchants. Google Pay has 10 million merchants, who will be given the option of availing a pre-approved loan, based largely on their payment receipts data, Aditya Harkauli, chief business officer at Indifi, said. **PTI**

**STATE-WISE PHASES** | The table shows the State-wise and phase-wise polling dates

| State                               | No. of phases | Poll dates  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Uttar Pradesh</b><br>(403 seats) | <b>7</b>      | Feb. 10, Feb. 14, Feb. 20, Feb. 23, Feb. 27, March 3, March 7 |
| <b>Punjab</b> (117)                 | <b>1</b>      | February 14   |
| <b>Uttarakhand</b><br>(70)          | <b>1</b>      | February 14   |
| <b>Manipur</b><br>(60)              | <b>2</b>      | Feb. 27, March 3  |
| <b>Goa</b> (40)                     | <b>1</b>      | February 14   |

**SKOCH Award for Assam mission on malnutrition**

GUWAHATI

A mission to combat malnourishment among children aged six months to 5 years has earned the SKOCH Award for southern Assam's Cachar district. The SKOCH Award recognises people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

**SJVN to build 125 MW solar projects in Uttar Pradesh**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, January 11

STATE-RUN SJVN SAID on Tuesday that it has received letters of intent to build solar power projects of cumulative 125 mega-watt (MW) capacity in Uttar Pradesh. As much as 75 MW of the plants will be built in Jalaun district, while the remaining capacity will be set up in the Kanpur Dehat district. The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation will buy power from these projects for 25 years at ₹2.98/unit. With this allotment, SJVN now has 1,670

MW of solar power projects which are scheduled to be commissioned in FY24.

“With this allotment, SJVN now has 1,670 MW of solar power projects under different stages of execution,” SJVN chairman and managing director Nand Lal Sharma said. As much as 59.9% of the shares of SJVN — earlier known as the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam — is held by the Central government while the state government of Himachal Pradesh owns 26.9% of the company. Around 2,017 MW of SJVN’s power capacity is currently

under operation and it aims to become a 12,000 MW company by 2030.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has recently granted trading license to the company as it aims to be a “one-stop source” for any generator and consumer wanting to trade power in the country. By December-end, the company had utilised 90% of its FY22 capex target of ₹4,510 crore. For FY23, it is aiming a capex of ₹8,000 crore. SJVN clocked its highest ever quarterly power generation of 1,480 million units in Q3FY22.

**SJVN gets category 'I' licence for inter-state trading of electricity**

STATE-OWNED SJVN ON Monday said it has been given category 'I' licence for the inter-state trading of power in the entire country by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. “The company has been granted a category 'I' licence for inter-state trading in electricity in the whole of India by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission vide its order dated January 10, 2022,” according to a BSE filing.

DTI

## FIRST BLOCKCHAIN DEAL

# Axis Bank Issues LC on Govt's SLDE Platform

Saikat.Das1@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Axis Bank issued the industry's first letter of credit (LC) on the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE), a government-backed blockchain-enabled platform, in what could be a signal that the regulator and the government are adopting a positive stance on blockchain technology though they are averse to cryptocurrencies.

The deal involved ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India and the bank's client Lalit Pipes & Pipes (LPPL). The bank released an LC on behalf of LPPL, which required such a non-fund-based credit line for a business transaction with AM/NS. The entire deal was done digitally on the platform.

Last July, the commerce ministry launched such a digital platform, primarily aimed at replacing the manual process of generation, exchange and compliance of logistics documents with a digitised and secure document exchange system.

# India, South Korea agree to resolve issues to achieve \$50bn trade by '30

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** India and South Korea on Tuesday agreed to expand trade by upgrading the existing bilateral agreement and resolving industry specific issues to achieve \$50 billion bilateral trade by 2030.

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal and Korean trade minister Yeo Han-Koo on Tuesday held "wide ranging discussions" covering bilateral trade and investment-related matters in New Delhi, a commerce ministry statement said. "The Ministers agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Agreement) up-gradation negotiations and also promote extensive B2B (business-to-business) interactions on trade and investment between the industry leaders of the two countries," it said.

The two ministers agreed with "the spirit of openness" to address difficulties expressed by industry from both sides and instructed their respective negotiating teams to meet on a regular basis in order to conclude the CEPA up-gradation negotiations as soon as possible to achieve the target of \$50 billion before 2030, which was agreed at the summit meeting in 2018, it said.

"The ministers agreed to boost bilateral trade between India and Korea to achieve

growth in a fair and balanced manner to the mutual advantage of both sides," it added.

The Indian side has been pushing for a review of CEPA finalised in 2009 to bridge its high trade deficit with South Korea, according to two officials who requested anonymity. "The discussion will focus on addressing the large trade deficit, market access issues and non-tariff barriers faced by Indian exporters and discussions will also focus on investment-related issues," said a commerce ministry statement issued on Monday.

South Korea's total foreign direct investment to India up to September 2020 was about \$6.94 billion. It is one of the key investors in India.

## Alexa is headed to the moon on Nasa's Orion spacecraft

Nasa's return to the moon through the Artemis I mission series is expected to witness many firsts such as the first woman and the first person of colour on the lunar surface. Another first would be Alexa becoming the first digital assistant to travel its space. An advanced version of Alexa will fly aboard Nasa's Orion spacecraft, reports Business Insider. Nasa, in collaboration with engineers from Amazon, Cisco and Lockheed Martin, is working on embedding an advanced version of Alexa into the Callisto payload. Alexa will be integrated in custom-designed space-grade hardware that is strong enough to withstand intense shock and vibrations, and radiation exposure as well. Alexa will be able to provide answers to mission-specific questions such as, "Alexa, how fast is Orion traveling?" or "Alexa, what's the temperature in the cabin?"

## Foxconn to restart India iPhone plant

Apple Inc. put Foxconn Technology Group's factory in southern India on probation following worker protests and an investigation that revealed substandard living conditions.

Foxconn, which uses the facility to assemble iPhones among other gadgets, apologized for the lapses in health standards and pledged to revamp its management and operations in the country. The factory, located in Sriperumbudur on the outskirts of Chennai, was shut down after the protests and will resume operations once "necessary improvements" are made.

Apple's key assembly partner has grappled with labour issues in the past, particularly in China, where it makes most of the world's iPhones among other devices from laptops to tablets and gaming consoles for major global brands.

**BLOOMBERG**