

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

National / State News

1. Consider the following statements with respect to the **National Startup Awards 2021**:
1. A total of 46 Startups have been declared as winners of National Startup Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.
 2. Applications were invited for National Startup Awards 2021 in 15 sectors and 49 sub-sectors.
- Which Of The Following Statements Are Correct ?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

A total of 46 Startups have been declared as winners of National Startup Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.

- Applications were invited for National Startup Awards 2021 in 15 sectors and 49 sub-sectors
- Six special categories were also introduced to recognize exceptional Startups contributing to the good of society
- In the 2021 edition of awards, exceptional startups innovating solutions to promote Indic languages were also recognized
- All applicants for National Startup Awards 2021 were evaluated against six broad parameters. On 15 January, PM Modi announced that January 16 will be celebrated as National Start-up Day.
- National Startup Awards were conceived by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to recognize and reward outstanding Startups.

2. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the findings of the Oxfam report?
1. The budgetary allocation for **social security schemes has increased from 0.5% to 1.5% of the total Union budget.**
 2. **The bottom 50 percent of the population owned only 6% of the country's wealth in 2021.**
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only**
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. None of the above

Oxfam report has found that the income of 84 percent of households has declined while the number of billionaires has increased from 102 to 142 in 2021

The Oxfam report titled "Inequality Kills" has been released ahead of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda.

- **India's healthcare budget has declined by 10% from RE (revised estimates) of 2020-21. The budgetary allocation for social security schemes has declined from 1.5% to 0.6% of the total Union budget The government has cut down the budgetary allocation to education by 6%.**
- **2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people reached a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion).**
- **According to this report, the bottom 50 percent of the population owns only 6% of the country's wealth in 2021**
- **Oxfam India is a non-profit organization working to support child education, empowering women & fighting against inequality in India**

OXFAM REPORT

In 2021, income of 84% households fell, but number of billionaires grew

ESHAROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 16

THE INCOME of 84 per cent of households in the country declined in 2021, but at the same time the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142, an Oxfam report has said, pointing to a stark income divide worsened by the Covid pandemic.

The Oxfam report, "Inequality Kills", released on Sunday ahead of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda, also found that as Covid continued to ravage India, the country's healthcare budget saw a 10% decline from RE (revised estimates) of 2020-21. There was a 6% cut in allocation for education, the Oxfam report says, while the budgetary allocation for social security schemes declined from 1.5% of the total Union budget to 0.6%.

The India supplement of the global report also says that in 2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion). In the same year, the share of the bottom 50 per cent of the population in national wealth was a mere 6 per cent.

During the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30, 2021), the report says, the wealth of Indian billion-

aires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore (USD 313 billion) to Rs 53.16 lakh crore (USD 719 billion). More than 4.6 crore Indians, meanwhile, are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020, nearly half of the global new poor according to the United Nations.

India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world, just behind China and the United States, says the report, with more billionaires than France, Sweden and Switzerland combined — a 39 per cent increase in the number of billionaires in India in 2021.

The report says, "this surge comes at a time when India's unemployment rate was as high as 15 per cent in urban areas and the healthcare system was on the brink of collapse."

Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar said the global briefing points to the "stark reality of inequality contributing to the death of at least 21,000 people each day, or one person every four seconds".

"The pandemic has set gender parity back from 99 years to now 135 years. Women collectively lost Rs 59.11 lakh crore (USD 800 billion) in earnings in 2020, with 1.3 crore fewer women in work now than in 2019," Behar said.

FULL REPORT ON
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3. In New Delhi, the **National Gallery of Modern Art** has conducted a unique art workshop called **What to paint gigantic scrolls of approximately 750 metres in size, representing the tales of valour of unsung heroes of India's freedom movement ?**

- A. Kala Kumbh**
- B. Art Makakumbh**
- C. Kala Sahitya**
- D. Kala Nirtya**

In New Delhi, the National Gallery of Modern Art has conducted a unique art workshop called Kala Kumbh.

An art workshop has been organized to paint gigantic scrolls of approximately 750 metres in size, representing the tales of valour of unsung heroes of India's freedom movement.

This year's Republic Day celebration will include these large-scale artworks on giant scrolls. National Gallery of Modern Art: It is a major art gallery under the Ministry of Culture.

Its main museum was established by the Government of India on 29 March 1954 at Jaipur House, New Delhi. Presently,

Adwaita Gadanayak is the Director-General of the National Gallery of Modern Art.

4. The **Defence Ministry** has set up an online portal to resolve **pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. What Is The Name Of The Portal ?**

- A. Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal**
- B. Raksha Pension Sahayata Nivaran Portal**
- C. Rashtra Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal**
- D. Raksha Pension Shikayat National Portal**

The Defence Ministry has set up an online portal to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal will help military pensioners in knowing their status of grievances

- Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) has allocated ₹320 crores to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) for removing the pending backlog of applications for welfare schemes
- Directorate General of Resettlement works under the aegis of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW). Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare is a department under the Ministry of Defence

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5. Which of the following statements is correct about the **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme**?
1. **C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)** will be the nodal agency for this programme.
 2. It will provide training to 85,000 high-quality and qualified engineers in the field of **Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) and Embedded System Design**.
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has sought applications from 100 academia, R&D organisations, start-ups and MSMEs under its Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme

- Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme will provide an incentive package to companies involved in the manufacturing and design of semiconductors
- December 2021, the Union government had approved a Rs 76,000 crore scheme for boosting the manufacturing of semiconductors in India
- C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), a scientific society operating under MeitY, will serve as the nodal agency for the programm

6. Recently In Janaury Which of the following has been declared as the **First Sanitary Napkin-free Village of India**?
- A. Chitkul
- B. Janjehli
- C. Kumbalangi**
- D. Lachen

Kumbalangi village of Ernakulum district has been declared as the First Sanitary Napkin-free Village of India

- Under the **Avalkayi (for her)** initiative, around 5,000 menstrual cups have been distributed to women aged 18 and above
- Avalkayi' (for her) scheme was implemented with the help of HLL Management Academy and Indian Oil Corporation Earlier, Kumbalangi was also declared as India's first model tourism village

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7. Consider The following statements about the **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Yojana**?
1. It was launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
 2. The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** is organizing the **26th CISO Deep Dive Training program** under the **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**.
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organizing the 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program

- It will be organized from 17th January 2022 to 22nd January 2022. This training program is a part of a series of workshops organized by the National e-Governance Department of the Ministry under the Cyber Safe India Initiative.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had launched Cyber Security Program in 2018 in order to empower CISOs and train them to meet these challenges of Cyber Security
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Yojana is an initiative to improve the cyber security system in India under the Digital India vision. It was launched in cooperation with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and various industry partners in India

8. Which of the following is correct about the **Yogyata app**?
1. It has been launched by **CBSE**.
 2. It will provide courses on many subjects like **Cyber Security, CAD, and 3D printing, etc.**
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Common Services Centers' have launched the "Yogyata" app to provide vocational education and skill enhancement training to youths of rural areas.

- The Yogyata app will provide courses on many subjects like Cyber Security, CAD, and 3D printing, etc.
- The Yogyata app will help in making youths employable and providing quality education.
- Common Services Centers (CSC) are physical facilities for delivering e-services of Government in rural areas Dinesh Tyagi, Managing Director, CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd

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9. **Indian Army introduced a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel on Army Day. The new Army Combat Pattern Uniform has been developed with the help of which of the following ?**
- A. Common Services Centers (CSC)
 - B. DRDO
 - C. National Institute of Fashion Technology**
 - D. Central Direct Purchase Centres (CDPC)

The Indian Army will soon have a new combat uniform, specially designed for it by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

□ The new design entails several smart tweaks made to the fabric, the weight, and also the camouflage pattern.

□ On January 15, celebrated as Army Day every year, the new combat uniform for the Indian Army was unveiled. It will be made available in a phased manner to nearly 12 lakh personnel of the Indian Army

New combat uniform unveiled on Army Day

Rahul Singh

rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army on Saturday unveiled a new battledress that will provide soldiers better camouflage and more comfort at an impressive parade in Delhi Cantonment to mark the 74th Army Day. The highlight of the parade was a refreshing blend of the old and the new to demonstrate the army's evolution over the years.

The elite warriors of the Parachute Regiment took part in the parade sporting the new battle fatigues with a digital camouflage pattern that will gradually replace the existing decades-old combat uniform, even as marching contingents from the Assam Regiment and the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry turned heads with the soldiers donning vintage uniforms from the 1960s and 1970s.

Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane inspected the Army Day parade that was attended by Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and top officers of the armed forces. **January 15 is celebrated as Army Day, as it was on this day in 1949 General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa took over the command of the Indian Army from General FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief.**



A marching contingent of the Parachute Regiment in the army's new combat uniform, at KM Cariappa Parade Ground.

The parade ground in Delhi Cantonment is named after Cariappa. The new combat uniform pattern was selected after a careful study of the army's working requirements and the need to introduce uniformity in battle fatigues worn by soldiers. **The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) helped the army finalise the new uniform.**

While paratroopers sporting the new battledress took part in the parade with their trademark Tavor TAR-21 assault rifles, soldiers from the Assam Regiment were attired in their service uniform from the 1960s and marched with their vintage .303 rifles. The military hardware showcased included tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery guns and surface-to-air

missiles – weapons systems.

But the format of the parade was different this time. The main battle tank Arjun featured in the parade alongside the vintage Centurion tank that took part in the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

Another vintage element was the OT-62 Topas armoured personnel carrier inducted into the army in the 1960s. It led the mechanised infantry column of BMP-II infantry combat vehicles. Also, the locally made 155mm 45-calibre Dhanush towed artillery guns followed the vintage 75/24 Indian field gun from the 1960s. "The Army Day Parade this year showcased the evolution of various weapon systems held in the Indian Army's inventory," the army said.

WON'T ALLOW ANY CHANGE IN STATUS QUO AT BORDER, SAYS ARMY CHIEF

HT Correspondent

teeters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The army will thwart an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along India's border, army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said on Saturday.

His remarks come at a time when the country is locked in a border row with China, and negotiations are ongoing to cool tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

In his address at the Army Day parade, the army chief referred to the developments along the northern border with China and described last year as "challenging". India and China held the 14th round of military talks between corps commanders on January 12 to keep the border situation under control, he said.

The dialogue failed to yield any positive outcomes, although both countries said they would work towards mutually acceptable solutions to resolve the 20-month standoff.

"Our patience is a symbol of our self-confidence," Naravane said. "No one should make the mistake of testing our patience."

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10. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the , *India's first intelligent chronic disease patient habit tracking system* in January 2022 What Is The Name Of The App ?

- A. Madhavbaug's Power Maker
- B. Madhavbaug's Power CAPSULE
- C. Madhavbaug's Power MAP**
- D. Madhavbaug's Power SALUTE

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, on 15th January 2022, inaugurated Madhavbaug's (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd), Power MAP, in a ceremony that was held digitally.

Power MAP is a medical analytics application developed by Madhavbaug under the trusted leadership of their CEO, Dr Rohit Sane.

The application is built for doctors to help them get necessary medical intelligence regarding a patient's clinical parameters to reverse their chronic diseases effectively.

Madhavbaug (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd), is a unique medical service institution that treats chronic ailments like cardiac disease, diabetes, hypertension and obesity with the distinctive outlook of amalgamating technology with traditional healing of Ayurveda

11. Recently In January Cabinet of which of the following states has given its approval to '*Mana Vooru Mana Badi*' scheme for better infrastructure facilities and quality education in the government schools?

- A. Telangana**
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

The Telangana government will be developing the state-run schools to make them on par with the working of corporate schools in terms of infrastructure and teaching facilities

- The programme – Mana Vooru, Mana Badi (Our village, our school) – was approved during the state cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao
 - The programme would be implemented in 26,065 schools being run by the government and panchayat raj bodies in three phases at a total cost of ₹7,289.54 crore in a span of three years

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12. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the **National Technical Textiles Mission**?

1. Recently, government has approved **20 strategic research projects** under the **National Technical Textiles Mission**.
2. The government had launched **National Technical Textiles Mission** for a period of **10 years**.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 And 2
- D. None Of The Above

Ministry of Textiles has approved 20 strategic research projects in the field of Specialty fibers and geotextiles under the National Technical Textiles Mission.

Amongst the 20 Research projects, 5 projects are in healthcare, 4 projects are in industrial and protective, 3 are in energy storage, 3 projects are in textile waste recycling and 4 projects are in geotextile.

Earlier, the government had approved 11 research projects worth INR 78.60 Crores on 26 March 2021.

Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products that are used primarily for technical performance and functional properties. National Technical Textiles Mission: The government has launched a National Technical Textiles Mission for promoting research and development in the textile sector. The government had launched National Technical Textiles Mission for a period of 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24) with an outlay of Rs.1480 crores.

13. Recently In January Which edition of the **Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation** has been recently organized by the government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum?

- A. 6th
- B. 7th
- C. 8th
- D. 4th

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav addressed the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation.

- The government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum (GTF) has organized the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation.
- The draft declaration on tiger conservation for Global Tiger Summit was finalized at a "Pre-Tiger Summit" in New Delhi in 2010.
- The government has increased budgetary allocation for tiger conservation from Rs 185 crore in 2014 to Rs 300 crore in 2022

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14. In January 2022, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched new rehabilitation & resettlement policy of Which Of The Following ?

- A. Coal India Ltd
- B. GAIL (India) Ltd
- C. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- D. NLC India Ltd**

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi, has launched new rehabilitation & resettlement policy of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL).

The new rehabilitation & resettlement policy will be applicable to landowners of the NLCIL mines area.

The Minister said that there is a provision to provide more facilities to the project affected families in the new policy. He said that NLCIL has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government to impart skill development to the youth under Skill India Mission.

NLC India Ltd: It is a Navratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Coal. It was founded in 1956. It is headquartered in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu

Coal minister launches new R&R policy of NLC India
COAL MINISTER PRALHAD Joshi on Monday launched a new rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) policy of NLC India and stressed that compensation to the affected villagers will be based on the fair and transparent process. He said the new policy has provisions for enhanced amenities to the project-affected families.

15. Recently In January Which Village Of Jammu And Kashmir Has Become The First Milk Village of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the Union Territory ?

- A. Jerri Helmet**
- B. Khushpur
- C. Anantnag
- D. Mirzou

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared Jerri hamlet as the first 'Milk Village' of Jammu and Kashmir.

- The government has sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.
- Under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), dairy units with five animals will get a subsidy of 50%.
- A cooperative of 11 women has been also formed in hamlet for collection and transportation of milk.

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- 16. Recently In January Which organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad's National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR)?**
- A. National Centre for Good Governance**
 - B. National Co-operative Development Corporation**
 - C. National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre**
 - D. National Institute of Health and Family Welfare**

The government of India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Hyderabad located National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17 January 2022.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to enhance inclusive good governance, local institution strengthening, and the effective implementation of government programs.

The main objective of this agreement is to bring better good governance mechanisms into practice by combining the strength of these two national organizations. National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG): The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) is an independent organization within the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Indian government.

Initially, the National Centre for Good Governance was established as the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR). Its headquarters is in New Delhi. Shri V. Srinivas is the additional Secretary of DARPG and Director General of the NCGG. NIAR was subsequently rechristened with an expanded mandate, as National Centre for Good Governance, which was inaugurated on February 24th, 2014.

- 17. Recently In January Statehood day of which of the following groups of northeastern states of India falls on 21st January?**
- A. Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh**
 - B. Assam, Manipur and Tripura**
 - C. Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya**
 - D. Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya**

India every year on January 21 observes the Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya signifying the beauty of cultural diversity that India has.

50th Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya is also an opportunity to remember India of what it was and how we know it today.

January 21 marks an important historical event as on this day North East Reorganisation Act, 1971 was implemented providing statehood to Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur which is also known as the foundation day of these three states of India.

18. Recently In January How many cities have been selected as winners of the Streets for People Challenge?

- A. 13
- B. 12
- C. 11**
- D. 10

Bengaluru, Gurugram among 11 winners of govt's 'Streets for People Challenge'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 18

THE UNION HOUSING and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said 11 cities, including Bengaluru, Gurugram and Aurangabad, have been selected as the winners of the 'Streets for People Challenge' for their pilot projects to make roads more pedestrian-friendly.

In a statement, the ministry said under the challenge, 38 cities had piloted re-imaginings of an important street each by prioritising them for pedestrians.

Eleven cities have been selected by a jury panel for the next phase of scale-up and will be awarded ₹50 lakh each by

the ministry, the statement stated.

Kochi, Kohima, Nagpur, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, Udaipur, Ujjain and Vijayawada are the remaining eight cities.

While Bengaluru has been selected for creating public spaces in residential area with involvement of resident welfare association, the project of Gurugram has been selected for pedestrianising markets and school zones by involving citizens.

The ministry also announced 10 winners of the pilot stage of the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' that is aimed at shaping early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods in Indian cities.

According to the statement, the challenge was also started in

November 2020 and included 70 pilot projects by 25 cities.



Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected 11 cities as winners of the Streets for People Challenge. Bengaluru, Gurugram, Aurangabad, Kochi, Kohima, Nagpur, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, Udaipur, Ujjain, and Vijayawada are the winners of this challenge.

These cities have been selected for their pilot projects to make roads more pedestrian-friendly.

Bengaluru has been selected for creating public spaces in the residential area with the help of resident welfare association.

Gurugram has been selected for pedestrianizing markets and school zones. Under this challenge, each winner will be awarded Rs 50 lakh for the next phase scale-up. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has also announced 10 winners of the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge'.

'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' was started in November 2020 and included 70 pilot projects by 25 cities. This is a 3-year initiative aimed at supporting early childhood-friendly neighbourhoods under the government's Smart Cities Mission. Under this challenge, Indore has been selected for its pilot project to provide a neighbourhood park to children.

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19. Recently In January The *National Commission for Safai Karamcharis*' tenure has been extended by the Cabinet for how many years?

- A. 1 year
- B. 4 years
- C. 2 years
- D. 3 years**

The Union Cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the term extension of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).

The tenure of NCSK has been extended for a period of three years beyond 31.3.2022.

The Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers throughout the nation are the main beneficiaries of this commission.

According to government stats, there were 58,098 manual scavengers identified in the nation till December 31, 2021. NCSK (National Commission for Safai Karamcharis):

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was established as a statutory body on August 12, 1994, by an act of Parliament. The "National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993" expired on February 29, 2004, and since then, the Commission has been operating as a non-statutory entity of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

20. Recently In January which of the following ministries has signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with *Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU)* in January 2022?

- A. Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- B. Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- C. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- D. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed an MoU with IGNOU to link vocational courses and training with higher education.

The main objective of this MoU is to strengthen the vocational and technical training framework of India and to create work opportunities for Indian youths.

The memorandum has been signed for ten years and is subject to renewal on mutual agreement.

Trainees attached to the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) will be the main beneficiaries of this programme.

Trainees will get a chance to join IGNOU's 3-year degree programme to attain higher education.

Cabinet approves infusion of ₹1,500 crore in IREDA

mint

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved infusion of ₹1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which will help generate 10,200 jobs a year and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately 7.49 million tonnes per year.

The additional equity infusion will enable the mini-ratna company under the ministry of new and renewable energy to lend ₹12,000 crore approximately to the renewable energy sector, thus facilitating the sector's debt requirement of additional capacity of approximately 3,500-4,000 megawatt (MW), the CCEA said after its meeting on Wednesday.

The equity infusion will also enhance the specialised non-banking finance agency's net worth, which will help it in additional financing, thereby contributing better to the government's targets.

It will also improve the capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio to facilitate its lending and borrowing operations, the CCEA said in a statement.

Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur said the IREDA played a big role in the field of renewable energy and its portfolio had increased from ₹8,800 crore to ₹28,000 crore in the past six years.

Key cabinet decisions

₹1,500 CR

INFUSION IN IREDA

The move will enable IREDA lend ₹12k cr to the renewable energy sector

Assist in employment generation

₹974 CR

SANCTIONED FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO BORROWERS

This amount is for the payment of claims submitted by lending institutions (LIs) under the scheme for grant of ex-gratia to borrowers in specified loan accounts during the moratorium period announced by RBI in March 2020.

SBI was given Rs 873.07 crore towards reimbursement of ex-gratia between July 23 and September 22, 2021

"But according to RBI (Reserve Bank of India), the loan can only be lent on 20% of the net worth. The net worth of IREDA is ₹3,000 crore. It could lend loans up to ₹600 crore only," Thakur said, noting the importance of the decision.

Separately, the Union Cabinet approved a scheme for grant of ex gratia payment of ₹973.74 crore, the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months, to borrowers in specified loan accounts.

The government had approved the scheme for six months during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic between

March 1 and August 31, 2020, providing an outlay of ₹5,500 crore for FY21 for distressed or vulnerable borrowers who have taken loans of up to ₹2 crore in the categories of MSME, housing, education, consumer durables, credit card dues, auto loans, personal or professional loans and consumption loans.

State Bank of India (SBI), the nodal agency under the scheme for consequent reimbursement to lending institutions, told the government that it had received consolidated claims of ₹6,473.74 crore, higher than the allocated amount, and has therefore sought additional allocation of the balance amount.

COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARMACHARI EXTENDED TILL 2025

HT Correspondent

hereporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) for three years with effect from April 1 this year.

Announcing the decision, Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur said, "The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis for three years from April 1, 2022. Now it will remain in effect till March 31, 2025."

Modi government is determined to work for the welfare of safai karmacharis, he added. "The commission is responsible for giving recommendations to the government regarding specific programmes for welfare of safai karmacharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for safai karmacharis, investigate cases of specific grievances," he said. The commission was established in 1993 under the NCSK Act.

"The total implication of the extension for three years would be ₹43.68 crore," the government said in a statement.

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21. Recently In Janaury Supreme Court e-Committee chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated two digital services for Which State High court — a ‘Justice Clock’, and electronic payment of court fee ?

- A. Gujarat**
- B. Kerala**
- C. Madras**
- D. Delhi**

Supreme Court e-Committee chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated two digital services for Gujarat High court — a ‘Justice Clock’, and electronic payment of court fee.

An LED display of 7 feet by 10 feet, placed at a height of 17 feet from the ground, has been erected at a busy crossroad near the Gujarat High Court premises.

This ‘Justice Clock’ will exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system in Gujarat, to “maximise outreach and visibility” of the work done by the state judiciary.

The interface has been designed and developed in-house and will display data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) in real-time. A similar format of Gujarat judiciary-related statistics will also be available on the Gujarat HC website under a tab of ‘Virtual Justice Clock’, accessible to all.

- 22. The Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate was merged with the flame at the National War Memorial in New Delhi in January 2022. When Was The Eternal Flame Of Amar JAWAN Jyoti Built To Honour The Indian Soldiers Who Martyred In 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War?**
- A. 1917
B. 1972
 C. 1984
 D. 1936

Amar Jawan Jyoti now merged with War Memorial flame: govt.

Congress and some veterans oppose removal of tribute to 1971 Bangladesh war

DINAKAR PERI
 NEW DELHI

The iconic Amar Jawan Jyoti, which was inaugurated after the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was removed on Friday, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of a statue of Subhas Chandra Bose, restructuring the symbolism around the India Gate.

In the face of protests from the Congress and some veterans, the Centre said the Jyoti was “not extinguished” and only “merged” with the flame at the National War Memorial (NWM). Mr. Modi said that after Independence, new things were constructed only for a “few families” but now, monuments of national importance were being built.

At a ceremony presided over by Air Marshal B.R. Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, a torch with the flame at the Jyoti was carried with full military honours and merged with the NWM flame. The NWM, inaugurated in February 2019,



Change of tradition: Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal B.R. Krishna merging Amar Jawan Jyoti with the flame at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

is located at the ‘C’ Hexagon near India Gate and was built in memory of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country in the post-Independence period. Names of over 26,000 soldiers are inscribed on it.

In a change of tradition, before the commencement of the Republic Day parade in 2020, Mr. Modi paid homage to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the NWM, instead of at the Jyoti.

Since the inauguration of the NWM, all homage ceremonies are being conducted only there. However, defence officials had stated that the Jyoti would be kept burning and used for ceremonial occasions and official visits.

‘No names mentioned’
 Downplaying the controversy that emerged on the issue, a government source said it was odd to see that the Jyoti paid homage to the martyrs

of 1971 and other wars but none of their names were present. “The names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars, including those in 1971 and others before and after it, are at the NWM. Hence it is a true *shraddhanjali* to have the flame paying tribute to martyrs there,” the source said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

UNION GOVT. ERASING HISTORY, SAYS CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 8

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Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate was merged with the flame at the National War Memorial in a solemn ceremony on January 21, 2022.

- The historic ceremony was presided over by the Integrated Defence Staff chief Air Marshal Balabhadra Radha Krishna who will be merging the two flames
- The eternal flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti had been burning for 50 years, ever since it was built in 1972 to honour the Indian soldiers who martyred in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
- National War Memorial was built in the India Gate complex by the Narendra Modi government and inaugurated in February 2019 in memory of all the Indian soldiers and unsung heroes who down their lives for India in different operations starting from the 1947-48 war with Pakistan

23. Prime Minister Modi will unveil a 216-foot 'Statue of Equality' Of statue of Ramanujacharya, At Which Of The Following Place ?

- A. Chennai**
- B. Lucknow**
- C. Hyderabad**
- D. New Delhi**

Prime Minister Modi will unveil a 216-foot 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad on 5 February.

'Statue of Equality' is a statue of Ramanujacharya, a 11th century saint and a social reformer. It is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad

- The inner sanctorum deity of Ramanujacharya is made of 120 kg of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint lived on this earth
- The statue is made of 'panchaloha', a mix of five metals - gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- Statue of Equality will be the world's second tallest statue in a sitting posture. The foundation stone of this statue was laid in 2014. After Gaint Buddha In Thailand Which Is 302 Ft
- This year 1000th birth anniversary of Ramanujacharya will be celebrated across the country. The 54-ft high base of the statue is called 'Bhadra Vedi'

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24. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the recently issued revised guidelines of “Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization” (SMAM)?

1. A contingency expenditure of Rs.6000 per hectare would be provided to agencies interested in hiring drones for demonstrations.
2. The government will provide grants of up to 100 percent or Rs 10 lakh whichever is less to agricultural institutes for purchasing drones.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

To promote drone technology in agriculture, the Government has issued revised guidelines of “Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization” (SMAM).

- The government will provide grants of up to 100 percent or Rs 10 lakh whichever is less under the “Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization” to the agricultural institutes for purchasing drones
 - The grant will be provided to Farm Machinery Training and, Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities for large-scale demonstrations of drones on the farmers’ fields.
- The Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) could get grants up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drones.
- A contingency expenditure of Rs. 6000 per hectare would be also provided to agencies interested in hiring drones for demonstrations
 - Custom Hiring Centers set up by Cooperative Society of Farmers, FPOs and Rural entrepreneurs will receive a grant of 40 percent or Rs. 4 lakhs, whichever less to provide agricultural services through drones.

25. The Union Environment Ministry will provide ranking to State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs). Which of the following statements is correct regarding it?

1. Under the proposed ranking system, SEIAAs will be graded between 0 and 1 on five parameters.
2. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which clears projects in the shortest time will get the lowest rank.

Which Of The Following Sattaement Is Correct ?

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

Centre to rank states on rapid green nods

Prayag Arora-Desai

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Union environment ministry plans to rank states, specifically state environment impact assessment authorities (SEIAAs), on the speed with which they accord environmental clearances (EC) to development projects, a move that has drawn criticism from experts and activists who say this could result in more projects being cleared without proper due diligence.

The criteria for the ranking was detailed in an office memorandum sent by the ministry to all SEIAAs on January 17, and HT has reviewed a copy of it. "It has been decided to incentivize the states through a star-rating

The proposed ranking system

The system aims to incentivise speedy clearances

What will drive scores up?

- Quick approvals for requests for environment clearance or terms of reference (ToR) for projects
- The overall number of complaints getting addressed
- Clearing of proposals for new or approved ToRs disposed between 30-120 days of application

What might drive scores down

- Multiple site visits for inspection
- Multiple requests for additional information

How ratings will be generated

- On five parameters, agencies will get either a 0 or 1 mark
- On the overall number of days to grant a clearance, an agency can earn up to 2 marks

system, based on efficiency and timeliness in grant of EC. This is intended as a mode of recognition and encouragement as well as for prompting improvements where needed," it added.

Such a ranking system, the memo said, was first tabled dur-

ing a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary on November 13, to discuss actions taken by the ministry to facilitate "ease of doing business".

As per the proposed ranking system, SEIAAs will be graded

continued on → 18

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The Union Environment Ministry will provide ranking to State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) based on the speed of giving environmental clearances (EC) to development projects.

Under the proposed ranking system, SEIAAs will be graded between 0 and 1 on five parameters. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which clears projects in the shortest time will get the highest rank.

An SEIAA will get 2 marks for granting clearance in less than 80 days; 1 for less than 105 days; 0.5 for 105-120 days; and 0 for over 120 days. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) will also get a ranking based on the disposal of fresh Terms of Reference (TOR) proposals pending for over 30 days. SEIAAs can be ranked as 5,4,3,2 and 1-star based on their cumulative score. An SEIAA getting less than 3 marks will get no star.

SEIAAs are responsible for providing environmental clearance for infrastructure, developmental and industrial projects

26. In January 2022, the governments of which of the following states signed an MoU for the construction of *Adi Badri Dam*?

- A. Himachal Pradesh and Haryana**
- B. Uttarakhand and Haryana**
- C. Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh**
- D. Punjab and Haryana**

Adi Badri Dam would be constructed near Adi Badri area of Haryana's Yamuna Nagar district.

- The aim of the proposed dam is the rejuvenation of Saraswati River with an estimated cost of Rs 215.35 crore. The dam would also help in water conservation in the region.
- The Dam would get 224 hectare metre water from Himachal Pradesh's Somb River that falls in Yamuna near Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar district
- The executing agency for the construction of Adi Badri Dam would be Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited. □ Adi Badri, also Sri Sarasvati Udgam Tirath, is located in the foothills of the Sivalik Hills in Bhabar area. It is situated in northern part of Haryana's Yamunanagar district.

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27. The Digital University Kerala, along with which of the following will set up India's first Graphene R&D incubation centre?

- A. CMET-Trichur
- B. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- C. DRDO
- D. IIT Madras

state-run Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with CMET-Trichur, is gearing up to set up India Innovation Centre for Graphene, the country's first graphene R&D incubation centre in Kerala

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India, has given approval for the Rs 86.41 crore-project.
- The centre, which will be implemented with the support of Government of Kerala, has the potential to accelerate the state's growth in the knowledge industry sector
 - Tata Steel Ltd will be the industrial partner of the centre,
- Graphene is the thinnest and strongest material in the world ever known and has good chemical stability

28. Recently In January Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Has Infused How Much Amount In The State Run Solar Energy Corporation Of India For Financing Renewable Energy Of 3300 MW ?

- A. Rs 500 Cr
- B. Rs 1000 Cr**
- C. Rs 1500 Cr
- D. Rs 2000 Cr

The Ministry of New and Renewable Ministry (MNRE) on Saturday said it will infuse ₹1,000 crore in state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) as it eyes financing renewable energy (RE) capacity of 3,300 megawatt (MW).

The equity infusion will increase SECI's net worth, thereby boosting its lending capacity. As per RBI norms, an agency can extend loans on 20 per cent of its net worth.

SECI also has a Category-I trading license from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to carry out power trading on a pan-India basis. This is part of the government's thrust on renewable energy (RE).

India is home to one of the world's largest RE programmes, with a target of 175 gigawatts (GW) of installed RE capacity by 2022.

MNRE to infuse ₹1,000 cr in Solar Energy Corporation

RISHI RANJAN KALA
New Delhi, January 22

The Ministry of New and Renewable Ministry (MNRE) on Saturday said it will infuse ₹1,000 crore in the state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) as it eyes financing renewable energy (RE) capacity of 3,300 megawatt (MW).

"The government has approved an equity infusion of ₹1,000 crore in Solar Energy Corporation of India. This will enhance SECI's capital asset base, facilitate installation of additional 3,300 MW RE projects and enable it to take up several innovative projects," MNRE said in a statement.

Bids invited

The equity infusion will increase SECI's net worth, thereby boosting its lending capacity. As per RBI norms, an agency can extend loans on 20 per cent of its net worth. SECI's net worth grew 25.56 per cent y-o-y to ₹873.58 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2021, from ₹695.72 crore a year ago, which enabled it to borrow to the extent of ₹2,620.74 crore at a debt-equity ratio of 3:1.

Last month, the agency invited bids for supplying 1,200 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules. The last date for submitting the EoIs is January 21 and the modules have to be delivered in FY 2024.

SECI is the implementing agency for various schemes for the development of solar, wind and hybrid power in the country. As of December 2021, it has successfully awarded more than 50 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity across the country, out of which 32.69 GW is solar power, 12.73 GW is wind power and 5.35 GW is hybrid power. Besides, it has operational capex projects of 21 MW capacity under its ownership and the company is looking to expand its portfolio in renewable energy.

BusinessLine

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29. With reference to the *Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA)*, consider the following statements

1. It is the *first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India*.
2. It is arguably *Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists*.

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

The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies. Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with the participation of over 1,000 volunteers of the birdwatching community, the KBA has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020.

The KBA accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species. It is arguably Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists.

It was found that the species count was higher during the dry season than in the wet season while species richness and evenness were higher in the northern and central districts than in the southern districts.

tre unmindful of the snowfall in Tangmarg, north Kashmir, on

A design for the memorial submitted by the Sainik Wel-

the next financial year, at the earliest.

Kerala gets its first ever scientific bird atlas

KBA is arguably Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent

M.P. PRAVEEN
KOCHI

The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies.

Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with the participation of over 1,000 volunteers of the bird-watching community, the KBA has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020.

The KBA accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare spe-



The atlas has created baseline data about the distribution of bird species.

cies, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species. "The KBA offers authentic, consistent and comparable data through

random sampling from the geographical terrain split into nearly 4,000 grids. We are in the process of bringing out papers on interesting trends based on a scientific analysis of solid data besides making futuristic predictions. It will be exciting to undertake a similar exercise between 2025 and 2030, giving an insight into the changes in the decade since the first KBA," says P.O. Nameer, one of the State-level coordinators of the KBA.

It is arguably Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists. It was found that the species count was higher during the dry season than in the wet season while species richness and evenness were

higher in the northern and central districts than in the southern districts.

Most of the endemics were concentrated in the Western Ghats while the threatened species were mostly along the coast. The KBA is considered to be a valuable resource for testing various ecological hypotheses and suggesting science-backed conservation measures.

Volunteers were divided into survey teams of two to five members. They were deployed across all 14 districts armed with technological tools such as Locus Free, an Android GPS application, and eBird platform for seamless conduct of the survey and documentation.

The survey ignored the short duration passage of migrant species.

<https://t.me/thehindufreehd>

30. *Saab's AT4 anti-armour weapon had been selected by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force through a competitive programme for a single-shot weapon. Saab Is Defence Major Company Of Which Of The Following Country ?*

- A. Israel
- B. Sweden**
- C. Russia
- D. US

Swedish defence major Saab's AT4 anti-armour weapon had been selected by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force through a competitive programme for a single-shot weapon.

The Indian armed forces are a new customer for AT4. This order includes the AT4CS AST, which can be fired from confined spaces such as from inside buildings, bunkers and other urban environments. It weighs around 9 kg and has an effective range of 200 m.

The AT4 systems are combat-proven across the world. They are lightweight, single-shot, fully disposable and truly characterised by its ease of use and handling. Operated by a single soldier, this single-shot system had proven efficacy against structures, landing craft, helicopters, armoured vehicles and personnel.

Saab wins AT4 weapon contract

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Swedish defence major Saab's AT4 anti-armour weapon had been selected by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force through a competitive programme for a single-shot weapon, the company said on Wednesday.

"The Indian armed forces are a new customer for AT4. This order includes the AT4CS AST, which can be fired from confined spaces such as from inside buildings, bunkers and other urban environments," Saab said in a statement. It weighs around 9 kg and has an effective range of 200 m.

+ The AT4 systems are combat-proven across the world. They are lightweight, single-shot, fully disposable and truly characterised by its ease of use and handling. This selection of the system through a competitive process underscores Saab's commitment to bringing to Indian forces the latest systems," said Ola Rignell, Chairman and MD, Saab India.

The AT4CS AST offered a tandem warhead with a breach or blast mode, which was optimised to defeat enemies within buildings and to destroy structures, which could create a point of access into them, the statement noted.

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31. Which of the following country has recently emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world?

- A. Australia**
- B. China**
- C. Japan**
- D. India**

India becomes largest gherkins exporter

Staff writer
 feedback@livemint.com
 NEW DELHI



The seedless baby cucumber is also called 'chota khira' in the Indian market.

MAKSYM KOZLENKO

India has become the largest exporter of gherkins, baby cucumbers typically used for pickling, with shipments crossing \$200 million in FY21, the commerce and industry ministry said.

The seedless baby cucumber used in pickles is also called 'chota khira' in the Indian market.

In FY21, India had shipped over 2.23 trillion tonnes of cucumber and gherkins—also known as cornichons—worth \$223 million, the ministry said.

Following directions from the department of commerce, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) took steps to develop infrastructure, promote the product in world markets and to ensure food safety compliance in processing units.

Gherkins are exported in two forms—either as prepared and preserved by vinegar or acetic acid or as provisionally preserved.

Gherkin cultivation, processing and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in

Karnataka and later extended to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Nearly 15% of the world's gherkin requirement is grown in India now.

It is exported to more than 20 countries, with major destinations being the US, France, Germany, Australia, Spain, South Korea, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Russia, China, Sri Lanka and Israel.

India's export of agricultural produce other than plantation

crops is led by rice, buffalo meat, sugar, cotton and oil meals. In FY21, rice shipments excluding basmati scaled \$4.7

billion. The government's idea is to diversify the export basket and markets and increase the share of high-value and value-added products with a focus on perishables.

Increasing farmer's income is a priority for the administration.

The cultivation of gherkins is carried out under contract

farming by around 90,000 small and marginal farmers on a production area of 65,000 acres. Processed gherkins are exported in bulk as industrial raw material and in jars as ready to eat. Its bulk production is still occupying a high share of the gherkin market. here are about 51 major Indian companies producing and exporting gherkins in drums and ready-to-eat packs.

On an average, a gherkin farmer produces four tonnes per acre per crop and earns about ₹80,000 with a net income of ₹40,000. Gherkin has a 90-day crop and farmers take two crops annually.

India has emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world.

India has crossed the USD 200 million mark of export of agricultural processed product, - pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as gherkins or cornichons, in the last financial year

.Gherkins are exported under two categories -- cucumbers and gherkins, which are prepared and preserved by vinegar or acetic acid and cucumbers and gherkins, which are provisionally preserved.

Gherkins is currently exported to more than 20 countries, dia, cultivation of gherkins is carried out under contract farming by around 90,000 small and marginal farmers with an annual production area of 65,000 acres.

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32. Recently In Janaury Which Among The Following Has Been Awarded The *Netaji Award 2022* Constituted By *Netaji Research Beareau* ?

- A. Scott Morisson**
- B. Shinzo Abe**
- C. Donald Trump**
- D. Shiekh Hasina**

Former Japan prime minister Shinzo Abe, the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's vice-chairman Vinod Sharma were conferred with awards constituted in the honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary

While Abe was awarded the Netaji Award, 2022 constituted by the Netaji Research Bureau, GIDM and Sharma were awarded the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2022 by the ministry of home affairs.

As per a statement by the home ministry, the GIDM was established in 2012 and since then it has been working to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity of Gujarat. Sharma, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and vice-chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, PK Tiwari, Commandant, 8th battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) received the honour for 2019.

an National Army in 1944 and; Netaji with Japanese Prime Minister
GETTY IMAGES

Awards constituted in honour of Netaji given to ex-Japan PM, others

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Japan prime minister Shinzo Abe, the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's vice-chairman Vinod Sharma were conferred with awards constituted in the honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary on Sunday.

While Abe was awarded the Netaji Award, 2022 constituted by the Netaji Research Bureau, GIDM and Sharma were awarded the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for 2022 by the ministry of home affairs.

Abe expressed gratitude in a message read out by Consul general of Japan in Kolkata, Nakamura Yutaka. "As former prime minister of Japan and in my capacity as a member of the House of Representatives, I am determined to do my utmost to continue contributing to the development of bilateral relations," he said.

As per a statement by the home ministry, the GIDM was established in 2012 and since then it has been working to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity of Gujarat. Sharma, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and vice-chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, was



PM Narendra Modi during the unveiling ceremony of Netaji's hologram statue in New Delhi on Sunday.
AGENCIES

the founder coordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, now known as the National Institute of Disaster Management, it said.

The Centre had instituted the annual Prabandhan Puraskar to honour the contribution rendered by individuals and organisations in the field of disaster management. PK Tiwari, Commandant, 8th battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) received the honour for 2019. In 2020, Uttarakhand's Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre and KM Singh, a former director general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), received the honour. For 2021, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society and Rajendra Kumar Bhandari who carried out scientific studies on geo hazards received the award.

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33. Recently In January The Central Government Has Launched A portal Named What For To Share Key Performance Indicators Related To The Coal Sector ?

- A. Koyla Manch
- B. Koyla Darpan**
- C. Koyla Gate
- D. Koyla Shakti

The government launched a portal, 'Koyla Darpan', to share key performance indicators related to the coal sector. The portal was launched by Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain, the Ministry of Coal said in a statement.

As an initial step, the portal has key performance indicators like coal/ lignite production, coal/ lignite offtake, exploration data, central sector schemes, status of coal stock at thermal power plants, allocation of blocks, monitoring of major coal mines, and coal price

Portal to track coal sector performance

THE GOVERNMENT ON Friday announced the launch of a portal, 'Koyla Darpan', to share key performance indicators related to the coal sector. The portal was launched by coal secretary Anil Kumar Jain.

34. Recently In January PM Modi Inaugrated The Hologramic "Statue Of Freedom " Of Subhash Chandra Bose At India Gate Which Is To Be Completed By August . What Is The Hiewght Of The Statue And The Statue Is To Be Built By Which Of The Following ?

- A. 28 Ft , Adalwata Gadanayk**
- B. 30 FT , Sachin Sharma
- C. 20 Ft , Satish Adiga
- D. 25 Ft , Sachin Patnaik

In a historic move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday unveiled the hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi. The hologram statue of Subhas Chandra Bose was installed on the occasion of Netaji Jayanti. PM Narendra Modi also paid tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary,

The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width.

Prime Minister also confer the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the investiture ceremony. A total of seven awards were presented during the ceremony. The award is announced every year on January 23. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

35. Recently In January The Central Government HAS Approved How Many Grain Based Ethanol Project Plant Of Rs 859 Cr ?

- A. 196
- B. 268
- C. 106
- D. 116

Centre approves 196 grain-based ethanol projects of 859 crore litres capacity

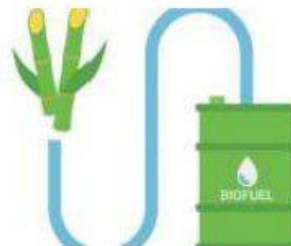
Petrol blending to top 25% by 2024-25

PRABHUDUTTA MISHRA

New Delhi, January 21

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have emerged as the top three destinations for grain-based ethanol plants attracting over 40 per cent of the total projects approved in the past year after the government announced a scheme for the sector.

So far, 196 projects with a combined capacity to produce 859.11 crore litres of ethanol per annum have been approved by Union Food Ministry since January 2021, a government official said. Maharashtra has got approval for 35 projects having a total capacity of 107.38 crore litres, while Uttar Pradesh received approval



India has 116 grain-based ethanol plants with an installed capacity of 268 crore litres

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

for 29 projects with a capacity of 108.74 crore litres and Chhattisgarh has 20 projects with 102.3 crore-litre capacity, the official said.

Nine projects have been approved in Bihar and Odisha, each having a capacity of about 59 crore litres. In West Bengal, eight grain-based plants have been approved with a capacity to produce 67.19 crore litres.

While Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha are major rice producers, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are known mainly for maize though paddy is also grown there.

After the new policy, Globus Spirits has started operation in its 85 KLPD Hajipur plant in Bihar and 140 KLPD Panagarh plant in West Bengal, sources said. Karthik Agro's 65 KLPD Bagalkot plant in Karnataka has also been commissioned. While Gopi Burli of Karthik Agro confirmed the development, Shekhar Swarup of Globus Spirits declined to comment.

Currently, the country has 116 grain-based ethanol plants with an installed capacity of 268 crore litres, of which Punjab has the most -16 plants with a capacity of 61.67 crore litres.

Taking a step in the direction to achieve 25% ethanol blending by 2025, the Centre has so far approved 196 ethanol production projects having the capacity to produce 859 crore litre ethanol using grains since January 2021

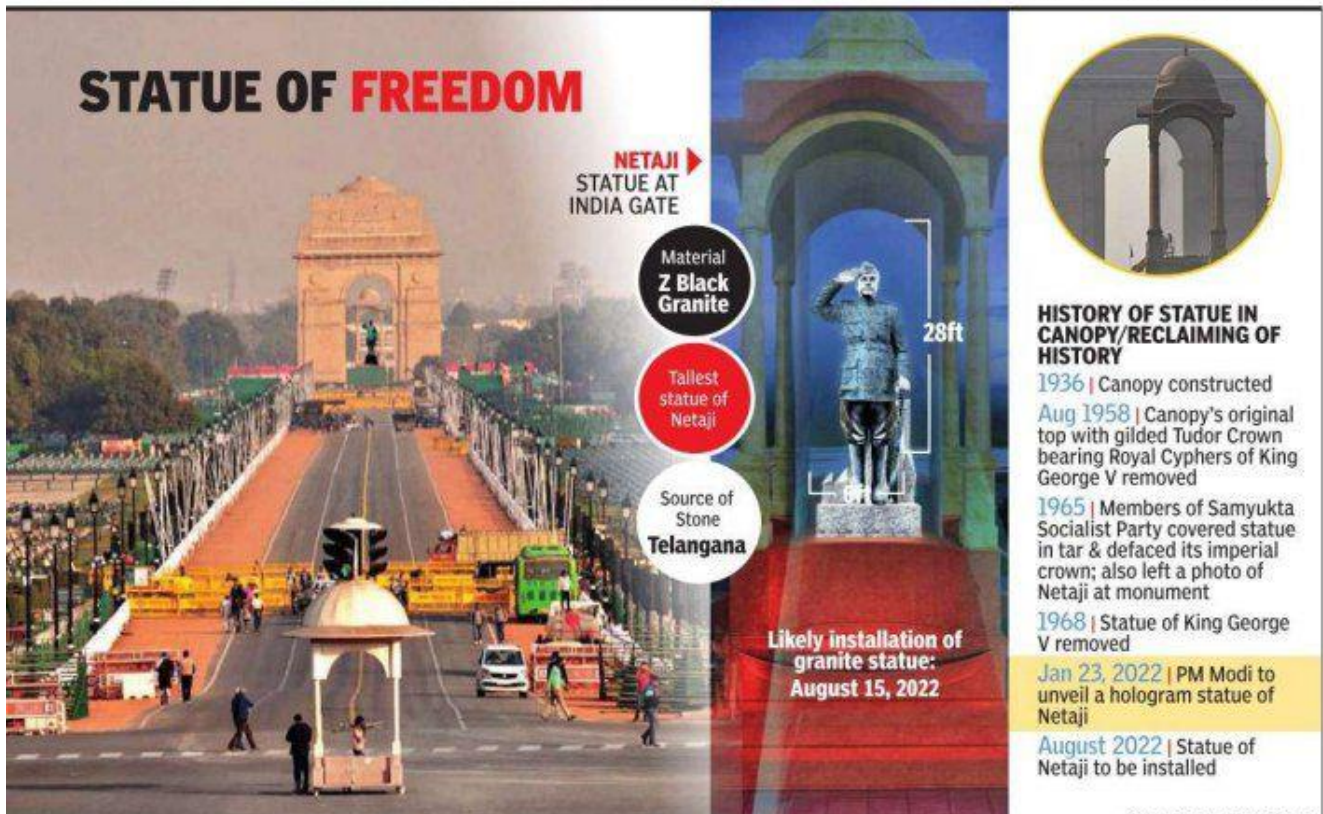
- Since January 2021, the Union food ministry has approved 196 projects having the capacity to produce 859.11 crore litres of ethanol.
- Maharashtra is leading the list with maximum projects (35) having an ethanol production capacity of 107.38 crore litres. Uttar Pradesh ranks second in the list with approval of 29 projects having a capacity of 108.74 crore litres and Chhattisgarh has set up 20 projects having a capacity of 102.3 crore litres, there is a need for 1,288 crore litres of ethanol to achieve the set target by 2024-25

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

- 36. Recently In January Which Of The Following State Has Partnered With *World Food Programme (WFP)* To Improve The Food Security Of Small And Marginal Farmers By Strengthening Their Resilience To Climate Change ?**
- A. Tamil Nadu
 - B. Odisha**
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Telangana

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha government have joined hands to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

- In a pilot initiative, advisories will be provided to small farmers of the state, which is particularly prone to cyclones to help them adapt to impact of the climate crisis
- The WFP and the Agriculture Department will develop toolkits, modules, and guidelines during the project to provide services to small farmers.
- The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on hunger and food security, Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome



STATUE OF FREEDOM

NETAJI STATUE AT INDIA GATE

Material **Z Black Granite**

Tallest statue of Netaji

Source of Stone **Telangana**

28ft

Likely installation of granite statue: **August 15, 2022**

HISTORY OF STATUE IN CANOPY/RECLAIMING OF HISTORY

1936 | Canopy constructed

Aug 1958 | Canopy's original top with gilded Tudor Crown bearing Royal Cyphers of King George V removed

1965 | Members of Samyukta Socialist Party covered statue in tar & defaced its imperial crown; also left a photo of Netaji at monument

1968 | Statue of King George V removed

Jan 23, 2022 | PM Modi to unveil a hologram statue of Netaji

August 2022 | Statue of Netaji to be installed

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International News

1. What is the **theme of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda virtual event which was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2022?**

- A. "The State of the World"
- B. "The Economic State of the World"
- C. "Boosting Digital Economy"
- D. "The State of the World Economy"

WEF to hold in-person Annual Meeting 2022 from May 22 to 26 in Davos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi | Davos, January 21
The World Economic Forum announced on Friday that it will hold its Annual Meeting 2022 in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos from May 22-26 as the first global in-person leadership event since the start of the pandemic.

The announcement came on the last day of the WEF's online Davos Agenda summit, which began on January 17, the day when the 2022 annual meeting was originally scheduled to start but had to be deferred due to the outbreak of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

The theme will be 'Working Together, Restoring Trust', said the Geneva-based organisation.

The annual summit will return to Davos-Klosters after a two-year hiatus.

The WEF said the next Davos summit will offer world leaders an opportunity to take

stock of the state of the world and shape partnerships and policies for the crucial period ahead.

Topics on the agenda will include the pandemic recovery, tackling climate change, building a better future for work, accelerating stakeholder capitalism, and har-

nessing the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, WEF, said, "After all the virtual meetings taking place in the last two years, leaders from politics, business and civil society have to convene finally

in person again. We need to establish the atmosphere of trust that is truly needed to accelerate collaborative action and to address the multiple challenges we face." Among others, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the summit this year.

The World Economic Forum's five-day online Davos Agenda summit has begun on 17 January 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered their special addresses on 'state of the world' on the first day.

The two virtual sessions are expected to be organized - the first on COVID-19 and the second on technology cooperation in the fourth industrial revolution.

The special sessions will be organized on the global economy, building future preparedness and accelerating a nature-positive economy.

'Davos Agenda 2022' will be the first global platform for world leaders to share their vision for 2022. It has been convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'. World Economic Forum (WEF): It is an international non-government organization. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab. Its headquarters is located in Cologny, Switzerland

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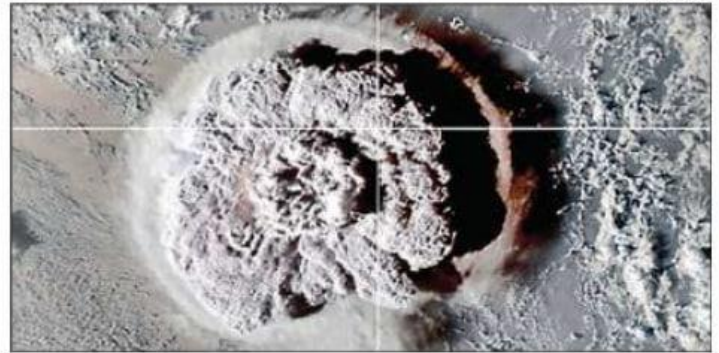
2. Recently In Janaury An underwater volcano erupted near Tonga. **Tonga** is located in Which Of The Following Ocean ?

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. South Pacific Ocean**
- C. Arabian Ocean
- D. South China sea

An underwater volcano erupted near Tonga, a collection of islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

- The volcano which erupted is named the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, and is around 65 km north of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa. □ This volcano is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and it last erupted in 2015. It is one of the most energetic volcanic explosions of the 21st century

AROUND THE WORLD



VOLCANO ERUPTS IN PACIFIC, TSUNAMI ADVISORY FOR US, JAPAN
 An undersea volcano erupted in spectacular fashion near the Pacific nation of Tonga on Saturday, sending large tsunami waves crashing across the shore and people rushing to higher ground. There were no immediate reports of injuries or the extent of the damage because all internet connectivity with Tonga was lost. A tsunami advisory was in effect for Hawaii, Alaska and the US Pacific coast. Japan too issued tsunami warnings and said waves as high as 3 metres were expected

3. Recently In Janaury Which of THE Following country has **built an artificial moon** on Earth that can make gravity disappear?

- A. Russia
- B. US
- C. China**
- D. Japan

China has created an artificial low-gravity research facility. The gravity of this place can be controlled using powerful magnets by scientists to such low levels that it could successfully simulate the moon's gravity, as per South China Morning Post.

- The research facility can control the gravity inside a vacuum chamber that is 60 centimetres in diameter and make the gravitational pull of the earth "disappear." The results of the low-gravity research facility will be used to inform the lunar exploration programme of China.
- in 2020 Chang'e 5 gathered rock samples from the moon's surface as part of this initiative

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4. Recently In Janaury India on , January 18, 2022, announced How Much Amount **credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products as the island nation struggles with a massive fuel and energy crisis** ?
- A. USD 300 million
B.. USD 500 million
C. USD 400 million
D. USD 200 million

India on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, announced a USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products as the island nation struggles with a massive fuel and energy crisis.

The **Indian High Commission here said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has agreed to offer critical support and the USD 500 million credit line in a letter to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister G L Peiris.**

Early this week, the Indian government announced a billion dollar assistance package in addition to other balance of payment support to Sri Lanka.

The billion dollar loan credit facility is to be used to avert a food crisis while allowing for the import of items and medicines.

India extends \$500-mn credit to Sri Lanka for fuel imports

Move part of \$1.5 bn facility, follows recent \$900 mn relief

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India on Tuesday extended a \$500-million Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for urgent fuel imports, just days after providing \$900 million relief to the island nation, which is facing one of its worst economic downturns.

"External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar extended this critical support in his letter addressed to the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L. Peiris," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a statement on the emergency assistance Sri Lanka had sought to tide over its dollar crunch leading



to a shortage of essentials, including fuel, medicines, and certain food supplies. The announcement followed a virtual meeting between Dr. Jaishankar and Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa on Saturday, when they reviewed a \$1.5 billion credit facility to help

Sri Lanka augment its fast-depleting foreign reserves, crucial to importing essentials food items, medicines, and fuel. Of the \$1.5 billion, a sum of \$500 million was extended on Tuesday for fuel imports, the Indian mission said in its statement.

"These measures are in line with India's commitment to... contribute to Sri Lanka's economic growth and impart greater momentum to bilateral economic and commercial partnership." The balance is expected soon, Colombo-based official sources said, pointing to a total \$2.4 billion assistance from New Delhi.

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5. Recently In January The *Indonesian Parliament Has Approved A LAW To Change Its Capital To What From Jakarta ?*

- A. Nusantara**
- B. Widodo
- C. Jakarta
- D. Ropucost

Indonesia's parliament passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on the jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara".

- The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.
- The new capital will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo

Rising sea levels prompt Indonesia to relocate capital

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JAKARTA

Indonesia's parliament on Tuesday passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on the jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara".

The House of Representatives vote provides the legal framework for the move, which was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.

Home to more than 30 million people in its greater



An illustration of Indonesia's future presidential palace in jungle-clad island of Borneo.

metro area, Jakarta has long been plagued by serious infrastructure problems and flooding exacerbated by climate change.

The new capital will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo.

Early plans for the new capital depict a utopian design aimed at creating an environmentally friendly "smart" city, but few details have been confirmed.

Environmentalists critics of the capital's move have warned it could damage ecosystems in the region.

Budget details have not yet been revealed in a presidential decree, though previous reports have pegged the project's costs at \$33 billion.

6. Recently In January HAL Has Signed Contract With Which Of The Following Country For Export Of Advanced Light Helicopter ?

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius**
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangaldesh

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with the Government of Mauritius for the export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mk III) which will be used by the Mauritius Police Force.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with the Government of Mauritius for the export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mk III) which will be used by the Mauritius Police Force.

The ALH Mk III is a multi-role, multi-mission versatile helicopter in the 5.5-tonne category. It has proven its mettle in various utility roles, including numerous lifesaving missions during natural calamities in India and abroad

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7. Which of the following countries will participate in the **India-Central Asia Summit on 27 January?**

- a. Tajikistan
- b. Uzbekistan
- c. Kazakhstan
- d. All of the above

On 27 January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit.

Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will participate in this meeting. It will be the first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.

The focus of the virtual summit will be on 4 Cs: **Connectivity, Capacity Enhancement, Commerce, and Contacts in the ties**. The first India-Central Asia Summit is the result of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries. During the Summit, many issues including steps to take forward India-Central Asia relations to newer heights and the Afghanistan situation will be discussed.

Recently, the third meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue at Foreign Ministers' level was held in New Delhi from 18 to 20 December 2021.

AFGHANISTAN AND TERRORISM HIGH ON AGENDA

India-Central Asia Summit on Jan 27

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan presidents to join virtually

DipanjRoy.Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be hosting the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit, with the participation of the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in a virtual format on January 27. This will be the first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.

ET was the first to report that the maiden India-Central Asia summit could be held on January 27, after it was decided that due to the new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the five Central Asian leaders could not be present for January 26 celebrations and the Summit in person.

The leaders are expected to discuss steps to take forward India-Central Asia relations to newer heights, according to a statement from the Mini-



stry of External Affairs. They are also expected to exchange views on regional and international issues of interest, especially the evolving regional security situation, officials said, indicating that the Afghan situation will figure high on the agenda.



Leaders are expected to discuss steps to take India-C Asia ties to newer heights: MEA

The inception of the India-Central Asia Dialogue at Foreign Ministers' level, the third meeting of which was held in New Delhi on December 18-20, 2021, has provided an impetus to relations.

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8. How many events will India hold in 2022 as per the decision taken in the 15th meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee?

- A. Five
- B. Six
- C. Eight
- D. Three

The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 under the Chinese chairship was held on 18-19 January

- Sanjay Bhattacharyya is the current BRICS Sherpa from India. India has successfully handed over the BRICS Chairmanship to China from January 2022
- The theme for BRICS 2022 is “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”
- BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- On January 1, China officially took over the BRICS chairmanship and it will host the 14th BRICS Summit in June 2022.
- India will host five events in 2022, namely BRICS Startups Forum meeting, Working Groups meetings on Energy; Biotechnology & Biomedicine; ICT & High-Performance Computing; STIEP (Science, Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group Meeting and the launching of BRICS innovation Launchpad as a microsite (Knowledge Hub).

9. Recently In January Which of the following countries have agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen with India in January 2022?

- A. Denmark
- B. France
- C. Switzerland
- D. Norway

As part of the Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025, India & Denmark agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen

- Both countries agreed on the bilateral collaboration on mission-driven research, innovation, and technology development.
- Denmark Capital: Copenhagen Currency: Danish krone

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10. Recently In January India With Which Country extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 more years, with focus on new areas like waste-water technologies, biotech, sustainable agriculture, Etc ?

- A. Denmark
- B. MAURITIUS
- C. Sri Lanka**
- D. Nepal

India and Sri Lanka extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 more years, with focus on new areas like waste-water technologies, biotech, sustainable agriculture, aerospace engineering, robotics, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence, as well as industrial collaborations. This was announced at the India-Sri Lanka 5th Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation held on January 20, 2022.

India has earlier announced a \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products. Currency: Sri Lankan rupee Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the current President of Sri Lanka. Mahinda Rajapaksa is the current Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

11. Recently In January India With Which Of The Following Country Has Launched India-assisted Social Housing Units project and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects ?

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius**
- C. Malaysia
- D. Australia

PM Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth have jointly launched India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius.

They also inaugurated Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius.

Mr. Modi also remembered the contribution of the late Sir Anerood Jugnauth in strengthening India-Mauritius ties. He said that it was India's privilege to honour Sir Anerood Jugnauth with the Padma Vibhushan award in 2020.

An Agreement on extending a 190-million-dollar Line of Credit from India to Mauritius was also exchanged. Its capital is Port Louis and its currency is Mauritian Rupee.

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12. Recently In January India and Which Of The Following Countries discussed the scope of widening the Industrial R&D & Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) And approved three joint R&D projects worth \$5.5 million ?

- A. Israel**
- B. France**
- C. Italy**
- D. United Kingdom**

At the 8th Governing Body meeting, experts of India and Israel discussed the scope of widening the Industrial R&D & Technological Innovation Fund (I4F).

Both countries also approved three joint R&D projects worth \$5.5 million.

The members of the eighth governing body also discussed the status of ongoing I4F projects

GITA (Global Innovation & Technology Alliance) has been appointed to implement the I4F programme in India. India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) fund is a cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Israel Innovation Authority

13. Recently In January Which Of The Following Country Has Launched Its First Satellite Constellation Developed Entirely In The Country Named Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MADSat) ?

- A. Japan**
- B. South Africa**
- C. Finland**
- D. Malasiya**

South Africa has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa, a move hailed by the country's Science and Innovation Minister Blade Nzimande as a milestone.

- Three locally produced nanosatellites, which made up the country's first Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation,
 - launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States on Thursday as part of American aerospace company SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.
 - Transporter-3, SpaceX's third dedicated rideshare mission, carried a total of 105 spacecraft for various organisations and governments,
 - The full MDASat constellation will be an operational constellation of nine cube satellites that will detect, identify and monitor vessels in near real-time in support of South African maritime domain awareness.

Banking And Economy

1. According To The Latest Rbi Data Which Of The Following Bank Has The **Highest Number Of The Outstanding Base Of Credit Card Issues As Of November Month At 15.54 Million ?**

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Mastercard
- C. HDFC Bank**
- D. ICICI Bank

In the quarter gone by (Q3 of FY22), private lender HDFC Bank issued around 950,000 credit cards, its highest ever credit card issuance in any single quarter

- Since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revoked the embargo on it in August 2021 to issue new credit cards, the lender has issued 1.37 million credit cards
- According to RBI data, at the end of August 2021, HDFC Bank's outstanding credit card base stood at 14.74 million.
- And, the latest figures by the central bank show that HDFC Bank's outstanding credit card base has grown to 15.54 million as of November 2021. The RBI has not released the data for December.

2. What is the name of an electronics recommerce company that has **been acquired by Flipkart Group?**

- A. Pine Labs
- B. Zerodha
- C. Zoho
- D. Yaantra**

The Flipkart Group, owned by Walmart Inc, has bought electronics reverse commerce (or recommerce) company Yaantra in a bid to expand its reverse commerce business and to enhance after-sale offerings for its smartphone customers,

- Yaantra repairs and sells consumer tech products such as smartphones and laptops. It was started in 2013 by Jayant Jha, Ankit Saraf and Anmol Gupta
- Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company, headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and incorporated in Singapore as a private limited company

3. Recently In January Which Of The Following has won FICCI's most innovative AgTech Startup Award ?

- A. Investindia
- B. Life Farms
- C Aquaconnect**
- D. Pine Labs

Aquaconnect has won the “Most Innovative Agtech” (Mature Startup) award at the fourth edition of the FICCI Summit and Awards for Agri Startups.

□ Chennai-based Aquaconnect is India’s pioneering full-stack aquaculture platform. It works with fish and shrimp farmers to improve productivity.

□ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI): It was established in 1927. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Sanjiv Mehta is its current President

Aquaconnect wins FICCI’s ‘Most Innovative AgTech Start-up Award’

Chennai-based firm works with fish, shrimp farmers to improve productivity



Rajmanohar Somasundaram, Founder & CEO, Aquaconnect

communities efficiently. Rajamanohar, CEO, Aquaconnect, said, “The need of the hour is to build intelligent tech solutions that transform the aquaculture value chain and create sustainable farmer livelihoods. We, at Aquaconnect, continue to work towards making this possible with a sharp focus on innovations that create impact. The recognition is a testimony of our commitment to emerging stronger as a trusted aquaculture partner for all stakeholders in the value chain.”

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, January 16

Aquaconnect, India’s pioneering full-stack aquaculture platform, has won the “Most Innovative Agtech” (Mature Startup) award at the fourth edition of the FICCI Summit and Awards for Agri Start-ups.

The award was announced on January 7 virtually.

The latest edition of the FICCI Summit and Awards for Agri Start-ups felicitated high-impact innovations in the Indian Agri and allied value chains.

Founded in 2017, Chennai-based Aquaconnect has been working to navigate the challenges in the aquaculture value chain through an integrated tech-driven approach. It is

helping connect aquaculture farmers with stakeholders in the value chain, such as feed producers, farm equipment manufacturers, banks, insurers, importers, processors, exporters, and certifying bodies.

Aquaconnect has assisted over 60,000 farmers through its unique artificial intelligence and GIS-powered advisory platform. Aquaconnect’s data-enabled fintech solutions aim to bring transparency for BFSI stakeholders to engage with aquaculture farming

BusinessLine

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4. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in its report titled “World Employment and Social Outlook”, has projected global unemployment to reach How Much Million in 2022, almost 21 million more than 2019 ?

- A. 216 Million
- B. 207 Million**
- C. 269 Million
- D. 301 Million

Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022. This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began, according to the ILO World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2022.

□ Global working hours in 2022 will be almost two per cent below their pre-pandemic level — that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.

□ It is estimated that in 2022 around 40 million people will no longer be participating in the global labour force. □ International Labour Organisation It was created in 1919, Guy Ryder, ILO director-general HeadQuartered In Geneva Switzerland

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5. Recently In Janaury Which Of The Follwoing has launched 'ClickPay' for its customers in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India.
- A. Paytm
 - B. MOBiKwik**
 - C. PhonepE
 - D. Pine Labs

MobiKwik has launched 'ClickPay' for its customers in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India.

□ This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMI) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual ClickPay

□ MobiKwik is an Indian payment service provider founded in 2009 that provides a mobile ...
Headquarters, Gurgaon, Haryana, Chandan Joshi, Co-Founder, and CEO, Consumer Payments, MobiKwik

6. According to non profit Oxfam India's latest report published on Monday The report 'Inequality Kills' The number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to What Numbers in 2021 ?,
- A. 126
 - B. 142**
 - C. 120
 - D. 132

The number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142, while 84 per cent of households in the country suffered a decline in their income in 2021, which was also a year marked by tremendous loss of life and livelihoods, according to non profit Oxfam India's latest report published on Monday.

The report 'Inequality Kills' comes ahead of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda. It indicates that the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore in 2021. In India, during the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30th, 2021) the wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore to Rs 53.16 lakh crore.

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7. Recently In January Which Of The Following HAS announced 'Leap Ahead' and 'Leap Innovation Network', two new programmes for start-ups ?

- A. Amazon
- B. Meta
- C. Flipkart**
- D. Paytm

E-commerce firm Flipkart on Monday announced 'Leap Ahead' and 'Leap Innovation Network', two new programmes for start-ups.

- The company has already completed its first cohort of the programme Flipkart Leap, which has now evolved into two new programmes
- Flipkart Leap Ahead will invest in seed-stage start-ups that have disruptive business models and are innovating in areas that are a priority for the Flipkart group.
- Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company, headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and incorporated in Singapore as a private limited company.

Start-up accelerator scheme: Flipkart calls for applications

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, January 17

E-commerce major, Flipkart has opened applications for the second cohort of its start-up accelerator programme, Flipkart Leap which has been expanded into two programmes.

Both programmes, Flipkart Leap Ahead and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network will accept applications up to February 28. Flipkart Leap programme graduated its first cohort in July 2021 with eight start-ups.

Flipkart Leap Ahead will provide equity-based investments and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network will enable companies to enter into commercial partnerships with Flipkart's technology teams. These programmes will support start-ups through insights, mentorship and funding as needed, while helping them scale and build disruptive innovations.

Ravi Iyer, Senior Vice Presid-

ent and Head - Corporate Development, Flipkart said, " With dedicated tracks for early-stage and growth-stage start-ups, the cohort will expand its benefits to a wider pool of entrepreneurs who are solving for Digital India - be it meaningful partnerships and potential projects with Flipkart or equity investment that enables them to scale up further."

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 Ahmedabad : 079 - 26871105

BusinessLine

8. Recently In January Which Of The Following Telecom Company Has Signed A Joint Venture With University Of OULU , Finland For Undertaking Research Related Activities In 6G Technology ?

- A. Vi
- B. Jio**
- C. BSNL
- D. Airtel

Reliance Jio's Estonia unit, (Jio Estonia OÜ) is partnering with the University of Oulu for exploring 6G, the upcoming next generation of telecom technology after 5G

- According to an official announcement by the company, 6G is supposed to build on the capabilities of 5G and will have higher capacities and will bring new advancements
- Minister for Communications had said that India is working towards an indigenously developed 6G technology with the aim to launch it either by 2023-end or early 2024

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

9. Recently In January **Microsoft** Has Acquired Video Maker Company “**Activision Blizzard**” For How Much Amount Making It The Largest Deal Ever By Microsoft ?

- A. USD 78.3 Billion
- B. USD 68.7 Billion**
- C. USD 87.5 Billion
- D. USD 95.7 Billion

● **EXPANDING THE OFFERINGS**

Microsoft acquires Activision Blizzard in \$69 bn game deal

In its largest purchase ever, Microsoft will pay \$95 a share for the company known for titles like ‘Call of Duty’ and ‘World of Warcraft’



“Acquiring Activision will help jump start Microsoft’s broader gaming endeavors and ultimately its move into the metaverse with gaming the first monetisation piece of the metaverse,” Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, wrote in a note to investors. “With Activision’s stock under heavy pressure (CEO related issues/overhang) over the last few months, Microsoft viewed this as the window of opportunity to acquire a unique asset that can propel its consumer strategy forward.”

BLOOMBERG
January 18

MICROSOFT SAID IT’S buying Activision Blizzard in a \$68.7 billion deal, uniting two of the biggest forces in video games to create the world’s third-biggest gaming company.

In its largest purchase ever, Microsoft will pay \$95 a share in cash for one of the most legendary gaming publishers, known for titles like Call of Duty and World of Warcraft but which is also grappling with a cultural upheaval over its treatment of women. Activision Chief Executive Officer Bobby Kotick will continue to serve in that role, Microsoft said. Once the deal closes, the Activision Blizzard business will report to Phil Spencer, who heads Microsoft Gaming. The deal value includes Activision’s net cash.

FUTURE READY

- Acquiring Activision will help jump start Microsoft’s broader gaming endeavors
- The company may also move into the metaverse with gaming

Adding Activision’s stable of popular titles will help Microsoft expand its own offerings for the Xbox console and better compete with rival Sony’s PlayStation. Activision has a long history with the Xbox. The publisher’s largest franchise, Call of Duty, became successful largely due to Microsoft’s online platform Xbox Live, which allows players to connect for multi-player matches. Most of Activision’s games are published on Xbox consoles.

Microsoft’s shares slid about 1.3% in early trading on the news. The bid is a 45% premium on Activision’s closing price Friday. However, it’s a bargain compared with the stock’s performance in the first half of last year, before a sexual bias lawsuit filed by a California state agency in July plunged the company into crisis. The shares hit a high of more than \$100 a piece in February and then lost nearly half their value.

The scandal has taken a toll on a company already struggling to adapt to the end of a pandemic-fueled video game boom. In November, Activision delayed two of its most anticipated games and gave a sales forecast for the fourth quarter that fell short of Wall Street’s expectations. Kotick, who has led the company for three decades, has come under pressure from employees to resign in the wake of the ongoing lawsuits.

Microsoft has made its largest-ever acquisition. The company is buying 'Call of Duty' maker Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion. It is also the largest-ever deal in the history of the gaming industry. Microsoft said that it expects the deal to close in 2023 fiscal year, which starts in July. **The deal is bigger than Microsoft's \$26 billion acquisition of LinkedIn. The deal also breaks the record set by Take-Two Interactive's acquisition of mobile game publisher Zynga for more than \$11 billion.**

The deal announced by Microsoft is an all-cash acquisition. Microsoft's offer of \$95 per share represents a premium of 45% to Activision's Friday close. Activision's shares were last up 27% at \$83.11.

The all-cash \$68.7 billion deal will turn Microsoft, the maker of the Xbox gaming system, into one of the world's largest video game companies. The Biggest Games Of Company Are Call Of Duty And WARCRAFT AND Candy Crush

The acquisition pushes Microsoft past Nintendo as the third-largest video game company by global revenue, behind Sony and Chinese tech giant Tencent. **The Activision business unit would then report to Phil Spencer, who has led Microsoft's Xbox division and will now serve as CEO of Microsoft Gaming.**

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10. Recently In January Reliance Industry Has **Buyed 54 % Stake In Robot Maked Company Addverb** For How Much Amount ?

- A. USD 132 Million
- B. USD 138 Million
- C. USD 122 Million
- D. USD 139 Million

Reliance Retail Ventures, the retail arm of Reliance Industries, has bought a 54% stake in Adverb Technologies for Rs 983 crore (\$132 million).

Even after this acquisition, India-based Adverb will continue to operate independently and will use the proceeds from RIL to expand its overseas business and set up its largest robotics manufacturing unit in Noida.

Adverb Technologies co-founder and CEO Sangeet Kumar

With this new investment, the valuation of Adverb has come down from \$265 million to \$270 million (about Rs 2000 crore). Adverb already has a production unit in Noida.

● 54% STAKE BUY

Reliance invests \$132 million in robot maker Addverb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 18

MUKESH AMBANI-LED
Reliance Retail has acquired a 54% stake in domestic robotics company Addverb for \$132 million (about ₹983 crore), a senior official of the robotic firm said Tuesday.

Addverb Technologies co-founder and CEO Sangeet



Founded in 2016, Addverb Tech expects to close current financial year with **100% growth in revenue**



Post the Reliance investment, Addverb Tech to continue to **operate independently**, says CEO

■ Funds to be used to expand business overseas, **set up robotic manufacturing facility** in Noida

robotic manufacturing facilities in Noida. The company already has a manufacturing plant in Noida where it produces around 10,000 robots per annum.

“With this investment, Reliance will hold around 54% stake in Addverb. They become the largest shareholder in the company,” Kumar said.

Kumar said the company will continue to operate independently and will use the funds

received from Reliance to expand business overseas as well as set up one of the biggest

Continued on Page 2

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11. Consider The Following Statement Regarding SEBI New Norms On 'settlement of Offenses'
1. The regulator has reduced the benchmark settlement amount for each count of violation to ₹10 lakh from the earlier ₹15 lakh.
 2. Under the new norms, the alleged wrongdoers will have to seek a settlement through consent within 90 days of show cause notice
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 And 2
- D. None Of The Above

In order to make 'settlement of offenses' through consent orders more attractive, the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) has sweetened the deal by reducing the cost

- The regulator has reduced the benchmark settlement amount for each count of violation to ₹10 lakh from the earlier ₹15 lakh
- Under the new norms, the alleged wrongdoers will have to seek a settlement through consent within 60 days of show cause notice being issued to them by SEBI.
- So far, SEBI gave an additional 120 days' time to the wrongdoers over the 60 days period for filing settlement applications
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was constituted as a non-statutory body on April 12, 1988 through a resolution of the Government of India. The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established as a statutory body in the year 1992 .

12. Recently In January To provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs, Lendingkart has partnered with which of the following bank in January 2022?

- A. Canara Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. HDFC bank
- D. State Bank of India

Fintech company Lendingkart announced that it has entered into co-lending partnership with Canara Bank to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs across the country

- The loans will be provided with fast turnaround time for approvals powered by "Lendingkart 2gthr" platform using 'zero touch' technology
- Canara Bank It is headquartered in Bangalore. Established in 1906 at Mangalore Lendingkart Technologies Private Limited Founded: 2014 Headquarters location: Ahmedabad

13. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has sanctioned funds aggregating How Much Amount to two small finance banks (SFBs) — AU SFB and Jana SFB — so that they can support small sized nonbanking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro finance institutions (MFIs) ?

- A. ₹530 crore
- B. ₹650 crore**
- C. ₹480 crore
- D. ₹720 crore

SIDBI sanctions ₹650 crore financial assistance to AU SFB & Jana SFB

FE BUREAU
Kolkata, January 18

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT Bank of India (SIDBI), the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has sanctioned financial assistance of ₹650 crore to two small finance banks (SFBs), AU Small

Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank. SIDBI, in a release on Tuesday, said it has sanctioned the financial assistance to the two small finance banks so as to reach out, through the SFBs, to small-sized NBFCs/MFIs, who in turn provide financial assistance to the small businesses and micro entrepreneurs.

"The role of relatively smaller NBFCs and MFIs,

which usually operate in remote geographies (including credit deficient, backward and aspirational districts), in the socio-economic development of the country is well established. They normally cater to the informal MSME sector, especially new to credit businesses, small retail trade, micro credit & other small household businesses etc.

Sidbi has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 650 crore to AU Small Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank so as to reach out to small-sized NBFCs/MFIs who will in turn provide funding to small businesses and micro entrepreneurs.

- An amount of Rs 530 crore has already been released to these SFBs, Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)
 - The financial assistance has been extended out of the special liquidity facility (SLF) of Rs 16,000 crore sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India to Sidbi to meet the challenges being faced by MSMEs due to the Covid-19 pandemic,
 - AU Small Finance Bank HQ - Jaipur, Rajasthan AU Small Finance Bank Limited is an Indian scheduled commercial bank that was founded as vehicle finance company AU Financiers Ltd in 1996 and converted to a small finance bank on 19 April 2017.
 - Jana Small Finance Bank is a small finance bank that commenced operations on March 28, 2018, headquartered in Bangalore,

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14. Recently In January Which Of The Following BANK Has Tied Up With SCUBE Capital To Launch “ USD Offshore Fund “ ?

- A. Yes Bank
- B. Federal Bank**
- C. Indian Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda

Fed Bank launches \$-offshore fund

Mumbai, January 19

Federal Bank, in association with Equirus Wealth, has launched a US Dollar offshore fund exclusively for its customers. This is in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a Singapore-based global fund management company. Both NRI and resident customers of Federal Bank will be able to invest in this fund. The fund offers a portfolio return guidance of around 6.50 per cent per annum with a fund tenor of three years from the date of fund closure with an option to extend by one year. “The portfolio is managed by a highly skilled team with a cumulative experience of over 70 years in managing investments of over \$50 billion,” as per an official release. OUR BUREAU

Federal Bank in association with Equirus Wealth has launched “US Dollar offshore fund” exclusively for their customers.

- This is in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a global fund management company based out of Singapore, Both NRI and Resident customers of Federal Bank can invest in this fund that offers a portfolio return (IRR)
- Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kochi. Founded 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram CEO - Shyam Srinivasan

15. The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA), with an objective of capacity building of professionals in the insurance sector in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Which Of The Following ?

- A. Life Insurance Corporation Of India
- B. Aditya Birla Life Insurance Corporation
- C. Insurance Institute Of India**
- D. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) and the Insurance Institute of India (III) have signed an MoU with the goal of increasing the capability of professionals in the insurance industry in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs).

- According to the agreement, the Insurance Institute of India (III) will conduct a study to modify the academic curriculum.
- To deepen insurance business activity in the IFSCA, the Insurance Institute of India will seek to meet the medium-and long-term capacity development needs of professionals
- IFSCA is India's unified regulator for international financial services with a mandate to develop and promote India as a global financial hub.

16. Recently In January **Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)** Has Announced To Divest How Much Percent Its Equity Share In IGX To India's Largest Oil Company Indian Oil Corporation ?

- A. 4.93 %
- B. 5.11 %
- C. 9.99 %
- D. 7.73 %

India Energy Exchange (IEX) on announced divesting 4.93 per cent equity stake in its gas exchange,

- IGX, to India's largest oil company Indian Oil Corporation. IEX chairman and managing director SN Goel
- Energy exchange IEX and National Stock Exchange (NSE) are promoters of IGX, a gas exchange that has been set up to promote gas trading in the country.
- GAIL (India) Ltd, ONGC Ltd, Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd and Adani Total Gas Ltd are strategic investors in the natural gas trading platform

IEX divests 4.93% equity stake in gas exchange platform to IOC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 19

INDIAN ENERGY EXCHANGE (IEX) on Wednesday announced divestment of 4.93% of its equity stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to oil major Indian Oil Corporation.

Energy exchange IEX and National Stock Exchange (NSE) are promoters of IGX, a gas exchange which has been set up to promote gas trading in the country. GAIL (India), ONGC, Torrent Gas and Adani Total Gas are strategic investors in the natural gas

trading platform.

"IEX, India's premiere Energy Exchange and Indian Oil Corporation (IndianOil), India's largest oil refining and fuel marketing firm, are pleased to announce IndianOil's strategic equity stake of 4.93% in Indian Gas Exchange," an IEX statement said.

IEX has divested a 4.93% equity stake to IndianOil, it added. S N Goel, chairman and managing director, IEX and Director, IGX said, "We are delighted to welcome IndianOil as a strategic partner in IGX."

17. Recently In January Which of the following banks has won **IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the Best CRM System Implementation?**

- A. CSB Bank
- B. Bandhan Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

Axis Bank and CRMNEXT have won IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the Best CRM System Implementation.

- CRMNEXT is the world's most powerful banking CRM (Customer Relationship Management) platform. It is the leading CRM platform for banks.
- Axis Bank has implemented CRMNEXT for sales and service modernization.
- Axis Bank is the third-largest private bank in India. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Its MD & CEO is Amitabh Chaudhry

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18. Recently In January Market Regulator **SEBI Has Launched Its Own Mobile App With A View To Empowering Investors With Knowledge About Securities Market ?**

- A. Dhan Rekha
- B. Sanjeevani
- C. Saa᳚᳚thi**
- D. Samriddhi

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched Saa᳚᳚thi mobile app for investor education.

- The app will be helpful in increasing access to recent market developments. It aims to empower investors with accurate knowledge about the securities market
- The App also aims to create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of Securities Market, KYC Process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, etc
The app is currently available in Hindi and English.
- SEBI was set up in 1988 and given statutory status in 1992. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai. Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of SEBI



SEBI launches app for investors

New Delhi, January 19

Amid the growing trend of stock trading through mobiles, SEBI on Wednesday launched its mobile app, Saa᳚᳚thi. Launching the app, SEBI chairman Ajay Tyagi said, "This is yet another initiative of SEBI with a view to empowering investors with knowledge about securities market." The app also aims to create awareness among the investors about securities market, KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc. The app is available in Hindi and English, and will be made available in regional languages going forward. The app is available on both Play Store and App Store. PTI

19. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a scheme for grant of *ex gratia* payment of How Much Crore to the State Bank of India as reimbursement related to loan moratorium that was implemented in 2020 amid the pandemic ?

- A. ₹993.74 crore
- B. ₹983.74 crore
- C. ₹973.74 crore**
- D. ₹963.74 crore

The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved sanction of ₹973.74 crore for lenders as reimbursement related to loan moratorium that was implemented in 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

On March 27, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced a loan moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans falling due between March 1 and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic, which was extended to August 31.

Financial and non-banking financial institutions were asked to credit the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium scheme by November 30, 2020. SBI, which was made the nodal agency for reimbursement of claims, informed the government that it received consolidated claims of ₹6,473.74 crore from lending institutions.

**Ex-gratia payment:
Cabinet sanctions
₹974 crore to SBI**

THE GOVERNMENT on Wednesday approved sanction of ₹973.74 crore to State Bank of India (SBI) as reimbursement related to loan moratorium that was implemented in 2020 amid the pandemic, reports PTI. This amount is for the payment of claims submitted by lending institutions under the scheme for grant of ex-gratia to borrowers in specified loan accounts during the moratorium period announced by RBI in March 2020, reports PTI.

20. Recently In January Which of the following has signed an MoU with the *National Innovation Foundation (NIF)* to accelerate grassroots innovation?

- A. Amazon India**
- B. Flipkart
- C. Paytm
- D. Facebook

Amazon India and NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council have inked an MoU to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy, and livelihoods across rural India

- Amazon and NIFentreC will promote the entrepreneurship ecosystem and conduct training programmes to accelerate grassroots innovation
- National Innovation Foundation (NIF): It was established in 2015 for incubation and commercialization of technological ideas and innovations from the grassroots level.

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21. Recently In January The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Has Been Named World's largest Derivatives Market Palce For 2021. For The Third Year In The Row . Which Of The Following Is Not Included In The Top 5 List Of LARGEST Derevatives Market ?

- A. OCC
- B. B3 Exchange
- C. Nasdaq
- D. International Excahneg

NSE remains largest global F&O market for third year in a row

The exchange is followed by Brazil's B3 and CME group in the US: FIA data

PALAK SHAH
Mumbai, January 19

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has been named the world's largest derivatives market place for 2021, for the third year in a row. NSE is the largest global exchange in terms of number of contracts traded, the Futures Industry Association (FIA) said. NSE has also been ranked as the fourth largest exchange in the world for trading cash equities for 2021.

In terms of sheer value traded, the NSE has a monopoly over equity derivatives in India and the only competitor to it is BSE, which has less than 5 per cent share in the derivative segment. FIA data shows that NSE

was the global leader in trading equity index options and currency options in terms of number of contracts.

NSE reported a total trading volume of 17.26 billion contracts in 2021, almost double the amount traded in the previous year, FIA said. The data showed that globally equity-related derivatives accounted for the majority of the increase in trading activity in 2021. F&O in this category reached 41.6 billion contracts traded in 2021, an increase of 46.7 per cent from 2020. FIA said trading of interest rate futures and options picked up after several years of depressed activity. Volume in this category reached 4.58 billion contracts in 2021, up 11.2 per cent from 2020.

Other markets

Brazil's B3 exchange was ranked second and its total trading volume rose by 38 per cent to



8.76 billion. CME Group in the US came third, with a total volume of 4.94 billion, up 2.5 per cent from the previous year. Intercontinental Exchange came in fourth, with volume rising 19 per cent to 3.32 billion contracts. Close behind was Nasdaq, with volume rising 23.8 per cent to 3.29 billion contracts.

The OCC in the US continued to rank as the world's largest clearinghouse for derivatives in terms of open interest. The OCC, which provides clearing for more than a dozen trading venues in the US, held 454.79 million in open positions at

year-end, up 15.2 per cent from December 2020, and more than twice as many as any other derivatives clearinghouse.

On the NSE, the trading in index options contracts on Nifty Bank index was on the top globally, followed by the Nifty 50 index. The US Dollar - Indian Rupee options contract ranks first by number of contracts traded in the currency options category.

NSE recently said it got the SEBI nod to launch derivatives on Nifty MidCap Select Index, which will start trading from January 24.

NSE data shows that in the past 10 years, the equity derivatives daily average turnover increased by 4.2 times to ₹1,41,267 crore. During the same period, the cash market daily average turnover increased by 6.2 times to ₹69,644 crore. In currency derivatives, the daily average turnover increased by 83 per cent to ₹26,017 crore.

The National Stock Exchange of India has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange for the third consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA).

- In addition, the exchange was ranked fourth by the number of trades in cash equities, as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021
- The year 2021 witnessed total registered investor base on NSE surpassing the 5-crore mark to reach a count of 5.5 crore investors. In the last 10 years,
 - NSE recently said it got approval from Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch derivatives on Nifty MidCap Select Index and will start from January 24.

22. Recently In January US Tech Giant Have Finalised A Deal To Setup A Data Center Amounting What In Which Of The Following Palace ?

- A. Rs 21000 , Chennai
- B. Rs 20000 , Gurugram
- C. Rs 5000 , Mysdore
- D. Rs 15000 , Hyderabad

Microsoft, Telangana seal deal for ₹15K-cr data hub

SHINE JACOB & SHIVANI SHINDE
Chennai/Mumbai, 19 January

US tech giant Microsoft and the Telangana government have finalised a deal to set up a ₹15,000-crore data centre in Hyderabad. A 50-acre land near the city is believed to have been finalised and the project is expected to create around 300 jobs.

According to sources aware of the development, a formal announcement is likely to come within a month. Microsoft did not comment on questions from *Business Standard*.

Telangana is one of the few states that came out with a data centre policy in India, way back in 2016. It is also expecting investments to the tune of around \$10 billion in the segment in the next five years.

In late 2020, Amazon Web Services (AWS) had announced plans to set up its second data centre region in the country in Telangana at an investment of \$2.77 billion. Flipkart and CitiS are also coming up with similar facilities in the state.



Last year, Microsoft said it was planning to build 50-100 new data centres each year in the foreseeable future. At present, it operates around 200 data centres across the world

Last year, Microsoft had said it is planning to build around 50-100 new data centres each year in the foreseeable future. At present, it operates around 200 data centres across the world. Microsoft India had set up a research and development (R&D) centre in Hyderabad way back in 1998. It is one of the largest R&D centres by the company other than its Redmond headquarters.

The company had also entered into a tie up with Reliance Jio in 2019 for a long-

term alliance to set up cloud data centres in India.

According to a JLL report, out of India's current data centre capacity of 499 megawatts (Mw), around 45 per cent is based out of the financial capital Mumbai. It is followed by Chennai, Pune and Bengaluru contributing 12 per cent each, Delhi around 8 per cent, Hyderabad around 7 per cent and Kolkata around 1 per cent.

Telangana is trying to bridge this gap through its aggressive sops lined up for investors in the segment. In

addition to speedy clearances and land availability in key places, the state was also ready to offer some cloud business to those who are setting up their centres in Telangana.

Despite being the youngest state in the country, Telangana had attracted \$33 billion investment during the last seven years. Through a single-window clearance called TSIPASS that was introduced in 2014, the state has so far cleared around 17,500 investment proposals. These have helped it to jump from the 13th spot in the Centre's Ease of Doing Business index ranking in 2015 to the third spot in 2019.

Earlier this week, Telangana had signed a deal with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Formula E, the governing body for events like Formula One, to make Hyderabad a host city for Formula E, a car race for electric vehicles.

Hyderabad thus entered into the elite league of cities like Beijing, Buenos Aires, Miami, Berlin, Moscow, Paris and Hong Kong as a venue for the event.

US tech giant Microsoft and the Telangana government have finalised a deal to set up a Rs 15,000-crore data centre in Hyderabad. A 50-acre land near the city is believed to have been finalised and the project is expected to create around 300 jobs. Telangana is one of the few states that came out with a data centre policy in India, way back in 2016. It is also expecting investments to the tune of around \$10 billion in the segment in the next five years.

In 2020, Amazon Web Services (AWS) had announced plans to set up its second data centre region in the country in Telangana at an investment of \$2.77 billion.

Last year, Microsoft had said it is planning to build around 50-100 new data centres each year in the foreseeable future. At present, it operates around 200 data centres across the world. Earlier this week, Telangana had signed a deal with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Formula E, the governing body for events like Formula One, to make Hyderabad a host city for Formula E, a car race for electric vehicles.

23. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Reserve Bank Of India Digital Payment Index (RBI-DPI):

1. The RBI's Digital Payment Index, which shows the deepening of payments through digital modes in India, rose by 39.64 per cent to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.
2. The Base Period Of RBI's Digital Payment Index is 2018
3. The RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters payment enablers (with 25 per cent weight), payment infrastructure—demand-side factors (10 per cent), payment infrastructure—supply-side factors (15 per cent), payment performance (45 per cent) and consumer centricity (5 per cent).
4. The Index Is Published On Semi Annual Basis From March 2021 Onwards With A Lag of 4 Months

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments index (DPI), which was launched in January 2021 to indicate the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, shows that the index for September 2021 stood at 304.06 against 270.59 in March

- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period, that is, DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100.
- RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters payment enablers (with 25 per cent weight), payment infrastructure—demand-side factors (10 per cent), payment infrastructure—supply-side factors (15 per cent), payment performance (45 per cent) and consumer centricity (5 per cent).

● RBI DATA

Digital payments clock 40% growth at September-end

RBI-DPI comprises five broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, January 19

DIGITAL PAYMENTS ACROSS the country registered growth of nearly 40% in a year through September 2021, according to the Reserve bank of India (RBI)'s latest index that measures the adoption of online transactions.

The newly constituted RBI's digital payment index (RBI-DPI) stood at 304.06 during September 2021, against 270.59 in March 2021 and 217.74 in September 2020. "The RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country" the RBI said in a statement on Wednesday.

The RBI had announced construction of a composite Reserve Bank of India – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The RBI-DPI comprises five broad

STRONG NUMBERS

■ The newly constituted RBI's digital payment index stood at 304.06 during September 2021, against 270.59 in March 2021 and 217.74 in September 2020



■ The RBI had announced construction of a composite RBI-DPI with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country

parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods. These parameters are: payment enablers (weight 25%); payment infrastructure – demand-side factors (10%); payment infrastructure – supply-side factors (15%); payment performance (45%) and consumer centricity (5%).

The index is published on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of four months.

24. Consider the following statement regarding Reserve Bank Of India New Eligibility Regarding NonBank-ing Finance Company Invest- ment and Credit Companies (NBFCICCs)

1. All existing nondeposit taking NonBank-ing Finance Company Invest-ment and Credit Companies (NBFCICCs) with asset size of ₹5,000 crore and above will be permitted to undertake factor-ing business subject to satisfaction of certain conditions

2. This will increase the number of NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business significantly from 7 to 18.

3. Eligible companies can apply to the RBI for seeking registration under the Factoring Regulation Act, 2015.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

A. Only 1 And 3

B. Only 1 And 2

C. None Of The Above

D. All Of The Above

RBI revises NBFC-ICC eligibility to undertake factoring business

Those with an asset size of ₹1,000 cr and above can register

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 20

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said all existing non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company-Investment and Credit Companies (NBFC-ICCs) with asset size of ₹1,000 crore and above will be permitted to undertake factoring business subject to satisfaction of certain conditions.

This will increase the number of NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business significantly from 7 to 182. Other NBFC-ICCs can also undertake factoring business by registering as NBFC-Factor. Eligible



companies can apply to the RBI for seeking registration under the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011.

Exclusion

However, credit facilities provided by banks in the ordinary course of business against security of receivables and any activity undertaken as a commission agent or otherwise for sale of agricultural produce or goods of any kind whatsoever and related activit-

ies are expressly excluded from the definition of Factoring Business.

The Factoring Act, 2011 defines the 'Factoring Business' as "the business of acquisition of receivables of assignor by accepting assignment of such receivables or financing, whether by way of making loans or advances or in any other manner against the security interest over any receivables".

In respect of trade receivables financed through a Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), the RBI said the particulars of assignment of receivables shall be filed with the Central Registry on behalf of the Factors by the TReDS concerned within 10 days.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

Regulations under the amended Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 have been issued by RBI.

- Under the regulations, all existing non-deposit taking NBFC-Investment and Credit Companies (NBFC-ICCs) having asset size of ₹1,000 crore & above will be allowed to carry out factoring business
- Due to this provision, the number of NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business will increase significantly from 7 to 182.
- Other NBFC-ICCs can also carry out factoring business by registering as NBFC-Factor
- In case of trade receivables financed through a Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), concerned TReDS shall file particulars of assignment of receivables with the Central Registry on behalf of the Factors within 10 days

25. Recently In January Which Among The Following Has Inked **Pact With US BASED Fluence To Form A New Entity Which Will Provide Energy Storage Solutions ?**

- A. Power Finance Corporation
- B. ReNew Power**
- C. NHPC Limited
- D. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency

ReNew Power will set up a joint venture (JV) with US-based Fluence to provide energy storage solutions in India.

- the companies announced an agreement to form a new company to meet the needs of local customers across India. The JV is expected to start operations in the first half of 2022.
- **The 50:50 JV will target the country's storage market, which is estimated to grow to 27 GW by 2030**
 - **The first project the JV will cater to is a 50 MWh battery-based energy storage system (BESS) for ReNew Powers' 300 MW Peak Power Project in Karnataka. In 2019, Fluence delivered India's first BESS project.**

IN BRIEF

ReNew Power inks JV with US-based Fluence



ReNew Power has entered into a joint venture with US-headquartered Fluence to form a new entity, which will provide energy storage solutions in India. The 50:50 joint venture will aim at the storage market in the country, estimated to grow to 27 Gw by

2030, said the company in a statement. "Managed and operated by an independent management team and board, the JV aims to bring market-leading energy storage technology and global experience to Indian customers by localizing and integrating Fluence's energy storage products and packages in India," the statement said. The first project the JV will cater to is 50 MWh battery-based energy storage system (BESS) for ReNew Powers' 300 Mw Peak Power Project in Karnataka.

BS REPORTER

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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26. Recently In January Which Among The Following Has Partnered With WealthDesk For Building A Unified Wealth Management Ecosystem ?

- A. IDBI Financial
- B. ICICI Direct
- C. Max Bupa
- D. BOB Financial Solution

WealthDesk, ICICIdirect join hands

Mumbai, January 20

Investment technology platform WealthDesk, which is building a unified wealth interface for the wealth management ecosystem, has partnered with ICICIdirect. This will allow ICICIdirect's seven million users to invest in more than 40 WealthBaskets (curated investment portfolios) from a wide range of SEBI-registered professionals, with investment sizes ranging from ₹1,000 to over ₹10 lakh. These WealthBaskets can be long term, short term, balanced, asset allocation-based, thematic, sectoral, and so on, WealthDesk said. OUR BUREAU

Investment technology platform WealthDesk, which is building a unified wealth interface (UWI) for the wealth management ecosystem, announced it has partnered with retail broker ICICIdirect.

This will allow ICICIdirect's 7 million users to invest in more than 40 WealthBaskets (curated investment portfolios) from a wide range of SEBI-registered professionals, with investment sizes ranging from ₹1,000 to over ₹10 lakh. UWI is an internet-scale wealth management ecosystem that is powered by WealthDesk platform, and it enables innovative investment and wealth products and solutions like direct equity and ETF-based WealthBaskets from SEBI-registered professionals to reach millions of Indians with broking accounts,

27. According To The Latest Data Released By UNCTAD In January In Its Investment Trends Monitor Report Said That India FDI Flows Has Fally By How Much Percent % In 2021 to What Amount ?

- A. 26 percent
- B. 16 percent
- C. 36 percent
- D. 13 percent

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India dropped 26 per cent in 2021 as compared with the previous year as large mergers and acquisitions deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data showed Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77 per cent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020

- FDI to India increased 27 per cent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry,

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28. Recently In January Bharti Backed Low Earth Satellite (LEO) Firm Has Partnered With Which Of The Following For Six Year Strategic Pact To Provide Satellite Broadband Services In The Country ?

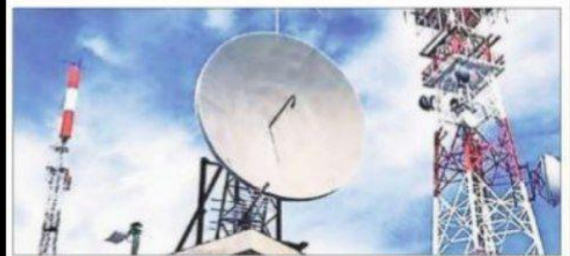
- A. Hughes Network Systems**
- B. Juniper Network**
- C. EchoStar**
- D. Genome Shine**

Bharti Group-backed company OneWeb and satellite service provider Hughes Network Systems have signed a strategic six-year distribution agreement to provide satellite broadband services across India, a joint statement said on Thursday. **The services in India will be provided by Hughes and Bharti Airtel joint venture Hughes Communications India Private Ltd.**

The agreement follows a memorandum of understanding signed by the companies in September 2021.

OneWeb's most recent satellite launch on 27 December 2021 brought its total in-orbit satellites to 394, over 60 per cent of the planned 648 LEO satellite fleet.

● SATELLITE BROADBAND **Oneweb, Hughes Network sign six-year pact**



OneWeb's most recent satellite launch on December 27, 2021 brought its total in-orbit satellites to 394

FE BUREAU
 New Delhi, January 20

BHARTI GROUP-BACKED LOW earth satellite (LEO) firm Oneweb and Hughes Network Systems have signed a strategic six-year pact to provide satellite broadband services in the country.

The services will be provided by Hughes Communications India Private Ltd (HCIPL), which is a joint venture between Hughes and Bharti Airtel. The deal follows the memorandum of understanding signed by the companies in September 2021.

Partho Banerjee, president and managing director, HCIPL, said, "This announcement marks a turning point for Digital India. Enterprise and government customers, including telecom service providers, banks, factories, schools, defence organisations, domestic airlines and offshore vessel operators are eagerly anticipating the arrival of new high performing satcom services."

OneWeb's most recent

satellite launch on December 27, 2021 brought its total in-orbit satellites to 394, over 60% of the planned 648 LEO satellite fleet.

It plans to commence global service by the end of 2022.

Hughes, through its parent company EchoStar, is a long-standing and supportive OneWeb shareholder. It is also an ecosystem partner to OneWeb, developing gateway electronics — including for those in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu — and the core module that will power every user terminal for the system.

Neil Masterson, CEO, OneWeb, said, "OneWeb's constellation will cover the length and breadth of India, from Ladakh to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to the Northeast and bring secure solutions to enterprises, governments, telcos, airline companies and maritime customers. OneWeb will invest in setting up enabling infrastructure such as Gateways and PoPs in India to light up the services."

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29. According to the *World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022'*, Cybercrime with ransomware attacks has increased by How Much Percent In 2021 ?

- A. 121%
- B. 151%**
- C. 138%
- D. 101%

According to the World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022', Cybercrime with ransomware attacks has increased by 151% in 2021

- World Economic Forum's 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022' report has been released during the online Davos Agenda summit. It is the first Global Cybersecurity Outlook flagship report
- As per this report, an organization faced an average of 270 cyberattacks. The company suffered an average loss of Rs 27 crores for even a single success of cyberattacks.
- Ransomware has emerged as the biggest concern for cybersecurity. Social engineering attacks are the second-highest concern for cyber leaders
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation based in Cologne, canton of Geneva, Switzerland.. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab

30. Which of the following banks has launched *Platina Fixed Deposit* that will offer interest of 15 basis points in addition to the regular term deposit rates?

- A. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**
- B. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- C. AU Small Finance Bank
- D. Jana Small Finance Bank

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Platina Fixed Deposit which offers interest of 15 basis points in addition to the regular Ujjivan SFB term deposit rates.

- The general FD for 990 days tenure gives 6.75% for general citizens and 7.50% for senior citizens, but Platina FD offers 15 bps over and above these interest rates,
 - The minimum FD amount is ₹20 lakh and the maximum amount is less than ₹2 crore.
- Ujjivan Financial Services Limited (UFSL) commenced operations as an NBFC in 2005. UFSL set up Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) and USFB commenced its banking operations from 1 February 2017

31. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to recently released report 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India'?
1. The report has been jointly released by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Finance.
 2. The report provides recommendations to inform the inclusion of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in RBI's priority-sector lending guidelines.
 3. Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore by 2025 and Rs 3.7 lakh crore by 2030.
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 And 3 only**
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

'Banks, NBFCs have potential to reach ₹40k-cr EV financing size of FY25'

BANKS AND NON-BANKING financial companies (NBFCs) in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle financing market size of ₹40,000 crore by 2025 and ₹3.7 lakh crore by 2030, according to a report released on Friday.

Government think-tank Niti Aayog and the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India in a joint report, titled 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India', outlined the importance of priority sector recognition for retail lending in the electric



mobility ecosystem. "However, retail finance for EVs has been slow to pick up," it said.

The report also stressed the need for the inclusion of lending by banks and NBFCs for buying EVs in the RBI's priority-sector lending (PSL) guidelines. PSL aims to expand financial access

and support employment opportunities in India.

To meet these goals, the report suggested that the RBI might consider various EV segments and use cases based on five parameters — socio-economic potential, livelihood generation potential, scalability, techno-economic viability, and stakeholder acceptability.

It indicated that electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial four-wheelers can be early segments to prioritise under PSL. — PTI

'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India' report has been released by NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.

- The report outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in the electric mobility ecosystem.
- provides recommendations to inform the inclusion of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in RBI's priority-sector lending guidelines.
- Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore by 2025 and Rs 3.7 lakh crore by 2030.
- The report recommends that EVs should be recognized as infrastructure sub-sector by Ministry of Finance

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32. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) has released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for Electronics sector titled as “300 billion dollar Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by Which Year ?

- A. 2025
- B. 2026**
- C. 2028
- D. 2030

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) has released 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for Electronics sector.

- The roadmap and Vision Document is titled as “300 billion dollar Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026
- The document presents year-wise details and production projections for various products.
- These projections will pave the way for India's transformation into an electronics manufacturing powerhouse worth USD 300 billion from the current USD 75 billion.
- The roadmap is 2nd volume of two-part Vision Document. The first part was released in November 2021.
- The first part was titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs”.

33. Recently In Janaury Which Of The Following Has Announded A Reileif Package Of Rs 1000 Cr To The Poor And Vulnerable Group In West Bengal ?

- A. ADB
- B. World Bank**
- C. AIIB
- D. European Union

WB okays ₹1k-cr loan to help the poor get govt services in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Kolkata, January 22

THE WORLD BANK has approved a loan of around Rs 1,000 crore to the West Ben-

gal government primarily to support its effort to help the poor and vulnerable groups access its social protection services.

According to a statement

released by the state government on Saturday, the loan will help the administration improve services such as medical help through telemedicine, sup-

port for the elderly and differently-abled, financial inclusion of citizens with digital payments and disbursement of benefits for public schemes.

34. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shares of which of the following companies by the **Generali Participations Netherlands N.V (GPN)?**

A. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company

B. Shriram Life Insurance Company

C. Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited

D. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Generali Participations Netherlands' (GPN) proposed acquisition of shares of Future Generali India Life Insurance Company (FGLIC).

□ Upon completion of the transaction, GPN's shareholding in FGLIC will be increased up to approximately 71% from 49%.

□ under the first tranche, the company will subscribe to equity shares of FGLIC. This will be issued by FGLIC through a preferential allotment.

□ GPN, which is a wholly-owned unit of global insurance provider Assicurazioni Generali (Generali Group), provides life insurance services through FGLIC in India.

□ FGLIC is a joint venture between three groups – retailer Future Group, global insurance group Generali Group, and investment company Industrial Investment Trust.

FUTURE GENERALI INDIA LIFE INSURANCE

CCI approves Generali Group hiking stake to 71% from 49%

Regulator also clears GlaxoSmithKline's Asian unit buy

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 24

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shares of Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd (FGLIC) by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V (GPN), pursuant to which GPN's shareholding in FGLIC will be increased to about 71 per cent from 49 per cent.

Hiking stake in 3 tranches

The proposed acquisition relates to an increase in shareholding of a shareholder – Generali Participations Netherlands N.V. (GPN/acquirer) – in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd (FGLIC/target). GPN proposes to increase its equity stake in FGLIC in three tranches.

The first tranche will involve subscribing to equity shares of FGLIC, to be issued by FGLIC through a preferential allotment. The second tranche would involve purchasing all of Industrial Investment Trusts Ltd's (IITL)



The Generali Group is present in the Indian life insurance industry through Future Generali REUTERS

shareholding of FGLIC. IITL will exit FGLIC and cease to be a shareholder of FGLIC; and the third tranche would involve subscribing to equity shares of FGLIC, to be issued by FGLIC through a preferential allotment, an official release said.

GPN is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A (Generali Group), the ultimate parent entity of the Generali group of companies. The Generali Group is a global insurance provider and is present in the Indian life insurance industry in India through FGLIC. GPN is engaged in the provision of life insurance services in India through FGLIC, a life insurance com-

pany that provides life insurance services/products in India.

GlaxoSmithKline trademarks

Meanwhile, the competition watchdog has also approved acquisition by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas Ltd and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading Ltd (acquirers) of shareholding in GlaxoSmithKline Asia Private Ltd (GSKAPI target).

The proposed combination involves collective acquisition of 100 per cent shares of the target by the acquirers, another official release said.

Further, prior to the proposed combination, GSKAPI

will acquire the trademarks pertaining to "Iodex" and "Ostocalcium" brands in India along with the legal, economic, commercial and marketing rights of such brands and other associated assets (GSK Consumer Brands) from GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Holdings (No.2) Ltd (GSK CH HoldCo). It is a part of the overall GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) group and its principal activity is to act as an investment holding company for GSK CH HoldCo and its subsidiaries.

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading Ltd is part of the overall GSK group and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GSK CH HoldCo.

It is engaged in the distribution and sale of consumer healthcare products, manufacturing, marketing, providing management services to the consumer healthcare group and providing research and development services to other consumer healthcare companies within the GSK group.

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35. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Revived The **IFSCA Approval To Carry Out Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Through Its Branch In Gift City ?**

- A. SBI Mutual Fund
- B. Nippon India Mutual Fund**
- C. Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund
- D. Aditya Birla Mutual Fund

Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India) on Friday said it has got approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to carry out portfolio management services (PMS) through a branch office in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

Currently, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India. Prior to the establishment of IFSCA, domestic financial regulators, including Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Insurance

NAM India to launch PMS in GIFT City

New Delhi, January 21

Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd (NAM India) on Friday said it has received the IFSCA's approval to carry out portfolio management services through a branch office at the international financial services centre (IFSC) in GIFT City. NAM India said it will expand its reach and presence in unique locations to service global clients by leveraging Nippon Life Insurance's global network, according to a statement. The company is currently operating five funds for Japan, including fixed income, equity, real estate and tech venture capital fund and other mandates. PTI

36. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Joined Has With NAFED To Train With Farmers Production Organisers (FPO) In Assessing Quality Of Pulses With A Device Called SpecX Visio “ ?

- A. AgNxt Technologies
- B. Parag Foods Limited
- C. Mswipe Technologies
- D. KreditBee Technologies

Agritech company AgNext Technologies has collaborated with NAFED to organise a virtual training and awareness programme on quality assessment of pulses for Maharashtra's biggest Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

AgNext has engaged with five FPOs in the state to create awareness about quality standards of pulses, particularly tur, for the upcoming procurement season. The FPOs will in turn train 40,000-50,000 farmers from across the state.

The programme aimed to train FPOs about the different market quality standards for tur Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO and Founder, AgNext Technologies

AgNext joins hands with NAFED to train FPOs in assessing quality of pulses

They will, in turn, train over 40,000 farmers in Maharashtra

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 21

Agritech company AgNext Technologies has collaborated with NAFED to organise a virtual training and awareness programme on quality assessment of pulses for Maharashtra's biggest Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). AgNext has engaged with five FPOs in the State to create awareness about quality standards of pulses, particularly tur (pigeon pea), for the upcoming procurement season.

Quality standards for tur

The FPOs will in turn train

AgNext's physical quality assessment device 'SpecX Visio' can instantly analyse tur dal samples and conduct a physical quality check in less than a minute

40,000-50,000 farmers from across the State.

The programme is aimed at training FPOs about the different market quality standards for tur. The commodity is graded and priced based on this assessment. Practical demonstrations of physical assessment parameters were done to apprise the participants on how to recognise broken, damaged, immature, shrivelled or weevilled pulses, presence of foreign matter, moisture content in the samples, and

other essential parameters. The participants were also shown how AgNext's physical quality assessment device 'SpecX Visio' can instantly analyse tur dal samples and conduct a physical quality check in less than a minute.

Taranjeet Singh Bhamra, CEO and Founder, AgNext Technologies, said in a statement, "Traditional methods of food quality assessment are subjective and prone to manual error. Better awareness and understanding of the quality parameters of a commodity can help farmers trade better and generate more income". Sanjay Nichal, Divisional Manager at the Vidarbha Cooperative Marketing Federation (VCMF), one of Maharashtra's leading FPOs, said, "Uncertainty in food quality is one of the biggest reasons for rejection or low pricing of any commodity."



37. Recently In Janaury HDFC Capital , A Wholly Owned Subsidiary Pf HDFC Ltd Has Estimated How Much Billion Amount Focused On Affordable Housing fOr H- CARE 3 (HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund) ?

- A. USD 1.88 Billion
- B. USD 6 Billion
- C. USD 69.7 Billion
- D. USD 132 Million

The government has already The Survey is expected to interest rates. consultancy firm has and

Affordable housing fin: HDFC Capital achieves initial close of \$1.8-billion fund

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 23

HDFC CAPITAL, A wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC, has achieved the initial close of its third fund of \$1.88 billion (about ₹13,500 cr) focused on affordable housing.

HDFC Capital's target is to finance the development of one million affordable homes in India through a combination of innovative financing, partnerships and technology, whilst focusing on sustainability, the company said in a statement.

In order to achieve this objective, the company is in active discussions with leading global

The HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund-3 (H-CARE-3) is one the largest funds raised to invest in the residential real estate sector in India

investors to raise additional funds to be invested in affordable housing in India.

The HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund-3 (H-CARE-3) is one the largest funds raised to invest in the residential real estate sector in India with investors committing in excess of \$1.22 billion towards the first close. It combined with poten-

tial reinvestments by the fund creates an estimated total fund corpus of \$1.88 billion, it said.

The primary investor in H-CARE 3 is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), it said adding that the fund will provide long-term, flexible funding across the lifecycle of affordable and mid-income housing projects, including early-stage funding. In addition, it said H-CARE 3 will also invest in technology companies (construction technology, fintech, cleantech, etc.) engaged in the affordable housing ecosystem.

"HDFC Capital has been one of the pioneers of investing in

affordable and mid-income housing projects in India. With support from marquee global investors like ADIA and partnerships with leading developers, the platform is well on its way to ensuring many more Indians become homeowners," HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh said.

At HDFC Capital, the vision is to finance the development of the affordable housing ecosystem in India and provide a seamless platform for all stakeholders including global investors, developers, and vendors to access financing and technology innovations, the company's managing director Vipul Roongta said.

HDFC Capital, a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Ltd and acting as an investment manager, has achieved the initial close of its third fund of an estimated \$1.88 billion (about Rs 13,989 crore) focused on affordable housing, the HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund – 3 (H-CARE-3).

H-CARE 3 is one the largest funds raised to invest in the residential real estate sector in India with investors committing in excess of \$1.22 billion towards the first close, which combined with potential reinvestments by the fund, creates an estimated total fund corpus of \$1.88 billion

The primary investor in H-CARE 3 is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). Set up in 2016,

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38. Recently In January The Reserve Bank Of India Has Infused How Much Amount Into The Banking System To Cool Overnight Call Money Market Rates ?

- A. Rs 20000 Cr
- B. Rs 75000 Cr**
- C. Rs 50000 Cr
- D. Rs 80000 Cr

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on Friday, conducted a three-day Variable Rate Repo auction to infuse liquidity amounting to ₹75,000 crore in the banking system in a bid to cool overnight call money market rates. The central bank had conducted a one-day Variable Rate Repo auction for ₹50,000 crore on Thursday, too, as overnight call money market rates shot up following tightness in liquidity due to outflows from Banks on account GST payments by their clients.

RBI infuses ₹75,000 cr into banking system

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 21

The RBI on Friday conducted a three-day Variable Rate Repo auction to infuse ₹75,000 crore into the banking system to cool overnight call money market rates.

The central bank had conducted a one-day Variable Rate Repo auction for ₹50,000 crore on Thursday, too, as overnight call money market rates shot up on liquidity tightness due to outflows from banks for GST payments by clients.

On Friday, the RBI received bids aggregating ₹1,22,170 crore. The central bank allocated ₹75,005 crore to banks at the cut-off 4.09 per cent rate.

The overnight call money moved in the 2.20-4.55 per cent range on Friday, per CCIL data.

Meanwhile, at the auction of the GSec maturing in 2026 (coupon rate: 5.74 per cent), about 34 per cent of the notified amount of ₹6,000 crore devolved on primary dealers. The auction of other three papers, 4.56 per cent GS 2023 (₹2,000 crore), 6.67 per cent GS 2035 (₹9,000 crore) and 6.99 per cent GS 2051 (₹7,000 crore), sailed through.

37. Recently In January Which Bank To Sell Its 7.29 % Stake In Derivative Exchange NCDEX To Free Up Capital To Expand Lending and Invest in the so-called bad bank ?

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Punjab National Bank**
- C. Union Bank Of India
- D. Bank Of Baroda

Punjab National Bank (PNB) is looking to sell its stake in Pridhvi Asset Reconstruction and Securitisation Co. Ltd and National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd, or NCDEX, to free up capital to expand lending.

While PNB owns 10% in Pridhvi ARC, its stake in NCDEX is at 7.29%. PNB has been selling its non-core assets to raise capital for some time now, and this is the latest bid ahead of what is being seen as the phase where demand for credit would pick up.

NCDEX is an agricultural commodity exchange in India, Pridhvi Asset Reconstruction and Securitisation Co. was incorporated on 27 March 2007 and received the registration certificate from the Reserve Bank of India in April 2008. The company claims it is the first ARC to be licensed by RBI in south India. PNB is a sponsor of the ARC.

39. As per the study by NASSCOM and Zinnov, 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans', start-ups raised a record Of How Much Amount in 2021 ?

- A. \$26.1 billion
- B. \$28.1 billion
- C. \$24.1 billion
- D. \$21.1 billion

Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 bn in 2021: study

Twofold rise from pre-COVID levels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID-19 levels, according to a new study by NASSCOM and Zinnov.

According to the study, 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans', more than 2,250 start-ups were added in 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year.

The study said: "Start-ups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels. In comparison to 2020, there was a 3X increase in the number of high value deals

(deals > USD 100 million), demonstrating investor confidence with a pool of active angel investors of 2400+ and a readiness to take significant risks."

FDI inflow from U.S.

It added that while the U.S. remains the leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in start-ups, worldwide involvement is also growing. About 50% of the deals had at least one India-domiciled investor.

It said that more than \$6 billion has been raised via public markets with 11 start-up IPOs in 2021.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

As per the study by NASSCOM and Zinnov, start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021.

As per the study, 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans', over 2,250 start-ups were added in 2021. This was more than that added in the previous year.

The study said that over \$6 billion has been raised via public markets with 11 start-up IPOs in 2021.

As per the study, Start-up ecosystem provided 6.6 lakh direct jobs and over 34.1 lakh indirect jobs.

National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is an association of the software industry. It was established in 1988. Debjani Ghosh is its President. Zinnov is a management & strategy consulting firm.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

40. Recently In January *Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)* Has Partnered With Which Of The Following Bank to strengthen tech startup ecosystem in India Through *AIC STPINEXT Initiatives* ?

- A. Axis Bankl
- B. HDFC Bank**
- C. State Bank Of Indio
- D. Bank Of Baroda

To build leadership and create next wave of budding entrepreneurs in the emerging sectors of technology like IoT, Blockchain, FinTech, AI, AR/VR, ESDM, Data Science STPI has announced setting up of 25-plus CoEs in specific domains spread across India.

- AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT), a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), one with HDFC Bank and another with Excelpoint Systems India Pvt Ltd, a niche technology player, for fostering entrepreneurship and nurturing tech startups in the country
- AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES” is a section 8 company incorporated by STPI to act as the nodal agency and common implementation vehicle for various startup and entrepreneurial activities at STPI.
- HDFC Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

41. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has *Been Given Category 1 License For The Inter State Trading Of Power In The Entire Country* By Central Electricity Regulatory Commission ?

- A. NTPC
- B. SJVN**
- C. IOCL
- D. BPCI

State-owned SJVN Ltd 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

- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP).

SJVN is now a listed Company having shareholders pattern of 59.92% with Govt. of India, 26.85% with Govt. of Himachal Pradesh and rest of 13.23% with Public

Appointment News

1. **RBL Bank's board has recently decided to take the assistance of Which Of The Following as an External Expert to work with Search Committee to identify candidates for the position of MD & CEO of RBL Bank ?**

- A. Manjeev Singh Puri
- B. Pradip Shah
- C. Rupa Devi
- D. Manish Khattar

The Board of RBL Bank has decided to take the assistance of Pradip Shah, Chairman, National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL), as an External Expert to work with the Search Committee to identify and evaluate candidates for the position of MD & CEO both from within and outside the Bank.

- Further, the Board, , also approved Egon Zehnder as the search firm for identifying suitable candidates for the post of Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for the Bank, in a timely manner.
- On December 30, 2021, RBL Bank had announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as Interim Managing Director & CEO of the Bank for a period of three months

RBL BANK CHIEF'S POSITION

NARCL chief to aid search panel as external expert

OUR BUREAU


Mumbai, January 16

The Board of RBL Bank has decided to take the assistance of Pradip Shah, Chairman, National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), as an External Expert to work with the Search Committee to identify and evaluate candidates for the position of MD and CEO both from within and outside the Bank. Further, the Board, at its meeting held on Saturday, also approved Egon Zehnder as the search firm for identifying suitable candidates for the post of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for the Bank.

Search Committee members

The Search Committee comprises of Manjeev Singh Puri, Chairman, Nomination and Remuneration Committee and two Directors - Ishan Raina and Veena Mankar. On December 30, 2021, RBL Bank had an-

nounced that the RBI has approved the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as Interim Managing Director and CEO of the Bank for a period of three months with effect from December 25, 2021 or till the appointment of a regular MD and CEO, whichever is earlier.



GUJARAT URJA GUVNL
2nd Floor, Sa
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Phone: 0265-2
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2. In January 2022, who among the following took charge of **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** as its new Chairman?
- A. Vini Mahajan
 - B. Ravindra Shukla
 - C. Pradip Shah
 - D. Narendra Kumar Goenka**

Narendra Kumar Goenka took charge of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) as its new Chairman on 17 Jan 2022.

Padma Shri Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him.

AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles.

Goenka is the founder and Managing Director of Texport Industries – one of the largest apparel manufacturer-exporters in India.

Founder and Managing Director of Texport Industries Narendra Kumar Goenka on Monday took over as the Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of the Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman.

3. Recently In January Which Among The Following Was Appointed As The as the **next Vice Chief of Army Staff** ?
- A. Lt Gen Manoj Pande**
 - B. Lt Gen CP Mohanty
 - C. Lt Gen Rajesh Sahrama
 - D. Lt Gen Hari Kumar

The Government of India gave its approval to the proposal for the appointment of Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff

- The Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande will be the next Army Vice Chief. He will be the successor to Lt Gen CP Mohanty who is scheduled to superannuate on January 31, 2022
- The Vice Chief of Army Staff is the Deputy head and is the second-highest-ranking officer of the Indian Army. VCOAS is a Principal Staff Officer at the Army Headquarters in Delhi

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4. Recently In January Who Among The Following Has Been Named As The **Director Of Tobacco Board** ?

- A. Nitin Gadkari
- B. GVL Narshima Rao**
- C. Dr HarshVardhan
- D. Ravishankar Prasad

V L Narasimha Rao, a Rajya Sabha member from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been appointed as a Director in Tobacco Board.

- According to the Tobacco Board Act of 1975, the Board is represented by a Rajya Sabha member. The Board, which reports to the Union Ministry of Commerce, regulates the country's tobacco crop
- Tobacco Board is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board is headed by a Chairman with its headquarters at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

GVL Narasimha Rao named Director of Tobacco Board

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, January 16

GVL Narasimha Rao, a Rajya Sabha member representing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been appointed as a Director on the Tobacco Board.

"Consequent to a motion adopted in the house in December 2021, you have been elected to the Tobacco Board," the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has informed the MP.

As per Tobacco Board Act 1975, the Board is represented by a member of the Rajya Sabha. The



GVL Narasimha Rao, BJP MP

Board, which works under the Union Ministry of Commerce, regulates the tobacco crop in the country.

Besides deciding on the extent of the crop that farmers can grow in a year, the Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) based Board monitors the auctioning process, where registered tobacco traders and firms participate.

"I will work for the benefit of tobacco growing farmers and to promote exports," Narasimha Rao has said in a tweet.

As per Tobacco Board Act 1975, the Board is represented by a member of the Rajya Sabha and works under the Union Ministry of Commerce. It regulates the tobacco crop in the country

5. Recently In January Whom Among The Following HAS Been Elected As The **Next Chairman Of IFFCO** ?

- A. Piyush Chopra
- B. Dileep Sanghani**
- C. Pradeep Kumar
- D. Kris Gopalkrishnan

Dileep Sanghani, a former cabinet minister in the Government of Gujarat and senior co-operator, on Wednesday became the 17th chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)

- The election of the new chairman was held due to the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai earlier on 11th October 2021

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, also known as IFFCO, is a multi-state cooperative society engaged in the business of manufacturing headquartered in New Delhi, Founded: 3 November 1967

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6. Recently In January Whom Among The Following was elected youngest president of the European Union's parliament ?

- A. Roberta Metsola
- B. Charles Michel
- C. Francois Mitterrand
- D. Democrat Helmut

Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament putting women in three of the four biggest jobs in the 27-nation bloc.

- Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who died last week.
- She is only the third woman elected to the post., and at age 43, she is the European Parliament's youngest president
 - Metsola is the first politician from Malta, a Mediterranean position in the EU.
- The European Union (EU) is headquartered in Belgium. It Was Formed In 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands



Roberta Metsola. AP

BELGIUM

Metsola is new EU Parliament president

Brussels: Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament Tuesday, putting women in three of the four biggest jobs in the 27-nation bloc. Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who died last week. She is only the third woman elected to the post. Her birthday was Tuesday, and at age 43, she is the European Parliament's youngest president. Metsola was the candidate of the parlia-

7. Recently In January Who has been named as ambassador of the Internet panel on languages?

- A. Ruchir Sharma
- B. Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- C. Vijay Shekhar
- D. KI Rahul

ICANN-supported Universal Acceptance Steering Group has named Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador.

Universal Acceptance Steering Group is responsible for effectively promoting the Universal Acceptance of all valid domain names and email addresses.

Vijay Shekhar is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of Paytm.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non-profit corporation. It allocates Internet Protocol (IP) address, Generic (gTLD), and country code.

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8. Recently In January Which Of The Following HAs Been Appointed As The Last New Chief (Chairman And MD) Of National Carrier Air India Which is Slated To Be Handed Over To Tata Sons ?

- A. Shersingh Baliya
- B. Vikram Dev Dutt**
- C. Thomas Matthew
- D. Subhash Chanbdra

Amid talks of complete handover of Air India airlines to the Tata group by January end, in a surprise move the Union government has named senior AGMUT-cadre IAS officers Vikram Dev Dutt as new chairman and managing director of Air India Limited.

- On October 25, the Union government signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore. As per the deal, Tata's would pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt

Vikram Dev Dutt appointed new chief of Air India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 18

SENIOR BUREAUCRAT
VIKRAM Dev Dutt was on Tuesday appointed as the new chief of the loss-making national carrier Air India, which is slated to be handed over to the Tata Sons.

Dutt's appointment was part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre in which Manish Kumar Gupta was appointed as Vice Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Pankaj Agrawal as the new Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry.

Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre, is at present Principal Secretary (Tourism) in the Delhi government, and has been promoted and appointed as the Air India chairman and managing director (CMD) in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Civil Aviation Secretary

Rajiv Bansal was holding additional charge of Air India CMD.

It was not immediately clear whether appointment of Dutt was an indication of a possible delay in handing over of the national carrier to the Tata Sons. The Centre had in October last year accepted Tata Sons bid of Rs 18,000 crore to acquire 100 per cent of the debt-laden state-run carrier.

As per the conditions arrived in October, all formalities of handover should be completed within eight weeks but the date can be mutually extended by the buyer and seller which is what is being done in this case.

In other appointments, Gupta, a 1991-batch IAS officer and at present Principal Commissioner in the DDA, was made the Vice Chairman of the Authority.

Ashish Srivastava, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development will now be Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

9. Recently In January Who has been elected as North Macedonia's new Prime Minister?

- A. Zoran Zaev
- B. Stevo Pendarovski
- C. Hristijan Mickoski
- D. Dimitar Kovacevski**

After more than two months of political turmoil, North Macedonia's Parliament has elected Social Democrat technocrat Dimitar Kovacevski as Prime Minister

- Former Deputy Finance Minister Kovacevski took over Zoran Zaev, who stepped down the last month after his party's heavy defeat in municipal elections
- North Macedonia: Its capital is Skopje and the currency is the Macedonian dinar

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10. Recently In January Who Among The Following HAs Been Appointed As The **New Chief Justice Of Pakisatan Supreme Court ?**

- A. Justice Arif Alvi
- B. Justice Umar Atabandial**
- C. Justice Gulzaar Ahmed
- D. Justice Shoiab Umar

Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Wednesday took the oath as the 28th Chief Justice of Pakistan in a ceremony held at Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad.

- President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to the new CJP.
- Former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry was also present at the occasion.
- Justice Bandial will serve as the CJP until Sept 16, 2023 when he is due to be replaced by Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

11. Recently In Janaury **DCB Bank's board of directors has recently approved appointment of Whom as Non-Executive Chairman of the bank ?**

- A. Suneet Sharma
- B. Rupa Devi Singh**
- C. Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- D. B K Tyagi

The appointment of Rupa Devi Singh, Independent Director, as Non-Executive Chairman of DCB Bank has been approved by its board of directors.

The appointment is subject to approval from RBI and shareholders of the bank.

According to Section 10B (1A) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the appointment of a part-time chairman requires prior approval of RBI.

DCB Bank is a private sector scheduled commercial bank in India

Justice Umar Ata Bandial to be next Pakistan CJ

Islamabad: Justice Umar Ata Bandial, one of the judges who declined to retake their oaths in 2007 when former Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf proclaimed a state of emergency in the country, will be the new Chief Justice of Pakistan.

President Arif Alvi on Monday formally appointed Justice Bandial, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, as the next Chief Justice of the country. Justice Bandial, 63, will assume responsibilities on February 2 after the retirement of incumbent Gulzar Ahmed, who was appointed as Chief Justice on December 21, 2019.

Justice Bandial will serve in the top judicial office until September 16, 2023 when he would retire on superannuation. PTI

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12. Recently In January Reserve Bank Of India Has Approved The Appointment Of Whom Among The Following As The Independent Chairman Of Unity Small Finance Bank , A Joint Venture Between Bharat Pe And Centrum Group ?

- A. Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- B. Narendra Kumar Goenka
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Vinay Kumar Dutt

RBI okays Vinod Rai as Unity SFB's independent chairman

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vinod Rai, the former comptroller and auditor general of India, as the independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (SFB), a joint venture between Centrum group and Bharat Pe. The SFB has also appointed Sandip Ghose, an RBI veteran; Basant Seth, former chairman and managing director of Syndicate Bank; and Subhash Kutte, former chairman RBL Bank, to its board. Unity SFB started its operations in November after the RBI nod. The RBI gave this joint venture a small finance bank licence to take over the beleaguered Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

BS REPORTER

Vinod Rai has been appointed as the independent chairman of the Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) by RBI.

- Rai is the former (11th) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- In addition to Rai, Sandip Ghose, Basant Seth, and Subhash Kutte are also members of USFB board
- Unity Small Finance Bank: Unity Small Finance Bank is a joint venture between Centrum group and BharatPe
 - With effect from November 1, 2021, it had commenced operations as a small finance bank.
- It was established with capital of about ₹1,100 crore as against regulatory requirement of ₹200 crore for establishment of a small finance bank

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14. Recently In January Who has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion?

- A. Garvita Gulhati
- B. Prajakta Koli**
- C. Sneha Shahi
- D. Kriti Tula

Actress Prajakta Koli has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.

- As UNDP India Youth Climate Champion, she will create awareness on the adverse impacts of climate change, global warming and biodiversity loss
- She has been honored with this title for her work towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education.
- UNDP It is the UN's global development network that was founded in 1965. Its headquarters is located in New York. Achim Steiner is the current administrator of UNDP.

13. Recently In January Tata Sky Rebranded Itself As Tata Play And Appointed Whom As Its Brand Ambassador ?

- A. Disha Patani
- B. Saif Ali Khan**
- C. Hrithik Roushan
- D. Rajkumar Rao

Tata Sky – one of India's leading DTH and Pay TV platform with the largest number of subscribers – announced its new identity, Tata Play,

- Starting today, Tata Play will include Netflix across multiple Combo packs for users to enjoy a seamless entertainment experience across TV channels and OTT content
- Tata Sky Broadband Private Ltd., a subsidiary of Tata Play Limited will now be known as Tata Play Fiber
- Tata Play's campaign features Nation's heartthrobs Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan and megastars R. Madhavan and Priyamani who have played relatable,

Tata Sky rebrands itself as Tata Play; to offer OTT as well

LataJha
 lata.j@livemint.com
 NE DELHI

Tata Sky has rebranded itself as Tata Play as it looks to expand its television-cum-OTT (over-the-top) offerings in combined packages. The direct-to-home (DTH) platform has added Netflix to 13 OTT services, including Amazon Prime Video and Disney-Hotstar, as part of its so-called Binge packs.

Starting at ₹399 per month, the new combo packs will be effective 27 January and will be promoted through a nationwide campaign featuring actors

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan in national markets, and R. Madhavan and Priyamani in the South.

"We've realized that while many people are still watching television, they are also watching OTT content, and that it's difficult to have different relationships across these many platforms and go around looking for content. Our new brand identity is in line with the idea that we are no longer just a DTH player but a content distributor across live television and OTT services," Harit Nagpal, managing director and chief executive, Tata Play said in an interview.



Our new brand identity is in line with the idea that we are no longer just a DTH player, Tata Play MD&CEO Harit Nagpal said. MINT

Termining the new offering as a family product, Nagpal said the combo packs will allow different members of the same family to watch content of their choice across devices such as mobile

phones or large screens when they're not all watching TV. Prices will vary according to the number of screens, DTH connections and packs subscribed to.

In addition, Tata Play has decided to waive service visit charges of ₹175. DTH customers who have not recharged their packs can also get reconnections for free. "The name Tata Play signifies our expanded range of product and services. The new identity is an outcome of our desire to be future-ready while making tomorrow better than today for homes and families," it said.

The pandemic may have introduced Indians across age groups to web content but Nagpal said this hasn't necessarily led to a drop in TV viewership numbers and that cord-cutting is still some time away.

Mihir Shah, vice-president, Media Partners Asia (MPA), called it a step in the right direction for Tata Play. "With its TV everywhere phenomenon, this comes like a natural transition in the industry where OTT is now a mainstream trend, at least in urban homes," he said.

During the pandemic, a lack of fresh TV programming turned users towards OTT content. As things coming back to normal, fresh programming and viewership have returned on television, he added. "For discerning urban consumers TV-OTT bundled packages offer better convenience and experience," he said.



APL Apollo Tubes names actor Tiger Shroff as brand ambassador for Apollo Column



Learning company Pearson India signs actor Vicky Kaushal as brand ambassador



Actor Rajkumar Rao becomes the face of InsurTech company RenewBuy

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Days And Obituraries

1. Which of the following days will be observed as **National Start-up Day**?

- A. 18 January
- B. 17 January
- C. 16 January**
- D. 14 January

National Startup Day will be celebrated On 16th January to promote startup culture at the grassroots level

- "this decade is being called as 'techade' of India...to strengthen the innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem India's startups are now working in 55 different industries. Five years ago, India didn't have even 500 startups! Today, that number has crossed 60,000."
- **Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem**"the event is being hosted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, from January 10 to 16. The event marks the 6th anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative

2. **Padma Shri Awardee Saoli Mitra** has passed away in January 2022. She was a famous For ?

- A. Classical Dance
- B. Theatre Artist**
- C. Music Composer
- D. Cardiology

Saoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality and daughter of legendary actors Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra passed away in January 2022.

She was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012.

She is known for her solo performance as Draupadi in 'Naathvati Anaathbat' (Five husbands, yet an orphan), which she also wrote and directed.

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3. **Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away recently. He was legendary in which dance style?**

- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Kathak**
- C. Kuchipudi
- D. Kathakali

KATHAK MAESTRO

A storyteller who blurred gender norms

SUANSHU KHURANA

BACK IN 2010, at a concert in Delhi's Kamani auditorium, Girija Devi sang the lilting Hori — *Rang daarungi nand ke laalan pe, rang daarungi* — a Braj bhaasha piece about Radha's explicit desire to colour Krishna. Next to her sat Pt Birju Maharaj, who embodied Radha in the moment — the adakaari in place, the heart in tow. As he interpreted this one line in numerous ways, he articulated the desire of a woman, with all its sensuality in place. In the middle of the piece, Girija Devi draped her shawl over Maharaj's head. Maharaj acknowledged, turning



PT BIRJU MAHARAJ
1938 – 2022

became synonymous with Kathak, passed away in Delhi at the age of 83. He suffered from kidney ailments and had been on dialysis for some months. He contracted Covid a few days ago and had a heart attack on Monday morning.

Maharaj's oeuvre was not just about dazzling performances, choreographies, and that delicate glance of the eye. It was also about his intrepid belief that dance could convey just about everything. Gender, in all of this, rarely mattered as he sought to move beyond any constraints that his artform offered.

the shawl into his veil. Tumultuous applause followed. "I don't know a single woman dancer who can be a better Radha," Devi would say often.

A rare combination of virtuosity and expression, grace and control, Pt Birju Maharaj, who

Continued on Page 2

Pandit Birju Maharaj, India's leading Kathak exponent and recipient of the Padma Vibhushan award, died of a heart attack.

On February 4, 1937, he was born as Brij Mohan Nath Mishra into a well-known family of Kathak dancers.

- Kathak: Kathak is one of India's eight major classical dance styles
- He was the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to the performing arts, including the Padma Vibhushan in 1986
- In 2021, a book on his life, titled *Nritya Samrat Pt. Birju Maharaj*, was launched. It has been put together by Nandkishore Kapote, a senior disciple of Birju Maharaj

4. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched 'Open Data Week' to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across the country. 'Open Data Week' will be organized from Which Date ?**

- A. 16th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.
- B. 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.**
- C. 18th January 2022 to 22nd January 2022.
- D. 17th January 2022 to 23rd January 2022

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Open Data Week' will be organized from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022. The main objective of this week is to spread awareness about the benefits of open data.

- The Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives, leading up to the 'Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022,
- All 100 smart cities will publish high-quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal All 100 smart cities are geared up for the event, making it a collaborative effort towards making Indian cities 'Data Smart'
- It is divided into two segments – first, uploading of datasets, visualizations, APIs and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal from 17 to 20 January and second, celebration of a Data Day by all smart cities on January 21

5. Which of the following countries former Prime Minister, **Toshiki Kaifu** has passed away in January 2022?

- a. Phillipinese
- b. Malaysia
- c. Japan
- d. Singapore

The former Prime Minister of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu has passed away at the age of 91 years in Japan. He served as the PM from 1989 to 1991. He is known for sending the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the Persian Gulf in 1991. After the Gulf War, the Japanese Self-Defense Force were

6. Recently In Janaury **Shri Narayan Debnath Ji** Who PAssed Away Was ?

- A. An Indian comics artist, writer and illustrator
- B. Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India
- C. Former Union Cabinet Minister
- D. Classical Kathak Dancer

Legendary cartoonist, noted illustrator and litterateur Narayan Debnath passed away in KolkataA

- He was the creator of some of immortal cartoon characters for Bengali readers such as Bantul the Great, Handa Bhonda and Nonte Fonte.
- The cartoonist was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013 and the Padma Shri in 2021.

Cartoonist Narayan Debnath passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Narayan Debnath, legendary cartoonist, noted illustrator and litterateur, passed away in Kolkata on Tuesday. He was 96 and was undergoing treatment in a private hospital for the past few weeks.

Mr. Debnath was the creator of some of immortal cartoon characters for Bengali readers such as Bantul the Great, Handa Bhonda and Nonte Fonte that have inspired not only children but generations of Bengalis.

His comic strips have attained a cult following for nearly six decades. He was honoured with the Sahitya



Narayan Debnath

Akademi award in 2013 and the Padma Shri in 2021.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condoled the demise of the cartoonist. "His passing away is certainly an immeasurable loss to the world of literary creativity and comics,"she said.

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7. **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its raising day every year on 19 January. In which year was NDRF raised?**

- A. 2005
- B. 2006**
- C. 2007
- D. 2008

NDRF celebrates its raising day every year on 19 January. In 2022, it is celebrating its 17th raising day.

- NDRF was raised on 19th January 2006. It is the world's first dedicated stand-alone Disaster Response Force.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF): It was established in the year 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Its motto is 'Apda Seva Sadav Sarvatra'. Atul Karwal is the current Director-General of NDRF.

8. **Union Health Minister has released commemorative Postal Stamp on Covid-19 vaccine to commemorate the first anniversary of India's National Covid-19 Vaccination program. India's COVID-19 vaccination campaign was launched by Prime Minister Modi on Which Of The Following Day in 2021 ?**

- A. 16 January**
- B. 17 January
- C. 18 January
- D. 19 January

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday released a commemorative postal stamp on India's achievement in developing the indigenous Covid vaccine as the nation marked the first anniversary of its Covid vaccine drive which began on January 16 last year.

- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released the postal stamp at a virtual programme, and termed India's vaccination drive as the "most successful in the world".
- on the occasion of #1YearOfVaccineDrive, a postal stamp has been issued on the indigenous Covaxin developed jointly by ICMR and Bharat Biotech,
- The countrywide vaccination drive against Covid-19 on Sunday completed one year, during which over 156.76 crore vaccine doses were administered.

Mandaviya releases stamp on Covaxin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Seventy per cent of India's adults have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 while 93% received the first jab, said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya while launching a postage stamp on indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin to mark one year of the inoculation drive.

The drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Mr. Mandaviya said it is a proud moment for Indians and the entire world is amazed by the country's inoculation drive.

"India has been able to achieve the milestone of administering over 156 crore doses despite such a huge population and diversity," he said.

"There was no dearth of manpower or brainpower. What was needed was the ability to identify the potential in the country for coming up with vaccines."

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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9. Recently In January Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) has celebrated **Agri Nutri Garden Week** from Which Of The Following Day ?

- A. 10th to 17th January 2022**
- B. 11th to 18th January 2022
- C. 12th to 19th January 2022
- D. 13th to 20th January 2022

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) has celebrated Agri Nutri Garden Week from 10th to 17th January 2022.

- Agri Nutri Garden Week has been celebrated through an awareness campaign and encouraging the establishment of 'Agri Nutri Gardens' in rural households
- National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD in June 2011 as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY).**
- In November 2015, it was renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

10. **National Girl Child Day** is celebrated every year on 24 January in **India**. **National Girl Child Day** was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 2004
- B. 2002
- C. 2001
- D. 2008**

National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on 24 January in India.

- It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008
- It is observed to spread awareness about child sex ratios, girls' education, empowerment of girls, etc.
- It also celebrated to mark the anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme
- International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated every year on 11 October**

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11. "**Parakram Diwas**" (**Courage Day**) is commemorated as the birth anniversary of which personality?
- A. Chandra Shekhar Azad
 - B. Subhash Chandra Bose**
 - C. Jawaharlal Nehru
 - D. Bhagat Singh

"Parakram Diwas" (Courage Day) is commemorated as the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

On January 23, 2022, India commemorated Netaji's 125th birthday.

The Trinamool Congress commemorated Bose's birthday as 'Desh Nayak Diwas.' The day is observed to commemorate his outstanding contribution to India's freedom movement. He is known for his selfless service to the country.

The Modi government had announced in 2021 that January 23rd would be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas".

Sports Awards And Books

1. Who of the following has won the **Men's Singles title at the India Open in New Delhi on January 16, 2022?**

- A. Lakshya Sen
- B. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
- C. Chirag Shetty
- D. Yash Jain

Lakshya Sen has won the Men's Singles title of the India Open in New Delhi on 16 January 2022.

- Pair of Satwik sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won Men's Doubles trophy of India Open.
 - World championship bronze medallist Lakshya defeated reigning World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.
 - India's pair of Satwik sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated the Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.
- India Open 2022 was held at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi from 11 to 16 January 2022. India Open 2022 is officially known as Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022.



Lakshya Sen after beating the world champion, Singapore's Loh Kean Yew, in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Sen beats world champion to claim India Open title

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 16

AS HE claimed the India Open Super 500 at IG Stadium on Sunday, Lakshya Sen simultaneously beat Singaporean Loh Kean Yew and the tempting instinct to match the world champion's showboating.

For a pair of men in their early 20s, both equipped with an exuberant attack, the impulse to get into a 'who's faster, who's hitting harder' contest could have dragged the Almora man into peril at crucial junctures. But Sen

displayed maturity and control, putting to shade the world champion who was crowned only last month. On his debut at the Delhi event, Sen, himself a bronze medallist in the world championships, became the first opponent to hand Kean Yew a defeat on the circuit, with a 24-22, 21-17 victory.

After the win, Sen admitted that he was feeling the nerves. "It feels nice to win. In the end I was a little anxious to win. But I'm happy I pulled off the win," he said.

In both the semis and finals, Sen was under the pump at the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2. The **9th Women's National Ice Hockey Championship 2022 has been conducted in which state/UT?**

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

Ladakh women's team has won the ninth national women's ice hockey championship organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India in Himachal Pradesh,

- The championship was held in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15 – 21.
- Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police participated in the championship,

3. **Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team Kohli holds the record for most Test appearances as India Test captain In How Many Matches and he also holds the record for most Test wins by an Indian captain Of How Many Matches ?.**

- A. 78 , 36
- B. 68 , 40**
- C. 48 , 68
- D. 72 , 40

Another twist in saga: Kohli quits as India's Test captain

Somshuvra Laha & Rasesh Mandani

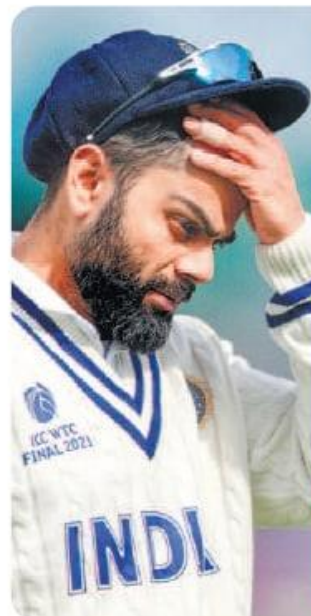
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/MUMBAI: The Virat Kohli captaincy saga took another unexpected turn on Saturday, when he stepped down as Test captain barely 24 hours after India lost the series in South Africa. Success on the tour would have taken Indian cricket to a new high — the “final frontier”, with series wins in every cricket-playing nation. Failure, as it often does, is taking a heavy toll.

The first fallout was Kohli's decision — made public on Twitter on Saturday evening, but conveyed to his teammates in Cape Town after India's seven-wicket defeat on Friday.

The announcement brings to a close the innings of India's most successful Test captain — one that leaves behind a transformed Indian team that is now known as a fast-bowling powerhouse capable of winning in any conditions.

But, in the most immediate context of the domestic power play, it marks the end of a months-long face-off between



END OF AN ERA

Virat Kohli quit as India's Test captain, saying he did his job with “absolute honesty”

LONG STINT AS CAPTAIN

It's been seven years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I have done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there: Kohli said in a Twitter post

3rd MOST SUCCESSFUL TEST CAPTAIN

Behind Australia's Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting

40 WINS
in 68 tests

EVERYTHING COMES TO A HALT: KOHLI

“I have always believed in giving my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team”

SHOUT OUT TO SHASTRI, DHONI

“To Ravi Bhal... who were the engine behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test Cricket, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life. Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as Captain,” the 33-year-old said

Kohli and the Indian cricket board over the manner, timing and narrative of how his T20 and ODI captaincy stints ended between October and December last year.

“It's been seven years of hard

work, toil and relentless perseverance every day to take the team in the right direction. I've done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there,” Kohli said in a statement.

“Everything has to come to

halt at some stage and for me as Test Captain of India, it's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or lack of belief. I

continued on →19

Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team. The decision comes after the series defeat against South Africa

- Kohli replaced MS Dhoni as the captain of Indian team in 2015 and became the most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches
- Virat Kohli is the most successful full-time Indian captain in Tests both in terms of number of matches won and in terms of win percentage
- Kohli holds the record for most Test appearances as India Test captain (68) and he also holds the record for most Test wins by an Indian captain (40).
- Only Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting, and Steve Waugh have won more matches than Kohli as captain in Test cricket

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If there are any suggestions/ errors in this PDF contact us via this email: support@crackwithjack.com

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4. Recently In January Who has been was awarded the **best men's player in the world on January 17, 2022, At Fifa Best awards 2021 ?**
- A. Lionel Messi
 B. Cristiano Ronaldo
C. Robert Lewndoswki
 D. Kevin De Bruyne

Lewandowski rewarded again

Putellas wins the prize in the women's category

FIFA BEST AWARDS

REUTERS
ZURICH

Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski won the FIFA Best Men's Player award for 2021 with Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas winning the FIFA Best Women's Player prize at Monday's ceremony.

Record-breaker

The prolific Lewandowski won the award for the second straight year after a season in which he beat Gerd Mueller's 49-year old record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga campaign.

The 27-year-old Putellas was at the heart of the Barcelona women's team which won the Spanish league and the UEFA Champions



Top stars: Lewandowski and Putellas got due recognition for their exploits in 2021. ■ AFP & AP

League. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo won the Special Award for setting a record of most international goals, beating Iran's Ali Daei's mark of 109.

Chelsea won both the awards for best coach, with Thomas Tuchel winning the men's award and Emma Hayes named the best women's coach.

Tuchel had guided Chelsea to the Champions League title after taking over the club in January while Hayes won the Women's Super League, FA Cup and League Cup treble in England.

Mendy recognised

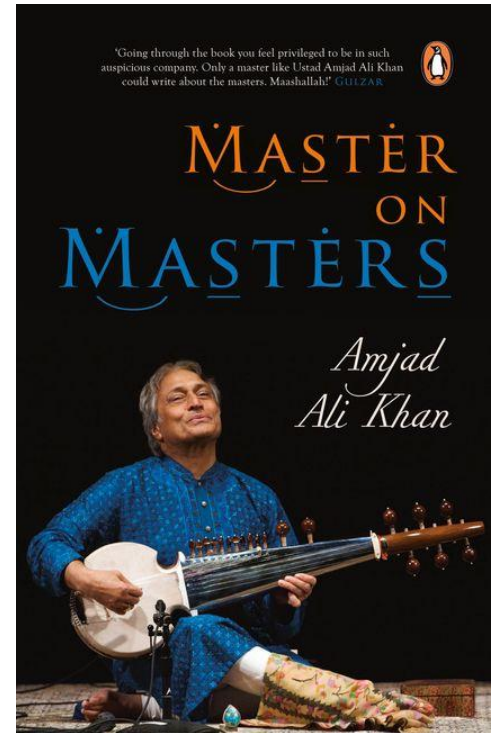
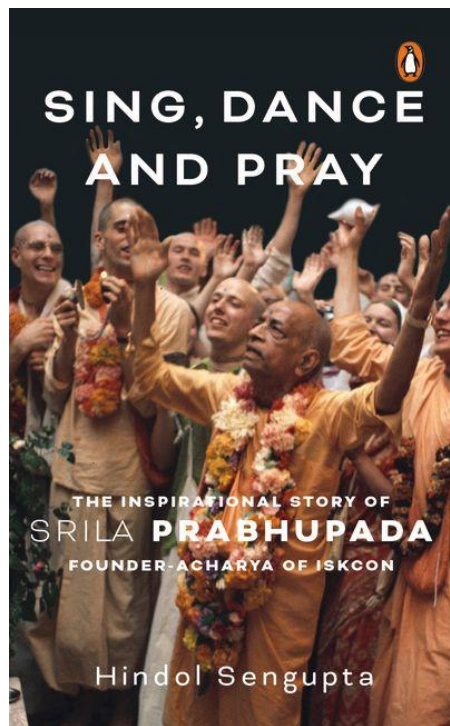
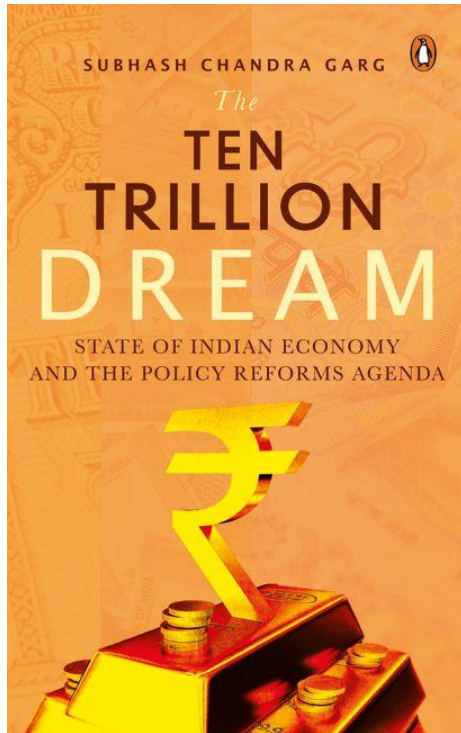
The West London club enjoyed further recognition with their Senegal international Edouard Mendy winning the Best Men's Goalkeeper award.

Chile and Olympique Lyonnais' Christiane Endler was named The Best Women's Goalkeeper.

The Puskas Award for best goal of the year was won by Argentine Erik Lamela, now with Spanish club Sevilla, for his goal for Tottenham Hotspur against Arsenal.

Robert Lewandowski has been was awarded the best men's player in the world on January 17, 2022, at the FIFA awards 2021.

- In the women's award at FIFA awards 2021, Alexia Putellas added the FIFA trophy to her Ballon d'Or victory. She captained Barcelona to its first Women's Champions League title.
- Chelsea won both the awards for best Coach, with Emma Hayes winning the best women's coach and Thomas Tuchel winning the men's awar
- Cristiano Ronaldo has won the FIFA Best Special Award 2021 for becoming the men's international highest scorer with 115.
- The first award ceremony of Best FIFA Football Awards was held on January 9, 2017, in Zurich, Switzerland



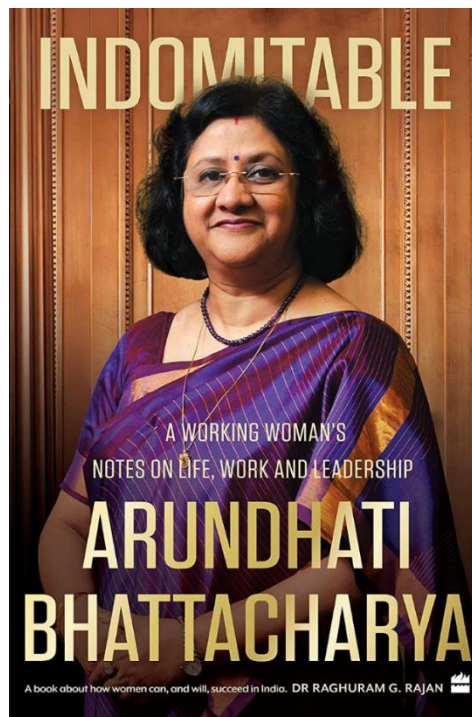
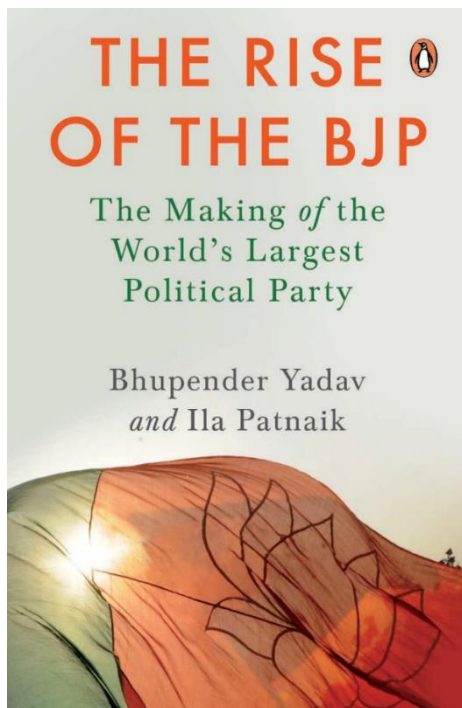
5. Who Is The Author Of The Book Titled “ Ten Trillion Dream : State Of Indian Economy And The Policy “ ?

- A. Subhash Chandra
- B. Kris Goplakrishnan
- C. Hindol Sen Gupta
- D. Krishnan Naryanan

The \$Ten Trillion Dream The State of the Indian Economy and the Policy Reforms Agenda Subhash Chandra Garg . It thematically explores the critical policy issues India faces today and suggests reforms for India to become a \$10-trillion economy by the mid-2030s.

- The book presents a wide-angled and comprehensive view of the state of the Indian economy.
- SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG was a member of the Indian Administrative Service for more than thirty-six years. He served as secretary, economic affairs, finance secretary and power secretary in the Government of India, and finance secretary of the state of Rajasthan

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6. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Tied Up With *Canada Running Series (CRS)* To Become The Title Sponsor And Official Partner Of The *Toronto Waterfront Marathon In 2026* ?

- A. *Tata Consultancy Service*
- B. *Reliance Industries*
- C. *Adani Power*
- D. *Drream 11*

TCS becomes Toronto marathon's title sponsor
TATA CONSULTANCY Services (TCS) on Tuesday said it has tied up with the Canada Running Series (CRS) to become the new title sponsor and official IT services & technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon & Virtual Race

Tata Consultancy Services on Tuesday said it has tied up with Canada Running Series (CRS) to become the new title sponsor and official IT services and technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026.

- TCS and CRS aim to modernise marathon running in Canada through a new official race app that will offer a first-of-its-kind environmental impact calculator, which will enable runners and spectators to track and offset their environmental impact,
- The Mumbai-headquartered company will also work with CRS to create a hybrid and immersive race experience for all runners and spectators around the globe

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7. Recently In January Sumit Bhale from Which Of The Following State has won gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai ?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. Odisha
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Sumit Bhale from Maharashtra has won the gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai.

He is a young Lavni artist from Maharashtra. He led the entire state of Maharashtra in International Folk Art Festival in Dubai.

Lavni is a performing art that is a mixture of dance, music and acting. It forms a basic and necessary part of the rural culture of Maharashtra. Initially, it was meant for the entertainment of warriors. It used to be performed at camps of soldiers

8. Who Is The Author Of The Of The Book “ *Manoj Bajpayee : Kuch PaneKi Jidd* ?

- A. Piyush Pandey**
- B. S Vasudevan
- C. Swapnil Pandey
- D. Shantanu Gupta

A biography on National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee, penned by veteran TV journalist Piyush Pandey, will be released in January.

- Penguin India's imprint Hind Pocket Books will publish the book titled "Manoj Bajpayee -- Kuch Paane Ki Zid".
- Regarded as one of India's finest actors today, Bajpayee has straddled the various formats of acting from theatre to films to OTT and has made a name for himself courtesy his unconventional skills

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9. Recently In January Trailblazing Indian Tennis Star **Sania Mirza** Has Announced That She Will Hang up her racquet at the end of 2022 season Has Won Total Of How Many Grand Slam Title ?
- A. 4
 B. 5
C. 6
 D. 3

Sania Mirza, India's first women's tennis superstar, announced her retirement plans and confirmed that the 2022 season will be her last

- The Indian tennis player who won six Grand Slams and reached the summit of the WTA doubles ranking is also the first Indian to break into the top 30 in the WTA singles ranking

The Indian tennis player who won six Grand Slams and reached the summit of the WTA doubles ranking is also the first Indian to break into the top 30 in the WTA singles ranking. Mirza will retire as India's most accomplished woman tennis player.

Mirza was appointed as the UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia during the event organized to mark the International Day to End Violence Against Women on November 25, 2013.



Mirza over the years
 India's best woman tennis player has announced that she will retire from the professional tour at the end of the current season. A list of her career highlights.

NUMBERED

43 CAREER DOUBLES TITLES

WIN/LOSS IN DOUBLES

511 WIN 230 LOSS

THE PIONEER

2005: First Indian woman to win a singles WTA title, at Hyderabad. Also reached three career singles finals—2009 (Pattaya City), 2007 (Stanford) 2005 (Forest Hills).

2015: First Indian woman to lift a Grand Slam doubles title (Wimbledon)

2015: First Indian woman to be ranked world No 1 in singles or doubles (top-ranked in doubles on April 13, 2015)

ON THE BIG STAGE

- Sania Mirza won 3 Grand Slam doubles titles, all partnering Swiss great Martina Hingis—2015 Wimbledon, US Open and 2016 Australian Open. Also, reached the 2011 French Open doubles final with Elena Vesnina
- She won 3 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles—2009 Australian Open/Mahesh Bhupathi, 2012 French Open Bhupathi and 2014 US Open/Bruno Soares. Mixed runners-up at Australian Open (2008, 2014, 2017) and French Open (2016)
- At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Mirza reached the mixed semis with Rohan Bopanna, one step from a medal
- At the Asiad, she won 7 medals —2 gold in mixed doubles 2006 Doha (L Paes), 2014 Incheon (Saketh Myneni)

AWARDS

- Arjuna Award (2004),
- WTA newcomer of the Year (2005),
- Khel Ratna (2015),
- Padma Shri (2006),
- Padma Bhushan (2016)

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10. Recently In January Who has been crowned the **winner of 25th Edition Of Mrs World 2022?**

- a. Navdeep Kaur
- b. Zara Rutherford
- c. Harpreet Chandi
- d. **Shaylyn Ford**

Mrs America 37 Years old Shaylyn Ford was crowned as the winner of Mrs World 2022. She was crowned by the outgoing queen Kate Schneider from Ireland

- Mrs World 2022 pageant recently took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
 - Debanjali Kamstra, Mrs UAE, who was the second runner up in the pageant, scripted history as she represented UAE for the first time in the pageant
 - Mrs India Navdeep Kaur also made it to the top 15 and won the Best National Costume title.

11. Recently In January Who has won **Genesis Prize for developing the COVID-19 vaccine?**

- a. **Albert Bourla**
- b. Adar Poonawalla
- c. Krishna Ella
- d. Dilip Shanghvi

Pfizer Chairman wins \$1-million Genesis Prize

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, January 19

Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of global pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, was awarded the prestigious Genesis Prize on Wednesday for his efforts in leading the development of a Covid vaccine.

The \$1-million award is granted each year to a person for their professional achievements, contributions to humanity and commitment to Jewish values.

The Genesis Prize Foundation said Bourla had received the largest number of votes in an online campaign, in which 200,000 people in 71 countries participated.

It commended him for his "leadership, determination, and especially for his willingness to assume great risks". It cited Pfizer's decision to turn down US government funding early in the pandemic, a decision that helped the company reduce bureaucracy and expedite development of the vaccine.

Its partner, BioNTech, received funding from the German government, and Pfizer later signed a large supply contract with the US.

Chief executive of Pfizer Albert Bourla has won the prestigious Genesis Prize for his efforts in the COVID-19 vaccine development.

- Albert Bourla received the highest number of votes in an online campaign in which more than 2 lakh people participated from 71 countries
- Pfizer's vaccine was the first vaccine to get approval for emergency use in the United States and Europe

Genesis Prize: It was launched in 2014. It is given by the Genesis Prize Foundation and the chairman's office of the Jewish Agency

12. Who has won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament?

- A. PV Sindhu**
- B. Saina Nehwal**
- C. Jwala Gutta**
- D. Ashwini Ponnappa**

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament in Lucknow.

She defeated Malvika Bansod by 23-13, 21-16 in the finals.

It is the second Syed Modi title for two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu. She had won her first Syed Modi title in 2017. It is an international badminton tournament being annually held in Lucknow.

Sindhu humbles Malvika to claim Syed Modi title

Lucknow: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu eased past young compatriot Malvika Bansod in straight games to win her second women's singles title at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Sunday. Playing in a depleted field due to multiple Covid-19 cases, top seed Sindhu hardly broke her sweat to get past Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in a lop-sided title contest.

The final lasted just 35 minutes. It was former world champion Sindhu's second Syed Modi title after having annexed the BWF World Tour Super 300 event in 2017.

Before that, seventh seeded Indians Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto clinched the mixed doubles title with a straight game win over compatriots T Hema Nandkumar and Srivedya Gurazada.

Bhatnagar and Crasto inflicted a 21-16, 21-12 on the unseeded Indian duo in the summit clash that ended in 29 minutes.

Earlier, the men's singles final between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout was declared a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19. It was expected to be a one-sided women's singles match between world number seven Sindhu and young Bansod, ranked 84th in the world, and it turned out to be exactly that. Sindhu used her vast experience and skills to great effect as Bansod found it extremely difficult to adjust to her opponent's game from the onset.

The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist took off from the word go and raced to a 7-0 lead in no time. The ace shuttler used her height and reach to great effect to increase her lead to 11-1 at the break.

After the break, Bansod tried to up her game and collected a few points to close the gap but it was no match for a much superior Sindhu, who closed out the first game with consummate ease. The second game, however, produced a better contest with Bansod trying her best to lift her game, and she did that too, but it was not enough to challenge Sindhu's class.



DOMINANT: PV Sindhu

Sindhu used her height to mix her smashes with pinpoint drop shots, which Bansod failed to counter as the Olympic medallist raced to a 11-4 lead at the break. PTI

Men's final declared 'No Match' as finalist tests +ve

Lucknow: The men's singles final of the Syed Modi India International badminton tournament here on Sunday was declared as a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19. The all-French clash was scheduled between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout.

"The men's singles final of the Syed Modi India International 2022 has been declared a 'No Match'. BWF can confirm one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19 this morning," the Badminton World Federation said in a statement.

"The other finalist is deemed a close contact and has also been withdrawn. Details on winner status, world ranking points and prize money will be revealed in due course. Today's other four finals will go ahead as scheduled," the BWF added. PTI

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13. The book '*Legend of Birsa Munda*' has been authored by whom?

- A. Tuhin A. Sinha
- B. Ashwin Sanghi
- C. Ravinder Singh
- D. Chetan Bhagat

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released the book "Legend of Birsa Munda".

- BJP leader and author Tuhin A. Sinha has written the book about the life of Birsa Munda, a tribal hero. Ankita Verma is the co-author of the book.
- The book 'Legend of Birsa Munda' lauds the tribal revolution and Birsa Munda's role in India's independence struggle. Birsa Munda was born on 15 November 1875 and died on 9 June 1900

14. The *Lucknow franchise, owned by RPSG Group, of the Indian Premier League will be called By Which Of The Following Name ?*

- A. Lucknow Royals
- B. Lucknow Kings
- C. Lucknow Super Giants.
- D. Lucknow Tuskers

Lucknow Super Giants: The Lucknow IPL team, owned by RPSG Group, will be called Lucknow Super Giants. Dr. Sanjiv Goenka, Lucknow IPL Team owner and RPSG Group Chairman unveiled the new name

the Lucknow IPL team had decided to crowdsource its name from the fans under 'Naam banao naam kamao' contest. Based on the responses, the new team name - Lucknow Super Giants - was chosen

The new name of the Lucknow IPL team is similar to the name of Sanjiv Goenka-led RPSG Group's previous IPL team- Rising Pune Supergiant, which had been a part of the IPL 2016 and 2017 season

15. Recently In January Who Among The Following HAS Been Awarded The ICC Cricketer Of The Year In Male And Female Category Respectively By Winning Sir Garry Sobers Trophy And Rachael Hynes Flint Trophy Respectively ?

- A. Mohammad Rizwan , Smriti Mandhana
- B. Janeman Malan , Tammy Beaumont
- C. Shaheen Afridi , Smriti Mandhana**
- D. Janeman Malan , Elys Parrey

ICC Roll of Honour 2021

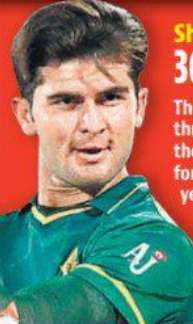
Pakistan players dominated the ICC awards with Shaheen Afridi named Men's Cricketer of the Year. Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Fatima Sana were the others from the country bagging awards in different categories. India's Smriti Mandhana was named Women's Cricketer of the Year.

CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Smriti Mandhana (Ind)

22 MAT, **855** RUNS,
1x100, 5x50

Despite India enduring a difficult 2021, Mandhana's form was sublime. In the limited-overs series against South Africa where India won two of the eight matches at home, Mandhana played a major role in both of the wins. She also displayed excellent stroke-making against England and Australia in all three formats.



Shaheen Afridi (Pak)

36 MATCHES, **78** WKTS

The tall Pakistani quick was on fire throughout 2021, knocking some of the best batters over across all three formats of the game. He especially had a year to remember in Tests and T20Is, reaching his peak during the T20 World Cup in the UAE. "I got fifters in Tests but my most memorable performance was during our victory against India," the 21-year-old left-armer said.

EMERGING CRICKETER

Janneman Malan (SA)

17 MATCHES, **715** RUNS, **2x100, 3x50**

Fatima Sana (Pak)

16 MATCHES, **24** WKTS

T20I CRICKETER

Mohammad Rizwan (Pak)

29 MATCHES, **1,326** RUNS,
1x100, 24 DISMISSALS

ODI CRICKETER

Babar Azam (Pak)

6 MATCHES, **405** RUNS, **2x100**

Tammy Beaumont (Eng)

9 MATCHES, **303** RUNS, **3x50**

Lizelle Lee (SA)

11 MATCHES, **632** RUNS, **1x100, 5x50**



TEST CRICKETER

Joe Root (Eng)

15 MAT, **1,708** RUNS, **6x100**

The magnitude of Joe Root's sublime form in 2021 can be summed up by one simple stat—he has become only the third player in history to aggregate over 1700 runs in Test cricket in a calendar year. Only Mohammad Yousof and Viv Richards stand ahead of him.

ICC Test Team of the Year 2021 - Rishabh Pant, R Ashwin and Rohit Sharma

- The ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2021 includes two Indians, veteran batter Mithali Raj and pacer Jhulan Goswami

India's Smriti Mandhana has been named in the ICC Women's T20 Team of the Year 2021

16. Recently In January Cricketing Legend Clive Lloyd was given the knighthood for his service towards the game of cricket. He Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. West Indies**
- C. England
- D. Australia

Cricketing great and former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd was given the knighthood for his service towards the game of cricket.

- Sir Clive Lyod holds a special place in cricket history, as the first man to lift the Cricket World Cup, which brought tremendous pride and joy to West Indians all over the world.
- Along with Clive Llyod Current England ODI and T20 Skipper Eoin Morgan received a CBE for his services to Cricket

Science Tech And Environment

1. Which of the following Indian ships has participated in the PASSEX exercise with Russian ships in the Arabian Sea?

- A. INS Vela
- B. INS Kochi**
- C. INS Talwar
- D. INS Shakti

India-Russia naval exercise in Arabian Sea



The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, in an exercise with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs in the Arabian Sea.

PTI

Russian ship Admiral Tributs and INS Kochi conducted the PASSEX exercise in the Arabian sea on 14 January.

- The exercise was organized to showcase cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies.
 - The missile cruiser Varyag and Russian tanker Boris Butoma also participated in this exerciseAll the three Russian ships had arrived on a two-day "goodwill" visit at the port of Cochin.
- INS Kochi:**It was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.It was commissioned to the Indian Navy on September 30, 2015.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of January (16th – 23rd January 2022)

2. The government has inaugurated the **first coal-to-methanol plant in India At Hyderabad** . Which organisation has built the plant?

- A. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**
- B. Steel Authority of India
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited
- D. GAIL

Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey on Saturday dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant to the Nation

- The plant has been built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) At Hyderabad facility
- BHEL's indigenously designed, constructed and installed 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant is now generating methanol with a purity of more than 99% from Indian high-ash coal.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL):Its CEO is Nalin Singhal.Its headquarters is in New Delhi.It was founded in 1964.

3. Which of the following countries doctors have successfully **transplanted the world's first genetically-modified pig heart into human body**?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. India
- C. China
- D. United Stated of America**

On January 10, the University of Maryland School of Medicine announced that it had successfully transplanted a genetically-modified pig heart into a patient with life-threatening arrhythmia, a disorder that affects the rate or rhythm of heartbeats. "GalSafe" pigs, or pigs that had undergone editing to knock out a gene that codes for Alpha-gal (a sugar molecule) were used. Alpha-gal can elicit a devastating immune response in humans.

The patient, David Bennett, a 57-year-old Maryland handyman, knew there was no guarantee the experiment would work but he was dying But prior attempts at such transplants — or xenotransplantation — have failed, largely because patients' bodies rapidly rejected the animal organ.

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4. Which of the following statements is correct about the *climate hazard and vulnerability atlas of India*?
1. It has been developed by the scientists at Climate Research and Services (CRS) office. office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune
 2. This atlas has provided a range of vulnerability with risks ranging from nil, low, moderate, high, and very high categories for every Indian district.
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched the first climate hazard and vulnerability atlas of India.

- This atlas is based on 14 extreme weather events and the risks they pose to the local population, livelihoods, and economy of each district.
- The climate vulnerability atlas of India has been developed by the scientists at Climate Research and Services (CRS) office.
 - According to this atlas, lightning caused the highest casualty in India
 - It Was Launched on the 147th Foundation Day of IMD.
- THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) commissioned four doppler weather radars, including an X-band radar in Leh that is installed at the highest altitude anywhere in the country.
 - The IMD joined hands with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in designing and indigenously manufacturing these radars
- Delhi got its third doppler Mumbai got its second radar Chennai, the third radar for the southern city.

{ INDIA'S 1ST WEATHER HAZARD ATLAS }

Govt lists districts vulnerable to climate crisis

Jayashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Sunderbans in West Bengal, neighbouring districts of Odisha, and Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu are the most vulnerable to high storm surges of as much as 8.5 to 13.7 metres that are induced by cyclones, according to the Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India released by the ministry of earth sciences.

The atlas, the first of its kind, will aid in disaster preparedness as extreme weather events rise in the wake of the climate crisis, scientists said. The maximum heights of storm surges in the atlas provides data for all coastal districts in India.

Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh, and Kachchh and Bhavnagar in Gujarat, besides all coastal regions of the west coast are also vulnerable to storm surges, but to a lesser degree of 4 to 6 metres, said the atlas released last week.

The maximum probable rainfall associated with severe



The Sunderbans in West Bengal is among areas most vulnerable to the highest storm surge.

cyclones in the 50-60 cm range is likely over Prakasam, East Godavari, Krishna, West Godavari on the east coast, and Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, south Goa and Uttara Kannada on the west coast.

Several districts of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu are vulnerable to extreme rainfall of 35 to 50 cm that cyclones bring with them.

Severe cyclones are returning every two to four years for almost all of east coast, starting from Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu

to South 24 Parganas in West Bengal, Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts in Kerala, north and south Goa, and Kachchh, Devbhoomi, Junagadh and Porbandar in Gujarat see recurring severe cyclones every four to 10 years.

"Over the past decade or so, we have started seeing changes in the hazard-prone areas. For example, central India has started recording heavy to extremely heavy rainfall events associated with movement of low pressure areas. This was not

the case earlier," said DS Pai, head of India Meteorological Department's climate research and services department in Pune. "There is no change in the number of cyclones affecting the west coast, but the severity of cyclones developing over the Arabian Sea has increased," Pai said. "These have been captured in our maps."

The atlas is expected to mitigate the effects of 13 most hazardous meteorological events – cold wave, heat wave, thunderstorms, flood, drought, fog, wind hazard, dust storm, snowfall, hail storm, lightning, extreme rainfall and cyclone – that can cause extensive damage. There are 640 climate vulnerability maps in the atlas.

"The atlas will have two uses. First, it will act as a reference for impact-based warnings that we issue for various regions. People can also see the atlas to understand what is the impact of certain extreme weather events in their region," said M Mohapatra, director general of the Met department. "Second, it can be used to plan climate-resilient infrastructure."

IMD commissions 4 new doppler radars, including one in Leh

India taken lead in Asia to provide weather, climate services: minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 14

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday commissioned four doppler weather radars, including an X-band radar in Leh that is installed at the highest altitude anywhere in the country. The commissioning was announced at an event in Delhi on the occasion of 147th foundation day of IMD.

The IMD joined hands with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in designing and indigenously manufacturing these radars.

At the event, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh said India has taken a lead in Asia to provide weather and climate services to South Asian, Southeast Asian and West Asian countries. He said the Ministry of Earth Sciences will enhance deployment and use of drone-based observation technology for strengthening localised forecasting, besides adopting high-resolution models.

Singh inaugurated four doppler weather radars at Leh, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai for better research and operational analysis. IMD's radar network, with the additional four radars, is now 33.

Delhi got its third doppler radar in the form of an X-band radar at Ayanagar. It has a radius of 100km around the NCR. Presently, radars are also operational at Palam and Mausam Bhavan.

Mumbai got its second radar,

EXPLAINED
E Why doppler radars are crucial

DOPPLER RADARS help forecasters observe rainfall, advance of cloud formations over a region and subsequently monitoring thunderstorms and lightning in real-time. The radar operations are particularly crucial during extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, and data from these are used in predicting flash floods in local regions.

a C-band radar at Veravalli, that covers a radius of 450-km around the city. Similarly, the Met department on Friday operationalised an X-band radar covering a 150-km radius around Chennai, the third radar for the southern city.

Singh said augmentation of modern observing platforms such as automatic weather stations, doppler weather radars and meteorological satellites will help in further improving weather and climate services.

He said, "There has been a 20-40% improvement in accuracy of severe weather warning by IMD in recent five years as compared to previous five years. Forecast of high temperature and heat wave condition well in advance has resulted in significant reduction in number of deaths due to heat wave in subsequent years."

5. Recently In January Which Among The Following HAS Floated The *World's Biggest E- Bus Tender Under The Grand Channleng Scheme ?*

- A. NTPC
- B. Powergrid
- C. CESL**
- D. NHPC

CESL floats world's biggest e-bus tender

SHALYSETH MOHILE
Mumbai, 20 January

Convergence Energy Services (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), on Thursday announced the floating of a request for proposal for the biggest-ever demand for electric buses (e-buses) under the Grand Challenge scheme.

Through the ₹5,450-crore tender, CESL aims to deploy 5,450 single-decker buses and 130 double-decker buses. It will include a set of homogenised demand for e-buses aggregated across five major cities.

From working on financing electric vehicles (EVs) and setting up a charging infrastructure (infra) to floating tenders for EVs, the EESL subsidiary has been playing a pivotal role in pushing electrification in the public transport space. EESL recently closed a tender for 150,000 electric three-wheelers, at prices 18-20 per

cent lower than the retail price.

The scheme aims to reduce the operating costs for cities, removing bottlenecks of procuring e-buses by state transport undertakings (STUs), instituting best-in-class practices and operating standards, enabling operational and passenger efficiencies by evolving into a platform for modernisation of city buses, CESL said in a statement on Thursday.

STUs are no longer buying buses as they don't have the financial wherewithal to buy regular models, let alone EVs which are a lot more expensive than internal combustion engine-powered models, said Mahua Acharya, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO), CESL. The buses are financed either by bus makers or financial institutions.

"They (public transit companies/STUs) are now moving towards a gross cost contracting model, wherein they pro-



CONVERGENCE ENERGY

- Aims to deploy 5450 single and 130 double-decker buses
- Tender for these 100% e-buses stood at ₹5,450 cr, will reduce operating cost
- Bengaluru, Delhi, Surat and Hyderabad will be covered in first phase
- First lot is expected to hit the roads as early as July, 2022

quire service based on the terms and conditions defined in the tender document. Based on that, price is discovered in the market," said Acharya.

"This is the biggest-ever scheme in the world and is based on an asset-light model that makes it possible for STUs to deploy affordably - and at scale," she added.

"Standardising tendering

conditions in diverse cities is a big step towards the transformation of public transport in India. Participation in the Grand Challenge is a commendable effort from STUs, who will stand to gain from economies of scale through the aggregation of demand by CESL," said Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, in a statement.

Transport and Environment Minister of Delhi Kailash Gahlot said his government has sought 1,500 buses under the Grand Challenge and is ready to offer subsidies where required. "We are aggressively pursuing electric mobility. I commend CESL for its efforts to standardise the terms and conditions for how this is delivered," he said.

The state-run Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) on **launched a ₹5,500 crore tender to procure 5,580 electric buses**

- **The tender floated was the outcome of the "Grand Challenge" plan for e-buses which was initiated in June last year by the ministry of power and NITI Aayog**
- **Now under the programme, Kolkata will get 2,000 pure electric buses, Delhi and Bengaluru will have 1,500 e-buses each,**
- **This Grand Challenge Tender is the biggest ever scheme in the world This Grand Challenge Tender is the biggest ever scheme in the world**

- 6. What Is The Name Of The British – Belgian Teenager Who Recently Became The Youngest Woman To Fly Solo Around The World ?**
- A. HARPREET Chandi**
 - B. Zara Rutherford**
 - C. Rashmi Sharma**
 - D. Zoya Aggarwal**

THE BELGIAN-BRITISH TEENAGER WANTS TO INFUSE YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS WORLDWIDE WITH THE SPIRIT OF AVIATION
Typhoons, wildfires, missiles: Teen flies solo round world

RAF CASERT
BRUSSELS, JANUARY 16

AVOID TYPHOON in the Philippines. Check. Steer clear of massive California wildfires. Check. Keep away from test missiles in North Korea. What? Wait. As teenage pilot Zara Rutherford flew ever onward in a record-challenging global odyssey, she met little as strange or scary as when she tried to squeeze in between North Korean airspace and a massive cloud threatening to cut off passage for her ultralight plane. "Well, they test missiles once in a while without warning."

Rutherford said. More importantly, she was just 15 minutes from flying over one of the last places one should enter uninvited. So she radioed her control team to ask if she could cut the corner over the isolationist communist dictatorship to get to Seoul. "Straight away they said: 'Whatever you do, do not go into North Korean airspace!'" Fortunately the clouds cooperated and she didn't have to continue the crash course in applied geopolitics. At the age of 19, she is set to land her single-seater Shark sport aircraft in Kortrijk, Belgium, on Monday, more than 150 days after setting out to become the youngest woman to circumnavi-



Zara Rutherford waves from her Shark ultralight plane prior to take off at the Kortrijk-Wevelgem airfield in Belgium. AP

gate the world solo. American aviator Shaesta Waiz was 30 when she set the previous benchmark. Flying runs in her blood since both her parents are pilots and she

has been traveling in small planes since she was 6. At 14, she started flying herself and about 130 hours of solo flights prepped her for the record attempt, which she hopes

will also have a bigger meaning. With the final touchdown in a plane that looks like a fly among the giants parked at an airport like New York's JFK, the Belgian-British teenager wants to infuse young women and girls worldwide with the spirit of aviation. Two mathematical statistics stand out for her — only 5% of commercial pilots and 15% of computer scientists are women. "The gender gap is huge," she said. Using Visual Flight Rules, basically going on sight only, danger lurked even closer than when she would be able to use fancy navigational instruments to lead her through the night, clouds or fog. Crossing northern California

from Palo Alto towards Seattle, she headed into the huge wildfires blighting the area. The higher she climbed to avoid the smoke — up to 10,000 feet — the tougher it was to keep her eyes on the ground. "The smoke was building up and up, to the point that the whole cabin stank of smoke and I could not see anything but a burnished orange colour," Rutherford said. She had to abort her route and make an unscheduled landing in Redding, California. Over Siberia, the light played tricks on her vision, sometimes casting doubt whether she saw mountains or clouds. "And for me clouds are a really big deal. Especially in Russia," with its bit-

ing cold. Cutting through such clouds, too much ice might build up on her wings, paralysing control. That, or any other mishap, could have happened on a section of the route where she once saw only one village in six hours. The wider world though, which by now has become "this small planet" to her, turned out to hold out much more than fear. She spoke dreamily of the Saudi Arabian desert with its changing colours of sand and rock, the barrenness of northern Alaska, the huge circular Apple Park in Cupertino, California, or the sight of what's been called the world's loneliest house on Iceland's deserted island of Ellioaey. AP

British-Belgian teenager became the youngest woman to fly solo around the world on Thursday and the first person to do so in a microlight plane after a five-month, five-continent odyssey in her Shark ultralight.

- Nineteen-year-old Zara Rutherford landed back at Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport in Belgium after flying 51,000 km (32,000 miles) over 52 nations since her August 18 departure in the world's fastest microlight aircraft
- Rutherford took the record from Afghan-born American Shaesta Wais, who in 2017 became the youngest woman to fly solo around the world at 30. The youngest male record holder, American Mason Andrews, was 18 when he did it in 2018.

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7. Recently In January Who has become the first Indian to complete NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP NASA)?

- a. Prajkata Kohli
- b. Harpreet Chandi
- c. Jahnvi Dangeti**
- d. Zoya Rutherford

Jahnvi Dangeti has completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP NASA) at the Kennedy Space Center in Alabama, United States.

- Jahnvi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has become the first Indian to accomplish this feat.
 - Only 20 young people from around the world were chosen for this programme by IASP
 - Jahnvi is currently pursuing her second year of engineering from a private university in Punjab.
 - The International Air and Space Program is a 5-day educational program. It involves teamwork, problem-solving and communication, among students and expert NASA engineers to solve any unexpected problems

8. Recently In January , Meta has introduced which of the following world's fastest artificial intelligence supercomputers?

- A. Tubelight
- B. Hubble
- C. AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)**
- D. James WeB

Meta on Monday introduced its new AI supercomputer, the AI Research SuperCluster (RSC), which it says will be the world's fastest AI supercomputer once fully built out in mid-2022. Artificial intelligence (AI) has been central to tech giants, including Meta

- RSC will help Meta's AI researchers build better AI models that can learn from trillions of examples; work across hundreds of different languages

Facebook in October 2021 had announced that it is changing the company name to Meta the metaverse refers to the idea of shared virtual environments which people can access through different devices and where they can play, work and socialize

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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9. Recently In January An international team of researchers has discovered a *new species of rain frog and named it after which personality?*
- A. Malala Yousafzai
 - B. Nelson Mandela
 - C. Greta Thunberg**
 - D. Elon Musk

An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of rain frog and named it after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

Pristimantis gretathunbergae is the scientific name of the species, popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog.

The frog was first found in 2012, and a recent DNA study found that it is a new species.

The team that discovered the new species was led by Abel Batista of Panama and Konrad Meibert of Switzerland

FACE applies to RBI for SRO role in digital lending space

Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment or FACE as it is popularly known has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take on the role of a self-regulatory organisation (SROs) in the digital lending space. This comes after a RBI working group, tasked with studying digital lending in the financial sector, recommended creation of SROs, among other things, to keep a check on the activities of digital lenders. During the pandemic, the number of lending apps boomed, but several were resorting to unfair practices, such as charging exorbitant rates, using illegal recovery practices. **BS REPORTER**

WinZO ropes in leading Youtuber CarryMinati as brand ambassador

INDIA'S LARGEST INTERACTIVE entertainment platform, WinZO has roped in Asia's leading independent content creator Ajey Nagar who goes by the alias 'CarryMinati,' as its brand ambassador. The New Delhi-headquartered interactive social gaming startup seeks to leverage its' robust foothold within the gaming community in India with this strategic partnership.

As a part of this strategic collaboration, the content creator will generate gaming centric content that is interac-

tive, unique and relatable for WinZO exclusively on his streaming channel 'Carryslive' and a solo integration on his primary YouTube channel 'CarryMinati'.

According to latest industry reports, the Indian gaming industry is generating over \$1.5 billion revenue and is expected to exponentially grow to be a trillion-dollar by 2025. Hailed as one of the key innovators in the advent of the digital community of India, CarryMinati enjoys a 50 million plus collective digital following. —FE BUREAU

Meta says new AI supercomputer will be world's fastest

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA: Facebook's parent company Meta on Monday said it has created what it believes is among the fastest artificial intelligence supercomputers running today.

The social media giant said it hopes the machine will help lay the groundwork for its building of the metaverse, a virtual reality construct intended to supplant the internet as we know it today.

Facebook said it believes the computer will be the fastest in the world once it is fully built around the middle of the year.

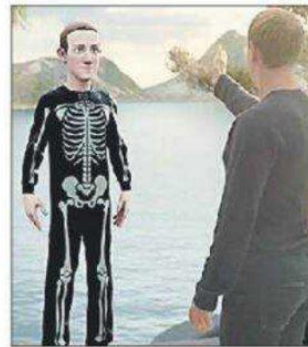
Supercomputers are extremely fast and powerful machines built to do complex

calculations not possible with a regular home computer.

The computer, which is already up and running but is still being built, is called AI Research SuperCluster (RSC). Meta says it will help its AI researchers build "new and better" artificial intelligence models that can learn from "trillions" of examples and work across hundreds of different languages simultaneously and analyse text, images and video together.

The way Meta is defining the power of its computer is different from how conventional and more technically powerful supercomputers are measured because it relies on the performance of graphics-processing chips, which are useful for running "deep learning" algorithms that can understand what's in an image, analyse text and translate between languages, said Tuomas Sandholm, a computer science professor and co-director of the AI center at Carnegie Mellon University.

"We hope RSC will help us build entirely new AI systems that can, for example, power real-time voice translations to large groups of people, each speaking a different language, so they can seamlessly collaborate on a research project or play an AR game together," Meta said in a blog post.



Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg speaks to an avatar of himself in the metaverse. **REUTERS**

Centre notifies new ULIP taxation rules

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
 gireesh.p@livemint.com
 NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday notified new rules to calculate capital gains tax on the proceeds of high-premium unit-linked insurance policies (ULIPs), following the amendments to income tax and securities transaction tax rules.

According to a notification by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, capital gains on ULIPs with annual premium of more than ₹2.5 lakh, will be calculated on payments received by the policy holder, including withdrawals and bonus.

In the Finance Act, 2021, the Centre had said that high net-worth individuals were availing the tax benefits meant for small savers through ULIPs.

Allowing such exemptions in policies with a huge premium defeats the legislative intent of tax benefit, the Union finance ministry had said.

Accordingly, the government sought to tax capital gains from ULIPs with an annual premium of above ₹2.5 lakh.

According to the new rules, the difference between the proceeds from the scheme and



Long-term gains of above ₹1 lakh will be taxable at 10%, while short-term gains on the high-premium ULIPs will be taxed at a flat rate of 15%. | MINT

the total premium paid will be considered as capital gains in the first instance and, subsequently, the gap between the incremental proceeds and premium paid will be used for computing capital gains.

Long-term gains of above ₹1 lakh will be taxable at 10%, while short-term gains on the high-premium ULIPs will be taxed at a flat rate of 15%.

New rules were also notified on the liability of collection of

securities transaction tax on such policies at the time of sale and reporting requirements.

New rules were also notified on liability of collection of securities transaction tax on such policies at the time of sale

According to Aravind Srivatsan, tax leader at Nangia Andersen LLP, a consultancy, the amended rules prescribe form 2A as the annual return for insurance companies

that has to be filed before 30 June.

Tax exemption has been partially withdrawn for ULIPs purchased after 1 February

2021, while STT will be levied on all transactions irrespective of the purchase date, he said.

A new income tax rule, 8AD, has also been introduced for computing capital gains on redemption of ULIP units purchased after 1 February 2021, but not exempted under Section 10(10D) of the Income Tax Act.

"With the new computation mechanism in place, such details of redemption will also be available in the new annual information statement. The details are available for taxpayers as well and this will get auto-populated in tax returns going forward," he said.

Denial of tax benefits for large investments in ULIPs is not applicable in case of the death of the insured.

To ensure that the tax benefits from savings instruments reach only to intended beneficiary, the government had also amended the rules applicable to provident funds, which said interest on Employees' Provident Fund and Voluntary Provident Fund contributions of above ₹2.5 lakh in a financial year will be taxable, effective 1 April 2021. For PF accounts where there is no employer contribution, the threshold is ₹5 lakh.

Jio becomes largest fixed-line broadband provider with 4.34 m users, topples BSNL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 18

IN ABOUT TWO years of commercial roll out of its fixed-line broadband services, Reliance Jio has toppled 20-year-old state-run telecom company BSNL as top service provider in the segment.

According to a monthly telecom subscribers report released by the telecom regulator Trai late on Tuesday, Jio now leads the fixed-line broadband segment with 4.34 million customers.

The segment had been dominated by the state-run telecom since its inception about 20 years ago.

Reliance Jio fixed-line broadband customer base increased to 4.34 million in November from 4.16 million in October.

BSNL's customer base declined to 4.2 million in November from 4.72 million in October. Bharti Airtel fixed line broadband customer base stood at 4.08 million in



According to a monthly telecom subscribers report released by Trai, Jio now leads the fixed-line broadband segment with 4.34 million customers

November. Jio started commercial roll out of fixed line broadband service, JioFibre, in September 2019.

While Jio started from scratch, BSNL had 8.69 million wired broadband customers in September 2019, which reduced to less than half in November 2021.

Bharti Airtel's wired broadband subscriber base has grown by about 70% to 4.08 million in November 2021 from 2.41 million in September 2019 and at a similar growth pace it is expected to overtake BSNL soon.

The broadband subscribers in the country grew to 801.6 million in November from 798.95 million in October with Reliance Jio maintaining its lead in the segment, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (Trai) subscribers report.

"Top five service providers constituted 98.68% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of November," Trai said.

Reliance Jio's total broadband subscriber base stood at 432.96 million in November. It was followed by Bharti Airtel with 210.10 million broadband customers, VIL 122.40 million, BSNL 23.62 million and Atria Convergence broadband customer base stood at 1.98 million.

financials.eb.in

NTPC seeks developers for 900-MW solar park in Cuba

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 18

STATE-RUN NTPC HAS invited bids from developers to build a 900-megawatt (MW) solar park in the Republic of Cuba.

NTPC, under the International Solar Alliance (ISA) programme, will support Cuba in the selection process, signing of relevant agreements and overseeing project implementation till commissioning. NTPC is the project-management consultant of the ISA platform, which aims to promote solar technology in countries lying between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Cuba is a member of the treaty-based intergovernmental organisation, headquartered in India.

Through the ISA, NTPC has

NTPC, under the International Solar Alliance programme, will support Cuba in the selection process

also secured project-management consultancy assignments for 500 MW in the Republic of Mali, 100 MW in the Republic of Malawi and 285 MW in the Republic of Togo. It was the first Indian energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High level Dialogue on Energy. The company aims to reduce 10% net energy intensity by 2030 and attain 60,000 MW of green capacity by 2032, from the current level of around 1,300 MW.

NTPC has also declared that it will form at least two international alliances to facilitate clean energy research and promote sustainability in the energy value chain by 2025.

The company recently invited banks and financial institutions to place offers for raising \$750 million as external commercial borrowing to fund its capital expenditure and refinance its existing loans. As FE reported earlier, it is also looking for strategic investors to offload some stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy, before floating its initial public offering. In the first six months of the ongoing fiscal, NTPC has issued the bonds aggregating to ₹6,996 crore at the average cost of borrowing of 5.96%.



Unmukt becomes first Indian man to play in BBL

MELBOURNE

Former Under-19 World Cup winning skipper Unmukt Chand on Tuesday became the first Indian man to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) as he made his debut for Melbourne Renegades against Hobart Hurricanes in the BBL. He scored six as his team lost by six runs. PTI

NCLAT approves ArcelorMittal OSPIL resolution proposal

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 20 January

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has approved ArcelorMittal's resolution plan for Odisha Slurry Pipeline Infrastructure (OSPIL) dismissing a raft of appeals challenging it, including those filed by SREI entities.

OSPIL owns and operates a 253-km slurry pipeline — a critical ancillary unit of Essar Steel, now ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India). Early December 2019, ArcelorMittal India Private Ltd's (AMIPL) resolution plan for OSPIL under the insolvency law was approved by the committee of creditors (CoC) and by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Cuttack bench in March 2020.

However, the plan was challenged in NCLAT by SREI Infrastructure Finance as a financial creditor as well as SREI Multiple Asset Investment Trust (SMAIT). A scheme of SMAIT, India Growth Opportunities Fund

Kalrock-Jalan asked to share details of resolution plan

The NCLAT on Thursday directed the Kalrock-Jalan consortium, the winning bidder for bankrupt Jet Airways, to share portions of the resolution plan pertaining to claims of employees with the airline's workmen. The Association of Aggrieved Workmen of Jet Airways (India) Ltd had sought a copy of the approved resolution plan and the latest direction has come on a plea filed by the association. **PTI**

(IGOF) held 69 per cent equity in OSPIL. (the balance was with Essar Steel).

In the appeal filed by SIFL, the NCLAT said, "Having held that the plan approved by the CoC by a vote of 100 per cent in its meeting and approved by the Adjudicating Authority, in toto, we do not find any infirmity or illegality in the order passed by the Adjudicating Authority approving the Resolution Plan."

Amar Chitra Katha becomes Future group subsidiary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 15

FUTURE GROUP'S STAKE in Amar Chitra Katha (ACKPL) has increased to 68.72% post conversion of debentures into equity.

After the conversion, Future Consumer Ltd holds a majority stake in ACKPL, the publishers of Amar Chitra Katha comics, said a regulatory filing by the Future group firm.

"Post allotment of the equity shares as aforesaid, the company holds 68.72% of the paid equity share capital of ACKPL and accordingly ACKPL has now become a subsidiary of the company," said Future Consumer.

The Compulsorily Convertible Debentures (CCDs) have been converted by ACKPL in accordance with the terms of issue, which has provision for full conversion into equity shares after expiry of the period of three years, it said. **—PTI**

UNESCO tag sought for root bridges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Zoological Survey of India has underlined some green rules for the living root bridges of Meghalaya to get the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag. CM Conrad K. Sangma pitched for UNESCO recognition as the hill State marked its 50th year of creation.

A living root bridge is like a suspension bridge formed by guiding the pliable roots of the rubber fig tree (*Ficus elastica*) across a stream or river and allowing the roots to grow and strengthen over time. ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee said faunal diversity and the preparation of health cards would be the prerequisites to earn the tag.

GI tag sought for Kumbakonam Vetrilai, Thovalai Manikka Malai

Farm varsity applied for Kumbakonam betel leaf

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI
Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has received applications seeking GI tag for two famous products from Tamil Nadu – Kumbakonam Vetrilai and Thovalai Manikka Malai. The application for Kumbakonam Vetrilai was filed by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore while the application for Thovalai Manikka Malai was given by the Thovalai Manikkamaalai Kaivina Kalalingaral Nalasangam, Kanniyakumari.

P. Sanjai Gandhi, IP Attor-



Thovalai Manikka Malai

ney and Advocate, Nodal Officer, Geographical Indication Registration of Products, Government of Tamil Nadu, who submitted both the applications, said the Kumbakonam betel leaves were heart shaped and grown in the Cauvery delta region by small and marginal farmers. It is particularly grown in Ayyampettai,

Rajagiri, Pandaravadi and Swamimalai in Thanjavur district.

On an average, about 60-80 lakh betel leaves were harvested annually from a one-hectare plot.

A betel leaf cultivator spends ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 to grow these leaves on a one-acre land. Harvested leaves are washed, cleaned, and graded according to their size and quality.

Thovalai Manikka Malai is a special type of garland that is made only in Thovalai, a small village in Kanniyakumari. The flowers used in this particular garland are positioned in a way that when folded they look like a gem. The flowers are generally arranged in five rows, but at times for other decorations, 20 rows are used. The height ranges from one

foot to 24 feet and above. Chamba fibre, nochi leaves, oleander and rose flowers are the key materials used for making this garland. Thovalai is famous for its abundance of flowers and most of flowers are procured locally.

When Chinese President Xi Jinping came to Mamalapuram in 2019 and saw these garlands, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Thovalai Manikka Malai as one of the Tamil cultural arts to him. The garland was used for decoration during a wedding ceremony at the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani. A group of women from Thovalai went to Mumbai for the decoration work. According to details provided in the GI application, Palani Pandaram invented the technique of Manikka Malai.

Telangana govt. signs LoI with Formula E

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The State Government of Telangana has signed a Letter of Intent on Monday with the efforts to bring the all-electric car racing championship to India for the first time. The proposed route for the Formula E race is about 2.40km with eight turns in and around the Telangana Secretariat in the heart of the City.

Formula E Chief Championship Officer Albert Longo signed the LoI in the presence of Telangana IT, Industries and Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao.

“We are just announcing Hyderabad as a candidate city but is soon to be an official city in the calendar of Formula E,” Longo said.

The race, if Hyderabad wins the bid from a list of 60 cities, will be held between November this year and February next year.

“We are excited about our potential entry to India. It has always been our desire to come to India as it is a major automotive market quickly adopting electric vehicles. We hope Formula E can accelerate this change,” Longo said.

Anil Chalamalasetty of Greenko, promoter of the event, said it everything goes as planned, then Hyderabad would enter into the final agreement with Formula E in the next three months.

Rama Rao expressed hope and confidence that Hyderabad would get the chance to host the race given the kind of infrastructure and other related facilities available in the city.

Tamil Nadu, best State to do business in: Study

Attracts investments of ₹1,43,902-crore via 304 projects in April-December 2021

TERAJA SIMHAN

Chennai, January 16

Tamil Nadu has emerged the most attractive investment destination in the first nine months of FY22, says a report by Projects Today.

The State is the highest net gainer of investments during April-December 2021. It attracted investment worth ₹1,43,902 crore from 304 projects during this period against ₹36,292 crore in the same period last year – a net gain of ₹1,07,610 crore.

Gujarat came in second with a net gain of ₹77,892 crore and Telangana third (₹65,288 crore), says the report.

Some of the companies that

have committed to invest in Tamil Nadu include the Tata Group, JSW Renew, Hindustan Unilever, TVS Motor, Adani Group and Larsen & Toubro.

Sound policy, the key

Sound policy and quick problem-solving approach helped Tamil Nadu attract investments. “This is the feedback that we got from the companies. There is a willingness to listen, and a willingness to resolve,” said Industry Secretary S Krishnan.

The decision-making on a range of issues, including incentive packages, is fast. Through the Covid pandemic, these factors became import-



MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu CM

ant as decision-making was to ensure that the economy did not suffer too much, he added.

The DMK, which came to power in May, has released a series of policies including for FinTech, MSMEs and Data Centres to woo investors.

SChandra Kumar, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Founder-Chairman, Kauvery Hospital, said that despite the pandemic, the State strengthened its competitiveness of doing business.

The State government should continue the ease of doing business initiatives in new and emerging sectors like biotechnology, medical equipment manufacturing and renewable energy.

Globally trusted

CK Ranganathan, Chairman & Managing Director, CavinKare, said the jump in FDI clearly shows the trust global investors and industry leaders have with the current government. The political and bureaucratic leadership of Tamil Nadu is strong and has always had the legacy of attracting Industrial investments.

Across India, the first nine months of the current fiscal saw 7,764 new projects with a total investment commitment of ₹12,76,679 crore.

Prema Racing signs up Daruvala

He will also remain a part of the Red Bull Junior Team

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

India racer Jehan Daruvala's Formula 1 aspirations received a massive shot in the arm, with Italy's three-time F2 champion Prema Racing signing him up for the 2022 FIA Formula 2 championship.

The 23-year-old from Mumbai will also remain a part of the Red Bull Junior Team for the third successive year.

Thrilled

"I am thrilled to join hands with Prema once again," Jehan said on Friday. "Charles (Leclerc) and Mick (Schumacher) clinched F2 titles for Prema Racing and went on to race in F1 the very next



Daruvala.

• PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

year. "I hope to follow in their footsteps," he added.

Jehan will also have a broader role with Red Bull this year. He will not only drive the team's Formula 1

■ The series this year will feature 14 rounds and 28 races starting on March 18, 2022 in Bahrain with the season-finale set for November 20, 2022, in Abu Dhabi

simulator at its base in Milton Keynes but will also undergo regular evaluations at the team's fitness facilities in Austria, just like Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez.

During his earlier stint with Prema Racing in 2019, Jehan had finished third in the Formula 3 championship, after a season-long title battle with his teammates.

The series this year will feature 14 rounds and 28 races starting on March 18, 2022 in Bahrain with the season-finale set for November 20, 2022, in Abu Dhabi.

Largest national flag flies on Army Day



The Monumental National Flag, the world's largest khadi national flag, was displayed along the Indo-Pakistan border as part of 74th Army Day celebrations, in Rajasthan's Longewala on Saturday. On the occasion, army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said that the army will thwart any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along India's borders. [Related story on page 4](#) ANI

Oil India sells 20% stake in US shale venture for \$25 million

Oil India subsidiary sold its entire stake in Niobrara shale asset to its venture partner

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has exited from a US shale oil venture, selling its 20% stake to its venture partner for \$25 million—the second exit of an Indian firm from the US shale business in two months.

“Oil India (USA) Inc (wholly owned subsidiary of OIL), divested its entire stake in Niobrara shale asset, USA,” a regulatory filing by the company said, adding the consideration received was \$25 million.

OIL and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had together in October 2012 bought a 30% stake in Houston-based Carrizo Oil & Gas’s Niobrara shale asset in Colorado for \$82.5 million. While OIL had acquired 20%, IOC bought 10% in Carrizo’s Niobrara basin acreage assets through their respec-

tive subsidiaries. The total investment of \$82.5 million included an upfront cash payment of \$41.25 million and a carry amount of \$41.25 million, linked to Carrizo’s future drilling and development cost. The stake was sold to Verdad Resources LLC, which is the operator of the asset. Originally, OIL acquired the 20% interest in the liquid rich shale asset in the Denver-Julesburg Basin from Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc. Carrizo sold its entire stake in the Niobrara asset to Verdad Resources LLC in January 2018. As a result, Verdad became the new operator of the asset. Haimo Oil & Gas holds the remaining 10% stake in the project. The move by OIL follows the exit by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) from US shale.

In November last year, RIL said its wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance Eagleford Upstream Holding, LP has signed an agreement with Ensign Operating III to divest its interest in upstream assets in the Eagleford shale play of Texas. With this, RIL has divested all its shale gas assets and

exited the shale gas business in North America.

The firm had previously divested its entire stake in the Marcellus shale blocks. State gas utility GAIL (India)

OIL and IOC had together in October 2012 bought a 30% stake in Houston-based Carrizo Oil & Gas’s shale asset in Colorado for \$82.5 mn

Ltd continues to hold a 20% stake in Carrizo’s Eagle Ford shale acreage, which it had acquired in 2011. OIL, in the filing, said its subsidiary Oil India (USA) Inc had reported a net profit of \$279,000 on a revenue of \$4.27 million in the fiscal year ending 31 March 2021.

Virat, Darmi and Heena get Army chief’s pat

Horse and dogs honoured for exemplary service

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Virat, Darmi and Heena were awarded the Chief of the Army Staff Commendation on the eve of Army Day on January 15 for their exemplary service. Virat is a horse with the President’s Bodyguard (PBG), while Darmi and Heena are Army dogs.

Virat, a Hanoverian breed, was issued to the PBG on September 12, 2000. He performed his duties as the Commandant’s charger for over a decade and awed spectators, including foreign



Virat the horse is with the President’s Bodyguard and has served as the Commandant’s charger. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dignitaries, with his trademark poise and confidence, an official said.

“Within a short span of time, he displayed the potential and temperament to

become the most trustworthy parade horse,” the official noted. “During Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat ceremony in 2021, the horse performed excep-

tionally well despite his old age.”

“From the beautiful arch of his neck right down to his graceful trot, to the wisdom in his eyes, Virat is a horse like no other,” said an officer who has served with the PBG.

The Army has eight different trades of dogs: tracker, guard, mine detection, explosive detection, infantry patrol, avalanche rescue operations, search and rescue, assault and narcotic detection. Darmi was pressed into service for a search and rescue operation at a post on the Siachen Glacier on April 25 last year.

Undeterred by the extreme cold at an altitude of

around 16,500 feet, low atmospheric oxygen and high intensity winds, Darmi confirmed the exact location of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) that was damaged, dislocated and buried under 25 feet of hard snow. This helped in finding six soldiers and three porters, an officer explained.

Heena, a Labrador retriever, is a tracker aged five years and is highly loyal, even-tempered, intelligent, obedient and exceptionally reliable, the officer said. In February 2021, Heena was part of an extensive search operation along the Line of Control in Kashmir after an infiltrator was eliminated, the officer said.

NEW EV CHARGING INFRA NORMS

Govt prescribes revenue sharing model for land, open access

Charging stations don't need licences, but must meet standards set by the guidelines

RISHI RANJAN KALA
New Delhi, January 15

In a significant development, the Power Ministry has put into effect the revised guidelines and standards for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in a bid to encourage faster adoption of EVs as well as fast-track the setting up of related infrastructure. The revised norms cover individual owners and public charging stations (PCS).

Promulgated on Friday, the major revision in the consolidated guidelines and standards for public and private entities are with respect to land. Now, those setting up the charging infra can get government land on a revenue sharing basis for

10 years. It also allows a government land-owning agency to offer land to a private entity for setting up PCS on a bidding basis with a floor price of ₹1 per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Open access

Another key change is more clarity on open access. Any PCS can now get electricity from any generation company through open access within 15 days of receipt of its application. PCS operators will have to pay applicable surcharge, equal to the current level of cross subsidy (not more than 20 per cent as per Tariff Policy Guidelines), transmission and wheeling charges. No other surcharge/charge will be levied.



An individual or entity is free to set up a PCS without requiring a licence, but the station will have to meet technical, safety and performance standards and protocols under the guidelines. They have to abide by norms set by the Power Ministry, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from time to time. For personal vehicles, the revised

guidelines allow EV owners the freedom of charging at their homes or offices using existing electricity connections.

Faster EV adoption

Somesh Kumar, Leader (Power & Utilities) at EY, said, "Clearly the objective of electrification of transport can be realised only if adequate and reliable EV charging infrastructure is in place.

The Ministry has tried to clarify on certain points which have been gap areas for long. Allowing users to charge using regular electricity connections, prescribing ceiling tariffs, allowing open access, laying down revenue sharing model for land use, creation of data-

base, etc, all will facilitate faster and more efficient adoption of EVs."

The BEE will be the central nodal agency for the rollout of EV PCS. It is also preparing action plans for PCS installation in nine major cities with a million plus population, including the four metros.

Per initial estimates, a total of 3,263 chargers under BAU scenario, 23,524 under the moderate scenario and 46,397 under the aggressive scenario are being targeted for PCS installation in these cities by 2030. PCS will be required to tie up with at least one online network service provider to enable advance remote or online booking of charging slots by EV owners, the Ministry said.

T.N. will install Pennycuick's statue in U.K., says Stalin

He was instrumental in constructing Mullaperiyar dam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MADURAI

The Tamil Nadu government will install a statue of Col. Pennycuick in Camberley, United Kingdom, the birthplace of the British Army Engineer, who was instrumental in constructing the Mullaperiyar reservoir, said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday.

Marking the birth anniversary of the late architect of the reservoir, Mr. Stalin said that the government would take steps to install the statue at the city's central park, after obtaining necessary

permission from the U.K. government.

A press release further said that the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, those in Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts, would always remember and cherish Col. Pennycuick, as the visionary's grit and determination to build the dam in 1895 had resulted in farmers carrying out cultivation on over 2 lakh acres of land. Apart from this, the reservoir has also been a prime source of drinking water in the region.

As a mark of respect, late

Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had unveiled Col. Pennycuick's statue on the Public Works Department campus in Tallakulam, Madurai on January 15, 2000. Subsequently, the T.N. government built a memorial at Gudalur, Lower Camp in Theni district, and also installed a life-size statue of Pennycuick. A large number of people in Theni celebrated Pongal on January 15 coinciding with the birth anniversary of Col. Pennycuick by making *pongal* [dish] in front of the memorial and by garlanding the statue.

Intel to invest up to \$100 bn in Ohio chip units

Firm aims to address global shortage

REUTERS

WASHINGTON/SAN FRANCISCO

Intel Corp. said on Friday it would invest up to \$100 billion to build potentially the world's largest chip-making complex in Ohio, as it looks to boost capacity amid a global shortage of semiconductors used in everything from smartphones to cars.

The move is part of chief executive officer Pat Gelsinger's strategy to restore Intel's dominance in chip making and reduce America's reliance on Asian manufacturing hubs, which have a tight hold on the market.

An initial \$20 billion investment – the largest in Ohio's history – on a 1,000-acre site in New Albany will generate 3,000 jobs, Mr. Gelsinger said.

That could grow to \$100 billion with eight total fabrication plants and is the lar-



gest investment in Ohio's history, he told Reuters.

Dubbed the silicon heartland, it could become 'the largest semiconductor manufacturing location on the planet,' he said.

While chipmakers are scrambling to boost output, Intel's plans for new factories will not alleviate the current supply crunch, because such complexes take years to build.

Mr. Gelsinger reiterated on Friday that he expected the chip shortages to persist into 2023.