

National /State News

1. Recently In January Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launched A Revamped Central Government Health Scheme Mobile App Named ?

- A. Hello CGHS
- B. My CGHS**
- C. CGHS Darpan
- D. CGHS Sahakar

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched the revamped Central Government Health Scheme CGHS website and mobile app. The website is www.cghs.gov.in and the mobile app is called "MyCGHS"

- ministry has listed various features of the upgraded website. The site has been made Bilingual with Hindi and English with provision to make it multi-lingual in future
- The new CGHS website and its extension as a Mobile Application called MyCGHS, with various beneficiary friendly features, have been designed for ease of service delivery for the beneficiaries within the safe confines of his home, especially during the covid pandemic.

2. Recently In January Which Of The Following State Has Announced AVGC Center of Excellence (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics CoE)

For pioneering high technology digital media hub In State ?

- A. Odisha
- B. Karnataka**
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

The AVGC Center of Excellence (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics CoE), considered as a pioneering high technology digital media hub, funded by the Karnataka Department of Electronics, IT/BT was launched

- has been launched as an initiative of 'Innovate Karnataka', Through this, the Karnataka government which owns the credit of being the first State in India to introduce an AVGC policy way back in 2012
- AVGC policy way back in 2012, has also become the country's first to set up such a center of excellence which is also said to be the biggest in Asia,

Revamped CGHS website, app launched

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Aimed at benefiting more than 40 lakh beneficiaries (both in-service and retired personnel) with real-time information from the convenience of their homes, the Health Ministry has revamped the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) website (www.cghs.gov.in) and mobile app, "MyCGHS".

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya digitally launched the revamped website.

With the new feature of tele-consultation, the CGHS beneficiaries can seek expert advice, he said.

3. Which State Government Has Launched **CMSUPPORTS App To Offer A Subsidy Of Rs 250 Per Month On Petrol Consumption Making The First Satta In The Country To Offer Targeted Subsidy On Auto**

Fuel ?

- A. Himachal Pradeh
- B. Jharkhand**
- C. Jammu And Kashmir
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Jharkhand's petrol subsidy scheme linked to self-certification

The Jharkhand government's decision to offer a subsidy of ₹250 per month on petrol consumption will be linked to self-certification by the beneficiaries. Chief Minister Hemant Soren had last month announced a subsidy of ₹25 per litre of petrol for ration cardholders effective January 26. The subsidy has been capped to 10 litres of petrol consumption or ₹250 in a month, making Jharkhand the first in the country to offer targeted subsidy on auto fuel.

According to a senior official in the department of food, public distribution and consumer affairs, beneficiaries will have to submit a monthly self-certification to receive the amount in their bank accounts. "If a registered beneficiary submits the self-certification form in February, the amount will be credited in his or her account by March 10. This cycle will have to be repeated every month," the official said.

Beneficiaries need to register themselves on CMSUPPORTS app, which links the ration cards of people covered by food security schemes with their two-wheelers under the petrol subsidy scheme. **TWESH MISHRA**

The Jharkhand government is all set to launch the android application (App) for providing Rs 25 per litre subsidy on petrol to the poor and middle class families of the State

- Under the scheme, pink and green ration cardholders of the state owning two-wheelers will get Rs 25 per litre on petrol for a maximum of 10 litres in a month.
- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has prepared the App for Chief Minister Hemant Soren's ambitious petrol subsidy scheme.
- Scheme'. The full form of SUPPORT will be as follows – SU to Subsidy, PP to Purchase of Petrol and RT to Riding two Wheeler.

4. Recently, the government has decided to drop which of the following hymn from the Beating Retreat ceremony ?

- A. 'Abide With Me'
- B. 'Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon'
- C. 'Sare Jahan Se Achha'
- D. 'Mere Bharat Ke Kanth Haar'

'Only Indian tunes at Beating Retreat'

Plan more appropriate for 75th year of Independence, say government sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Responding to criticism over the dropping of the hymn *Abide with me* from the Beating Retreat event this year, government sources said this year being the 75th year of Independence, playing of Indian tunes is considered more appropriate.

"This year, only Indian origin or indigenous tunes are on the list," a government source said on Sunday. *Abide with me* will not be played so as to include the maximum number of Indian tunes, the source said.

'*Ae mere watan ke logon*' is an Indian tune and pays respect to all who laid down their lives for the safety and integrity of the nation, the source added.

Phasing out of tunes handed down from a colonial past and including tunes that have a deeper connect



Final revision: The Indian Armed Forces band rehearsing for the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. •PTI

with the people of India is an exercise, another government source said.

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said *Abide with me* was a Christian hymn written in 1847 but no longer "only" a Christian hymn. "The hymn was part of the Beating Retreat cere-

mony since 1950," he said in a post on Twitter.

'Intolerance of govt.'

"The intolerance of the BJP government has reached such proportions that there are no words to condemn their attitude and outrageous actions," he added.

At the Republic Day pa-

rade this year, there will be 16 marching contingents, said Major General Alok Kacker, Chief of Staff, Delhi Area, in a briefing on the Army's participation at the parade. Due to COVID-19, like last year, this year too, the parade will end at National Stadium and not go to the Red Fort, he said.

In view of this, the size of the marching contingents, too, has been reduced from 144 to 96 individuals per contingent, another officer said. The number of attendees at the parade is significantly reduced in view of the large number of cases.

At the parade, the Army will showcase the evolution of its various uniforms and weapon systems over the decades, with new and modern weapon systems displayed alongside their legacy counterparts, Major General Kacker said.

The government has decided to drop the 'Abide With Me' hymn from the Beating Retreat ceremony.

- 'Abide With Me' has been replaced by 'Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon'. It was written during the India-China war by Kavi Pradeep.
- It was first sung by Lata Mangeshkar on 27 January 1963. It was composed by C Ramachandra.
 - 'Abide With Me' hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte. It is very popular among Christian denominations.
- The Beating Retreat ceremony is held on 29 January every year as part of the culmination of the Republic Day celebration.

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5. Recently In January Which app has been launched by Jai Ram Thakur to promote local handicrafts In The State ?

- a. Desh ka Kangra
- b. Sathi Kangra
- c. Apna Kangra
- d. Athithi Kangra

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has unveiled the 'Apna Kangra' app and hampers handcrafted by self-help groups in Dharamsala, Kangra.

- The app has been launched with the aim of providing a hassle-free experience for tourists while also promoting sales of local handicrafts.
- Apna Kangra's mission is to empower rural women and youth through tourism and to provide hospitality services like hotels, homestays, and transportation to travellers
- The state government is giving Rs 500 per cow to 'Gau Sadans' in order to provide adequate food.
- The state government has also launched schemes like "Mukhya Mantri HIMCARE" to ensure that no one is deprived of access to quality medical care due to a lack of funds

6. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is presented to children every year in how many categories?

- a. Five
- b. Four
- c. Eight
- d. Six

This year, 29 children have been selected for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2022.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to winners of 2021 and 2022 He gave digital certificates to winners through a Block Chain-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the National Blockchain Project.
 - BlockChain Technology has been used for the first time for giving certificates to awardees.
- The award has been given in the Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6), and Bravery (3) categories.
- Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:It comprises a cash award of Rs 1 lakh. It is given in six categories.It is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development

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7. Recently In January Tech Giant Google Has Announced To Open Its New Base In Which Of The Following City Of India ?

- A. Gurugram
- B. Pune**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mumbai

Google announced plans to open a new office in Pune this year, that will hire professionals for building advanced enterprise cloud technologies

Expected to open in the second half this year, the facility will hire people for Cloud product engineering, technical support and global delivery centre organisations.

- Google Cloud has hired some key industry people in recent months in India, including former AWS veteran Bikram Singh Bedi as Managing Director, Google Cloud India

Google Cloud to open new office in Pune

NEW DELHI

Google Cloud on Monday said it plans to open a new office in Pune, Maharashtra, in the second half of 2022, and the first 'Googlers' in the space will be hired in its Cloud Product Engineering, Technical Support and Global Delivery Center units. These hires will be responsible for building advanced enterprise cloud technologies in collaboration with Google Cloud's global engineering teams, it said.

8. Recently In January Ministry Of Road ,Transport And Highway (MoRTH) Has Announced Which Of The Following Two Portal For Every Motor Accident Claim in The Country With Unique Number Generated On An Integrated Portal ?

- A. e-DAR , IRAD**
- B. Mymove , CHGS App
- C. IRAD , CHGS App
- D. Move , Rocas

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India informed the Supreme Court that a portal will be developed soon to keep a check on fake accident claims

- The Centre has directed **National Informatics Centre (NIC) to develop an integrated portal incorporating e-Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) and Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)**, an affidavit filed by the ministry stated
- Every motor accident claim in the country will now be identifiable with a unique number generated on a portal, with details of vehicle, time and place of accident, and the details of criminal case registered

NEW PORTAL SOON TO CHECK FAKE ACCIDENT CLAIMS, CENTRE TELLS SC

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NEW DELHI: Every motor accident claim in the country will now be identifiable with a unique number generated on an integrated portal that has all the details of the accident, the ministry of road, transport and highways (MoRTH) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The Centre's affidavit was submitted after the court came across instances of fake motor accident compensation claims in Uttar Pradesh and requested the Centre's help. The affidavit, filed by MoRTH, said: "The respondent (Centre) has directed National Informatics Centre (NIC) to develop an integrated portal incorporating e-Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) and Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD). The ministry has proposed to use multiple checks in the e-DAR portal to restrict fake/multiple claims, based upon a unique number generated..." The matter has been posted on March 8.

9. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Chief election commission Report On The Eve Of National Voter Day :

1. The number of female electors in the country has witnessed a sharper rise of 5.1% over the past three years, from 43.8 crore in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to 46.1 crore now,
2. The number of male electors 3.6% increased from 47.3 crore to 49 crore during the same period
3. Satyendra Prakash, has been selected for the national award for enhancing electoral participation on part of the Election Commission of India (ECI)

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1 And 3
- B. Only 2 And 3
- C. All Of The Above
- D. None Of The Above

Female voters up 5.1%, male 3.6% since 2019 LS polls: CEC

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Getty Images/Stockphoto

New Delhi: The number of female electors in the country has witnessed a sharper rise of 5.1% over the past three years, from 43.8 crore in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to 46.1 crore now, as compared to the 3.6% increase in male voters from 47.3 crore to 49 crore during the same period.

Chief election commissioner Sushil Chandra, in a televised address on the eve of National Voters Day celebrated each year on January 25, said the strength of the total electorate in the country, as of today, stood at 95.1 crore. Compared to 91.2 crore eligible electors at the time of 2019 general election to the Lok Sabha, this translates into an approximate 4.3% increase.

Chandra said that among the 95.1 crore voters as on date, 49 crore were male and 46.1 crore female, 1.9 crore senior citizens above 80 years of age, 81.4 lakh persons with disabilities and 19.2 lakh from the services.

He added that the number of newly-registered voters as on date stood at 1.4 crore, as



Among the 95 crore voters as on date, 49 crore were male and 46 crore female

compared to 1.5 crore voters aged between 18 and 19 years who were eligible to vote for the first time in 2019 Lok Sabha poll. The CEC further said that nearly 25 lakh new voters are eligible to vote in the current assembly polls in the states of UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur.

Incidentally, the commission has been relentlessly working to push up the enrolment of female voters who are old enough to exercise their franchise but were not yet registered in the rolls. Even

ahead of announcing the current assembly polls in five states, the EC had undertaken a special exercise to identify areas with less female voter enrollment in states like UP and reached out to them through local staff including Asha workers to motivate them to come forward and register themselves as voters.

Chandra said that the government recently amended Representation of the People Act to allow new voters to enroll on four different dates in a year against a single date earlier.

EC award for outreach bureau chief

New Delhi: Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) director general Satyendra Prakash has been selected by the Election Commission of India for the national award in category of 'national award for government department for enhancing electoral participation' in recognition of activities organised during 2021-22 under his leadership for enhancing voter awareness.

Prakash is being honoured for his contribution to devising new techniques to reach the voters and enhance their participation in polls during Covid pandemic, it is learnt. This includes messaging via WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SMS, phone calls and organising webinars as significant tools for communicating with the people. Awareness activity by audio announcement from mobile vans are also used for the same purpose. TNN

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The number of female electors in the country has witnessed a sharper rise of 5.1% over the past three years, from 43.8 crore in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to 46.1 crore now, as compared to the 3.6% increase in male voters from 47.3 crore to 49 crore during the same period.

- Strength of the total electorate in the country, as of today, stood at 95.1 crore. Compared to 91.2 crore eligible electors at the time of 2019 general election to the Lok Sabha, this translates into an approximate 4.3% increase
- Satyendra Prakash, the Principal Director General (DG) of the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), has been selected for the national award for enhancing electoral participation on part of the Election Commission of India (ECI)

10. Recently In January The Andhra Pradesh Government Has Drafted A Notification For Carving Out How Many Number Of New District In The State To Take The Total Number Upto 26 ?

- A. 15
- B. 13**
- C. 12
- D. 16

Andhra Pradesh to get 13 new districts by April 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, January 26

The Andhra Pradesh government issued draft notifications on Wednesday for carving out 13 new districts, taking the total to 26.

“The government, in the interest of better administration and development of the areas concerned, proposes to form a new district under Section 3 (5) of the AP Districts (Formation) Act, 1974,” Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma said in the draft notification, issued separately for each district.

He invited objections and suggestions from the citizens residing within the district, who are likely to be affected, for being taken into consideration within 30 days.

In his Republic Day address, Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan referred to the creation of new districts and said they would be in place by this Telugu New Year’s Day, Ugadi, falling on April 2.

“Two districts will be exclusively for tribal population,” the Governor said in his address.

Exclusive tribal districts

“The State has 25 Lok Sabha constituencies and each is supposed to be made a revenue district. However, with its size being too large and spread over many districts, the tribal-dominated Araku Lok Sabha constituency is being split into two new districts. The two new tribal districts will be Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju,



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

named after the legendary Telugu freedom fighter.

The other new districts are Anakapalli (out of the existing Visakhapatnam district), Konaseema and Kakinada (out of East Godavari), Eluru (out of West Godavari), NTR (out of Krishna), Bapatla and Palnadu (out of Guntur), Nandyal (out of Kurnool), Sri Satya Sai (out of Anantapuramu), An-

namayya (out of Kadapa) and Sri Balaji (out of Chittoor).

In line with its 2019 election-eve promise, the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government initiated the districts reorganisation process in August 2020 but the exercise could not go ahead because of the impending Census operations and the ban on redrawing the geographical boundaries.

But, with the Centre now easing the ban till July, the State is seeking to fast-track the new districts formation.

Accordingly, a Cabinet note was electronically circulated to the ministers on Tuesday and their approval obtained.

Simultaneously, the government sent the draft pro-

posals to all district Collectors, with a direction that they send their views by return mail.

Strike notice

Meanwhile, AP Revenue Services Association president and leader of the PRC Struggle Committee, Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, said, “All the employees who are supposed to carry out the districts reorganisation process are now in agitation. Barring the IAS officers, everyone will soon be on strike. The government should not exert pressure on us to get things done.”

The committee is miffed with the State’s pay revision orders and has announced an indefinite strike from February 7.

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Andhra Pradesh government has announced the formation of 13 new districts under the AP Districts Formation Act, Section 3(5).

- The new districts in Andhra Pradesh have been formed based on the Parliamentary constituencies. They are carved out from the 13 existing districts, bringing the total number of districts in the state to 26.
- The two new tribal districts will be Manyam, with headquarters in Parvathipuram, and Alluri Sitarama Raju, named after the legendary Telugu freedom fighter with headquarters in Paderu.
- The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Government has announced that the temple town of Tirupati will become a new district and it will be named after the Presiding deity Lord Sri Balaji
- Andhra Pradesh formed the last new district 'Vizianagaram' in 1979

11. Recently In January Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Has Signed An Agreement With Which Of The Following State Government To Invest 1.66 Lakh Crore In Six Different Project Which Include Green Steel Plant At Suvali For Rs 30000 Cr ?

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

The Gujarat government Signed MOU WITH ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS India), which owns a steel mill at Hazira in Surat, will invest Rs 1,66,000 crore in six different projects in the state.

- According to the pact signed by both parties, the steel giant will invest Rs 4,200 crore for the expansion and modernisation of their captive jetty in Hazira and Rs 45,000 crore to increase the Hazira plant's steel production capacity from the current 8.6 MMTPA to 18 MMTPA, said the statement. The company will invest Rs 30,000 crore to expand their facility at Suvali in Surat and Rs 30,000 crore to develop Surat steel city and industrial cluster at Kidiabet in Surat,
- The first such renewable energy plant of the 2,200-megawatt (MW) capacity will come up at the Kana Talav area of the Bhavnagar district,

ArcelorMittal Nippon to invest ₹1.66-lakh cr in Gujarat

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 27

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India has signed an agreement with Gujarat government to invest ₹1.66 lakh crore in six different projects in the State.

The company's proposed investment includes ₹42,000 crore for expansion and modernisation of captive jetty at Hazira, ₹45,000 crore to increase the capacity of the existing 8.6-mpa steel manufacturing plant to 18 mmpa, ₹30,000 crore for Green Steel Plant with captive port capacity at Suvali, Surat and ₹30,000 crore for Steel City and Industrial Cluster in Kidiabet, Surat.

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12. Recently In January In an important milestone in S&T Cooperation between India and France an MoU was signed between Institut Pasteur and which of the following organisation with a scope for cooperation in health research?

- A. CSIR**
- B. DRDO**
- C. AIIMS**
- D. IIT Bombay**

In an important milestone in S&T Cooperation between India and France an MoU was signed between CSIR and Institut Pasteur with a scope for cooperation in health research. The MoU provides for developing potential scientific and technological cooperation and networking in advanced and emerging areas of Human Health between scientists and institutes/laboratories of CSIR and Institut Pasteur and its international network.

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established by the Government of India in 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India.
- CSIR and Institut Pasteur would be jointly researching and focusing on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders and enable delivery of effective and affordable healthcare solutions not only for the people of India and France but for the global good

13. India celebrated its 73rd Republic Day on January 26, 2022. Which Ministry presented its tableau For The Very First Time at the Republic Day Parade 2022 ?

- A. Ministry Of Education**
- B. Ministry of Civil Aviation's**
- C. Ministry Of Road , Transport And Highway's**
- D. Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs**

On January 26, 2022, the 73rd Republic Day Parade has been held on Rajpath in New Delhi.

- Every year, the President of India presides over the Republic Day parade on Rajpath in New Delhi
- The Republic Day Flypast 2022 comprised 75 aircraft and helicopters making different formations as they flew past Rajpath. The first contingent to grace the parade was of the 61 Cavalry. The 61st Cavalry is the only serving active Horse Cavalry Regiment in the world.
- India First Women Rafale Fighter Jet Pilot Shivani Singh Took Part In IAF Tabaleux
- This year, the Civil Aviation Ministry presented its tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2022 for the first time. The tableau showcased the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN. Under UDAN scheme, 403 routes connect about 65 underserved/unserved airports across the country including helicopters and water aerodromes

14. What Is The Name Of The App That has been launched by Parliament to make live proceedings available to everyone?

- A. Digital Clock
- B. Digital Sansad
- C. Digital Parliament
- D. Digital Loksabha

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE...
"I thank our proud Indian...
BACK HOME. THE PROCEEDINGS ARE...
being followed including the...
THESE COURTS PART AFTER...
Taron, a 17-year-old from Zido...
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LS launches Digital Sansad app for ease of use, access to proceedings

Saubhadra Chatterji
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched an app, Digital Sansad, which will make it easier for people to follow proceedings in Parliament. It will also help members of Parliament access services such as checking personal updates including status of their notices and House bulletins.

As MPs are barred from using laptops inside the House, the app will come in handy for parliamentary information for MPs during a debate. In future, MPs can log in for attendance, give questions for the Question Hour, or submit notices for debates or adjournment motions.

The Digital Sansad app is available on both android and IOS platforms and carries nearly all the major content of the inter-linked portal of Indian Parliament. A senior official claimed that Digital Sansad is one of the few apps of a Parliament inter-

MPs CAN LOG IN FOR ATTENDANCE, POST QUESTIONS FOR QUESTION HOUR OR NOTICES FOR DEBATES/ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS APP

nationally that offers a 360-degree view of legislative activities as well as services for members. It is a brainchild of LS Speaker Om Birla, who has sought to make House proceedings more accessible to people, he added.

In addition to proceedings in the current House, people will also be able to access archival data related to all Lok Sabhas. They will be able to access speeches and debates. "It is the task of a committed legislature to keep its constituents apprised of its routine proceedings. This objective has required the Parliament to keep its communication

channels up-to-date with the rapidly changing technological landscape. In keeping with this view, the Parliament too started to expand its digital footprint. Parliament's official 'Digital Sansad App' is an initiative in that direction," said a top functionary who asked not to be named.

Aimed to be Parliament's digital interface with the younger generation, the app has already seen over 8,000 users from India and countries including the US and Saudi Arabia.

The app will help people get all parliamentary updates. "It becomes easier for citizens to access general information on MPs, on budget speeches since 1947, House discussions from 12th Lok Sabha to 17th Lok Sabha. The App will also contain the live telecast of Sansad proceedings, the major news of the day, etc. Apart from a virtual tour of the Parliament, the 2022 Budget session too can be watched live on the App," said the functionary.

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Soon after becoming the Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla has constantly been working to make the Parliament and Parliamentary proceedings accessible not just to the members but also to the public at large.

□ Taking a step ahead, Parliament will soon expand its digital footprint.

□ Parliament's official 'Digital Sansad App' is an initiative in that direction. Now citizens can watch Parliamentary proceedings activities in Parliament and the initiatives taken by the temple of democracy at the click of a button on the phone. Digital Sansad App, citizens will now be able to watch House proceedings, including the Union Budget 2022 live.

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15. Recently In January *Olympic Gold Medalist to Neeraj Chopra Has Been Awarded Which Of The Following Medal for his excellence in sports ?*

- a. Ashok Chakra
- b. Param Vishisht Seva Medal.**
- c. Shaurya Chakra
- d. Padam Vibhushan

Subedar Neeraj Chopra, who created history last year by winning India's first athletics gold medal in Olympics, was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal on Tuesday for his distinguished service.

- Chopra, a Subedar with the 4 Rajputana Rifles in the Indian Army, had produced a second-round throw of 87.58m in the javelin throw finals at Tokyo Olympics in August 2021 to win the gold medal.
- Along with Chopra, 18 other serving and retired personnel of the Indian Army have been awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal.
- Chopra was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018 and Vishist Seva Medal (VSM) in 2020 for his excellence in sports.

Prez nod to 384 gallantry awards, PVSM for Neeraj

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday approved 384 gallantry awards and other military decorations for security forces personnel, including 12 Shaurya Chakras for soldiers who demonstrated exceptional courage during operations, the government said in a statement.

Tokyo 2020 gold medalist Subedar Neeraj Chopra — the first Indian to win a gold in a track & field event at the Olympics — of 4 Rajputana Rifles will be awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), a decoration usually given to three-star officers for distinguished service.

The President will posthumously award Ashok Chakra to assistant sub-inspector Babu Ram of the Jammu and Kashmir Police at the Republic Day parade on Wednesday, said officials familiar with the matter. Ashok Chakra is the country's highest peace-time gallantry award. Babu Ram killed three terrorists during an operation in Srinagar on August 29, 2020.

Shaurya Chakra is India's third highest peacetime gallantry award. The award will be posthumously conferred on nine personnel.

The Shaurya Chakra awardees are Naib Subedar Sreejith M (posthumous), Havildar Anil Kumar Tomar (posthumous), Havildar Kashiray Bammanalli (posthumous), Havildar Pinku Kumar (posthumous), Sepoy Maruprolu Jaswanth Kumar Reddy (posthumous), Rifleman Rakesh Sharma, CRPF Deputy Commandant Dilip Malik, CRPF Assistant Commandant Anirudh Pratap Singh, CRPF Head Constable Ajeet Singh (posthumous), CRPF Constable Vikas Kumar (posthumous), CRPF Constable Purnanand (posthumous) and CRPF Head Constable Kuldeep Kumar Urawan (posthumous).

Neeraj Chopra, who is training in the US, said he was delighted to be named for the award. "I am very happy to know about PVSM and Padma Shri. I am thankful for everybody's wishes and support... I will continue with my hard work and try giving good performances for my country," Chopra said in a video message.

NATIONAL HONOUR



ASHOK CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUSLY)
 Babu Ram, Assistant Sub Inspector, Jammu and Kashmir Police

PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL
NEERAJ CHOPRA, Subedar, 4 Rajputana Rifles, Olympic gold medalist

384
military decorations approved, including 12 Shaurya Chakras

Centre announces 939 police medals, J&K gets most gallantry awards

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NEW DELHI: Nine hundred and thirty-nine police personnel were honoured with the President's police medals on the occasion of Republic Day, with officials from the Jammu & Kashmir Police bagging 115 of the 189 gallantry medals, followed by 30 to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and 10 to Chhattisgarh Police.

In all, 134 of the gallantry medals were awarded for action in counter-insurgency operations in the Jammu & Kashmir region alone.

Government officials said that 662 of the medals were given for meritorious service, and 88 medals for distinguished service.

Apart from operations in Jammu & Kashmir, security personnel were awarded for their role in combating counter-insurgency in Naxal-affected states, the northeast, and on India's international borders, and for displaying extraordinary policing and investigation skills.

Among the officers from J&K, additional director general of police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh, received a medal for distinguished service.

The citation of the awardees shared by the home ministry said that J&K Police was instrumental in eliminating terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-

e-Mohammad and Hizbul-Mujahideen, including neutralising or capturing some top terrorists such as Kalimullah, alias Saifulah, Shahid Ahmad Bhat, and Hilal Ahmad Bhat, among others.

A total of 182 terrorists, including 44 top commanders of various outfits, were killed in J&K last year.

Senior Delhi Police officer, deputy commissioner of police Sanjeev Kumar Yadav of the 2008 Batla House encounter fame, received his 11th President's police medal for gallantry, a rare feat by any officer.

Of the 662 police medals for meritorious service, personnel from Uttar Pradesh Police received 73 medals, followed by CRPF (57), Border Security Force (46) and Maharashtra Police (40).

At least 29 officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also received medals for distinguished and meritorious services, including the agency's joint director in Bhopal, Rannish Geer, deputy inspector general, Kolkata, Akhilesh Kumar Singh (who supervised probe in the post-poll violence in West Bengal), and additional superintendent of police, Delhi, Anil Kumar Yadav (who is investigating actor Sushant Singh Rajput case).

Eighteen Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel were awarded police medals for meritorious and distinguished service.

16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Which Edition Of **India-Central Asia Summit** in virtual format on 27 January 2022, which was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

Central Asia meet forms Afghan group

PM says countries 'concerned about the developments in Afghanistan'; leaders discuss connectivity

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Overcoming the lack of land connectivity between India and Central Asia's landlocked countries was one of the "main issues of discussion" during the first India-Central Asia Summit hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, officials said on Thursday.

The leaders also spoke at length about concerns over Afghanistan, sharing the "same concerns and same objectives" in broader terms and agreed to setting up a Joint Working Group (JWG) of senior officials, said Ree-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India-Central Asia Summit, held via video link from New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

nat Sandhu, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, listing those concerns as the need for immediate humanitarian assistance, ensuring the formation of a truly repre-

sentative and inclusive government, combating terrorism and drug trafficking, and preserving the rights of women, children and minorities.

Mr. Modi tweeted that all

countries at the summit were "concerned about the developments in Afghanistan". "In this context, our mutual cooperation has become even more important for regional security and stability," he said.

More meetings proposed

Mr. Modi also proposed a number of high-level exchanges between the two sides, including biannual summits and annual meetings of the Foreign, Trade and Cultural Ministers and Secretaries of Security (National Security Advisers) to "strengthen cooperation in the areas of political and development, partnership, trade and connectivity, cul-

ture and tourism and security", the officials said, adding that these proposals were accepted, along with a plan to build a "Central Asia Centre" in New Delhi. They also announced two "Joint Working Groups" on Afghanistan and the Chabahar port project.

"Further development of mutual connectivity is essential for enhanced trade and commerce between India and Central Asian countries in the context of their landlocked nature and lack of overland connectivity with India," said the "Delhi Declaration" joint statement issued at the end of the 90-minute summit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format on 27 January 2022, which was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

- This first India-Central Asia coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- During the Summit, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years. An India-Central Asia Secretariat in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.
- The Leaders discussed far-reaching proposals to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and, in particular, on cultural and people to people contacts.

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17. Recently In January *Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve* has Won the prestigious TX2 award after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010 . The Tiger Reserve Is Situated In Which Of The Following State ?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Tamil NADU**
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Odisha

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode district, Tamil Nadu) has been given the prestigious TX2 award after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010. □ Apart from the STR, the Bardia National Park in Nepal has won this year's TX2 award for doubling the population of wild tigers. Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary was declared a tiger reserve in 2013 TX2 award - It goes to one site that has achieved remarkable and measurable increase in its tiger population since 2010. The TX2 goal is a global commitment to double the world's wild tigers by 2022.

□ The goal has been set by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through the Global Tiger Initiative, Global Tiger Forum and other critical platforms. Global Tiger Day is observed on 29th July across the world

18. Which Of The Following Is Not Correctly Matched Amongst The The *Honourary Prestigious Padma Vibhushan Medal* Which Was Awarded On The Eve Of 26th January ?

- A. Prabha Atre - Art (Vocal Hindustani)
- B. General Bipin Rawat – Civil Services (Armed Forces)
- C. Radheshyam Khemka – Trade And Industry (Manufacturing)**
- D. Kalyan Singh - Public Affairs (Politics)

The Home Ministry on January 25, 2022, announced the list of recipients of the Padma Awards which is one of the highest civilian awards of India. Padma Awards 2022 has been conferred upon a total of 128 people in three categories- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.

Prabha Atre Art Maharashtra

Radheshyam Khemka (Posthumous) Literature & Education Uttar Pradesh

General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous) Civil Service Uttarakhand

Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous) Public Affairs Uttar Pradesh The Awards are given in three categories: The Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).

Instituted in 1954, it is one of the highest civilian honours of India

The honour roll

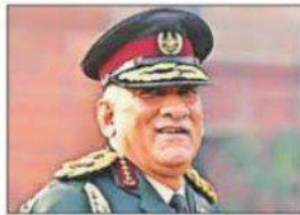
From singers and artists to tech leaders and Covid vaccine-makers — this year's Padma awardees at a glance

PADMA VIBHUSHAN



PRABHA ATRE
ART (VOCALS-HINDUSTANI), PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Atre, 89, belongs to the Kirana Gharana, which is among the most renowned lineages of classical music in the country.



GEN BIPIN RAWAT
(POSTHUMOUS) CIVIL SERVICE (ARMED FORCES) PAURI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND

Gen Rawat was the first Chief of Defence Staff and was responsible for integration of the forces. He died in a chopper crash in December.



RADHEYSHYAM KHEMKA
(POSTHUMOUS) LITERATURE AND EDUCATION (CULTURE) GORAKHPUR, UP

The late publisher and president of Gita Press, Gorakhpur. For 38 years, he was editor of the 'Kalyan' magazine. He died in April 2021.



KALYAN SINGH
(POSTHUMOUS) PUBLIC AFFAIRS (POLITICS) ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH

Singh was a significant face for BJP in Uttar Pradesh. The demolition of Babri Masjid took place during his tenure as Chief Minister.

PADMA BHUSHAN

Who are the awardees?

The President approved the conferment of 128 Padma Awards on the eve of Republic Day.

4 PADMA VIBHUSHAN

PRABHA ATRE , Art	GEN BIPIN RAWAT* , Civil service	KALYAN SINGH* , Public Affairs	RADHEYSHYAM KHEMKA* , Lit & education <small>*Posthumous</small>
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107 PADMA SHRI	THE AWARDEES 34 are women	13 are posthumous	10 persons from the category of foreigners/ NRI/PIO/OCI
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17 PADMA BHUSHAN

1. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Public Affairs
2. Victor Banerjee, Art
3. Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous), Art
4. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Public Affairs
Buddhadeb later refused to accept the award
5. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Trade & Industry
6. Krishna Ella & Suchitra Ella, Trade & Industry
7. Madhur Jaffery, Culinary
8. Devendra Jhajharia, Sports
9. Rashid Khan, Art
10. Rajiv Mehrishi, Civil Service
11. Satya Narayana Nadella, Trade & Industry
12. Sundararajan Pichai, Trade & Industry
13. Cyrus Poonawalla, Trade & Industry
14. Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous), Science and Engineering
15. Pratibha Ray, Literature and Education
16. Swami Sachidanand, Literature and Education
17. Vashishth Tripathi, Literature and Education

19. Recently In January Andhra Pradesh With Which Of The Following Company Has Announced A New Scheme Named “Jagananna Palavlluva” For Purchase Of Milk For “Balram Rutaham And Children Of Anganwadi” ?

- A. Nestle
- B. KVIC
- C. Amul
- D. Sudha

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the Jagananna Palavelluva - AP Amul Project in Anantapur district virtually from his camp office at Tadepalli on Friday. The State government signed two MoUs with Amul for the purchase of milk for Balamrutham and Anganwadi kids

- Amul has already started procuring milk in six districts, including Prakasam, Chittoor, Kadapa, Guntur, West Godavari and Krishna.
- amul is procuring milk from farmers under ‘Jagananna Palavelluva’ in a transparent manner without giving any scope for the involvement of middlemen in the process.
- As many as 4,900 Bulk Milk Chilling Units and 11,690 Automatic Milk Collection centres are being set up in villages as part of the project . Amul has already set up a milk processing unit at Madanapalle. Two more milk processing units will come up in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam soon,

A.P. Amul project kicks off in Anantapur district

CM Jagan launches it in virtual mode

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ‘Jagananna Palavelluva - A.P. Amul’ project in Anantapur district virtually from his camp office on Wednesday.

The State government had entered into an agreement with Amul for purchase of milk for ‘Balamrutham’ and children of anganwadis.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Reddy said that Amul was the largest dairy cooperative society having enormous experience in milk processing.

“Amul has started procuring milk in six districts - Prakasam, Chittoor, Kadapa, Guntur, West Godavari and Krishna - benefitting many



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

dairy farmers. It is buying milk by paying more than the private dairies,” he said.

“The farmers are the stakeholders in the society. Amul is paying a decent price to dairy farmers with no scope for cheating, adulteration and middlemen. It is sharing the profits as bonus every six months,” he said.

20. Recently In January National Highway For Electric Vehicle (NHEV) With **Alektrify** Has Installed **India's Largest Electric Vehicle Charging Station** At Which Of The Following Place With A Capacity Of 71 AC Slow Charge And 24 DC Fast Charge ?

- A. Gurugram
- B. Pune
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mumbai

India's largest electric vehicle charging station set up in Gurugram

It will be able to charge 100 EVs round the clock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station, with 100 charging points for four-wheelers, was commissioned in Sector 52 here on Friday. Before this, the country's largest EV charging station was in Navi Mumbai, with 16 AC and 4 DC charging ports for such vehicles.

The EV charging station in Gurugram, with 72 AC slow-chargers and 24 DC fast-chargers, has been installed and is operated by a partner company of National Highways for Electric Vehicle (NHEV), as part of a pilot project to install charging stations on the Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways, and turn them into e-highways.

The pilot project is aimed at demonstrating the competitive advantage of owning a charging station business over petrol pumps, in terms of ease in getting the necessary licensing, designing, commissioning, installation, electrification and safety certifications.

96 charging ports

The station has 96 operational charging ports for electric vehicles and can serve up to 576 electric vehicles round-the-clock. The remaining four charg-



Praveen Yadav, MD, Alektrify, and Abhijeet Sinha, Project Director, NHEV, at the EV charging station in Gurugram.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing points will also become operational soon. One AC charger takes up to six hours to charge an EV and can charge a total of four vehicles in a day. While a DC charger can charge a vehicle in less than two hours and can comfortably charge 12 EVs every day.

Future of transport

Abhijeet Sinha, Project Director, NHEV, said that the electric vehicles were the future of transport, in preparation for which this station had been built as a prototype.

Sudhendu J. Sinha, Adviser (Infrastructure, Connectivity - Transport and Electric Mobility), NITI Aayog, said that India was committed towards its fight against environmental degradation and in achieving carbon neutrality by 2070. He added that electric vehicles would help India significantly in achieving those targets.

National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) has inaugurated India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Gurgaon, Haryana.

- It has been installed by Alektrify. It has 100 charging points, including 72 AC chargers & 24 DC fast chargers. It will promote the EV industry in the region and act as a benchmark for EV charging stations across the country.
- Prior to this, the country's largest EV charging station was located in Navi Mumbai. It can serve up to 576 electric vehicles in one day. 1 AC charger takes up to 6 hours to charge an EV and can charge a total of 4 vehicles in a day.
- 1 DC charger can charge a vehicle in less than 2 hours and can charge 12 EVs every day.

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21. Recently In January **Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary** Which is expected to be notified as Tiger Reserve before **Global Tiger Summit** is located in which of the following states. Global Tiger Summit is to be held at Which Of The Following Palce ?

- a. Gujarat , Kirov Russia
- b. Rajasthan , Vladivostok, Russia**
- c. Rajasthan , Moscow Russia
- d. Madhya Pradesh , Kzhan Russia

Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary is expected to be notified as Tiger Reserve before Global Tiger Summit. Global Tiger Summit is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia. Centre has already given its approval to granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary has also received approval from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s technical committee. Once notified, it will become Rajasthan's fourth Tiger Reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra tiger reserves. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1982.

In 2013, the Rajasthan government had upgraded Mukundra hills sanctuary as the third tiger reserve. The proposed tiger reserve has core area of 309.21 sqkm and buffer of approximately 708 sqkm.

22. Recently In January **Minister of Food Processing Industries** has released the **Vision Document** for his Ministry's **Capacity Building Plan** under which mission?

- a. National Skill Development Mission
- b. Mission Karmayogi**
- c. Atal Innovation Mission
- d. Ayushman Bharat

Pashupati Kumar Paras, Minister of Food Processing Industries, has released the Vision Document for his Ministry's Capacity Building Plan under Mission Karmayogi in New Delhi.

It aims to help staff to become more innovative, professional, technology-enabled, efficient, and citizen-centric by providing training in domain areas related to the food processing sector. Among all Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is the first to develop and implement a Capacity Building Plan under Mission Karmayogi. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries developed the Vision Document for the Capacity Building Plan with the help of the Capacity Building Commission.

Mission Karmayogi: Mission Karmayogi was approved by the Government on 2nd September 2020.

It is a capacity-building scheme for civil servants through institutional and process reforms. It is delivered through a digital platform called iGOTKarmayogi

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- 23. Recently In January The Swachhata Start-Up Challenge has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and which agency?**
- A. Agence Française de Développement**
 - B. AgNXT Technology**
 - C. Mswipe Technologies**
 - D. Kreditbee Technologies**

The Swachhata Start-Up Challenge has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in collaboration with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

It has been launched to provide impetus to innovative start-ups to come forward and drive catalytic change in the sanitation and waste management sector.

The Challenge aims to provide an enabling environment for enterprise development under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).

The top 10 awardees will receive Rs 25 lakh as well as one year of dedicated incubation support from French Tech.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban:

The second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched by PM Modi on 01 October in New Delhi. It aims to achieve the vision of 'Garbage Free Cities' through the treatment of old dumpsites, construction and demolition waste, and plastic waste management in the next five years.

Swachh Bharat Mission was formally launched on 2nd October 2014.

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24. Recently In January Which Village has been declared as **Mizoram's first ODF Plus village** As It has fulfilled all the criteria as per the guidelines of SBM-G Phase II ?

- A. Jerry Helmet
- B. Khadimpur
- C. Maubuang**
- D. East Khasi

South Maubuang has been declared as Mizoram's first ODF Plus village. It has fulfilled all the criteria as per the guidelines of SBM-G Phase II.

All the three schools in the village and two Anganwadi centres have good arrangements for toilets. Schools have separate toilets for boys and girls. South Maubuang was awarded the National Panchayat Award in 2021.

98% of the total households of the village have arrangements for biodegradable waste material. The village has constructed community compost pits and plastic waste is collected from house to house by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC).

25. With reference to the **Villages of Excellence**, consider the following statements:

1. Union Government has been **decided to convert 150 villages around the Centers of Excellence into Villages of Excellence.**
 2. The **Centers of Excellence (CoEs)** are a example of cooperation **between India and Israel**
- 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

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar expressed happiness on the completion of 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

- The Minister expressed satisfaction at the functioning of 29 Centers of Excellence in 12 States which are producing more than 25 million vegetable plants, over 387 thousand quality fruit plants and can train more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year.
- Union Minister Shri Tomar informed that it has been decided to convert 150 villages around the Centers of Excellence into Villages of Excellence with technical assistance from Israel, out of which 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence where India and Israel will work together.
- These Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are a great example of cooperation between the two countries

26. Recently In January Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has notified the Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector- Phase-II for providing assistance to Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure. The scheme has a financial outlay of How Much Crore ?

- A. Rs 36400 Cr
- B. Rs 8430 Cr
- C. Rs. 1207 Cr**
- D. Rs 2000 Cr

Govt notifies Phase II of capital goods scheme

THE GOVERNMENT HAS notified the second phase of the Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector to provide assistance for common technology development and services infrastructure, with a financial outlay of ₹1,207 crore. The out-

lay includes Budgetary support of ₹975 crore and industry contribution of ₹232 crore.

“The objective of Phase II of the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness of the Capital Goods Sector is to expand and enlarge the impact created by Phase I pilot scheme,

thereby providing greater impetus through creation of a strong and globally competitive capital goods sector that contributes at least 25% to the manufacturing sector,” the heavy industries ministry said in a statement.

—PTI

Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has notified the Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector- Phase-II for providing assistance to Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure

The scheme has a financial outlay of Rs. 1207 crores with Budgetary support of Rs.975 crore and Industry Contribution of Rs.232 crore . The scheme was notified on 25th January, 2022.

- The objective of Phase II of the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness of the Capital Goods Sector is to expand and enlarge the impact created by Phase I pilot scheme, thereby providing greater impetus through creation of a strong and globally competitive capital goods sector that contributes at least 25% to the manufacturing sector

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27. **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) under its modernization initiatives has set up New Bank Note Printing Lines each at Currency Note Press, and Bank Note Press, ?**

- A. Mysore , Nashik
- B. Nashik , Dewas**
- C. Salboni , Mysore
- D. Kolkata , Dewas

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) under its modernization initiatives has set up New Bank Note Printing Lines each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas. Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), the PSE under the Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for printing and minting of currency for the country, has taken up modernization initiatives, the government said in a press release. Under the modernization program, SPMCIL has set up new bank note printing lines at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas.

- SPMCIL is a government printing and minting agency engaged in the production of currency and bank notes, SPMCIL Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India limited Established in 2006 Established under the Companies Act, 1956

SPMCIL sets up New Bank Note Printing lines

SPMCIL under its modernisation initiatives has set up New Bank Note Printing Lines each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas. On January 27, inauguration of new bank note printing line at CNP Nashik was done by Meera Swarup, Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance, and for the new bank note printing line at Bank Note Press, Dewas inauguration was done by Shashank Saksena, Sr Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance through virtual mode.

28. **Rani Gaidinliu Railway Station, Which Was Seen In News Recently Is Situated In Which Of The Following State ?**

- A. Manipur**
- B. Mizoram
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Madhya Pradesh

The freight train arrived at the Rani Gaidinliu station, Tamenglong in Manipur on January 27, days after a passenger train from Silchar in Assam reached the Bongaichungpao railway station in Manipur, where assembly polls will be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3. Earlier this month, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw did an aerial survey of the Jiribam-Imphal new line project in Manipur. The project, which includes the country's longest train tunnel, will connect Imphal with Guwahati. With the first freight train reaching Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this will enhance the state's commerce and connectivity as goods from there will reach all parts of the country

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29. Recently In January The **2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN)** meeting with India was held on a virtual platform. ASEAN Is A Group Of How Many Countries ?

- A. 10
- B. 9
- C. 12
- D. 15

The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held on a virtual platform.

- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries -Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and dialogue partner countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.
- The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 has been approved at the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers meeting with India.
- Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting.
- The work plan includes the system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, wifi access network interface for public internet, capacity building and knowledge sharing, etc.
 - This project is backed by the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system **ASEAN - It Satnads Association Of Sout East Asian Nation First Summit WAS hELD IN Bali Indonesia 1976** □ HQ - Jakarta , Indonesia

30. Recently In JANaury Prime Minister Modi Announced **To Build build an open Modern synthetic track and football stadium** In Which Of The Following State / UT ?

- a. Delhi
- b. Ladakh
- c. Uttarakhand
- d. Jammu & Kashmir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that an open synthetic track and astro-turf football stadium will be built in Ladakh. The stadium is being built at a height of more than 10,000 feet and its construction is going to be completed soon This stadium is being built at a height of more than 10,000 feet and its construction is going to be completed soon. **This will be the largest open stadium in Ladakh where 30,000 spectators can sit together.**" This modern football stadium in Ladakh will also have a synthetic track with 8 lanes. stadium has also been certified by FIFA, the biggest organization of football,

FIFA HQ - Zurich Switzerland President - Gianni Infantino Founded: 21 May 1904

31. Recently In January NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC has acquired How Much Percent equity stake in PXIL, India's first institutionally promoted power exchange ?

- A. 10 %
- B. 5 %**
- C. 7 %
- D. 9.95

NTPC arm NVVN gets 5% stake in Power Exchange of India



New Delhi: NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN), a wholly-owned subsidiary of state-run power major NTPC, has acquired a 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India (PXIL). PXIL and India Energy Exchange (IEX) are the two power exchanges in the country and as per Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) norms, a trading member's shareholding in the power exchange is capped at 5%.
STAFF WRITER

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has acquired a five per cent equity stake in PXIL," the company said NVVN has purchased these shares from the holding company NSE Investment, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL,

- NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL is a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a leadership position in the rapidly changing power trading market
- NVVN was formed by NTPC in 2002, as its wholly owned subsidiary to tap the potential of power trading in the country.
 - PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, promoted by NSE Investment and NCDEX and has been providing innovative and credible solutions since 2008.
- NTPC HQ - Delhi Chairman - Gurdeep Singh

32. Recently In January The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of the country's first geo park at Which Of The Following District Of Madhya Pradesh on the banks of the Narmada river, With An Estimated Cost Of Rs 35 crore ?

- A. Bhopal
- B. Salboni
- C. Jabalpur**
- D. Gwalior

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The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has approved the setting up of the country's first geo park at Lamheta village on the banks of the Narmada river in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh,

- He said the GSI has sanctioned Rs 1.30 crore to prepare a detailed project report of the geological rock formations in five acres in the Lamheta village, located 20 km away from the Jabalpur district headquarter, where the park will come up.
- The estimated cost of this project is Rs 35 crore and there is a provision to sanction additional funds if required,
 - "This site is already there in the UNESCO geo-heritage tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage. A science centre will come up at Bhedaghat, also in the Jabalpur district, known for white marble rock formations and a famous tourist hotspot, at the cost of Rs 15.20 crore, to be shared by the Centre and the state
- UNESCO HQ – Paris France Estd – 16 November 1945 President – Audrey Azoulay

33. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) to provide its techno-financial expertise to set-up a rooftop solar power project ?

- A. BPCL
- B. HPCL
- C. IREDA**
- D. IOCL

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) to provide its techno-financial expertise to set-up a rooftop solar power project. The two companies are PSUs under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Defence, respectively.

- Under the MoU, IREDA will assist GSL to set-up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarter of the company situated in Vasco da Gama, Goa. IREDA will also extend its techno-commercial expertise to GSL for Environmental & Social (E&S) due diligence of rooftop solar and other RE projects as per the internationally accepted E&S standards
- The Govt. of India aims to produce 40 GW of solar power through rooftop solar by the end of 2022, and these collaborations will enable us to contribute to meeting the targets set by the Govt. of India

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34. Recently In January Which Of The Following PSU Has Begun India's First PROJECT Of Mixing Hydrogen In Natural Gas System At Which Of The Following Place ?

- A. NTPC, Bhopal
- B. GAIL, Indore**
- C. NHPC, Japalpur
- D. IOCL, Gwalior

GAIL starts India's maiden project of blending hydrogen into CGD network

STATE GAS UTILITY GAIL (India) on Monday said it has commenced India's first-of-its-kind project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas, one of GAIL's joint venture with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households in Indore, the company said in a state-

ment.

"In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL has started hydrogen blending as a pilot project to establish the techno-commercial feasibility of blending hydrogen in City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. This project marks the stepping stone of India's journey towards hydrogen-based and carbon-neutral future," it said.

GAIL started injection of grey hydrogen at the city gate station (CGS), Indore. PTI

GAIL (India) Limited has begun India's maiden project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore, Madhya Pradesh, This is a first-of-its-kind project in the country.

- The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) company with HPCL, operating in Indore.
- In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL has started hydrogen blending as a pilot project to establish the techno-commercial feasibility of blending hydrogen in the CGD network.
- GAIL started injection of grey hydrogen at City Gate Station (CGS), Indore. GAIL CHAIRMAN - Manoj Jain HQ New Delhi

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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35. **Hoysala Temple** Which Was Seen In News Recently Is Located In Which Of The Following Palace ?

- a. **Belur**
- b. **Ahmdebad**
- c. **Lucknow**
- d. **Merut**

Hoysala temples of **Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura** in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage sites for the year 2022-2023,

- Earlier, the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) had agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the WHC website.
- The information was shared by the Permanent Delegation of India to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris

Karnataka's Hoysala temples finalised as India's nomination for world heritage sites



OPEN APP

Hoysala temples of Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage sites.

1 min read . 09:36 PM IST

Livemint

- Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage sites for the year 2022-2023

X

International News

1. In January 2022, **Dredging Corporation of India Ltd** and **National Marine Dredging Company of Abu Dhabi** have signed MoU for a strategic alliance. Which Of The Following Country have signed MoU for a strategic alliance ?

- A. Abu Dhabi
- B. Baghdad
- C. Kabul
- D. Tehran

Dredging Corp signs MoU for strategic alliance with Abu Dhabi's NMDC

Pact to cover capital dredging works, PPP projects, among others

P MANOJ

Mumbai, January 24

Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI) and Abu Dhabi's National Marine Dredging Company (NMDC) have formed a strategic alliance to bid jointly for projects using each other's resources, equipment and knowhow in the Indian sub-continent, Africa, Middle East and Far East regions.

A memorandum of understanding on the strategic alliance was signed on Monday between the two firms.

The strategic alliance will cover capital dredging works, project development on



DCI, India's biggest dredging contractor, is owned by four govt-owned major ports

build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis, operate ports as managers, participate in public-private partnership (PPP) projects in dredging works in accordance with the dredging policy of the government, port development, operations and management, reclamation works and development of multi-modal transportation. "The project execution shall be

either through a joint venture or as a consortium on a project-to-project basis," DCI said after signing the MoU.

DCI, India's biggest dredging contractor, is owned by four government-owned major ports - Deendayal Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Visakhapatnam Port and Paradip Port. NMDC is backed by the government of Abu Dhabi.

Vessel strength

NMDC is strong on cutter suction dredgers (CSD) that are used to deepen the channel of ports and harbours while DCI has a large fleet of trailing suction hopper dredgers (TSHD) that are deployed to maintain the channel.

NMDC's fleet of 19 dredgers includes seven heavy duty cutter suction dredgers. DCI has

10 TSHD's in its fleet of 17 dredgers.

Yasser Nassr Zaghoul, Group Chief Executive Officer of NMDC, said, "This agreement is a statement of intent between NMDC and DCI that we are keen to broaden our level of collaboration. Each partner brings to the table unique strengths and experience."

GYV Victor, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DCI, said that with the increase in marine infrastructure development activities, more specifically in the Indian sub-continent, African and Middle, Far East regions, the firms shall collaborate to form strategic alliance. The strategic alliance seeks to transform the two companies as leaders in these regions, he added.

Dredging Corporation of India Ltd and Abu Dhabi's National Marine Dredging Company have signed an MoU for a strategic alliance.

- The strategic alliance will cover capital dredging works, project development on build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis, operate ports as managers, etc.
- Dredging Corporation of India is India's biggest dredging contractor. It was set up in 1976. It is owned by 4 government-owned major ports.
- The ports are Deendayal Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Visakhapatnam Port and Paradip Port.

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2. India With Which Of The Following Country have **unveiled a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the two countries' establishment of diplomatic ties?**

A. USA

B. Israel

C. Russia

D. France

January 24, India and Israel unveiled a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the two countries' establishment of diplomatic ties

□ the presence of Israel's Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon, and India's envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, the logo was unveiled virtually at an online event

□ this logo, there are two symbols on both countries' flags: Star of David and Ashoka Chakra. The logo includes both of these symbols and makes the numeral 30 to show that both countries have been working together for 30 years.

□ On January 29, 1992, Israel and India had established diplomatic ties. Since then, bilateral relations have emerged as a multifaceted strategic partnership. Its capital is Jerusalem and the currency is the Israeli shekel

3. Recently In January Which Of The Following Country Has Unveiled **The world's-largest canal lock That Is 500-meter-long and 70-meter-wide ?**

a. Singapore

b. Netherland

c. Malaysia

d. UAE

Dutch King Willen-Alexander on Wednesday opened what authorities say is the world's largest canal lock. at **Ijmuiden**, a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

□ The 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide sluice replaces a smaller, nearly 100-year-old one at Ijmuiden, a small port city connecting the North Sea Canal to the port of Amsterdam.

□ Construction on the massive infrastructure project began in 2016 and was meant to be done by 2019. It also went over the initially **planned budget by around €300 million (\$338 million)**

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4. Recently In January India Which Has Been Ranked At 85th In The Corruption Perception Index Report Released By Transparency International . Which Of The Following Countries Is Not In Top 5 Of The List Of Corruption Perception Index ?

- A. Singapore
- B. Switzerland
- C. England**
- D. New Zeland

India ranks 85 in Transparency International's corruption index

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

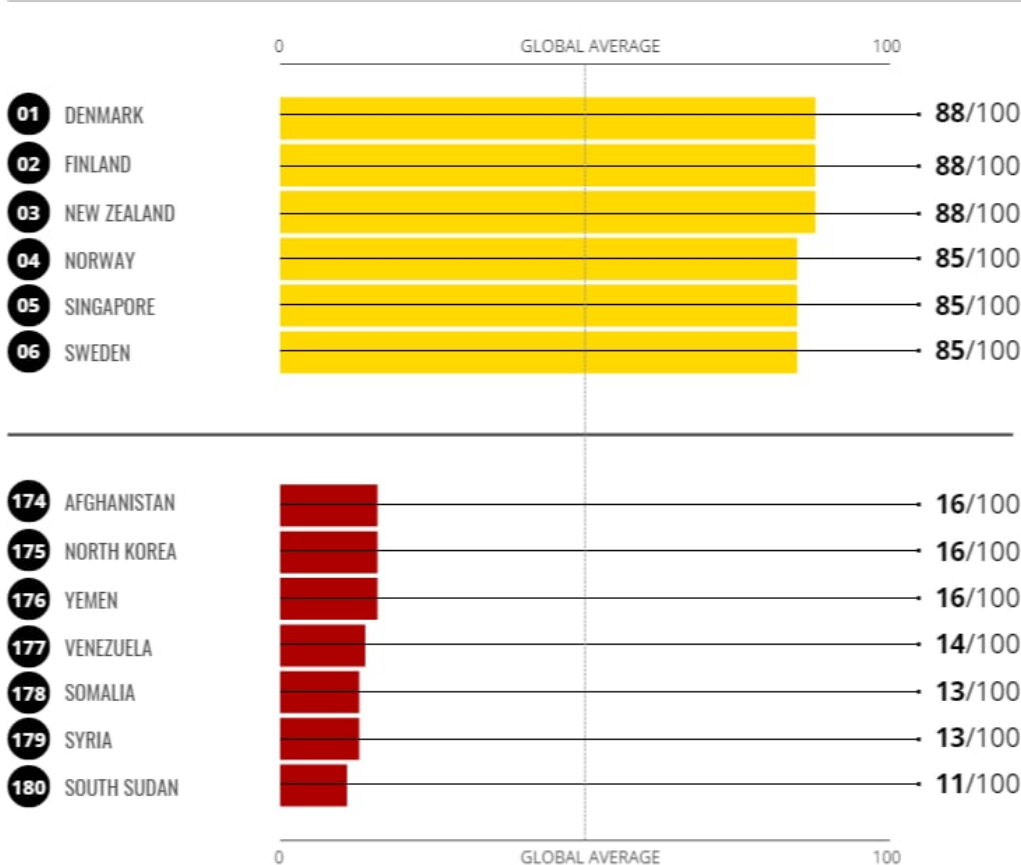
UNDERLINING THAT some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening, Transparency International ranked India at 85 among 180 countries in its Corruption Perception Index report released on Tuesday.

"The case of India is particularly worrying. While the country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening. There are concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay," the report said.

The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Transparency International gave India a CPI score of 40.

In 2021, India ranked 86th with the same CPI score of 40. The report highlighted concerns over the risk to journalists and activists who have been "victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials." "Civil society organisations that speak up against the government have been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding," the report said.

TOP COUNTRIES



Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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Transparency International has released the corruption perception index (CPI) 2021. India's rank has been kept on 85th position with 40 points in the corruption perception index (CPI) of 2021 among 180 countries

- India's rank has improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020
- This year, the top countries are Denmark, Finland and New Zealand, each with a score of 88. Norway (85), Singapore (85), Sweden (85), Switzerland (84), the Netherlands (82), Luxembourg (81) and Germany (80) complete the top 10.
- South Sudan (11), Syria (13) and Somalia (13) remain at the bottom of the index.
- Transparency International (TI): It measures and prevents corruption activities arising out of corruption. It's a German NGO headquartered in Berlin

5. *The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Has Committed How Much Amount To Invest In the development of data centers that mostly serve emerging Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II) ?*

- A. USD 100 million
- B. USD 150 million**
- C. USD 250 million
- D. USD 50 million

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has committed USD150 million to invest in the development of data centers that mostly serve emerging Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha).

- This is AIIB's first data center project AIIB's investment of USD100 million through a parallel fund structure and USD50 million through co-investments mark the final close of KDCF II, a development fund making strategic investments in the fast-growing data center sector with a focus on Asia Pacific.
- AIIB Headquarters: Beijing, China; AIIB Formation: 16 January 2016; AIIB Head: Jin Liqun

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6. Recently In January **India-UAE venture capital fund** has been launched Amounting How Much Million to boost growth of start-ups in India and UAE ?

- A. USD 132 Million
- B. USD 150 Million**
- C. USD 250 Million
- D. USD 300 Million

\$150-m India-UAE fund set up to boost start-up ecosystem

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 26

A \$150-million India-UAE venture capital fund to fuel growth of start-ups in India and the UAE was launched on Tuesday from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai.

Ajai Chowdhry, HCL Founder and Chairman-Start-up Committee, FICCI, announced the launch of this fund. The VC Fund is a first-of-its-kind to be set up in the UAE to source, invest and nurture promising start-ups through an accelerator to fuel the growth of India-UAE start-ups. It will be funded by investors across the UAE, India and wider GCC countries.

The Fund will also act as a catalyst to provide a process for developing early-stage

start-ups in India and the UAE into viable global ventures and making them attain the unicorn level.

It will target to invest in a minimum of 50 demonstrated and validated start-ups based in India and the UAE over a period of 5 years, turning 10 unicorns by 2025, an official release said.

An MoU was signed to launch this Fund in the presence of Saurabh Srivastava Chairman, Indian Angel Network & Co-Founder, NASCOM, Founder of TiE, K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Eco & Com), Consulate General of India, Dubai, Padmaja Ruparel, Co-Founder- Indian Angel Network & President of IAN Fund, S. Venkatesh, Managing Partner, MCA Management Consultants, R Lak-

shmanan, Senior Partner MCA Management Consultants and Nirankar Saxena, Deputy Secretary-General, FICCI.

Investment opportunities

Chowdhry said in his virtual address that the fund will bring investment opportunities to start-ups in India and the UAE. The Indian Angel Network Fund (IAN) will offer benefits to the investors from the UAE including the experience and knowledge that India offers. "We are delighted to witness this collaboration and hope to see great results in the near future," he said.

Srivastava said that in recent years, new processes have been developed keeping in mind the changing

needs of the economy, be it in technology, EVs, fintech, agriculture or communication, which would get a boost through this fund.

Kalimuthu said, "The present start-up ecosystem is giving ample opportunities for the youth to bring their potential entrepreneurship capabilities. However, the unavailability of capital is the main obstacle in realising their full potential. This fund will help young start-ups grow and contribute to economic growth and employment opportunities."

Ruparel said, "India has 60,000+ start-ups which is a testimony to the entrepreneur mindset of the young Indian generation. IAN is excited to participate in this fund as a founding member."

\$150-million India-UAE venture capital fund has been launched to boost growth of start-ups in India and UAE.

- The VC Fund will be funded by investors across UAE, India and wider GCC countries. It has been launched from India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai.
- The launch of the fund was announced by Ajai Chowdhry, HCL Founder and Chairman-Start-up Committee, FICCI.
- The fund will aim to invest in a minimum of 50 demonstrated and validated start-ups based in India and UAE over a period of 5 years.

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7. Recently In January Friendship Hospital Which has been awarded with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) International Prize as the most transformative building of the world for 2021 Is Located In Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. London
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. South Africa
- D. Australia

Friendship Hospital has been awarded with the RIBA International Prize.

- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has declared Friendship Hospital of Bangladesh as the most transformative building of the world for 2021.
- This 80-bed community hospital has been designed by Bangladeshi architect Kasef Chowdhury.
- It has been designed according to the climate change effects of rising seawater in the adjoining area.
 - In this building, Canal landscaping has been used to separate its multiple blocks.
- The RIBA International Prize is given to a project that exemplifies design quality while also having a positive social impact. It is given on every two years.

8. Recently In January Which Of The Following Country Test Fired Its most Powerful longest-range ballistic missile since 2017 Which Was seventh launch in a month ?

- A. Iran
- B. South Korea
- C. North Korea**
- D. China

The Japanese and South Korean militaries said the missile was launched on a lofted trajectory, apparently to avoid the territorial spaces of neighbors, and reached a maximum altitude of 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) and traveled 800 kilometers (497 miles) before landing in the sea.

- Sunday's test was the North's 7th round of weapons launches this month.
 - North Korea President - Kim Jong Un

9. Recently In January To grow beyond an airline, which **country's** airline has changed its name from AirAsia Group Bhd to Capital A Bhd in January 2022?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Mauritius
- C. Singapore
- D. India

Malaysia's AirAsia Group Bhd said on Friday it had changed its name to Capital A Bhd to reflect its growing portfolio of businesses beyond the core budget airline.

The airline business has been hard-hit during the pandemic due to strict travel rules in Asia, leading Malaysia's stock exchange to this month classify the firm as financially distressed though it has been raising funds to bolster its balance sheet.

The airline business will retain the AirAsia brand, which is well known in Asia,

AirAsia renamed Capital A as it grows beyond an airline

Malaysia's AirAsia Group said on Friday that it has changed the name of its listed holding company to Capital A to reflect the diversity of its business portfolio as it seeks to grow its non-airline revenue. Capital A chief executive officer Tony Fernandes said the Covid-19 pandemic has allowed the group to accelerate plans to grow beyond the airline business to become a "one-stop digital travel and lifestyle services group." The airline retains the AirAsia brand name. But the group will focus more on expanding other businesses including logistics, aircraft engineering, venture capital, education and mobile applications for payments, travel and lifestyle.

AP

Banking And Economy

1. Recently In January Which Of The Following HAS Joined Hands With Khan Academy To Make High Quality Educational Content Accessible To Students In Punjab And Learn Punjabi Language ?

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

SBI, Khan Academy to work on maths lessons in Punjabi

SBI FOUNDATION HAS tied up with Khan Academy to make high-quality educational content accessible to students in Punjab and accelerate content localisation so that kids can learn in their own language. The focus will be on implementing a personalised maths learning programme for 1 lakh learners in Punjab.

SBI Foundation, the CSR arm of State Bank of India, is partnering with Khan Academy India, an edtech platform, for localisation of educational content and making them accessible to students in Punjab.

The focus of the partnership will be on successfully implementing a personalised math learning programme for 100,000 learners in Punjab.

- SBI Foundation and SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd. are exclusively providing funding support for math content localisation in Punjabi and teacher training programs... across 3,000 schools in Punjab,"
- The US-headquartered edtech platform Khan Academy, which had entered India in 2016, eyes to focus increasingly on digital education in vernaculars

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2. Recently In January Which of the following banks has launched fitness watch debit cards in partnership with GOQii?

- A. CSB Bank**
- B. DCB Bank**
- C. City Union Bank**
- D. Bandhan Bank**

PAYMENTS ON THE GO

CUB launches contactless debit card in fitness watch

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, January 24

City Union Bank (CUB), in association with fitness technology company GOQii and powered by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the CUB fitness watch debit card, a wearable payment solution.

With the concept of 'just wear, tap and pay', the new fitness watch debit card will enable CUB customers make contactless payments on the go. Also, the smartwatch will keep a tab on health and fitness.

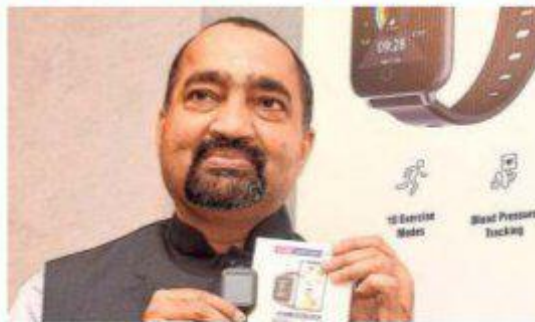
This is the second product in the wearable payment solution space by CUB after it introduced RuPay on-the-go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card cus-

tomers in December 2021. "We used advanced technology to enable our customers to make digital transactions in a contemporary, safe and secure fashion. We are happy to introduce this CUB Easy Pay Debit Card in a Fitness Watch, providing our customers with an easy tap and go payment solution," said N Kamakodi, MD & CEO of City Union Bank, during the launch.

The first smartwatch was received by VR Venkatachalam, Chancellor of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, in Chennai, on Monday.

How does it work?

Customers need to hold the wristwatch in front of the PoS



N Kamakodi, MD and CEO, City Union Bank, at the launch of CUB Easy Pay Debit Card in a Fitness Watch, in Chennai, on Monday. BY IYENGAR/CHESH

device during payment like tapping the card on PoS. For payments above ₹5,000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN. Customers can set the limit for their payments using net/ mobile banking.

The smartwatch debit card comes at an introductory price of ₹3,499 (against the actual cost of ₹6,499), and customers can raise a request for the same through net banking/ mobile banking.

Terming the payment solution as safe and secure, CUB said for each transaction done using the watch an SMS will be sent to the registered mobile number. Usage of the wristwatch can be managed by customers through CUB All-in-One Mobile App.

"This payment solution eliminates the need to carry cash, or even a wallet for that matter, and offers unparalleled and superior customer experience to cater to their day-to-day shopping needs.

"RuPay On-The-Go carries all the security features, notifications and controls of a regular card, and users can transact with the comfort of their safety," said Praveena Rai, Chief Operating Officer, NPCI.

City Union Bank has launched a fitness watch debit card in partnership with a fitness technology company, GOQii.

- Fitness watch debit card means a contactless debit card in a fitness watch. It is a wearable payment solution.
- City Union Bank has launched RuPay on -the-go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers.
- City Union Bank is an Indian bank. It is headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu

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3. Recently In January Which of the following have recently partnered to provide lending products to merchant partners and customers?

- A. Umbo Idtech and Fullerton India
- B. Nafa Innovations and One97 Communications
- C. Fullerton India and One97 Communications**
- D. Fullerton India and Nafa Innovations

Fullerton India and One97 Communications have partnered to provide lending products to merchant partners and customers

Under the partnership, consumers will be offered Paytm Postpaid on Paytm platform while using the risk assessment capabilities of Fullerton India.

- One97 Communications owns Paytm. Fullerton India is a non-banking financial company in India

4. Recently In January Which of the following have partnered to develop new Fintech platform for MSMEs of India?

- a. Hitachi Payment Services and Phonepe
- b. Indipaisa and Phonepe
- c. Hitachi Payment Services and GooglePay
- d. Hitachi Payment Services and Indipaisa**

Hitachi Payment Services and Indipaisa have partnered to develop new Fintech platform for MSMEs of India.

- They will together offer payment solutions to meet specific needs of Indian MSME owners and operators.
- Hitachi Payment Services is a payment solutions provider. Indipaisa is a fintech and financial services provider.

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5. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Become **The First Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) To List Its First Offshore Bond Exclusively At Indian Stock Exchange Established At GIFT City , Gandhinagar ?**

- A. Rail India Technical And Economic Services Limited (RITES)
- B. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC)**
- C. Container Corporation Of India Limited (CONCOR)
- D. Baraithwate And Company Limited

bill, the use of methanol is also seen as a way of meeting India's commitment with the partner.

Short Takes

IRFC Raises \$500 m via Green Offshore Bonds

NEW DELHI Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), the dedicated market borrowing arm of the Indian Railways, has raised \$500 million through issuance of green offshore bonds. IRFC is the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to list its offshore bonds exclusively at Indian stock exchanges established in the GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The bonds issuance is part of the \$7 billion Global Medium Term Note (GMTN) Programme, IRFC said in a statement on Monday. The bonds were issued in a single tranche of 10-year and the order book was over-subscribed 2.4 times.

Wage Hike • Surat Diamond

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), the dedicated market borrowing arm of the Indian Railways, launched its USD 500 million USD Bonds under the 7 billion Global Medium Term Note (GMTN) Programme rated at par with the sovereign, with exclusive listing at India INX and NSE-IFSC

- IRFC is the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to list its offshore bonds exclusively at Indian stock exchanges established in the GIFT City
- the issuance of Green Bonds by IRFC shall open the avenue for other CPSEs also to target the Green Bonds market as the green issuances in India are still at a nascent stage

IRFC –Incorporated In 1986 HQ – New Delhi Chairman And MD – Amitabh Banerjee

6. Recently In January Spices Board Has Launched “SpiceXchange “India’s First Virtual Paltform For Spices Exports At A Hybrid Function With Which Of The FolloWING bank ?

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

Spices Board launches online platform to boost exports...

Buyers, sellers can access database to find potential allies

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, January 21

Spices Board has launched “Spice Xchange”, India’s first virtual platform for spices exports at a hybrid function here.

The spicexchangeindia.com is a 3D virtual platform aimed at connecting the country’s spice exporters with buyers around the world beyond the constraints of time, space and language.

New biz opportunities

The portal uses AI-based technology to connect relevant spice buyers with the Indian spice exporters. Buyers and sellers can access the database to find poten-



India exports 225 spices, spice products to over 180 countries

tial customers on this platform. The portal works as an extended office enabling the subscribers to conduct virtual meetings with their customers.

Earlier, launching the portal, Som Parkash, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, pointed out that spices have contributed greatly to the country’s export basket, despite the pandemic. India currently en-

joys a dominant share in the global spice market by exporting 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries.

D Sathiyam, Secretary, Spices Board said that “the pandemic has forced the Board to conceptualise and create this unique portal, but we feel it’s highly relevant and beneficial even after the pandemic period as it easily connects the exporters and importers. This will help in creating new and greater business opportunities for the spice sector with the help of technology.” Diwakar Nath Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, said the Spice Xchange India will facilitate ease of doing business and is definitely a giant leap in strengthening export transactions of spices from India.

India’s first virtual platform for spice exports ‘Spice Xchange India’ was launched on Thursday. The spicexchangeindia.com, developed by the Spices Board, is a 3D virtual platform aimed at connecting India’s spice exporters with buyers from around the world,

- The platform was launched by Som Parkash he Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, at a hybrid event held in Kochi and online. India’s first virtual platform for spice exports ‘Spice Xchange India.
- To promote spice exports for Indian players, HDFC Bank and Spices Board India have partnered to launch an innovative digital platform “Spice Xchange India”
 - HDFC bank is the only banking partner for the exchange and would play a crucial role for all stakeholders in the spice trade ecosystem.

7. Recently In Janaury PMC (Punjab And Maharashtra Co Operative) Has Begun Its Operations As Branches Of Unity Small Finance Bank (UNITY SFB) After Cneter Notified The Scheme Of Amalgamation . Unity SFB Is A Joint Venture Between The Cntrum Group And Bahart Pe ?

A. 60 : 40

B. 64 : 36

C. 51 : 49

D. 45 : 55

Govt approves amalgamation scheme for PMC Bank with minor tweaks

FE BUREAU

Mumbai, January 25

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Tuesday said the government has sanctioned and notified the draft scheme for the amalgamation of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank (SFB). The final scheme envisages the start of payouts for depositors with over ₹5 lakh in balance within one year, as against two years in the draft scheme.

Additionally, the final scheme says Unity SFB must use recoveries made from loans given to Housing Development and Infrastructure (HDIL) Group over and above the principal amount to buy back perpetual non-cumulative preference shares (PNCPS) issued to institutional depositors.

“The Government of India has today sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd. (PMC Bank) with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFBL). The amalgamation will come into force with effect from the date of the notification of the scheme i.e. January 25, 2022. All the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. with effect from this date,” the RBI said.

Unity SFB, promoted by Centrum Financial Services with BharatPe owner Resilient Innovation as a joint investor, will have to transfer the amount received from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) to all eligible depositors of PMC Bank as an amount equal to the



balance in their deposit accounts up to ₹5 lakh, within a 90-day period, as was notified by the DICGC in September.

For those with more than ₹5 lakh in deposits, the payout for the additional amount will be made in a staggered manner. Up to ₹50,000 will be paid over the next one year, up to another ₹50,000 after two years, up to another ₹1 lakh after three years, up to ₹2.5 lakh after four years, up to ₹5.5 lakh after five years, and any remaining amount will be paid after 10 years.

After March 31, 2021, no further interest will be payable on the interest-bearing deposits of PMC Bank for a period of five years. With respect to balances in any current account or any other non-interest bearing account, no interest shall be payable to the account holders. Interest will accrue at the rate of 2.75% per annum and shall be paid on the retail deposits of PMC Bank which remain outstanding after the five year-period. This interest will be payable from the date after five years from the appointed date, or the date of notification

of the scheme by the government.

As for institutional depositors, 80% of the uninsured deposits outstanding in various accounts to the credit of each of them shall be converted into PNCPS of Unity SFB with a dividend of 1% per annum payable annually. After 10 years from the appointed date, Unity SFB will use recoveries from the HDIL Group to buy back the PNCPS at face value on a pro rata basis. From the end of the 21st year, the bank will buy back the outstanding principal of the PNCPS, at the rate of at least 1% of the total PNCPS issued under the scheme per annum, subject to some conditions.

The remaining 20% of the uninsured institutional deposits will be converted into equity warrants of Unity SFB at a price of one rupee per warrant. These will further be converted into shares of Unity SFB at the time of the initial public offer (IPO) of the bank. The price for the conversion will be determined at the lower band of the IPO price.

For every other liability of PMC Bank, Unity SFB shall pay only the principal amounts within a period of five years to the creditors in terms of the agreements entered between them prior to the appointed date or the terms and conditions agreed upon. The draft scheme envisaged principal payouts as and when they fell due.

Unity SFB shall have up to 20 years from the appointed date to repay the amount received from DICGC towards payment to the insured depositors, which can be done in one or several instalments.

Government has notified amalgamation (merger) of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd (PMC Bank) with Unity Small Finance Bank.

- The amalgamation (merger) came into force from January 25, 2022. All the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity SFB from January 25, 2022.
- Unity SFB is a joint venture between Centrum Group and BharatPe in 51 : 49 Ratio . It started operations as a SFB with effect from November 1
- Unity SFB will take over all the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank. Depositors of PMC Bank will get their money back over a period of 3-10 years
- In December 2021, RBI had extended the restrictions on PMC Bank till March 2022

PMC Bank branches begin operations under Unity SFB

The branches of crisis-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) on Tuesday began operations as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB) after the Centre notified the scheme of amalgamation. The Reserve Bank of India in a statement said: "The scheme of amalgamation notified today (January 25) envisages takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the Unity Small Finance Bank in terms of the provisions of the scheme". It had 137 branches as of March 2019. Unity SFB, which is 51:49 joint venture between the Centrum Group and Bharat Pe, is making necessary arrangements to implement the provisions of the scheme, the RBI said. Unity SFB started its operations in November last year after receiving a final nod from the central bank. The promoters of Unity Small Finance Bank along with the joint investor have infused a capital of ₹1,105.10 crore in Unity Small Finance Bank as on November 1, 2021. Further, equity warrants of ₹1,900 crore, to be exercised anytime within a total period of eight years, have been issued by Unity SFB on November 1, 2021 to the promoters to bring further capital.

SUBRATA PANDA & ABHIJIT LELE

8. Recently In January International Monetary Fund (IMF) Has Cut Down Its India's GDP Economical Growth Forecast To What Percent For The Current Financial Year Ending March 31 ?

- A. 9.2 %
- B. 9.0 %**
- C. 9.5 %
- D. 8.8 %

The IMF lowered India's economic growth forecast from 9.5% to 9% for FY 2022. In latest World Economic Outlook report

- the forecast for the next FY 2023 has been kept at 7.1 percent. The Indian economy had shrunk by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal year
- IMF forecasted that global growth will remain 4.4 percent in 2022. The global growth rate is expected to remain at 3.8 percent in 2023. For FY 2022,
- French economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has become the new chief economist of IMF

IN THE NEWS

IMF cuts India's FY22 growth forecast to 9%

THE IMF HAS cut India's economic growth forecast to 9% for the current fiscal ending March 31, reports PTI. It joins a host of agencies which have downgraded their projections on concerns over the impact of a spread of new Covid variant on business activity and mobility. The agency put the forecast for the next fiscal FY23 at 7.1%.

9. Recently In Janaury Hotel Management Aggregate **OYO Has Recived In Principle Approval From NSE And BSE To List On The Brouers** . The Gururam Based Company Has Filed Doucemnets FoR An Initial Public Offering (IPO) Of How Much Crore Amount ?

- A. Rs 8430 Cr
- B. Rs 36200 Cr
- C. Rs 17408 Cr
- D. Rs 819 Cr

Oravel Stays Limited, the parent company of travel-tech firm OYO, has received in-principle approval from BSE and NSE to list on the respective bourses,

- OYO has filed preliminary documents for a ₹8,430 crore initial public offering (IPO). The offering will consist of a fresh issue of shares of up to ₹7,000 crore and an offer-for-sale of as much as ₹1,430 crore
- While Oyo's founder, Ritesh Agarwal, who holds 33% stake in the company, is unlikely to dilute his shares during the IPO process, the company's largest investor, Japan's Softbank plans to offload around 2% of its holding. Softbank has 46% stake in Oyo.

Oyo gets approvals from NSE, BSE for IPO

John.Sarkar@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Hotel aggregator Oyo has received in-principle approvals from the NSE and the BSE to list on the bourses, according to documents reviewed by TOI.

The Gurgaon-headquartered company has filed preliminary documents for an initial public offering (IPO) of Rs 8,430 crore, of which primary issue of shares would be worth Rs 7,000 crore and Rs 1,430 crore will be an offer-for-sale (OFS) from existing investors.

While Oyo's founder, Ritesh Agarwal, who holds 33% stake in the company, is unlikely to dilute his shares during the IPO process, the company's largest investor—Japan's SoftBank — plans to offload around 2% of its holding. SoftBank has 46% stake in Oyo.

Oyo filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with Sebi in September last year and has been in the process of responding to the questions and clarifications sought by the regulators. "The proceedings are in the final stages and the last rounds of observations are expected in about 10 days," a source told TOI.

Oyo was valued at around \$9.6 billion in December, when several investors, including Middle East-based insurer Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) and a few high networth individuals, purchased stakes in the IPO-bound company.

10. Recently In January Which Of The Following Tech Giant Has Partnered With Microsoft Cloud For Retail To Help Retailers Accelerate Growth And Various Challenges Through Innovative Solutions ?

- A. Wipro
- B. TCS**
- C. Arcelor Mittal
- D. Infosys

TCS Expands Microsoft Cloud Tieup to Retail

TCS to help leverage cloud for retail to boost sector growth

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Tuesday said it is expanding its collaboration with Microsoft Cloud to the newly-launched Microsoft Cloud for Retail to help retailers accelerate growth and address various challenges through innovative solutions.



Retail segment is one of the fastest adopters of digital transformation solutions

TCS will combine its retail domain experience and multi-horizon cloud transformation framework to help retail clients harness the power of artificial intelligence, automation and cloud using the industry specific Microsoft Cloud for Retail to provide greater visibility and control of data, uncover deep insights, design dynamic personalised experiences, and drive growth.

“This expanded collaboration will help our retail clients accelerate their transfor-

TCS to help retail clients harness the power of AI, automation and cloud

Microsoft Cloud for Retail brings together various Microsoft technologies



mation agenda...and allow them to achieve greater responsiveness, adaptability and purpose-led growth,” said Shankar Narayanan, business group head, retail cluster, at TCS.

“Retailers that make better use of customer data and insights are able to respond faster to changing consumer needs and adapt to the rapidly evolving market,” he said.

Tata Consultancy Services is expanding its collaboration with Microsoft Cloud to include the newly launched Microsoft Cloud for Retail

- India’s largest IT services firm will combine its retail domain experience and multi-horizon cloud transformation framework to help clients accelerate their growth and transformation journeys using the industry-specific Microsoft Cloud for Retail
- Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology corporation which produces computer software CEO: Satya Nadella Headquarters: Redmond, Washin gton, United States

11. Recently In January Which Of The Following IT Giant Has Surpassed US competitors in brand value To **Become The World's Second Most Valuable IT Company** According To The Brand Finance's annual report 2022 ?

- a. Infosys
- b. Wipro
- c. TCS
- d. HCL

TCS is 2nd most valuable IT brand, Infosys fastest growing

Indian IT services firms outpace US rivals: Brand Finance report

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 26

Tata Consultancy Services is now the second most valuable brand in the IT services sector globally, according to Brand Finance. While Accenture continues to retain the top spot, Infosys is in the third position, followed by IBM.

IT services companies from India have been outpacing their competitors from the US in brand value growth over the past two years amid digital transformation in the global economy, accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a new report by the brand valuation firm.

TCS crosses key milestone

According to Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 IT Services Ranking report, TCS grew its brand value by \$1.844 billion (12.5 per cent) to \$16.786 billion over the last 12 months. This growth is attributed to its investments in its brand and its employees, customer equity and strong financial performance.

TCS has made consistent, long-term efforts to increase its brand value over the past decade, including investing in major brand sponsorships. In 2021 alone, it added the TCS London Marathon and the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon to its roster of 11 running



TCS grew its brand value by \$1.844 billion (12.5 per cent) to \$16.786 billion over the last 12 months

sponsorships, announced its partnership for the Jaguar TCS racing team in Formula-E motorsports and forayed into golf by partnering with the Dutch Open.

In addition, strong revenue growth in 2021 saw TCS cross an important milestone, hitting \$25 billion in revenue for the first time, with an industry-leading operating profit margin of over 25 per cent.

TCS' gain, IBM's loss

TCS gain has been IBM's loss as it has dropped out of the top three. IBM's brand value now stands at \$10.6 billion with a 34 per cent decrease from the previous year, and a 50 per cent drop overall since 2020. The brand value of the US-based multinational IBM has fallen significantly after the divestment of Kyndryl. The sale caused a loss of over \$19 billion in revenue, which impacted IBM's brand value.

Infosys has seen the fastest increase in brand value among all brands in the ranking this year. Following 52 per

cent growth to \$12.8 billion, it is now the world's 3rd most valuable IT services brand. Over the past two years of the pandemic, the change is even more impressive, with the brand recording an 80 per cent gain.

Following TCS and Infosys, there are four more Indian brands now firmly established among the global elite: Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th) and LTI (22nd).

"We are delighted and proud to be named among the top two in the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 IT Services Ranking report. The ranking is a landmark milestone for us and a validation of our increased market relevance and focus on innovation and transformation of our clients, their customers, and the larger community. This recognition is also a testimony to our employees, who are our true brand custodians, and the belief with which they have rallied for us over the years," said Rajashree R, CMO, TCS.

Indian IT services companies Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys have surpassed the US competitors in brand value, as they have taken the No 2 and No 3 spots, respectively, in the brand valuation firm Brand Finance's annual report

Accenture has retained the most valuable brand title for the fourth consecutive year with its brand value increasing by 39% over the past year to \$36.2 billion Apart from TCS and Infosys, Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th), and LTI (22nd) have also established themselves among the global elite

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12. According to The Latest Brand Finance Global 500, 2022, Which Company Has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 While Which Was The Only Indian Company To Make In Top 100 IIST ?

- a. Microsoft , Infosys
- b. Apple , Tata Group
- c. Amazon , RIL
- d. Saudi Aramco , SBI

2 COMPANIES

NEW DELHI | THU

Tata group lone Indian brand in top 100

BRAND FINANCE GLOBAL 500 REPORT: RIL, Jio, Mahindra group, HDFC Bank all see dip in ranking

SHIVANI SHINDE
Mumbai, 26 January

Indian IT services firms may have outpaced their US counterparts and emerged as the most valued brands globally according to Brand Finance Global 500, 2022, but Indian conglomerates' ranking appears to be slipping.

Though the Tata Group continues to be the only Indian representative among the top 100 most valued brands globally, its ranking has slipped by one position to 78 this year, from 77 last year.

Meanwhile, Reliance Industries (RIL) slipped to the 236th spot, down from 229 last year. Its subsidiary, Jio, too, slid in the ranking, falling from 409 in 2021 to 451 this year, the lowest ranked Indian firm in the top 500, according to the report. Its competitor Airtel saw a rise in ranking from 323 last year



RANKING OVER THE YEARS

Company	Ranking		Valuation	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Tata Group	77	78	\$21.28bn	\$23.9bn
SBI	334	279	NA	NA
Mahindra	342	364	NA	NA
Jio	409	451	NA	NA

Source: Brand Finance Global 500, 2022 Ranking

to 269 this year. Mahindra group's ranking slipped 22 positions to 364 in 2022, from 342 in 2021. While L&T was stable at the 417th position, HDFC Bank saw its ranking slide from 295

last year to 319 in 2022. The three state-run firms on the list all saw a rise in their respective ranking. Initial public offering bound Life Insurance Corporation of India LIC rose to the 179th spot

BRAND VALUE BY COUNTRY
Figures in %

US	48.64
China	19.31
Germany	5.95
Japan	5.73
France	3.62
South Korea	2.74
UK	2.56
Canada	1.66
India	1.39

in 2022 from 208 last year. The State Bank of India managed to climb to 279 from last year's position of 334. Indian Oil, too, saw a minor improvement in its position to 448 in 2022 from 453 last year.

Valuation

According to the report, Tata Group's brand value rose an impressive 12 per cent over last year to \$23.9 billion. In addition, its chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, ranks as the top chief executive in India and stands at the 25th position globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2022.

"The role of a brand guardian is to build brand and business value. Our ranking recognises those who are building business value in a sustainable manner, by balancing the needs of all stakeholders — employees, investors, and the wider society," explained the report.

"The performance of Tata Group exceeded expectations in 2021, thanks to a number of new acquisitions and partnerships and as key group companies — from Tata Consultancy Services to Tata Steel — witnessed major growth. The market capitalisation of Tata Group's 20 listed subsidiaries has exceeded that of 70 listed central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) in India," said the report.

Additionally, the Tata Group will be sponsoring the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Every year, brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance puts 5,000 of the biggest brands to the test, and publishes nearly 100 reports, ranking brands across all sectors and countries. The world's top 500 most valuable and strongest brands are included in the annual Brand Finance Global 500 ranking, now in its 16th year.

Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well, according to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report. The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022,

- This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- Though the Tata Group continues to be the only Indian representative among the top 100 most valued brands globally, its ranking has slipped by one position to 78 this year, from 77 last year
- Meanwhile, Reliance Industries (RIL) slipped to the 236th spot, down from 229 last year. It's subsidiary, Jio, too, slid in the ranking, falling from 409 in 2021 to 451 this year, the lowest ranked Indian firm in the top 500,
- The three state-run firms on the list all saw a rise in their respective ranking. Initial public offering bound Life Insurance Corporation of India LIC rose to the 179th spot in 2022 from 208 last year. The State Bank of India managed to climb to 279 from last year's position of 334. Indian Oil, too, saw a minor improvement in its position to 448 in 2022 from 453 last year.

13. Recently In January TVS Motor Company Has Acquired 75 % Stake In Which Country's Leading Electric Bike Maker E-mobility Group (SEMG)

- A. South Africa
- B. Spain
- C. Switzerland
- D. Sweden

In a bid to globalize the TVS group and participate in the \$25 billion global e-bike market, TVS Motor Company on Thursday acquired a 75% stake in the Swiss E-Mobility Group (SEMG).

- The second acquisition in less than a year will offer India's third largest two-wheeler maker \$100 million in revenues from the growing e-bike space of Europe – which is the largest in the world.
- The 75% stake has been acquired at a price of Rs 490 crore, which has been met through debt and internal accrual. The balance 25% stake will be acquired through the course of the year, the company informed, which will take the total acquisition size to \$100 million

Last September, TVS Motor had acquired an 80% stake in Swiss e-bike maker EGO Movement for \$17.9 million to make an entry into a market which is growing fast in Europe and globally

TVS Motor buys Swiss' e-bike maker

Chennai, January 27

TVS Motor Company has acquired Switzerland's leading electric bike maker Swiss E-Mobility Group (SEMG). In an all-cash deal, TVS picked up about 75 per cent in SEMG, which has been valued at \$100 million. SEMG, which has one-fifth share in the Swiss e-bike market and expected to hit revenue c \$100 million this year, is the second acquisition by TVS Motor in the e-bike segment after it picked 80 per cent in another Swiss-based e-bike company EGO Movement four months ago. p2

14. Recently In January EV Manufacturing Company **Ola Electric Has Announced To Set Up Global Centre For Advanced Engine And Vehicle Design "Ola Futurefoundry"** In Which Of The Following Country With An Investment Of How Much Amount ?

- A. UK , USD 100 Million
- B. USA , USD 150 Million
- C. UAE , USD 100 Million
- D. Dubai , USD 50 Million

Ola Electric to set up EV design centre in the U.K.

Firm to invest \$100 mn in R&D facility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ola Electric said its global centre for advanced engineering and vehicle design, Ola Futurefoundry, would be based in Coventry, U.K.

The EV maker said it would invest more than \$100 million over the next five years in Futurefoundry, which would employ more than 200 designers and automotive engineers.

'New energy systems'

"Ola Futurefoundry will enable us to tap into the automotive design and engineering talent in the U.K. to create the next generation of electric vehicles," said founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal. The facility would employ talent that would focus on vehicle R&D around new energy systems including cell technologies



and work in tandem with Ola's design and engineering teams in Bengaluru.

"We want to create a world-class design and R&D team with global sensibilities," said Wayne Burgess, VP, Vehicle Design, Ola Electric. "Ola Futurefoundry is an important step in building a multi-disciplinary team that is agile, flexible, and responsive to the various needs of our consumers around the world," Mr. Burgess added.

Ola Electric on Thursday said it will invest over USD 100 million (about Rs 750 crore) over the next five years and set up a global centre for advanced engineering and vehicle design in the UK.

- This centre - called the Ola Futurefoundry - will be based in Coventry, UK, and work in-sync with the design and engineering teams based at Ola Campus in Bengaluru, Ola Electric
- The centre will also partner with world-class education and research institutions in the UK to collaborate on technology research and development, Ola founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal

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15. Recently In January Which Of The Following Subsidiary Company Of *Bharti Airtel* Has Been Inducted In London Stock Exchange (LSE) FTSE 100 Index (Financial Times Stock Exchange) ?

- A. AirtelTigo
- B. Airtel Africa**
- C. AirtelMob
- D. Airtel AMC

Bharti Airtel's Africa unit has been made a part of the coveted FTSE 100 Index effective Monday, 31 January 2022

- is a significant milestone for Airtel Africa, which becomes part of the FTSE 100 in just two and a half years of listing on the London Stock Exchange, joining the most valuable companies," Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal
- **Airtel Africa Plc was listed on London Stock Exchange in late-June 2019**

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Airtel Africa inducted into London's FTSE 100 index

Bharti Airtel on Thursday said its subsidiary Airtel Africa has been inducted into the London Stock Exchange's (LSE) FTSE 100 index. Airtel Africa listed on LSE in June 2019 and had a market capitalisation of \$ 7.5 billion on Wednesday. "This is a significant milestone for Airtel Africa which becomes part of FTSE 100 index in just two and half years of listing. Airtel Africa is a strong player in the continent which has emerged as the next growth frontier globally," Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal said in a statement.



BS REPORTER

16. What Is The Deadline Of SEBI's New Norms For Chairperson And MD Of Its Listed Company To Be Different to split the post of Chairperson and Managing Director ?

- A. December 2022
- B. April 2022**
- C. September 2022
- D. July 2022

Over a third of the top 500 companies by market cap are yet to comply with SEBI's requirement to split the post of Chairperson and Managing Director, with April 2022 as the deadline

- As many as 155 companies have the same person as Chairperson and MD and CEO as on January 13, 2022
- **April 2022 is the deadline to split the post of Chairperson and Managing Director. Taken together, it would mean that almost half of the companies, or 49.6 per cent, are still not compliant with the SEBI norm**
- In the starting, SEBI had asked top 500 listed companies to separate the roles of Chairperson and MD and CEO by April 1, 2020. However, the deadline was later extended by two years.

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Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

17. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Announced Its Partnership With FICCI To Support 5 Lakh Women Led Small Business Under The Programme “ #SheMeansBusiness “ For Empowering Women ?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Meta
- C. Amazon
- D. TCS

Meta said on Friday that it has partnered with FICCI to enable and support 5 lakh women-led small businesses across India under its #SheMeansBusiness programme. The announcement was made during Meta's inaugural National Women Entrepreneurship Summit to encourage industry dialogue around supporting the MSMEs across sectors.

- Meta said with this partnership, it will extend its support via three initiatives: **Facebook Business Coach that will let women entrepreneurs access self-paced lessons via Meta's educational chatbot tool on WhatsApp**
- Grow your Business Hub for micro, small and medium businesses to find relevant information, tools,**
- Thirdly, Meta's Commerce Partners Program will enable businesses to build a digital presence, go direct-to-customer**
- Sanjeev Mehta, president at The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) #SheMeansBusiness programme in 2016 to be a space for entrepreneurial women to make valuable connections, share advice and move forward together**

18. Recently In January The **Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA)** has signed MoU with Which Of The Following Company For the recruitment of Naval Veterans ?

- A. IIFL Home Finance Ltd
- B. Birla Sun Life Insurance
- C. Max Life Insurance
- D. Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

The Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA) and IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL) have signed an MoU for the recruitment of Naval Veterans.

- Under this MoU, INPA will identify a pool of Ex-Servicemen for relevant roles as per standards of IIFL HFL.
- IIFL Home Finance Ltd will help Ex-Servicemen in joining the corporate sector through its training programme.**
- Indian Naval Placement Agency is committed to help veterans in finding employment opportunities after completing their service.**
- IIFL is one of the leading housing finance companies in India. Its headquarters is located in Gurugram**

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Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

19. Recently In January Google Has Announced To Invest How Much Amount In Airtel Including Its 1.28 Percent Ownership At Price Per SHARE Of Rs 734 Amounting USD 700 Million Under Its Google For India Digitalization Fund ?

- A. USD 26 Billion
- B. USD 1 Billion**
- C. USD 500 Million
- D. USD 750 Million

Google will invest upto \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel through a mix of equity investment and commercial partnership in affordable devices,

□ This is the tech giant's second investment in an Indian telecom service provider and reflects its growing focus on India. Google holds 7.73 per cent stake in Reliance Jio and the two have also partnered to make affordable smartphone JioPhone Next.

□ The \$1 billion commitment includes an equity investment of \$700 million (Rs 5,224 crore) worth shares of Airtel. The shares would be issued on a preferential basis at a price of Rs 734 per share and will give Google 1.28 per cent stake in the company. Under the larger strategic goals of the partnership, both companies will also potentially co-create India-specific network domain use cases for 5G and other standards.

TECH SYNERGY

In digital push, Google to invest \$1 bn in Bharti

To pick up 1.28% stake in telco for \$700 million, invest \$300 million for digital offerings

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 28

IN A POSITIVE trend, which brings greater synergies between over the top players (OTT) and access service providers, Google on Friday said it will invest \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel. Of this, the US giant will invest \$700 million (₹734 per share) to pick up a 1.28% stake in the country's second-largest telecom service provider. The rest will be for multi-year plans related to devices and other programmes around digital inclusion.

This will be Google's second strategic investment in a telecom access firm. In July 2020, it had picked up a 7.73% stake in Jio Platforms for \$4.5 billion. While Jio was valued at ₹4.36 lakh crore, the \$700-million



Sunil Bharti Mittal, Bharti Enterprises chairman



Partnership will benefit Bharti in building digital offerings



This is Google's second investment in a telco



In July 2020, it had acquired 7.73% stake in Jio for \$4.5 billion



Google will benefit by getting ready access to more than 700 million users of Bharti & Jio



No exclusivity in deal with Bharti and earlier with Jio



Sundar Pichai, Google CEO

investment values Bharti Airtel at ₹4.1 lakh crore.

The deal with Bharti and earlier with Jio is part of Google's India Digitisation Fund through which it has committed to invest \$10 billion over 5 to 7 years.

The current deal with Bharti and the previous one with Jio does not have any exclusivity, meaning Google is free to forge similar partnerships with other players also.

Continued on Page 2

20. Recently In January State Bank Of India Has Listed How Much Amount Of Formosa Bond On India International Exchange IFSC (India INX) ?

- A. USD 300 Million**
- B. USD 500 Million**
- C. USD 750 Million**
- D. USD 150 Million**

15.

State Bank lists \$300-million Formosa bonds on India INX

Instrument carries coupon rate of 2.49%

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 28

State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday listed its \$300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX). India's largest commercial bank, on January 13, 2022, said it had raised \$300 million of "Regulation S" Formosa bonds at a coupon rate of 2.49 per cent.

A Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan but denominated in a currency other than the New Taiwan Dollar.

In November 2021, SBI had dual listed \$650 Million green bonds on India INX and Luxembourg Stock Exchange

V. Balasubramaniam, MD and CEO, India INX said, "We are delighted to be the first Exchange in IFSC to list Formosa Bonds issued by SBI... "With this, our total bond



The SBI Chairman, Dinesh Kumar Khara, (left) and the India INX Chairman Ashishkumar Chauhan, at the listing ceremony of SBI's \$300 million Formosa bonds on India INX PTI

listings are now over \$34.5 plus billion with the total medium term notes established to the tune of \$58 plus billion, making our Exchange the platform of choice for issuers of foreign currency bonds."

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director, SBI, said, "This is a proud moment for SBI as we mark today's ceremony for listing of our

first dollar denominated Formosa issuance on the India INX platform.

"This issuance was at the tightest spread ever for a 5-year public issuance by an Indian financial institution, which demonstrates the strong investor base SBI has created for itself in the offshore capital markets allowing it to venture in to new markets."

State Bank of India (SBI) listed its \$300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX). India's largest commercial bank, on January 13, 2022, said it had raised \$300 million of "Regulation S" Formosa bonds at a coupon rate of 2.49 per cent.

- A Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan but denominated in a currency other than the New Taiwan Dollar. In November 2021, SBI had dual listed \$650 Million green bonds on India INX and Luxembourg Stock Exchange
- V. Balasubramaniam, MD and CEO, India INX

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21. Recently, In January All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA) has demanded the withdrawal of the “anti-women” guidelines of which Of The Following bank?

- a. Punjab National Bank**
- b. State Bank Of India**
- c. Bank Of Baroda**
- d. Union Bank of India**

Association (AIDWA) has asked for the withdrawal of the “anti-women” guidelines of SBI.

- State Bank of India has revised guidelines related to the appointment of pregnant women.
- According to the revised guidelines, candidates who are pregnant three months and above will be considered temporarily unfit.
- As per present guidelines, candidates up to six months of pregnancy can be appointed if they provide a fitness certificate from the gynaecologist

FACING CRITICISM

SBI puts notice on pregnant women recruitment on hold

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● **Circular said over 3-month pregnant women unfit to work**

FE BUREAU
 Mumbai, January 29

STATE BANK OF India on Saturday said it has decided to keep the revised instructions regarding recruitment of pregnant women candidates in abeyance and continue with the existing instructions in the matter after the lender faced criticism online and was served a notice by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) seeking withdrawal of the “anti-women rule”.

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As per its circular dated December 31, SBI said in case of pregnancy that is less than 3 months, a woman candidate will be considered fit to join the organisation.

However, if pregnancy is more than 3 months, then the

candidate will be considered temporarily unfit and she may be allowed to join within four months after delivery.

As per its earlier rules, women candidates could be appointed in the bank up to six months of pregnancy, provided the candidate furnished a certificate from a gynaecologist.

“State Bank of India seems to have issued guidelines preventing women who are over 3 months pregnant from joining service and have termed them as ‘temporarily unfit’.

This is both discriminatory and illegal. We have issued a notice to them seeking withdrawal of this anti-women rule,” tweeted Swati Maliwal, chairperson of DCW.

DCW notice to bank seeks recruitment guidelines free of any gender bias

In its notice addressed to SBI chairman Dinesh Khara, the DCW has sought information on steps taken by the bank to ensure future recruitment guidelines do not discriminate on basis of gender.

Continued on Page11

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

22. Recently In January Which of the following companies *has partnered with Agritech start-up FAARMS to provide health and cattle insurance for the rural population through its mobile application?*

- a. Acko General Insurance
- b. BajajAllianz General Insurance
- c. Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd**
- d. Edelweiss General Insurance

Agritech start-up FAARMS has partnered with Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd to provide health and cattle insurance for the rural population, including farmers, through its mobile application.

- FAARMS is an e-commerce platform for farmers for all farming-related inputs from seeds, agrochemicals, machinery and animal feed in India. The company has a presence in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh .
- Under this collaboration, not just the farmers but any individual can access and choose from a range of health and cattle insurance on the FAARMS app,
- FAARMS is a one-stop online shop for farmers with access to a huge inventory of over 2,500 certified products available directly from the manufacturers

23. Recently In January Banks Has Finalised To Transfer How Many Non- Performing Asset (NPA) Account Worth Rs To The National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or The "Bad Bank " Which Has Been Set Up To Help Resolve The Stress ?

- A. 17 , rS 20000 Cr
- B. 15 , Rs 50000 Cr
- C. 22 , Rs 10000 Cr
- D. 13 , Rs 75000 Cr

₹50,000 cr of NPAs may be transferred to NARCL in FY22

In all, 38 accounts worth ₹83K cr identified: SBI chief

ABHJIT LELE & SUBRATA PANDA
Mumbai, 28 January

Lenders are set to transfer 15 large-ticket stressed accounts worth ₹50,000 crore to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) in the first tranche by the end of the current financial year. Overall, 38 such accounts totalling ₹83,000 crore have been identified for transfer to the bad bank, Dinesh Kumar Khara, chairman, State Bank of India (SBI), said on Friday.

NARCL is a government-backed distressed asset aggregator owned by leading state-owned and private sector banks. "All the requisite approvals for setting up NARCL and the India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL), including from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have now been received, and both companies are ready to commence their business," said Khara.

Initially, it was estimated that around ₹2 trillion of stressed assets of the banking system would be identified and transferred to NARCL for resolution. The amount has come down because some of the assets have been resolved.

Turn to Page 6▶



SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara expects the final number of bad assets transferred to be around ₹1.5 trillion

PHOTO: KAMLESH PEDNEKAR

GETTING DOWN TO WORK

- ▶ The National Asset Reconstruction Company will acquire and aggregate the identified NPA accounts from banks
- ▶ It will pay 15% of the stressed assets' sale value through cash and issue security receipts for the remaining 85%
- ▶ India Debt Resolution Company will handle the debt resolution process

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National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is ready to acquire stressed assets worth ₹82,845 crore involving 38 non-performing assets (NPAs) in phases -- 15 NPA accounts involving ₹50,335 crore by March 31 and the balance in the next financial year

- “Both NARCL and IDRCL [India Debt Resolution Company Ltd] have been setup to resolve NPAs worth over ₹2 lakh crore in phases
- NARCL will acquire and aggregate the identified NPA accounts from banks while IDRCL, under an exclusive arrangement will handle the debt resolution process,
 - NARCL plans to acquire the identified assets on a 15:85 Cash:SR [security receipts] structure
- The government in September last year announced a ₹30,600 crore five-year guarantee for security receipts issued by NARCL for acquiring bad loans
- Mr. Padmakumar Nair, a Chief General Manager from SBI’s Stressed Assets vertical will manage NARCL while Shri Manish Makharia, Head of Alternate Investment Fund, SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd. will be heading IDRCL.
- Shri Subrata Biswas, the nominee director on the Board of NARCL will be the interim Chairman and Shri Diwakar Gupta continues as the Chairman of IDRCL.

24. According To The Latest Report By World Steel Association Consider The Following Statement

- 1. Global Steel Plant Product Marginally Increased By 1.6 % In 2021 To 1192 Million Tonnes**
- 2. China Has Been Major Steel Production While India Retained Its Position As The Second Largest Crude Steel Producer**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

Global crude steel production, based on the output in 64 countries that report to the World Steel Association (worldsteel), increased 3.6 per cent in 2021 to 1,191.9 million tonnes (mt) compared with a 0.9 per cent output drop in 2020.

- The increase in global production is despite a drop in Chinese production last year, while India continued to hold on to its position as the second-largest crude steel producer.
- India emerged as the second-largest producer in 2021, with its output rising by 17.8 per cent to 118.1 mt Japan was the third-largest producer,
 - World Steel Association (worldsteel) HQ – Brussels Belgium Chairman – Sajjan Jindal

Global steel production up marginally in 2021; India retains No. 2 position

SUBRAMANI RA MANCOMBU

Chennai, January 28

Global crude steel production, based on the output in 64 countries that report to the World Steel Association (world-steel), increased 3.6 per cent in 2021 to 1,919.9 million tonnes (mt) compared with a 0.9 per cent output drop in 2020.

In 2020, global crude steel production declined to 1,864.0 mt from 1,880.92 mt in 2019.

The increase in global production is despite a drop in Chinese production last year, while India continued to hold on to its position as the second-largest crude steel producer.

In its latest data, worldsteel said crude steel production dropped three per cent in December compared with the same month a year ago to 157.8 mt, with China, Turkey and Brazil being the main drags.

Signs of recovery

China has been a major spoilsport in keeping crude steel output on leash in 2021.

Top 10 steel producers

Country	2021 output	% rise drop vs 2020
China	1,032.80	-3.0
India	118.10	17.8
Japan	96.30	14.9
US	86.00	18.3
Russia	76.00	Jun 1
South Korea	70.60	5.2
Turkey	40.40	12.7
Germany	40.10	12.3
Brazil	36.00	14.7
Iran	28.50	-1.8

Source: World Steel Association; Figures in million tonnes

Beijing saw its production drop for the sixth consecutive month, though the 6.8 output decline was a sign of things returning near normalcy compared with the 22 per cent dip seen in November and 23.8 in October.

Chinese steel production recovery is reflected in the steel prices that have gained nearly three per cent since the beginning of this year. On Thursday, a steel rebar was quoted at 4,731



Chinese yuan (\$725.27) a tonne.

Other commodities related to the steel sector, such as iron ore and coking coal, have also gained handsomely since the beginning of 2021. Iron ore for March delivery on Dalian Commodity Exchange was quoted at 780 yuan (\$122.8) a tonne, up 14 per cent year-to-date, while coking coal, which has gained about 30 per cent, on the same exchange for delivery in March was ruling at 2,349 yuan

(\$370.5) a tonne. Overall, China produced 1,032.8 mt of crude steel in 2021, which was three per cent lower than 2020. In December 2021, its output shrunk to 86.2 mt.

India output up

India emerged as the second-largest producer in 2021, with its output rising by 17.8 per cent to 118.1 mt. In December, India's crude steel production increased 0.9 per cent to 10.4 mt.

Japan was the third-largest producer, with its output rising nearly 15 per cent in 2021 to 96.3 mt. In December, its production increased 5.4 per cent to 7.9 mt. The US was the next largest producer. Its crude steel output was up 18.3 per cent at 86 mt. In December, its production increased 11.9 per cent to 7.2 mt.

Last month, Turkey's crude steel production slipped 2.3 per cent to 3.3 mt, while Brazil's output declined by 11.4 per cent to 2.6 per cent.

25. Recently In January In a strategic move to further strengthen the payment solutions business, Which Of The Following Global Infrastructure Company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the International arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) ?

- A. JusPay
- B. TerraPay
- C. Blackstone
- D. Mswipe

In a strategic move to further strengthen the payment solutions business, TerraPay, a global payments infrastructure company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the International arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- This association with NIPL will allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's adaptive and secure payments technology,
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI facilitating inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions. According to the data released by the NPCI, for 2021, UPI recorded 38.74 Billion transactions, worth USD 954.58 Billion, making it the best performing real-time payment eco-system in the world.
 - Ambar Sur, Founder and CEO, TerraPay. Ritesh Shukla, CEO, NIPL

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26. Recently In January **One97 Communications Limited** which owns digital payments and financial services platform **Paytm** has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary **Paytm Money** has introduced “**India’s first**” intelligent messenger called ?

- a. Harbinger
- b. Pops
- c. Stack
- d. Tounga

One97 Communications Limited which owns digital payments and financial services platform Paytm has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money has introduced “India’s first” intelligent messenger called ‘Pops’.

- With ‘Pops’, users can receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place,
 - The platform will also serve as a marketplace to offer “sophisticated” stock recommendations, news insights, and other services. Paytm Money is partnering with InvestorAi to offer stock recommendations based on signals generated using artificial intelligence.

Paytm Money ‘Pops’

One97 Communications, which operates Paytm, has announced the launch of a messenger through its subsidiary Paytm Money. The messenger ‘Pops’ can send specific information related to stocks, analysis, market news, and other investment related news in an easy to consume format. The platform is partnering InvestorAi to offer stock recommendations based on signals from AI-Artificial Intelligence and Daily Brief - which offers relevant key takeaways.

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27. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Air India successfully Disvetment To Tata Group:

1. Maharaja is the official mascot of Air India.
2. The Government of India successfully handed over Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022, nearly 69 years after it was taken from the TATAs.
3. The Tata Group have chosen State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India, to finance Air India's old debt

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1 And 3
B. oNLY 2 And 3
C. All Of The Above
D. None Of The Above

The Government of India successfully handed over Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022, nearly 69 years after it was taken from the TATAs. According to the officials, the airline was handed over to the conglomerate as all the formalities were close to completion. Tata Sons-promoted Talace has acquired Air India, offering Rs 18,000 crore that include Rs 15,300 crore for the carrier's existing debt and Rs 2,700 crore cash to be paid to government.

- The Tata Group, as part of the deal with the Government, are also handed over the Air India Express and a 50% stake in the ground handling arm of Air India SATS.
- While this will be the Government of India's first privatization since -2003, Air India will be the third airline brand in Tata's stable as the conglomerate holds a majority interest in AirAsia India and Vistara. It is a joint venture by Singapore Airlines Ltd.
- As per the agreement, Tata Sons will retain all the employees of Air India at least for a year. Air India has a fleet of 117 aircraft. Tata operates Vistara in partnership with Singapore Airlines and AirAsia India in partnership with Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd.
- Maharaja is the official mascot of Air India. The airlines operate globally apart from domestic operations.
- The Tata Group have chosen State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India, the country's largest international airline that it took over from the government
- Tata Sons availed of a Rs 10,000-crore loan from SBI and a Rs 5,000-crore loan from BoB, one of them said. The loans are unrated, unsecured, and pegged at 4.25% [interest rate] annually,

BACK HOME

Air India handed over to Tatas after 69 years

The conglomerate made winning bid of ₹18,000 crore in October last year

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 27

IN AN EPOCHAL event, India's flag carrier Air India on Thursday returned to the hands of Tata Group, which founded it close to 90 years ago. The diversified conglomerate had won the race for full ownership of the state-owned airline in October last year, by offering ₹18,000 crore as an enterprise value (EV) consideration. The debt-laden, loss-making airline has long guzzled taxpayers' money, but still holds considerable brand strength and repute, with its iconic Maharaja tag. Air India will be the third airline brand in the Tatas' stable; it already owns 84% in AirAsia India and

We are very happy to have Air India back in the Tata group. We look forward to working with everyone to create a world-class airline.

—N CHANDRASEKARAN,
TATA SONS' CHAIRMAN



51% in Vistara. The deal will add as many 141 wide-body and narrow-body planes to Tata Group's fleet, a significant number of which owned by AI.

Continued on Page 2

Tatas to get loans from SBI consortium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 27

A CONSORTIUM OF lenders led by State Bank of India (SBI) will soon provide loans to Tata Group for the operations of Air India as well as to retire the airline's high-cost borrowings.

Bankers said the consortium has agreed to grant both term loans and working capital loans depending on the airline's requirements. All large lenders, including Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Union Bank of India, are part of the consortium, they added. "Many banks have agreed for refinancing of Air India debt to Tatas and the process has begun," one of the bankers said.

Detailed report on Page 4

28. Recently In January Which Of The Following Company Has Announced That It will foray into the financial services business with the launch of a non-banking finance company (NBFC) which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company ?

- A. Swiggy
- B. Zomato
- C. Ola
- D. Uber

Zomato plans to set up NBFC

Also picks up minority stakes in AdOnMo, UrbanPiper Tech for around ₹150 crore

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 28

In a BSE filing on Friday, Zomato said that its board has approved incorporation of a wholly-owned subsidiary as a non-banking finance company. It also stated that it is investing in two companies - AdOnMo Pvt Ltd and UrbanPiper Technology Pvt Ltd.

In the BSE filing, the food delivery and restaurant discovery platform said it will acquire 19.48 per cent stake in ad-tech company AdOnMo Pvt Ltd for an aggregate cash consideration of ₹112.20 crore. It will also pick up a 5 per cent stake in B2B software platform UrbanPiper Technology Pvt Ltd for ₹37.38 crore.

"Both UrbanPiper and AdOnMo investments are synergistic to our core business, and will help accelerate growth of

these companies, which will help in filling important gaps in the food ordering and delivery ecosystem in India," it added.

A win-win for all

UrbanPiper is a B2B software platform that acts like a middle layer between restaurants and food ordering and delivery players, and enables restaurants to seamlessly integrate with multiple players through a single digital interface, the BSE filing added.

The food aggregator said it hopes to fuel UrbanPiper's penetration in the restaurant industry with its investment.

AdOnMo is an ad-tech company that is taking targeted digital advertising beyond personal devices to outdoor digital screens. Their proprietary technology enables cloud-connected



Both UrbanPiper and AdOnMo investments are synergistic to our core business, said Zomato

digital screens with contextual and targeted advertising capabilities. Growth in AdOnMo's platform will help Zomato's food ordering and delivery business leverage new digital avenues for customer acquisition, it added.

"Pursuant to the approval of the Board, the company has finalised and executed the relevant agreements for the proposed investments. The proposed investments are each

subject to fulfilment of certain customary conditions precedent and other terms and conditions agreed under the investment agreements," the BSE filing added.

"This is to further inform the exchange that Board in its meeting held today also approved incorporation of wholly-owned subsidiary of the company as Non-Banking Finance Company," said the company in the BSE filing.

Zomato further clarified that Bace Fund LP invested in AdOnMo in December 2019 as part of a \$3-million round, and currently owns about 13 per cent in AdOnMo.

"Deepinder Goyal, MD and CEO, Zomato, has an investment of \$100,000 in Bace Fund LP, which is an insignificant portion of the fund. Our proposed investment in AdOnMo is not a related party transaction, and the above disclosure is being made voluntarily," it added.

Food delivery company Zomato will foray into the financial services business with the launch of a non-banking finance company (NBFC). Zomato's board has approved the incorporation of an NBFC, which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company.

- The company will pick up a 19.48% stake for about Rs 112.20 crore in adtech company Adonmo and will buy a 5% stake for Rs 37.38 crore in B2B software platform UrbanPiper Technology
- As far as the NBFC is concerned, the proposed paid-up capital will be Rs 3 crore and the proposed authorised capital will be Rs 10 crore. Zomato is yet to finalise its name
- A Non-Banking Financial Corporation is a company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013 or 1956. According to section 45-I (c) of the RBI Act, a Non-Banking Company carrying on the business of a financial institution will be an NBFC. The minimum net owned funds of the Company should be Rs. 2 Crore.
- Deepinder Goyal : MD and ceo

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29. Recently In January Which Of The Following **Life Insurance Company Has Partnered With Policybazaar** For non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan, for Indian homemakers?

- A. **Max Life Insurance**
- B. PNB MetLife India Insurance
- C. Tata AIG General Insurance
- D. United India Insurance

Max Life Insurance on Tuesday said it has extended its Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan, as an independent term insurance cover for Indian homemakers.

- **Currently, plans offering term cover to homemakers** do so typically as an add-on to their earning spouse's cover. The 'Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan' offered on Policybazaar will help secure female homemakers' lives independent of their spouse's life insurance cover,
- **Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan' will be available to consumers where household income is a minimum of ₹5 lakh per annum.**
- **Sarbvir Singh, CEO, Policybazaar.com.**

30. Recently In January Reserve Bank Of India Has Placed **Indian Mercantile Corporation Bank, Lucknow** Under The Direction For The Period Of How Many Months **including a cap of ₹1 lakh on withdrawals.?**

- A. **SIX Months**
- B. Four Months
- C. 1 Year
- D. 8 Months

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said it has imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of ₹1 lakh on withdrawals. Under Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act (BRS), 1949, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the close of business on January 28, 2022, the bank shall not, without prior approval of RBI

31. Recently In January Government approved To sale How Much Percent stake in Neelachal Ispat to Tata Steel Long Products at an enterprise value of How Much Amount ?

- A. 25.93 % , Rs 210 crore**
- B. 93.7% , Rs 12,100 crore**
- C. 54 % , Rs 819 crore**
- D. 26 % , Rs 132 crore**

NINL IS A JOINT VENTURE OF 4 CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES AND 2 ODISHA GOVT PSUs

Tata Steel Long Products to Buy Neelachal Ispat for ₹12,100 crore

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The centre on Monday said it has approved the bid of Tata Steel Long Products Limited to purchase Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) for ₹12,100 crore.

Apart from Tata Steel, consortium of Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd and JSW Steel Limited also bid for the company.

“Government approves strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd located in Odisha. The highest bid of ₹12,100 crore by M/s Tata Steel Long Products Ltd is accepted,” DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

The amount will go towards settling liabilities of the company in the order provided in Waterfall Agreement.

The company has debt and liabilities exceeding ₹6,600 crores as on 31.3.2021, including overdue of promoters of ₹4,116 crore, banks



Strategic Sale

- Tata Steel** emerged winner to buy NINL
- Other bidders** include JSPL, NSPL and JSW Steel Ltd
- NINL** debt and liabilities ₹6,600 crore as on 31.3.2021
- NINL** has negative net worth of ₹3,487 crore
- NINL** accumulated losses is ₹4,228 crore on March 31, 2021
- Post-sale** consideration will go towards settling of the liabilities

₹1,741 crore and to other creditors and employees.

The finance ministry added that the company has negative net worth of ₹3,487 crore and accumulated losses of ₹4,228 crore as of

March 31, 2021.

In a statement issued on Monday, the ministry said the bid for NINL was approved by Alternative Mechanism, comprising Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Piy-

ush Goel.

NINL is a joint venture of four Central Public Sector Enterprises, MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and two Odisha government PSUs, OMC and IPICOL.

The company has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1MT at Kalinganagar, Odisha. The company has been running in huge losses and plant has been closed since March 30, 2020.

The expressions of interest (EoI) were invited on January 25, 2021 and final three bids were received by December 23.

The ministry said the employees of NINL will continue with the company in terms of the share purchase agreement (SPA), which binds the buyer to have a lock-in period of one year.

The strategic buyer will also be bound to follow the terms of voluntary retirement scheme applicable to CPSEs whenever such a decision is taken.

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The government on Monday approved the highest bid of Tata Steel Long Products Limited for acquiring 93.71 per cent equity in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL), held by joint venture partners of four CPSEs and two Odisha government companies, at an enterprise value of Rs 12,100 crore. NINL has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT, at Kalinganagar, Odisha.

- The Central government does not hold any stake in NINL directly, which has accumulated losses and a negative net worth. NINL is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs, — MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON — and 2 Odisha government-owned companies OMC and IPICOL.
- Tata Steel Long Products was chosen as the highest bidder, defeating JSW Steel and a consortium of Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd.
- This is second large privatisation deal post sale of Air India to Tata Group. This is the first instance of privatisation of a public sector steel manufacturing enterprise in India.

32. Recently In January Which Of The Following Bank Has Launched A Dedicated Centralizes Processing Cell “Surya Shakti Cell “ In Collaboration With Tata Power Solar System ?

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

In a bid to finance solar power projects, State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - Surya Shakti Cell in collaboration with Tata Power Solar Systems.

- The Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across India, for installation by business entities as well as households.
- The Bank aims to provide an end-to-end platform for digital and hassle-free journey to the loan applicants for financing Solar projects. With this digital initiative
- **Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power**

SBI launches Surya Shakti Cell to finance solar power projects



The Bank aims to provide an end-to-end platform for digital and hassle-free journey to the loan applicants for financing Solar projects

2 min read • Updated: 31 Jan 2022, 08:40 PM IST

Livemint



- The Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects sourced from across India, for installation by business entities as well as households.

🔖 🔗 AA

In a bid to finance solar power projects, State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - Surya Shakti Cell in collaboration with Tata Power Solar Systems.

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33. Recently In January Which Of The Following Bank Has Launched A **Contacless Co Branded Credit CARD In Partnership With Patanjali In Association With NPCI ?**

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

Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and is available in two variants – PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.
- Both the co-branded cards offer a hassle-free credit service to purchase day-to-day Patanjali products,
 - Platinum and Select cards come with attractive insurance cover of ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively for Accidental Death and Personal Total Disability. Platinum Card offers a credit limit of ₹25,000 to ₹5 lakh and Select Card ₹50,000 to ₹10 lakh.
- Atul Kumar Goel, MD and CEO of PNB, Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director of Patanjali Ayurved Limited,

Swiggy turns decacorn with \$700-mn fundraise

Food delivery giant's valuation almost doubles to \$10.7 billion

PEERZADA ABRAR
 Bengaluru, 24 January

Food-delivery giant Swiggy has raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding, which, according to sources, has made the outfit a decacorn, almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion.

Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato before the latter went for its initial public offering. Zomato was valued at \$5.4 billion before its IPO.

The round saw participation from a host of investors such as Baron Capital Group, Sumeru Venture, IIFL AMC Late Stage Tech Fund, Kotak,



AGE OF THE DECACORN

Company	Valuation (\$ bn)
Flipkart	37.6
Byju's	21
Paytm	16*
Swiggy	10.7

*Pre-IPO valuation; current m-cap is ₹60,000 crore, or about \$8 bn
 Source: Venture Intelligence

Axis Growth Avenues AIF-I, Sixteenth Street Capital, Ghisallo, Smile Group, and Segantii Capital.

Swiggy's existing investors Alpha Wave Global (formerly Falcon Edge Capital), the Qatar Investment Authority, and ARK Impact, along with its long-term investor Prosus, also participated in the round.

Bengaluru-based Swiggy has overtaken budget hospitality company Oyo, whose valuation dropped to \$8 billion in 2020 from \$10 billion in 2019, and then increased to \$9 billion in 2021.

Swiggy has overtaken sports technology company Dream Sports, the parent firm of fantasy sports platform Dream11.

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PAGE 2

Ola Electric valuation crosses \$5 billion

Ola Electric, the ride-hailing firm's electric vehicle arm, has raised over \$200 million from Tekne Private Ventures, Alpine Opportunity Fund, Edelweiss & others at \$5 billion valuation.

▶ DARWINBOX RAISES \$72MN IN SERIES D FUNDING

Sebi proposes framework to regulate ESG rating providers

SEBI ON MONDAY proposed a framework to regulate ESG (environment, social and governance) rating providers that

seeks to allow credit rating agencies and research analysts to provide such services.

In its consultation paper,

Sebi has proposed that credit rating agencies (CRAs) and research analysts with a minimum net worth of ₹10 crore

would be eligible to be accredited as a ESG rating provider or ERP.

—PTI

Appointment News

1. Recently In January **Mia Mottley** has been sworn in as Prime Minister of which country?

- a. Caribbean
- b. Jamaica
- c. Saint Lucia
- d. Barbados

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has sworn in for a second term.

- Mottley's Barbados Labor Party captured all 30 seats in the lower house of the Parliament.
- Mottley repeated the same victory that she did in the 2018 election. Verla De Peiza of the Democratic Labor Party, Mottley's main opponent, admitted defeat. Barbados became fully independent in 1966 Its capital is Bridgetown. Its currency is Barbados Dollar. Its President is Sandra Mason

2. Recently In January Who Among The Following Has Been Appointed As The **New Chairman Of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) ?**

- A. Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- B. Pushp Joshi
- C. Samir Kataria
- D. Nishi Vasudevan

Pushp Kumar Joshi to be new chairman of HPCL

Pushp Kumar Joshi has been picked by government headhunter PESB to be the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), the nation's third largest oil refining and fuel marketing company. Joshi, who is currently Director – Human Resources at HPCL – was picked after PESB interviewed 10 candidates on January 24, the headhunter said in a notice. "PESB recommended the following name for the post of Chairman and Managing Director, HPCL: Pushp Kumar Joshi," it said.

PTI

Pushp Kumar Joshi has been recommended as the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) by government's PESB.

- He will take over from Mukesh Kumar Surana, who will be retiring at the end of April. he will be in charge until 31 August, 2024.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL): The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, which is owned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Its headquarters is in Mumbai. It was founded in 1974.

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3. Recently In January **Xiomara Castro** Has Been sworn in as the **first female President** of Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. Sweden
- B. Honduras**
- C. Barbados
- D. Bulgaria

Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first female President of Honduras on January 27, 2022. The inauguration of the 62-years old leftist former first lady will put an end to the 12 years of right-wing National Party rule in the Central American country. Xiomara Castro's inauguration has ended the eight-year-old rule of Juan Orlando Hernandez.

- She is also the first President of the country who is not a member of either the Liberal Party or the National Party since democracy was restored in the Central American country in 1982.
- Honduras Capital – Tegucigalpa , Currency Lempira

4. Recently In January **Sergio Mattarella** Has Been Re Elected As **The President** Of Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. Iran
- B. Italy**
- C. Indonesia
- D. Iraq

Italy's current president Sergio Mattarella has been re-elected for a second mandate.

- His re-election marks just the second time in history that an Italian president has served a second term. In 2013, Giorgio Napolitano was the first to serve a second term since Italy becoming a republic in 1946, but he resigned after two years in 2015.

- Italy Capital Currency - Rome Euro

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5. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Been Appointed As The New Chief Economic Advisor In Finance Ministry Amid For Upcoming Economic Survey And Budget That Is To Be Presented On 1st Of February ?

- A. Tuhin A Sinha
- B. Pami Duaa
- C. V Anantha Nageswaran**
- D. Tarun Bajaj

ON BOARD

Nageswaran takes over as new CEA

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, January 28

THE GOVERNMENT on Friday appointed V Anantha Nageswaran, dean of Chennai-based IFMR Graduate School of Business and a visiting distinguished professor of economics at Krea University, as the next chief economic advisor in the finance ministry.

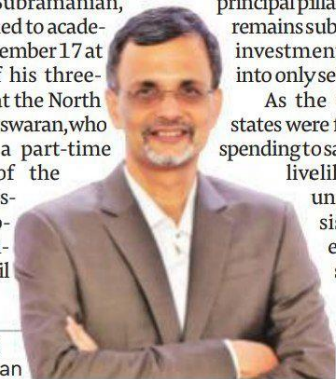
The announcement comes just days before the presentation of the economic survey for FY22 and the Budget for FY23 early next week. He joined on Friday and succeeded Krishnamurthy V Subramanian, who returned to academia on December 17 at the end of his three-year term at the North Block. Nageswaran, who served as a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council between

2019 and 2021, holds a doctorate degree in finance from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst for his work on the empirical behaviour of exchange rates.

The new CEA comes at a time when the Covid-ravaged economy is recovering from its worst contraction in recorded history in FY21 and is estimated to grow 9.2% this fiscal, albeit driven by a favourable base.

While a meaningful rebound is expected in the next fiscal (most agencies projected real growth to range from 7% to 9%), private consumption, the principal pillar of the economy, remains subdued and private investments have flowed into only select sectors.

As the Centre and the states were forced to step up spending to save both lives and livelihood during the unprecedented crisis, general government debt shot up to about 90% of GDP.



V Anantha Nageswaran

Continued on Page 2

The Government has appointed Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor.

- Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore and has published extensively.
- He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021.
- Chief Economic Adviser:
- It is the post equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Chief Economic Adviser heads the economic division of the Department of Economic Affairs.

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6. Recently In January The Government Has Extended The **Tenure Of The Chairman** Of The IPO Bound **LIC** By 1 Year Upto ?

- a. MR Kumar , March 2023
- b. Mini Ipe , March 2023
- c. Baldev Prakash , March 2023
- d. Rajnish Kumar , March 2023

LIC chairman's term extended by a year

Move comes ahead of the company's proposed mega IPO in March

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, January 30

In an apparent bid to successfully complete the proposed mega LIC initial public offering (IPO), the Centre on Sunday extended the term of the incumbent Chairman MR Kumar by one more year.

This is expected to ensure continuity at the leadership level and provide comfort to key institutional investors – who are looking to participate in the IPO – about stability at the Board level post the IPO and even if the proposed mega offer-

ing gets delayed beyond March 2022.

The Centre also extended the tenure of Raj Kumar, Managing Director of LIC, by one year beyond January 31. This is the second extension for MR Kumar, whose term was to end on June 30 last year, but was given a nine-month extension until March 13 this year.

Now his term has been extended till March 13, 2023, sources said.

These extensions have been done as a one-time measure and cannot be quoted as precedent, according to the decision taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

LIC's public issue

The Central government is betting big on the mega LIC



MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC

IPO and targeting to raise about ₹1-lakh crore.

A few days back DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey had said that LIC will list in bourses by March 31 this year.

The mega LIC IPO is crucial for meeting the ₹1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

The draft papers for the LIC IPO are still being finalised and expected to be filed soon with SEBI for approval. LIC being a government company, the approval process at SEBI is expected to be fast-tracked, sources said.

IRDAI chairman

Meanwhile, the Centre's decision to give one-year extension to the term of MR Kumar is also a clear pointer that he will not be appointed as the Chairman of insurance regulator IRDAI, say insurance industry observers.

The post of IRDAI Chairman has been vacant for nine months now after the erstwhile Chairman, Subhash Khuntia, demitted office on May 5 last year.

The government has extended the tenure of chairman of IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by one more year with a view to facilitate smooth listing of the insurance behemoth

- Besides, the government has also extended the tenure of one of the managing directors, Raj Kumar, for one year.
- With the extension, M R Kumar will continue as chairman of LIC till March 2023,
- This is the second extension for the LIC chairman. Last year in June, he was given a nine-month extension in a view of LIC's proposed initial public offering towards the end of the current financial year. the government has significantly increased the authorised capital of LIC to ₹25,000 crore from ₹100 crore to facilitate the listing.
- The government had extended the term of M R Kumar from June 30, 2021, till March 13, 2022, the date when he completes three years,

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7. Recently In January **Portugal's ruling Socialist Party (PS)** has won an absolute majority in Parliament as a result of the snap elections held on 30 January Who has been elected as the **Prime Minister of Portugal recently?**

- A. Sergio Matarella
- B. Antonio Costa**
- C. Orlando da Costa
- D. André Ventura

Portugal's ruling Socialist Party (PS) has won an absolute majority in Parliament as a result of the snap elections held on 30 January.

- PS, led by Prime Minister Antonio Costa, received 42 percent of the vote and won 117 of the 230 mandates, which ensured Costa will remain in power.
- The Social Democratic Party came in second with roughly 28 percent of the vote.
- **Lisbon is the Capital of Portugal, and Euro is the currency of Portugal**



Antonio Costa

AFP

Portugal: PM Costa prepares to govern after surprise win

LISBON: Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa prepared on Monday to govern solo after his Socialist party scored a surprise landslide win, with economic recovery from the pandemic among his top priorities. His party secured 117 seats in the 230-seat parliament, up from 108 in the outgoing assembly.

AFP

Days And Obituary

1. What is the theme of **National Voters Day in 2022**?

- A. 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'
- B. 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'**
- C. 'Your right, your role'
- D. 'Digital Equity for All Ages'

12th National Voters' Day 2022: National Voters Day is celebrated on 25 January to encourage the youth to participate in the vote in the electoral process

- The theme for 2022 National Voters' Day is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- The day has been celebrated since 2011 across the country to mark the foundation of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.
- The new voters would also be felicitated and handed over their **Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC)**.
- An ECI Publication 'Leap of Faith: Journey of Indian Elections' will be released. Another Publication 'Pledging to Vote – A Decadal Journey of The National Voters Day in India' will also be launched.

2. **International Customs Day** is observed every year on Which Of The Following Day to mark the contribution of customs officials and agencies in the flow of goods across the world ?

- A. 25th Janaury
- B. 26TH Janaury**
- C. 27th Janaury
- D. 24TH Janaury

International Customs Day is observed every year on 26 January.

- International Customs Day was started by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) in 1983. It is observed to mark the contribution of customs officials and agencies in the flow of goods across the world.
- India, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) is responsible for administering Customs. It is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance**

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3. **Anti Leprosy Day** is observed every year on Which Of The Following Day to Raise Awareness To the cause of leprosy-affected persons ?

- a. 30th January
- b. 31st January
- c. 29th January
- d. 28th January

In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year.

- 30th January is Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day. He was deeply committed to the cause of leprosy affected persons. Leprosy is also one of the neglected tropical diseases.
- World Leprosy Day is celebrated every year on the last Sunday of January. In 2022, it was celebrated on 30 January

4. On 31st January 2022, PM Modi will address **30th Foundation Day of National Commission for Women** .Who Is The Current Chairperson Of National Commission for Women ?

- A. Rekha Sharma
- B. Sutapa Basu
- C. Soma Mondal
- D. Arundhati Bahttachrya

National Commission for Women's 30th Foundation Day Programme will be addressed by PM Modi on 31st January 2022.

The theme of the programme is 'She The Change Maker'. It is aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani will be present on the occasion. National Commission for Women (NCW):It is the statutory body responsible for advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was formed in 1992.

Rekha Sharma is its chairperson. Jayanti Patnaik was its first head

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5. In A Bid To Create Awareness Amongst Customers , The National Paymetn Corporation Of India And The UPI Ecosystem Has Announced To Celebrate **UPI Safety And Awaerness Iniative Week** From ?
- A. 31st Janaury To 4th February
 - B. 1st Febraury To 6th February
 - C. 1st February To 7th February**
 - D. 31st Janaury To 5th February

In a bid to create awareness amongst consumers, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the UPI ecosystem have announced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative. NPCI and the ecosystem comprising leading banks and fintech will observe February 1 to 7 as UPI Safety and Awareness Week

□ . Further, the whole month of February will be UPI Safety and Awareness Month. "Under this programme, NPCI urges all the customers to follow the concept of UPI Safety Shield, which the company has derived to educate customers all about UPI payments, The Reserve Bank of India, too, had recently urged customers to follow safe digital banking practices.

□ Dilip Asbe, MD and CEO, NPCi

6. Every year on Which Of The Following Day , **National Tourism Day** is observed around the country ?
- A. 25th January**
 - B. 31st January
 - C. 29th January
 - D. 28th January

Every year on January 25, National Tourism Day is observed around the country □ The day is marked to raise public awareness about the importance of tourism to the country's economy.

□ The theme of National Tourism Day 2022 is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.

□ Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) is one of the schemes for the development of tourism in India

□ World Tourism Day is celebrated every year on 27 September

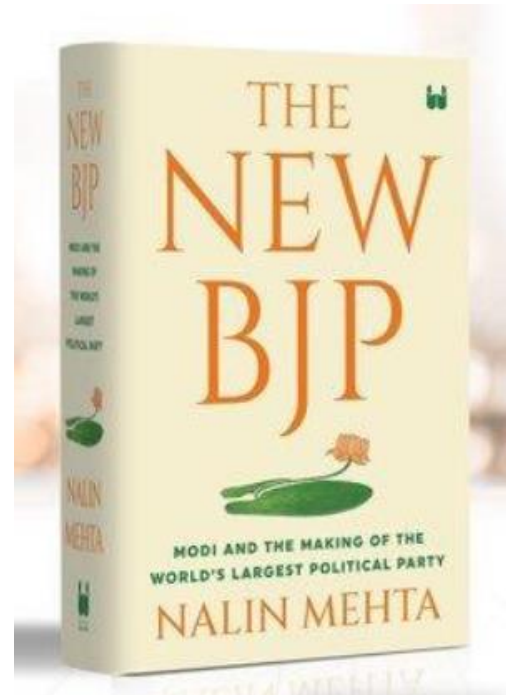
Sports Awards Books

1. Who Is The Author Of The Book “ The New BJP : Modi And The MAKING Of World’s Largest Political Party “ ?

- A. Nalin Mehta
- B. Sudhansu Mehta
- C. Swapnil Pandey
- D. Ranjith RAE

In this fascinating revisionist history, political scientist and journalist Nalin Mehta examines how the BJP became the world’s largest political party. He goes beyond the usual narrative of the party’s Hindutva politics to explain how, under Narendra Modi

- The New BJP is full of startling insights into the way both the party and the country function.
- He is an award-winning social scientist, journalist and author who has held senior leadership positions in major Indian media companies and in international financing institutions



2. Head National Coach of the Indian Para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, has launched India’s first para-badminton academy in Which Of The Following PALce ?.

- A. Bhopal
- B. Chennai
- C. Lucknow
- D. Hyderabad

Head National Coach of the Indian Para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, has launched India’s first para-badminton academy in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- Dronacharya awardee, Gaurav Khanna, has launched the academy in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance with the aim to improve India’s medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics.
- He also launched the Ageas Federal 'Quest for Fearless Shuttlers' program to find and nurture new talent for the 2028 and 2032 Paralympics

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3. Which film has won the **best film award** in the **Asian Film Competition category** at the **20th Dhaka International Film Festival**?


- A. Semkhor
- B. Koozhangal**
- C. Jai Bhim
- D. Pushpa

Indian film Koozhangal has won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival

- Indian actor Jayasurya won the best actor award for the film 'Sunny'.
- This 9-day long film festival concluded on 23rd January. 225 films from 70 countries were showcased during this festival
- Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) has been organised by the Rainbow Film Society

4. Who Is The Author Of The Book Titled “ **The SBI Story : Two Centuries Of Banking** “ ?

- A. Sanjiv Sanyal
- B. Kris Goplakrishnan
- C. Vikrant Pande**
- D. Tuhin K Sinha

The absolutely fascinating story of India's largest bank from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century.
SANJEEV SANYAL 



Two Centuries
of Banking
VIKRANT PANDE

THE State Bank of India (SBI) was established in 1955, but the story of its being began two centuries ago. The Presidency banks of the 1800s — the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Madras and the Bank of Bombay, set up by the British to facilitate trade and the repatriation of remittances to England — were its forebears.

- 'The SBI Story' by Vikrant Pande narrates the compelling circumstances that prompted the founding of the Presidency banks, how they fared back in the day and why they coalesced to emerge as the Imperial Bank in 1921, which came to be the SBI

5. Recently In January Former **Hockey mid-fielder Charanjit Singh** has passed away He was the **Captain of the Indian hockey team which won gold in 1964** Which Was Held In ?

- A. Melbourne
- B. Munich
- C. Tokyo**
- D. Bejieng

Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, died on Thursday at his home in Una, Himachal Pradesh

Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, died on Thursday at his home in Una, Himachal Pradesh

6. Recently In Janaury Minister of State for Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** has released Pictorial comic book '**India's Women Unsung Heroes**'. The book has been prepared by Which Of The Following ?

- a. Culture Ministry
- b. Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- c. Amar Chitra Katha
- d. Both Culture Ministry And Amar Chitra Katha**

Pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' has been released by Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi. Culture Ministry has prepared the comic book in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

The book portrays the heroic stories of our country's unsung female freedom fighters. Amar Chitra Katha (ACK Comics) is a publisher of Indian comics

{ **SPORTS** } LED INDIA TO GOLD

Hockey ex-skipper Charanjit Singh dies



In India's hockey history, 1964 is known as the year when the country regained its supremacy in the sport, beating Pakistan in the Tokyo Olympics. At the centre of that moment was the team's skipper, Charanjit Singh, who on Thursday died in Una, Himachal Pradesh, aged 92. The hockey legend, who was partially paralysed after suffering a stroke five years ago, leaves behind two sons and a daughter. His last rites were performed on Thursday evening. "It is a sad day for the hockey fraternity," Hockey India (HI) president Gyanendro Ningombam said. "Even in his old age, he would light up every time there were conversations about hockey and he could accurately recall every great moment he was part of India's golden days of hockey." He was honoured with Padma Shri, in 1964. After his illustrious career, Singh worked as Director of Physical Education in Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. →P18

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7. Recently In January Which Of The Following Book By Ruskin Bond Has Been Published About his own memories and impression of India, That pays homage to a country that has been his home for more than eight decades ?
- A. Translating Myself And Other : Celebrating 75 Years of Independence
 - B. A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence**
 - C. Writing For My Life : Celebrating 75 Years of Independence
 - D. It's A Wonderful Life : Celebrating 75 Years of Independence

Ruskin Bond writes a book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence".

- Ruskin Bond has written a book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence".
 - The book has been published by Penguin Random House India.
- In the book, Bond has dwelt on highlights of the last 75 years of India's progress to maturity as a nation.

Some Other Sports News :-

- 8. Aussie pacer **Mitchel Starc** was awarded **Allan Border Medal** while all-rounder **Ashley Gardner** got the **Belinda Clark Award** as the country's leading female player.
- 9. **Netherlands batter Ben Cooper** on Saturday **announced his retirement** from international cricket at the age of 29.
- 10. **World Blind Cricket Ltd Confirmed the hosting rights of the third T20 World Cup Cricket for Blind to the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI).**

11. Recently In January Which Of The Following Women clinched the Australian Open women's singles title defeating American Danielle Collins at Rod Laver Arena ?

- A. Ashleigh Barty**
- B. Naomi Osaka**
- C. Iga Swiatek**
- D. Sarena Willimas**

Barty wins drought-breaking Australian Open women's title



Ash Barty holds the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup after defeating Danielle Collins in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne

World No 1 Australia's Ashleigh Barty clinched the Australian Open women's singles title defeating American Danielle Collins at Rod Laver Arena on Saturday.

- The top seed registered a 6-3, 7-6(2) victory over Collins and become the first Australian woman in 44 years to win her home Grand Slam women's singles title.
- Barty's Australian Open victory is her third Grand Slam title after winning Roland Garros in 2019 and Wimbledon 2021

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Melbourne, January 29

ASH BARTY RECOVERED from 5-1 down in the second set to win the Australian Open final 6-3, 7-6 (2) over Danielle Collins on Saturday, ending a 44-year drought for Australian women at their home Grand Slam tournament. Barty was the first Australian woman into the singles final since Wendy Turnbull in 1980 and is now the first Australian champion since Chris O'Neil in 1978. The top-ranked Barty now has major titles on three surfaces, adding the hard court at Melbourne Park to her win on grass at Wimbledon last year and on clay at the French Open in 2019.

"This is just a dream come true for me," the 25-year-old Barty said. "I'm just so proud to be an Aussie." Evonne Goolagong Cawley, a tennis icon with seven Grand Slam titles and a trailblazer for Indigenous athletes from Australia, was a surprise guest to present the champion's trophy to Barty, who is part of a new generation of Indigenous stars. O'Neil was involved in the

The top-ranked Barty is now the first Australian champion since Chris O'Neil in 1978

night, too, after carrying the trophy into the stadium for the pre-match ceremony. "I'm an incredibly fortunate and lucky girl to have so much love in my corner," Barty said, thanking her coach and support team, her family, the organisers and the crowd. Barty hadn't dropped a set and had only conceded one service game through six matches, against American Amanda Anisimova in the fourth round.

The 28-year-old Collins was the fourth American to take on Barty in four consecutive rounds. Barty had beaten Anisimova, Jessica Pegula and 2017 US Open runner-up Madison Keys in straight sets. Collins had spent more than four hours longer on court than Barty in her previous six matches, having to come back from a set and break down to beat Danish teenager Clara Tauson in the third round and rally from a set down to beat

Elise Mertens in the fourth. Barty took the first set after saving a break point in the fifth game and then breaking in the next. Not to be outdone, Collins hit back quickly with her high-intensity game, breaking Barty's serve in the second and sixth games to take a 5-1 lead.

Collins twice served for the set and twice was within two points of leveling the match and taking her first Grand Slam final to a deciding set. But Barty launched a comeback, picking up the energy from an almost full house in Rod Laver Arena, despite government restrictions on ticket sales in the pandemic. She won five of the next six games to force a tiebreaker and then took control by racing to a 4-0 lead. "As an Aussie, the most important part of this tournament is being able to share it with so many people," Barty said.

"This crowd is one of the most fun I've ever played in front of. You relaxed me, forced me to play my best tennis." Barty congratulated Collins and told her she "absolutely" belonged in the Top 10, adding: "I know you'll be fighting for many of these in future."

12. Recently In January Who became the **youngest Indian to win a Super 100 tournament as she beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal in straight games to claim the women's singles title At Odisha Open ?**

- a. Unnati Hooda
- b. Shruti Mishra
- c. Ashmita Chaliha
- d. Tasnim Kaur

Unnati youngest women's singles champ

Kiran stops Priyanshu's remarkable rally for the men's title

ODISHA OPEN

SPORTS BUREAU

Fourteen-year-old Unnati Hooda capped a splendid run with an impressive finish against a fighting Smit Toshniwal to become the youngest winner of the women's singles title in the \$75,000 Odisha Open badminton tournament at Cuttack on Sunday.

For the men's singles title, Kiran George staved off a remarkable rally from Priyanshu Rajawat in three games.

Battling hard

The newsmaker of the day was the Haryana school girl who kept her calm to claim the first game. Trailing 9-14, Unnati battled hard to surge ahead at 18-17 to lead for the first time. Though Smit drew



Champions: Teenager Unnati capped a splendid run to win the women's title while Kiran staved off a remarkable rally from Priyanshu to lift the men's crown. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

level, Unnati won three straight points to close the game.

In the second game, Unnati jumped to a 17-4 lead before Smit closed the gap to

seven points. Like in the first game, Unnati claimed the final three points for the title.

In the men's final, after the players were locked 1-1, the decider saw Priyanshu

blow away a 10-5 lead after George won eight points on the trot to lead 17-12. Though Priyanshu fought well to catch up at 18, George was not to be denied.

In another all-India final, Treesa Jolly and P. Gayatri defeated Sanyogita Ghorpade and Shruti Mishra to win the women's doubles title.

However, in the men's doubles and mixed doubles finals, where the home-grown talents faced overseas rivals, there was disappointment for the host.

The results (final):

Men: Kiran George bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 14-21, 21-18.

Doubles: Nur Mohammad Azriyn Ayub Azriyn & Lim Khim Wah (Mas) bt P.S. Ravikrishna & S. Udayakumar 18-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Women: Unnati Hooda bt Smit Toshniwal 21-18, 21-11. **Doubles:** Treesa Jolly & P. Gayatri bt Sanyogita Ghorpade & Shruti Mishra 21-12, 21-10.

Mixed doubles: Sachin Dias & Thilini Hendahewa (Sri) bt M.R. Arjun & Treesa 21-16, 22-20.

Teenager Unnati Hooda became the youngest Indian to win a Super 100 tournament as she beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal in straight games to claim the women's singles title while unseeded Kiran George emerged triumphant in the men's singles final of the USD 75,000 Odisha Open badminton tournament

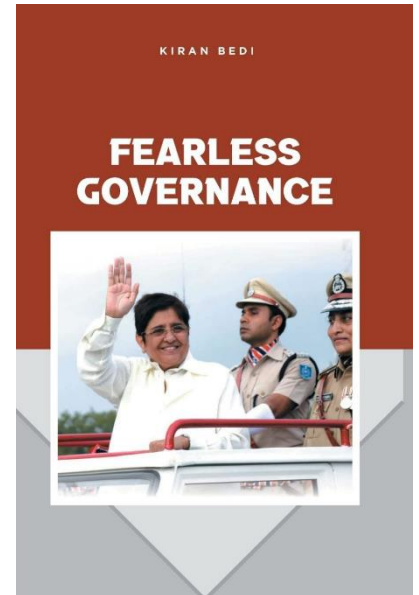
□ Unnati won 21-18 21-11 to be crowned the Odisha Open champion for the first time

13. Recently Released The Book Titled " **Fearless Governance** " Is Authored By Which Of The Following ?

- A. **Indira Nooyi**
- B. **Meenakshi Lekhi**
- C. **Kiran Bedi**
- D. **Smriti Irani**

Based on the ground-realities of nearly five years of service as the 24th Lt Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi has penned down her journey of governance in the book 'Fearless Governance'.

□ It was launched by Indra Nooyi (former chairperson & CEO of PepsiCo) and Prof Debashis Chatterjee (director, IIM Kozhikode). □ The book captures Bedi's 'fearless' moments, administrative acumen and innovative initiatives in Puducherry. Published by Diamond Books



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1. Recently In January **Rafael Nadal Beat Daniil Medvedev To claim record..... Grand Slam men's title And 2nd Australian Open final . When Did Rafael Nadal Won His First Austrlian Open Title ?**

- A. 21st , 2005
- B. 21st , 2007
- C. 21st , 2009**
- D. 21st , 2011

Rafael Nadal won a five-set duel with Daniil Medvedev and claimed a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final.

- Nadal moved ahead of era rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the all-time list of men's Major winners. This is Nadal's first Australian Open win in 13 years. Nadal had last won the Australian Open title in 2009 .
- Djokovic missed his chance to improve on his nine Australian Open wins when he was deported over vaccination issues on the eve of the tournament, while Federer is injured.
- Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice and the third oldest man in the Open Era (since 1970) to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.
- Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodig of Croatia have defeated Australian players Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler 6-3, 6-4 to win the mixed doubles championship
- Top-ranked Czech pair Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova they the Australian Open women's doubles

Nadal wins Oz Open to claim record 21st Grand Slam title



Rafael Nadal got to 21 first, breaking the men's record for most Grand Slam singles titles and doing it the hard way by coming back from two sets down to beat Daniil Medvedev in an almost 5 1/2-hour Australian Open final that didn't finish until the early hours of Monday morning.

He was broken when serving for the championship at 5-4 in the fifth set but made no mistake the next time.

At 5 hours and 24 minutes, it was the second longest Australian Open final after Novak Djokovic beat Nadal in five sets in 5 hours and 53 minutes in 2012.

The 35-year-old Spaniard now has one more than Roger Federer and Djokovic, his long-time rivals in the so-called Big Three.

With the 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4

NADAL FACTFILE

- RANK:** 5
- GRAND SLAM TITLES:** 21
- AUSTRALIAN OPEN:** 2009, 2022
- FRENCH OPEN:** 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- US OPEN:** 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019
- WIMBLEDON:** 2008, 2010

Sunday night, was delayed in the 84-minute second set when a protester jumped onto the court, and then finished early Monday morning, Nadal also became just the fourth man in history to win all four of the sport's major titles at least twice.

Science Tech And Environment

2. Recently In January A Joint Maritime Exercise Named What Was Conducted By **The Indian Navy Off The West Coast In Arabian Sea With An Objective To Vlidiate Operational Plans And Enhance Inter - Service Synergy Among The Indian Navy , IAF , Indian Army And Coast Gaurd ?**

A. Sea Dragon

B. Paschim Lehar

C. Bharat Kavach

D. Dragon War



FORCES OF CONVERGENCE

Taking a step closer to integration of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, and to test operational preparedness, the Western Naval Command conducted a joint maritime exercise along several elements from the other two forces and the Coast Guard over a period of 20 days. The exercise – Paschim Lehar (Western Wave) – concluded on Tuesday. The Navy stated Wednesday that the “joint maritime exercise”, held off the West Coast, was conducted “under the aegis of” Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, the Western Navy Commander. *Photo: PTI*

joint maritime exercise ‘Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)’ conducted under the aegis of Western Naval concluded on 25 January 2022.

- This exercise was conducted for 20 days in the Arabian sea.
- Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Coast Guard participated in this maritime exercise. More than 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy have participated in this Naval exercise.
- provided an opportunity to operate together under realistic conditions. Its main objective is to enhance synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard

3. With Reference To *INS Khurki*, Consider The Following Statement Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?
- A. It Was Built By Cochin Shipyard Limited
 - B. The Decommisned Vessel Is The First Ship Of The Navy To CARRY The Name *INS Khukri*
 - C. The Ship Was Commissioned On 23 August 1989 In Mumbai And Decommisioned After 32 Year
 - D. The Goa Administration Has Plan To Develop The Ship A Full Scale Museum

lost in the 1971 war, Indian Navy corvette *INS Khukri* was born in a new avatar in 1989. Having served for 32 years the missile fitted vessel will now be developed as a museum in memory of the crew onboard during the Indo-Pak war.

□ After more than 32 glorious years of service to the nation and having participated in all forms of naval operations, the ship was decommissioned in a solemn ceremony on 23 December 2021.

□ As the nation celebrates Republic day, the vessel will be handed over to the Diu Administration on 26 January. To Develop The Ship A Full Scale Museum

□ *Khukri*, the lead ship of the Indian Navy's *Khukri* class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, the ship was commissioned on 23 August 1989 in Mumbai

Decommissioned *INS Khukri* to be converted into museum

The Navy vessel handed over to Diu administration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

INS Khukri, the lead ship of the Indian Navy's *Khukri* class missile corvettes which was decommissioned last December, was on Wednesday handed over to the Diu administration to be converted into a museum.

The ship is planned to be developed as a full-scale museum, the Navy said in a statement.

As part of developing and revitalising the *Khukri* Memorial, the Diu administration had approached the Defence Ministry in 2019 for gifting to it, for public display, a decommissioned naval vessel, the Navy said. "The ship commenced her last journey under tow by Navy ships from Visakhapatnam and arrived at Diu on January 14, it stated.

Built by Mazagon Dock



INS Khukri being decommissioned in Visakhapatnam on December 23, 2021. *FILE PHOTO

Shipbuilders, *Khukri* was commissioned on August 23, 1989 in Mumbai by the then Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant and Ms. Sudha Mulla, wife of late Capt. Mahendra Nath Mulla, MVC.

After over 32 years of service and having participated in all forms of naval operations, the ship was decom-

missioned in a solemn ceremony on December 23, 2021 when the national flag, naval ensign and decommissioning pennant were lowered at sunset in the presence of Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, the statement said.

4. Recently In January Which Of The Following Has Announced Its Joint Venture With Progressive Energy To Build UK's Largest Hydrogen Hub At Stanlow With An Investment Of 1 Billion Pound ?

- A. Arcelor Mittal
- B. Essar Group**
- C. Tata Group
- D. JSW Steel Corporation

Essar has formed Vertex Hydrogen Limited, a transformative new joint venture, with Progressive Energy, to build the UK's largest hydrogen hub at the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex. Invest 1 billion pounds (\$1.34 billion)

□ Led by Essar as the majority shareholder, Vertex Hydrogen has been formed to provide the catalyst for development of a hydrogen economy across North West England and North Wales, as a central part of the HyNet decarbonisation cluster.

□ The UK's first low carbon hydrogen facility at Essar Stanlow will sit at the heart of the HyNet low carbon cluster, to produce a total of 1GW per year of hydrogen, across two units

Essar sets up Vertex Hydrogen to drive energy transition in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, January 26

Essar group on Wednesday announced a joint venture with Progressive Energy to build the UK's largest hydrogen hub at the Stanlow manufacturing complex at an investment of £1 billion.

"Led by Essar as the majority shareholder, Vertex Hydrogen has been formed to provide the catalyst for development of a hydrogen economy across North West England and North Wales, as a central part of the HyNet decarbonisation cluster," it said in a statement.

Essar Oil UK holds 90 per cent stake in Vertex Hydrogen, while Progressive Energy Ltd has the remaining 10 per cent.

Vertex will deliver the UK's first low carbon hydrogen production plant to lead the country's hydrogen production economy.

LCHTM tech

Using Johnson Matthey's Low Carbon Hydrogen (LCHTM) technology, the hydrogen production plant will sit at the heart of HyNet North West, the UK's leading industrial decarbonisation cluster.

5. Recently In January **Larsen & Turbo Infotech (LIT)** Has Partnered With Which Of The Following IIT For Collaborative Research In The Field Of 5G ?

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Delhi

Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) announced its partnership with IIT Madras for collaborative research in the field of 5G. Through this collaboration, LTI and IIT Madras aim to innovate in the emerging 5G space and enable 5G frameworks validation, low frequency RF deployments and use case testing with 5G test bed.

As part of this partnership, LTI and IIT Madras will promote research towards development of low-cost, low-frequency 5G network setup for better connectivity in rural India. The key objective of this effort is to create a 5G base station and single-box solution to enable rural connectivity.

L&T Infotech partners with IIT-M to innovate in 5G space

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, January 27

Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI), a consulting and digital solutions company, is partnering with IIT Madras, for collaborative research in the field of 5G. Through this collaboration, LTI and IIT-M aim to innovate in the 5G space and enable frameworks validation, low frequency deployments and use case testing.

Improving rural connect

LTI and IIT-M will promote research towards development of low-cost, low-frequency 5G network setup for better connectivity in rural India. The key objective is to create a 5G base station and single-box solution to enable rural connectivity. LTI will work closely with IIT-M to design these low-cost base stations and network for rural connectivity, and also provide expertise for research capabilities and offer relevant

infrastructure support for this initiative, said a joint release.

Nachiket Deshpande, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Board Member, LTI, said, "5G promises to facilitate the next level of innovation to build a smarter society, but it is important to ensure that these benefits reach every part of our country. LTI's partnership with IIT Madras reflects our commitment to leverage this technology to connect people from remote parts of India in a better way."

One-step CSR programme

The project is part of LTI's 1-step CSR programme and reflects its commitment towards promoting research and innovation. This partnership is also aligned with the Indian government's 'Make-in-India' initiative.

The collaboration further reinforces LTI's expertise on 5G-based solutions.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

6. Recently In January Which of the following organisation has recently delivered the *second lot of three Floating Border Out-Post (FBOPs) vessels to the Border Security Force?*

- A. *Cochin Shipyard Limited*
- B. *Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited*
- C. *Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers*
- D. *Goa Shipyard Limited*

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), under the Ministry of Ports, Ships and Waterways, has successfully delivered the second lot of three Floating Border Out-Post (FBOPs) vessels to the Border Security Force.

CSL has got orders for building nine such FBOPs to protect Nation's water borders. Three more vessels are likely to be delivered in the coming months.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in March 2019 had placed orders for Design, Construction and Supply of 09 FBOPs for the Water wing of Border Security Force.

The FBOPs with an overall length of 46 meters and breadth of 12 meters are designed for deployment in Inland waters of India, specifically in the creek area of Kutch (Gujarat) and Sunderbans of West Bengal. The Ministry of Home Affairs in March 2019 had placed orders for Design, Construction and Supply of 09 FBOPs for the Water wing of Border Security Force.

The vessels are designed in-house by CSL and classed by Indian Register of Shipping and each FBOP vessel are designed with stowage arrangements for four fast patrol boats, which can be launched and hoisted using its own davit system.

The vessel shall act as the floating base for the flotilla of fast patrol boats. The vessel is to supply Petrol

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

7. With reference to the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft**, consider the following statements:

1. The ALH MK III aircraft is **manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**
2. **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh at Port Blair .**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct :

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

To boost maritime security, the fleet of Andaman Nicobar Command has inducted two indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters DHRUV MK III inducted at INS Utkrosh In Port Blair.

□ The Advanced Light Helicopter, ALH MK III is designed & developed by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited. It is equipped with two powerful shakti engines, modern radar, electro-optical sensors, etc. It can carry out missions at any time with 14 soldiers. It will be utilized in carrying out search and rescue operations missions. Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) program was initiated in May 1979. The Dhruv is capable of flying at high altitudes.

□ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):It is a government-owned corporation involved in the design, fabrication, and assembly of aircraft, jet engines, helicopters. Its headquarters is located in Bangalore

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of January (24th – 31st January 2022)

8. Recently In January Which Of The Following has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HydrogenPro, a Norway-based leading Electrolyser technology and manufacturing company, for partnership to tap the emerging Green Hydrogen market ?

- A. Larsen & Toubro
- B. Coal India
- C. National Thermal Power Plant
- D. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HydrogenPro, a Norway-based leading Electrolyser technology and manufacturing company, for partnership to tap the emerging Green Hydrogen market.

Under this agreement, L&T and HydrogenPro will jointly work towards setting up of a joint venture in India for Gigawatt-scale manufacturing of Alkaline Water Electrolysers based on HydrogenPro technology for Indian market and other select geographies.

India has made the world's largest expansion plan for renewable energy transition, with a target of 175GW of renewables by 2022 and 500 GW by 2030.

S N Subrahmanyam, CEO & MD, L&T

9. Recently In January Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's** Has Planned To Invest How Much Billion Amount In Green energy to make India a hydrogen hub That Is By Far the biggest in the country In Green Energy?

- A. \$75 bn
- B. \$69 bn
- C. \$95 bn
- D. \$ 1 bn

Ambani's \$75 bn plan aims to make India a hydrogen hub

RIL is likely to opt for hydrogen in a bid to avoid India's wholesale electricity market

Bloomberg
feedback@livemint.com

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's ambitious effort to pivot his conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) toward green energy could transform India into a clean-hydrogen juggernaut.

Ambani, Asia's richest man, announced plans earlier this month to invest \$75 billion in renewables infrastructure including generation plants, solar panels and electrolyzers. There is growing speculation that the strategy entails transforming all of that clean power into hydrogen, one of the largest endorsements in the next-generation fuel.

Analysts say RIL is likely to opt for hydrogen in a bid to avoid India's wholesale electricity market, which is dominated by financially stressed utilities and plagued by delayed payments.

"Reliance is preparing itself to capture the entire value chain of the green hydrogen econ-

omy," said Gagan Sidhu, director at the Centre for Energy Finance at New Delhi-based think tank CEEW. "They clearly have seen the writing on the wall."

Green hydrogen—made from water and clean electricity—is seen as crucial for the world's emissions reduction goals, helping consumers and key industries such as steel transition to lower-carbon fuels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year announced a plan to

make India, the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, into a global hub for production and export of the fuel.

While RIL hasn't broken out how much will be devoted to hydrogen, the \$75 billion investment in clean energy is by far the biggest in the country.

Other companies such as Adani Enterprises Ltd. and state-run energy firms NTPC Ltd and Indian Oil Corp also have set plans for green hydrogen.

India is relying on the country's billionaires, including Ambani and his rival Gautam Adani, to lead the way. A key challenge will be to produce

it at affordable costs. Green hydrogen produced by renewables is far from competitive compared to other fuels, costing nearly double the price using coal, India's main

source of electricity generation. Ambani has vowed to produce green hydrogen at \$1 per kg, a more than 60% reduction from today's costs. "Reliance will aggressively pursue this target and achieve it well before the turn of this decade," Ambani said last year.

The \$75 bn investment in clean energy is by far the biggest in the country. Adani, NTPC and IOC also have set plans for green hydrogen.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's ambitious effort to pivot his conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd. toward green energy could transform India into a clean-hydrogen juggernaut.

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Green hydrogen -- made from water and clean electricity -- is seen as crucial for the world's emissions reduction goals, helping consumers and key industries such as steel transition to lower-carbon fuels

BEL inks \$73-m deal with US firm

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, January 27

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hyperion Global Group, LLC, a US-based infrastructure telecommunication distribution company, have entered into a contract to develop, manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for the US market.

BEL will manufacture and supply devices worth \$73 million during the first year with a provision to supply upgrades worth \$365 million in the next five years.

Hyperion's telecom infrastructure is said to unlock unprecedented levels of performance and speed made possible by IoT and 5G.

Sports anthem to be released today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

A sports anthem featuring 18 achievers from the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be launched on Monday, the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of *Jana Gana Mana* as the National anthem.

Five Olympic medallists – Neeraj Chopra, Ravi Dahiya, Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, and P.R. Sreejesh – would be the main attraction of the video titled *Mann me hai maidan* (Playground is in the heart). They will be joined by 13 top Paralympians including Sumit Antil, Manish Narwal, Pramod Bhagat and Padmashri Devendra Jhajharia.

Future Enterprises to sell 25% in JV to Generali for ₹1,253 cr

Receives offers for remaining 24.91% interest in the general insurer

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, January 27

Future Enterprises Ltd has agreed to sell a 25 per cent stake in its general insurance joint venture – Future Generali India Insurance (FGIICL) – to its joint venture partner, Generali Participations Netherlands NV. The transaction is for a cash consideration of ₹1,252.96 crore, along with an additional consideration that is linked to the date of the closing of the transaction, it said in a statement on Thursday.

“Generali has also acquired an option to buy out the Company's remaining interest in FGIICL, directly or through a nominee, at an agreed valuation subject to applicable regulatory approvals,” it further said, adding that the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals.

Generali said the move is in

line with its strategy to strengthen its presence in fast-growing markets. “Following closing of the transaction and completion of the preferential allotment, Generali will hold a stake of around 68 per cent in FGIICL, which may increase further to 71 per cent by the end of 2022,” it said. FEL said it has received offers from potential buyers for its remaining 24.91 per cent interest in the general insurer.

Life insurance biz

It is also exploring options to sell its 33.3 per cent interest in the life insurance JV. It expects to complete the exit of its holding in the two insurance companies in a time-bound manner to meet its commitment under the One-

Time Restructuring Plan implemented under the August 6, 2020 circular of the Reserve Bank of India.

Generali had previously received approval from Competition Commission of India to purchase a 16 per cent stake held by Industrial Investment Trust in the life insurance JV.



Ola to set up India's largest dark store network

Ola has announced expansion plans of its quick commerce service— Ola Dash. In the next six months, Ola Dash aims to expand its dark store network to 500 dark stores spread across 20 cities, making it the largest dark store network in India. The term dark store refers to a retail outlet or distribution centre that caters to online shopping. The move puts Ola in competition with players such as Reliance-backed Dunzo Amazon, Walmart-owned Flipkart, Swiggy, Zomato, Tata-backed Bigbasket and quick grocery delivery platform Zepto.

BS REPORTER

Sole Candidate Tedros Set to Remain Chief of WHO

Geneva: World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is all but guaranteed a second term after a procedural vote on Tuesday made him the sole nominee for a leadership election in May.

The first African leader of the UN health agency said he was



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

the only candidate for the post of director-general.

"I am actually lost for words," the visibly-moved WHO chief said after nearly all of the board's 34 members, representing countries from around the world, threw their weight behind him. He was only missing three votes: from absentees Tonga, Afghanistan and East Timor; according to a diplomatic source. **AFP**

"very grateful for the renewed support", after the WHO's executive board held a secret-ballot vote approving his nomination as the only candidate for the

BoAt-owner Imagine Marketing files papers for ₹2,000-crore IPO

Imagine Marketing, owner of consumer electronics brand BoAt, has filed a preliminary prospectus with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise ₹2,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The public issue consists of a fresh issue of equity shares, aggregating up to ₹900 crore and an offer for sale aggregating up to ₹1,100 crore, according to the draft red herring prospectus.

The company will use proceeds from the fresh issue towards payment of debt. The payment of debt will assist the company in maintaining a favourable debt to equity ratio and enable the utilisation of its internal accruals for further investment in business growth and expansion.

Founded in 2013 and led by its flagship brand "BoAt" launched in 2014, the company has established leading market positions in volume and value terms in India across multiple, high-growth consumer categories such as audio and smartwatches as of September 30, 2021. **PTI**

German Navy chief quits over remarks at Delhi event

Vice-Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach's speech led to diplomatic row with Ukraine

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Following an unprecedented controversy in Germany and a diplomatic incident with Ukraine, German Navy chief Vice-Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach handed in his resignation late on Saturday over his comments in New Delhi that Ukraine can never get back Crimea and Russian President Vladimir Putin "probably" deserved respect.



Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach. • REUTERS

Minister Christine Lambrecht to relieve me from my duties with immediate effect," Vice-

Admiral Schönbach said in a statement, according to Reuters. "The Minister has accepted my request," he added.

Speaking at an interactive session at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on Friday during his visit to India, which coincided with the port call by German frigate *Bayern* in Mumbai, the German Navy chief said the Crimean peninsula, which was annexed by Rus-

sia from Ukraine, was "gone" and "not coming back".

He wondered if Russia really wanted to attack Ukraine. "Does Russia really want a small and tiny strip of Ukraine soil to integrate into their country? Putin is probably putting pressure because he can do it and he splits EU opinion. What he really wants is respect," Vice-Admiral Schönbach said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

NATION'S FIRST MAJOR DEFENCE SYSTEM EXPORT CONTRACT

India, Philippines Ink \$375m Deal for BrahMos Missiles

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: India has formally inked its first major defence system export deal with the Philippines, signing a \$375 million contract for the BrahMos shore-based anti-ship missile system. The 290 km range supersonic missile has been jointly developed with Russia and is produced in India.

Potential export customers for the missile system—already in use by the three Armed forces—include Vietnam and Indonesia where advanced discussions are going on. Announcing the signing of the agreement, the defence ministry said the contract is an important step forward in the policy of promoting responsible defence exports. "BrahMos Aerospace Private

Indonesia and Vietnam are potential markets; 290 km range supersonic missile jointly built with Russia



Indian team of BrahMos Aerospace in New Delhi on Friday -ANI



Limited (BAPL) signed a contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines for supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System to the Philippines.

The BAPL is a joint venture company of the Defence Research and Development Organisation," the defence ministry spokesperson said. Sources said there is a potential for

increasing the sale of more BrahMos systems to Philippines itself and that the contract includes training of the firing and maintenance crew for the missiles. The missile system will be delivered to the Philippines with-

in the stipulated timeframe.

"India's quest to become a major defence exporter to reach the \$5 billion target and to realise Prime Minister's dream, has got a

major push today with the BrahMos contract. Defence export can lead to creation of wealth, employment and long-term international friendship," Sudhir K Mishra, former CEO of BrahMos said. Philippines Defence Minister Delfin Lorenzana attended the signing ceremony and the conference to conclude the contract that will upgrade India's defence ties with SE Asia to the next level. Senior diplomats from both sides, including those associated with the BrahMos project, were also present. The Notice of Award was communi-

cated to the BrahMos officials by the Philippines' Department of National Defence earlier this month, following which BrahMos officials travelled to Manila to conclude the formal contract.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: First Re E Tender No.1RE15/SE/PHCK/2021-2022 JIM-2020-2021-Phase II-WSS to Akalakkunnam Panchayat-Kottayam District-Packages 1 and 3 - Supply and Laying distribution networks from Chengalam (OHSR) and Poovathilappu (GLSR) tanks and Providing FHTCs. EMD: ₹5,00,000/-. Tender fee: ₹15,000/-+gst18%-It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns. Last Date for submitting Tender: 17.02.2022, 03.00pm. Phone: 0481-2562745.

Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Sd/-
KWA-JB-GL-6-970-2021-22 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 40 to 50/2021-22/SE/PHC/PKD Construction of WTP, OHSRs, GLSR supplying and laying CWPM, RWPM, distribution system providing FHTCs supply and erection of RW and CW pumpsets and transformer. • EMD: Rs. 200000 to 500000 • Tender fee: Rs. 11200 to 16800 • Last Date for submitting Tender: 21-02-2022, 03:00 pm • Phone: 0491 2544927 • Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-971-2021-22 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad

Jharkhand UrjaSancharan Nigam Limited (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)

उपग्रह पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुषंगी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/फर्मों से इस कार्यलय के नियंत्रणधीन विभिन्न परियोजनाओं के अनर्गल निम्नलिखित कार्यों/काम हेतु ई-निविदाएँ ई-पोर्टल e-tender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जाएगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये

AK 203 Deal: Initial Batch of 70,000 Rifles Delivered to Armed Forces by Russia

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: The armed forces have received the first batch of 70,000 rifles from Russia as part of a larger contract to manufacture the AK 203 assault rifles in India. The initial batch has been delivered at a fast pace as requested by India, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sources said that the first batch is likely to be used by the air force, while the rifles to be manufactured at the Amethi factory will be delivered to the army, which is the main customer with a requirement of over 600,000 AK 203s.

The rifles are being manufactured with a complete technology transfer clause that will also enable their exports to friendly foreign nations in the near future. The manufacturing will be done by the Indo Russian Rifles Private Limited Joint Venture

while OFB) and Russian Rosoboronexport.

The ₹5,124-crore deal was signed between India and Russia in December—the biggest defence deal between the two nations in recent time. The Russian side has given an assurance that the manufacturing with technology transfer will start within two to three years, with technical teams being sent to assist Indian partners.



The rest of the rifles to be made in India; Korwa Rifle Factory in Amethi being revived

The Korwa Rifle Factory in Amethi is being upgraded with a modern production line where the latest version of the Kalashnikov rifles are to be manufactured. A small arms range has also been set up at the factory where the acceptance trials can also be conduc-

ASSAM

State's highest civilian award for Ratan Tata

Guwahati: Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata was conferred the Assam Baibhav, the state's highest civilian award, on Monday for his contribution towards furthering cancer care in the state. Tata, however, was able to attend the ceremony in Guwahati and will now receive the award on a later date in Mumbai. "We are so immensely grateful Sri@RNTata2000 for your gracious acceptance of the Assam Baibhav Award for 2021. It shall be an honour for me to personally meet you to share this token of our gratitude. We're so deeply indebted to you for your support to us all these years." Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted on Sunday. In a letter to Sarma, Tata wrote that he was "deeply touched" by the decision of the government to bestow him with the award.

ENS