

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

National / State News

1. Recently In February Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be dedicating a How Much -feet tall 'Statue of Equality' commemorating 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya to the nation in Hyderabad ?

- A. 151 Ft
- B. 216 Ft**
- C. 253 Ft
- D. 186 Ft

Tribute to Sri Ramanujacharya, the social reformer

Memorial with 216-ft 'Statue of Equality' comes up near Hyderabad

KV KURMANATH

Hyderabad, January 31
 Muchintal, a sleepy village not very far from the Hyderabad International Airport, is abuzz with activity.

Coming up on a 45-acre plot, the memorial to Sri Ramanujacharya, a 216-ft statue, named Statue of Equality (*Samata Murthy*), captures the Hindu philosopher in a sitting posture.

Born in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu in the year 1017, Ramanujar had travelled extensively in the country.

Vedic digital library

The statue made in China with 1,800 tonnes of 'panchalohas', was brought to India in parts and reassembled at the site. Estimated to cost about ₹1,000 crore when it is fully ready, the



The 1,800-tonne panchaloha statue of Sri Ramanuja was made in China and assembled onsite. THE HINDU

memorial will have replicas of 108 Vaishnavite places of worship located in different parts of the country.

Visitors will get to hear the information about each of the shrines as they visit them one after the other. President Ram

Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of other VIPs are expected to visit this village in Ranga Reddy district in the next few days to open the memorial to Sri Ramanujacharya, the 11th century seer known for his inclus-

ive religious discourse. The venue will also have a huge auditorium to conduct prayers and a Vedic digital library, according to Tridandi Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar, who heads a Vaishnavite seat of learning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad on February 5, 2022. He will be dedicating a 216-foot tall 'Statue of Equality' commemorating 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya to the nation in Hyderabad.

PM Modi will also visit International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) campus in Patancheru, the 50th Anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT and inaugurate two research facilities- Hyderabad and kickstart ICRISAT's Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and ICRISAT's Rapid Generation Advancement Facility.

The 216-feet tall Statue of Equality commemorates 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects including faith, caste and creed. The Statue of Equality is made up of panchaloha, a combination of five metals including gold, silver, brass, copper and zinc.

The statue will be Second tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world. The Tallest In The World Is Of Sitting Buddha In Thailand Which Is 302 Ft (92 M)The statue is mounted on a 54-ft high base building called 'Bhadra Ved The statue has been conceptualised by Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram's Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami.

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2. Recently In February Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu hoisted How **Much ft tall National Flag at Ngangpa Natme (Buddha Park) in Tawang Which Is Now the second highest national flag in the country ?**

- A. 104 Ft
- B. 216 Ft**
- C. 186 Ft
- D. 151 Ft

104-ft tall national flag hoisted at 10,000-ft altitude in Arunachal's Tawang

Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Kahndu congratulated the Army, the Sashastra Seema Bal, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Tawang district administration and local MLA Tsering Tashi for the feat.



Union law minister Kiren Rijiju shared the image of the monumental national flag.

OPEN APP

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By hindustantimes.com

Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu hoisted a 104-feet tall national flag at Ngangpa Natme (Buddha Park) in Tawang, a Buddhist pilgrim town bordering China. It is the second-

The state of Arunachal Pradesh now has the second highest national flag in the country.

On Thursday the Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu hoisted a **104 ft tall National Flag at Ngangpa Natme (Buddha Park) in Tawang.**

The monumental national flag national is overlooking the city of Tawang.

"At 10000ft, this monumental national flag overlooking the Tawang city, is second highest in the country in terms of altitude,"

Belagavi or Belgaum Fort in Kote Kere, Karnataka, has the tallest Indian flagpoles measuring 361 ft.

The highest national flag is at Lukung, near Pangong Lake, in Leh

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3. Recently In February Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia announced that How Many new airports will be built in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra ?

- A. 12
- B. 15
- C. 16
- D. 17

16 new airports to be built in five states: Jyotiraditya Scindia



The Minister stressed on the need for better integration among all stakeholders, particularly States and UTs for the success of PM-Gati Shakti. (HT_PRINT)

1 min read • Updated: 01 Feb 2022, 06:12 AM IST

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These five states include Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

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Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, while addressing the PM-Gati Shakti Conference virtually on Monday, informed that 16 new airports will be built in all five states of central India.

✕ Close

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia announced that 16 new airports will be built in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

In Madhya Pradesh, an airport will be built at Rewa, Ambikapur. New Airport will be also built at Bilaspur and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh.

Nine airports will be built in Uttar Pradesh, one in Rajasthan, and two in Maharashtra. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia addressed the PM-Gati Shakti Central Zone Conference.

Scindia also said that only 74 airports were built in the last 70 years, now 66 more airports have become functional in the last seven years and India has a total of 140 Airports as of date

PM Gati Shakti: Its main aim is to synergize the infrastructure projects of all key infrastructure Ministries including Railways, Roadways, Waterways, and Aviation

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4. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Delimitation Pannel Of Jammu And Kashmir**
- A. Kashmir division currently has 46 seats. Jammu currently has 37 seats. Total number of seats in Jammu region would increase to 43 and in the Kashmir region to 47
- B. For the first time, in J&K, nine seats are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and seven seats are proposed for Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only A
 B. Only B
 C. Both A And B
 D. None Of tHE Above

VALLEY NETAS SAY THE PROPOSAL IS 'BIASED AND AIMED AT SERVING BJP'S POLITICAL INTEREST'

Delimitation Panel Proposes 43 MLA Seats in Jammu, 47 in Kashmir

Panel for creation of 6 new Assembly seats in Jammu and one in Kashmir

HakeemIrfan.Rashid@timesgroup.com

Srinagar: Valley-based political parties have rejected the Delimitation Commission's proposal to add six assembly seats to the Jammu division and one for Kashmir.

They termed it a biased process aimed at serving the BJP's political interests in the Union Territory.

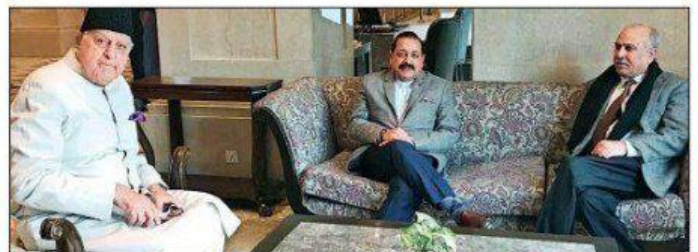
The Commission shared its draft proposal on Monday, which has for the first time, suggested reserving nine seats for Scheduled Tribes and seven for Scheduled Castes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The latest meeting took place in New Delhi with five associate members, including two BJP Lok Sabha members from Jammu, and three National Conference Lok Sabha members from Kashmir who had earlier boycotted the Commission's meeting.

The fresh proposal will narrow the gap of assembly seats between the Jammu and Kashmir divisions to four from nine seats earlier. The total number of seats will increase to 43 in Jammu from 37, while it will go up to 47 in Kashmir from 46 earlier.

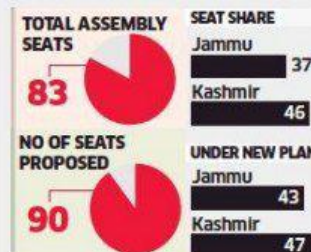
Hasnain Masoodi, the NC parliamentarian from Anantnag who participated in the meeting, said that members were shown a draft proposing six seats for Jammu and one for the Kashmir Valley.

"This proposal is totally unacceptable and is disproportionate as per the 2011 census; Delimitation Commission asked us to sub-



NC President Farooq Abdullah with Union Mos Jitendra Singh and NC MP Hasnain Masoodi (R) at the Delimitation Commission meeting in New Delhi on Monday. —ANI

Proposed Seat Overhaul in J&K



Reservation for Scheduled Tribe ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 9
 Reservation for Scheduled Caste ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 7
ADDITIONAL 24 SEATS WILL REMAIN RESERVED FOR THE POK

mit our objection by December 31," he said. The NC claimed that it would not be a signatory to the report.

NC vice president Omar Abdullah alleged that the Commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations, rather than hard data, which should have been its only consideration.

"The draft is unacceptable...contrary to the promised scientific approach, it's a political approach (by the Commission)...The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies is not justified by the data of the 2011 census," Abdullah said in a string of tweets.

Former J&K chief minister and People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said her apprehensions about the Commission had not been misplaced. "The Commission has been created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious and regional lines. The real game plan is to install a government in J&K which will legitimise the illegal and unconstitutional decisions of August 5, 2019," Mufti tweeted.

AFTER LYNCHINGS DUE TO ALLEGED SACRILEGE

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5. *Jammu And Kashmir Delimitation Commission Has Recently Proposed Six Additional Assembly Seats For Jammu Division And 1 To Kashmir Division . Who Among The Following Is The Head Of J & k Delimitation Commission ?*
- A. Faraq AbdullaH
 - B. Mahbuba Mufti
 - C. **Ranjana Prakash Desai**
 - D. Jitendra Singh

J&K Delimitation Commission has proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu division and one for Kashmir division.

Kashmir division currently has 46 seats. Jammu currently has 37 seats. Total number of seats in Jammu region would increase to 43 and in the Kashmir region to 47. Total To 90

For the first time, in J&K, nine seats are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and seven seats are proposed for Scheduled Castes (SCs).J&K Delimitation Commission is headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.It met all the five Associate Members including Dr Farooq Abdullah, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Hasnain Masoodi and Jugal Kishore Sharma, in New Delhi on 20 December.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Chief Electoral Officer of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir also attended the meeting.

The three-member commission was set up on March 6, 2020, to redraw assembly constituencies of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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6. Recently Seen In News **Lakadong Turmeric** Which Has Been which identified under The One District, One Product (ODOP) Initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Belongs From Which Of The Following State ?

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

Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills witnessed the first-of-its-kind fly-off event to demonstrate the use of drone/UAV technology for payload delivery that could serve as a model to solve the connectivity issues for the state's high-quality Lakadong turmeric farmers

Lakadong turmeric has been identified under the ODOP initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and one of the world's finest turmeric varieties with the highest curcumin content of 7-9 per cent

7. Recently, the Central Government has approved the proposal of the **State Government to change the names of three places of Madhya Pradesh** Match Them According To Thier New Name

- 1. Hoshangabad - Makhan Nagar
- 2. Shivpuri's 'Kundeshwar Dham
- 3. Babai's - Narmadapuram

Which Of The Following Has Been Match Correctly ?

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

The central government has approved the proposal for the renaming of three places in Madhya Pradesh. The proposals include renaming of **Hoshangabad Nagar as "Narmadapuram"**, **Shivpuri as "Kundeshwar Dham"** and **Babai as "Makhan Nagar"**.

Hoshangabad, which is located on the south bank of River Narmada, was named after Hoshang Shah, the first Malwa ruler, over 600 years ago.

The centre has, however, reportedly frozen the proposed name change of West Bengal to Bangla, saying that the proposed name sounds similar to the neighbouring country of Bangladesh.

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8. Recently In February An exhilarating buzzing cultural and vibrant Mandu Mahotsav Was Celebrated In Which Of The Following Place Of Madhya Pradesh ?

- A. Gwalior
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Dhar
- D. Pandu

In exhilarating buzzing cultural and vibrant Mandu Mahotsav comprising music, arts and culture organised by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board came to a glorious end. The Mandu festival saw the amalgamation of cultural activities and adventure sports.

To promote destinations within Madhya Pradesh, the Tourism department has roped in several experiential agencies to curate festivals like Mandu.

Mandu, located in the Dhar district of Western Madhya Pradesh, Central India, attracts tourists with its stunning views of waterfalls, lakes, and incredible monuments. Mandu is well-known among tourists for the fort built by Baaz Bahadur in memory of his queen Rani Ropmati. Some of the structures in this region have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

9. What Is The Name Of The Festival Which Has Been Started Recently In January In Ladakh To Celebrate annual Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage ?

- A. Lonar New Year
- B. Shirboug
- C. Spituk Gustor
- D. Shimoga

Spituk Gustor Festival 2022 has started in Ladakh. The festival is the annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage.

It is yearly festival of Spituk Monastery. Colourful mask dance performed by monks of the monastery are main attraction of the festival.

Monks of Spituk Monastery perform the dance in the robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi) and White Mahakala.

Spituk Monastery is a Buddhist monastery in Spituk, Leh district, Ladakh

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10. Recently In February Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 has been launched by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched by PM Modi In Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. October 2020
- B. November 2018
- C. October 2017**
- D. December 2014

The Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 campaign under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). **With this mission, the government plans to cover over 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children every year.**

Mission Indradhanush provides all vaccines under UIP to pregnant women and children as per the national immunization schedule. **It is also one of the flagship schemes under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and the Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan that covers 16,850 villages across 541 districts and 48,929 villages across 112 aspirational districts respectively.**

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 will be conducted in 416 districts across 33 States/UTs in the country.

It will have three rounds. The first round will be from February 2022 to April 2022 in 11 states. The others (22 states) will carry out the rounds from April to May 2022.

Mission Indradhanush:

Mission Indradhanush was launched in December 2014 to expand immunization coverage in the country.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched by PM Modi on October 8, 2017

Govt launches Mission Indradhanush 4.0 for children, pregnant women



The mission Indradhanush 4.0 will have three rounds and will be conducted in 416 districts across 33 states and UTs

2 min read • Updated: 07 Feb 2022, 06:25 PM IST

Livemint



Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the govt is implementing the largest inoculation drive globally where annually over 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children are covered through the Universal Immunisation Programme

  AA

Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday virtually launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 that aims to protect children and pregnant women from



11. Consider The Following Statement *Regarding Wetlands In India* :

1. Two new Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance), *Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in U.P* were also announced on the occasion World Wetlands Day
2. India now has a network of 49 Ramsar sites covering an area of 10,93,636 hectares, the highest in South Asia. *Bakhira Wildlife*
3. On the occasion, "National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas" prepared by the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad The *original Atlas was released by SAC in 2011*

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

Two more wetlands in India — Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh — were declared Ramsar sites on February 1, said Union minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupender Yadav India now has the most number of such sites in South Asia-49 wetlands covering an area of 1,093,636 hectares-said officials of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC).

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an inter-governmental treaty adopted on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. It came into force in India on February 1, 1982.

The National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas was also released by the Union minister on Wednesday, highlighting the changes that have taken place in wetlands across the country in the past decade. Officials said that 4.18% of the wetlands have grown in size in the past decade. Incidentally, this is the second such atlas. The first one was released by the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, in 2011

Two more Ramsar sites announced on world wetlands day

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 2:

TWO NEW Ramsar sites — Khijadiya wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh — were announced on the occasion of World Wetlands Day at Sultanpur national park in Gurgaon Wednesday. Forest and Wildlife Department officials said India has a network of 49 such sites, the highest in South Asia, covering 10,93,636 hectares.

The Union Environment Ministry had notified the Sultanpur National Park and Bhindawas wildlife sanctuary in Jhajjar as Ramsar sites — the first two such sites in Haryana — in August 2021. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance as per UNESCO's 1971 Convention on Wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran. Officials said the certification brings visibility to ecologically sensitive wetlands and helps in conservation.

Speaking at the programme on World Wetlands Day at Sultanpur National Park, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that the state will initiate an ecotourism policy focusing on homestays to promote tourism in villages around the two Ramsar sites of Haryana. Khattar said, "Every year, 50,000 birds of more than 100 species migrate to Sultanpur. Similarly, 40,000 birds of more than 80 species come to Bhindawas every year. More than 100 home species of birds are found in

Bhindawas. We can leverage this to promote tourism."

Stating that all the ponds of the state will be rejuvenated by removing dirt, he said, "The Haryana pond and wastewater management authority have been constituted for this purpose. Earlier, siltation took place in ponds and the clay layer was removed to stop overflowing and groundwater was recharged. Out of a total of 18,000 ponds, there are over 6,000 in the state which overflow during the rains at present. In the next two years, 4,400 of these ponds will be cleaned."

Officials said the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, located at Delhi-Gurgaon border, has been declared as India's first other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECM) site. The proposal to declare the park as an OECM site was by the National Biodiversity Authority to IUCN in December 2020.

The chief guest, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, said the problem of waterlogging in Najafgarh drain will be resolved in six months: "CM has apprised me about the problem of waterlogging in Najafgarh and suggested that a drain should be dug for proper water drainage. The Environment department has constituted a scientific committee of officials from Haryana and Delhi government, CPCB and Ministry of Environment, which will study the issue and find a solution." He added that ecotourism will bring employment in the villages around Sultanpur Lake.

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12. Recently In February Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi laid the foundation stone of the third Indo-Bangla border haat at Which Of The Folloing Place ?

- A. Kamalpur
- B. Dainpur
- C. Sriudari
- D. Kathari

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi laid the foundation stone of the third Indo-Bangla border haat at Kamalpur in Dhalai district.

The border haat will be known as Kamalpur-Kumraghat border haat. It will help in strengthening cultural and emotional ties between India and Bangladesh. Tripura plays a crucial role in Indo-Bangla friendship.

In 2020, authorities had jointly identified locations for three additional border haats along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura. Two of these border haat are already operational and two more have been approved. **Border Haats: It is a unique way of duty-free trade between two countries**

13. Recently In February The Government has decided to continue the "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram" Scheme in order to achieve the goals of developing the youth's personality and leadership qualities Upto 2026 With An Outlay Of How Much Amount ?

- A. 2,965.70 crore
- B. 2,710.65 crore
- C. 2,895.80 crore
- D. 2,788.10 crore

The Government has decided to continue the "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram" Scheme in order to achieve the goals of developing the youth's personality and leadership qualities.

Over the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26), the scheme has been extended for another five years at a cost of Rs 2,710.65 crore.

This Scheme is the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' flagship Central Sector Scheme. The beneficiaries of the Scheme are young people between the ages of 15 and 29, as defined by the National Youth Policy of 2014. Under the RYSK Scheme, the Ministry of Youth Affairs has issued a grant of Rs 41.60 crore for the construction of a National Yuva Volunteer Registry

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14. Recently In February Medha Group Has Announced o inaugurate *India's largest pvt rail coach factory in Which Of The Following Place ?*

- A. Jabalpur
- B. Indore
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kondakal**

One of India's largest private rail coach factories, set up by Medha Group is ready for inauguration soon at Kondakal in neighbouring Rangareddy district

In August, 2020, Medha Servo Drives, a Hyderabad-based diversified firm, had laid the foundation for setting up a rail coach factory in Telangana with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore.

The factory is expected to create 1,000 direct and 1,200 indirect jobs in the region. Production capacity is planned for 500 coaches of various types and 50 locomotives per year."

Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd designs and manufactures various world-class high-tech electronics products for application on locomotives, train sets, coaches, railway stations and yards, making it the largest propulsion equipment supplier to the Indian Railways

15. Recently In February Which of the following states HaS Announced The launch Of an open-air classroom programme *Paray Shikshalaya for primary and pre-primary students?*

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. West Bengal**
- D. Bihar

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting education for school-going children, West Bengal government is set to launch an open-air classroom programme **Paray Shikshalaya (Neighbourhood Schools)** for primary and pre-primary students

children, in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, are deprived of proper school education. Under project 'Paray Shikshalaya', we have now decided to hold classes in open ground. The para teachers and primary school teachers would be part of the project to provide elementary education to Class 1-5. Project has been approved by the state government."

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16. Recently In February Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar along with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the 1000th trip of Kisan Rail of Central Railway From Which Of The Following Place ?

- A. Anantpur
- B. Savda**
- C. Adarsh Nagar
- D. Surat

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar along with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the 1000th trip of Kisan Rail of Central Railway.

The train from Savda, Maharashtra having 23 coaches reached Adarsh Nagar, Delhi with 453 tons of banana. So far, 3.45 lacs tonnes farm produce has been transported by Central Railway. Kisan Rail is an initiative that helps farmers to transport their agricultural produce to distant marketplaces quickly.

Kisan Rail is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Railways that was announced during the Budget 2020-21.

First Kisan Rail was started between Devlali Station of Maharashtra and Danapur Railway Station of Bihar. The first Kisan Rail of South India was started between Anantpur and New Delhi.

The 100th Kisan Rail was started from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal.

17. Recently In February The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has chosen Which Of The Following City to become India's first city to develop an urban cooling action plan to combat extreme heat and bring solutions for sustainable cooling ?

- A. Indore
- B. Surat
- C. Rajkot**
- D. Jabalpur

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has chosen Rajkot to become India's first city to develop an urban cooling action plan to combat extreme heat and bring solutions for sustainable cooling. ICLEI South Asia, which made the announcement, is a non-governmental organization that works in the sustainability space.

ICLEI South Asia is the technical partner to UNEP in this project. A customized methodology is being developed for the city, in partnership with the UNEP-led Cool Coalition,

A customised methodology is being developed for the city, in partnership with the UNEP-led Cool Coalition, UNEP HQ – Nairobi Kenya Founded 5 June 1972, Executive Director – Inger Anderson (Denmark)

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18. Recently In February As per the request received from the State Government of Bihar, Ministry of Tourism The destination of Which Of The Following Dham has been recently included under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism ?

- A. Punaura Dham
- B. Pawapuri Dham
- C. Chandrahia Dham
- D. Masad Dham

As per the request received from the State Government of Bihar, Ministry of Tourism has included Punaura Dham in the Ramayana circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The destination of Punaura Dham has been recently included under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)' was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.

The name of the scheme was changed from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in October 2017.

The Ministry of Tourism has set up a Mission Directorate for implementing the PRASAD scheme. The Central Government provides 100% funding for the project components undertaken for public funding.

19. Recently In February Ather Energy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ESCOMs (electric supply companies) of Which Of The Following State to jointly establish over 1,000 fast charging points in the state ?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Tamil Nadu

Ather Energy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ESCOMs (electric supply companies) of Karnataka to jointly establish over 1,000 fast charging points in the state. The collaboration aims at increasing the adoption of EVs by mitigating range anxiety, which has proven to be a major stumbling block in their widespread adoption.

As a part of the MoU, the state-owned power and transmission company ESCOM will be the nodal agency to provide support to the implementing agency. All government agencies will coordinate with ESCOMs to share their available spaces for charging stations.

K'taka: Ather Energy signs MoU to set up 1K EV charging stations-

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy and Electric Supply Companies (ESCOMs) of Karnataka in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday for setting up 1,000 fast charging stations across the state. PTI

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20. Recently Seen In News '**Saffron Bowl**' project, the North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) has identified few locations in Which Of The Following State for saffron cultivation ?
- A. Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya
 - B. Assam And Tripura
 - C. Manipur And Meghalaya
 - D. Arunachal Pradesh And Sikkim

Under 'Saffron Bowl' project, the North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) has identified few locations in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya for saffron cultivation. Barapani, Cherrapunji, Mawsmi, Shillong, and Lalingtop sites have been identified in Meghalaya for saffron cultivation.

In Meghalaya, sample plantations were grown at Cherrapunji, Mawsmi and Lalingtop sites.

The total cost of the 'Saffron Bowl' project is around Rs 17.68 lakh for Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR): It is an autonomous society set up under the Department of Science & technology. Its headquarters are in Shillong, Meghalaya.

21. Recently In February Rahul Gandhi has launched '**Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana**' in Chhattisgarh In This Scheme Rural landless laborers will be paid How Much Amount As financial assistance ?
- A. 5000
 - B. 6000
 - C. 8000
 - D. 2000

Rahul Gandhi has launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' in Chhattisgarh. It is a financial assistance scheme for landless agricultural labourers.

Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to offer direct financial assistance to landless agricultural labourers in rural areas. Rural landless laborers will be paid Rs 6,000 in three installments of Rs 2,000 during the year.

At the ceremony, he also launched the 'Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club' scheme and gave Rs 25,000 to its beneficiaries. He also laid the foundation stone for the proposed "Gandhi Sevagram Ashram" in Nava Raipur.

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22. Recently In February **Amazon India** Has Signed MOU With Which Of The Following State Government Rural Livelihood Society To Support The Growth Of Women Entrepreneurs ?
- A. Odisha
 - B. Karnataka**
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. Andhra Pradesh

Amazon India on Saturday said the company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. The MoU was signed and exchanged in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Minister of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood CN Ashwath Narayan.

Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online and access a wider market for their products,

Karnataka government is aligned with the commitment to digitally enable 10 million MSMEs by 2025,

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23. Recently In February India Press Freedom Report 2021 has been recently released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group. According to this report Which State Topped where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021 ?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tripura
- C. Jammu & Kashmir**
- D. Mizoram

J&K, U.P., M.P., Tripura topped in attacks on scribes

At least 6 journalists were killed and 108 attacked in 2021, says rights group report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021, a report by a New Delhi-based rights group said on Wednesday.

At least six journalists were killed, 108 attacked and 13 media houses or newspapers targeted across the country, according to the India Press Freedom Report 2021 by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) said.

“The highest number of journalists or media organisations targeted was in J&K (25), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23), Madhya Pradesh (16), Tripura (15), Delhi (8), Bihar (6), Assam (5), Haryana and Maharashtra (4 each),



Photojournalists protest the killing of Reuters photographer Danish Siddiqui, in Hyderabad on July 17, 2021. • FILE PHOTO

Goa and Manipur (3 each), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (2 each), and Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala (1 each),” the report stated.

While J&K recorded the maximum attacks by State actors, Tripura had the most cases of attacks by non-State actors, the analysis of data showed.

Eight women journalists faced arrest, summons and registration of First Information Reports. “The widespread attacks on the press freedom from J&K to Tripura are an indicator of the continuing deterioration of civic space in the country. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules,

2021, is an affirmation of the government’s intent to crack down on media freedom,” RRAG director Suhas Chakma said.

Spotlight on J&K

The spotlight on attacks against media freedom during 2021 remained on J&K. Out of the 17 journalists arrested or detained in the country, five were from J&K, followed by Delhi (3), Maharashtra, Manipur and Tripura (2 each), and Assam, Chhattisgarh and Haryana (1 each), the report noted.

In 2021, at least 24 journalists were allegedly physically attacked, threatened, harassed and obstructed from doing their professional works by public officials, including police, across the country. The police assaulted 17 of them.

India Press Freedom Report 2021 has been recently released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group.

According to this report, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021 .

According to the India Press Freedom Report 2021, at least 6 journalists have been killed, 108 have been attacked, and 13 media houses or newspapers have been targeted across the country.

J&K recorded the highest number of attacks by state actors while Tripura recorded the highest number of attacks by non-state actors. Uttar Pradesh reported the highest registration of FIRs against journalists, followed by Delhi.

24 journalists were allegedly physically assaulted, threatened, harassed, and prevented from carrying out their professional work in 2021.

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24. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Centrally Sponsored Scheme :

1. The Centre has almost halved the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSSs) from 130 to 70 beginning April 1, 2023,
2. The schemes launched till April 1, 2020, have been pruned to 60 from 130. However, 10 new schemes have been added.
3. CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES: TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION For Fy 23 Stands At Rs 4.15 trillion

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1 and 3
- B. Only 1
- C. Only 2 and 3
- D. All of the above

130 to 70: Centrally sponsored schemes down by almost 50%

Five new schemes have come up

ASIT RANJAN MISHRA & ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 3 February

The Centre has almost halved the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSSs) from 130 to 70 beginning April 1, 2023, by terminating the ones that had outlived their relevance while merging those with a low outlay with more impactful ones.

"The schemes launched till April 1, 2020, have been pruned to 65 from 130. However, five new schemes have been added. The number of centrally sponsored schemes now stands at 70. The rationalisation exercise is now over," a finance ministry official said.

The five new schemes are the Atmanirbhar Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Food Processing Enterprise Scheme, Matsya Sampada Yojana, Strengthening Teaching — Learning and Results for States (STARS), and Digitalization of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies. Schemes like the Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics, Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on

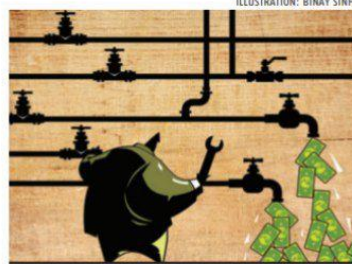


ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES: TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION

FY21 Actuals:
₹ 3.83 trillion

FY22 Revised Estimates:
₹ 4.15 trillion

FY23 Budget Estimates:
₹ 4.42 trillion

Horticulture, National Bamboo Mission, National Mission on Oil seed and Oil Palm have been merged into one scheme called Krishionnati Yojana. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her FY22 Budget speech had said: "On the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, we have undertaken a detailed exercise to rationalise and bring down the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. This will enable consolidation of outlays for better impact."

In order to utilise funds from the Centre, the states need to contribute 40 per cent of the outlay in the schemes. For

the Northeastern states, it is 10 per cent. This reduces the untied funds, which should be available to the states with no strings attached.

States have been asking for more flexibility in implementing the schemes while reducing their proliferation. Many previous committees, including a sub-group of chief ministers under the NITI Aayog, chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in 2015 said the "one-size-fits-all" approach of the schemes was adversely affecting outcomes. States have been urging the Centre to transfer such funds directly to them.

According to the 15th Finance Commission (FFC), 15 of the 30 umbrella schemes account for about 90 per cent of the allocation. Many such schemes have within them a number of sub-components, some of them with negligible allocations.

"A threshold amount of annual appropriation should be fixed, below which the funding for a CSS may be stopped. Below the stipulated threshold, the administering department should identify the need for continuation of the scheme. As the life cycle of ongoing schemes has been made co-terminus with the cycle of Finance Commission, the third-party evaluation of all CSS should be completed within a stipulated timeframe. The funding pattern of CSS should be fixed upfront transparently and should be kept stable," the FFC said in its report.

The FFC had said the schemes financed by the Centre should be flexible enough to allow the states to adapt and innovate.

"Top-down mandates and strict control on programme implementation are antitheses of an open-source model. CSS should grant states significant latitude to tailor implementation modalities to local realities," it added.

The Union Budget 2022-2023 has declared a major revamping / 'rationalisation' of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). Since the last two years, the number of such schemes has been reduced by half.

CSSs are totally funded by the central government but implemented by states. In the Budget 2022-2023, the government allocated Rs 4,42,781.19 crore for such schemes.

According to the Budget document, 130 CSSs spanning all ministries have been "rationalised / revamped" into 70 schemes. CSSs declared after April 1, 2020 have not been included in the list. The schemes launched till April 1, 2020, have been pruned to 65 from 130. However, five new schemes have been added.

Prime Minister Modi in March, 2015 constituted a sub-group of chief ministers on rationalisation of CSS. Its recommendations seem to have influenced the process underway for the last four years.

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25. Recently In February ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy commenced on 7 February with Which Of The Following Theme ?

- A. "Faith and Spiritual Leadership to Combat Stigma and Conflict During Pandemic Recovery"
- B. She the change maker
- C. "Experience and Innovations for the Integrated Renewables Market."
- D. 'Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), Indonesia, are jointly hosting the ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy (RE) virtually from February 7-8, 2022. The theme for the conference is 'Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market'.

RE is one of the seven Programme Areas of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and contributes towards accelerating energy transition, supporting climate change mitigation efforts under the Paris Agreement,

The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference will have five technical sessions that will facilitate specialists from India and ASEAN to explore topics of mutual interest.

26. Recently In February Recently, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has inaugurated Fintech Open Summit. It will be organized by Which Of The Following in association with PhonePe, AWS, and EY from 7-28 February ?

- A. Confederation of Indian Industry
- B. Insolvency And Bankruptcy Board Of India
- C. Resrve Bank Of India
- D. Niti Aayog

In an effort to showcase the importance of the fintech industry, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS (Amazon Web Services) and EY, has organised a three-week-long virtual summit, 'Fintech Open', from February 7- 8.

This Fintech Open Summit will be the first-of-its-kind initiative to bring regulators, fintech professionals, and enthusiasts, industry leaders, etc, at one platform.

Fintech Open's main objective is to encourage open ecosystem across the fintech industry and to promote new models in Fintech Industry.

India's biggest-ever FinTech Hackathon will be the key highlight of the summit.

FinTech is an emerging industry that uses technology for the delivery of financial services

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27. Recently In February Railway Protection Fund Has Launched Operation AAHT For The Purpose Of Which Of The Following ?

- A. To Find Lost Luggage**
- B. To Curb Human Trafficking**
- C. To Provide Internet At Railway Station**
- D. To Provide Hospitality Facility At Station**

ministry has tied an affidavit affirming that Aadhaar was not mandatory.

Following vaccination could be a mild reaction like mild fever, body ache, headache. Re-

on AEPF, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pawar said the

the Health Ministry and there was nothing to be worried about.

Operation to curb trafficking launched

Railway Protection Force to deploy special teams on all long-distance routes

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of "Operation AAHT", special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.

The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often move their victims on long-distance trains.

Thousands of Indians and persons from neighbouring countries were trafficked every day to some destinations



On alert: The Railway Protection Force launches 'Operation AAHT' to intensify crackdown on human trafficking.

where they were forced to live like slaves.

"They are also being trafficked for illegal adoptions, organ transplants, working in circus, begging and entertainment industry..." Sanjay Chander, Director-General of RPF, said in a note to all

Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways.

As part of "Operation AAHT", the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular

trains used by suspects, identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.

The RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.

Explaining the need to strengthen the intelligence machinery and the action plan to identify, investigate, rescue and rehabilitate victims of the offence, Mr. Chander said cyber cells would start patrolling the web/social media to look for digital footprints of human trafficking and added that the focus should be more on trains originating from districts bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

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The RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.

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28. Recently In February Which Of The Following State Has Announced That It Will Present Its First Separate Agriculture Budget In Its Budget Assembly Session ?

- A. Bihar
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Kerala
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Rajasthan ready for its first separate Agriculture Budget

Focus on drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in view of water scarcity in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Preparations are in full swing for the first separate Agriculture Budget to be presented in the Rajasthan Assembly session starting on February 9, with the emphasis on welfare measures for farmers and innovations for the benefit of cultivators.

The Budget will especially promote drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in view of the scarcity of water in the State.

Power company

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said during a pre-budget consultation with the farmers and representatives of dairy federations that the State government was considering a proposal to establish a separate power com-



Ashok Gehlot

pany for the agriculture sector. "Farmers have been facing hardships by waking up the entire night to irrigate their fields, as electricity was supplied to them only after dark," he said.

Mr. Gehlot said the farmers in as many as 15 districts had started getting agricultural power during the daytime. "We will endeavour to

provide electricity to the farmers in all districts for irrigating their fields during the day before March 2023 by developing a robust transmission system and ensuring adequate availability of power," he said.

The Chief Minister said at the consultation, held over the week-end, that his government would promote drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in view of scarcity of water and depleting groundwater level across the State.

He affirmed that the farmers' welfare would get the highest priority because agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors were the backbone of the State's economy.

The announcement for the separate budget formulation for agriculture was

made in the 2021-22 State budget speech of Mr. Gehlot, who also holds the Finance portfolio.

The agriculture and related sectors, including dairy and animal husbandry, in the State, registered a growth rate of 3.45% in 2020-21 despite the adverse circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Cabinet had last month approved a proposal to establish an Agro-Industries Development Board with the objective of increasing the farmers' income by strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure. The Board will prepare a roadmap for connecting farmers with agro-processing and value addition and make recommendations for new policies.

The announcement for the separate budget formulation for agriculture was made in the 2021-22 State Budget speech of Mr. Gehlot, The agriculture and related sectors, including dairy and animal husbandry, in the State, registered a growth rate of 3.45% in 2020-21

The State Cabinet had last month approved a proposal to establish an Agro-Industries Development Board with the objective of increasing the farmers' income by strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure.

The preparations are in full swing for the first-ever separate Agriculture Budget to be presented in the Rajasthan Assembly session starting on February 9

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29. Recently In February Chhattisgarh Became The 35th State UT To Implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) . When Was ONORC Implemented In Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 2018
- B. 2019**
- C. 2020
- D. 2017

Recently Department of Food & Public Distribution had reviewed the progress of States/UTs towards the implementation of “One Nation One Ration Card” (ONORC) plan

With the integration of Chhattisgarh, the ONORC plan is now operational in 35 States/UTs covering almost 96.8% NFSA population (about 77 Crore NFSA beneficiaries) in the country.

The ONORC scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the Food Security Act of 2013. It was launched in August 2019.

Since inception of the ONORC plan in August 2019, so far more than 56 Crore portability transactions have been recorded in the States/UTs under ONORC, delivering nearly total 100 LMT foodgrains through both inter-State and intra-State portability transactions equivalent to about Rs. 31,000 Crore in food subsidy.

NEW DELHI

ONORC now in Chhattisgarh

New Delhi: Chhattisgarh has become 35th state to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC), the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Wednesday. The ministry said, “Recently, Department of Food & Public Distribution had reviewed the progress of states/UTs towards the implementation of ONORC plan, and after successful testing, the department has approved the integration of Chhattisgarh with the existing cluster under ONORC.” **ENS**

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30. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Country's First Bullet Train Route :

- 1. Surat will be the first station to be constructed between Mumbai- Ahmedabad route, set for the country's first bullet train**
- 2. National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL). The NHSRCL is the implementing agency for the project.**
- 3. India's first bullet train will operate between Surat and Bilimora in 2026. The distance between the Surat-Bilimora route is 50km.**
- 4. The bullet train corridor project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad was inaugurated in 2017. The 508-km long corridor**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

Surat 1st station to be constructed on bullet train route, say officials

Neha LM Tripathi

neha.tripathi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Surat will be the first station to be constructed between Mumbai-Ahmedabad route, set for the country's first bullet train, informed an official privy to the developments on Wednesday.

"The work on the four stations (Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch) has expedited and they will be ready by December 2024. Of these four, Surat will be the first one to be ready," said an official from National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL). The NHSRCL is the implementing agency for the project.

An official from the railway

AN OFFICIAL FROM THE RAILWAY MINISTRY SAID A 237-KM LONG VIADUCT WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED

ministry said that apart from the four stations, a 237-km long viaduct will also be constructed. A viaduct is a specific type of bridge that consists of a series of arches, piers or columns supporting a long-elevated railway line or road.

Last year in December, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said that India's first bullet train will operate

between Surat and Bilimora in 2026. The distance between the Surat-Bilimora route is 50km.

The project has been mired in land acquisition battles. However, the ministry said that it is working on the matter. While replying to members Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde and Dr Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil in parliament, minister Vaishnaw on Wednesday informed: As on date, 98.62% land (941.13 Ha out of 954.28 Ha) has been acquired in Gujarat for the project. In Dadra and Nagar Haveli Union Territory, complete acquisition (7.90 Ha) and in Maharashtra, 56.39% land (244.63 Ha out of 433.82 Ha) has been acquired. This includes 925 Ha of private land.

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Surat will be the first station to be constructed between Mumbai- Ahmedabad route, set for the country's first bullet train "The work on the four stations (Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch) has expedited and they will be ready by December 2024 f these four, **Surat will be the first one to be ready,National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL). The NHSRCL is the implementing agency for the project.**

An official from the railway ministry said that apart from the four stations, a 237-km long viaduct will also be constructed. A viaduct is a specific type of bridge that consists of a series of arches, piers or **columns supporting a long-elevated railway line or road.**

India's first bullet train will operate between Surat and Bilimora in 2026. The distance between the Surat-Bilimora route is 50km. The bullet train corridor project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad was inaugurated in 2017. The 508-km long corridor

31.Consider The Following Statement Regarding Republic Day Tablaeu Parade :

1. The **Uttar Pradesh state tableau** was adjudged as the best state tableau of Republic Day Parade 2022
2. **Maharashtra state tableau** was selected as the best in the popular choice category.
3. The **CISF** was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the CAPF

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

UP tableau, navy marching contingent get top honours



Among the 12 states and Union Territories that took part in the Republic Day parade, the Uttar Pradesh tableau has been adjudged as the best while the marching contingent of the Indian Navy came out on top among the three services, the defence ministry said in a statement on Friday. Three panels of judges assessed the performance of the marching contingents and tableaux which were a part of the parade lineup. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) walked away with the top honours. The UP tableau was based on the theme 'One District One Product' and Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

HTC

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The Uttar Pradesh state tableau was adjudged as the best state tableau of Republic Day Parade 2022, announced the Union Defence Ministry. The Uttar Pradesh state tableau was adjudged as the best state tableau of Republic Day Parade 2022, announced the Union Defence Ministry on February 4, 2022. The UP tableau 2022 showed Kashi Vishwanath Dham's glorious history and achievements of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. Maharashtra was picked as the best state tableau in the popular choice category. The Maharashtra tableau depicted the five bio-diversity symbols of the state - state bird 'Hariyal', state animal 'Shekru' or the Indian giant squirrel,

The Central Industrial Security Force was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the CAPS. The Indian Navy was selected as the best marching contingent among the three Services. Indian Air Force was selected as the best marching contingent in the popular choice category.

The tableau of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Civil Aviation were declared as best tableau among Ministries.

The Ministry of Education's tableau 2022 was titled "Vedas to Metaverse" and it was composed of Brahminised visuals. The Civil Aviation Ministry showcased its tableau at the Republic Day Parade for the first-ever time. The tableau showcased a peak into the growth in India's aviation industry with a key focus on Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik

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International News

32. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Became The *First Country To introduce a federal tax on corporate earnings ?*

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. USA
- C. UAE**
- D. UK

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it would introduce a federal corporate tax on business profits for the first time starting from June 1, 2023, although it kept the rate **low, at 9 percent, to maintain its attractiveness for businesses.**

The new tax will be levied on all corporations and commercial activities in the country, except for the "extraction of natural resources" which will remain subject to taxation at the emirate level. In 2018, the UAE introduced value added tax on most goods and services at a standard rate of 5%.

The UAE imposes a 20% tax on branches of foreign banks operating in the country, and on companies with concession agreements in the oil and gas sector of up to 55% at the emirate level.

UAE Capital – Abu Dhabi , Currency – Dirham



In a first, UAE plans to levy corporate tax on biz profits

ADVEITH NAIR & ZAINAB FATTAH
31 January

The United Arab Emirates plans to introduce a federal tax on corporate earnings for the first time next year, in its latest step toward dismantling a levy-free regime that helped make it a magnet for businesses from across the world.

The government's set to introduce a 9 per cent federal corporate tax on business profits from June 2023, state-run WAM news agency said Monday. Corporate tax won't apply on personal income from employment, real estate and other investments, and incentives for free-zone firms that don't do business with the mainland will continue.

"Introducing a CT regime reaffirms the UAE's commitment to meeting international standards for tax transparency and preventing harmful tax practices," the UAE ministry of finance said on its website.

The move comes despite rising competition from neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which has been offering incentives to encourage international firms to shift their West Asia headquarters to the kingdom.

Amid a gradual introduction of taxes that's made the UAE a more expensive place to live than it once was, the

MOVE DIMS THE TAX-FREE ALLURE

- The government is set to introduce a 9% federal corporate tax on business profits from June 2023
- Corporate tax won't apply on personal income from employment, real estate and other investments
- Incentives for free-zone companies that don't do business with the mainland will continue

government took several significant steps during the pandemic to encourage the foreigners who make up most of its population to stay for the long haul. In 2020, the government abolished the need for companies to have Emirati shareholders — a major shake-up of foreign-ownership laws — and last year it unveiled plans to offer citizenship to a select group of foreigners.

This month, the UAE switched to a Saturday-Sunday weekend to synchronise better with the global economy.

Earlier measures had already dented the UAE's status as a tariff-free haven.

BLOOMBERG

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33. Recently In February China Has Announced To Celebrate Its Spring Festival Known As Lunar New Year As The Year Of ?

- A. Lunar Year of the Ox
- B. Lunar Year of the Dragon
- C. Lunar Year of the Tiger**
- D. Lunar Year of the Lion

Celebrating the Year of the Tiger



China is celebrating the Spring Festival to welcome the new Year of the Tiger. Last year was celebrated as the Lunar Year of the Ox.

According to the Chinese Zodiac calendar, the Year of the Ox has ended and the Year of the Tiger has begun from February 1, 2022, and will end on January 21, 2023. The tiger is a symbol of bravery, vigor, and strength in Chinese culture. The tiger is the third of the 12 Chinese Zodiac animals.

Each year is named after one of 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle. This year, Spring Festival celebrations coincide with the Beijing Winter Olympics.

People across Asia prepared on Monday for Lunar New Year celebrations amid concerns over the coronavirus and virulent Omicron variant, even as increasing vaccination rates raised hopes that the Year of the Tiger might bring life back closer to normal. The Lunar New Year is the most important annual holiday in China and falls on Tuesday. Each year is named after one of twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle. The Year of the Tiger follows the Year of the Ox. AGENCIES

34. Recently In February In Which Of The Following Country , the world's first hydrogen-powered flying boat will be launched ?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. UAE
- C. Dubai**
- D. Germany

In Dubai, the world's first hydrogen-powered flying boat will be launched.

The JET ZeroEmission, a Swiss company, has entered into an agreement to manufacture and operate 'Jet' with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN.

The 'JET' is equipped with cutting-edge features and technology, allowing it to fly over the water at a speed of 40 knots. Boat has two fuel cells, an air conditioner, and other eco-friendly technologies. It can accommodate 8-12 passengers.

During the next COP28 preparatory meetings in November 2023, "THE JET" cutting-edge fuel cell technology will be delivered in Dubai for an inaugural flight. The Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 has also been launched by Dubai

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
 First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

35. Recently In February Bangladesh signed an agreement with India to purchase How Many broad-gauge railway wagons ?

- A. 360
- B. 420**
- C. 515
- D. 490

420 broad-gauge wagons will be purchased by Bangladesh's railways from India.

Mizanur Rahman, project director of Bangladesh Railways, and Hindustan Engineering and Industries Limited signed the agreement in Dhaka. The contract costs 231 crore Taka and will be implemented in 27 months after it is signed.

The Government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are co-financing this project through the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.

These are high-speed bogies with automatic air brake systems that transport a variety of general and specialized products, such as grains, fertilizers, stones, wood, and other materials.

The wagons' bodies are made of stainless steel. It can safely reach the destination at a low cost and in less time

NewsOnAIR  

Bangladesh signs agreement to purchase 420 broad-gauge railway wagons from India

 By DD News

INTERNATIONAL

February 6, 2022 | Updated: 4 days ago



Bangladesh signs agreement to purchase 420 broad-gauge railway wagons from India

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First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

36. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has Become The India's largest trading partner In The Year 2021 ?

- A. USA**
- B. China**
- C. Singapore**
- D. Bangladesh**

In 2021, US was back as India's top trade partner; China second

Though China slipped, its exports to India have spiralled widening the trade deficit

AMITI SEN

New Delhi, February 3

The US has regained its position as India's top trading partner in 2021, with China slipping to the second spot. But imports from Beijing spiralled 49 per cent to \$87.48 billion, compared with 2020, widening the bilateral trade deficit.

The escalation in imports from China is mostly due to an increase in shipments of capital goods, intermediate goods and raw materials, with a much lower rise in consumer goods, according to figures collated by the Commerce Department.

Import of consumer goods have actually declined, compared to 2019. "Most of the import that is taking place from China is restricted to what is essential for our manufacturing industry and necessary to

keep our industrial activity going. It is heartening to see that there has been a slowdown in imports of consumer goods," said an official tracking the matter.

Total value of trade

In 2019, the pre-pandemic year, the US was India's largest trading partner with total trade valued at \$90.1 billion (share of 11.1 per cent), while China was at the second spot with total bilateral trade at \$85.5 billion (share of 10.5 per cent). In 2020, due to pandemic-related disruptions, trade with the US fell to \$76 billion, and it slid to the second place. Trade with China, too, took a hit and dropped to \$77.7 billion.

Recovery in demand

In 2021, with a global recovery in demand, India's bilateral



Import of consumer goods from China have declined

trade with the US increased to \$112.3 billion and the country regained its top spot, while China fell to the second place at \$110.4 billion, according to government figures. With manufacturing picking up pace in 2021, India's imports from China shot up to \$87.48 billion, 49 per cent higher than imports in 2020 and 28 per cent higher than in 2019.

India's exports to China also increased in 2021 to \$22.9 billion, but it was at a lower rate of 21 per cent compared to 2020, and 33.9 per cent compared to 2019. As a result, India's trade deficit with

China increased to \$64.5 billion in 2021, compared to \$39.8 billion in 2020 and \$51.2 billion in 2019.

India's capital goods imports from China were valued at \$46.74 billion in 2021, which was 50.78 per cent higher than in 2020 and 37.86 per cent higher than that in 2019.

Intermediate goods imported from China valued at \$30.5 billion were 54.39 per cent higher than imports in 2020, and 28.88 per cent higher than in the previous year. Import of raw materials at \$11.7 billion were higher by 116.75 per cent, compared to 2020, and 65.46 per cent, compared to 2019.

On the other hand, import of consumer goods from China, at \$9.06 billion, increased at a more moderate rate of 22.3 per cent, compared to imports in 2020, and was lower by about 10 per cent, compared to imports in 2019.

In 2021, the United States regained its place as India's largest trading partner and **China slipped to second place.**

In 2021, India's bilateral trade with the US increased to \$112.3 billion .

United State was India's largest trading partner in 2019 at trade value of \$90.1 billion but it fell to \$76 billion due to pandemic disruption in 2020. In 2020, India's bilateral trade with China dropped to \$77.7 billion but it was higher than trade with US.

India's imports from China increased by 49 % in 2021 as compared to last year UAE, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iraq, Indonesia, and South Korea are among the top ten trading partners of India

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37. Recently In February Queen Elizabeth Has Become First British Monarch To Rule The Throne Over The Span Of How Much Year ?

- A. 50 Years**
- B. 90 Years**
- C. 100 Years**
- D. 70 Years**

Queen marks 7 decades of reign

Elizabeth II says she wants Camilla to be Queen Consort

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday became the first British monarch to reign for seven decades, announcing her “sincere wish” that Camilla, the wife of her heir Prince Charles, should ultimately be known as Queen Consort.

Britain’s longest-serving monarch acceded to the throne aged 25 on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI.

She marked the historic date quietly at Sandringham, her estate in eastern



Queen Elizabeth II

England where her father died.

But in a major statement on the future of the royal family, the 95-year-old released a message to the na-

tion, saying “it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort”.

This means Camilla, now 74, would be crowned alongside Prince Charles, now 73, and known to the public as Queen Camilla, royal experts said.

Camilla was long vilified for her role in the break-up of Charles’ marriage to Princess Diana.

Prince Charles praised Camilla, saying: “my darling wife has been my own steadfast support throughout”.

Queen Elizabeth II has become the first British monarch to rule for 70 years.

She surpassed Louis XIV of France as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state. She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007. In 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee.

Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms.

On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth became queen after the death of her father King George VI

In a message to mark her 70 years on the throne, Queen Elizabeth on Saturday—the eve of her accession—said it was her “sincere wish that, when that time comes” her eldest son’s wife take the title “Queen Consort.” Queen would be referred to as “Queen Camilla” if her husband comes to the throne. Consort refers to the spouse of a ruling king. As a result, the Duchess of Cornwall

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Banking And Economy

38. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Digital Currency CBDC That Was Announced In The Budget :

1. Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies, to be issued by the State Bank of India (SBI)
2. Only nine of the 91 countries that had envisaged a plan to launch digital currency had done so.
3. Nigeria became the ninth country to launch a central bank digital currency (CBDC) called eNaira.
4. In India, a high-level inter-ministerial committee constituted by the finance ministry in November 2017 had recommended the adoption of CBDC Which Was Headed By Urjit Patel

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

the finance minister announced that India shall launch a digital currency in 2022-23. "It is, therefore, proposed to introduce Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies, to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23

India shall be a part of a small group of countries with a digital currency. Data from Atlantic Council shows that until January 2022, only nine of the 91 countries which had envisaged a plan to launch digital currency had done so. Moreover, 41 were in the research phase, and 14 had piloted the project.

In October last year, Nigeria had become the ninth country to launch a central bank digital currency called e-Naira. The central bank governor had announced that 500 million eNaira (\$1.21 million) had been minted and were accessible to people with bank accounts linked with the country's bank identity network. An inter-ministerial committee formed in November 2017 by the finance ministry had recommended the adoption of CBDC in India. Headed By Subhadh Chandra Garg

So far, only nine countries h

ISHAAN GERA
New Delhi, 2 February

India will launch a digital currency starting 2022-23, announced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on February 1.

Proposing to introduce a "Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies, to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)", she said this will give a boost to the digital economy.

When this happens, India will join a small group of countries that have their own digital currency. Data from the Atlantic Council shows that until January 2022, only nine of the 91 countries that had envisaged a plan to launch digital currency had done so. Of these, 41 were in the research phase and 14 had piloted the project (see chart 1).

In October last year, Nigeria became the ninth country to launch a central bank digital currency (CBDC) called eNaira. Its central bank governor had announced that 500 million (or \$1.21 million) worth of eNaira had been minted and were accessible to people with bank accounts linked with the country's bank identity network.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), where CBDC is still in a pilot phase, is looking at developing two products: a central bank digital currency and a multiple central bank digital currency bridge along with China, Hong Kong and Thailand for easing transactions.

In India, a high-level inter-ministerial committee constituted by the finance ministry in November 2017 had recommended the adoption of CBDC.

While the RBI's research Institute for Development & D

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39. Recently In February EXIM Bank Of India And The Government Of Sri Lanka Has Signed How Much Amount Line Of Credit Agreement To Help Sri Lanka Cope With Its Fuel Shortages ?

- A. USD 400 Million
- B. USD 500 Million
- C. USD 250 Million
- D. USD 300 Million

India's EXIM Bank, Sri Lanka sign \$500-mn loan agreement

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Export Import Bank (EXIM) of India and the Government of Sri Lanka on Wednesday signed a \$500-million Line of Credit agreement aimed at helping Sri Lanka cope with its fuel shortages, amid one of the worst economic meltdowns facing the island nation.

New Delhi's support for fuel imports – by Sri Lanka from India – through the Line of Credit, is in response to Colombo's "urgent re-

quirement", according to a statement from the Indian High Commission in Colombo. "This critical support comes in the wake of a virtual meeting between the External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar and Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance Basil Rajapaksa, held on January 15," said the official statement released on Wednesday.

Days after the meeting, India made the announcement confirming the emergency loan.

Official sources indicated that the Line of Credit spans a year, and comes at a "nominal" interest rate, of under 2%. The Sri Lankan government is expected to invite bids from Indian suppliers soon to finalise its import. Amid Sri Lanka's persisting dollar crisis, the country's ability to import fuel has been severely affected, leading to frequent shortages, as well as power failures. On January 13, India extended a \$400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka.

India's Export Import (EXIM) Bank and Government of Sri Lanka have signed a \$500 million Line of Credit agreement.

The agreement is aimed at helping Sri Lanka cope with its fuel shortages.

Line of Credit is for fuel imports by Sri Lanka from India Sri Lankan government will invite bids from Indian suppliers soon to finalise its import.

Sri Lanka's persisting dollar crisis has severely affected its ability to import fuel. Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank): Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) was established in 1982. Its headquarters are located in Mumbai

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40. Recently In February Accordign To The National Statistical Office (NSO) has revised India's GDP growth for FY21 from 7.3% contraction to What Percent ?

- A. 9.2 %
- B. 8.5 %
- C. 6.6 %
- D. 8.3 %

Eco shrank 6.6% in FY21, lower than 7.3% estimate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's economy contracted by 6.6% in 2020-21, narrower than the earlier estimate of 7.3% decline, highlighting that the economic damage inflicted by one of the strictest lockdowns in the world to ward off spread of coronavirus was less severe than estimated earlier.

Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday also showed that the economic slowdown was sharper at 3.7% expansion compared to the earlier estimate of 4% growth for 2019-20.

The use of latest available

Dec core sector output grows 3.8%

New Delhi: Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 3.8% in December 2021 against a 0.4% contraction in the same month last year on better show by coal, cement and refinery products, according to the official data released on Monday. PTI

data from various agencies has resulted in some changes in both the levels of GVA (gross value added) and growth estimates for 2018-19 and 2019-20, the NSO said.

The 7.3% contraction was the sharpest in nearly four-decades as the Covid-19 induced lockdown had hurt the economy. But the revised data seems to show that the damage was lower than what was expected. The lockdown had hurt several key sectors of the economy, particularly the contact intensive sectors, such as tourism, hospitality, aviation and others.

The agriculture sector has been the mainstay of the economic revival, that has taken place after lifting of curbs. The sharp contraction had triggered a debate over the management of the economy and impact of lockdown.

The first revised estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) data for FY21 has been released by National Statistical Office (NSO).

It showed that Indian GDP had declined by 6.6% in FY21. Earlier, 7.3% contraction was estimated by NSO. The National Statistical Office (NSO) has also revised India's real GDP growth for FY20 to 3.7% from 4%.

The revision in FY21 data has happened due base effect. Previously, NSO had used benchmark-indicator method but this time it has used more detailed industry information. **The growth in eight infrastructure sectors had reached up to 3.8% in December. It had dipped to a nine-month low of 3.1% in November.**

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41. Recently In February According To The Latest Report By **Brand Finance Life Insurance Corporation** Has Been Placed At Which Rank In The World's Most Strongest insurance brand globally ?

- A. 3rd
- B. 10th
- C. 9th
- D. 8th

Life Insurance Corporation, which is bound for the nation's largest share sale by March, is the strongest and the largest brand in the country with a valuation of USD 8.656 billion (around Rs 64,722 crore), which also makes it the third strongest insurance brand globally, according to a brand valuation report. According to the London-based Brand Finance

LIC's brand value also climbed in overall global brand rankings by 32 places to become the world's 206th most valuable brand in 2021, from 238th slot in 2020. In 2022 It Has Been Placed At 179TH

The corporation ranks first in brand strength amongst the competitor set with a score of 84.1 and it ranks third in brand strength globally after Poste Italiane of Italy and Mapfre of Spain and is also the 10th most valued insurance brand globally, according to the report

Of the top 10 as many as 5 are Chinese insurance companies, with by Ping An Insurance emerging the world's most valuable insurance brand This has LIC becoming the only domestic insurer to rank in top 10 list strongest brands and top 10 most valuable insurance brands.

42. Recently In February Which Of The Following has signed **MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to provide various services. like SIM Card and C-Top up, Bill Payment, Consumer Fixed Access (CFA) Village Level Entrepreneurs across the country ?**

- A. **Common Services Centers**
- B. Tata Communications
- C. Reliance Jio
- D. Bharti Airtel

The Common Services Centers (CSC) has signed MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to provide various services. The partnership will benefit more than 11.6 crore BSNL mobile subscribers, apart from citizens desiring to take new BSNL mobile connections

CSC will facilitate the sale of BSNL mobile products and services, like SIM Card and C-Top up, Bill Payment, Consumer Fixed Access (CFA) products and services through its network of more than four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs across the country,

The partnership will help us reach out to citizens in rural and remote areas to deliver BSNL mobile and CFA products and services.”

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43. Recently In February With Which Of The Following Bank Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, and National Culture Fund have signed a tripartite MoU for the development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, Delhi ?

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

State Bank of India, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, and National Culture Fund have signed a tripartite MoU for the development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, Delhi.

The project ABCD aims to highlight and promote the products with the Geographical Indication sign. Economic Value Addition to GI Products is envisioned through this project. IGNCA is an autonomous body within the Ministry of Culture, which is implementing the ABCD initiative.

SBI has agreed to sponsor the project under CSR with a contribution of Rs 10 crores towards the implementation of the ABCD Project. National Culture Fund (NCF): The Ministry of Culture had established the National Culture Fund on November 28, 1996, under the Charity Endowments Acts of 1890.

44. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Signed a MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to strengthen its cyber security capabilities ?

- A. SEBI
- B. SIDBI**
- C. NABARD
- D. ICAR

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on Friday said it has signed a MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to strengthen its cyber security capabilities.

SIDBI, the principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of micro, small and medium enterprises, said it signed the pact with the C-DAC, a premier R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

Under the agreement, SIDBI and C-DAC will collaborate to explore innovation and use of emerging technologies in the areas of cyber security, block chain and related training and capacity building aspects in the banking sector,

Sidbi CHairMAN - Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann

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45. Recently In February Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd has been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 February 2022 It Is Based In Which Of The Following City ?

- A. Pune
- B. Nashik**
- C. Rewa
- D. Kolkata

License of the Nashik-based Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd has been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 February 2022.

The Bank ceased to close banking business with the effect from February 03, 2022.

The RBI has requested Maharashtra's Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies to issue an order for winding up the bank and to appoint a liquidator.

Under the rules of the DICGC Act, 1961, every depositor would receive deposit insurance claim amount up to a monetary ceiling of Rupees five lakh from DICGC

... cancels
Independence
Co-operative
Bank's licence

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 3

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd, Nashik, Maharashtra, with effect from the close of business on February 3.

The Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Maharashtra, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator, upon which depositors will be entitled to receive insurance claim amount of their deposits up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

The bank's licence was cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

46. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank has got a digital transformation award, DX 2021 Award by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) ?

- A. South Indian Bank
- B. Karnataka Bank**
- C. Icici Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda

Karnataka Bank has got a digital transformation award, DX 2021 Award.

The bank has got the award in recognition of innovative best practice 'KBL VIKAAS', by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

KBL VIKAAS was launched by the Karnataka Bank in 2017. It has enabled the bank to implement digital capabilities. The bank recently launched 'KBL NxT' as part of wave 2.0 of 'KBL VIKAAS'.

Karnataka Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangaluru in Karnataka. It is a private sector bank.

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47. Recently In February Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Has Organized International Conference on “MSMEs: Legislative and Regulatory Challenges” in association with United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) When Was Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board Formed ?

- A. 2017
- B. 2018
- C. 2016**
- D. 2015

International Conference on “MSMEs: Legislative and Regulatory Challenges” was organized by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on 3rd Feb, 2022.

The conference was organized in association with UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP), Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) and Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU). Mr. Ritesh Kavdia, Executive Director, IBBI chaired the international roundtable.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) It is a subsidiary body of UN General Assembly

‘Adopt UNCITRAL for cross-border insolvency’

Framework is widely accepted: Survey

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The Economic Survey 2021-22 has called for a standardised framework for cross-border insolvency as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) at present does not have an instrument to restructure firms involving cross-border jurisdictions.

The proposal to frame a robust cross-border insolvency framework has already been highlighted in the report of the Insolvency Law Committee, which had recommended the adoption of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), with certain modifications to make it suitable to the Indian context. “UNCITRAL



on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997 has emerged as the most widely accepted legal framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues,” the Survey said.

It has been adopted by 49 countries so far, such as Singapore, the U.K., the U.S., South Africa and Korea.

This law works on four main principles: access, recognition, cooperation and coordination.

48. Recently In February Digital service company Jio Platforms announced an investment of How Much Amount in Silicon Valley-based deep tech startup Two Platforms for acquiring 25 per cent equity stake on a fully diluted basis ?

- A. USD 20 Million
- B. USD 15 Million**
- C. USD 10 Million
- D. USD 30 Million

RIL unit invests \$15 million in Two Platforms

Gulveen Aulakh
gulveen.aulakh@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital unit of Reliance Industries Ltd, has invested \$15 million in Two Platforms Inc., a Silicon Valley-based deep tech startup founded by Pranav Mistry, to acquire a 25% stake on a fully-diluted basis.

Two Platforms is an artificial reality company with focus on building interactive and immersionsal artificial intelligence (AI) experiences.

Its platform enables real-time AI voice and video calls, digital humans, immersive spaces and lifelike gaming.

“We are impressed with the strong experience and capabilities of the founding team at TWO in the areas of AI/ ML, AR, metaverse and Web 3.0. We look forward to working together with TWO to help expedite development of new products in the areas of

interactive AI, immersive gaming and metaverse,” said Akash Ambani, Director of Jio.

Two Platforms will partner with Jio to fast-track adoption of new technologies and build disruptive technologies

Two Platforms will partner with Jio to fast-track the adoption of new technologies and build disruptive technologies such as AI, metaverse, and mixed realities.

Mistry, chief executive of Two Platforms said, “Jio is foundational to India’s digital transformation. We at TWO

are excited to partner with Jio to push the boundaries of AI and introduce applications of Artificial Reality to consumers and businesses at scale.”

Two Platforms plans to bring its interactive AI technologies first to consumer applications. The move is expected to be followed by entertainment and gaming, as well as enterprise solutions including retail, services, education, health and wellness.

White & Case acted as legal counsel for Jio for the transaction.

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Digital service company Jio Platforms on Friday announced an investment of USD 15 million in Silicon Valley-based deep tech startup Two Platforms for acquiring 25 per cent equity stake on a fully diluted basis.

Founded by former Samsung Technology and Advanced Research president and CEO Pranav Mistry, Two Platforms is an artificial reality company with focus on building interactive and immersional AI experiences.

Two will work collaboratively with Jio to fast-track the adoption of new technologies and build disruptive technologies such as AI, metaverse, and mixed realities.

Akash Ambani, director Of JPL. JPL, established in October 2019 as a wholly-owned unit of Reliance Industries,

49. Consider The Following Statement Regarding UNESCO SDG 4 Report On Reading And Mathematical Proficiency :

- 1. Only 12.3 per cent of India's lower secondary school students (aged 10–16) are proficient in basic mathematics**
- 2. India projects that 65 per cent of its lower secondary graduates will have minimum mathematics proficiency by 2025 and 75 per cent by 2030**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

Only 12.3 per cent of India's lower secondary school students (aged 10–16) are proficient in basic mathematics, according to the Unesco's SDG 4 report, which was released on January 24.

The report says that while India projects that 65 per cent of its lower secondary graduates will have minimum mathematics proficiency by 2025 and 75 per cent by 2030, its current figure is far lower than that of many of its neighbours, including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. In 2015, 68 per cent of Pakistan's lower secondary students showed minimum mathematical proficiency, 50.6 per cent in Sri Lanka, 53.8 per cent in Nepal and 31 per cent in Bangladesh.

The survey — which evaluated students of grades 3, 5 and 8 across the country — found that only 39.5 per cent in grade 8 were proficient in mathematics. This includes the 10.5 per cent who displayed advanced skills.

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50. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Launched Special Campaign For Revival Of Individual Lapsed Policies ?

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. LIC
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. SIDBI

LIC offers window for revival of lapsed policies

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC) is offering an opportunity for the second time in the current financial year for revival of lapsed policies, through a special revival campaign from February 7 to March 25, for individual lapsed policies.

In view of the prevailing cir-

cumstances, concessions are being offered in late fee for other than term assurance and high-risk plans, depending on the total premiums paid, the insurer said. There are no concessions on medical requirements. Eligible health and micro insurance plans also qualify for the concession in

late fee. Under the special revival campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium, subject to certain terms and conditions.

Policies that are in a lapsed condition during the premium paying term and not com-

pleted policy term are eligible to be revived in this campaign.

The campaign is being launched for the benefit of policyholders whose policies lapsed because they were not able to pay premiums on time due to unavoidable circumstances, the insurer said.

FE BUREAU

To provide continued risk cover, the Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) brings a valuable opportunity for the second time in the current financial year for the revival of lapsed policies. A Special Revival Campaign is being launched from 7 February to 25 March 2022 for individual lapsed policies.

Under this special revival campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions. The campaign is launched for the benefit of those policyholders whose policies lapsed as they were not able to pay premiums on time due to unavoidable circumstances

51. Recently In February State Bank Of India Has Reported 62 Percent Year On Year Jump In The Third Quarter Standalone Net Profit Of How Much Amount ?

- A. Rs 5196 Cr
- B. Rs 8432 Cr
- C. Rs 9246 Cr
- D. Rs 6974 Cr

₹8,432 cr net in Q3: SBI posts record quarterly profit

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

STATE BANK of India (SBI) on Saturday posted a 62.27 per cent year-on-year rise in its net profit at Rs 8,432 crore for the quarter ended December 2021, against a Rs 5,196 crore in the year-ago period. This is the highest quarterly net profit reported by the bank. The state-run lender's net in-

terest income for Q3FY22 rose 6.48 per cent to Rs 30,687 crore, against Rs 28,819.9 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year.

SBI's gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio in the quarter stood at 4.50 per cent (Rs 1,20,029 crore) against 4.77 per cent (Rs 1,33,705 crore) in the year-ago period. Net NPA ratio was recorded at 1.34 per cent versus 1.23 per cent last year.

The bank reported net interest margin at 3.15 per cent for Q3 as



Chairperson Dinesh Kumar Khara said SBI posted a credit growth of ₹1.3 lakh crore. File

against 3.12 per cent a year ago, it said. Total income also rose to Rs 78,352 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 75,981 crore in the same period of 2020-21, it said. The company's total deposits grew 8.83 per cent year-on-year to Rs 38,47,794 in the quarter.

SBI Chairperson Dinesh Kumar Khara said the lender recorded a credit growth of Rs 1.3 lakh crore with good performance across segments.

BoB profit doubles in Q3

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda's (BoB) net profit in Q3FY22 rose to Rs 2,197 crore, against Rs 1,061 crore in the year-ago quarter, a 107 per cent growth. Gross NPAs fell to Rs 55,997 crore from Rs 63,182 crore in Q3FY21. ENS

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday posted 62 per cent jump in standalone net profit at Rs 8,432 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2021.

The bank had earned a net profit of Rs 5,196 crore in the year-ago period, "Bank has registered its highest quarterly net profit of Rs 8,432 crore in Q3FY22. This represents an increase of 62.27 per cent YoY,"

Total income also rose to Rs 78,352 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 75,981 crore in the same period of 2020-21 Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) as at the end of Q3FY22 stands at 13.23 per cent without including nine months profit for FY22.

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52. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Joined Hands With [Policybazaar.Com](#) To Offer A Wide Range Of Terms And Investment Products To Costumers ?

- A. Bajaj Allianz Life Insuarance
- B. Bharti Ax Life Insurance
- C. Life Corporation Of India**
- D. HDFC Ergo General Insurance

Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC), the country's pioneer in life insurance, and Policybazaar.com have joined hands to offer a wide range of term and investment products to consumers. LIC brings along a legacy and a unique product niche for decades.

LIC has been the pioneer and a dominant player in the life insurance segment ensuring financial protection for India's masses. Policybazaar's digital distribution channels will further help in accelerating insurance awareness and penetration across the length and breadth of India.

Policybazaar.com, the flagship platform of PB Fintech, is the largest online insurance marketplace in the country which distributes products of 51 insurance companies, which include life, general, and standalone health insurance companies. Sarbvir Singh, CEO, Policybazaar.com

53. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank HAS [Tied Up With Hero Electric](#) To Offer to retail financing solutions for its entire portfolio ?

- A. Karnatka Bank
- B. Axis Bank**
- C. Canara Bank
- D. Central Bank Of India

Electric two-wheeler company Hero Electric has tied-up with Axis Bank for retail financing solutions for its entire two-wheeler product portfolio to boost the adoption of e-mobility across the country

Through this partnership, Hero Electric customers will be offered several value-added financial benefits with minimal documentation, , the customers can opt for two-wheeler financing across Hero Electric's wide neTWORK

Sohinder Gill, CEO, Hero Electric

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54. Recently In February Which Of The Following General Insurance Company Has Tied Up With CARS 24 As A Corporate Agent To Expand Its Motor Vehicle Services ?

- A. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B. Star Health Allied Insurance
- C. Kotak General Insurance**
- D. HDFC ERGO General Insurance

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd has tied up with CARS24 Financial Services Private Ltd to offer motor insurance services to buyers of used cars.

CARS24 Financial Services is a subsidiary of CARS24, an online used car marketplace.

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance is a 100% subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

As part of the tie-up, CARS24, as a corporate agent of Kotak General Insurance, will extend motor insurance services to its consumers that will fully insure their vehicles with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.

Suresh Agarwal, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance, Ruchit Agarwal, co-founder and CFO, CARS24

55. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Launched an AI Voice Bot powered by Yellow.ai to enable its customers intimate insurance motor claims in a convenient and seamless manner ?

- A. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B. Edelweiss General Insurance**
- C. Kotak General Insurance
- D. HDFC ERGO General Insurance

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), has launched an AI Voice Bot to enable its customers intimate insurance motor claims in a convenient and seamless manner.

“This conversational AI Voice Bot, available in Hindi, English and Hinglish, will enable real time registration of claims, 24-7.

The end-to-end AI Voice Bot is powered by Yellow.ai.

The AI Voice Bot can also answer questions raised by the garage representatives.

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56. Recently In February Asian Development Bank Has Announced That It Has Provided A Record Loan Amount Of How Much Loan To India In The Year 2021 ?

- A. USD 1.8 Billion
- B. USD 4.6 Billion**
- C. USD 3.9 Billion
- D. USD 1.9 Billion

said. PTI Some concession may also be expected for i expected," he said.

ADB provides record \$4.6 billion loans to India in 2021

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday said it provided a record \$4.6 billion loans to India in 2021, including \$1.8 billion towards coronavirus response. "The Asian Development Bank committed a record \$4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021 for 17 loans, including \$1.8 billion for the country's coronavirus disease (covid-19) pandemic response," the multilateral funding agency said in a statement.

Of the covid-19-related assistance, \$1.5 billion was towards vaccine procurement and \$300 million to strengthen primary health care in urban areas and the country's future pandemic preparedness.

The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building, ADB country director for India Takeo Konishi said. "The ADB's operations continue to support the Government of India's fight against covid-19 and its other development priorities such as managing urbanisation, raising industrial competitiveness to create more jobs, improving connectivity and enhancing skills."



The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture. REUTERS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday said it provided a record USD 4.6 billion loans to India in 2021, including USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus response.

"The Asian Development Bank committed a record USD 4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021 for 17 loans, including USD 1.8 billion for the country's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response,"

The ADB's India portfolio comprised 69 projects worth USD 15.5 billion as of December 31, 2021.

In addition to sovereign loans, the ADB also committed USD 274 million to private sector projects in 2021 for COVID-19 support, highways improvement, energy efficiency, affordable housing and increasing farmer incomes.

57. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Introduced A Face SCan Feature To Its App IL Takecare (ILTC) Enabling The Checking Of Health Vitals Keep Track Of Health ?

- A. ICICI Lombard**
- B. HDFC ERGO
- C. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- D. State Bank Of India

ICICI Lombard has introduced a face scan feature to its app, IL TakeCare (ILTC), enabling the checking of vitals in couple of minutes.

As per the press release, this has been introduced under the 'Know Your Health Vitals', that helps users keep track of vitals such as blood pressure, SpO2(oxygen saturation), heart rate, respiration rate, heart rate variability, and stress level, The ILTC app, has added new features to the application, including mental well-being, easy-renewals, post-policy health check-ups,

Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard

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58. Recently In February As per Center for Monitoring *Indian Economy*, India's unemployment rate declined to What Percent in January 2022 and it reached the lowest level since March 2021 ?

- A. 9.2 %
- B. 8.3 %
- C. 6.57 %
- D. 7.9 %

As per Center for Monitoring Indian Economy, India's unemployment rate declined to 6.57% in January 2022 and it reached the lowest level since March 2021.

During 2nd wave of COVID-19, the unemployment rate reached 11.84% in the month of May 2021.

Urban unemployment rate declined to 8.16% in January 2022. Rural unemployment rate declined to 5.84% in January 2022.

In January, Telangana recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 0.7%. Telangana was followed by Gujarat (1.2%), Meghalaya (1.5%) and Odisha (1.8%).

Joblessness rate sees sharp fall to 6.57%

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
MUMBAI

India's unemployment rate witnessed a sharp decline to 6.57% in January, the lowest since March 2021, as the country gradually recovers with easing of restrictions following a decline in Omicron cases, as per data by independent think-tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

While unemployment in urban India stood at 8.16% in January, in rural areas it was the lowest at 5.84%. In December, the unemployment rate stood at 7.91%, with urban at 9.30% and rural at 7.28%, the CMIE data said.

Telangana reported the lowest unemployment rate at 0.7% in January, followed by Gujarat (1.2%), Meghalaya (1.5%) and Odisha (1.8%), the CMIE data showed.

However, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate at 23.4%, followed by Rajasthan at 18.9%.

CMIE had estimated the number of unemployed in India as of December 2021 at 53 million, of which a huge proportion were women.

CMIE MD and CEO Mahesh Vyas, in his analysis of the December data, said 35 million people were actively looking for work in December 2021, of which 23%, or 8 million, were women.

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59. Recently In February Which Of The Following **BANK Has Has Partnered With Infosys Finacle To Offer Whatsapp Banking Features For Daily Banking Services In 7 Different Languages ?**
- A. **Union Bank Of India**
 - B. Central Bank Of India
 - C. Bank Of Baroda
 - D. HDFC Bank

infosys Finacle and Union Bank of India on Thursday announced the availability of the latter's banking services on WhatsApp following implementation of Finacle Conversational Banking, Finacle Remote Banker, and Finacle Mobile Teller solutions.

The new service from the bank, called Union Virtual Connect (UVConn), will give its retail customers personalized, daily banking services, at their preferred time, place, and in seven languages initially, Infosys Finacle, Union Bank of India is adapting to the constantly changing needs of their customers and meeting them with new-age banking experiences. WhatsApp has been one of the most popular messengers, revolutionizing the way people interact, and India has one of the largest WhatsApp user bases in the world,"

60. Recently In February Microsoft Has Joined Hand With Which Of The Folloiwnng Company To Launch '**Microsoft Cloud for Retail**' ?
- A. Wipro
 - B. Infosys
 - C. **Sonata Software**
 - D. HCL

Sonata Software, a global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, partners with Microsoft in its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail', further strengthening its offerings to the retail industry.

Sonata Software has been a partner with Microsoft, delivering high-quality products and services based on Microsoft's offerings. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen that relationship Sonata Software has delivered high-quality solutions for retailers worldwide over the years, based on a deep understanding of retail markets and retailers' needs, using world-class IPs Sonata Software is a global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company. It offers solutions for retailers worldwide.

Microsoft is an American multinational technology company. It is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, United States. Its CEO is Satya Nadella.

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61. Recently In February Adani Group Has Incorporated Its **New Subsidiary Mumbai Data Center Ltd** To Develop And Deal With Data Centres With An Authorised Capital Of How Much Amount ?

- A. Rs 1 Lakh
- B. Rs 5 Lakh
- C. Rs 10 Lakh
- D. Rs 8 Lakh

Adani Group forms a new unit to set up data centre in Mumbai

New Delhi: Ports-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group has incorporated a new subsidiary to set up a data centre in Mumbai, one of the half a dozen cities that the billionaire Gautam Adani's group has identified to set up data centres initially. AdaniConnex Pvt. Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture of Adani Enterprises and EdgeConnex Europe BV, on 4 February incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary Mumbai Data Centre Ltd, the Adani group firm said in a stock exchange filing. PTI

Ports-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group has incorporated a new subsidiary to set up a data centre in Mumbai, one of the half a dozen cities that the billionaire Gautam Adani's group has identified to set up data centres initially.

AdaniConnex Pvt Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture of Adani Enterprises and EdgeConnex Europe BV, on February 4 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary Mumbai Data Centre Ltd, the Adani group firm said in a stock exchange filing. The subsidiary, Mumbai Data Center Limited (MDCL), was formed with an initial authorised and paid-up share capital of ₹1,00,000 each undertake business to develop, operate, maintain,

In February 2021, Adani Enterprises Ltd had partnered EdgeConneX, a leading data centre operator, to develop one gigawatt (GW) of data centre capacity over the next decade. The equal joint venture (JV), named AdaniConneX, will focus on building a network of hyperscale data centres in India, starting with Chennai, Navi Mumbai, Noida, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad.

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62. Recently In February Which Of The Following *Global Company* Has took the first position from Intel in 2021 To Lead The Global Chip Market Amid The Global Semiconductor Shortage ?

- A. Accenture
- B. JSW Steel
- C. Samsung
- D. Wipro

Amid the global semiconductor shortage, Samsung took the first position from Intel in 2021 owing to its solid growth momentum in both logic IC and memory chip segments

The South Korean giant took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance at the expense of Intel's relatively flattish Ki Nam Kim, CEO, Samsung Electronics.

Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger has suggested that the chip shortage wouldn't end until at least 2023.

Semiconductor industry also went through significant structural changes in 2021 after entity lists were announced by both China and the US.

Memory vendors continued to lead the industry with SK Hynix and Micron taking the third and fourth positions, followed by IC design vendors, including Qualcomm and NVIDIA,

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63. Recently In February The Central Government Has Announced Tax On Income Form Transfer Of **Virtual Asset At 30 % Rate** . The Government Has Included Which New Clause That Defines Virtual Digital Asset ?

- A. Clause 47 (A)
- B. Clause 46 (B)
- C. Clause 48 (A)
- D. Clause 47 (B)

TYING UP LOOSE ENDS

Virtual Digital Assets may Get a Broader Definition

Bid to cover any new product that may emerge; provision to tax assets may also be fine-tuned

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New Delhi: India could widen the definition of virtual digital assets to cover any new assets that may emerge and also further refine the provision to tax these assets.

The budget for FY23 announced last week proposes to tax any income from the transfer of any virtual digital asset at a flat 30% rate. The provision will be applicable from April 1, 2022.

The government could fine-tune the provisions proposed in the budget to tax virtual digital assets after discus-

Defining Crypto

Govt keen to keep definition of virtual digital asset dynamic

Final call on issue after discussions with stakeholders

Tax experts say some aspects of provision need further clarity

Govt to put in place provision to remove difficulty in implementation



WHAT BUDGET PROPOSES

New clause (47A) inserted to define virtual digital asset

VDA can be any information or code or number or token

Non-fungible token covered under definition

sions with the industry and to account for the dynamic nature of the sector, officials told ET.

“We want to ensure that the definition is dynamic enough to cover any new product that comes by due to technological changes...This sector is witnessing new products in a short time,” a senior government official told ET.

Multiple Concerns >> 7

‘Education Cess: Retro Change Makes it Fair’



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified on Sunday that a proposed amendment in the Budget related to the education cess had to be done retrospectively in order to be fair to all taxpayers. >> 8

The government has proposed that transfer of any virtual/cryptocurrency asset will be taxed at 30%. virtual digital asset mean any information or code or number or token (not being Indian currency or foreign currency), generated through cryptographic means or otherwise, by whatever name called,

Section 115 BBH has been inserted which provides taxation rules on income from Virtual Digital Assets.

To define the term “virtual digital asset”, a new clause (47A) is proposed to be inserted to section 2 of the Act. As per the proposed new clause, a virtual digital asset is proposed to mean any information or code or number or token (not being Indian currency or any foreign currency),

Individuals who receive digital assets as gifts would also be taxed under the section 56(2)

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64. Recently In February The *Salesforce Report* Has Published A Report On Digital Skills Readiness India Has Scored How Much Points And Had Topped The List . Who Is The Current CEO And Chairperson Of Salesforce India ?

- A. 69 , Arundhati Bahattacharya
- B. 71 , Urjit Patel
- C. 63 , Arundhati Bahattacharya**
- D. 65 , Ashok Lavasa

India Leads in Digital Skills Readiness: Salesforce Report ET GRAPHICS

India scored the highest on digital readiness among the 19 countries surveyed as part of the Salesforce Global Index. The index measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years.

- India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% respondents saying they were actively learning digital skills to prepare themselves for the future of work.
- According to IDC, the 'Salesforce economy' or Salesforce and its partner ecosystem in India will create 1.3 million jobs and \$66.4 billion in new business revenues by 2026.

In a digital-first world, the skills gap has hit an inflection point. Corporate India has made a concerted effort to bridge the gap and results are here for us to see. India is rapidly developing to become a global powerhouse for talent

Arundhati Bhattacharya
CEO & Chairperson, Salesforce India

	Index Score	% very prepared with workplace digital skills		% very equipped with resources to learn digital skills		% very actively learning/training on digital skills	
		Now	5 Years	Now	5 Years	Now	5 Years
Global	33	40	34	27	24	28	26
India	63	76	58	66	50	72	53

66% respondents in India said they felt very equipped with resources to learn digital skills

25% said 'advanced' collaboration tech skills needed specifically for the workplace

39% rated their workplace digital marketing skills level as 'advanced'

	Advanced	Intermediate	Beginner
Social Media	51	30	20
Productivity Plans	44	33	23
Web navigation	44	34	22
Smart technology	43	37	20
Digital Communication	42	35	24
Data Analytics	36	38	26

India leads on digital skills readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by business today and over the next five year index among 19 countries

Among 19 countries, India has the Index's highest digital readiness score at 63 out of 100 (average global readiness score was 33 out of 100).

In India, 72 per cent of respondents say they are very actively learning digital skills now to prepare themselves for the future of work, according to the index prepared by leading software company Salesforce. Nearly 66 per cent of respondents in India also said they feel very equipped with resources to learn digital skills.

The Index is based on a survey of over 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100. Arundhati Bhattacharya, CEO and Chairperson, Salesforce India

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65. Recently In February According To The Latest Report By Reserve Bank Of India the number of foreign branches of Indian banks declined from 137 in 2019-20 to What in 2020-21 ?

- A. 116
- B. 122
- C. 121**
- D. 119

Table 1: Employment Distribution – Bank-groups (end-March)

	Indian Banks' Branches Operating Abroad		Indian Banks' Subsidiaries Operating Abroad		Foreign Banks' Branches in India	
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
Total number of branches	137	121	381	377	306	311
Number of Employees	3,329	3,164	5,762	4,943	23,548	23,930
of which:						
Local	1,928	1,917	5,215	4,452		
Indians	1,334	1,222	520	468	23,370	23,747
Others	67	25	27	23	178	183

Notes:
 1. Data are provisional.
 2. Due to rounding off of figures, the constituent items may not add up to the totals.
 3. Figures in the parentheses indicate annual growth for the item.
 4. The above notes are applicable for all tables.

As per RBI, the number of foreign branches of Indian banks declined from 137 in 2019-20 to 121 in 2020-21. The number of foreign subsidiaries declined from 381 to 377. Credit extended by foreign branches of Indian banks and deposits of subsidiaries of Indian banks also declined. As per RBI, total income of foreign branches of Indian banks decreased from Rs 48,891 crore in FY20 to Rs 29,494 crore in FY21. Banks' fee income also declined during 2020-21. RBI said that branches of Indian banks in United Kingdom generated the highest fee income.

Branches of Indian banks in United Kingdom generated highest fee income, followed by their branches in Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates and Singapore,

66. According To The Latest Government Report Government has infused How Much Amount in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) from 2016-17 to 2020-21 ?

- A. Rs 1.50 Lakh Crore
- B. Rs 5.30 lakh crore
- C. Rs 3.10 lakh crore**
- D. Rs 2.50 lakh cror

Government has infused Rs 3.10 lakh crore in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Out of Rs 3,10,997 crore, Rs 34,997 crore were infused via budgetary allocation and Rs 2,76,000 crore via issuance of recapitalisation bonds.

As on December 31, 2021, 43 large corporate debtors were resolved through the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Each of these large corporate debtors were having total admitted claims of Rs 2,500 crore and above. As on 31.12.2021, CIRP has exceeded the timeline of 180 days in respect of 1,355 corporate debtors. As on September 30, 2021, asset reconstruction companies acquired assets valuing Rs 3.74 lakh crore from banks and financial institutions

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67. Recently In February Which Of The Following Payment Bank has entered into a partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance to offer Cyber Insurance Solutions to its customers ?

- A. Jio Payment Bank
- B. Airtel Payment Bank**
- C. Paytm Payment Bank
- D. Indian Post Payment Bank

Airtel Payments Bank Partners ICICI Lombard for Cyber Insurance

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Airtel Payments Bank said it has partnered ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to offer a cyber insurance which can be purchased from the Airtel Thanks app.

The partnership comes at a time when the growth in digital payments and transactions has led to a surge in sophisticated online frauds.

The insurance from ICICI Lombard provides financial protection to customers against potential financial cyber frauds related to banking, credit or debit card, as well as protection against threats such as identity theft, phishing and email spoofing. Airtel Payments Bank said in a statement on Monday.

The insurance comes with a zero waiting period, allo-

The insurance comes with a zero waiting period, allowing customers to make multiple claims within policy tenure

wing customers to make multiple claims within the policy tenure and within the limits of insured amount opted for. The policy will provide a 90-day discovery period, followed by a seven-day reporting period. "This means that if the insured discovers an unauthorised transaction processed from their card or account on the 90th day from the transaction date, they can still report it in the next seven days to the issuing bank or mobile wallet company," said the statement.

Last year, Airtel Payments Bank launched Airtel Safe Pay. The cyber insurance comes as the bank is diversifying its offerings.



Airtel Payments Bank said it has partnered ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to offer a cyber insurance which can be purchased from the Airtel Thanks app.

Last year, Airtel Payments Bank launched Airtel Safe Pay

The insurance from ICICI Lombard provides financial protection to customers against potential financial cyber frauds related to banking, credit or debit card,

Airtel Payments Bank was granted scheduled bank status by RBI on 5 January 2022.

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Appointments News

68. Recently In February Whom Among The Following Has Been appointed as *the Director-General of the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) ?*

- A. **Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi**
- B. Vijay Paul Sharma
- C. Vinay Kumar Sharma
- D. Amit Trivedi

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has been appointed as the Director-General of the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).

Prior to joining, Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was working as Professor at Delhi Technological University (DTU).

He has worked on various projects including Digitization and Biometric capture of usual residents of India (NPR), development of manpower in IECT Skills, etc.

NIELIT is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

69. Recently In February Who Has Been Appointed as *Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for five years or till the age of 65 years, w/*

- A. **Ravi Mittal**
- B. Madan Mohan Tiwari
- C. Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- D. Vijay Paul Sharma

Ravi Mittal is likely to take over as Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

He is the former secretary of the Department of Sports. Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved his appointment.

The appointment will be subjected to clearance from Prime Minister Office. Mittal would be IBBI's chairman for five years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is early. The post of IBBI's chairman was vacant after the retirement of MS Sahoo on September 20, 2021.

Navrang Saini was given additional charge of **IBBI's chairman. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):** It was established on 1 October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

APPOINTMENT

Ravi Mittal is IBBI chief

New Delhi, February 3

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has named Ravi Mittal, former Sports Secretary, the Chairman of the Insolvency Regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

He will serve as the IBBI chief for five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, said official sources. KR SRIVATS

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70. Recently In February IPO Bound LIC Has Roped In How Many Independent Directors On Its Board To Meet Regulatory Norms Of Corporate Governance ?

- A. 5
- B. 6**
- C. 7
- D. 8

Ahead of initial public offering (IPO), Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has last month appointed six independent directors on its board to meet regulatory norms of corporate governance.

LIC appointed former financial services secretary Anjuly Chib Duggal, ex-Sebi member G Mahalingam, former SBI Life managing director Sanjeev Nautiyal, sources said. Besides, chartered accountant MP Vijay Kumar, Raj Kamal, and V S Parthasarathy are roped in as independent directors on LIC's board.

With the appointment, the total number of independent directors goes up to 9 and all vacancies are filled. LIC's listing is crucial for the government to meet the lowered revenue estimates of Rs 78,000 crore for the current financial year. Till now, the Centre has raised around Rs 12,000 crore from privatisation of Air India and stake sale in other PSUs. The government last week extended the tenure of LIC chairman M R Kumar for one year.

ment, and more eagerness of the and treasury bills.

IPO-bound LIC ropes in six independent directors on its board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, February 6

AHEAD OF INITIAL public offering (IPO), Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has last month appointed six independent directors on its board to meet regulatory norms of corporate governance.

LIC appointed former financial services secretary Anjuly Chib Duggal, ex-Sebi member G Mahalingam, former SBI Life managing director Sanjeev Nautiyal, sources said.

Besides, chartered accountant MP Vijay Kumar, Raj Kamal, and V S Parthasarathy are roped in as independent directors on LIC's board.

With the appointment, the total number of independent directors goes up to 9 and all vacancies are filled.

Fulfilling corporate governance norms is an important element for filing Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The central government is expected to file draft papers for the mega initial public offering of LIC with market regulator Sebi by this week, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey had said.

The embedded value of LIC has been arrived at and it is over ₹5 lakh crore. The size of the issue would be mentioned in the DRHP.



The issue, after approval of Sebi, is likely to hit the market in March, Pandey said.

Up to 10% of the LIC IPO issue size would be reserved for policyholders.

LIC's listing is crucial for the government to meet the lowered revenue estimates of ₹78,000 crore for the current financial year.

Till now, the Centre has raised around ₹12,000 crore from privatisation of Air India and stake sale in other PSUs.

To facilitate smooth listing of the insurance behemoth, the government last week extended the tenure of LIC chairman M R Kumar for one year.

Besides, the government has also extended the tenure of one of the managing directors, Raj Kumar, for 12 months.

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.

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71. Recently In February The Central Government Has Formed A Member Committie To Preapre A Roadmap For Allowing Indian Institutes To Start Foriegn Capuses Under Whose Chairmanship ?

- A. 15 , Vijay Paul Sharma
- B. 16 , RK Radhakrishnan**
- C. 18 , MS Sahoo
- D. 20 , Pravin Rao

The centre has formed a 16-member committee comprising directors of seven IITs and vice-chancellors of four central universities to prepare a roadmap on the demand "from various quarters" to allow overseas campuses" of Indian universities. The development comes on the back of IIT Delhi's proposal to open centres in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The committee, headed by IIT Council Standing Committee Chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan, "submit a framework/structure for the opening of campuses abroad by Higher Education Institutes after examining the existing provisions for the opening of offshore campuses" by March 17.

Panel to lay roadmap for Indian institutes to start foreign campuses

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

THE CENTRE has formed a 16-member committee comprising directors of seven IITs and vice-chancellors of four central universities to prepare a roadmap for allowing Indian higher education institutes to set up overseas campuses.

The development comes on the back of IIT Delhi's proposal to open centres in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The committee, headed by IIT Council Standing Committee Chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan, has been asked to "submit a framework/structure for opening of campuses abroad by Higher Education Institutes after examining the existing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E.

IIT-D's second attempt

THE CENTRE'S move to set up a committee to prepare a roadmap for Indian universities to set up foreign campuses comes on the back of IIT Delhi's proposal to open campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Earlier, IIT-D's attempt to set up a research academy in Mauritius had been objected to by then HRD Minister Smriti Irani.

72. Recently In February Life Insurance of Corporation of India (LIC) has nominated its retired Managing Director, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, on the Board of Which Of The Following Bank ?

- A. RBL Bank
- B. IDBI Bank**
- C. DBS Bnak
- D. CSB Bank

Life Insurance of Corporation of India (LIC) has nominated its retired Managing Director, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, on the Board of IDBI Bank.

Rajesh Kandwal has ceased to be LIC Nominee Director with effect from February 2, 2022.

LIC had acquired a majority stake in IDBI Bank in January 2019. As of December-end 2021, LIC had a 49.24 % stake in IDBI Bank. Government had 45.48 % stake in IDBI Bank as of December-end 2021. LIC is in control of the management of IDBI Bank.

IDBI Bank was set up in 1964. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Its CEO is Rakesh Sharma.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

73. Recently In February Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Whom Among The Following as The **next Chairman and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) ?**

- A. **Binesh Kumar Tyagi**
- B. Madan Mohan Tripathi
- C. K Radhakrishnana
- D. Vijay Dagga

Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Binesh Kumar Tyagi as next Chairman and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI).

Tyagi is currently the director looking after the liner and passenger services division at SCI. Current CMD will step down on May 31 on superannuation.

In January, PESB selected CI Acharya for the position of Director (Finance) at SCI

.Shipping Corporation of India is an Indian public sector undertaking. It is headquartered in Mumbai

74. Recently In February Who Among The Following has been given the **charge of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance ?**

- A. Alka Upadhya
- B. Alka Mittal
- C. **Sonali Singh**
- D. Reshman Verma

Sonali Singh has been given the charge of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Sonali Singh is Additional Controller General of Accounts. Sonali Singh has been given charge of CGA after the superannuation of Dipak Dash.

Sonali Singh has been given charge of CGA with effect from 01.02.2022. Controller General of Accounts (CGA):

CGA is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

75. Recently In February JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as the next chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) When Was University Grants Commission (UGC) Esablshed ?

- A. 1950
- B. 1956**
- C. 1964
- D. 1971

Govt appoints JNU V-C as UGC chairman

HT Correspondent
 htreporters@hindustantimes.com
NEW DELHI: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice-chancellor (V-C) M Jagadesh Kumar was on Friday appointed as the chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In a notification, the Union ministry of education said that Kumar has been appointed for five years from the date of assuming charge or until he turns 65 or till further orders, whichever is the earliest.

Kumar's appointment comes at a time when several changes are being made in the higher education sector with the imple-



M Jagadesh Kumar

mentation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The changes are being monitored by the UGC. The post of the UGC chairperson fell vacant on December 7 last year, when DP Singh resigned from the post upon turning 65.

"The central government

appoints professor Mamidal Jagadesh Kumar, vice-chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, to the post of chairman, University Grants Commission in level 17 of the pay matrix, for a period of five years from the date of his assumption of charge of the post or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest," the notification stated.

Hailing from Mamidala village in Telangana's Nalgonda district, 60-year-old Kumar holds a masters degree and a PhD from IIT-Madras. He also completed his post-doctoral research at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engi-

neering, University of Waterloo, at Ontario, Canada.

He was a professor at IIT-Delhi before being appointed as the JNU V-C in January 2016. He continued teaching at IIT-Delhi while serving as the JNU VC.

"As UGC chairman this is a great opportunity for me to work for the young minds of our country. My immediate focus is going to be on speedy implementation of NEP and making higher education more inclusive and accessible," Kumar said in a statement. "I look forward to working with students, teachers and heads of higher educational institutions across the country," he added.

JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as the next chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The post of UGC chairman was vacant after Prof D P Singh resigned on 7 December 2021. He became vice-chancellor of JNU in January 2016. University Grants Commission (UGC):

It was established in 1956. It is a statutory body set up under the UGC Act 1956.

76. Recently In FebruaRY Bata India Has Roped In Whom As Its Brand Ambassador ?

- A. Hrithik Roshan
- B. Disha Patani**
- C. KL Rahul
- D. Risabh Pant

Footwear maker Bata India Limited has on-boarded Bollywood actor Disha Patani as the new brand ambassador. Patani will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata umbrella. The move comes as Bata aims to appeal younger shoppers and position itself. The association with Patani will help the brand in further connecting with the youth and millennials and taking Bata's brand appeal to the next level,

Games24x7 has appointed Hrithik Roshan as the brand ambassador for India's largest online skill gaming platform, RummyCircle.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
First Week of February (01st – 07th February 2022)

77. Recently In February InterGlobe Aviation IndiGo HAs Appointed Whom As Its Managing Director with immediate effect ?

- A. Sonali Singh
- B. Rahul Bhatia**
- C. Sameer Kochar
- D. Dilep Sanghvai

InterGlobe Aviation on Friday announced the appointment of its Co-founder Rahul Bhatia as the company's Managing Director with immediate effect.

The company is the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo.

Bhatia is the Co-founder and Promoter of InterGlobe Aviation. Bhatia would oversee all aspects of the airline, and actively lead the management team, IndiGo Chairman Meleveetil Damodara

Bhatia to helm IndiGo as MD

RAGINI SAXENA
February 4

RAHUL BHATIA, THE billionaire co-founder of IndiGo, is taking on a newly-created executive position of managing director at the company, after the biggest budget carrier in Asia by market value posted a surprise quarterly profit.

The appointment of Bhatia, which is effective immediately, signals a truce with fellow co-founder Rakesh Gangwal, who had accused Bhatia of corporate governance lapses. The founders were embroiled in a bitter public dispute over a 2015 shareholder agreement that Gangwal said gave Bhatia control over IndiGo despite the similar size of their stakes.

Shareholders of IndiGo, operated by InterGlobe Aviation, in December voted to remove restrictions on transfer of shares that will allow Gangwal to sell his stake.

Bhatia will now focus on



FLYING HIGH

■ Bhatia to oversee all aspects of IndiGo and **actively lead the management team**



■ Bhatia's appointment as MD signals a truce with fellow co-founder **Rakesh Gangwal**

■ The carrier reports a profit of **₹130 crore** in the December quarter

expanding the airline in India and overseas, and build the carrier for the long term, IndiGo said in a statement to stock exchanges on Friday.

Continued on Page 2

78. Recently In February Capital markets regulator **Sebi** has restructured its four member high-power advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences Now Headed By ?

- A. Vijay Dagga
- B. R Radhakrishnan
- C. Jai Narayan Patel
- D. M S Sahoo

MS Sahoo, Justice Jai Narayan Patel to decide on consent orders at SEBI

Regulator rejigs high-power advisory committee with four new members

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 3

After it made 'settlement of offenses' through consent orders more attractive, the market regulator SEBI has now restructured its four member high-power committee that decides on approval or rejection of such matters on a case by case basis. Jai Narayan Patel, former chief justice of Calcutta High Court, has replaced Vijay C Daga as the chairman of the committee.

Another key member of the committee will be MS Sahoo, a former SEBI official and the IBBI chairperson. Poornima Advani, ex-chairperson of the National



MS Sahoo, former SEBI official and the IBBI chairperson

Commission for Women, is another member of the committee. PK Malhotra will continue to be a member.

Changes in settlement norms

Recently, SEBI has reduced the benchmark settlement amount for each count of violation to ₹10 lakh from the earlier ₹15 lakh. The reduction is significant considering that the base amount is multiplied by the number of vi-

olations of each section of the SEBI Act to arrive at a final figure depending on the nature of the offences and gains made.

SEBI intends to push for a settlement of violations through consent to cut down on long-drawn court cases. Of late, a noticeably large number of violations are being challenged in the SATI, and many times, the order goes against the regulator.

Under the new norms, the alleged wrongdoers will have to seek a settlement through consent within 60 days of show cause notice being issued. It is another way that will induce the alleged accused to quickly move for settlement, experts said. The time period for submission of revised settlement terms form, after the Internal Committee (IC), has been rationalised to 15 days. This will be from the date of the IC meeting.

Capital markets regulator Sebi has restructured its four member high-power advisory committee on settlement orders and compounding of offences.

The committee will now be chaired by Jai Narayan Patel, former chief justice of Calcutta High Court, according to a latest update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The panel was earlier headed by Vijay C Daga, retired judge of High Court of Bombay. In January, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) amended Settlement Proceedings norm.

Under the new rules, the timeline for filing settlement applications has been cut to just 60 days from the current 180 days, a move aimed at making the system more efficient.

Earlier, settlement application can be filed within 60 days of the date receipt of the show-cause notice. However, an additional 120 days can be availed by the applicants in case they pay additional 25 per cent over the settlement charges.

Now, the regulator has done away the additional time provision of 120 days, according to a notification.

Further, the time period for submission of revised settlement terms form, after the Internal Committee (IC), has been rationalised to 15 days. This will be from the date of the IC meeting. The current rule allows 10 days plus additional 20 days.

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79. Recently In February Who Among The Followign Has Been Appointed As The Head Of India's Oil And Gas Regulator PNGRB (Petroleum And Natural Gas Regulatory Board)

- A. Ravi Mittal
- B. **Tarun Kapoor**
- C. R Radhakrishnan
- D. Pravin Rao

Former oil secretary Tarun Kapoor was on Thursday selected to head India's oil and gas regulator PNGRB

Kapoor, who superannuated as secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021, was selected to be chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Previous Chairman - Sanjeev Nandan Sahai
Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board HQ: New Delhi

Tarun Kapoor to head oil regulator

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, February 3

Former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor was on Thursday selected to head India's oil and gas regulator PNGRB, sources said.

Kapoor, who superannuated as Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021, was selected to be Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) after interviews of over a dozen candidates.

His candidature will now go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for ratification and, once approved, he will take over.

80. What Is The Name Of The NATO Chief Who Has Been Recently Appointed As The Governer Of The Central Bank Of Norway ?

- A. **Jens Stoltenberg**
- B. Maya Adagula
- C. Dewald Brevis
- D. Amy Hunter

NATO chief to head Norway central bank

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OSLO

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg will take over as Norway's central bank Governor at the end of the year, officials said on Friday, a controversial choice that has already raised concerns about the bank's independence.

The appointment comes

amid escalating tensions between the West and Russia. Western nations fear Moscow has plans to invade Ukraine, which aspires to join the NATO alliance.

But Mr. Stoltenberg, a 62-year-old trained economist, insisted on Friday he would stay on as NATO Secretary General until the end of his

term in October.

"Until my mandate at NATO ends on October 1, I will devote all my strength and attention to leading the Alliance", he told a press conference in Norway via video link.

"It's absolutely necessary at a time when Europe and North America must stand

together", he added.

The central bank and finance ministry said he would take over "around December 1".

Norway's central bank determines monetary policy but also manages the country's enormous sovereign wealth fund, the biggest in the world.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg will take over as Norway's central bank Governor at the end of the year

The appointment comes amid escalating tensions between the West and Russia. Western nations fear Moscow has plans to invade Ukraine, which aspires to join the NATO alliance.

But Mr. Stoltenberg, a 62-year-old trained economist, insisted on Friday he would stay on as NATO Secretary General until the end of his term in October. He will start at the Norwegian central bank around the beginning of December, As head of Norway's central bank, known as Norges Bank, Stoltenberg will oversee not only the oil-rich country's monetary policy but also its sovereign wealth fund — the world's largest. **Norway Capital Currency – Oslo And Krone**

D S Sakhani appointed new NCERT director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

D S SAKHANI, a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, was appointed director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for five years on Friday. He succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term over a year ago.

NCERT is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education (MoE) that is tasked with advising the central government on school curriculum and drafting school textbooks. NCERT textbooks are taught in all schools affiliated to CBSE and also adopted by over 20 states.

As the Council's new head, Saklani will oversee the drafting of the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) that will lay down the broad guidelines for changes in the curriculum. The last NCF was prepared in 2005 under the UPA government, and before that, it was revised in 1975, 1988 and 2000.

The framework, for school education, early childhood care and education, teacher education and adult education, will be revised based on the recommendations made by a Centre-appointed 12-member National Steering Committee headed by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan.

Saklani is currently a professor in the department of ancient India history, culture and archaeology and has authored three books, including one on the ancient communities of the central Himalaya region and one titled *Ramayana Tradition in Historical Perspective*.

81. Recently In February Who Has Been Appointed as the *director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for five years As He succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term over a year ago ?*

- A. Sonali Singh
- B. Vijay Dagga
- C. **Dinesh Prasad Sakhani**
- D. Tarun Kapoor

Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani from HNB Garhwal University has been appointed as the new director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). He has replaced Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term a year ago.

Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani currently teaches in the department of history, ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology at the HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. Earlier, professor Dinesh was also appointed as an expert in the core group of experts by NCERT where he contributed to preparing the curriculum according to the New Education Policy for Social Sciences in September 2020.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India which was established in 1961 as a literary, scientific and charitable Society under the Societies' Registration Act. Its headquarters are located in New Delhi.

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Days And Obituary

82. Recently In January On 1st February **Indian Coast Guard** Celebrated Its Which Edition Foundation Day ?

- A. 45th
- B. 46th**
- C. 71st
- D. 73rd



Indian Coast Guard's 46th Raising Day is being celebrated on 01 February 2022.

Indian Coast Guard had just seven surface platforms in 1978. Now, it has 158 ships and 70 aircrafts. It is likely to have 200 surface platforms and 80 aircrafts by 2025. It is the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world. **Indian Coast Guard: It works under the Ministry of Defense. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It was formally established on 1 February 1977. Indian Coast Guard Chief - Virender Singh Pathania, is the current Director General of the Indian Coast Guard**

83. **International Day of Human Fraternity** is celebrated every year on Which Of The Following Day all over the world ?

- A. 3RD February
- B. 2nd February
- C. 4th February**
- D. 5th February

International Day of Human Fraternity is celebrated every year on 04 February all over the world.

The resolution to declare 04 February as International Day of Human Fraternity was adopted by UN General Assembly in December 2020.

1st International Day of Human Fraternity was celebrated on 04 February 2021. The choice of 04 February as International Day of Human Fraternity is a reminder of the meeting between Pope Francis and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad al-Tayeb on 4 February 2019. The meeting resulted in the signing of the "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace & living Together".

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84. World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and the need to preserve them. The day commemorates the date when the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 1970
- B. 1971**
- C. 1972
- D. 1974

World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and the need to preserve them. The day commemorates the date when the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in 1971. The World Wetlands Day 2022 is significant as this is the first time that the day will be observed as a United Nations International Day.

World Wetlands Day 2022 theme is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature". The World Wetlands Day 2022 focus is on taking action for wetlands. World Wetlands Day 2022 Slogans Wetlands not a Wasteland , Stop draining the life from wetlands, use wisely , Rewet, reforest, restore Wetlands

Wetlands are land flooded by water, either permanently or seasonally. Wetlands are considered to be among the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems,

World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. The day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the Caspian Sea shore on February 2, 1971

85. World Cancer Day is marked on Which Of The Following Day every year to raise awareness about cancer and encourage its early detection and prevention ?

- A. 1ST February
- B. 2ND February
- C. 3rd February
- D. 4th February**

World Cancer Day is marked on February 4th every year to raise awareness about cancer and encourage its early detection and prevention. According to World Health Organisation, cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for nearly one in six deaths.

The World Cancer Day 2022 theme is "Close the Care Gap". The theme aims to increase awareness about the inequities in cancer care. The theme has been launched as a three-year campaign. The first year of the 'Close the Care Gap' campaign will focus on understanding and recognising the inequities in cancer care around the globe.

World Cancer Day was founded on February 4, 2000 at the first World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millenium, which was held in Paris.

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86. Recently In February India's nightingale, **Lata Mangeshkar** passed away due to multi-organ failure The three-time National Award winner has been honoured Bharat Ratna in Which Of The Following Year While She **Was Nominated To Raj Sabha Member In Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 1961 , 2003
- B. 1969 , 1999
- C. 2001 , 1999**
- D. 1995 , 1994

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away due to multi-organ failure Lata Mangeshkar had celebrated her 92nd birthday on September 2021.

Popularly known as the Nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar is one of the most respected singers in India. She has recorded songs for over 1000 Hindi films and also sung in over 36 Indian languages and foreign languages.

The three-time National Award winner has been honoured with multiple prestigious awards and recognitions. She is the only second vocalist after M. S. Subbulakshmi to receive India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2001.

Some of the awards are listed below - Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honour) - 2001

Officer of Legion of Honour (France's highest civilian award) - 2009

Padma Vibhushan - 1999 Dada Saheb Phalke Award - 1989

Padma Bhushan - 1969

National Film Awards Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award - 1993 Supported by the BJP, she was elected on November 22, 1999, and was part of the House till November 21, 2005.

The Guinness Book of Records had ranked her as the most recorded artist in the history in 1974.

She recorded her first song 'Naachu Yaa Gade, Khelu Saari Mani Haus Bhaari' at the young age of 13 years, She became the first Indian to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, London in 1974.

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87. Every year the world commemorates Safer Internet Day Is Celebrated On Which Of The Following Day ?

- A. 6th February
- B. 7th February
- C. 8th February**
- D. 9th February

Every year on February 8, the world commemorates Safer Internet Day.

This year was celebrated as the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day with the theme "Together for a Better Internet." The day is organised by the Insafe/INHOPE network of European Safer Internet Centres (SICs) in collaboration with the European Commission.

Safer Internet Day was started in 2004 as an initiative of the EU SafeBorders project

88. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed annually on Which Of The Following Day Every Year ?

- A. 6th February**
- B. 7th February
- C. 8th February
- D. 9th February

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Awards / Books / Sports

89. India's Olympic Champion Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award 2022. Who Is The only Indian sportsperson to have won the Laureus World Sports Award ?

- A. Rahul Dravid
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- D. Sachin Tendulkar**

Olympics hero Neeraj Chopra nominated for Laureus 'World Breakthrough of Year' award



HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's Tokyo Olympics hero Neeraj Chopra has received a nomination for the prestigious Laureus Sports Awards in 'Breakthrough of the Year' category. Chopra, the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in athletics in Tokyo, will be pitted against some of the world's best young athletes, including tennis stars Daniil Medvedev and Emma Raducanu.

"I'm delighted to be nominated for this Laureus Award. It's a great honour for me to be recognised in the wider sporting world for what I achieved in Tokyo," Chopra said in a statement.

"From being a kid in a small village in rural India who only took up sport to get fit, to standing on top of an Olympic podium, it's been quite an eventful journey so far. I feel privileged to be able to represent my country and win India medals at the global stage, and now to have this recognition from Laureus and be considered alongside such exceptional athletes is a really special feeling," said Chopra, who became only the second Indian after shooter Abhinav Bindra to win an individual Olympic gold medal.

India's Olympic Champion Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award 2022. He is one of the six nominees for the award. The other nominees include Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev, British tennis player Emma Raducanu, Spanish footballer Pedri, Australian Olympic champion Ariarne Titmus and Venezuelan athlete Yulimar Rojas.

Neeraj Chopra is the third Indian athlete to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who had won the Laureus Sporting Moment 2000-2020 Award.

The 23-year-old Neeraj Chopra is one of the only two Indians to have won individual Olympic gold. The first-ever Indian to win individual gold at the Olympics was Abhinav Bindra in air rifle in 2008. Chopra won the gold in his Olympic debut at Tokyo.

The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony that honours individuals and teams from the world of sports. The awards were established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founders Daimler and Richemont. The first-ever Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony was conducted on May 25, 2000 in Monte Carlo. The Laureus World Sports Awards comprise the following six categories

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer with six wins has won the maximum Laureus World Sports Awards including 5 for Sportsman of the Year and one for Comeback of the Year. Lionel Messi became the first footballer and first athlete from a team sport to win the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in the 2020 ceremony.

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90. Recently In January Daryl Mitchell Of Which Country has been named the winner of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021 for his gesture during the semifinal in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi ?

- A. Australia
- B. New Zealand
- C. England
- D. South Africa

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell has been named the winner of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021 for his gesture during the New Zealand vs England semifinal in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi.

Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand cricketer to win the award after Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and skipper Kane Williamson. Mitchell won the award for refusing to take a single in the T20 World Cup semi-final against England on November 10, 2021.

Virat Kohli (2019) And Ms Dhoni (2011) Earlier Has Also Won ICC Spirit of Cricket Award

ICC HQ – Dubai , Chairman – Greg Barclay

Daryl Mitchell wins ICC's 'Spirit of Cricket' award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell is the recipient of the ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for 2021 for his sportsmanlike gesture in the T20 World Cup semifinal against England in Abu Dhabi last November.

The incident occurred on the first ball of the 18th over bowled by Adil Rashid, with the score at 133/4 and James Neesham on strike.

Neesham smashed the

ball down the ground and it would have been an easy single.

But Mitchell, at the non-striker's end, refused to take the run, conceding that he had impeded Rashid in a high-pressure chase, with a place in the World Cup final at stake.

Mitchell is the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following in the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.

91. Recently In January PR Sreejesh become the second Indian to win the World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 award Who Was The First Indian To Win World Games Athlete of the Year Award ?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Vishwanathan Anand
- C. Rani Rampal
- D. Virat Kohli

Sreejesh gets international award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Veteran hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh on Monday won the World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.

In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal

became the first Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.

Sreejesh beat competition from sport climber Alberto Gines Lopez of Spain and Italy's wushu player Michele Giordano for the award.

"I'm very honoured to win this award. First of all, a big thank you to FIH for

nominating me for this award, and secondly thanks to all the Indian hockey lovers around the world, who voted for me," Sreejesh said in a statement.

Sreejesh received 1,27,647 votes, while Lopez and Giordano accumulated 67,428 and 52,046 votes respectively.

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Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper, PR Sreejesh was named World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 on January 31, 2022. He became the first Indian male athlete and second Indian sportsperson overall to win the honour.

Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal was the first Indian to win the World Games Athlete of the Year honour in 2020 .

Sreejesh was also named the FIH goalkeeper of the year 2021 in the FIH Stars Awards in October 2021

92. Recently In February *Suranga Lakmal* Has Announced That He will retire from international cricket after the tour of India which begins later this month He Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. NewZeland
- B. England
- C. Sri Lanka**
- D. Bangladesh



'Retired' Lakmal signs deal with Derbyshire

COLOMBO

Veteran fast bowler and former captain Suranga Lakmal, who announced on Wednesday he would retire from international cricket after Sri Lanka's tour of India, has signed a two-year deal with English county Derbyshire. Lakmal will be reuniting with his former national coach Mickey Arthur at Derbyshire. The 34-year-old Lakmal has 168 wickets from 68 Tests, 109 from 86 ODIs and eight from 11 T20Is.

Sri Lanka pacer Suranga Lakmal will retire from all formats of cricket after the tour of India which begins later this month.

The 34-year-old Lakmal, a former Test captain, has played 68 Tests, 86 ODIs and 11 T20s.

"Former Sri Lanka Test Captain Suranga Lakmal has informed Sri Lanka Cricket that he will retire from all forms of International Cricket following the completion of the upcoming Sri Lanka Tour of India 2022,"

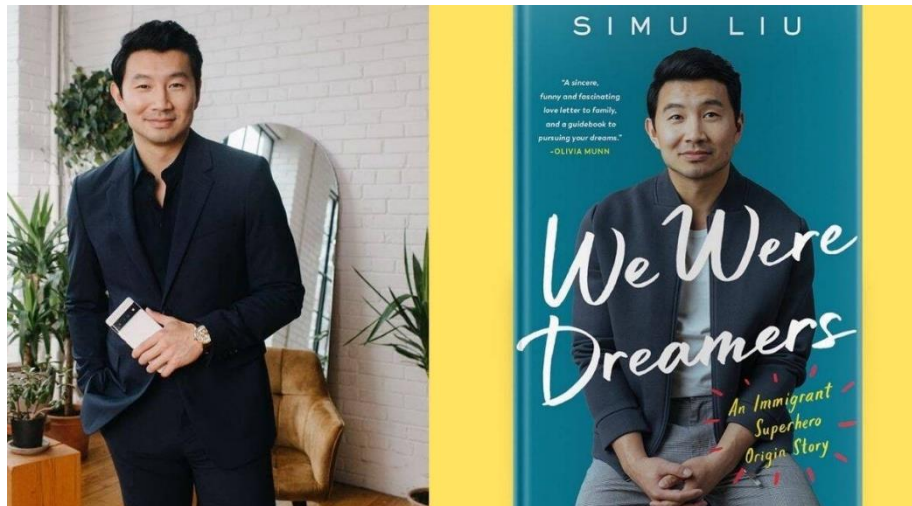
After announcing retirement from international cricket, former Sri Lanka Test captain Suranga Lakmal has signed a two-year deal with Derbyshire. At Derbyshire, Lakmal will be reuniting with his former national coach Mickey Arthur, who had joined the club last year

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93. What Is Name Of The Famous Marvel Studios' Shang-Chi Star Who Recently Announced His Family Memoir Book Titled "We Were Dreamers", That Is To Be Out In May ?

- A. Will Smith
- B. Robert Downey Junior
- C. Simu Liu**
- D. Chris Evans

Chinese-Canadian actor Simu Liu, best known for headlining Marvel Studios' martial arts superhero film "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings", announced his book "We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story".



94. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following Worldwide Book Publisher Has Announced To Shut Down Its Business From March 31 , 2022 ?

- A. Rupa Publications
- B. Westland PublicatiOns**
- C. Penguin House Publication
- D. Harper Collins Publication

Westland, one of the largest publishing houses in India, is being shut down by e-commerce giant Amazon, The publishing company, which was acquired by Amazon from Trent Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Group, in 2016, has published works of several bestselling authors including Amish Tripathi, Chetan Bhagat, Ashwin Sanghi, Rashmi Bansal, Rujuta Diwekar, Preeti Shenoy, Devdutt Pattanaik, Anuja Chauhan and Ravi Subramanian.

Founded in 1962, Westland is one of India's largest English-language trade publishers, bringing out print books and e-books in genres ranging from popular and literary fiction to business, politics,

Amazon-owned Westland Books to shut down

Leaves publishing, literary world in a state of shock

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, February 1

Westland Books, a publishing firm that Amazon acquired in 2017 from the Tatas, is to be wound down. An Amazon spokesperson confirmed the news saying: "After a thorough review, we have made the difficult decision to no longer operate Westland. We are working closely with the employees, authors, agents, and distribution partners on this transition and we remain committed to innovating for customers in India."

Westland will no longer operate its publishing business after March 31, 2022.

Westland had recently



well, including Nalin Mehta's *The New BJP*.

Among the other titles it recently published were *Elusive Non-violence* by Jyotirmaya Sharma, *The SBI Story* by Vikrant Panda and *Modi's India* by Christopher Jaffrelot.

Evolution of Westland

Westland has also published blockbuster authors such as Amish Tripathi, Rashmi Bansal, among others, and frontlined by Chetan Bhagat, who was courted away from Rupa in

Among the other titles it recently published were *Elusive Non-violence* by Jyotirmaya Sharma, *The SBI Story* by Vikrant Panda and *Modi's India* by Christopher Jaffrelot

crore) deal. Westland CEO, Gautam Padmanabhan, was unavailable for comment. Westland started life as East West Books, founded in 1962 by Padmanabhan's family. The company was merged (or co-affiliated) into Westland (a start-up in the 1990s by East-West and Landmark meant to focus on distribution).

However, with Landmark's sale to the Tata's Trent in 2008, Westland, which included all of East-West's publishing, was also included in the deal. The

pany, which was then acquired by Amazon.

The Tatas retained the landmark chain which exists with a much-reduced footprint today.

'Surprise move'

The publishing industry, too, has been caught by surprise by Amazon's move. An industry professional, who did not want to be named, said: "Everyone was aware that the losses were there, and no other entity would carry these sort of loss levels in publishing, but all assumed that Amazon's deep pockets would keep them going as part of some long term strategy."

Industry speculation expects that the big brand authors could well move to other publishers, but are surprised as to why a pre-announcement sale of lists to a

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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95. Recently In February Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has become **India's First Unicorn Sports Enterprise Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** is owned majorly by Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd and Which Of The Following ?

- A. JSW Cements
- B. Ambuja Cements
- C. India Cements**
- D. Bhangur Cements

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has become India's First Unicorn Sports Enterprise.

It has touched a market cap of Rs 7,600 crores and its share price in the grey market is around Rs 210-225.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni won its fourth IPL title in Dubai in 2021.

The shares of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited (CSKCL) touched their all-time high in the unlisted market on 26 October.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) is owned majorly by Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd and India Cements.

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96. Recently In February Rohan Bopanna With Which Of The Following HAS Won The ATP Tournament Tata Open Maharashtra In Men's Double Category ?

- A. Yuki Bhanwari
- B. Sumit Nagal
- C. **Ramkumar Ramanathan**
- D. Somdev Devbaraman

Bopanna-Ramkumar duo reigns; Sousa wins title

TATA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won their second ATP World Tour title together after pipping the top-seeded Australian pair of Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra here on Sunday.

The Indians erased a first-set deficit to win 6-7(10), 6-3, [10-6] in one hour and 44 minutes.

For Bopanna, it was his 21st ATP doubles title while it was the second trophy for Ramkumar at this level and will push him into the doubles top-100 for the first time in his career. They split \$16,370 as prize money and earned 250 ranking points each. After winning a ma-

rathon tie-breaker in the first set, the Indians lost the second before recovering to clinch the match tiebreak 10-6.

In singles, Portugal's Joao Sousa prevailed over Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland 7-6 (9), 4-6, 6-1 in a final that lasted two hours and 43 minutes. It was the 137th-ranked Sousa's first singles title since May 2018, and fourth overall.

The Portuguese's perseverance was the key in countering the solid strokes and fighting spirit of the 22-year-old Finn.

The results (finals): Singles: Joao Sousa (Por) bt Emil Ruusuvuori (Fin) 7-6(9), 4-6, 6-1.

Doubles: Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan (Ind) bt Luke Saville & John-Patrick Smith (Aus) 6-7(10), 6-3, [10-6].



Perfect finish: Bopanna and Ramkumar kept their nerve to pull through after losing the second set. **•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won their second ATP World Tour title together after pipping the top seeded Australian pair of Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra

Bopanna and Ramkumar had combined as a team on the ATP Tour for the first time at the Adelaide event last month in the run-up to the Australian Open and won the trophy.

For Bopanna, it was his 21st ATP doubles title while for Ramkumar it is his second trophy at this level and it will push him inside doubles top-100 for the first time in his career.

Portugal's Joao Sousa annexed the men's singles crown.

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97. Recently In February International Olympic Committee has confirmed that the sports of skateboarding, surfing, and sports climbing would be included in the 2028 Summer Olympics Which Is To Be Held In Which Of The Following Place ?

- A. Brisbane
- B. New York
- C. Los Angeles**
- D. Jakarta

International Olympic Committee has confirmed that the sports of skateboarding, surfing, and sports climbing would be included in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Weightlifting, modern pentathlon, and boxing are yet to be included. They can be added next year if the targets set by the IOC Board are met.

At the request of the Paris organizers, breakdancing will be part of the 2024 Olympics. International Olympic Committee: Its headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland. It was established in the year 1894.

98. Recently In February India Beat England By four wickets to win the ICC Under 19 World Cup 2022 final For The Record Time India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match Player Of The Series Was Won By Dewald Brevis Of Which Of The Following Country ?

- A. 5th, New Zealand
- B. 4th, England
- C. 5th, South Africa**
- D. 8th Australia

India beat England by four wickets to win the ICC Under 19 World Cup 2022 final. India have won the Under 19 World Cup for record fifth time, becoming the first-ever team to do so. With this, Dhull joins the illustrious list of captains -- Mohammad Kaif (2000), Virat Kohli (2008), Unmukt Chand (2012), Prithvi Shaw (2018) -- who have lifted the U-19 trophy for India in the past.

India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under 19 World Cup 2022 Final between India and England.

South Africa's Dewald Brevis who broke all records to score 506 runs in only six innings, the most for any batter in any Under 19 World Cup ever, was named Player of the Series for his record breaking showing.

Surfing and skateboarding in sports list at LA Olympics



BLOOMBERG
3 February

The 2028 summer Olympic games in Los Angeles will pay homage to Southern California's extreme sports culture with the addition of skateboarding, surfboarding and rock climbing to its list of eligible sports.

The International Olympic Committee approved a proposal on Thursday to include the three sports in the Los Angeles games — scheduled for July 21 to August 6, 2028.

Skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing made their Olympic debut at the Tokyo summer games and are expected to feature in the Paris 2024 Olympic games as well.

"The LA28 Games have always been about bringing more freshness, youthful energy and creativity into the Olympic and Paralympic movement," Casey Wasserman, chairman of the L.A. organising committee, said in a statement. "Los Angeles is a place unlike any other and it will be incredible to host surfing, skateboarding and climbing as iconic West Coast sports alongside Olympic fan favourites."

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Dominant India beats England, makes it high-five at the pinnacle

Puts aside all off-field troubles to remain undaunted throughout an extraordinary campaign: Bawa's allround show fetches him Player-of-the-Final award



On top of the world: Dhull's boys remained unbeaten in the 14th edition of the tournament. •TWITTER/USCWC

U-19 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

An absolutely dominant India won a record-extending fifth Under-19 World Cup title here on Saturday, beating England by four wickets in the final of an extraordinary campaign that was almost

dle-order and left-arm seamer Ravi Kumar (4/34) added to the opposition's woes. In the chase, India lost Angkrish Raghuvanshi without a run on the board, but vice-captain Shaik Rasheed shone with a composed 50 off 84 balls.

Coming off his magnificent century in the semifinal against Australia, India skipper Yash Dhull fell for 17. But the duo of Nishant Sindhu (50 not out) and Bawa (35) took the team within striking distance of victory with a 67-run partnership for

the fifth wicket. It was an extremely challenging ride for the Indian team in this edition of the tournament as several players were infected by coronavirus and at one stage even struggled to field eleven fit personnel.

SCOREBOARD

Self-belief was our strength, says Dhull

Never lost confidence despite the struggles, reveals the skipper

S. DIPAK RAGAV

India under-19 skipper Yash Dhull said the self-belief of the players helped the team stay unbeaten through the tournament and clinch the title.

"Despite the struggles, we stayed strong and the boys remained confident. We achieved what we did because we were strong and believed in ourselves," Dhull said.

The match was set up by medium-pacers Raj Bawa (5/31) and Ravi Kumar (4/34) before the former made a useful 35 runs.

"Raj Bawa has an important role as an all-rounder. He takes the batter by surprise with his bouncers. He is very strong mentally and knows what to do in crunch situations," said the skipper.

"The medium-pacers have been doing well since the Asia Cup, giving us good starts with the ball, and that has made it easier for the spinners when they bowl to



Ruling the world

99.Consider The Following Statement Regarding Winter Olympic :

1. **Skier Arif Khan led a small four-strong Indian contingent during the Winter Olympics opening ceremony**
2. **China fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army,, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.**
3. **Norwegian cross-country skier Therese Johaug won the first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics**
4. **The Moascot Of Beijing Winter Olympic Game Is Bing Dwen Dwen**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

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Skier Arif Khan led a small four-strong Indian contingent during the Winter Olympics opening ceremony here on Friday amid a diplomatic boycott of the event by the country.

The 31-year-old Arif will be the lone Indian competitor at the Games, having qualified in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. India was the 23rd contingent to walk in during the grand ceremony at the iconic Bird's Nest stadium. India announced a diplomatic boycott of the Games after China fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was injured during the 2020 military face-off with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.

Norwegian cross-country skier Therese Johaug won the first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics. Johaug was a comfortable winner of the women's 7.5-plus-7.5-kilometre skiathlon in what is expected to be the first of many cross-country skiing medals for Norway at these Games.

The organizers of the Winter Olympics in Beijing turned to an old friend when picking a mascot: the panda.

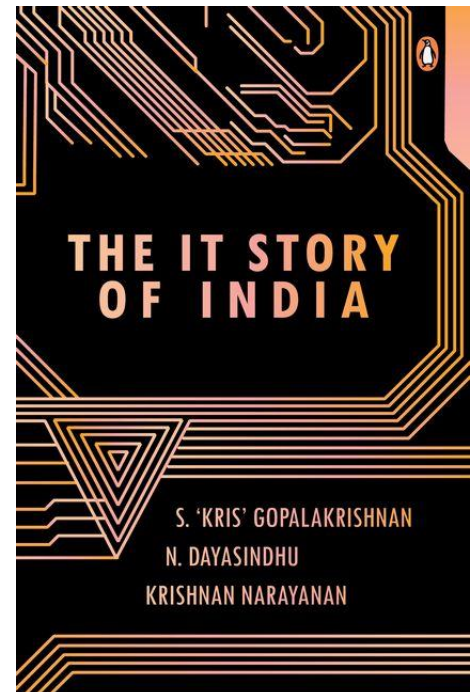
This time around, organizers selected Bing Dwen Dwen, designed by Cao Xue. In 2008, when Beijing hosted the Summer Games, the organizers chose a panda as one of the five official Fuwa, or good-luck dolls, that served as mascots.

101. Who Is The Author Of The Book Titled “ The IT Story Of India” ?

- A. 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan
- B. Akash kansal
- C. Nalin Mehta
- D. Navdeep Singh Gill

The story of Indian IT is the story of trials and triumphs, persistence and resilience, and luck, foresight and planning. This book chronicles the history of Indian IT over the past six decades. S. 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan is a globally recognized business thought-leader and philanthropist. He co-founded Infosys and is one of the captains of the IT services industry worldwide. He is a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour.

He Is Currently Chairman Of RBI Hub



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102. Recently In February The **First Kerala Olympic Games Has Been Rescheduled To May 2022**

What Is Mascot Name For The Game ?

- A. Dwen
- B. Neeraj**
- C. Puma
- D. Bing

The first-ever Kerala Olympic Games, slated to be held in mid-February, has been rescheduled for May after considering the pandemic situation. The Kerala Olympic Association (KOA) said the Games would be organised from May 1 to 10.

In December last, Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty unveiled the mascot of the Games Neeraj (rabbit) in honour of Neeraj Chopra, the first Indian athlete, to win an Olympic gold medal.

Athletics, aquatics, archery, basketball, boxing, badminton, cycling, football, wrestling, hockey, judo, karate, kambadi (Kabadi), KHO- KHO, netball, rugby, rifles (shooting), wushu, tennis, table- tennis, taekwondo, volleyball and weightlifting would be part of the Games

103. Recently In February Who Has **Authored India's first-ever season style book, 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life' ?**

- A. Sonali Singh
- B. Akash Kansal**
- C. Rohan Rudra
- D. Swapnil Pandey

Akash Kansal has written India's first-ever season style book, 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life'. It has been unveiled by famous Indian film actor R. Madhavan.

This book consists of 18 different episodes and is a new-age fiction book. The book covers the different real-time life experiences and stages of college life.

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104. Recently In February India has become the *first team to play 1000 One-Day Internationals Under The Captainship Of Rohit Sharma . Who Was The First ODI Captain Of Indian Cricket Team ?*

- A. Kapil Dev
- B. Sunil Gavaskar
- C. Ajit Wadekar**
- D. Ravi Shastri

India has become the first team to play 1000 One-Day Internationals.

India played its 1000th ODI against West Indies at the Narendra Modi stadium.

Out of 1000 ODIs, India has won 519 matches while suffering 431 defeats and 41 matches had no result.

Australia has played the second-most ODIs (958) while Pakistan has played 936 ODIs. India played its first ODI match against England on 13 July 1974 at Headingley, Leeds

.Kapil Dev was the captain in India’s 100th ODI while Saurav Ganguly had led the team in 500th ODI

India's 1000

India will become the first country to play 1000 ODIs when it takes on the West Indies in the opening game of the three-match series in Ahmedabad on Sunday

THE BREAK-UP

	M	W	L	T	NR
Overall	999	518	431	9	41
vs Sri Lanka	162	93	57	1	11
vs Australia	143	53	80	0	10
vs West Indies	133	64	63	2	4
vs Pakistan	132	55	73	0	4
vs New Zealand	110	55	49	1	5
vs England	103	55	43	2	3
vs South Africa	87	35	49	0	3
vs Zimbabwe	63	51	10	2	0
vs Bangladesh	36	30	5	0	1
vs Kenya	13	11	2	0	0
vs Ireland	3	3	0	0	0
vs UAE	3	3	0	0	0
vs Afghanistan	3	2	0	1	0
vs Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	0
vs Netherlands	2	2	0	0	0
vs Bermuda	1	1	0	0	0


MOST ODIS BY COUNTRY (TOP-10)

	M	W	L	T	NR	Win %
India	999	518	431	9	41	54.54
Australia	958	581	334	9	34	63.36
Pakistan	936	490	417	9	20	53.98
Sri Lanka	870	395	432	5	38	47.77
West Indies	834	406	388	10	30	51.11
New Zealand	775	354	374	7	40	48.63
England	761	384	339	9	29	53.07
South Africa	638	391	221	6	20	63.75
Zimbabwe	541	140	381	8	12	27.22
Bangladesh	388	136	245	0	7	35.69

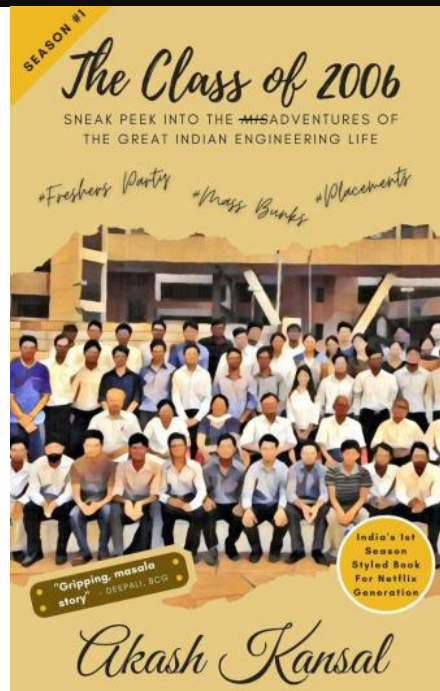
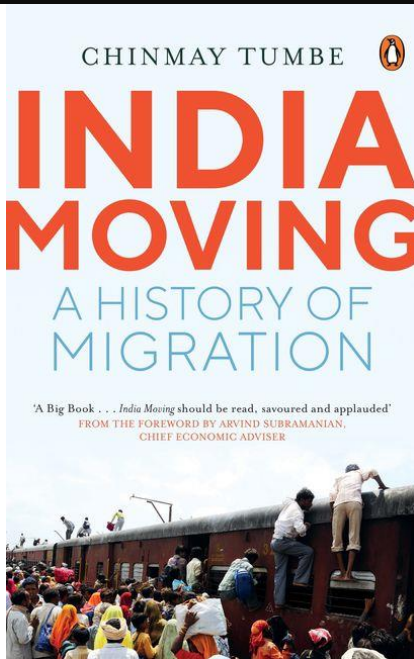
- India has played against 19 opponents in ODIs

- It has played against Sri Lanka the most (162)

- India has been involved in nine Ties in 999 games



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J&K okays new sports policy

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 4

To promote sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir, the Administrative Council, which met here under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the J&K Sports Policy 2022.

The new policy is aimed at promoting sports in the union territory by developing sports infrastructure and incentivising sportspersons to excel in their respective sports.

The policy, as per an official statement, strives to achieve excellence by involving all stakeholders and establishing inter-departmental synergies for composite development of sports.

“The basic canons of the sports policy are to ‘Scout’— identify talent and catch



Aims at promoting sports in UT by developing infrastructure and incentivising sportspersons to excel in their respective fields

them young; ‘Engage’— ensure grass-roots inclusive engagement in sports and games; ‘Facilitate’— provide sports infrastructure, facilities, know-how and training; and ‘Recognise’— acknowledge the achievements and contributions through awards and further employment,” the official statement read.

The policy will incorporate various annual awards like award for excellence in sports for 10 sportspersons, J&K Khel Prof-sahana Award for Sports Association and two veterans/ experienced sportspersons/organisers or referees and Parshuram Award for five best coaches in different disciplines.

Special cash awards to the win-

ners in Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Championship (seniors and juniors), World Cup, Youth Olympic Games, South Asian Games and World University Championships in the range of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore.

“Special emphasis has been laid to meet the sporting needs of specially abled sportspersons through sufficient infrastructure and training facilities to ensure their full participation in various events. The department will also organise several para games at district and UT levels,” the statement read.

The sports policy will also provide for the annual recruitment of outstanding sportspersons achieving podium finish/participation in recognised international and national competitions.

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Science / Tech And Environment

105. Recently In February After winning a bid to supply gas to 14 additional cities, Adani Total Gas Announced To Invest How Much Amount in the city gas sector in the next eight years ?

- A. Rs 75000 Cr
- B. Rs 12010 Cr
- C. Rs 20000 Cr
- D. Rs 10000 Cr

Adani Total Gas to invest ₹12,000 crore in CGD

Total investment to be ₹20,000 crore over next 8 years

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 31

The city gas joint venture of Adani Group and TotalEnergies of France, Adani Total Gas (ATGL) said on Monday that it will invest ₹12,000 crore for developing city gas distribution (CGD) network.

This includes the 14 new geographical areas (GAs) for which it bagged licences in

the recently concluded 11th round of CGD bidding by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). This takes the firm's total investment to ₹20,000 crore to be invested over the next eight years.

This makes ATGL the largest city gas distribution company catering to 52 GAs, 19 of which are operated along with its strategic JV partner Indian Oil Corporation. These 52 GAs account for 15 per cent of the country covering 124 districts across 18

states and 3 union territories, the company said in a statement.

With an increasing basket of products and services in the clean energy sector, ATGL is committed to provide convenient and environment-friendly natural gas for cooking and water heating to more than 9 million households, economic transport fuel for vehicles by establishing around 2,000 CNG stations and clean fuel to industrial and commercial consumers, it added

"To achieve these ambitions, ATGL will be investing ₹12,000 crore in these 14 additional GAs, taking ATGL's total commitment in the clean energy sector to ₹20,000 crore," the company announced.

Presence in 95 districts

ATGL will now be catering to 10 per cent of the country's population with cleaner fuel for households as well as for transportation," Adani Total Gas CEO Suresh Manglani said.

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL), the joint venture between Adani Group and TotalEnergies of France, on Monday said it will invest Rs 20,000 crore in setting up city gas infrastructure across the country over the next 8 years, with 60 per cent of the money going into the 14 licences it won recently.

The company is now the largest CGD (City Gas Distribution) player, retailing CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households in 33 GAs.

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) has won licenses to expand its CGD network in 14 new GAs in the recently concluded 11th round of CGD bidding by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

ATGL won three GAs each in Assam and Chhattisgarh, four in Maharashtra including Amravati, one each in Jharkhand and Odisha and two in Madhya Pradesh.

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106. What Is The Name Of **India'S Newest Supercomputer** Which Is The most powerful so far assembled within the country, along with an **indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC**, in line with the Make in India initiative ?

- A. **PARAM Pravega**
- B. **PARAM Shivay**
- C. **PARAM Brhama**
- D. **PARAM Shakti**

The supercomputers in India have got a new sibling, and that is the most powerful supercomputer in India, with a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 10¹⁵ operations per second).

Named as **Param Pravega**, this supercomputer is the largest in any Indian academic institution. This is commissioned in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

The supercomputer has been commissioned in the institution under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to power diverse research and educational pursuits from across the country. The NSM has so far established 10 supercomputer systems across India with a cumulative computing power of 17 petaflops.

PARAM Shivay was the first supercomputer assembled indigenously, was installed in IIT (BHU), followed by **PARAM Shakti**, **PARAM Brahma**, **PARAM Yukti**, **PARAM Sanganak** at IIT-Kharagpur, IISER, Pune, JNCASR, Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur respectively.

Param Pravega is a supercomputer part of the High-Performance Computing class of systems, which is a mix of heterogeneous nodes, with Intel Xeon Cascade Lake processors for the CPU nodes and NVIDIA Tesla V100 cards on the GPU nodes.

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107. Recently In February Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has recently said that **Chandrayaan-3** is scheduled for launch in Which Of The Following Month ?

- A. July 2022
- B. June 2022
- C. August 2022**
- D. December 2022

Chandrayaan-3 set for launch in August

It is a follow-up to Chandrayaan-2 launched in 2019

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India plans to execute the Chandrayaan-3 mission this August, Minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Though the government had stated that the mission was scheduled for 2022, this is the first time that a specific month has been announced.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is a follow-up of Chan-

drayaan-2 of July 2019, which aimed to land a rover on the lunar South Pole.

It was sent aboard the country's most powerful geosynchronous launch vehicle, the GSLV-Mk 3. However, lander Vikram, instead of a controlled landing, ended up crash-landing on September 7, 2019, and prevented rover Pragyaan from successfully travelling on the surface of the moon.

Had the mission been successful, it would have been the first time a country landed its rover on the moon in its maiden attempt.

"Based on the learnings from Chandrayaan-2 and suggestions made by the national level experts, the realisation of Chandrayaan-3 is in progress. Many related hardware and their special tests are successfully completed. The launch is scheduled for August 2022," Mr. Singh said in reply to a query from Ravneet Singh and Subburaman Thirunavukkarasar who wanted to know what delayed the mission.

The Minister attributed them to "pandemic linked" delays and a "reprioritisation" of projects.

The last major satellite launches by the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) were the Earth Observation Satellite-3 in August last and the Amazonia satellite in February.

The ISRO has planned 19 missions until December consisting of eight launch vehicle missions, seven spacecraft missions and four technology demonstrator missions.

The ISRO has been allotted ₹13,700 crore for this financial year, nearly ₹1,000 crore more than it spent last year.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Chandrayaan-3 is scheduled for launch in August 2022.

The Minister informed that 19 missions are planned during January to December 2022.

They include 08 Launch Vehicle Missions, 07 Spacecraft Missions and 04 Technology Demonstrator Missions. **Chandrayaan-2:**

It was launched on 22 July 2019 by a GSLV Mark III M1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh. Its lander (Vikram), rover (Pragyaan) and orbiter were developed in India.

On 7 September 2019, ISRO had lost contact with the Vikram lander carrying the rover.

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108. Recently In February Which Of The Following and Indian Army have signed a contract for manufacturing and supply of **Konkurs-M anti-tank guided missiles** ?

A. Dassault Aviation

B. Bharat Dynamics Limited

C. Skyroot Aerospace

D. Larsen And Turbo

Bharat Dynamics Limited and Indian Army have signed a contract for manufacturing and supply of Konkurs-M anti-tank guided missiles.

The contract is worth Rs 3,131.82 crore. It will be executed in three years.

Bharat Dynamics Limited is manufacturing Konkurs-M under a license agreement with a Russian Original Equipment Manufacturer. As a part of its global outreach, Bharat Dynamics Limited is offering Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, Nag, Milan -2T, Amogha and Konkurs-M for export to friendly foreign countries. Konkurs-M:

It is a 2nd generation, mechanized infantry anti-tank guided missile. It has a range between 75 to 4000 metres.

109. Recently In February Which Of The Following Park has been declared as **India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site** ?

A. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary

B. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary

C. Aravalli Biodiversity Park

D. Betla National Park

On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, the Aravalli Biodiversity Park situated in Gurugram has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.

The OECM status is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity. OECM tag is given to areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas.

National Biodiversity Authority had sent the proposal to declare Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site to the IUCN in 2020.

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110. Recently In February NASA has declared that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease its operations In 2031 The first part of the International Space Station (ISS) was launched in Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 1997
- B. 1999
- C. 1998**
- D. 2000

NASA has declared that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease its operations in 2031.

It will come out of orbit and plunge into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean. The International Space Station (ISS) is orbiting Earth at a speed of about eight kilometres per second for the last two decades. The International Space Station is the brainchild of former US President Ronald Reagan.

The first part of the International Space Station (ISS) was launched in 1998 from a Russian rocket. At the time of establishment, the ISS was built to be operated only for about 15 years but its tenure was extended for another 10 years in 2014

ISS to retire in 2030 & fall into Pacific a year later, confirms Nasa

Surendra.Singh
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The International Space Station (ISS), the world's largest habitable artificial satellite in space being managed by five countries, will continue its service till 2030 and will plunge into an uninhabited area of the Pacific Ocean in January 2031. US space agency Nasa has confirmed in a new transition plan.

Launched in 1998, the ISS weighs 4,20,000kg (equivalent to over 330 automobiles) and measures 74m long and 110m wide, which is equal to the size of a football field. The ISS, which maintains an orbit with an average altitude of 400km by means of reboost manoeuvres, circles the Earth in 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day. For over two decades, the ISS has been serving as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which scientific research is conducted in astrobology, astronomy, meteorology, physics and other fields. The space station has till now hosted over 200 astronauts from 19 countries and aided numerous scientific discoveries.

In a report this week, Nasa said the ISS would crash into a part of the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo. This is the point furthest from land on Earth, also known as space-



Launched in 1998, the ISS weighs 4,20,000kg and has served as a microgravity and space environment research lab

craft cemetery. Many old satellites and spacecraft, including Russian space station Mir, and other space debris had crashed there in 2001.

The ISS will be replaced with commercial stations as Nasa has signed agreements with three private companies to launch commercial space stations for use by both private companies and government astronauts. These new commercial space stations will be launched by Blue Origin, Nanoracks and Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, Nasa said. They are expected to be operational by late 2020s, before the ISS falls into the sea.

"The private sector is capable of developing and operating commercial low-Earth orbit destinations, with Nasa's assistance. We look forward to sharing our lessons learned and operations experience with the private sector," Phil McAlister, director of commercial space at Nasa Headquarters, said in a statement.

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111. Recently In February Which Of The Following Instituiton Has Collabroted With *National Investment Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIF)* tO EsTablish India's First ESG Research Center ?

- A. IISC Bangalore
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. **IIM – Ahmedabad**
- D. IIT Bombay

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) will establish a first of its kind research chair in ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) in collaboration with government run National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIF), a sovereign linked alternative assets manager The initiative will engage with industries to create long-term ESG oriented business strategies and practices, conduct research on globally

NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for international and Indian investors, anchored by the Government of India.

Sujoy Bose, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NIIF

112. The Nagpur division of the Central Railway zone has set up a train-themed 'Restaurant on Wheels' outside Nagpur railway station *The First "Resturant On Wheels" By Central Railway Has Been Setup At Which Of The Following Railway Station ?*

- A. **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus**
- B. Kevadiya Railway Station
- C. Rani Gadinilu Railway Station
- D. Rani Kamlapati Railway Station

The Nagpur division of the Central Railway zone has set up a train-themed 'Restaurant on Wheels' outside Nagpur railway station, The restaurant has been set up under Innovative Ideas of catering policy. It has been established utilizing an unserviceable train coach. Though it is a first of its kind in Nagpur, it is the second such eatery on Central Railway.

The first 'Restaurant on Wheels' of Central Railways pod hotel was set up recently at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai (CSMT) railway station in October The license period is for one year and it is extendable based on the performance.

A pod hotel has several small bed-sized capsules and provides affordable overnight accommodation. The railways said it plans to set up similar 'Restaurant on Wheels' at a few more locations across the zone.

113. Recently In February In A First Food Corporation Of India In Collaboration With Inland Waterways Authority Of India (IWAI) Has Flagged A Cargo Vessel Carrying 200 Tonne Of Rice From To Pandu In Guwahati Assam ?

- A. Patna**
- B. Kolkata**
- C. Mumbai**
- D. Delhi**

In a first-of-its-kind initiative to transport foodgrains to northeastern states through the riverine route, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on Saturday flagged off a cargo vessel carrying around 200 tonnes of rice from Patna in Bihar to Pandu in Guwahati, Assam.

The vessel named MV Lal Bahadur Shastri, carrying rice in 3,700 double gunny packs, is expected to take about 25 days to cover a distance of around 2,350 km and reach Pandu in Assam in the first week of March. After unloading at Pandu Port, the rice will be moved to the FCI depot at Changsari in Assam's Kamrup district.

The minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of Kalughat intermodal terminal at Saran in Bihar on National Waterway - 1 (river Ganga)

FCI flags off first vessel carrying PDS rice from Patna to Guwahati via waterways

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, February 5

IN A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND initiative to transport foodgrains to northeastern states through the riverine route, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on Saturday flagged off a cargo vessel carrying around 200 tonnes of rice from Patna in Bihar to Pandu in Guwahati, Assam.

The vessel named MV Lal Bahadur Shastri, carrying rice in 3,700 double gunny packs, is expected to take about 25 days to cover a distance of around 2,350 km and reach Pandu in Assam in the first week of March. After unloading at Pandu Port, the rice will be moved to the FCI depot at Changsari in Assam's Kamrup district. This is a major boost to India's cargo movement infrastructure, with rice shipment from the IWAI terminal at Phulwari Shariff in Patna, moving on two of the world's largest rivers-Ganga and Brahmaputra-sailing on international waters through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route.

The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade

between India and Bangladesh allows use of their waterways for the movement of goods between the two countries by vessels of both countries. National Waterway-1 on Ganga is connected to National Waterway-2 on Brahmaputra and National Waterway-16 on Barak through the IBP routes.

The vessel, carrying rice to northeastern states for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS), will traverse through Bhagalpur, Farakka, Kolkata, Haldia, Chilmari, Dhubri and Joghghopa, among others.

Union minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution Piyush Goyal, who flagged off the vessel, said that use of riverine transportation is expected to give boost to economic activities and likely to provide a viable alternative to the conventional mode of movement of foodgrain for NE region. In order to ensure availability of foodgrain through PDS across the country, the FCI uses means of transportation such as rail, road, waterways and air. In 2020-21, FCI transported 59.45 million tonnes (MT) of foodgrains from grain surplus states to grain deficient states.

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- 114. Recently In February A satellite for the US National Reconnaissance Office (NROL-87) was launched into space from California was lifted off aboard which rocket?**
- A. Dragon 4
 - B. Inspiratin 4
 - C. Falcon 9**
 - D. Artmeis 6

A classified satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office was launched into space from California on Wednesday.

The NROL-87 satellite lifted off at 12:27 p.m. from Vandenberg Space Force Base aboard a two-stage SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

The launch was webcast until the first stage completed its burn and separated from the second stage. Under NRO rule coverage of the continuation of the flight to orbit ended at that point

The NRO only described the NROL-87 satellite as a "national security payload." Its launch was one of three awarded by the Air Force to SpaceX in 2019 for a combined fixed price of \$297 million. There were two NRO launches last year, NROL-82 from Vandenberg and NROL-111 from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

- 115. What Is The Name Of The fifth submarine of Project 75, That Has Recently commenced its sea trials on 1 February from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) ?**
- A. Vishakapatnam
 - B. Vajra
 - C. Vagir**
 - D. Balraj

The fifth Scorpene-class submarine of Project 75, "Vagir" commenced its sea trials on 1 February. It was launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). All of the submarine's systems, including propulsion, weapons, and sensors, will now be tested extensively at sea.

This submarine is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2022. Kalvari-class submarines are designed by French company DCNS. It can help in anti-submarine warfare missions, intelligence gathering, mine laying, etc. INS Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, and Vela are four of the six submarines under the project that have been commissioned into the Indian Navy. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has delivered two submarines of the Project – 75 in the year 2021.

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116. Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated "Beating Retreat" Drone Light Show "StartUps", Named What funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology?

- A. AirLab**
- B. Botlab**
- C. CATLAB**
- D. DroLab**

Months of planning, designing went into drone show at Rajpath

Two IIT-D alumni, professor collaborated with a broom maker for the end product that was 80% made in India

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The sky over Rajpath on Saturday lit up in a kaleidoscope of colours as a swarm of 1,000 drones painted 3-D images of Bapu with his walking stick, the Tricolour and the map of India. The brain behind the event were two IIT-Delhi alumni and their professor who spent six months to design and manufacture the drones and prepare different animations to be recreated in the sky.

Start-up's aim

Tanmay Bunkar and Anuj Kumar Barnwal, physics graduates from IIT-Delhi, co-founded their start-up Botlab Dynamics along with Dr. Sarita Ahlawat in 2016. Their aim was to replace big, expensive drones with simpler and cheaper drones that can perform the same tasks and carry the same payloads by forming a network or collaborative aerial system. Over

time they received funding from the Department of Science and Technology and I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC) at IIT-Delhi.

Sky was canvas

On Saturday, the sky over Rajpath was their canvas, and drones their paintbrushes with which they brought to life different patterns to mark the 75 years of Independence. These included a giant three-dimensional globe, an ascending Tricolour with the Ashok Chakra in the centre and the map of India among others. This was an elaborate process that took several months to just conceptualise and design.

"We thought of a concept in which we would show six to seven patterns. This had to be then converted into an animation on a computer. This is a very time consuming exercise and each animation can take up to two weeks. And then we run this



A view of the drone display during the Beating Retreat ceremony in New Delhi on Saturday. •FILE PHOTO

animation through simulations to ensure that drones don't collide with each other and account for factors like speed of the air. After this we feed the programme into each drone and then take them to the ground and carry out test flights," explains Dr. Ahlawat.

It was in July last year that the Ministry of Defence told Botlab Dynamics that they would be part of the Republic Day celebrations and

that they had to aim for 1,000 drones. Until then, Mr. Bunkar and co had never handled more than 80 drones simultaneously.

Reliability key

"Reliability of these drones was key to ensuring that the show goes smoothly. We have 1,000 drones to pull off a show, but we don't have 1,000 people to maintain each drone, carry out a pre-flight check, etc. That is a lux-

ury we just didn't have. So, we decided we will make drones ourselves so that we know the causes of different errors and failures," says Mr. Bunkar.

Soon they started ordering parts and assembling the hardware. But this was the time that world's supply chains had snapped up and shortages of different parts such as semi-conductor chips began to hit different industries.

This forced the team to look for alternatives within the country.

That's when they found someone in Manesar who made motherboards for mobile phones and asked him to make printed circuit boards. The outer casing of the drones was made by a maker of fruit baskets and broom handles in Seelampur, says Mr. Bunkar.

The end products were drones that were nearly 80% made in India, including im-

portant parts like flight controllers (or the brain of the drones), GPS precision and motor controller.

Need knowhow

"In India we need this capability. We need knowhow. We can't just be a service provider through start-ups like Zomato and Swiggy. We can't keep relying on the outside world for electronic based hardware and high speed trains, computers, lithium ion batteries. I am happy that through our participation, we have been able to shine light on the need for hardware-based solutions," says Dr. Ahlawat.

Ask them what's next for the start-up and Mr. Bunkar says he will be selling drone shows and that he is already flooded with inquiries from big brands who want a big-bang launch for their products as well as the Ministries who want to promote their schemes.

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has felicitated the Beating Retreat Drone Light Show - StartUps who had mesmerized the nation by lighting the sky with colourful tricolor at New Delhi's Vijay Chowk on the evening of 29th January. Boatlab Start-Up Co-founders, Sarita Ahlawat, Tanmay Bunkar, and Anuj Kumar Barnwal were present along with their other team members

"Botlabs", funded by Technology Development Board (TDB) under Union Ministry of Science & Technology and led by IIT Delhi alumni, Has fly 1,000 Drones in "Beating Retreat" ceremony tas a part of the Light Show marking the conclusion of nearly week long programmes related to Republic Day.

This Had make India the fourth country, after China, Russia and UK, to carry out such a large-scale show with 1,000 drones,

Pak, China sign new agreement on CPEC

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: Pakistan on Friday signed a new agreement with China to begin the second phase of the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as Prime Minister Imran Khan showered praise on the controversial projects, saying it has strategic significance for both the countries and delivering tangible benefits to the people.

Khan, who arrived in China on Thursday on a four-day visit to attend the opening ceremony of the 2020 Beijing Winter Olympics and meet the top Chinese leadership, held a virtual meeting with He Lifeng, the chairman of China's apex planning body - the national development and

reform commission on Friday to discuss the expansion of Chinese investments in Pakistan.

He signed the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation which aims to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), promote industrialisation and development of economic zones, and initiate, plan, execute and monitor projects, both in public as well as private sector

The ambitious CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China's northwest Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan. India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Sebi lays guidelines for MFs with respect to Ind AS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, February 4

CAPITAL MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi on Friday came out with guidelines for asset management companies (AMCs) with respect to following Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS). This comes after Sebi amended mutual fund (MF) rules, which mandated AMCs to prepare the financial statements and accounts of the mutual fund schemes in accordance with Ind AS, with effect from April 1, 2023.

Under the guidelines, mutual fund schemes will have to prepare the opening balance sheet as on date of transition and the comparatives as per the requirements of Ind AS, Sebi said in a circular. As per mutual fund rules, perspective historical per unit statistics requires disclosure of scheme wise per unit statistics for the past three years.

In this regard, Sebi said mutual fund schemes may not be mandatorily required to restate the previous years published perspective historical per unit statistics as per requirement of Ind AS for the first two years from first time adoption of Ind AS. However, mutual fund schemes will have to furnish certain additional information in perspective historical per unit statistics.

These additional information are related to label the previous Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) information prominently as not being prepared in accordance with Ind AS; and disclose the nature of the adjustments that would be required to make it comply with Ind AS. MF schemes need not quantify those adjustments. The financial statements of the mutual fund schemes will have to be prepared in a format

NEW NORMS

■ Under the guidelines, MF schemes will have to prepare the opening balance sheet as on date of transition and the comparatives as per the requirements of Ind AS

■ MF schemes may not be mandatorily required to restate the previous years published perspective historical per unit statistics as per requirement of Ind AS for the first two years from first time adoption of Ind AS

■ But those will have to furnish certain additional information in perspective historical per unit statistics

specified by the regulator.

Also, Sebi has certain tweaked guidelines in order to align with Ind AS requirements regarding transactions cost of investment to be expensed out (viz. to be charged to Revenue Account instead of Capitalisation).

As part of the modification, Sebi said brokerage and transaction cost incurred for the purpose of execution will be charged to the schemes up to 12 bps and 5 bps for cash market transactions and derivatives transactions, respectively. Any payment toward brokerage and transaction costs, over and above the said 12 bps and 5 bps for cash market transactions and derivatives transactions respectively may be charged to the scheme within the maximum limit of total expense ratio.

{ **INDIA** } SUCCESSFUL

BrahMos and Uran missiles test-fired

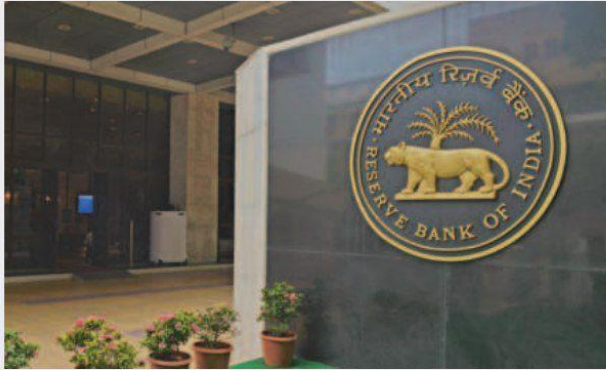


India successfully test-fired BrahMos and Uran anti-ship missiles in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Indian Navy said the missiles were tested by the Andaman and Nicobar Command. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was fired from a ground-based launcher. The Uran anti-ship missile was launched from the Indian Navy's Guided Missile Corvette. The Andaman & Nicobar Command said an 'ex-Naval ship LCU38' was used as the target. The Indian Navy confirmed that the target was hit at maximum range with devastating impact. This test comes after India's BrahMos Aerospace and the Philippines signed a deal worth almost \$375 million for the Philippine Marines to acquire three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile. Philippine defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the supersonic missiles will "certainly beef up the firepower of the Philippine Navy".

HTC

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Banks' non-food credit grows to 9.3% during December: RBI data



Mumbai: Banks' non-food credit growth accelerated to 9.3% in December from 6.6% in the same period of the last year, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Credit to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering a robust growth of 14.5% in December 2021 as compared to 7.7% in December 2020, according to the RBI's Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit data for December 2021 released on Monday. **PTI**

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ArcelorMittal's €1.7-bn deal with France signals its push for more green energy

REUTERS
Paris, February 4

STEELMAKER ARCELOR-MITTAL SAID the French government would support its green transition efforts which include investments in two sites in northern France, worth €1.7 billion (\$1.95 billion).

The company's latest projects come as French President Emmanuel Macron's government looks to step up investments in northern France - traditionally an industrial heartland of the country - ahead of April's presidential

election.

Two of ArcelorMittal's steelmaking sites in Fos-sur-Mer and Dunkirk, both situated in the north of France, will be transformed while maintaining equivalent production capacities.

In Fos-sur-Mer, the company plans to install an Electric Arc Furnace, using the electric power grid rather than coal while in Dunkirk, ArcelorMittal is banking on hydrogen, combined with an electric furnace.

The investment will contribute to achieving the goal of reducing carbon emissions

from producing steel by close to 40% by 2030.

The move "put France's steelmaking industry on the path of the Paris Agreement",

the company said, referring to a multilateral agreement signed between 195 countries in 2015 to limit man-made global warming.

	NRB INDUSTRIAL BEARINGS LIMITED CIN: L29253MH2011PLC213963 Regd. Office: 2 nd Floor, Dhannur, 15, Sir P. M. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Tel.: 022-2270 4206 Fax No.: 022-2270 4207 Email: investorcare@nibl.in Website: www.nrbindustrialbearings.com
	<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INTIMATION</p> <p>Shareholders may note that the Company will conduct Postal Ballot for transacting special business by remote e-voting only. The Postal Ballot is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with General Circulars and Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to transact the business that will be set forth in the Postal Ballot Notice.</p> <p>In compliance of the above, only electronic copies of the Postal Ballot Notice will be sent to the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company/RTA/Depositories Participant(s). So, the Shareholders (demat account holders or physical folios) who have not yet registered their email address have to get their email addresses registered with the</p>

Beijing Winter Games gets underway

Arif Khan leads the Indian contingent at the ceremony

REUTERS
BEIJING

The Chinese president Xi Jinping declared the opening of the Beijing Winter Games, triggering a burst of fireworks that marked the start of an Olympics which has been beset by the COVID-19 pandemic, diplomatic boycotts and criticism over human rights in the country.

Friday's ceremony in a partially-filled Bird's Nest stadium – the scene of the 2008 Summer Games launch – was filled with imagery of ice and snow, with Xi's declaration followed by red-suited "skaters" sliding across virtual ice.

Held on the first day of spring by the Chinese calendar, it began with a performance by dancers waving

glowing green stalks to convey the vitality of the season, followed by an explosion of white and green fireworks that spelled the word "Spring".

Spectacular

On a three-dimensional cube resembling a block of ice, lasers carved figures from each of the previous 23 Winter Games.

The block was then "broken" by ice hockey players, enabling the Olympic rings to emerge, all in white.

Parade

That was followed by the traditional 'parade of nations' where the Indian contingent was led by skier Arif Khan carrying the national flag.

(with PTI inputs)



Proud moment: Arif marching with the Tricolour. • GETTY IMAGES

Core sector growth recovers to 3.8% in December 2021

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 3.8% in December 2021 against a 0.4% contraction in the same month last year on better show by coal, cement and refinery products, according to the official data released on Monday.

Barring crude oil and steel, all sectors recorded positive growth in December 2021. The core sector industries had grown by 3.4% in November 2021. The growth rate of the eight infrastructure sectors – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity – stood at 12.6% during April-December this fiscal as against a negative growth of 9.8% during



The core sector had grown by 3.4% in November 2021. BLOOMBERG

the same period last fiscal.

According to the data, production of coal rose by 5.2%, natural gas by 19.5%, refinery products by 5.9%, fertilisers by 3.5%, cement by 12.9%, and electricity by 2.5% in December.

The output of crude oil and steel declined by 1.8% and 1% respectively during the period under review. Commenting in

the data, ICRA Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said, "We expect the IIP to report a feeble rise of less than 2% on a YoY basis in that month, and print below the expansion displayed by the core sector for the fourth consecutive month".

The eight core industries hold 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

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CCI Slaps ₹1.29 cr Penalty on Seven Entities in SBI Tender Case

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The antitrust regulator on Friday imposed a penalty of more than ₹1.29 crore on seven entities and their officials, accusing them of manipulating the bidding process in connection with the supply of signage for State Bank of India's branches and ATMs. The Competition Commission of India also directed them to desist from indulging in anticompetitive practices.

The tender for signages for SBI branches, offices and ATMs was floated in March 2018 by SBI Infra Management Solutions.

The commission decided to look into the matter after receiving a complaint wherein it was alleged that there was bid rigging and cartelisation for the tender.

The CCI, during its investigation, found emails exchanged between the parties which formed the basis for alleged manipulation of the bidding process.

"There was an agreement among the parties which resulted in geographical market allocation as well as bid rigging in the tender. All the parties were held to be guilty of the legal provision dealing with anticompetitive agreements including cartels," the CCI said in a statement, citing its probe findings. Besides, nine individuals of these parties were held liable for the anticompetitive conduct of their entities.

The CCI imposed the penalty upon the parties at the rate of 1% of their respective average turnover.

IIT Hyd to set up Suzuki Innovation Centre on its campus

Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH) on Friday said it has entered into an agreement with Suzuki Motor Corporation to start Suzuki Innovation Centre (SIC) at its campus. It has signed a three-year contract with the automaker with the vision of "creating innovations for India and Japan".

PTI

PMFBY: Maha likely to opt out of scheme

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra is likely to opt out of the Centre's flagship crop insurance scheme — Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) — and establish its own crop insurance company for farmers, following several representations from farmers, reports Nanda Kasabe in Pune.