

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

**National /State News**

1. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Ministry of Road Transport and Highways That will build ropeways for hilly areas as an alternate and efficient means of connectivity.
- A. Government to develop ropeways in hilly areas under **National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvatmala”**.
  - B. The **Ministry Rural And Panchayati Raj** will be in charge of the construction of ropeways in hilly areas as well as research, and policy development in this area.
  - C. Government will give the contract for **8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km in 2022-23**.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only A and B
- B. Only B and C
- C. Only A and C**
- D. All Of The Above

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will build ropeways for hilly areas as an alternate and efficient means of connectivity.

The National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvatmala” has been announced in the Union Budget for 2022-23.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will be in charge of the construction of ropeways in hilly areas as well as research, and policy development in this area.

Transport Ministry will also formulate an institutional, financial, and regulatory framework for the technology of ropeways. “Parvatmala” programme will be implemented in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Government will give the contract for 8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km in 2022-23.

This scheme will be started first in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North-Eastern states.

veloped train collision avoidance system, in 2022-23.

She also said railways will develop products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and small and medium enterprises, besides taking the lead in integration of postal and railways networks to provide seamless solutions for movement of parcels.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the plan will be a “game changer” as the plan envisages integration of a 1.5 lakh post offices and 8,000 railway stations that will help small traders, women self help groups from villages and small towns to send their products to different parts of the world seamlessly. He said there will be a common platform for availing the service and seamless transport of items.

The government has proposed budgetary allocation of Rs 1.4 lakh crore for the railways, an increase of 16% from the 2021-22 RE. Besides, the railways can also raise up to Rs 1.1 lakh crore from the market for its projects.

#### Ropeways

Sitharaman said the govern-

ment will take up ropeway connectivity works under the Parvatmala (National Ropeways Development) programme on PPP mode as a preferred ecologically-sustainable alternative to conventional roads in difficult hilly areas. This programme is aimed at improving connectivity and promoting tourism. It is also likely to cover congested urban areas where a conventional mass transit system is not feasible. The programme will be implemented by the road transport ministry. Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said eight ropeway projects with a cumulative length of 60 km will be bid out during 2022-23.

#### Multi-Modal Movement

The Budget specified that a mechanism will be set up for data exchange among operators of all modes of transport on Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP). This will provide for efficient movement of goods through different modes, reducing logistics cost and time, assisting inventory management, and eliminating tedious documentation, the finance minister said.

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2. Recently In February NITI Aayog has announced the **five most improved aspirational districts in the Agriculture and Water Resources sector for December 2021** Which Of The Following District Has Topped The List ?

- A. **Malkangiri Odisha**
- B. **Chhatarpur Madhya Pradesh**
- C. **Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir.**
- D. **Ramgarh Jharkhand**



NITI Aayog has announced the five most improved aspirational districts in the Agriculture and Water Resources sector for December 2021.

**Malkangiri district of Odisha has topped the list, followed by Chhatarpur of Madhya Pradesh and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.**

**Ramgarh district of Jharkhand and Begusarai district of Bihar also got a place in the list.**

This list of districts is based on the NITI Aayog’s Delta Rankings.

Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in 2018 for the development of under-developed districts across the country. It focuses on the strength of each district and identifies sectors for immediate improvement.

NITI Aayog releases a ranking of districts every month. The ranking is based on the 5 broad socio-economic themes - Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Infrastructure.

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3. *The Guinness World Book of Records has officially certified **Atal Tunnel as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 feet**. What Is The Length Of Atal Tunnel ?*

- A. 9.8 Km
- B. 11.05 Km
- C. **9.02 Km**
- D. 10.08 Km

The Guinness World Book of Records has officially certified Atal Tunnel as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 feet.

**Atal Tunnel is constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It connects Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley.**

Nestled in Pir Panjal Ranges of the Himalayas, the visionary project of '**Atal Tunnel**' is **9.02 km long & strategically significant**. It runs under the '**Rohtang Pass**' (13,500 feet above sea level), which was constructed on the **Manali – Leh Highway** under the extremely challenging conditions of freezing cold in mountainous difficult terrain.

World Book of Records is an organization that catalogues and verifies extraordinary records across the world with certification.

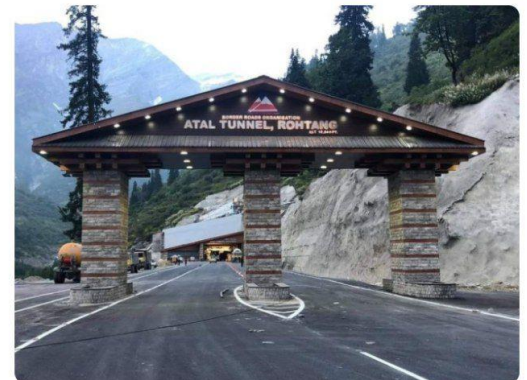
## NewsOnAIR

### BRO's 'Atal Tunnel' officially certified as 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel'

 By PBNS

NATIONAL NEWS | PBNS

February 10, 2022 | Updated: 4 hours ago



4. *Recently In February The **World's Largest Igloo Cafe** Has Been Opened In Which District Of Jammu And Kashmir **Known As Snowglu** ?*

- A. Pulwama
- B. Kurfi
- C. **Gulmarg**
- D. Leh

The world's largest Igloo Café has been opened in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir. It's called Snowglu.

It has become a center of attraction for tourists. **It has a height of 37.5 feet and a diameter of 44.5 feet.** It can accommodate 40 people at a time. It has a thickness of five feet.

It has been created in 64 days with the help of 25 people.

**According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the biggest igloo café is in Switzerland.** Its height is 33.8 feet and its diameter is 42.4 feet.

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5. Recently In February **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** Has Signed an MoU With Which Of The Following State Government to support Its '**Majhi Vasundhara**' campaign ?

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

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Maharashtra Government have signed an MoU. UNEP has signed the MoU to support the Maharashtra government's 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign.

**Majhi Vasundhara is an initiative of the Maharashtra government's Environment and Climate Change Department.**

Its aim is to empower citizens with knowledge on the impacts of climate change and environmental issues.

UNEP will support Maharashtra government in educating and mobilising youth on plastic pollution and marine litter through UNEP's Tide Turner Challenge across all educational institutes in the state.

6. Recently In February President has approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2021** to How Many **Railway Protection Force** personnel ?

- A. 5
- B. 7**
- C. 9
- D. 8

President has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2021 to Seven Railway Protection Force personnel.

Late Shri Gyan Chand, Anil Kumar, Dinker Tiwari, Tridip Paul, Rajbir Singh, Sanjeet Kumar Ram, and Bongu Narasimha Rao received this year's Jeevan Raksha Padaks Series of Awards.

RPF personnel have been conferred with Jeevan Raksha Padaks Series of Awards 2021 in the following categories:

**Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (SJRP) Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak (UJRP) Jeevan Raksha Padak**

**The RPF personnel are given Jeevan Raksha Padaks every year since 2018 for their bravery.**

RPF personnel have saved 1650 lives from the wheels of running trains in the last four years.

Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person. It was instituted in 1961.

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7. Recently In February Which Of The Following Minsitry will organise a *first-of-its-kind two-day Global Summit on "Reimagining Museums in India."* to celebrate the glorious history, culture, and achievements of its people In Hyderabad ?
- Ministry Of Education
  - Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
  - Ministry Of Culture**
  - Ministry Of Panchayti Raj

On 15 and 16 February 2022, the Ministry of Culture will organise a first-of-its-kind two-day Global Summit on "Reimagining Museums in India."

The summit is being organized to celebrate the glorious history, culture, and achievements of its people.

The Global Summit will bring together the museum's leading luminaries, domain experts, and practitioners around the world to discuss best practices and strategies.

The Summit is being held in collaboration with Bloomberg. Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture will inaugurate the summit. The online summit will cover four major themes: Architecture and Functional Needs Management Collections (including Curation & Conservation practices) Education and Audience Engagement Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture

8. Recently In February *AIM, NITI Aayog, and USAID* have announced a new partnership under Which Of The Following Initiative ?
- Gati Shakti
  - Sarthak
  - Samridh**
  - Disha

AIM, NITI Aayog, and USAID have announced a new partnership under **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)** initiative.

It will enhance access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.

This collaboration will boost SAMRIDH's efforts to reach vulnerable populations. It will focus on innovations across the healthcare landscape.

SAMRIDH blended finance facility was developed by USAID, IPE Global, and stakeholders from the Indian government, academia, and the private sector in 2020. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM): It was launched in 2016. It is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

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9. Recently In February According To The *TomTom's 2021 Traffic Index* released on February 9, 2022 Which Of The Following Country Is Not In The *Top 5 List Of Most congested city in the world 2021*?

- A. Istanbul
- B. Moscow
- C. Bagota
- D. Delhi

Mumbai has been ranked as the fifth most congested city in the world 2021, as per TomTom's 2021 Traffic Index released on February 9, 2022.

Bengaluru has been ranked as the 10th most congested city in the world, while Delhi is ranked 11th and Pune 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries in the world.

Istanbul has been ranked as the most congested city in the world in 2021, followed by Moscow at second place Kviiev At Third Bagota At 4th And Mumbai At 5th Mumbai is the most congested city in India in 2021 as per the report, followed by Bengaluru and Delhi. The congestion level in Delhi fell by 14 percent in 2021 in comparison to 2019, while in Mumbai, it dropped by 18 percent.

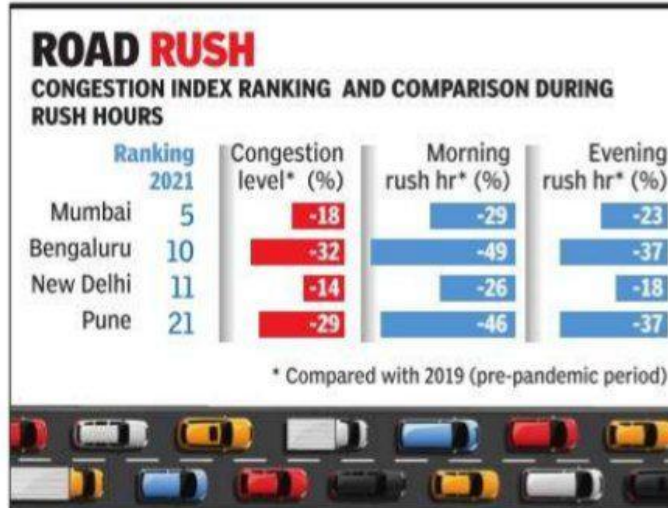
# Mumbai & B'luru among top 10 most congested cities in world

Despite Covid Curbs, Delhi 11th In 404 Cities List

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Despite Covid-induced lockdowns keeping a large number of vehicles off the roads in 2021, Mumbai and Bengaluru have been ranked 5th and 10th in the global ranking of urban congestion during the period while Delhi and Pune occupied the 11th and 21st spots among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to a report by a global location technology company.

However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, said the report. The four ci-



ties featured in TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list. Istanbul topped the list, followed by Moscow.

The report released on Wednesday said India's congestion level in 2021 was 23% lower than pre-Covid times, with a decrease of 31% specif-

ically during peak hours. In 2020, the traffic congestion in three big Indian cities — Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi — made it to the top 10 list in the last edition of the traffic index report. While Mumbai was ranked second, Bengaluru was at sixth position

and Delhi eighth among 416 cities across 56 countries.

According to the report, congestion level in Delhi came down to 48 points in 2021 from 53 points in 2019 and the peak traffic congestion also reduced by 17% in 2021. The city saw its worst traffic day on August 21, when it recorded the worst rainfall in a day. The water-logged pockets caused widespread traffic logjams and increase in congestion levels.

Sachin Tyagi, strategic automotive business development manager of TomTom told TOI, "Globally, peak hours shifted in almost 40% of the cities and that's due to the changes in our working habits with work from home becoming predominant and online conferences replacing physical meetings." He said this could be one of the reasons why Bengaluru, which has a high number of IT firms, saw a sharp decline in congestion level during 2021.

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**10. Recently In February Which State Cabinet has approved the draft of the Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022 to prohibit religious conversion through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, by marriage ?**

- A. RAJASTHAN
- B. Gujarat
- C. Haryana**
- D. Madhya Pradesh

## Haryana Cabinet nod for anti-conversion Bill

'Umpteen cases of religious conversions recorded'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Tuesday approved the draft of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, which seeks to prohibit religious conversion effected through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage or for marriage, by making it an offence.

According to the draft Bill, the burden of proof "lies on the accused". The draft Bill will now be tabled before the Assembly, an official statement said.

### Higher punishment

The Bill, on the lines of recent anti-conversion laws passed in other States, proposes to make conversion by marriage an offence.

It also prescribes higher punishment for conversion of minors, women, and members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

The draft Bill's statements of objectives and reasons read, "The Constitution confers on each individual the fundamental right to profess, practise and propagate his religion. However, the individual right to freedom of conscience and religion can-

### Legal code

**A brief timeline of the developments leading to the drafting of the new Bill**

**Nov. 1, 2020:** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal says the State government was taking the 'love jihad' issue seriously

**Nov. 17:** Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij says a strict law will be enacted to control 'love jihad' cases in the State and a committee will be constituted to draft this law

**Nov-end:** Govt. sets up a three-member committee to draft an anti-conversion law

**Feb. 8, 2022:** Haryana Cabinet approves the draft of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022

■ The Bill is to be tabled during the Assembly session which begins on March 2

**There is no bar on anyone who marries without converting, but if someone forcibly converts someone for greed of money, then action will be taken against them**

**MANOHAR LAL**  
HARYANA CM



not be extended to construe a collective right to proselytize; for the right to religious freedom belongs equally to the person converting and the individual sought to be converted."

### 'Hidden agenda'

It added that there have been umpteen cases of religious conversions, both mass and individual.

"Obviously, such incidents have been hotly debated, more so in a multi-religious society, such as ours. The presence of pseudo-social organisations with a hidden agenda to convert the vulnerable sections of other religions. There have been

instances when gullible people have been converted by offering allurement or under undue influence. Some have been forced to convert to other religions."

It pointed out that in the recent past, there have been instances where to increase the strength of their own religion by getting people from other religions converted, people marry persons of other religion by either misrepresentation or concealment of their own religion and after getting married they force such other person to convert to their own religion.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**

The Haryana Cabinet has approved the draft of the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022.

**Its main objective is to prohibit religious conversion through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, by marriage.**

The bill has the provision of stricter punishment for conversion of minors, women, Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes.

It puts the onus on the accused to prove that conversion was not done through misrepresentation, use of coercion, and false marriage.

Every individual converting from one religion to another has to submit a declaration to the prescribed authority.

Apart from this, it has provisions to declare void and illegal marriages which are performed by hiding religion. According to Indian Constitution, "State has no religion, all religions are equal, and no religion shall be given preference over the other".

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**11. Recently Seen In News *Kanchoth Festival a symbol of Nag culture Was Celebrated In Which Of The Following State ?***

- A. Haryana**
- B. Madhya paradesh**
- C. Goa**
- D. Jammu & Kashmir**

People in Baderwah (Jammu and Kashmir) celebrated the Kanchoth festival, a symbol of Nag culture.

This festival is celebrated during the Shukla Paksha of Magha month which usually falls in January or February.

Hindu Nag followers commemorate this ancient festival.

The three-day festival is celebrated by married women who pray for the long life of their husbands.

The age-old festival is celebrated by Hindus, mainly Nag followers, who believe that on this day of Gouri tritaya, Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati got married and the latter insisted on a throne made of snow as her wedding gift

Last Updated: 5th February, 2022 22:37 IST

### Age-old Kanchoth Festival Celebrated In J&K's Baderwah

Braving heavy snowfall and extreme cold wave conditions, the people of Baderwah celebrated the ancient Kanchoth festival, a symbol of ancient Nag culture.

Written By [Press Trust Of India](#)



Image: DD NEWS JAMMU

Braving heavy snowfall and extreme cold wave conditions, people of Baderwah celebrated the ancient Kanchoth festival, a symbol of ancient Nag culture.

Dressed in traditional fineries, local residents, including women who observed fast, thronged temples to offer prayers and hoped that the deity can help end the pandemic.

The age-old festival is celebrated by Hindus, mainly Nag followers, who believe that on this day of Gouri tritaya, Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati got married and the latter insisted on a throne made of snow as her wedding gift.

Thus, snow during the festival is considered a good omen.

One of the main functions was observed at hill top Jatanai village of Chinchora panchayat, 30 km from Baderwah, where women of all ages were clad in bridal costumes and came out in large numbers wading through snow to reach a nearby temple to celebrate the festival.



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**12. Recently In February J & k Has Become The First Union Territory To Be Integrated With National Single Window System .What Is National Single Window System ?**

- A. It Is Digital Platform Which Serve As Guide For Investors To Identify And Apply As Per Thier Business Requirement**
- B. It Is Digital Platform Which Serve As Guide For Tourist To Identify The Places In The State For Tourism**
- C. It Is Digital Platform Which Serve As Guide For Public To Know Thier Banking Information**
- D. It Is Digital Platform Which Serve As Guide For People To Connect On Social Media**

## J&K integrated with digital system

JAMMU & Kashmir has become the first Union territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System, a digital platform which serves as a guide for investors to identify and apply for approvals as per their business requirements, the commerce and industry ministry said on Tuesday.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched Single Window Clearance System.

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System.

Now, investors can apply for their business approvals in J&K through the National Single Window system.

Around 130 industrial services have been made online through the single window system and more than 160 services would be further integrated into the single window system this year.

### The Single Window Clearance Sys

tem will ensure 'Ease of Doing Business' & 'Ease of Living' through minimum regulatory compliance. NSWS is linked with India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K As many as 20 ministries/departments have been integrated on NSWS, The 14 states/UTs onboarded on NSWS

Manoj Sinha is the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

13. Recently In February Ashok Leyland Has Supplied How Many Trucks To Bangladesh As Under Government Of India Credit Line Of USD 2 Billion Dollar That Was Announced By Prime Minister Narendra Modi ?

- A. 420
- B. 200**
- C. 260
- D. 250

## 200 Ashok Leyland trucks for Bangladesh under GoI credit line

### OUR BUREAU

Chennai, February 7

Truck and bus maker Ashok Leyland said that it is supplying 200 trucks to the Government of Bangladesh.

“These trucks will be a part of a project from India under a \$2 billion line of credit announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” according to a statement.

Ashok Leyland had won the tender floated by the Bangladesh government for 135 fully-built trucks comprising 3T truck, hydraulic beam lifter and sewerage sucker which have already been handed over from India to the Roads and Highways Department of Bangladesh in the current fiscal.

### New contract

Now they have been awarded another lot of 65 truck-mounted wreckers, a specialised vehicle to be deployed by the Bangladesh

government for various highway applications.

“Bangladesh is one of our key export markets and this supply further strengthens our position in the country. We are enthused by the various export facilitation measures taken by the Indian Government, and we plan to further increase our volumes and footprint in overseas markets especially SAARC, GCC and Africa. Exports have been a strong focus for us to de-risk from cyclical in the Indian market, and this is a significant step in that direction,” said Amandeep Singh, Head - International Operation, Ashok Leyland.

Ashok Leyland said it is one of the leading commercial vehicle brands in Bangladesh.

The company also assembles its range of trucks, buses, and LCVs locally at IFAD Auto Dhamrai plant in Bangladesh.

Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland on Monday said it will supply 200 trucks to the Bangladesh government as part of a **USD 2-billion line of credit** announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**As part of the order, 135 built trucks have already been delivered to Bangladesh**, These trucks have already been handed over to the Roads and Highways Department of Bangladesh in the current financial year

Ashok Leyland has now been awarded an order for another lot of 65 units of Truck Mounted Wrecker, Ashok Leyland is one of the leading commercial vehicle brands in Bangladesh

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**14. Recently In February Which Of The Following State Has Launched Sports Equipment Bank , First Of Its Kind Sports Bank Facility In The Country ?**

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

young bank account holders in Miao sub-division of **Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh**, are getting rich. However, there is no money reflected in their passbooks! The passbooks have entries of children who have borrowed sports items from a community-driven 'Sports Equipment Bank'. This, perhaps, is the first-of-its-kind facility in the country.

Many children aspire to play outdoor and indoor games but cannot afford to buy the necessary sports equipment, Singh says. The Sports Equipment Bank, , was set up to make sure that sporting talent is well utilised in Miao.

## Floodlit pitch and sports bank help Arunachal town kick the habit

Sports gear lent to wean youth from drugs



**Take your pick:** Sports equipment kept at a facility in Miao in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**  
GUWAHATI

The fight against drugs in a small town in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh is riding on a bank of sports equipment.

Soon after taking charge as the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Miao in February 2021, Sunny K. Singh observed that many children and teenagers inhaling narcotic substances as dusk literally made the town fall into stupor. "Drug peddling and addiction is a huge problem in Arunachal Pradesh. I found out many young people were doing drugs in the evening because they had hardly anything else to do," Mr. Singh said. He decided to wake the town of about 8,000 people up with shots, serves and volleys.

And floodlights. But it was easier said than done; the centrally-located football-cum-cricket ground in the town was in a bad shape.

Mr. Singh began meeting the community leaders even as he looked for resources to provide sports facilities. Miao, the starting point of a 157-km trek route through the Namdapha Tiger Reserve to Vijaynagar on the Myanmar border, is inhabited mostly by the Tangsa,

Singpho, Yobin, Gurkha, Chakma and Tibetan communities.

The determined official began overhauling the sports infrastructure. The football-cricket ground was renovated and floodlights put up. And a parkour park was built.

"As more children and teenagers began playing under lights from 5-9.30 p.m., I realised many poor children were not able to play because they did not have any sports kit," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Another round of meeting with the community leaders generated ₹2.5 lakh and part the ADC's office was converted into a bank for the sports equipment bought with the money. Many locals donated sports kits too.

### Team wins medals

The bank, unveiled on January 26, is accessible to all children but preference will soon be given to those from underprivileged sections through an identity card.

Mr. Singh's initiative has started paying dividends. Miao Brawn, the town's parkour team won two gold and two silver medals at an international event in Nepal a few months ago.

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**15. According To Union Power Minister RK Singh What Is The Target Year Set For Achieving Zero Diesel Use In Agriculture And Replace The Fossil Fuel With Renewable Energy By Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 2024**
- B. 2025**
- C. 2026**
- D. 2027**

India has set an ambitious target of replacing diesel with renewable energy (RE) in the agriculture sector so as to make it diesel free by 2024, as part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and becoming net zero emitter by 2070, the Power Ministry said

**India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024, said Union power minister RK Singh**

## Min: By '24, renewable to replace diesel in agri

SHREYA JAI  
New Delhi, 11 February

The Centre has set a target of replacing diesel with renewable energy in agriculture by 2024.

Union minister for power, new and renewable energy R K Singh said on Friday that this is in line with the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030. It will also pave the way for India to become net-zero emitter by 2070.

"India will replace diesel with renewables to achieve the target of zero-diesel use in the agricultural sector by 2024," said a statement by the ministry of power.

The central government is already running a plan to solarise the agricultural sector through the KUSUM scheme. This would entail solar-run irrigation systems.

Singh was chairing a virtual meeting with officers of the ministry, additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of power/energy departments of states & union territories (UTs) to discuss their role in India's energy transition goals.



**"WE ARE WORKING FOR A NEW AND MODERN INDIA, WHICH CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT MODERN POWER SYSTEMS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL STATES AND UTs TO ACHIEVE THIS"**

**R K SINGH**  
Union minister for power, new and renewable energy

The ministry said the meeting was hosted to "ensure the state's participation in fulfilling India's climate commitments and each state and UT can be assigned energy-saving targets."

"Collaborative efforts are needed between the central and state governments towards large-scale deployment of energy-efficiency measures in potential sectors of the economy," Singh said.

He further said states should have a specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency

and conservation.

"We are working for a new and modern India, which cannot happen without modern power systems. And, we look forward to working with all states and UTs to achieve this," Singh said.

Power secretary Alok Kumar stressed on the support and cooperation from states and UTs to facilitate the development of the state energy efficiency action plan. He called for its adoption and implementation to achieve the specific goals of states and UTs.

**16. Recently In February According To The Government Data Which Of The Following State Has Highest Number Of Beneficiaries In One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Upto Ending Q3 December ?**

- A. Chattisgarh
- B. Uttar Pradesh**
- C. Bihar
- D. Maharashtra

## One ration card: UP, Bihar migrants top beneficiaries

**Dipak.Dash**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were the biggest beneficiaries of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme in Delhi, an analysis of the data shows. Nearly 48% of the inter-state transactions for lifting the foodgrains from ration shops were made by the migrants from these two states in the past seven months.

Delhi joined the ONORC platform in July last year and was one of the last states to do so. But it has recorded maximum inter-state portability transactions in a short span of time. The government data show that in the past seven months, a total of nearly 11.26 lakh inter-state portability transactions were recorded across the ration

TOP 5 STATES WHOSE MIGRANTS LIFTED RATION IN DELHI	
Origin of beneficiaries	Number of transactions
Uttar Pradesh	2.77 lakh
Bihar	2.62 lakh
Madhya Pradesh	23,511
Haryana	7,672
Uttarakhand	4,105



shops in the national capital and around 5.4 lakh such transactions were done by the persons who have their permanent residence in UP and Bihar.

The data also show that while the total inter-state portability transaction in Delhi was barely 27,105 in July 2021, this increased to 2.88 lakh transactions in December, which was the highest ever. Last month, this stood at 2.34 lakh. "Since Delhi has a huge number of migrants who have settled here for work, the roll out of ONORC has come to their big help. While this ensures they get the entitled foodgrains at highly subsidised price without any hassles, it also plugs the scope of any diversion of their entitlement by ration shop owners at their native place," said a government official.

On the ONORC platform, there is no need to physically port the ration card from one state or UT to another, as the beneficiaries have choice to lift their foodgrains from any electronic point of sale (ePoS) device enabled fair price shop (FPS) or ration shop from anywhere in the country. They use the same or existing ration card issued in their home state or UT.

Since the inception of the ONORC plan in August 2019, about 56 crore portability transactions have been recorded in the country till January end, the food ministry informed Parliament this week.

Migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were the biggest beneficiaries of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme in Delhi, an analysis of the data shows. Nearly 48% of the inter-state transactions for lifting the foodgrains from ration shops were made by the migrants from these two states in the past seven months.

The government data show that in the past seven months, a total of nearly 11.26 lakh inter-state portability transactions were recorded across the ration shops in the national capital and around 5.4 lakh such transactions were done by the persons who have their permanent residence in UP and Bihar. Since the inception of the ONORC plan in August 2019, about 56 crore portability transactions have been recorded in the country till January end.

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**17. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMV) Recent Changes In Budget :**

- 1. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched in 2017, provides ₹5,000 for the birth of the first child to partially compensate a woman for loss of wages.**
- 2. Under the revamped PMMVY under Mission Shakti, the maternity benefit amounting to ₹6000 is also to be provided for the second child, but only if the second is a girl child,**

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?**

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

The number of beneficiaries who enrolled for the maternity benefit programme, called Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), exceeded the government's target of 51.7 lakh per year in each of the last three years, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told Parliament.

The total number of beneficiaries enrolled during each of the last three financial years under the PMMVY is more than the indicative target. The reply did not provide the exact number of enrolments.

The PMMVY scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016.

It provides a benefit of ₹5,000 in three instalments to a woman for her first living child upon meeting certain conditions. This is meant as partial compensation for loss of wage during her pregnancy so that she can get proper nutrition. The scheme is only for those women who are not employed by the Central or State governments or a Public Sector Undertaking and don't receive similar benefits under any law.

It is clubbed with the Janani Suraksha Yojana scheme which provides nearly ₹1,000 for institutional births so that altogether mothers get ₹6,000 in maternity benefit. The scheme has been criticised for under-funding and failing to cater to all targeted beneficiaries. Activists also call the scheme illegal as it violates the National Food Security Act, 2013 under which all mothers, and not just mothers of the first living child, should get a maternity benefit of ₹6,000.

# Universalise maternity benefit scheme, say activists

Govt. has said PMMVY will cover second child only when it is a girl

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
 NEW DELHI

The government's recent announcement that the maternity benefit programme which provides ₹5,000 for first child will be extended to cover the second child only if it is a girl has met with sharp criticism from activists who have demanded that it be universalised.

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched in 2017, provides ₹5,000 for the birth of the first child to partially compensate a woman for loss of wages. It also aims to improve the nutritional well-being of the mother and the child. The amount is given in

three instalments upon meeting certain conditions. It is combined with another scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, under which nearly ₹1,000 is given for an institutional birth, so that a woman gets a total of ₹6,000.

“Under the revamped PMMVY under Mission Shakti, the maternity benefit amounting to ₹6000 is also to be provided for the second child, but only if the second is a girl child, to discourage pre-birth sex selection and promote the girl child,” Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told the Lok Sabha last week.

“Firstly, to provide mater-



A woman cradles her baby at her worksite in Vijayawada.

nity benefit only to the mother of the first-born is illegal as the National Food Security Act, 2013 lays down that every pregnant woman and lactating mother are entitled to it. Then to couch it to say that it is to promote the birth of a girl child is nothing but posturing” says Jashodhara

Dasgupta, co-convener, Feminist Policy Collective.

She says that adding more conditions to the scheme will prove to be a bureaucratic nightmare, which can be overcome if the scheme is universalised.

“During COVID-19 in the past two years, ASHA [accre-

dited social health activist] workers have not been giving out contraceptive supplies. When the State has failed to provide contraceptive services, why is it penalising women for having babies,” asserts Ms. Dasgupta.

“The new announcement implies that women will be able to access the scheme only after the delivery, which will not have any impact on their nutritional uptake during the course of their pregnancy,” says Raghvesh Ranjan, Director, Social and Economic Empowerment, IPE Global.

One of the objectives of the scheme is to also improve health seeking behaviour of women and, therefore, the first instalment of ₹1,000 is given after ascertaining early registration of

pregnancy and the second instalment of ₹2,000 is given after an ante-natal check after six months of pregnancy and the final instalment of ₹2,000 is given after the registration of the child birth and vaccinations for the newborn. Though the Minister shared the information days after the Union Budget, the allocation for the scheme has not shown a notable increase. The scheme is clubbed with several other programmes under the Samarthya scheme. The allocation of ₹2,522 crore for the umbrella scheme last fiscal was almost the same as the allocation of ₹2,500 crore for the PMMVY alone the year before. For financial year 2022-2023, the umbrella scheme has seen a total increase of ₹100 crore.

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**18. Recently In February The Central government has released Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022 According To The Guidelines The government will form Central Media Accreditation Committee (CMAC) Which Will Be chaired by Whom Among The Following ?**

- A. Department Of Finance Secretary**
- B. Principal Director General Of Press Information Bureau (PIB)**
- C. Department Of Commerce And Industries**
- D. Indian Journalism Council Head**

## JournoS with digital cos to get accreditation

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** In a first, journalists working for digital news publishers will be recognised under the new Central Media Accreditation Guidelines 2022, published on Monday by the Press Information Bureau of the I&B ministry.

The guidelines, on the basis of which working journalists in the National Capital Region are granted government accreditation, came into effect from February 1.

As per the guidelines, while news aggregators will not be considered for accreditation, digital news publishers that have furnished the requisite information to the I&B ministry under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code),



The new guidelines came into effect from February 1

Rules, 2021, haven't been found to be in violation and have been in continuous existence for at least a year, will be eligible for accreditation.

The norms have also, for the first time, done away with cumulative quota for media groups. Instead, quotas have been set for individual organisations basis their circulation, viewership or subscription figures. This is expected to lead to a sharp decrease in the number of accredited persons going forward.

A daily, weekly or fortnightly with a circulation of over one lakh, for instance, will be entitled to a quota of 15 people, while a print news agency with over 500 subscribers will get 50 accreditations.

Print and TV news organisations that have digital media arms as an extension will have to adjust them within their quotas. From now on, print media journalists applying for fresh accreditations will also need to furnish RNI registration and circulation certificates of their publications, while TV journalists will have to supply a copy of the permission letter from I&B ministry

for uplinking and downlinking as a news and current affairs channel.

Among other changes, the Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022 has renamed the 'long and distinguished category' accreditation to 'veterans' and has removed the mandatory prerequisite, in this category, of persons to hold a PIB accreditation for 20 years to be eligible to apply. Now, 'veterans' who above the age of 65 years who have worked as journalists for 30 years or more will be eligible to apply. In the freelance category, journalists will have to submit 20 (instead of 15) clippings as before. The government has done away with the mandatory requirement of a CA certificate to prove remuneration through journalism.

The Central government has released Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022. It has been released after several journalist organizations questioned the manner in which the government has arbitrarily changed practices related to accreditation.

According to new guidelines, accreditation will be withdrawn or suspended if a journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country's security, sovereignty, and integrity. Accreditation can also be withdrawn for contempt of court, incitement to an offense, and defamation.

It also lays down guidelines for the accreditation of journalists working for online news platforms. If a journalist presents forged information or documents, his/her accreditation may also be suspended. Accreditation allows journalists access to government offices and official functions.

The government will also form Central Media Accreditation Committee (CMAC) chaired by the principal director general, Press Information Bureau (PIB).



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19. Recently In February Indian Army has started Which Of The Following Technology For tagging of its ammunition inventory ?

- A. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
- B. Terahertz Frequency Identification (TFID)
- C. Automated Species Identification (ASI)
- D. Automatic Equipment Identification (AEI)

Indian Army has started Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging of its ammunition inventory on 09 February.

The first consignment of RFID tagged ammunition was dispatched from Ammunition Factory Khadki to Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) Pulgaon.

Ordnance Services Directorate of the Indian Army and Munitions India Limited (MIL), Pune, has steered the implantation of RFID tagging.

Munitions India Limited (MIL), Pune is the newly created entity formed post corporatisation of the Ordnance Factories Board.

RFID tagging adheres to global standards in consultation with GS-1 India. GS-1 India is a Global Standards organisation set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Radio Frequency Identification:

It is a method of automatic identification and data capture. With this technology, tagged items can be identified by the use of radio waves

### IN BRIEF



#### Army begins RFID tagging of inventory

NEW DELHI

The Army has commenced Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging of its ammunition inventory, which it said would lead to increased efficiency in technical activities carried out in ammunition depots and reduce inventory carrying costs.

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20. Recently In February Which of the following divisions of Western Railway has operated 100th Textile train from Chalthan to Sankrail?

- A. Vadodara Division
- B. Mumbai Central Division**
- C. Ahmedabad Division
- D. Hyderabad Division

## Indian Railways achieves great milestone within five months as Mumbai Division operates 100th Textile Express

Last year in the month of September, the first 'textile parcel' special train of Indian Railways consisting 25 new modified goods wagons, which were customised to carry textile material, ran from Gujarat to the state of Bihar.

Written by [FE Online](#)  
February 10, 2022 9:56:59 am



The total NMG rakes loaded from Chalthan was 67 and from Udhna was 33. Indian Railways' Textile Express fetched a revenue to the tune of Rs 10.2 crores.

Indian Railways Textile Express: The Mumbai Central Division of the Western Railway zone has recently achieved a milestone of loading the 100th Textile train from Chalthan, located in the Surat area, to Sankrail of South Eastern Railways' Kharagpur Division. On 01.09.2021, the first train was flagged off by the Minister of State for Railways and Textiles Darshana Jardosh from Udhna in Gujarat. The statement by Railway Ministry said that achieving this milestone within five months time reflects the growing confidence of Surat's textile sector in Indian Railways. Major destinations include Shankrail, Shalimar in the South Eastern Railway zone as well as Danapur and Narayanpur in the East Central Railway zone.

Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway has operated the 100th Textile train from Chalthan to Sankrail.

Railways has achieved the milestone of 100th Textile train within a span of five months.

First train was flagged off by Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways and Textiles from Udhna on 1 September 2021.

Western Railways is one of eighteen zones of Indian Railways. Major routes under the western railway are Mumbai Central–Ratlam, Mumbai Central–Ahmedabad and Palanpur–Ahmedabad..

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21. Recently In February State-owned THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) , NHPC AND SJVN signed the letter of intent (LoI) to set up 10,000-megawatt (MW) solar power projects in Which Of The Following State ?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

State-owned THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) signed the letter of intent (LoI) to set up 10,000-megawatt (MW) solar power projects in Rajasthan. Under The Invest Rajasthan Campaign

These solar projects will be established with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore in Rajasthan.

The land will be allocated by the Government of Rajasthan through RRECL. The renewable energy park will be set up through a special purpose vehicle. THDC India Limited:

THDC India Limited is a leading Power Sector company. It was established in 1988. THDC India Limited is a Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise of India

of contracts.

### NHPC's 10k MW green energy project in Rajasthan

STATE-RUN NHPC HAS signed a letter of intent (LoI) to build renewable energy projects of 10,000 MW in Rajasthan. "...a Letter of Intent (LoI) has been signed between NHPC and Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RRECL) on February 8, 2022 at Jaipur for development of 10,000 MW Renewable Energy Projects/ Parks in Rajasthan in the august presence of chief minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot," it said in a BSE filing.

22. Recently In February Indian army has conducted first-of-its-kind Hackathon under the name of Which Of The Following ?

- A. Paschim Lahar
- B. Sainya Ranakshetram**
- C. Pralay Utkarh
- D. Brhamosh Visharjan

Indian army has conducted first-of-its-kind Hackathon under the name of "Sainya Ranakshetram".

Hackathon was conducted at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow. Hackathon was conducted under the overall guidance of the Shimla based Army Training Command, which is one of the seven commands of the Indian Army.

Hackathon was conducted from 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2021 in collaboration with the Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane felicitated the winners of the Hackathon during an online ceremony held on 10 February 2022.

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**23. Recently In February Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has *launched SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme With An Outlay Of How Much Amount ?***

- A. Rs 458 Cr
- B. Rs 260 Cr
- C. Rs 365 Cr**
- D. Rs 589 Cr

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched **SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme.**

SMILE is a central sector scheme for the welfare of transgender community and the beggars.

**Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry has allocated Rs 365 Crore for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

It includes two sub-schemes - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.

The focus of Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging is on survey and identification, mobilization, Rescue/Shelter Home and comprehensive resettlement.

## SMILE scheme launched to support transgenders and people engaged in begging

*pilot projects have been initiated on Comprehensive Rehabilitation in 10 cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad.*

ETGovernment • February 13, 2022, 15:37 IST



Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launches SMILE in New Delhi on Saturday.

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Central Sector scheme "SMILE: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" on Saturday at BHIM Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. This umbrella scheme, designed by

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

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**24. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index for 2021* :**

- 1. India is ranked at 46th place With Score Of 6.91. Its score is lowest (5) on the parameter of political culture and highest (8.67) on the parameter of electoral process and pluralism.**
- 2. Norway occupies first place in the democracy index followed by New Zealand, Finland and Iceland.**
- 3. Afghanistan is ranked at the last place in the index followed by Myanmar (2nd position from bottom) and North Korea (3rd position from bottom).**

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?**

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

**India Ranked 46th In Democracy Index; Persecution Of Minorities By Hindu Nationalists Blamed**

Sambad English Bureau — Published On : Feb 10, 2022

**INDIA** **INDIA & BEYOND**



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**London:** The Indian government’s failure to crack down on the persecution of religious and other minorities by Hindu nationalists continues to weigh on the country’s democracy score, which has declined significantly in recent years, as per the EIUs 2021 Democracy Index.

In India, which registered a small improvement in its score, year-long protests by farmers eventually forced the government to repeal the farm laws that it had introduced in 2020.

**RELATED**

Daily COVID-19 cases drop in Odisha with 339 infections

Massoud, Taliban agree to not to attack each other until next round of talks

The victory of the protesters, as well as some disappointing defeats for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), showed that there are mechanisms and institutions in place to allow government accountability to the electorate between national elections, it said.

India is ranked 46 on the global index with an overall score of 6.91. It has the lowest score of 5 on political culture and the highest score of 8.67 on electoral process and pluralism. It scores 6.18 on civil liberties, 7.22 on political participation, 7.50 on functioning of government.

Asia’s average index score fell sharply in 2021 following major reversals in Myanmar and Afghanistan, which join North Korea at the bottom of the rankings.

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India is ranked at 46th place in Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index for 2021.

India's score is 6.91. Its score is lowest (5) on the parameter of political culture and highest (8.67) on the parameter of electoral process and pluralism.

India's score on parameters of civil liberties, political participation and functioning of government is 6.18, 7.22 and 7.50, respectively.

Bangladesh's rank in Democracy Index for 2021 has improved by one position. It is ranked at 75th rank among 167 countries of world. It scored 5.99 on a scale of 10 in 2021. Its score is same as in 2020. As per the report, over one-third of the world's population live under authoritarian rule.

Norway occupies first place in the democracy index followed by New Zealand, Finland and Iceland.

Afghanistan is ranked at the last place in the index followed by Myanmar (2nd position from bottom) and North Korea (3rd position from bottom).

Indonesia (ranked at 52nd) has shown second biggest improvement globally (after Zambia) in its total index score.

21 of 167 countries included in the index are placed under the category of full democracy and 53 are placed under the flawed democracy category. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is part of the Economist Group. It brings out Democracy Index and Government Broadband Index.

#### **EIU Democracy Index:**

It is based on 60 indicators grouped into five parameters.

These parameters are electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.

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**25. Recently In February The Government has approved the continuation of the mega police modernization scheme for five years with an outlay of How Much Amount ?**

- A. Rs 24098 Cr
- B. Rs 26,275 Cr**
- C. Rs 45016 Cr
- D. Rs 8659 Cr

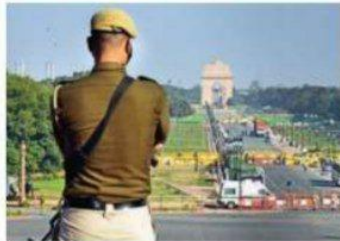
# Govt Approves ₹26,275 cr for Police Modernisation

**FOCUS ON FORENSICS, WEAPONS** Scheme includes expenditure in J&K, NE and LWE areas

**Our Political Bureau**

**New Delhi:** To improve the quality of forensics, policing and weapons, the Centre has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years (up to 2025-26) with a financial outlay of ₹26,275 crore.

The Union home ministry said the scheme includes security-related expenditure in Jammu and Kashmir, northeastern states and Maoist-affected areas for raising new battalions, developing high-tech forensic laboratories and other investigation tools.



The government has approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF), an official statement said. This scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the

**SUB-SCHEMES INCLUDED**

The scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to modernisation and improvement

modernisation and improvement with a total central financial outlay of ₹26,275 crore, the statement said. It said provision has been made under the scheme for internal security, law and order and adoption of modern tech-

nology by the police. Assistance will be given to states for narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic set-up in the country.

An outlay of ₹18,839 crore has been earmarked for security-related expenditure in J&K, insurgency-hit northeastern states and Left-wing extremism affected areas. As per the statement, ₹4,846 crore will be given by the Centre for the modernisation of the state police forces. To develop operationally independent high-quality forensic sciences facilities in states and Union territories for aiding scientific investigation, ₹2,080.50 crore will be given.

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The Government has approved the continuation of the mega police modernization scheme for five years with an outlay of Rs 26,275 crores.

This scheme includes all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the modernization of police and improvement in security.

Around 18000 crores will be spent on the security of Jammu and Kashmir, Left Wing Extremism areas, and the Northeast. The government will help states in strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic infrastructure in the country. Around Rs 4,846 crore will be given by the Centre for the modernization of the state police forces.

Rs 2,080.50 crore will be given to States and Union Territories for setting up high-quality forensic sciences facilities.

Under this five-year plan, the government has made provisions for internal security, law and order, adoption of modern technology by police, etc.

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26. Recently In February According To The Niti Aayog Report Titled " Reimagining Health Care In India Through Blended Finance " The Number Of Hospital Beds In India Needs To Grow By At How Much Percent To Ensure Equitable Access To Healthcare For All ?

- A. 45 %
- B. 30 %**
- C. 39 %
- D. 50 %

A Niti Aayog report has said that about 65 per cent of hospital beds in the country cater to almost 50 per cent of the population and stressed that the number of beds must be increased by at least 30 per cent to ensure equitable access to healthcare facilities for people.

In a report titled 'Reimagining Healthcare in India through Blended Finance', the Aayog further said India's healthcare spending is least among BRICS countries.

According to the report, the hospital sector in India accounts for 80 per cent of the total healthcare market. "It was valued at USD 61.79 billion in FY17 and is expected to reach USD 132 billion by 2023, growing at a CAGR of 16-17 per cent" the report said. It pointed out that India's healthcare spending is 3.6 per cent of GDP, including out-of-pocket and public expenditure. Observing that the combined total government expenditure of both central and state is 1.29 per cent of GDP, the report said India spends the least among BRICS countries.

Brazil spends the most (9.2 per cent), followed by South Africa (8.1 per cent), Russia (5.3 per cent) and China (5 per cent). As per the latest estimates by the United Nations, nearly USD 3.9 trillion is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030,

## ■ NITI Aayog: 30% More Hospital Beds Needed



**NEW DELHI** The number of hospital beds in India needs to grow by at least 30% to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all, the NITI

Aayog said. In a report titled 'Reimagining Healthcare in India through Blended Finance', released Tuesday, the Aayog said around 65% of hospital beds cater to almost 50% of the population in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal and Kerala while the other 50% of the country's population living in the remaining 21 states and eight union territories has access to only 35% of the hospital beds. **—Our Bureau**



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27. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Announced To Launch An Updated Consumer Facing Version E- Commerce Portal Bharat E- Market In March 2022 ?
- A. Apeda
  - B. Conference Of India Industry
  - C. Conference Of All India Traders**
  - D. Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade

After a year of beta testing, the Conference of All India Traders (CAIT) is looking to launch an updated consumer facing version of its e-commerce portal Bharat eMarket in March 2022.

CAIT's Bharat eMarket will sell products across all categories that rivals Amazon and Flipkart sell. An older version of the marketplace was launched as app and website in March last year, and it has been through several pilots, CAIT's National Secretary General, Praveen Khandelwal

Khandelwal said, "We are launching our very own Bharat eMarket platform in March, post Holi. The tagline will be mere liye, mere desh ke liye. It will be a democratic platform, compliant with e-commerce rules. Trial runs have been conducted and we have 50,000 traders on board

## CAIT to launch updated version of Bharat eMarket

DEBANGANA GHOSH

Mumbai, February 9

After a year of beta testing, the Conference of All India Traders hopes to launch an updated consumer facing version of its e-commerce portal Bharat eMarket in March 2022. This comes a month after the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) held a meeting with e-commerce industry stakeholders, where top e-commerce companies had presented their in-house programmes and plans to digitise local shops and businesses, apart from discussing the new e-commerce rules.

An older version of the marketplace was launched as app and website in March last year, and it has been through several pilots, CAIT's National Secretary General, Praveen Khandelwal told *Business-Line*. So far, the platform has added over 50,000 sellers.

28. Recently In February The Union Health Minsitry Announced The *Integeration Of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) With AAROGYA Setu Which Will Provide How Many Digit Unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)Number To The Users Of The App ?*

- A. 15
- B. 17
- C. 14
- D. 13

## Unique health ID number to be accessible on Aarogya Setu: Govt

Rhythm Kaul

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union health ministry on Friday announced the integration of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with the Aarogya Setu mobile application, which will take the benefits of the 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number to the users of the app.

“Empowering citizens with advanced healthcare system! Over 21.4 crore Aarogya Setu users will now be able to create a 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number from the app. This integration will strengthen the digi-

### PEOPLE CAN USE ABHA NUMBER TO LINK MEDICAL RECORDS, DOCTOR PRESCRIPTIONS

tal health ecosystem,” tweeted Union health minister, Mansukh Mandaviya.

People can use the ABHA number to link their existing and new medical records, including doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital records etc. and also share these records with registered health professionals and health service providers and also access other digital health services whilst main-

taining a common pool of medical history.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has generated 164 million identification numbers through its portal, and authorities expect Aarogya Setu will help amplify the numbers further as about 214 million users are currently registered on the app.

“Aarogya Setu application has played a pivotal role amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. With the integration of Aarogya Setu with ABDM, we will now be able to make benefits of ABDM available to the users of Aarogya Setu and enable them to join the digital health ecosystem,” said RS Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority.

The National Health Authority on Friday announced the integration of its flagship Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with the Aarogya Setu app, allowing users to create the 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers from the app.

According to an official statement, this integration takes the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number to the Aarogya Setu user base.

With the integration of Aarogya Setu with ABDM, we will now be able to make the benefits of ABDM available to the users of Aarogya Setu and enable them to join the digital health ecosystem with their due consent.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

29. Recently In February According To The World For Leed Certified Green Buildings In 2021 In The US Green Building Council (USGBC) Annual Which Countries Are Not In The Top 3 IIST ?

- A. Singapore
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Canada

India ranks third globally in LEED certified green buildings

**INDIA HAS RANKED** third in the world for LEED certified green buildings in 2021 in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list. China and Canada are at the first two positions. The US is not included in the list but remains the world's largest market for LEED.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely-used green building rating system in the world. Available for virtually all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. —PTI

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), announced India has ranked third in the world on its annual list of the Top 10 Countries and Regions for LEED in 2021. The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the United States that are making significant strides in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations. India certified a total of 146 buildings and spaces to LEED, representing nearly 2.8 million gross area square meters (GSM) of space. This marks a nearly 10% increase in LEED certified space in India from 2020.

India ranks third on the list behind China, which topped the list with more than 14 million GSM, and Canada which certified more than 3.2 million GSM.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world On a cumulative basis, India's overall projects under LEED stand at 1,649 buildings with a total of 46.2 million gross square meters.

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30. Recently In February The Government banned the import of drones with immediate effect, except for research and development, defence and security purposes. The government Has approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and their components with an allocation of How Much Amount for A Period Of How Many years ?

- A. 150 Cr , 5 Years
- B. 120 Cr , 3 Years**
- C. 145 Cr , 5 Years
- D. 160 cr , 5 Years

## India bans drone import to help domestic sector

Exceptions given for R&D, defence

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday banned the import of drones with immediate effect, except for research and development, defence and security purposes.

The move aims to promote made-in-India drones, a statement from the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2022 on Wednesday effecting the prohibition of drones for

import. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said that while exceptions were provided for R&D, defence and security, importing drones for these purposes will require “due clearances”. However, import of drone components will not need any approvals.

Last year, the Ministry notified liberalised drone rules with the aim to encourage R&D and to make India a drone hub. The government also approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and their components with an allocation of ₹120 crore for three financial years.

The Government banned the import of drones with immediate effect, except for research and development, defence and security purposes. The move aims to promote made-in-India drones, a statement from the Ministry of Civil Aviation said.

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The Ministry of Civil Aviation said that while exceptions were provided for R&D, defence and security, importing drones for these purposes will require “due clearances”. However, import of drone components will not need any approvals. Last year, the Ministry notified liberalised drone rules with the aim to encourage R&D and to make India a drone hub.

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**31. Recently In February Union Power Minister R K Singh launched a hackathon, named Powerthon-2022, to find tech-driven solutions for quality power supply. In Collaboration With Which Of The Following IIT ?**

- a. IIT Ropar
- b. IIT Delhi
- c. IIT Bombay**
- d. IIT Madras

Union Minister for Power and New Renewable Energy R K Singh virtually launched today Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) to find technology driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply,

REC Limited, in collaboration with SINE, IIT Bombay, has announced the launch of the Powerthon-2022.

**Powerthon-2022 is being launched in line with the aim of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) introduced by the Ministry of Power.**

The RDSS is a reform-based and result-linked scheme introduced by the ministry. The key objectives of RDSS are reducing AT&C losses to 12-15 per cent, eliminating the ACOS-ARR (actual cost of supply and actual revenue realised) gap by 2024-25 and improving the quality and reliability of the power supply.

**32. Recently In February The Central Government is likely to extend an incentive scheme for leather and footwear industries, IFLADP, till 2025-26 with an outlay of HOW Much Amount , to further boost manufacturing, exports and job creation ?**

- A. Rs 2100 Cr
- B. rS 1700 Cr**
- C. Rs 2000 Cr
- D. rS 2500 Cr

The commerce and industry ministry has submitted a proposal for the implementation of the Indian Footwear Leather and Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP) with an outlay of ₹1,700 crore, to be incurred during 2021-22 to 2025-26,

The programme has six components — Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (proposed outlay ₹500 crore); Integrated Development of Leather Sector (proposed outlay ₹500 crore); Establishment of Institutional Facilities ( ₹200 crore); Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development ( ₹300 crore); Brand Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector ( ₹100 crore); and Development of Design Studios ( ₹100 crore).

**Earlier, the IFLADP was announced with an expenditure of ₹2,600 crore for three financial years — 2017-18 to 2019-20. It was also aimed at the development of infrastructure and facilitate additional investments, increasing production and employment generation.**

**International News**

**33.Recently In February Sri Lanka Has Announced To Implement UID Framework Appranently Modelled On Aadhar Card As National Programme .What Is The Full Form Of UIDF ?**

- A. Unified Digital Identity Framework
- B. Unitary Digital Identity Framwork**
- C. United Digital Identity Framework
- D. Unitary Digitalisation Identity Framwork

**Sri Lanka to launch its own 'Aadhaar'**

India agrees to provide a grant to implement the 'digital identity framework'

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national level programme, Sri Lanka's Cabinet decided on Monday.

"Under the proposed Unitary Digital Identity Framework, it is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices," according to a statement released by the Department of Government Information on Tuesday.



**Helping hand:** The initiative follows bilateral talks between Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Narendra Modi in 2019. • FILE PHOTO

The initiative follows bilateral talks between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by Mr. Rajapaksa, in his capacity as the Minister of Technology, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with India, in order to obtain the grant and take the project forward.

It also comes amid substantive economic assistance from India – totalling \$ 1.4 billion since the beginning of this year – to Sri Lanka, to help the island nation cope with its dollar crunch, and import food, medicines and fuel amid frequent shortages.

While India has confirmed support for Sri Lanka's effort to transition to a digital identity system, there

is no official information yet on the value of the grant, and whether it would include technological support or training. Queried on the specifics of the agreement, Colombo-based official sources said the terms of the agreement are "being worked out".

This is not the first time that Sri Lanka is attempting to digitise its citizens' identities. Just a few years ago, the predecessor Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration, in power from 2015 to 2019, mooted a similar Electronic-National Identity Card – or E-NIC – that privacy advocates opposed on grounds that the state would have full access to citizens' personal data in a central database.

The former Mahinda Rajapaksa government tried initiating the project as early as 2011. Neither project was implemented.

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card

"Under the proposed Unitary Digital Identity Framework, it is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices

About UIDAI - The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory body that is established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") Aadhaar card or Aadhaar number is a 12 digit number. At present tagline of Aadhaar- Mera Aadhaar, Meri Pehchan

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**34. Recently On 11 February, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed through a video message to the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit Which Was Held In Which Of The Following Country ?**

- A. Italy
- B. France**
- C. Germany
- D. Romania

On 11 February, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed through a video message to the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.

Several heads of state and government addressed the summit's high-level segment, including Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, and Canada, among others.

From 9th to the 11th February, France hosted the One Ocean Summit in Brest, France, in collaboration with the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Summit's goal was to mobilize the international community into taking concrete steps to preserve and support healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

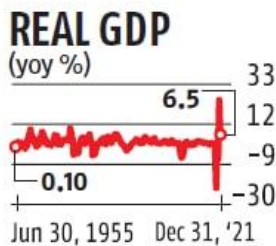
To promote awareness and restore declining marine life, the United Nations has declared the decade between 2021 and 2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.'

**35. Recently In February Inflation In United State Has Touched A Record High After 40 Years High With Consumer Price Index At What Percent ?**

- A. 7.5 %**
- B. 8.9 %
- C. 9.2 %
- D. 12.59 %

**UK GDP grows at fastest clip since WW-II in 2021**

The UK economy expanded at the fastest pace since World War II last year after suffering a milder hit than expected in December. The 7.5 per cent expansion was the largest since 1941 and made Britain the fastest-growing advanced economy in 2021. The economy nonetheless remained smaller in the fourth quarter than at the end of 2019, before the pandemic struck. The figures will be welcomed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is grappling with a brutal cost of living crisis. **BLOOMBERG**



{ WORLD } LARGEST JUMP SINCE 1982

**US inflation spikes to 40-year high**



**Inflation in the United States was as hot as ever** last month, with consumer prices seeing their largest annual jump in nearly four decades as costs rose for a wide range of items. The Labor Department said on Thursday the consumer price index (CPI) climbed 7.5% over the 12 months to January, its largest increase since February 1982, while it rose by 0.6% compared to December, more than analysts expected. The data defied hopes by President Joe Biden that the wave of price increases sapping his public approval would show signs of decelerating in the first month of 2022, and further bolstered expectations that the Federal Reserve will soon increase interest rates. An array of factors is seen as driving the price increases, from the Fed's easy money policies meant to support the economy during the pandemic to supply chain snarls, shortages of components and labour and robust demand from American consumers. **AFP**

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**36. Recently In February To commemorate the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science,' India has launched a Community Innovator Fellowship in collaboration with Which Of The Following International Organisation ?**

- A. UNDP**
- B. UNEP**
- C. UNESCO**
- D. WEF**

To commemorate the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science,' India has launched a Community Innovator Fellowship in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Community Innovator Fellowship program has been created as a pre-incubation model.

It will make it easier for young people to start their own social enterprise that focuses on SDG-based solutions to community issues.

The one-year intensive fellowship program is designed for aspiring community innovators, regardless of socio-economic background.

Since 1951, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been working in India on human development.

**SDG SOLUTIONS**

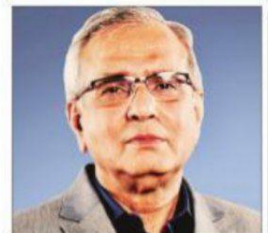
**Niti's Atal Innovation Mission, UNDP India launch community innovator fellowship**

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

**THE NITI AAYOG'S** Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNDP India on Friday launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF), which will provide the youth with an opportunity to establish their social enterprise focusing on sustainable development goals (SDG)-based solutions for solving community issues, according to an official statement. This is going to be a one-year-long intensive fellowship programme, which has been designed for aspiring community innovators, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

During the course of this fellowship, each fellow will be hosted at one of the AIM's Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) and will acquire SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills and life skills while they are working on their idea, it added.

ACICs will nurture the youth-led innovations by providing suitable resources in terms of operating facilities, co-working space, maker labs and a dynamic business network to the innovator, accord-



**NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar**

ing to the statement. Addressing the launch event, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said this fellowship aims to provide young community innovators necessary infrastructure and knowledge building in their entrepreneurial journey.

This is a propelling initiative to harness the creativity and the innovation potential that the grassroots of India hold, Kumar added.

He said all stakeholders must come together to make this fellowship a great success as it will require a lot of passion and enthusiasm. The statement said ACICs have been established with a focus to develop the start-up and innovation ecosystem in the underserved regions of the country.



**37. Recently In February India has inked an agreement with the UN World Food Programme to distribute 50,000 tonnes of Which Variety Of Food to Afghanistan via Pakistan's land border ?**

- A. Wheat**
- B. Rice**
- C. Mango**
- D. Pomegrante**

## WFP to allot Indian wheat in Afghanistan

India signs agreement with the UN wing to manage the distribution of the humanitarian assistance

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

India signed an agreement with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 tonnes of wheat that it has committed to sending Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.

Diplomatic efforts are under way to begin sending truck convoys through Pakistan by road, and the transport is expected to begin after the Punjab election on February 20.

The agreement was announced by the Indian Embassy in Rome, where Ambassador Neena Malhotra handed over the MoU for the WFP to take charge of the wheat convoys when they reach Afghanistan, and to distribute them to those Afghans who are facing a humanitarian crisis. In a tweet, the WFP, headquartered in Rome, called it a "landmark"



**Helping hand:** India had promised 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of its humanitarian aid. ■ FILE PHOTO

agreement thanking India for the "generous contribution of wheat in support of the people of Afghanistan facing severe food shortages".

According to the MoU, the wheat will be taken through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar beginning February 22. The wheat will eventually be

divided into five batches of 10,000 tonnes, to be distributed across the country on approximately 200 trucks that are run by the WFP.

The WFP runs its own logistics network inside Afghanistan, partnering with civil society groups, and has launched a global campaign for enough food and aid for the population facing malnutrition – estimated to be half

the population or 22 million Afghans.

"India's commitment for 50,000 tonnes is extremely important, especially in times of the pandemic, and we remain hopeful that the Indian government will extend its generosity for even more grain stocks when possible," Bishow Parajuli, WFP's India Country Director, told *The Hindu*.

### Delayed due to polls

Officials said some details are still being finalised among Indian, Pakistani and Afghan officials for the transport. Although Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan had cleared an Indian proposal to use the land route in November 2021 and the Taliban regime had welcomed the offer, officials said the Pakistani government had held up the process by insisting that Indian trucks would not be allowed to ply and even-

tually only cleared Afghan trucks to carry the wheat. More recently, the process has been delayed on the Indian side due to arrangements for the Punjab election, sources said. They now expect to see the first trucks carrying about 3,000 tonnes of wheat across the border to begin after polling.

Iran has also offered to facilitate transfer of the wheat through the Chabahar port and then on to Afghanistan's border via Zahedan. According to an official, "all clearances" have been issued for the transport from Tehran, after Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on January 8. It is unclear whether India will use the Chabahar route, which it had employed from 2017-2020 to transport about one million tonnes of wheat, before the Taliban took control of Kabul.

India has inked an agreement with the UN World Food Programme to distribute 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan's land border.

The MoU states that the wheat will be transported through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and then handed over to WFP authorities in Kandahar on February 22.

WFP will take charge of wheat convoys when they reach Afghanistan and distribute them to common people.

### World Food Programme (WFP):

It is the world's largest humanitarian intergovernmental organization that focuses on hunger and food security. It is headquartered in Rome. The FAO and the United Nations General Assembly formally established the WFP in 1963. David Beasley is the current Executive Director of World Food Programme.

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**38. Recently In February Jammu And Kashmir Signed An Mou With Newzeland pledged to help “in doubling produce in the farming sector” of the Union Territory With This NewZeland Became Second foreign country to work with the J&K government after Which Of The Following Country ?**

- a. Japan
- b. UAE**
- c. Australia
- d. Bangaladesh

New Zealand on February 9 became the second foreign country to work with the J&K government after the UAE and pledged to help “in doubling produce in the farming sector” of the Union Territory.

The J&K government signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) “for transforming the sheep farming sector in the UT”. The virtual signing ceremony with Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G, was presided over by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan

New Zealand G2G, the well-known public sector entity, is also partnering with other Indian States to leverage expertise and solutions for sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the J&K government and the world’s leading travel tech platform, OYO Group, on Wednesday decided to launch rural home stay under project ‘Crown of Incredible India’.

L-G Sinha has announced ₹50,000 special financial assistance to youth willing to establish a home stay unit. New Zealand on February 9 became the second foreign country to work with the J&K government after the UAE and pledged to help “in doubling produce in the farming sector” of the Union Territory.

The J&K government signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) “for transforming the sheep farming sector in the UT”. The virtual signing ceremony with Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G, was presided over by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan

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L-G Sinha has announced ₹50,000 special financial assistance to youth willing to establish a home stay unit.

**Banking And Economy**

**39. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank Has Topped The Public Sector Bank's List In Terms Of Loans In Quarter 3 That Ended In December Of The Current Financial Year ?**

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

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loans and savings deposit growth during the third quarter of the current financial year

The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 22.9 per cent increase in gross advances at Rs 1,29,006 crore in the October-December period of 2021-22, as per the data published by the bank.

BoM was followed by Canara Bank which posted a 9.28 per cent growth in total advances with aggregate loans at Rs 7,29,506 crore.

When it came to savings deposit mobilisation, BoM recorded an 18.33 per cent growth at Rs 80,815 crore. It was followed by Bank of Baroda that reported a 12.36 per cent rise at Rs 3,22,909 crore and State Bank of India. Bank Of Maharashtra  
 Headquarters: Pune CEO: A. S. Rajeev

## BoM tops PSBs list in terms of Q3 loans, savings deposit growth



**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
 New Delhi, February 9

**STATE-OWNED BANK OF Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loans and savings deposit growth during the third quarter of the current financial year, according to an analysis. The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 22.9% increase in gross advances to ₹1,29,006 crore in the October-December period of 2021-22, as per the data published by the bank.

An analysis of data disclosed by various lenders for the third quarter showed that BoM was followed by Canara Bank, which posted a 9.28% growth in total advances with aggregate loans at ₹7,29,506 crore.

In terms of the RAM (retail, agriculture and MSME) segment, BoM registered the highest growth rate of 18.06% at ₹75,927 crore.

When it came to savings deposit mobilisation, BoM recorded an 18.33% growth at ₹80,815 crore. It was followed by Bank of Baroda that reported a

12.36% rise at ₹3,22,909 crore and State Bank of India. The latter posted an increase of 10.30%. However, in absolute terms, SBI's savings deposit base was 18 times higher at ₹14,73,506 crore as against BoM's ₹80,815 crore.

In terms of the asset quality improvement, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of BoM was at 4.73% of total advances, the second best after SBI at 4.5% during the December quarter.

With regard to net NPA, BoM was better at 1.24% while that of SBI was 1.34% during the quarter under review.

Total business of BoM increased 18.27% to touch ₹3,15,620 crore at the end of December last year.

For the third quarter ended December, BoM's standalone net profit more than doubled to ₹325 crore, against ₹154 crore in the same period a year ago. Its total income climbed to ₹3,893 crore from ₹3,582 crore.

The net interest income grew 17% to ₹1,527 crore during the quarter under review. The same was at ₹1,306 crore for the third quarter of the previous financial year.

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40. Recently In February Which Of The Following Firm Has Announced A New 45 Million Pound Amount To Install The United Kingdom's First Refinery Furnace Capable Of Running On 100 % Hydrogen Fuel ?
- A. Arcelor Mittal
  - B. JSW Steel Corporation
  - C. Essar Group**
  - D. Tata Group

Essar Oil UK, the firm that operates the Stanlow oil refinery in the UK, announced a new 45 million pound investment to install the United Kingdom's first refinery furnace capable of running on 100 per cent hydrogen fuel.

"This marks another significant milestone in Essar's continued commitment to becoming the UK's first low carbon refinery.

It follows the launch of Vertex Hydrogen last month, a new Essar-led joint venture, in which the company will invest £1 billion over the next five years to drive down emissions, including the development of new hydrogen production plants at Stanlow, forming a central part of the HyNet North West decarbonisation cluster

The scheme, which is subject to planning approval, comprises decommissioning of three existing furnaces (which include a chimney of approximately 140 metres in height) and their replacement with a single, highly efficient furnace, which includes a chimney approximately 71 metres high.

The furnace is currently being fabricated in Thailand. "With an investment of £45 million, the new furnace forms a key part of the company's strategy to reduce its own carbon emission

From 2026 onwards, it will be fuelled by hydrogen produced at Stanlow as part of the HyNet North West decarbonisation cluster. Essar's new joint venture, Vertex Hydrogen, will develop the world's first and largest blue hydrogen production plant at Stanlow.

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41. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has *launched an agroecology-based programme JIVA* that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states ?
- A. RBI
  - B. NABARD**
  - C. SIDBI
  - D. SEBI

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on Wednesday launched an agroecology-based programme JIVA that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.

"JIVA is a culmination of several projects under the watershed programme...and will be implemented on our existing completed (or near completed) watersheds and wadis in 11 states covering five agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas," NABARD

The JIVA programme will be implemented on a pilot basis in 25 projects across 11 states covering five agroecological zones.

For JIVA, NABARD will collaborate with national and multilateral agencies as this is a knowledge and skill-intensive programme.

NABARD will initially collaborate with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia, for simple soil water monitoring technology and ICAR for research support for scientific validation of natural farming practices,

Chairman G R Chintala National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is an apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Founded: 12 July 1982 Headquarters: Mumbai

42. Recently In February The Central Government Decided to extend **Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) till 2025-26**, with an outlay of How Much Crore Rs That will help boost domestic manufacturing, jobs creation and exports ?

- A. RS 1500 Cr
- B. Rs 1700 Cr**
- C. Rs 2000 Cr
- D. Rs 2500 Cr

The government's decision to extend Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) till 2025-26, with an outlay of Rs 1,700 crore, will help boost domestic manufacturing, jobs creation and exports, apex trade promotion body CLE said The commerce and industry ministry last week stated that the programme has been approved for continuation till March 31, 2026.

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Chairman Sanjay Leekha said the core objective of the IFLDP is to enable creation of world-class infrastructure to cater to the domestic market and exports.

IFLDP consists of six sub-schemes - Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD); Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS); Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP); Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector; Development of Design Studios; and Establishment of Institutional Facilities.

India is currently second largest producer of footwear, exporter of leather garments, and third largest exporter of saddlery and Harness items, and fifth in the outbound shipments of leather goods and accessories, according to the CLE data.

43. Recently In February Which Of The Following HAS Announced its **cyber sachet insurance policy** aimed at mitigating cyber-related, digital risks for individual customers and keeping them internet insured ?

- A. HDFC Ergo General Insurance**
- B. SBI General Insurance
- C. Bharti Axa General Life Insurance
- D. Punjab National Bank

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has announced the launch of its cyber sachet insurance policy aimed at mitigating cyber-related, digital risks for individual customers and keeping them internet insured.

Customers can be internet insured with a pocket-sized insurance cover at a nominal premium of less than ₹ 2 per day. The sum insured ranges from ₹ 10K to ₹ 5 crores for choice of covers that include financial loss, reputation loss, data loss and recovery, cyber liability protection, **HDFC ERGO is a 51:49 joint venture firm between HDFC and ERGO International AG**, one of the insurance entities of the Munich Re Group in Germany operating in the insurance field under the BFSI sector. CEO: Ritesh Kumar Headquarters: Mumbai

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44. Recently In February Amount Worth How Much Were Encashed By Political Parties In The 19th Tranche Of Electrol Bond That Was Open From 1 To 10th Janaury ?

- A. Rs 890.8 Cr
- B. Rs 1638.56 Cr
- C. Rs 324.36 Cr
- D. Rs 1212.86 Cr



Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections across five states, the State Bank of India (SBI) sold Electoral Bonds worth **Rs 1,123 crore in January this year,**

Ahead of the assembly polls in December, the Centre gave its nod for the issuance of the **19th tranche of electoral bonds** which were open for sale from January 1 to 10.

Out of the total amount, Electoral Bonds worth **Rs 489 crore were sold in the bank's Mumbai branch, Rs 154 crore in Kolkata, Rs 227 crore in Chennai** and Rs 126 crore in Hyderabad, among other state branches that collectively sold 2,068 bonds worth Rs 1,213 crore.

Electoral Bonds that were encashed during the same period which included bonds worth Rs 784 crore encashed in the New Delhi branch,

The scheme that began in 2018 enables Indian citizens or companies to buy bonds from 29 SBI branches in denominations of either Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to be used as anonymous donations to political parties.

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45. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Commissioned Gujarat's First Wind Solar Hybrid Project Of 17.6 MW At Chlor Alkali Unit In Vilayat Bharuch ?

- A. Azure Power
- B. ReNew Power**
- C. Tata Power
- D. Adani Power

## ReNew Power commissions wind-solar hybrid project

RENEW POWER HAS commissioned Gujarat's first wind-solar hybrid project of 17.6 MW at the Chlor-Alkali unit of Grasim Industries in Vilayat, Bharuch.

ReNew Power has commissioned Gujarat's first wind-solar hybrid project of 17.6 MW at the Chlor-Alkali unit of Grasim Industries Ltd in Vilayat, Bharuch. The first phase of the hybrid project, with 17.6 MW commercial-scale wind-solar, commenced operations last week and is expected to generate 80 million units of renewable energy every year

The partnership will expand further with an additional 16.68 MW, which will be commissioned in the next financial year (FY23), as part of the second phase.

The project is being developed by ReNew Green Solutions (RGS), the B2B arm of ReNew Power.

Both the parties have entered into a 25-year PPA (power purchase agreement), which will see the project supply power for the plant at Vilayat, Bharuch, via an open access mechanism.

Both phases together have a total investment of Rs 3.82 billion (USD 51 million or Rs 382 crore) through an equity partnership.

Mayank Bansal, Chief Commercial Officer, ReNew Power,



46. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **CRISIL Recent Report On Insurance Company ?**

1. **Allianz Of Germany Is The Largest Life Insurers In Terms Of Life Insurance Premium (Rs 88.48 Billion ) And Second In Terms Of Total Assets**
2. **Lic Has The Highest RoE Among Its Peers At 82 Percent As Of March 2021 Followed By Ping An , Aviva And China Life**
3. **LIC Has Highest Gross Written Premium At Rs 56.40 Billion**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The IPO-bound national insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is not only the world's largest when it comes to home-market share with over 64.1 per cent of the total gross written premium as of 2020 but also the one that offers the highest return on equity at 82 per cent., apart from being the third largest in terms of life insurance premium, says a Crisil report.

At 64.1 per cent or with a gross written premium (GWP) of USD 56.405 billion, 7.2 times the numbers of agents of the second largest life insurer SBI Life has

Chinese market is dominated by Ping An Insurance and China Life Insurance, with 21 per cent (GWP at USD 74.13 billion) and 20 per cent (USD 69.65 billion). LIC is ranked third in terms of gross written premium of USD 56.405 billion in fiscal 2021.

LIC has the highest RoE among its peers at 82 per cent as of March 2021. This is followed by Ping An Insurance of China, which is the world's largest at 19.5 per cent, Aviva at 14.8 per cent and China Life Insurance at 11.9 per cent.

Again globally, Allianz of Germany is the largest life insurer in terms of life insurance premium (USD 88.48 billion) and is second in terms of total assets , LIC is the only Indian player and is ranked fifth globally in terms of life insurance premium and tenth in terms of total assets.

LIC HQ – Mumbai , Chairman – MR Kumar , Founded - LIC formed by an Act of Parliament, viz. LIC Act, 1956,

## LIC third largest, but gives highest RoE of 82%: CRISIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Mummai, 6 February

The IPO-bound national insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is not only the world's largest when it comes to home-market share with over 64.1 per cent of the total gross written premium as of 2020 but also the one that offers the highest return on equity (ROE) at 82 per cent, apart from being the third largest in terms of life insurance premium, says a Crisil report.

The LIC market share has been steadily declining--down from 100 per cent in the pre-2000 era to 71.8 per cent in 2016 and further down to 64.1 per cent in 2020, Crisil said in a report prepared in November 2021 which is not yet made publicly available.

At 64.1 per cent or with a gross written premium (GWP) of ₹56.405 billion, LIC's market share is unparalleled globally.

Among other countries, the Chinese market is dominated by Ping An Insurance and China Life Insurance, with 21 per cent (GWP at ₹74.13 billion) and 20 per cent (₹ 69.65 billion). The largest Japanese player Nippon Life's market share

### Insurer appoints 6 directors to set things up for IPO

Ahead of its IPO, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), 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, and former State Bank of India life managing director Sanjeev Nautiyal, sources said. Besides, chartered accountant MP Vijay Kumar, Raj Kamal, and VS Parthasarathy were also roped in on the board. PTI

is only 16.2 per cent (₹39.84 billion).

Similarly, the report says LIC has the highest RoE among its peers at 82 per cent as of March 2021. This is followed by Ping An Insurance of China, which is the world's largest at 19.5 per cent, Aviva at 14.8 per cent and China Life Insurance at 11.9 per cent.

Again globally, Allianz of Germany is the largest life insurer in terms of life insurance premium (₹88.48 billion) and is second in terms of total assets.

IN BRIEF

ADB lent record ₹4.6 bn loans to

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**47. Recently In February Which Of The Following Global Company Has Announced The World's Biggest Share Sale At USD 50 Billion ?**

- A. Microsoft
- B. Aramco**
- C. Google
- D. Amazon

Russia also agreed a 30-year contract to supply gas to China via a new pipeline and a joint statement, both nations asked for NATO to halt its expansion. had been said previously but amounted to nothing. REUTERS cent from 3.9 per cent. Job gains in December were absent workers as having lost jobs.

## Aramco plans world's biggest share sale at \$50 billion

REUTERS & BLOOMBERG  
4 February

Saudi Arabia is planning to list more shares in Aramco and is targeting a stake sale of as much as \$50 billion, *the Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the oil giant's strategy.

The state-owned company has held talks with outside advisers about selling more shares on the Riyadh stock exchange as well as a secondary listing, possibly in London, Singapore or other exchanges, the report said, adding that it was still in the planning stage.

Aramco, which listed in Riyadh in December 2019 and currently has a market value of \$1.97 trillion, did not immedi-



ately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

When the initial public offering was first floated by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (pictured) in 2016 with an ambition to raise as much as \$100 billion, the share sale was touted as part of a blueprint for life after oil. Saudi Arabia would raise

funds off its biggest asset, and use them to develop new industries.

But Aramco offered just 1.5 per cent of its shares and opted for a local listing, relying almost entirely on Saudi and regional investors. It mopped up proceeds of \$25.6 billion, exceeding the 2014 IPO of Chinese internet giant Alibaba Group Holding.

The sale was the first major disposal of state assets under a plan to empower the private sector and attract foreign direct investment, which has tumbled since oil prices crashed in 2014.

The proceeds were to be transferred to the Public Investment Fund, which made a number of bold investments, plowing \$45 billion into SoftBank Group's Vision Fund, and taking a \$3.5 billion stake in Uber.

### Saudi wealth fund boosts gaming bets with Capcom, Nexon stakes

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund PIF deepened its bet on video games, fresh from a face-saving deal that turned around its investment in Activision Blizzard. The Public Investment Fund disclosed stakes of more than 5 per cent in two Japan-listed gaming firms: Capcom, the maker of the Street Fighter and Resident Evil franchises, and online games provider Nexon. Its combined holdings in the two are worth over \$1 billion. It has been building stakes in video game makers. BLOOMBERG

### Ex-L Catterton Asia chief's \$500-mn fund wins Saudi Arabia's backing

Turmeric Capital, an investment firm led by former L Catterton Asia head Ravi Thakran, has secured backing from Saudi Arabia for a \$500 million private equity fund, according to sources. Jada, which was given \$1 billion by Saudi Arabia's wealth fund to seed venture and private equity firms investing in the country, will commit about \$100 million, the people said. It's looking to deploy capital "in vibrant regional businesses across the developing underfunded markets". BLOOMBERG

BS SUDAKH #2582

Saudi Arabia is planning to list more shares in Aramco and is targeting a stake sale of as much as \$50 billion, Aramco, which listed in Riyadh in December 2019 and currently has a market value of \$1.97 trillion,

When the initial public offering was first floated by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in 2016 with an ambition to raise as much as \$100 billion Aramco offered just 1.5 per cent of its shares and opted for a local listing, It mopped up proceeds of \$25.6 billion, exceeding the 2014 IPO of Chinese internet giant Alibaba Group Holding.

Aramco Founded In – 1933 hq – Dhahran

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**48. Consider The Following Statement Regarding NIXI New Norms To Curb Fraud Websites :**

- 1. Individuals now have a limit of up to two websites, Of .in domain name.**
- 2. Businesses and companies can create up to 100 websites, post which they too need to seek permission.**

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct**

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

## NIXI's new norms to curb fraud websites

DEBANGANA GHOSH  
 Mumbai, February 7

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has come up with a new regulation to control fraudulent websites with .in domain name. Individuals now have a limit of up to two websites, after which they would need permission from NIXI CEO to open up a third website with .in domain name.

Businesses and companies can create up to 100 websites, and need to seek permission for more.

But the move has irked internet experts who doubt its efficacy.

Anil Kumar Jain, CEO, NIXI, told *BusinessLine*, Domains are registered trademarks, only the right kind of people should be allowed register rather than anyone with fake identities. Registrars, who are dealers booking the domain, need to get proper information of the website applicant,

which is sometimes not possible when it's happening via a reseller. This new step was added to get the complete information in perspective.

### 'Stricter compliance'

"This is for stricter compliance of information collection. The applicants have to share an explanation for why they need more websites along with their Aadhaar card and PAN card proofs. We are clearing this within 24 hours. And till now none of the requests have been rejected," he said

He added that this brings more discipline to the application process. This will apply to .in domains which come under the government's purview, and will not be applicable or expanded to .com, .net, .org or any other domains. NIXI also manages .bharat as a local language domain, available in all 22 languages, a feature unique to India.

Rajshankar Rajaharia, an in-



dependent internet researcher, told *BusinessLine*, "They are copying the US method of asking proofs and reason for setting up websites — but the US does it only for non-American citizens and not their own nationals. If someone really wanted to do something fraudulent, they can easily set up multiple websites with different email ids and identities. This move is only an add-on step to complicate processes and might impact start-up level companies."

### 'Bureaucratic processes'

NIXI currently doesn't have data on previous cases of

fraudulent websites created, saying it's managed by CERT-In instead. Amitabh Singhal, Director, Telxess Consulting Services and former CEO of NIXI, said that the idea of setting up NIXI was to promote .in domain and remove bureaucratic processes to make it easier for people to access .in domain names. Earlier, setting up domains involved a lot of documentation and separate fees. Singhal said, "A registry has to keep a track of domain name abuse. Why doesn't NIXI have such data."

"As far as corporates are concerned, they have to be more alert to ensure their domain names and IPs are kept safe. How many companies can book 100 names which resemble their trademark name, and will that be enough. Without background data, I will be sceptical on putting in these restrictions and want to know how they arrived at that number."

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) in January has come up with a new regulation to control fraudulent websites with .in domain name. **Individuals now have a limit of up to two websites, after which they would need permission from NIXI CEO to open up a third website with .in domain name.**

**Businesses and companies can create up to 100 websites, post which they too need to seek permission. But the move has irked internet experts who didn't find the cause sensible.**

This is for stricter compliance of information collection. The applicants have to share an explanation for why they need more websites along with their Aadhaar card and PAN card proofs. We are clearing this within 24 hour

**Anil Kumar Jain, CEO, NIXI,**

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49. Recently In February **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** Has Rolled Out Its Two Convenience Store To Further Push Its **Ambitious Non Fuel Retailing Under Which Brand Name ?**

- A. **HaPpyShop**
- B. **FuZy Shop**
- C. **Safar20**
- D. **SpeedSvaerShop**

## HPCL expands footprint in non-fuel retailing

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION (HPCL), giving a further push to its ambitions in non-fuel retailing announced opening of two more Convenience Stores under its brand name 'HaPpyShop'. The new HaPpyShop stores have been opened at company's Auto Care Centre, Bandra West in Mumbai and Millennium Retail Outlet in Visakhapatnam.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., giving a further push to its ambitions in non-fuel retailing announced opening of two more Convenience Stores under its brand name 'HaPpyShop'. The new HaPpyShop stores have been opened at Company's Auto Care Centre, Bandra West in Mumbai and Millennium Retail Outlet in Visakhapatnam. **The first Retail Store under brand name HaPpyShop was opened at the Company's Retail Outlet at Nepean Sea Road in Mumbai in September, 2021**

Customers will be able to browse & shop the merchandise on **HPCL's 'HP Pay App'** and have goods delivered to their homes.

HPCL has also started marketing branded packaged **drinking water under the name 'Paani@Club HP'** at its Retail Outlets across the Country adding another offering in the customer convenience.

**Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Chairperson: Mukesh Kumar Surana**

50. Recently In February Gautam Adani Has Surpassed Mukesh Ambani To Became The Asia Most Richest Person With Worth Value Of How Much Amount According To Bloomberg Report ?

- A. USD 87.9 Billion
- B. USD 88.5 Billion**
- C. USD 90.5 Billion
- D. USD 95.6 Billion

Billionaire businessman Gautam Adani, chairman and founder of conglomerate Adani Group, has become richest person in Asia, beating Reliance Industries Ltd's Mukesh Ambani, according to the latest tally of Bloomberg Billionaires Index. **Gautam Adani, who now ranks among the top 10 wealthiest persons of the world, has a net-worth of \$88.5 billion,**

**Mukesh Ambani is currently the second richest person in India as well as Asia, and is the eleventh richest person of the world, according to Bloomberg's tally of top 500 richest people in the world. As of February 8, Ambani's total net worth is \$87.9 billion.**

Gautam Adani has tapped into a basket of newly emerging sectors such as renewable and other green energy projects

Both the billionaires, who have bagged profits through oil and fossil-fuel intensive sectors, have been investing in a renewable energy push. **Adani has committed to invest \$70 billion this decade to help his company while Ambani has committed \$10 billion over the next three years**

## ADANI OVERTAKES AMBANI AS ASIA'S RICHEST PERSON

**NEW DELHI:** Gautam Adani, who turned a small commodities trading business into a conglomerate spanning ports, mines and green energy, is now Asia's richest person. His net worth reached \$88.5 billion on Monday, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, eclipsing Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion.

"The Adani Group has spotted and entered all the happening sectors at the right time, which has appealed to a select band of foreign portfolio investors," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at Mumbai-based brokerage HDFC Securities Ltd. →P21

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**51. Recently In February Which Of The Following Digital Payment Platform Has Acquired Majority Stake In Malaysian Fintech Firm Curlec ?**

- A. Razorpay**
- B. Mastercard
- C. Pine Labs
- D. Flipkart

Razorpay has acquired a majority stake in Malaysian fintech firm Curlec as it looks to gain a foothold in South East Asia, a market it holds key to its overall growth narrative. **The acquisition marks Razorpay's first international expansion** The company did not disclose the specifics of the deal

**Kuala Lumpur-based Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments** for modern businesses of all sizes. Founded by Zac Liew and Steve Kucia in 2018

Curlec marks Razorpay's **fourth acquisition since its inception in 2014.**

**Razorpay co-founders Harshil Mathur and Shashank Kumar**

## Razorpay acquires Malaysian fintech start-up Curlec

Pegs value of the company at \$19-20 million

### OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, February 8

Fintech unicorn Razorpay has expanded into South-East Asia with the acquisition of a majority stake in a Malaysian fintech firm Curlec, valuing the company at \$19-20 million.

Razorpay expects to complete the full acquisition in the next one-and-a-half years. The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses.

This marks Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and its first in the international markets.

"This acquisition will allow us to quickly ramp up and start scaling in Southeast Asia as a market. Curlec have been



powering recurring payments for multiple companies in the Malaysia market. With them as part of this team, we will have a local team that understands the nuances of the market in Malaysia and Southeast Asia at large," said Harshil Mathur, CEO and Co-founder, Razorpay.

Curlec was founded by Zac Liew and Steve Kucia in 2018. The company builds technology solutions on top of existing payments infrastructure, to make it easier for companies of all sizes, to collect recurring payments and take con-

trol of their cash flows.

Some of Curlec clients include insurance company AXA, fintech lending firm Funding Societies, and Axiata Digital to name a few. Initially backed by 500 Global and other investors, the company's annual revenue has been growing at nearly five times since 2018.

### More payment services

Malaysian shoppers are said to be more open to cross-border shopping, with 40 per cent of online transactions happening cross-border. And with the entry of new e-commerce consumers, Razorpay believes a broader range of payment services are required. The company is confident that an acquisition such as this will further unveil new channels for global business expansion for online businesses based in India and Malaysia

**52. What Is The Rank Of India Among The Emerging Market Economies In Terms Of Issuance Of Green Bonds According To The Data By Ministry Of Finance ?**

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

India is ranked second after China among the emerging market economies in terms of issuance of green bonds, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Lok Sabha on Monday. According to him, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), **submitted under the Paris Agreement in 2015, provides a preliminary estimate that at least USD 2.5 trillion (at 2014-15 prices) would be required for meeting India's climate actions from 2015 to 2030.**

Till date, the minister said there have been **11 issuances of green debt securities, under SEBI guidelines**

## India ranks second in issuance of green bonds: Pankaj Chaudhary



**New Delhi:** India is ranked second after China among the emerging market economies in terms of issuance of green bonds, minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Lok Sabha. India's statement at COP26 had noted that substantial scaling up of climate action would require greater resources and low cost climate technologies from the developed countries, he said.

PTI

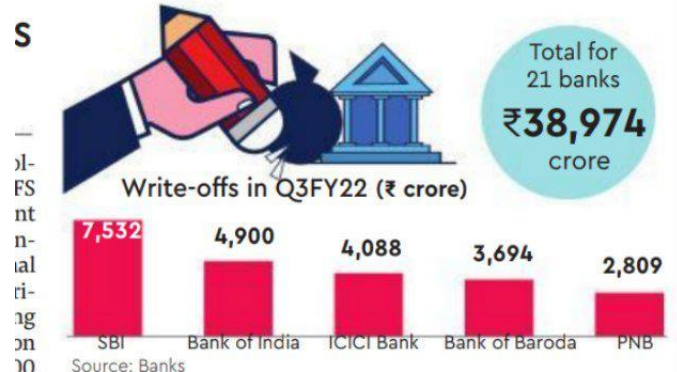
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**53. Recently In February According To The Data Total Of How Many Crore Amount Were Written Off By Banks In Quarter 3 Ending December . Which Bank Has Topped With Highest Loan Write Off In Q 3 ?**

- A. Rs 40560 Cr , ICICI Bank
- B. Rs 85680 Cr , Bank Of Baroda
- C. Rs 38974 Cr , State Bank Of India**
- D. Rs 25960 Cr , HDFC Bank

**LOAN LOSSES**

**Banks write off ₹39,000 cr in Q3**



**SHRITAMA BOSE**  
Mumbai, February 8

**THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER** quarter may have been a good one for public sector banks, with higher profits and lower slippages, but a closer glance at their numbers suggests write-offs remain an important means of reducing the pool of bad loans. Banks wrote off ₹38,974.4 crore in Q3, show data from 21 banks that have disclosed their write-off figures.

While many banks saw the value of written-off loans falling on a sequential basis, a few saw the numbers inching up in Q3, including private banks like ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank. Most PSBs wrote off less aggressively than in Q2FY22, but the

numbers were elevated nonetheless. For instance, State Bank of India's (SBI) gross NPAs fell by ₹6,493 crore in Q3, with recoveries and upgrades accounting for only ₹2,306 crore of the reduction. This means the bank may have made technical write-offs of around ₹4,187 crore. In addition, it did a full write-off worth ₹7,532 crore.

A technical write-off refers to the practice of moving a fully provided account out of the balance sheet even as efforts to recover it continue. When a bank recognises that there is no scope for further recovery in a particular account, it does what is known as a full write-off or an actual write-off.

**Continued on Page 2**

The October-December quarter may have been a good one for public sector banks (PSBs), with higher profits and lower slippages, but a closer glance at their numbers suggests write-offs remain an important means of reducing the pool of bad loans. Banks wrote off Rs 38,974.4 crore in Q3, show data from 21 banks that have disclosed their write-off figures.

For instance, State Bank of India's (SBI) the bank did a full write-off worth Rs 7,532 crore.

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**54. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank Has Become The First Private Bank To Signs MOU With Prasar Bharti For salary account That will provide access to a host of products and services ?**

- A. CSB Bank
- B. Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank said it has become the first private sector bank to offer its corporate salary account proposition to employees of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati

The lender said that the salary account will provide access to a host of products and services, including a zero-balance salary account with free unlimited ATM transactions on all Visa ATMs and anywhere banking across its 1,622 branches and 2,601 ATMs

Kotak Mahindra Bank HQ – Mumbai , Chairman – Uday Kotak

**55. The Reserve Bank Of India Has Announced The Financial Literacy Week With The Theme " Go Digital, Go Secure " For This Year From February 14 To 18 . The Central Bank Has Been Conducting Financial Literacy Week Annually Since Which Of The Following Year ?**

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

### RBI's financial literacy week from Feb 14-18

THE RESERVE BANK has announced the financial literacy week with the theme 'Go digital, go secure' for this year from February 14 to 18. The central bank has been conducting the financial literacy week annually since 2016.

National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) will observe Financial Literacy Week 2022 from February 14, 2022 to February 18, 2022.

The theme for Financial Literacy Week 2022 is "Go Digital - Go Secure". Digital Financial Services Day will be on February 18, 2022.

RBI had observed Financial Literacy Week 2021 from February 08-12, 2021 on the theme of "Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions".

RBI has been organizing Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016.

NCFE is a Section 8 (Not for Profit) Company promoted by RBI, SEBI, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).



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56. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank Has Announced To Acquire How Much Percent Of Stake Of Union Bank In IndiaFirst Life Insurance ?

- A. State Bank Of India , 25 %
- B. Bank Of Baroda , 21 %
- C. Indian Bank , 29 %
- D. Punjab National Bank , 12 %

## BoB to acquire Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, February 11

**BANK OF BARODA (BoB)** on Friday said its board has approved acquisition of 21% stake of Union Bank of India in IndiaFirst Life Insurance, subject to regulatory approvals. The bank, however, did not provide details of valuation of the deal.

On completion of the transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the

On completion of the transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the remaining 26% stake

remaining 26% stake. IndiaFirst Life Insurance will continue to have long-term agency distribution agreement with both

Bank of Baroda and Union Bank after stake sale, according to an exchange filing.

At present, according to the insurer's website, Bank of Baroda's stake stands at 44%, Union Bank holds 30% and Carmel Point Investments India has 26% stake in the company.

As on March end, IndiaFirst Life Insurance's total assets under management stood at ₹17,109 crore, while the total premium collections stood at ₹4,056 crore.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday said its board has approved acquisition of a 21% stake of Union Bank of India in IndiaFirst Life Insurance, subject to regulatory approvals.

On completion of the transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the remaining 26% stake. IndiaFirst Life Insurance will continue to have long-term agency distribution agreement with both Bank of Baroda and Union Bank after stake sale

At present, according to the insurer's website, Bank of Baroda's stake stands at 44%, Union Bank holds 30% and Carmel Point Investments India has 26% stake in the company.

57. Recently In February Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharamn** Has Launched **India Firs Colour Souvenir Coin On "Panchtantra "** On The Occasion Of Which Foundation Day Of Security Printing And Minting Corporation Of India (SPMCIL) ?

- A. 15<sup>th</sup>
- B. 16<sup>th</sup>
- C. 17<sup>th</sup>
- D. 18<sup>th</sup>

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) celebrated its 17th Foundation Day programme today through the digital mode On 11 FEBRUARY

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala also launched the first colour souvenir coin on "Panchtantra" during the occasion.

The Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd. is a government printing and minting agency. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was incorporated on 10 February 2006 with its registered office at New Delhi.

58. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Joinded Hand With **Hero Electric For Retail Finance For Its Customers ?**

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

Hero Electric on Friday said it has tied up with State Bank of India (SBI) for retail finance for its customers.

The customers can now ride home their favourite company scooter at the lowest interest rates across India for a hassle-free experience, Hero Electric

State Bank of India is an Indian multinational public sector bank and financial services statutory body headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. SBI is the 43rd largest bank

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara Headquarters: Mumbai  
Founded: 1 July 1955

## FM launches first colour souvenir coin

FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA Sitharaman on Friday launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' on the occasion of 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL). The finance minister in her address stressed on upskilling and acquiring new skills, and upgradation to meet the technology driven economy.

## Hero Electric ties up with SBI for retail finance

HERO ELECTRIC ON Friday said it has tied up with State Bank of India (SBI) for retail finance for its customers. The customers can now ride home their favourite company scooter at the lowest interest rates across India for a hassle-free experience, Hero Electric said in a statement.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**59. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Survey On MSME :**

1. The survey found that about 65 % of the MSMEs surveyed availed credit under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) of the government.
  2. As per the survey, about 36 % of MSMEs surveyed had also availed loans under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises scheme during FY202
- Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?**

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

A survey by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) shows nearly two-thirds of MSMEs were temporarily closed for 3 months or more in FY21.

According to the survey, more than half of MSMEs saw a decline of over 25% in revenues. SIDBI undertook a survey of 1,029 enterprises.

The survey found that about 65 % of the MSMEs surveyed availed credit under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) of the government.

As per the survey, about 36 % of MSMEs surveyed had also availed loans under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises scheme during FY2021.

The survey was assigned to SIDBI by MSME Ministry in September as part of its effort to assess economic impact of the pandemic on MSMEs and the effect change in classifications.

The thresholds for the classification of MSMEs were revised by centre in June 2020 as part of its Covid relief package.

**Micro businesses - Investment of up to Rs 1 crore , Turnover of up to Rs 5 crore**

**Small enterprises - Investment of up to Rs 10 crore , Turnover of up to Rs 50 crore**

**Medium enterprises - Investment of up to Rs 50 crore , Turnover of up to Rs 250 crore**

**PANDEMIC WATCH**  
**SIDBI SURVEY**

**‘Covid impact: 67% MSMEs temporarily shut in FY21, over half lost 25% revenue’**

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

TWO-THIRDS OF Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (67 per cent) in India were temporarily shut for three months or more in FY21 and over half of all MSMEs saw a decline of over 25 per cent in revenues, according to a survey of 1,029 enterprises by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

The survey report was tabled in Parliament by MSME Minister Narayan Rane. The MSME Ministry had assigned the survey to SIDBI in September as part of efforts to assess the economic impact of the pandemic on MSMEs and the effect of the change in classifications. The Centre had, in June 2020, as part of its Covid relief package, revised thresholds for the classification of MSMEs upwards. Under the new classification, manufacturing and services units with investment of up to Rs 1 crore and turnover of up to Rs 5 crore are classified as micro businesses, businesses with investment of up to Rs 10 crore and turnover of up to Rs 50 crore are classified as small enterprises while units with investment of up to Rs 50 crore and turnover of up to Rs 250 crore are classified as medium enterprises.

About 66 percent of respondents in the survey reported a decline in profitability on account of stable fixed costs and decline in revenue during FY21 according to the



A textile mill in Dadar. The report was tabled in Parliament by MSME Minister Narayan Rane. File

answer tabled in parliament by Rane. About 65 percent of the MSMEs surveyed, availed credit under the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) which provided banks and financial institutions a 100 percent guarantee against any losses suffered by them due to non-repayment of the ECLGS loans by borrowers. At the end of 2021, the government had issued guarantees on loans of Rs 2.88 lakh crore under the ECLGS.

The study also found that about 36 per cent of MSMEs surveyed had also availed loans under the Credit Guarantee Fund trust for Micro and Small Enterprises scheme during FY21.

An online study by the National Small Industries Corporation had found that liquidity issues, fresh orders, availability of labour, logistics issues and availability of raw materials were the problems most cited by MSMEs during the pandemic.

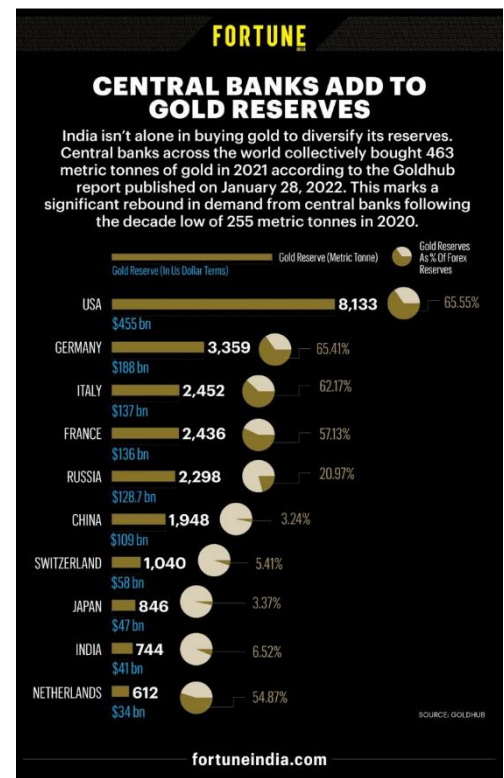
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60. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Goldhub Official Report ( Official Website Of World Gold Council ) :

1. RBI has become the largest buyer of gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021
2. RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes of gold in 2021. This is the second-highest ever buying after 2016. In 2016, RBI had bought 200 metric tonnes from the International Monetary Fund.
3. RBI's total gold reserves reached 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021.
4. India's total reserve stood at \$633.61 billion at the end of December 31, 2021.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 2 , 3 And 4
- B. Only 3 And 4
- C. Only 2 And 3
- D. Only 1 , 3 And 4



RBI has become the second-largest buyer of gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021.

Central Bank of Thailand was the largest buyer of gold in 2021. It bought 90 metric tonnes of gold.

RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes of gold in 2021. This is the second-highest ever buying after 2009. In 2009, RBI had bought 200 metric tonnes from the International Monetary Fund.

RBI's total gold reserves reached 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021. This amounts to 6.22% of India's forex reserves. As per RBI data, India's total reserve stood at \$633.61 billion at the end of December 31, 2021.

As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is the ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of the World Gold Council.

As per RBI, total forex reserves were \$576.98 billion at the end of March 2021. Out of this, \$536.6 billion were held as foreign currency assets (FCA).

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**61. Recently In February The schemes for on-tap liquidity for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors have been extended by RBI by another 3 months till June 30. What Is The Total Outlay for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors Respectively ?**

- A. Rs 1 Lakh Crore , Rs 20000 Cr
- B. Rs 50000 Cr , Rs 15000 Cr**
- C. Rs 75000 Cr , Rs 18000 Cr
- D. Rs 20000 Cr Rs 12000 Cr

## On-tap liquidity facility for emergency health services, contact-intensive sectors extended

'The RBI remains concerned about on-ground impact due to Covid-19'



own funds to the tune of ₹9,654 crore up to February 4, 2022, towards Covid-related emergency health services. In view of the response to the scheme, it is now proposed to extend this window..." said the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies.

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, February 10

The Reserve Bank of India has extended the schemes for on-tap liquidity for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors by another three months till June 30.

"On account of the continued uncertainties brought on by the third wave, the two schemes are being extended from March 31, 2022, to June 30, 2022," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday.

On-tap liquidity facilities of ₹50,000 crore and ₹15,000 crore for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors, respectively, were announced in May and June last year during the

second wave of the pandemic. Banks were incentivised for the quick delivery of credit under the scheme through extension of priority sector classification to such lending up to March 31, 2022.

They were expected to create a Covid loan book under the scheme. By way of an additional incentive, lenders were eligible to park their surplus liquidity up to the size of the Covid loan book with the RBI under the reverse repo window at a rate 25 bps lower than the repo rate (40 bps higher than the reverse repo rate).

"Banks have deployed their

**Reverse repo window**

In a separate press releases announcing the extension of the schemes, the RBI said the special 14-day reverse repo window, available under the scheme, will now be extended up to June 30. All other terms and conditions of the scheme will remain unchanged.

The RBI remains concerned about the on-ground impact due to Covid, and is doing its bit to get banks to lend into areas that need support in this regard, noted Shivaji Thapliyal, Lead Analyst, Banking and Non-lending Financials, Institutional Equities, YES Securities.

The schemes for on-tap liquidity for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors have been extended by RBI by another 3 months till June 30.

The two schemes have been extended from March 31, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

RBI had announced on-tap liquidity facilities of ₹ 50,000 crore and ₹ 15,000 crore for emergency health services and contact-intensive sectors, respectively.

Banks are incentivised for credit delivery under the scheme by way of extension of priority sector classification to such lending. Banks were to create a Covid loan book under the scheme.

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62. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** That Was Held On 8th February :

1. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously voted to **keep repo rate unchanged at 4%**.
2. RBI has kept the **reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35%**. RBI has projected **retail inflation for 2022-23 at 4.5%**.
3. RBI retained its **inflation projection at 5.3% for the current financial year**.
4. RBI has kept the real GDP growth **projection at 7.8% for FY23**. Economic Survey has projected real GDP growth at 8-8.5%.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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



Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously voted to keep repo rate unchanged at 4%.

MPC has voted by a 5-1 majority to continue with the accommodative monetary policy stance.

RBI has kept the reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35%. RBI has projected retail inflation for 2022-23 at 4.5%.

RBI retained its inflation projection at 5.3% for the current financial year.

Due to the rise in food prices, retail inflation increased to a five-month high of 5.59% in December from 4.91% in November.

RBI has kept the real GDP growth projection at 7.8% for FY23. Economic Survey has projected real GDP growth at 8-8.5%.

**EVEN AS GLOBAL CENTRAL BANKS SIGNAL QUANTITATIVE TIGHTENING**

# RBI Springs a Surprise, Holds Rates, Retains Monetary Stance

Bats for growth revival, says inflation drivers in advanced economies and India vastly different

Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday split ranks with global central banks to fuel a durable economic recovery by maintaining a standstill on key interest rates and an accommodative monetary stance. The central bank said the factors driving price pressures in advanced economies and India are vastly different.

While surprising investors with the inaction on rates, it tweaked its liquidity operations to correct the imbalances in the money market due to excess liquidity and accommodate the impending high government borrowing in the next fiscal year.

Economic growth forecast was 7.8% for the next fiscal, lower than the Eco-



**SHAKTIKANTA DAS**  
GOVERNOR, RBI

nomomic Survey's 8-8.5 percent, and inflation was projected to trend down to 4.5% next year from near 6% in the current quarter.

"On inflation, we have done our homework... all uncomfortable questions and risks have been duly assessed and we have arrived on these (inflation) numbers," Governor Shaktikanta Das told reporters. "As far as what other cen-

**PROJECTIONS**

Growth in FY22 at **9.2%** and at **7.8%** in FY23

Retail Inflation in FY22 at **5.3%** and at **4.5%** in FY23

**WHY**

Private consumption continues to trail its pre-pandemic level

Inflation drivers in India different from those globally

**ACTIONS**

Maintains accommodative stance

Repo rate unchanged at **4%**

Reverse repo rate unchanged at **3.35%**

Tweaks liquidity operations to correct imbalances in money market

**Bonds and Stocks Rally >> 8**

## Benchmark Bond Yield Drops 7 bps to 6.73%

 Bonds rallied after RBI retained its accommodative policy stance and left rates unchanged. The benchmark bond yield dropped seven basis points to 6.73%. **Saikat Das & Shailesh Kadam** report. >> **FACING PAGE**

## Foreign Funds Can Invest ₹1Lcr More in Debt

 RBI has raised the limit for foreign funds to invest in Indian debt under the voluntary retention route (VRR) by ₹1 lakh crore to ₹2.5 lakh crore, potentially helping lower bond yields. >> **FACING PAGE**

**GOV COMPARES CRYPTO CRAZE TO 17TH CENTURY DUTCH TULIPMANIA**

## Das Warns Investors of Crypto Risks

**63. Recently In February RBI governor has recently announced that *National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for TReDS settlements would be increased to What Amount ?***

- A. Rs 1 Crore
- B. Rs 5 Crore
- C. Rs 3 Crore
- D. Rs 2 Crore

National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for TReDS settlements would be increased to ₹3 crore.

This announcement was recently made by RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in his statement after the Monetary Policy meeting.

The present NACH mandate is capped at ₹1 crore. Transactions in TReDS are settled through the NACH system.

RBI had introduced the 'on-tap' authorisation of TReDS operators in October 2019.

MSMEs will benefit from the increased limit. Earlier, they were required to create many invoices as the value of each invoice was capped at Rs 1 crore.

Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) is an electronic platform that facilitates the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs.

**64. Recently In February As per announcement made by RBI governor, the limit of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the Central government and State governments will be increased from ₹10,000 to How Much Amount per voucher ?**

- A. ₹50,000
- B. ₹1,00,000
- C. ₹2,00,000
- D. ₹3,00,000

## e-RUPI voucher limit to be enhanced to ₹1 lakh

Move to facilitate efficient delivery of govt schemes

**SURABHI**

Mumbai, February 10

The limit on the e-RUPI digital voucher will now be increased to ₹1 lakh from the current cap of ₹10,000. This was announced by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday in his statement following the Monetary Policy meeting.

"It is now proposed to increase the cap of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the Central government and State governments from ₹10,000 to ₹1,00,000 per voucher and permit such e-RUPI vouchers to be used more than once (until the amount of the voucher is completely redeemed)," he said.

### Govt schemes

The move will further facilitate the delivery of various government schemes to the beneficiaries more efficiently, he added. The e-RUPI pre-paid digital

voucher, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was launched in August 2021 and runs on the UPI platform. It is a person-specific and purpose-specific cashless voucher and can be used by individuals, corporates or governments. At present, it used largely for Covid vaccination purposes.

Experts said the move could help expand the scope of e-RUPI vouchers.

"The scope of application of e-RUPI vouchers expands and deepens significantly across the board – be it targeted delivery of benefits or assistance to SMEs, medical benefits to citizens, or corporates offering benefits to employees. This also has the potential to make inroads into certain areas addressed by gift-cards," said Harish Prasad, Head Of Banking, India, FIS.

Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money, said the move to allow the use of e-RUPI vouchers multiple times will help in addressing the challenges faced by the rural population, including low internet penetration, and provide safe and secure payment solutions.

## NACH mandate limit for TReDS settlement to be hiked to ₹3 cr

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, February 10

In view of the growing liquidity requirements of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and requests from industry, the National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) settlement would be increased to ₹3 crore.

This was announced by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday in his statement following the Monetary Policy meeting. The present NACH mandate is capped at ₹1 crore.

"TReDS facilitates the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs. Transactions in TReDS are settled through the NACH system," said Das.

To encourage innovation and competition through increased participation, 'on-tap' authorisation of TReDS operators was introduced by Reserve Bank in October 2019.



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The limit of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the Central government and State governments will be increased from ₹10,000 to ₹1,00,000 per voucher as per the announcement made by RBI governor.

RBI governor said e-RUPI vouchers issued by the Central government and State governments will be permitted to be used more than once until the amount of voucher is completely redeemed.

e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher was launched in August 2021 and runs on the UPI platform. It was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It is a person-specific and purpose-specific cashless voucher. It can be used by individuals, corporates or governments. It is presently used largely for Covid vaccination purposes.

65. Recently In February According To MPC The Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) Cap For Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) Has Been Increased From 1 Lakh Crore To What Amount ?

- A. Rs 3 Lakh Cr
- B. Rs 2.5 Lakh Cr
- C. Rs 5 Lakh Cr
- D. Rs 7 IAKH Cr

The Reserve Bank of India introduced the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) on March 01, 2019. An amount of ₹1,50,000 crore was offered for investment through VRR, in three tranches so far; of which around ₹1,49,995 crore have been availed as on February 10, 2022.

The investment limit under VRR has been increased to ₹2,50,000 crore. The minimum retention period shall be three years. Investment limits shall be available 'on tap' and allotted on 'first come, first served' basis. FPIs may apply for investment limits online to Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) through their respective custodians. CCIL will separately notify the operational details of application process

## VRR cap for foreign investors to go up by ₹1 lakh crore from April 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Mumbai, February 10

THE VOLUNTARY RETENTION route (VRR) cap for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) will be enhanced by ₹1 lakh crore to ₹2.50 lakh crore given the increased interest shown by them, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das announced on Thursday.

The enhancement of VRR, which seeks to provide a separate channel broadly free of macroprudential controls, to FPI investments in government and corporate debt securities will be applicable from April 1, Das said.

He said a dedicated investment limit of ₹1,50,000 crore was set for investments under the VRR earlier. The enhancement is being done "given the positive response to the VRR as evident from the near

exhaustion of the current limit", Das said. The move also comes at a time when the hardening of rates in developed markets is increasing investor interest in other markets.

Das also announced that India will be issuing reviewed guidelines on credit default swaps (CDS), nearly nine years after first issuing the guidelines. The CDS market is important for the development of a liquid market for corporate bonds, especially for the bonds of lower-rated issuers, he said.

Das said given the importance of the CDS market — which had gained infamy following the 2008 global financial crisis — the first review of the guidelines was announced in December 2000, and the draft guidelines were issued a year ago. The final directions will take into account the feedback received on the draft guidelines.

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**66. Recently In February According to the Comscore report, Which Of The Following HAs Highest penetration in the Fintech space at more than 45% ?**

- A. Paytm**
- B. PhonePe**
- C. PineLabs**
- D. GooglePaY**

According to the Comscore report, Paytm's penetration in the Fintech space is highest at more than 45%.

The report shows that Google Pay closely follows Paytm in terms of penetration in the Fintech space.

As per the report, Google Pay's penetration in the Fintech space is 43%.

As per the Comscore report, financial services account for 80% of the total internet audience in the country.

**Money & Banking**

Paytm has highest penetration in digital payments: report

K.R. Srivats | Updated On: Feb 10, 2022



As per the Comscore report, Paytm's overall penetration in Fintech space is at over 45 per cent

Paytm, which got listed in bourses in November last year, continues to lead digital payments with over 45 per cent penetration in Fintech, reveals a Comscore report.

Paytm is closely followed by Google Pay (mobile App) at 43 per cent penetration (reach as

**67. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its 'Neo Collections' platform ?**

- A. SBM Bank**
- B. RBL BANK**
- C. Bank Of BARODA**
- D. aXIS Bank**

RBL Bank has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its 'Neo Collections' platform.

The Neo Collections Platform is a Do It Yourself (DIY) debt management platform that will help the customers of the bank to monitor, manage and pay their dues/loans.

RBL Bank will utilise the SaaS-based (software as a service) platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle.

It will enable the bank to offer its customers a convenient, seamless and a non-intrusive repayment experience. **RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai and founded in 1943**

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**68. Recently In February The Government Has Allocated How Much Additional Allocation Of Amount Under PLI Scheme For 52 GW Capacity ?**

- A. Rs 4500 Cr
- B. Rs 19500 Cr**
- C. Rs 2500 Cr
- D. Rs 47500 Cr

## Bucket list for solar PLI scheme in 2 months: MNRE official

Additional allocation of ₹19,500 cr under PLI scheme enough for 52 GW capacity

**VIKAS SRIVASTAVA**  
Mumbai, February 7

**THE PENDING LIST** of 15 solar manufacturers who participated in the initial bidding for production linked incentives (PLI) scheme for solar, is expected to be cleared in the next two months time, a senior official told *FE*.

In December 2021, the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) through its implementation agency, IREDA, shortlisted three companies — Reliance New Energy Solar, Shirdi Sai Electricals and Adani Infrastructure — with a commitment to set up 12 GW capacity against an initial allocation of ₹4,500 crore under the PLI scheme. The remaining 15 participants with total commitment to set up 40 GW capacity were kept in a waiting list with promise to utilise their services once additional allocation comes to the scheme.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 announced the allocation of an additional ₹19,500 crore under the scheme to accom-



modate the remaining manufacturers.

“The proposal will be taken to the Cabinet for approval soon, after that, the letter of award will be issued to the manufacturers in the bucket list. It will take around two months time to award the letters to all the remaining bidders,” the official said.

Other companies in the fray include: Tata Power Solar, Waaree Energies, Vikram Solar, FS India Solar, Premier Energies, Emvee, Larsen & Toubro, Megha Engineering, ReNew Solar, Avaada & Acme.

According to industry officials, stakeholders are expecting IREDA, to expedite and issue letters of award to balance 15 companies as many of these have already acquired land and some have even done the land development work. Many players have done the basic construction in anticipation of the award pending for the last three months.

Hitesh Doshi, chairman &

managing director of Waaree Energies, which has applied for 4GW capacity under PLI told *FE* that, “if the confirmation is communicated to the bidders, they can move with speed on ordering equipment and commissioning the plants in the next 12-18 months allaying the fear of supply not keeping pace with demand.”

Some are even confident of leveraging the global scenario where most countries are looking at deleveraging their dependence on China and developing a credible second supply chain by supplying to export markets like USA while the domestic demand ramps up to 30 GW per annum.

Tata Power that has applied for a total of 8GW capacity under the PLI scheme with 4GW each for cell and module manufacturing. It is learnt from sources that they are initially looking to integrate at cell and module level and wait for market to pan out before entering into wafer and polysilicon-manufacturing. In terms of technology they want to use advance high-end panels to beat the competition. “Depending on the the capacity the company will take around 12-18 months to complete the project once it’s awarded,” sources said.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget has announced an additional allocation towards the solar production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

“Additional allocation of Rs 19,500 crore for PLI for mfg of high-efficiency modules with a priority to fully integrate manufacturing units from polysilicon to solar PV modules will be made,

This move is to facilitate domestic manufacturing for the ambitious goal of 280 gigawatts of installed solar capacity by 2030.

The Central Government so far has committed Rs.1.97 lakh crore and recently, PLI in the 14th sector - drones and drone components has been included with an additional layout of Rs. 120 crore.

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**69. Recently In February BSE Has Got Approval Of Sebi For Trading In Electronic Gold Receipts . The Finance Ministry Has Epecified EGR As Securities Under Which Act ?**

- A. Companies Act 1956**
- B. Securities Contracts Act 1956**
- C. Securities Contracts Act 2013**
- D. Securites Contracts Act 2019**

## BSE gets SEBI nod for trading in electronic gold receipts

Paves way for the bourse to launch spot bullion exchange

**PALAK S SHAH**

Mumbai, February 9

Buying and selling of gold with delivery on a stock exchange platform is near to reality with SEBI giving the go ahead to the BSE on Wednesday to launch trading in electronic gold receipts. This paves the way for the exchange to launch spot bullion exchange.

The Finance Ministry has specified EGR as 'securities,' under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956 and after SEBI's go ahead to the exchange, BSE could be less than a couple of months away from launching the spot gold exchange.

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) will be BSE's main rival in the space since



it has plans to launch spot trading in commodities, especially bullion. But the exchange has suffered due to delays in being able to acquire a software for the spot bullion exchange.

### Core strength

While BSE has launched commodity trading on its platform, it has still not been able to challenge MCX on its home turf in a manner that was anticipated by the markets, analysts say. Trading in bullion futures, crude and metals are the core strength of MCX that have remained unchallenged for nearly two

decades now even though volumes have witnessed significant erosion.

Analysts say the spot bullion platform when launched by the BSE will test its mettle and technology superiority since it will have the first mover advantage in the segment. Spot bullion will enable the common public, jewellers and everyone who wants to buy physical gold bars to purchase it on an exchange platform with the transparency of rate and purity.

The gold can be bought and stored in vaults until physical delivery is demanded. EGRs will take the form of shares lying in demat accounts. It will also boost the growth of demat accounts and make way for high financing deals by giving impetus to gold lending and borrowing via EGRs, analysts say.

Buying and selling of gold with delivery on a stock exchange platform is near to reality. Market regulator SEBI on Wednesday gave a go ahead to the BSE to launch trading in electronic gold receipts (EGR), paving the way for the exchange to launch spot bullion exchange.

The Finance Ministry has specified EGR as 'securities,' under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956 and after SEBI's go ahead to the exchange, BSE could be less than a couple of months away from launching the spot gold exchange. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) will be BSE's main rival in the space since it has plans to launch spot trading in commodities, especially bullion. But the exchange has suffered due to delays in being able to acquire a software for the spot bullion exchange.

The gold can be bought and stored in vaults until physical delivery is demanded. EGRs will take the form of shares lying in demat accounts. It will also boost the growth of demat accounts and make way for high financing deals by giving impetus to gold lending and borrowing via EGRs,

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70. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank has partnered with Stellapps, a leading dairy-tech startup, as its banking partner to promote digitisation amongst small dairies across India ?

- A. SBM Bank
- B. DBS Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. CSB Bank

DBS Bank India announced that it has partnered with Stellapps, a leading dairy-tech startup, as its banking partner to promote digitisation amongst small dairies across India. This initiative aligns with DBS' commitment to supporting lives and livelihoods through better business and responsible financing. The partnership is expected to indirectly benefit 20,000 farmers at present and around 1 00,000+ dairy farmers in the near future.

India is the largest milk producer globally, with ~188 million MT production in 2019-20, and approximately 70 million farmers are directly involved in dairying.

. In 2020, DBS introduced a completely digital and innovative payments solution for Transport Corporation of India Limited (TCI). The solution enables TCI to make real-time payments into the bank accounts of the fleet operators and drivers, DBS has also launched real-time online tracking for cross-border collections for businesses in India in partnership with SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (gpi).

71. Recently In February The **country's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant is coming up in Which District Of Madhya Pradesh To Be Built By joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of How Much Amount ?**

- A. Jabalpur , Rs 48 Cr
- B. **Khandwa , Rs 24 Cr**
- C. Ujjain , Rs 50 Cr
- D. Indore, Rs 100 Cr

The country's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant is coming up in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. The plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. It will also produce biochar and methane. **The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of ₹24 crore.** Watomo Energies, headquartered in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh; Biezel Green is a company promoted by Prof Preetam Singh, who teaches at the IIT BHU. Biezel Green is the technology partner. The company owns the technology for a 'thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor' that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass.

**Biezel Green will own 50 per cent in the yet-to-be named joint venture; the other 50 per cent will come from interested farmers. Swaraj Green was in the news recently when it announced that it would put up Asia's largest ethanol plant that would produce 1,100 kilo litres of ethanol a day.**

72. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank Has Partnered With **National Stock Exchange (NSE) Academy to launch five online courses regarding the banking and finance sector ?**

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

**SBI, NSE Academy tie up to launch 5 online courses**

STATE BANK OF India on Wednesday said it has associated with the NSE Academy to launch five online courses. The courses curated by SBI are a blend of theory and operational aspects which will enable learners to have a deeper understanding of funda-

mentals of banking, compliance, lending norms and a host of other topics. The courses are enriched with real-life case studies and scenarios, thus offering experiential learning for working professionals and learners, SBI said in the release. —PTI

The State Bank Of India has partnered with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) Academy to launch five online courses regarding the banking and finance sector, the bank notified in a press release on Wednesday. According to SBI, the courses are designed and developed by practising bankers and offers operational aspects that will enable the learners to have a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of banking, compliance, lending norms and a host of other topics.

The courses will be offered in MOOC format by SBI on the NSE Knowledge Hub platform. The five courses are--Banking Fundamentals, MSME Lending, in a Nutshell, Electronic Payment System In India, Priority Sector Lending Norms, and NRI Business & Compliance.

**NSE Academy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited,**

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**73. Recently In February Which Of The Following IIT has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs ?**

- A. IIT Hyderabad**
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Madras

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs.

The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible.

Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Union Government, has formally launched the portal.

The institute has developed the platform in association with Youth4Jobs, Visual Quest and Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

**74. Recently In February According To The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report, unveiled at the Dubai Expo, India Has Been Ranked At Which Of The Following Position ?**

- A. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- B. 4<sup>th</sup>**
- C. 5<sup>th</sup>
- D. 6<sup>th</sup>

India is among the top five easiest places to start a new business, a global consortium of over 500 researchers said on Thursday in its latest report, putting the country on top amongst low-income economies on different entrepreneurial framework conditions.

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report, unveiled at the Dubai Expo, gathered data via a survey of at least 2,000 respondents across each of 47 high, medium and low-income economies.

As many as 83% believe that there are good opportunities to start a business in their area – second globally and 86 per cent believe they have the skills and knowledge to start a business – fourth globally.

Besides, 54 per cent cite fear of failure as a reason for not planning to start a new business in the next three years, placing India second out of 47 in this list. GEM is a consortium of national country teams, primarily associated with top academic institutions that carry out survey-based research on entrepreneurship around the world.

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**75. Recently In February Which state government has signed an MoU with British Council to renew partnership in education, English, and arts?**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. Telangana**

The government of Telangana and the British Council have inked an MoU to renew their partnership in Education, English, and Arts.

The main aim of MoU is to create new opportunities for the youth of Telangana.

The **Research and Innovation Centre of Hyderabad (RICH)** and the **British Council** have agreed upon this MoU.

Both organizations will closely work to create new partnerships between universities, research institutions, and centers of excellence. This MoU will also promote research in the fields of aerospace, defence, life sciences, and pharmaceuticals.

**Both organizations will also take part in joint innovation or entrepreneurship initiatives.**

The British Council and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) are partners for the past decade.



## Appointment News

76. Recently In February Capital markets regulator **SEBI** has restructured its advisory committee on **Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)** The eight-member committee will now be chaired by Which Of The Following ?

- a. **G Mahalingam**
- b. Abraham Koshy
- c. Vijay Kumar Venkataraman
- d. A Balasubramanian

Capital markets regulator SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).

The panel is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities that may be undertaken directly by the markets regulator, or through any other agency, for utilisation of the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund.

The eight-member committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, according to the latest update with the markets watchdog.

The panel was earlier headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of IIM-Ahmedabad.

In 2013, the regulator had set up a committee to find out ways and means to best utilise the investor protection and education fund.

77. Recently In February Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Which Of The Following State ?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. **Uttarakhand**
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand. In 2021, cricketer Rishabh Pant, who hails from Roorkee, was appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador. In 2017, Kumar was appointed as the state's brand ambassador for 'Swachhata Abhiyan'.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announce his appointment on 7 February.

Cashify named Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador for an integrated marketing campaign

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78. Recently In February Who Has Been Appointed As The **New Director Of The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Thiruvananthapuram** By Succeeding **S. Somnath** ?

- A. **Unnikrishnan Nair**
- B. **Madan Mohan Tripathi**
- C. **Binesh Kumar Tyagi**
- D. **Subhashree Pandit**

Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair, a scientist and launch vehicle expert, has been appointed as director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

He has taken the place of S Somanath, who has taken the charge as Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

He is currently serving as the Director of the Human Space Flight Centre. He will also continue to hold this post also.

He joined VSSC in 1985 and worked in various different positions including project director, Human Space Flight Project, programme director of Advanced Space Transportation System.

He has won many awards including ISRO team excellence award for contributions to the space capsule re-entry experiment in 2007, and ISRO individual merit award in 2014.

**Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre:** It is located in Thiruvananthapuram. It is named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space program.



**Unnikrishnan Nair is new director of VSSC**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Unnikrishnan Nair S. is the new director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram. He succeeds S. Somanath who took over as Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in January. Mr. Nair is heading the Human Space Flight Centre established by the ISRO in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan programme. He will continue to hold the post until further orders.

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**79. Recently In February PFIZER India Has Appointed Whom AS The Chairman Of Its Board Following The Resignation Of RA Shah ?**

- A. Unnikrishnan Nair
- B. Pradip Shah**
- C. Jagdish Kumar
- D. Dinesh Kumar Saklani

Pfizer India on Monday appointed Pradip Shah as the chairman of its board following the resignation of R A Shah

Pradip Shah is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil. **Prior to founding Crisil, he assisted in founding HDFC in 1977.**

He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. He is a director with several reputed companies and also a member of various prestigious committees/commissions. He is currently the

## Pradip Shah appointed Pfizer India chairman

PFIZER INDIA ON Monday appointed Pradip Shah as the chairman of its board following the resignation of RA Shah on February 3. Announcing the appointment, S Sridhar, the managing director of the company, said with Pradip Shah's elevation as the chairman, the firm will work closely with him on matters of strategic importance.

**80. Recently In February Krishi Network has appointed Whom as a brand ambassador in order to attract farmers to its Agritech platform ?**

- A. AKSHAY Kumar
- B. Pankaj Tripathi**
- C. Hrithik Roushan
- D. Disha Patani

Krishi Network has appointed film actor Pankaj Tripathi as a brand ambassador in order to attract farmers to its Agritech platform. The actor has also made an investment in the company. The startup stated that the new funds would be used to rapidly expand their AI-based technology platform across India.

**The start-up, founded by IIT Kharagpur alumni Ashish Mishra and Siddhant Bhomia, provides farmers with relevant information to clear their doubts on a variety of issues and help them generate more income.**

Krishi Network enables small and marginal farmers of India with better access to the market, quality input, and expertise.

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81. Recently In February **Sukla Mistry** Has Been Appointed As The **First Women Director On The Board Of Which Of The Following Energy Public Sector Enterprise ?**

- A. Hindustan Petroleum Private Ltd
- B. Indian Oil Corporation**
- C. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- D. National Thermal Power Corporation

Ms. Sukla Mistry has taken over as Director (Refineries) of Indian Oil, India's highest-ranked energy Public Sector Enterprise in 'Fortune 500' global listing on February 7, 2022. Ms. Mistry is the first woman Functional Director on the Indian Oil Board. She will also be holding the positions of Director on the board of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) & the 60 MTPA Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemical Limited, the world's largest grass root refinery project, coming up in Maharashtra.

Ms Mistry is also the first woman in Indian Oil to hold the position of Executive Director & Refinery Head of an Indian Oil refinery unit, first at Digboi Refinery (Assam) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018-7<sup>th</sup> February 2019, which is the oldest operating refinery in Asia

Indian Oil Corporation Limited, is an Indian government corporation Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya Headquarters: New Delhi Founded: 30 June 1959

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82. Recently In February The Central Government Has Appointed Whom As **Secretary Of Department Of Financial Services By Replacing Debasish Panda** Whose Tenure Superannuated On January 31 ?

- A. Dinesh Kuamr Saklani
- B. **Sanjay Malhotra**
- C. Unnikrishnan Nair
- D. Pradip Shah

Sanjay Malhotra  
is new DFS Secy



**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, February 9

The Centre has appointed Sanjay Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Finance Ministry. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has given its approval, official sources said.

Before this, Malhotra was the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He succeeds Debashish Panda, who recently completed his term on January 31.

## Manoj Ahuja is now Secretary of Agriculture

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Manoj Ahuja, currently Chairman of the CBSE, will take over as Agriculture Secretary when the incumbent Sanjay Agarwal retires at the end of March, according to a decision by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday. For now, he has been appointed an Officer on Special Duty at the Agriculture Ministry.

The ACC also approved the appointment of REC chairman Sanjay Malhotra as the new Secretary, Department of Financial Services. Health Ministry Additional Secretary Arti Ahuja has been appointed as the new Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. Commerce Special Secretary S. Kishore has been appointed Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission.

The government on appointed Chairman and Managing Director, REC Ltd. Sanjay Malhotra as full-time secretary of the department with immediate effect of The position of secretary DFS fell vacant just a day ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget when **Debashish Panda failed to get a extension after completing his tenure in the government.**

He took over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state run REC Ltd, one of India's largest power sector lenders in November 2020.

Manoj Ahuja, IAS and current Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education, Ministry of Education has been appointed as OSD, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. He will take over as Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare upon superannuation of Sanjay Agarawal. West Bengal cadre IAS officer S. Kishore, as Chairman, Staff Selection Commission

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**83. What Is The Name Of The Veteran Environmentalist Who Recently In February Has Resigned From The Post Of Chairman Of Highly Powered Committee Formed By Supreme Court On Char Dham Project Which Is An Initiative of How Much Amount To Widen How Much Km Road That Was Envisaged In Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. Sanjay Ghosh , Rs 18000 Cr , 760 Km , 2020**
- B. Ravi Chopra , Rs 18000 Cr , 889 Km , 2016**
- C. Swapnil Pandey , Rs 18000 Cr , 540 Km , 2015**
- D. Sujoy Ghosh , Rs 18000 Cr , 680 Km , 2017**

## Char Dham panel chief quits, says his belief is shattered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

**VETERAN ENVIRONMENTALIST** Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project, saying that his "belief that the HPC could protect this fragile (Himalayan) ecology has been shattered".

In his resignation letter to the secretary general of the Supreme Court on January 27, Chopra referred to the apex court's December 2021 order that accepted the wider road configuration to meet defence needs, instead of what the HPC had recommended and the SC accepted in its earlier order in September 2020.

"The judgment has also confined the role of the HPC to overseeing... the two Non-Defence roads only... the directions and recommendations made by the HPC in the past have either been ignored or tardily responded to by MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways). This experience does not inspire confidence that the response of MoRTH will be much different even in relation to the two Non-Defence roads," Chopra wrote in the letter.

"The Honourable Court has also permitted the respondents to seek legal relief for widening of the Non-Defence highways. In the circumstances, I do not



The Rs 12,000-crore highway expansion project was envisaged to widen 889 km of hill roads to provide all-weather connectivity in the Char Dham circuit. Express file

see any purpose in continuing to head the HPC or indeed, even to be a part of it," he wrote.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chopra said: "I feel I'll be able to do more without the constraints of being part of an official committee — perhaps engage more meaningfully in public education, and also monitor closely and write about how the (Char Dham) project carries on — particularly in the Bhagirathi Eco Sensitive zone where the HPC put precise conditions for roads and the SC asked the MoRTH to follow those unanimous recommendations."

In his letter, 75-year-old Chopra recalled how he was "compelled to accept" the responsibility in September 2019, despite his age, "by an inner voice born out of a 40-year commitment to help restore the

degraded Himalayan environment and the livelihoods of its people".

"That same inner voice now compels me to move out. The belief that the HPC could protect this fragile ecology has been shattered. I can do no more. I therefore choose to resign," he wrote.

Asked if he felt despondent, Chopra said: "While travelling through villages until a decade ago, I would be amazed at how little people remembered about the Chipko movement. Today, we have youngsters in Dehradun opposing tree felling. These are straws in the wind. One has to keep sowing, the rain will come."

Describing the Himalayas as a marvel of nature, Chopra wrote in his resignation letter: "Sustainable development demands approaches that are

both geologically and ecologically sound. Such development also enhances disaster-resilience and hence national security, especially when climate challenges to slope stability are becoming far more unpredictable.

"As a member of the HPC, however, I saw at close quarters the desecration of the once impregnable Himalayas... I have seen engineers armed with modern technological weapons assaulting the Himalayas... The engineers exult and circulate photographs proving their conquest of Nature, little realizing that they too are a part of Nature and cannot survive if their own natural environment is destroyed.

"Nature, however, neither forgets nor forgives such wilful wrongs inflicted on her treasures. Already we have witnessed stretches of roads disappear that have later taken months to repair. Nature sounded warning bells in June 2013 and February 2021 with disastrous consequences."

A flagship initiative of the Centre, the Rs 12,000-crore highway expansion project was envisaged in 2016 to widen 889 km of hill roads to provide all-weather connectivity in the Char Dham circuit — Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — in the upper Himalayas.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project, saying that his "belief that the HPC could protect this fragile (Himalayan) ecology has been shattered".

A flagship initiative of the Centre, the Rs 12,000-crore highway expansion project was envisaged in 2016 to widen 889 km of hill roads to provide all-weather connectivity in the Char Dham circuit — Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — in the upper Himalayas.

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84. Recently In February Whom Among The Following Has Been Appointed As The MD And Chairman Of US Based Financial Advisory Firm Rockefeller International ?

- A. Sanjay Malhotra
- B. Sinesh Sakhani
- C. Ruchir Sharma
- D. Ratnakar Shetty

Ruchir Sharma, former head of emerging markets equity at Morgan Stanley's investment management arm, will join US-based financial advisory firm Rockefeller International as its Managing Director and Chairman.

Sharma will serve as an advisor to help expand the firm's global business starting February 14

Sharma, 47, also plans to form an investment company, Breakout Capital, in which Rockefeller Capital Management will be a partner.

New York-based Sharma, who directly managed close to \$20 billion in assets at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, joined the bank as an associate in 1996.

## ALSO PLANS TO SET UP AN INVESTMENT CO Ruchir Sharma to Join Rockefeller International as Its MD and Chairman

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Ruchir Sharma, former head of emerging markets equity at Morgan Stanley's investment management arm, will join US-based financial advisory firm Rockefeller International as its managing director and chairman.

Sharma will serve as an advisor to help expand the firm's global business starting February 14, according to a Rockefeller release.

Sharma, 47, also plans to set up an investment company Breakout Capital, in which Rockefeller Capital will be a partner, it said.

"He'll be a great asset to our advisors, bankers and clients across businesses and borders," said Rockefeller Capital Management's president and CEO Gregory Fleming in the release on Thursday. "The firm looks forward to working with Sharma in the development of his new investment firm, which will build on his long experience in emerging markets."

In November 2021, Sharma left Morgan Stanley after a 25-year stint.

New York-based Sharma, who directly managed close to \$20 billion in assets at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, joined



the bank as an associate in 1996. Sharma, who was born in India, began writing for The Economic Times before his stint with Morgan Stanley. He is currently a contributing editor at The Financial Times. Sharma has authored two books — 'The Rise and Fall of Nations' and 'Breakout Nations'.

At Morgan Stanley, Sharma mostly managed money of pension funds and sovereign wealth funds. The funds he managed there invested in emerging markets, Asia, Latin America, Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Sharma's Morgan Stanley Global Emerging Markets fund beat the MSCI benchmark index by 6.9% over the previous year at the time of his exit. The Emerging Leaders fund returned 26.14% in the year to October 31, 2020 as against the 16.96% of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index during the same period, according to Morgan Stanley's performance disclosures.

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**85. Recently In February Finance Ministry has reconstituted Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST for casinos, racecourse and online gaming without changing its Terms of Reference (ToR) Under The Chairmanship Of Which Of The Following ?**

- A. Kanubhai Patel
- B. Suresh Khanna
- C. K Sangama**
- D. Jai Narayan Patel

Finance Ministry has reconstituted Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST for casinos, racecourse and online gaming without changing its Terms of Reference (ToR).

Meghalaya Chief Minister K Sangama will be convenor. The reconstituted GoM includes Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Suresh Khanna and Finance Minister of Gujarat, Kanubhai Patel.

Finance Minister of West Bengal Chandrima Bhattacharya is also part of the reconstituted GoM.

The GoM was constituted on 24 May 2021. Its composition has been changed for the second time. GST rate for online games is 28% if they involved betting or gambling. However, GST rate on games not involving betting or gambling is 18%.

**86. Recently In February Whom Among the following has been appointed as ICAI President for the year 2022-23?**

- A. Debashis Mitra**
- B. Vikaram Dev Dutt
- C. Aniket Sunil Talati
- D. Vijay Jangara

Debashis Mitra and Aniket Sunil Talati have been appointed as ICAI President and Vice President respectively for the year 2022-23.

Mitra will now represent ICAI in committees set up by Indian government.

He will represent ICAI in Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) and Audit Advisory Board. Both of them are constituted by the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India.

He is also a board member of IRDAI, Insurance Advisory Committee and a member of SEBI's Primary Market Advisory Committee.

**Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):**

**It was established in 1949 as a statutory body by the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.**

Debashis Mitra  
elected as  
ICAI President



**OUR BUREAU**  
New Delhi, February 12

The CA Institute has a new President in Debashis Mitra for the year 2022-23. In addition to this, Aniket Sunil Talati was elected as Vice President in New Delhi on Saturday.

Mitra will represent ICAI in various committees constituted by the Indian government and regulators, including the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) and Audit Advisory Board – both constituted by the C&AG of India. He is also a board member of IRDA and a member of SEBI's Primary Market Advisory Committee.



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**87.Recent In February Tata Sons Has Announced The Appointment Of *Ilker Ayci* as CEO and MD of Air India Who Was Former Chairman Of Which Of The Following Airlines ?**

- A. Jet Airways**
- B. Turkish Airline**
- C. Boeing Max**
- D. UK Airlines**

Tata Sons announced on February 14, 2022 that Ilker Ayci has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Air India. Air India board had met in the afternoon today to consider his candidature for the post

Ilker Ayci was previously serving as the Chairman of Turkish Airlines and was on the board of the company before that.

**Ilker Ayci will take charge of his new role on or before April 1, 2022.**

**Air India was founded by JRD Tata and the airline's history is synonymous with the annals of civil aviation in India. The first-ever Air India flight took off on October 15, 1932. Since then, it has pioneered India's aviation sector and become one of the major international airlines.**

**Air India Express was launched as India's first budget international carrier in 2006 to connect smaller towns directly to the Gulf and South East Asia regions. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1 April 2022.**

**Air India:**

**Tata Group had earlier run Air India before it was nationalized in 1953.**

**In 1932, industrialist Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy had launched it. It flew its first flight as Tata Airlines on 15 October 1932.**

**88. Recently In February The Board Of Tata SONS Ltd Has Reappointed Whom As Its Executive Chairman For Another FIVE Years ?**

- A. Debashish Mitra
- B. N Chandrasekaran**
- C. Syrus Mistry
- D. Ratan Tata

# Tata Sons clears second term for Chandrasekaran

Tata Trusts' presence likely to be strengthened in the restructured board of Tata Sons

DEV CHATTERJEE  
Mumbai, 11 February

**T**he salt-to-software Tata Group will see continuation of leadership as N Chandrasekaran remains executive chairman for another five years. The board of directors at the holding company, Tata Sons, met on Friday to reappoint Chandrasekaran as chairman.

Group patriarch and Tata Trusts chairman Ratan Tata, who was present at the board meeting as a special invitee, recommended renewal of Chandrasekaran's term as executive chairman of Tata Sons, according to a company statement. Tata expressed satisfaction on the progress and performance of the group under Chandrasekaran, the statement said. Tata is chairman emeritus of Tata Sons.

The board members—Venu Srinivasan, Ajay Piramal, Ralf Speth, Bhaskar Bhat, Sourabh Agrawal and Harish Manwani—unanimously approved Chandrasekaran's reappointment.

Tata Trusts, which is the biggest shareholder at Tata Sons with 66 per cent stake, may send two of its trustees as directors at Tata Sons board. Vice-chairman of Tata Trusts

Vijay Singh is likely to be re-inducted into the Tata Sons board as Tata Trusts nominee. Singh, a former civil servant, was on the Tata Sons board as Tata Trusts nominee till August 2018, when he reached the official retirement age. Sources said the group's governance guidelines relating to age could be changed in view of the new set-up.



Illustration: Binay Sinha

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## TATA GROUP FIRMS' PERFORMANCE ON THE BOURSES

As on Feb 11, 2022

	M-cap (₹ trn)	M-cap In %	M-cap chg* ₹ trn
TCS	13.67	177	8.73
Titan Company	2.17	463	1.78
Tata Steel	1.53	224	1.06
Tata Consumer	0.65	624	0.56
Tata Power Co.	0.74	223	0.51
Tata Elxsi	0.46	905	0.41
Tata Motors	1.78	22	0.32
Trent	0.38	351	0.30
Tata Tele. Mah.	0.30	2,315	0.29
Volitas	0.39	242	0.28
<b>Total**</b>	<b>23.36</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>14.77</b>
<b>BSE Sensex</b>	<b>58,153</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>66.97</b>

\*Over Feb 2017; \*\* (29 companies); #: Friday closing  
Sources: Bloomberg; Capitaline

## CHANDRA'S REPORT CARD

- Tata Steel acquired and turned around Bhushan Steel
- Tata Sons bought Air India for ₹18,000 crore; integration key challenge
- Acquired BigBasket for e-commerce push
- Tata Motors' new cars were well accepted by customers
- Tata Tele exited cellular phone business; repaid loans worth ₹60,000 crore
- Tata Digital set to launch a superapp: TataNeu

### Tata Sons reappoints N Chandrasekaran.

Tata Sons has reappointed N Chandrasekaran as executive chairman for the second term of five years.

The board members unanimously approved his reappointment. He was appointed in 2017.

In last five years, market capital of Tata Group's listed companies had increased 100% to nearly ₹8 lakh crore.

Tata Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Mumbai. Founded in 1868 by Jamshedji Tata

89. Recently In February Whom Among The Following Has Been Appointed As The **New President** OF West African Country Burkina Faso's ?

- A. Antino Cusithio
- B. Henri Sanaogo Damiba**
- C. Marceno Matlela
- D. David Sasiolii

Burkina Faso's new military strongman, Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, has been declared President by the country's top constitutional body after a coup last month,

Mr Damiba is also head of state and supreme commander of the armed forces

Capital: Ouagadougou Currency - West African CFA franc

## Burkina Faso's junta leader declared president

*Ouagadougou:* The leader of Burkina Faso's junta Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba has been declared president this week, the West African country's Constitutional Council said.

Damiba is to be officially inaugurated on February 16, military officials confirmed on Friday, although his term as president is effective retroactively from January 24, when soldiers overthrew the democratically elected former President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

Damiba has vowed to restore security to the nation. He has also met with politicians, including the former administration, civic organizations and representatives of the international community to explain his views and garner support. **AP**

**Days And Obituary**

90. Recently In February Actor and athlete **Praveen Kumar Sobti** died due to cardiac arrest at an age of 74. He won gold medals in the discus throw at the **1966 and 1970 Asian Games** Which Were Held In ?

- A. Bangkok**
- B. Seoul**
- C. Ghnozhou**
- D. Jakarta**

Praveen Kumar Sobti, who was popular for essaying the role of **Bheem in BR Chopra's Mahabharat**, passed away on February 7, 2022

Praveen Kumar Sobti was also an extremely talented track and field athlete. He not only represented India in two Olympic Games but was also a four-time Asian Games medalist. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award for his accomplishments.

He represented India in two Olympic Games, 1968 Mexico Games and 1972 Munich Games. He represented India in various athletic events in hammer and discus throw.

He won gold medals in the discus throw at the 1966 and 1970 Asian Games. He had won a silver medal in Hammer Throw at the 1966 Commonwealth Games.

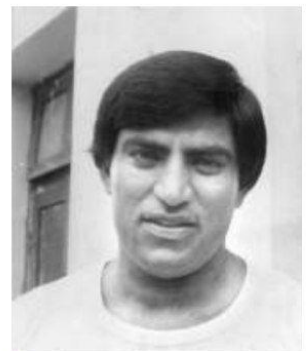
**Praveen Kumar, Asiad medallist, passes away**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday expressed deep shock on the demise of former Asian Games gold medallist Praveen Kumar Sobti, who passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest here.

Praveen Kumar, who played 'Bheem' in the TV series "Mahabharat", breathed his last on Monday evening. He was 74 and is survived by wife, daughter, two younger brothers and a sister.

"AFI family is in deep shock on the passing away of Olympian & Asian Games medalist Shri Praveen Kumar Sobti



Praveen Kumar.  
 ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

ji,74,today," the governing body said in a tweet.

Praveen Kumar represented the country in hammer and discus throw and won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**91. Recently In February *National Deworming Day* is observed every year on 10 February National Deworming Day was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 2016
- B. 2015**
- C. 2014
- D. 2018

National Deworming Day is observed every year on 10 February.

It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of deworming all preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years.

**National Deworming Day was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015.**

The main aim of National Deworming Day is to raise awareness on intestinal worms and to attain complete eradication of Soil-Transmitted Helminths in children.

Around 24% of the world's population is infected with soil-transmitted helminths (worms).

**92. Recently In February Every year on February 10th, *World Pulses Day* is observed to recognise pulses as a global food. The UN General Assembly had announced Which Year as the International Year of Pulses ?**

- A. 2020
- B. 2017
- C. 2016**
- D. 2018

Every year on February 10th, World Pulses Day is observed to recognise pulses as a global food.

**The theme of the World Pulses Day 2022 is "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems"**

**World Pulses Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 to raise global awareness and access to pulses.**

Burkina Faso had proposed this day in General Assembly.

UN General Assembly had announced 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. India is the world's top producer of pulses (25 percent of global production), consumer (27 percent of global consumption), and importer (14 percent).

Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of pulses in India.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
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93. Every year on Which Of The Following Day Does the nation commemorates **National Productivity Day** ?

- A. 11<sup>TH</sup> February
- B. 12<sup>th</sup> February
- C. 13<sup>th</sup> February
- D. 14<sup>th</sup> February

Every year on February 12th, the nation commemorates National Productivity Day.

The National Productivity Day is part of National Productivity Week, which is commemorated from February 12 to February 18.

National Productivity Day is organized by the National Productivity Council (NPC).

The theme of the National Productivity Week 2022 is 'Self Reliance Through Productivity'. National Productivity Council The NPC is a self-governing body that was founded in 1958 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its President is Piyush Goyal

94. Recently In February **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is commemorated On Which Of The Following Day ?

- A. 11<sup>TH</sup> February
- B. 12<sup>th</sup> February
- C. 13<sup>th</sup> February
- D. 14<sup>th</sup> February

Every year on February 11, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is commemorated.

It is celebrated to raise awareness about the role of women in achieving development goals.

"Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us" is the theme for the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared February 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Science and gender equality are both critical to achieving development goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**95. In India Every Year *National Women's Day* is observed on 13 February To Commemorate The Birth Anniversary Of Which Of The Following ?**

- A. Indira Gandhi
- B. Annie Besant
- C. Sarojani Naidu**
- D. Kasturba Gandhi

In India, National Women's Day is observed on 13 February each year.

Sarojini Naidu's birth is commemorated as National Women's Day across the country.

The 142nd birthday of Sarojini Naidu was commemorated this year.

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March. She was the first woman governor of India. She became governor of the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) in 1947.

She was the first Indian woman President of the Indian National Congress. She presided over the 1925 Kanpur session of INC

**96. *World Radio Day* is commemorated On Which Of The Following Day Every Year ?**

- A. 11TH February
- B. 12th February
- C. 13th February
- D. 14th February**

Every year on February 13, World Radio Day is commemorated.

World Radio Day is observed to raise awareness of radio's importance and contribution to society's evolution.

The theme of World Radio Day 2022 is "Radio and Trust". It has 3 sub-themes:

Trust in radio journalism: Produce independent and high-quality content  
Trust and accessibility: Take care of your audience

Trust and viability of radio stations: Ensure competitiveness

UNESCO established the day during its 36th conference in 2011.

In 2012, the University of Pisa in Italy celebrated the first World Radio Day.

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**97. Recently In February *Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)* celebrated its Which Foundation Day ?**

- A. 34<sup>th</sup>
- B. 35<sup>th</sup>
- C. 36<sup>th</sup>**
- D. 37<sup>th</sup>

Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) celebrated its 36th Foundation Day on 13 February 2022.

Export of agricultural products has increased from 0.6 billion dollars in 1986 to 20.67 billion dollars in 2020-21.

The target given to APEDA in the financial year 2021-22 is 23.7 billion dollars. More than 70% of the target has been achieved till January 2022.

**Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**

It is a government organization established in 1986. It is responsible for the promotion of the export of agro products.

It works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its headquarters are located in New Delhi.

Dr. M. Angamuthu is the current Chairman of APEDA.

**98. Recently In February *Luc Montagnier* Who Won The Nobel Prize In ..... Year For Discovering The Virus That Creates Aids Passed Away Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?**

- A. 2008, France**
- B. 2005, Germany
- C. 2012, UK
- D. 1988, Spain

Nobel-winning French virologist Luc Montagnier, who died in Paris, was a brilliant and controversial figure who often challenged the core principles of science and scientific discourse.

The 89-year-old won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 for the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

The Frenchman shared the award with fellow researcher Françoise Barré-Sinoussi. The duo had shared half of the Nobel with German scientist Harald zur Hausen for his discovery of human papilloma viruses that cause cervical cancer.



**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**99. Recently In February Veteran industrialist and head of the Bajaj group Rahul Bajaj Passed Away . He Was The recipient Of Padma Bhushan In Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 2001**
- B. 1986**
- C. 1968**
- D. 2021**

## Rahul, the engine that drove ‘Hamara Bajaj’, is no more

**SWARAJ BAGGONKAR**  
 Mumbai, February 12

Rahul Bajaj, industrialist and head of Bajaj Group who was battling ill health over the past few weeks, passed away on Saturday. He was 83. One of India’s most animated businessmen known for his bold and revered comments, Rahul was formerly the chairman of both Bajaj Auto and Bajaj Finance.

Born on June 30, 1938, in Kolkata, Rahul was the grandson of freedom fighter Jammalal Bajaj, the founder of the Bajaj Group who was also affectionately addressed as the “fifth son of Mahatma Gandhi”.

Rahul graduated from St. Stephen’s College in Delhi in 1958 before earning a degree in law from the Bombay University. He went on to pursue MBA from Harvard Business School before being picked to lead Bajaj Auto in the 1960s.

Credited with making brand



Rahul Bajaj

Bajaj a household name through the launch of blockbuster models such as the Chetak and Priya in the 1970s, an identity later cemented by the marketing tagline ‘Hamara Bajaj’, he successfully steered the company through the Emergency, the License Raj and economic liberalisation that began in the 1990s.

Apart from being openly critical of controversial decisions made by the present-day government including demonetisation and the pandemic-in-

duced lockdown that significantly impacted businesses, Rahul was also the unofficial spokesperson of the eight-member ‘Bombay Club’, which lobbied for protection against the economic liberalisation of 1991.

“Let us also hope we do not react to the epidemic by declaring more lockdowns. For these will destroy business, employment and the economy without necessarily controlling the spread of the disease,” Rahul told shareholders of Bajaj Auto in his final address as its Chairman.

### The biggest accomplishment

One of Rahul Bajaj’s biggest accomplishment could be the split of the Bajaj empire and the smooth transfer of power to his two sons – Rajiv and Sanjiv. As per an agreement, the automobile business went to elder son Rajiv, while the finance business went to Sanjiv.

“Rahul Bajaj: bold and fearless. A rare businessman who spoke truth to power. A proud Indian. Built world class enterprise. I am truly honoured to know him. Will miss him,” said Uday Kotak, Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, TVS Motor Company, said: “Rahul Bajaj strode across the Indian industrial landscape like a colossus. He stood for high integrity in business and stuck to his principles. Rahul played a key role in industry bodies around the world like World Economic Forum and CII and was very well respected. He will be sorely missed.”

Bajaj was a former Rajya Sabha Member and a recipient of the Padma Bhushan award. He was also the chairman of Indian Airlines and chairman of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Rahul Bajaj, 83, one of India’s leading industrialists and chairman emeritus of Bajaj Auto Ltd., passed away in Pune. After assuming a leadership role in 1965, he steered the diversified entity during India’s transition from a closed economy to a liberalised one.

The Bajaj Chetak scooter became an aspirational symbol for middle-class Indian families, across the 1980s and ‘90s, with the ‘Hamara Bajaj’ ad jingle becoming synonymous with their hopes of a better future. Bajaj was a recipient of many awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 2001

Bajaj was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2006 and remained a member till 2010. Bajaj was a former chairman of the International Business Council, World Economic Forum and a former president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**101. Recently In February India HAs Signed A *Mou With Australia In The Filed Of Tourism Sector* The Pact Was Signed By Union Minister Of Commerce Piyush Goyal And Minister Of Tourism Of Australia Who Is Whom Among The Following ?**

- A. Chris Patt
- B. Ben Copper
- C. Dan Tehan**
- D. Scott Mosrrison

India and Australia have signed an agreement to promote tourism --- that has been severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic --- between two countries.

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Australian Minister of Trade, Tourism and Investment, Dan Tehan sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today.

Indian and Australian negotiators are close to clinching a limited trade pact or so-called "early harvest agreement", Piyush Goyal said after talks with his Australian counterpart.

The negotiations should be complete within 30 days, Goyal told a joint news briefing with Australian minister Dan Tehan.

**102. Recently In February The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister has approved continuation of umbrella scheme of *Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 With An Outlay Of How Much Amount ?***

- A. Rs.4,300 crore.
- B. Rs.4,846 crore.**
- C. Rs.5866 crore.
- D. Rs.4,600 crore.

The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister has approved continuation of umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Provision has been made under the Scheme for internal security, law and order, adoption of modern technology by Police, assisting States for narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic set-up in the country.

The Scheme for modernization of State police forces has a Central outlay of Rs.4,846 crore.

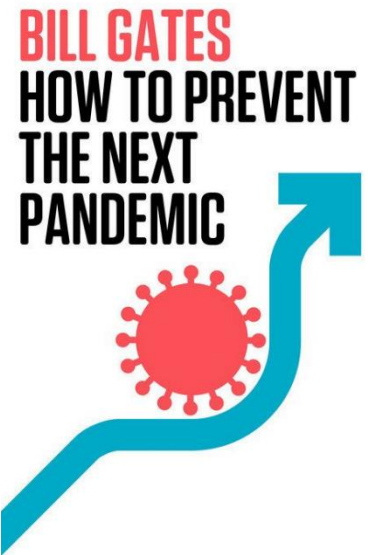
A central Scheme for Modernisation of Forensic Capacities with outlay of Rs.2,080.50 crore has been approved.

Central outlay of Rs.18,839 crore has been earmarked for security related expenditure for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, insurgency affected North Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

**Sports Awards Books**

**103. Recently In February Who Has Authored The Book Titled " How To Prevent The Next Pandemic " ?**

- A. Stephen King
- B. Bill Gates**
- C. Simu Liu
- D. Vikarant Pande



Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is set to release a new book, called "How to Prevent the Next Pandemic", which the billionaire philanthropist announced on Tuesday, writing that he believes that COVID-19 can be the last pandemic.

The book, which is expected to be released on May 3, contains suggestions on ways to provide better health care around the world and tools needed for the early fight against viruses. **The book also discusses Bill Gates' views on vaccines and on what it has felt like to become the target of conspiracy theories.**

**104. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has won 20th edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Football Tournament ?**

- A. Bangladesh
- B. China**
- C. Japan
- D. Nepal

**Remarkable comeback gives China the title**

This is the Steel Roses' record-extending ninth WAC crown

**ASIAN CUP**

LAVANYA LAKSHMI NARAYANAN MUMBAI

China PR scripted a remarkable comeback after being two goals down at half-time to beat Korea Republic 3-2 in the final of the AFC Women's Asian Cup on Sunday.

This is the Steel Roses' record-extending ninth WAC title and their first since 2006. China's triumph is doubly special for head coach Shui Qingxia, a five-time winner of this tournament as a player, who becomes the first former player to win this title as coach.

China pressed the Korean defence early with Wang Shuang leading the charge. This strategy worked perfectly as the girls in red controlled possession.



**On a high:** The Chinese contingent is cock-a-hoop after its triumph. •GETTY IMAGES

Korea tried to counter the stronghold by playing the ball long, but China's physicality helped it make timely interceptions and even attempt some shots at goal to frustrate the Koreans.

**Set up perfectly** Despite the early momentum, it was the Chinese who conceded first in the 12th minute.

Choe Yuri was set up perfectly with a clean cross from Lee Geummin. Neither was marked adequately and the Koreans took the lead.

Korea doubled its lead in the 44th minute when Ji converted from the spot after her side won a handball appeal when a Chinese defender unintentionally handled the ball in the box.

The Steel Roses came into the second half with a few changes in personnel but were unable to rattle the Korean defence.

China made a comeback when it was also awarded a penalty for a handball appeal. Tang Jiali made no mistake as she slotted this through Kim Jung Mi's fingertips.

China levelled scores in the 71st minute when the Korean defence was caught napping. Jiali once again got hold of the ball, sent in a lifted cross for substitute Zhang Linyan who headed it to the back of the net, with Shui roaring in the dugout.

The now nine-time champion put the game to bed in the 93rd minute when Jiali supplied Xiao Yuyi, another substitute, who kept her cool to bury the ball in the far corner.

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China has won AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Football Tournament.

China defeated the Korea Republic by 3-2 in the final of the AFC Women's Asian Cup at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

The head coach of the Chinese team Shui Qingxia has become the first former player to win this title as a coach.

China won the AFC Women's Asian Cup title for the ninth time. It was the 20th edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

India hosted the tournament from 20 January to 6 February.

**105. Recently In February The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has named its team the 'Gujarat Titans' The Ahmedabad IPL Team was bought by Which Of The Following Group for Rs 5635 Crores Before 2022 edition ?**

- A. Red Chillies Entertainment Group
- B. Reliance Industries
- C. CVC Capital
- D. JSW Group

The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has named its team the 'Gujarat Titans'. This dispels reports that came in earlier saying that the team will be called 'Ahmedabad Titans'.

Hardik Pandya was named as the captain of the new Ahmedabad IPL team 2022. Pandya was picked along with Rasheed Khan and Shubman Gill ahead of the mega IPL 2022 auction event.

The Ahmedabad IPL Team was bought by CVC Capital Partners for Rs 5635 Crores. IPL 2022 edition is likely to be held in India from the last week of March and will conclude in May.

The IPL 2022 edition will see two new teams in action - Lucknow and Ahmedabad, taking the eight-team competition to ten teams.

## Ahmedabad IPL team to be called Gujarat Titans

NEW DELHI

The Ahmedabad team of the Indian Premier League will be called Gujarat Titans, the franchise announced on Wednesday.

The franchise, owned by private equity firm CVC Capital and to be led by India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, said the name was chosen to pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy. PTI

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**106. Recently In February *Writing With Fire (Documentary Category) Only Indian To Make Final Cut In 94th Academy Award Chronicles The Rise Of..... India's Only Newspaper Run By Dalit Women ?***

- A. Dalit Patrika
- B. Deshbhakti
- C. Khabar Lahariya**
- D. Deshmaitri

Indian documentary “Writing With Fire” has been nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th edition of the Academy Awards.

Directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, both debutantes, “Writing With Fire” chronicles the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women.

This is a massive moment for us and for Indian cinema... This film is about fearless Dalit women journalists who are redefining what being powerful means, quintessentially the story of the modern Indian woman

The awards ceremony is scheduled to be held on March 27.

### India's 'Writing With Fire' nominated for best documentary feature at Oscars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, February 8

**INDIAN DOCUMENTARY FEATURE** ‘Writing With Fire’ has made it to the final nominations list at the 94th edition of the Academy Awards.

The nominations were announced by Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan on Tuesday evening via the Twitter page of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

**Directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, both debutants, ‘Writing With Fire’ chronicles the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women**

Directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, both debutants, ‘Writing With Fire’ chronicles the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women.

The festival favourite film follows this ambitious group of Dalit wonderwomen — led by their chief reporter, Meera — as the team switches from

print to digital in order to stay relevant. Armed with smartphones and the courage and conviction one must be born with, they investigate the incompetence of the local police force, listen to and stand by victims of caste and gender violence, and challenge long-standing, harmful practices that lead to injustice and intimidation.

Other nominees in the category are: ‘Ascension’, ‘Attica’, ‘Flee’, and ‘Summer of Soul (Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)’.

**SBI** 1st Floor, 23,

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable property where is, "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis on below mentioned dates for re**

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower (B) / Guarantor/s (G) /
1	M/s Shri Banke Bihari Cotfab Pvt Ltd, Regd Office at 511, 5th Floor, Ring Road M Sector-3, Rohini New Delhi-110085, and its Director/Promoters Sh Shailesh Poddar Poddar, Santosh Devi Poddar, Amar Poddar, and Sakshi Poddar.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:**

- E-Auction is being held on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis e-Auction platform on ibapi portal <https://ibapi.in> & <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/>
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encum submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues.
- The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and R
- The other terms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the following websites |

**Date : 08-02-2022, Place : New Delhi**

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107. Recently In February Who Has Authored The Book "Outlast : How ESG Can Benefit Your Business The First Indian -Authored Book On ESG (Economic Social Governance) How ESG Can Help Business Build Resilience And Outlast Thler Competition ?

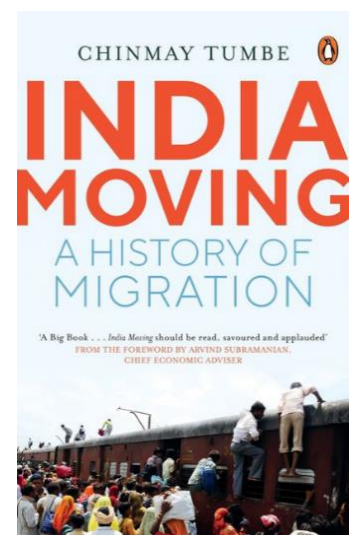
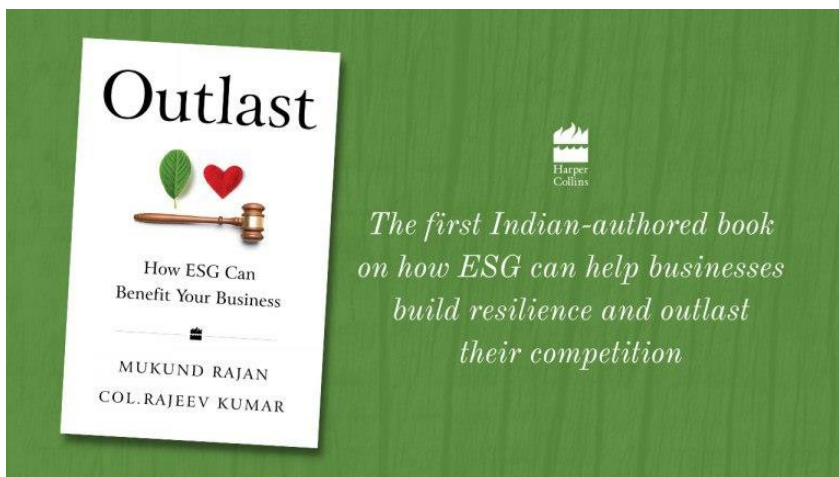
- A. Mukund Rajan
- B. Swapnil Pandey
- C. Vikrant Pande
- D. Gita Piramal

Dr Mukund Rajan chairs a pioneering investment firm focused on catalysing Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) improvements. Previously, in a twenty-three-year career with India's largest corporate house, the Tata Group,

Outlast: How ESG Can Benefit Your Business is a clarion call to corporate leaders to follow the pathway of ESG.

DR (COL.) RAJEEV KUMAR is a strategic communications consultant and a Fellow of the International Association of Business Communicators.

The first Indian-authored book on how ESG can help businesses build resilience and outlast their competition



**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

- 108. Recently In February Delhi Public Works Department Has Announced To Build A 900 Meter Stretch To Honour India's Success At The Olympics And Paralympics 2021 By Establishing Statue Of Neeraj Chopra , PV Sindhu , Avani Lakhera . The Stretch Is To Be Known As ?**
- A. Olympic Boulevard**
  - B. Olympic Stretch**
  - C. Olympic Crossword**
  - D. Olympic Vitthal**

**KILOMETRE-LONG STRETCH BEING DEVELOPED BY PWD**

**Statues of Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu to find place in 'Olympic Boulevard'**

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2

TO CELEBRATE India's success at the Olympics and Paralympics 2021, the Public Works Department (PWD) is going to dedicate a nearly one-kilometre-long stretch in North Delhi to Olympic champions such as Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu and Ravi Dahiya.

The stretch will be named 'Olympic Vithi or Olympic Boulevard'. The estimated length is 900 metres, and it will be redeveloped on road number 51

from Mukundpur Chowk to the MCD colony near Model Town. The sports-themed stretch will be redeveloped and redesigned as one of nine sample stretches under the Delhi government's streetscaping project.

"Currently, the road is uneven with poor geometry and bottlenecks. Under this project, all bottlenecks will be removed, and the stretch will be made safer for pedestrians. It will also help reduce accidents," said a senior PWD official.

Road engineering, geometry, kerbs and footpaths will be redeveloped to provide a safe and

secure pathway for pedestrians, he said.

The stretch will have sculptures and statues of Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra throwing a javelin, badminton player PV Sindhu, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, wrestlers Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, among others. The statues will be around 15 to 20 feet in height with an integrated lighting system to give an aesthetic look.

Further, water-harvesting, drainage and sewer on this stretch will be redeveloped, and 'selfie points' will also be created.



Olympic medallists Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu

The stretch will also have a separate synthetic fibre-made

cycle track, open gyms with cross trainers, squat pushing, bi-

cycle and other equipment. It will also have a play area for children. The official said, "The cycle track can be used by residents of neighbouring colonies for cycling as well as people commuting to work."

He added, "The stretch has good space so we are utilising the areas to create a safe path as well as a playing and workout area. It will also have four-seater benches where people can sit and play board games. There will be a separate parking area, toilets, kiosks and food trucks where people can enjoy the view and learn about the Olympic

champions. There will be parking space for food trucks with outdoor seating to promote inexpensive authentic Indian street food. It will give people a feel-good experience."

Besides honouring the champions, the government aims to inspire the youth to take up sports as a vocation and as a habit to stay fit. "It will encourage youngsters to take part in sports and follow their dreams, and commuters will be inspired to take up sports activities to stay fit," said the official.

Apart from street furniture, walkways, fountains and water

bodies will also be added to improve the aesthetic appeal of the area and an arc-shaped entrance will be made for the road.

The tenders for the project have been floated and consultants have been appointed. The estimated cost is Rs 19.30 crore, of which Rs 13.28 crore is for construction work, Rs 3.8 crore for electrical and Rs 2.15 crore for horticulture development work. The official said the tender process will take about a month, and the work is expected to start by March-April, with the stretch expected to be redeveloped by August.

To celebrate India's success at Olympics and Para Olympics 2021 and honour the champions, the Public Works Department (PWD) decided to dedicate a nearly one kilometre-long stretch in North Delhi to Olympic champions such as Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu, Ravi Dahiya and others, naming it Olympics Vithi or Olympics Boulevard.

The sports-themed stretch, the first of its kind, will be redeveloped and redesigned as part of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's ambitious streetscaping project. The estimated length of the stretch is 900 metres and it will be redeveloped on Road Number 51 from Mukundpur Chowk to MCD colony near Model Town

Stretch theme— Sports, dedicated to olympic and para-olympic champions 2021

The tender for the project has been floated and consultants have been appointed. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 19.30 crore, of which Rs 13.28 crore is for construction work, Rs 3.8 crore electrical and Rs 2.15 crore for horticulture development work

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**109. Recently In February Ireen Wust Became The Most Successful Olympic Speed Skater In History Of Winter Olympic By Winning Her .... Gold Medal Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?**

- A. 4<sup>TH</sup> , England
- B. 5<sup>th</sup> , China
- C. 6<sup>TH</sup> , Netherland**
- D. 7<sup>th</sup> , Australia



**Wust skates her way into the record books**

BEIJING

Ireen Wust became the most successful Olympic speed skater in history with six gold medals on Monday after sweeping round the Beijing oval to retain her 1500m title. Victory put the Netherlands' most decorated Olympian ahead of Germany's Claudia Pechstein, who has won five skating golds. REUTERS

Ireen Wust became the most successful Olympic speed skater in history with 12 medals on Monday after sweeping round the Beijing oval to retain her title and win gold in the Winter Games 1,500 metres by just under half a second.

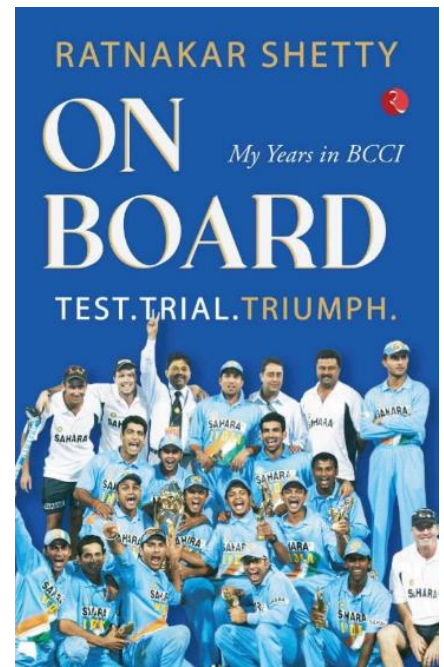
Victory put the Netherlands' most decorated Olympian ahead of Germany's Claudia Pechstein, who won five skating golds, and tied her with USSR skater Lidia Skoblikova who won six.

Wust's 12 medals also put her joint third on the list for most podium finishes for men or women at the Winter Olympics.

Wust won 11 medals over four previous Games since her Olympic debut in Turin in 2006.

**110. Who Is The Author Of The Book Titled " On Board : TEST TRAIL TRIUMPH ?**

- A. Swapnil Pandey
- B. Ratnakar Shetty**
- C. Rakesh Sharma
- D. Vinod Jha





**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**111. Recently In February Who Among The Following has written a book on Neeraj Chopra titled As 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' ?**

- A. Ravish Jha
- B. Ratnakar Shetty
- C. Navdeep Singh Gill**
- D. Vinod Jha

Sports author Navdeep Singh Gill has written a book on Neeraj Chopra. The book is titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra'.

The book was recently released at a ceremony. It covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj Chopra from childhood to Tokyo Olympics. It is a short biography of Neeraj Chopra.

Author Navdeep Singh Gill said that books on Olympic shooter Abhinav Bindra and world-famous athlete Usain Bolt are under printing.

In August 2021, Neeraj Chopra had won a Gold medal in Men's Javelin Throw at Tokyo Olympics.

Neeraj Chopra was recently selected as a nominee for 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award

**112. Recently In February Veteran US Sprinter Justin Gatlin Who Announced His Retirement Has Won 100 M Gold Medal In 2004 Olympic Game Which Was Held In Which Of The Following City ?**

- A. Sydney
- B. Athens**
- C. Beijing
- D. Rio

US sprinting great Justin Gatlin announced his retirement from athletics on Thursday, hanging up his spikes after a career tinged by doping controversies that included an Olympic gold medal and multiple world titles.

The 40-year-old veteran, who won gold in the 100m at the 2004 Athens Olympics, He completed a 100m and 200m sprint double at the World Championships in Helsinki in 2005, and also won 100m gold at the 2017 Worlds in London, scoring a rare victory over Jamaican icon Usain Bolt in the process.

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113. Recently In February Who Has Been Awarded **18th Late Madhavrao Limaye Award** is given annually by Public Library, Nashik in memory of (late) Madhavrao Limaye ?

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Venkaiah Naidu
- C. **Nitin Gadkari**
- D. Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has got 18th Late Madhavrao Limaye Award.

The award is given annually by Public Library, Nashik in memory of (late) Madhavrao Limaye.

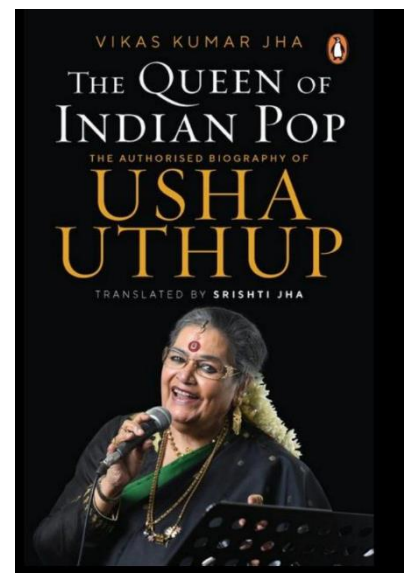
Gadkari have got the award for the first time. He has received the award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for 2020-21.

From this year onwards, the scope of award has been extended. It was earlier given to an efficient MLA from Maharashtra.

The award recognizes the exceptional performances of elected representatives. It was started in memory of senior socialist leader and former MLC Limaye. It consists of Rs 50,000 cash and several mementos.

114. Who Is The Author Of The Autobiography Of Usha Uthup  
" The Queen Of Indian Pop ?

- A. Swapnil Pandey
- B. Shantanu Gupta
- C. **Vikas Kumar Jha**
- D. Rahul Kashyap



**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**115. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has Lifted Its First Africa Cup Of Nations Title ?**

- A. South Africa
- B. Ecqador
- C. Senegal**
- D. Burkina Faso

## Senegal finally wins Cup of Nations

Mane scores winning penalty; Salah left on verge of tears as Egypt misses its eighth trophy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
YAOUNDE

Sadio Mane made up for missing from the spot in normal time to score the decisive penalty as Senegal overcame Mohamed Salah's Egypt 4-2 in a shoot-out to win its first Africa Cup of Nations title after Sunday's final finished goalless at the end of extra time.

Mane had seen Mohamed Abou Gabal save his seventh-minute penalty at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde but Egypt could not capitalise as it went all the way to extra time for the fourth consecutive game at this Cup of Nations.

Salah was due to step up to take Egypt's fifth penalty but with Mohamed Abdelmonem hitting the post and Mohanad Lasheen having his kick saved by Edouard Mendy, the Liverpool star did not get his chance and was already on the verge of tears as his club team-mate Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow.



**Long wait ends:** Senegal players erupt in joy as they lift the trophy. •REUTERS

After two previous final defeats, Senegal is Cup of Nations winner at last.

Egypt, meanwhile, missed out on a record-extending eighth continental crown that would also have

been a first for Salah.

Senegal's celebrations followed a disappointing final, the fifth in the last 11 editions of the tournament to be decided in a shoot-out after a goalless draw.

Indeed Egypt had already twice won finals that had been settled on penalties after finishing 0-0, and it had already won in the same manner twice in the last fortnight, against the Ivory

Coast in the last 16 and the host in the semifinals.

This time its luck ran.

**The result:** Senegal 0 drew with Egypt 0 (denotes after extra time) (Senegal won 4-2 on penalties).

Senegal defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship match on Sunday, winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Neither Senegal nor Egypt -- which had previously won the Africa Cup of Nations seven times, the most in the tournament's history -- were able to breakthrough in the first 90 minutes, with Senegal looking in control for most of the game before Egypt gained strength late in the second half.

**Senegal Capital Currency - Dakar Franc**

**116. Recently In February Who has won the 'Test Batting Award' at ESPN cricinfo Awards?**

- A. Rishabh Pant
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Rohit Sharma
- D. Kane Williamson

## पंत सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट बल्लेबाज, केन कप्तान

### ईएसपीएन अवार्ड

नई दिल्ली | एजेसियां

भारत के विकेटकीपर बल्लेबाज ऋषभ पंत को साल के सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट बल्लेबाज के पुरस्कार से नवाजा गया। पिछले साल ब्रिस्बेन में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ खेली गई 89 रन की सीरीज विजेता पारी के लिए उन्हें यह पुरस्कार दिया गया।

**सालाना पुरस्कार :** ईएसपीएन क्रिकइंफो के 15वें सालाना पुरस्कारों में न्यूजीलैंड के कप्तान केन विलियमसन साल के सर्वश्रेष्ठ कप्तान चुने गए। सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट गेंदबाज का पुरस्कार काइल जैमीसन के खाते में गया। उनकी शानदार गेंदबाजी से न्यूजीलैंड पहला विश्व टेस्ट चैंपियन बना था। उन्होंने पांच विकेट झटके थे।

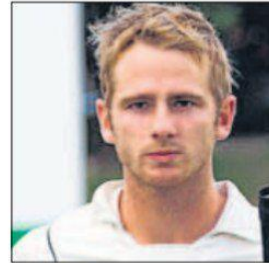
**पंत ऑस्ट्रेलिया में चमके :** पंत ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ अंतिम टेस्ट के



• ऋषभ पंत, बल्लेबाज, भारत

अंतिम क्षणों में भारत को असंभव जीत तक पहुंचाया। इससे टीम सीरीज में 2-1 की शानदार जीत दर्ज करने में कामयाब रही थी। किसी ने भी उम्मीद नहीं की थी कि भारत इस मैच में जीत दर्ज करेगा। टीम के पहली पसंद के कई खिलाड़ी तब चोट से जूझ रहे थे।

**केन ने पछाड़ा कोहली को :** केन को पुरस्कार के लिए विराट कोहली, बाबर आजम और आरोन फिच की चुनौती मिली। अपनी टीम को विश्व टेस्ट चैंपियनशिप जीत और फिर टी20



• केन विलियमसन, बल्लेबाज, न्यूजीलैंड

विश्व कप में उप विजेता बनाने के लिए उन्हें यह पुरस्कार मिला।

**रॉबिन्सन को भी पुरस्कार :** इंग्लैंड के तेज गेंदबाज ओली रॉबिन्सन को 'डेब्यूटेंट ऑफ द ईयर' पुरस्कार मिला। उन्होंने आठ टेस्ट में 37 विकेट लिए। इंग्लैंड के साकिब महमूद को पाकिस्तान पर नौ विकेट की जीत में 42 रन देकर चार विकेट झटकने से शीर्ष वनडे गेंदबाजी पुरस्कार मिला।

जोस बटलर ने टी20 विश्व कप में श्रीलंका के खिलाफ शारजाह में

### इन दिग्गजों ने किया चयन

पुरस्कारों की ज्युरी में पूर्व खिलाड़ी डेनियल विटोरी, इयान बिशप, टॉम मूडी, अजीत अगारकर, लिजा स्थालेकर, डेरिल कलिनन, रसेल अनोल्ड, डेरेन गंगा, शहरीयार नफीस, बाजिद खान और मार्क निलोल्स शामिल थे। इनके अलावा ईएसपीएनक्रिकइंफो के सीनियर संपादक और लेखक भी शामिल थे।

चुनौतीपूर्ण पिच पर 67 गेंद में नाबाद 101 रन की पारी की बदैलत टी20 अंतरराष्ट्रीय बल्लेबाजी पुरस्कार जीता।

वनडे बल्लेबाजी और टी-20 बल्लेबाजी पुरस्कार पाकिस्तान के नाम पर रहे। फखर जमां ने बल्लेबाजी तो शाहीन शाह अफरीदी ने गेंदबाजी पुरस्कार जीता। पिछले कैलेंडर वर्ष में पुरुषों के तीनों अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रारूपों और महिलाओं व एसोसिएट क्रिकेट के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन को चयन का आधार बनाया गया।

India's wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant gets the 'Test batting' prize at ESPNcricinfo Awards.

He has been awarded for his 89 not out knock at Gabba during the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson gets the 'Captain of the Year' award at ESPNcricinfo Awards.

The "Test bowling" award went to Kyle Jamieson. England fast bowler Ollie Robinson gets the 'Debutant of the year' award.

Shaheen Afridi won the 'T20I bowling' award for his performance against India at the T20 World Cup.

Fakhar Zaman got the 'ODI batting' award for his performance against South Africa at the Wanderers.

**Science Tech And Environment**

**117. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has Unveiled A New Solid Fuel Missile Called Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam ?**

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

Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel.

State TV reported that the **missile has solid fuel and a range of 1,450 kilometers, or 900 miles**. It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam. It said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems

Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers, 1250 miles. **Earlier in January Iran tested an engine for a solid-fuel rocket designed to launch satellites** Iran Capital Currency – **Tehran Rial**

**Iran unveils long-range missile as Vienna nuclear talks resume**

REUTERS  
Dubai, February 9



**IRAN UNVEILED** A new domestically-made missile with a range of 1,450 kilometers on Wednesday, state TV reported, a day after Tehran and Washington resumed indirect talks to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran, which has one of the biggest missile programmes in the Middle East, says its ballistic missiles have a range of up to 2,000 km (1,200 miles) and are capable of reaching its arch-foe Israel and US bases in the region.

State TV displayed the new surface-to-surface "Kheibar Shekan" (Kheibar buster) missile, which refers to an ancient Jewish oasis called Kheibar in the Arabian Peninsula's Hijaz region that was overrun by Muslim warriors in the 7th century.

"This long-range missile is domestically manufactured by the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC)... It has high accuracy and is propelled by solid fuel and is capable of penetrating missile shields," Iranian state media reported.

Tehran regards its missile programme as an important deterrent against the United States, Israel and other adversaries. It has rejected Western demands to halt its ballistic missile work. "Iran will continue advancing its ballistic missile programme," Iran's armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri told a ceremony at an IRGC base where the new missile was displayed, Iranian media reported.

**Nuclear deal**

Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia, a regional rival of Shi'ite-led Iran, has repeatedly called on major powers to address Gulf Arab con-

cerns about Tehran's missiles.

Israel, which the Islamic Republic does not recognise, has long threatened military action against Iran if the talks in Vienna fail to curb Tehran's nuclear work. Iran says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful.

In 2018, then-US President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal — designed to stop Iran developing a nuclear weapon — and reimposed sanctions in a bid to force Tehran into talks on a broader agreement that would have also addressed its ballistic missile programme and support for proxies in the Middle East.

Iran responded a year later by gradually breaching the pact's nuclear limits, rebuilding stockpiles of enriched uranium, refining it to higher fissile purity and installing advanced centrifuges to speed up output.

Indirect talks between Tehran and Washington to revive the deal started after Joe Biden replaced Trump in the White House, but despite eight rounds since April differences remain between Iran and world powers. Tehran and Washington have blamed each other for the lack of progress.

"Voices from the US government show there is no coherence in that country to make political decisions in the direction of advancing the Vienna talks," Iran's top security official Ali Shamkhani tweeted on Wednesday.

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**118. Consider The Following Statements Regarding International Space Station :**

- A. The World's Largest Habitable Artificial Intelligence In Space Is Being Managed By 10 Countries**
- B. The Satellite Will Continue Its Service Till 2030 And Punge Into Pacific Oean In January 2031**
- C. ISS Was Launched In 1998 Measures 74 m Long And 110 m Wide**

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?**

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

**119. The International Space Agency Will Be Replaced By New Commercial Station As Nasa Has Signed Agreement With Three Private Companies To Launch Commercial Space Station Which Of The Following Is Not Among The Three Private Companies ?**

- A. Space X**
- B. Northrop Gruman System**
- C. Nanoracks**
- D. Blue Origin**

The International Space Station (ISS) will continue its operations until 2030 and will plunge into the most remote point in the Pacific Ocean in 2031,

the ISS, launched in 1998, will be "de-orbited" in January 2031.

NASA has signed agreements with three private companies to launch commercial space stations Worth US\$415.6 million for use by both private companies and government astronauts. These new commercial space stations will be launched by Blue Origin, Nanoracks LLC and Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, NASA said.

They're expected to be operational by the late 2030s, before the ISS falls into the sea Yet another company, Axiom Space, is already building a commercial module for the ISS that's meant eventually to become the springboard for a stand-alone space station.

Nasa HQ – Wasington US Founded 1958 Administrator – Bill Nelson

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**120. Recently In February Tata Steel Has Announced TO Set Up Small Sized Factories To Make Reinforced Steel Plant From Scrapped Automobiles . The First Such Plant Was Set Up In Which Of The Following District ?**

- A. Karnal
- B. Palghar
- C. Rohtak**
- D. Jagatpur

**Tata Steel to set up mini recycling plants** +

It had commissioned first such plant in Rohtak last year

**SWARAJ BAGGONKAR**

Mumbai, February 8

Tata Steel will set up small-sized factories to make reinforced steel from scrapped automobiles and other products, a top official of the company said. The company commissioned its first such steel recycling plant in Rohtak, Haryana last year in partnership with Aarti Green Tech, a build-own-operate partner.

TV Narendran, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Steel, said, "We are talking about setting up, in the next few months, half a million or 800,000-tonne steel plant which will process scrap steel and convert that into reinforced steel."

While the vehicle scrap yards announced by Minister of Road Transport and Highway, Nitin Gadkari, under the scrapping incentive scheme, is the first step in the process of scrapping an automobile, the left-over



TV Narendran, MD and CEO, Tata Steel

metal, which is the body shell, is used to make recycled steel.

According to Narendran, more plants like the one in Rohtak are set to come up in other parts of the country in the next few years. Such plants can be set up on an area of 50-100 acre closer to the recycling unit using the electric arc furnace route instead of the conventional steel plant that requires 3,000 acres.

"In the first step the car is separated from items like seats, steering, copper wires. We don't

want to do anything with those items. We can shred the steel shell, do a quality check and supply. We are the step two of that process. The scrapped steel facility itself will be more concentrated. We plan to set up one in the South and West over the next few years," Narendran added.

**Sourcing scrap**

The Rohtak facility would source scrap from market segments such as end-of-life vehicles, obsolete households, construction and demolition, industrial etc. through an app FerroHaat. The scrap is processed through mechanised equipment and supplied for downstream steel making. Steel thus produced entails lower carbon emissions, resource consumption and energy utilisation.

While Tata Steel did not provide estimated investments required for the initiative, typically a 1 million tonne per annum recycled steel plant requires an investment of ₹3,000 crore, as per industry estimates.

Tata Steel will set up small-sized factories to make reinforced steel from scrapped automobiles and other products,

The company commissioned its first such steel recycling plant in Rohtak, Haryana last year in partnership with Aarti Green Tech, a build-own-operate partner.

While the vehicle scrap yards announced by Minister of Road Transport and Highway, Nitin Gadkari, under the scrapping incentive scheme, is the first step in the process of scrapping an automobile, the left-over metal, which is the body shell, is used for making recycled steel.

The voluntary vehicle scrapping policy aims to phase out old and unfit vehicles and make it mandatory for personal vehicles to undergo fitness tests in automated centres after 20 years while the commercial vehicles will undergo the test after 15 years.

TV Narendran, Managing Director and CEO, Tata Steel

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121. Recently In February President Ramnath Kovind Will Review The **12th Presidential Navy's Fleet Review** Which Is Done Once By Every president In His Term . The Last Time The Presidential Review Was Done By Pranab Mukherjee In Which Of The Following Year ?

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

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind will review the Navy's fleet, which is done by every President once in his term, later this month in Visakhapatnam. For the review, more than 60 vessels of the Navy and Coast Guard, all of which have been made in the country, will participate.

The Navy said on Friday that this will be the 12th Presidential Fleet Review – the last one was conducted in 2016 under President Pranab Mukherjee.

A fleet review is usually conducted once during the tenure of the President, the Navy said. So far, 11 Presidential Fleet Reviews have been conducted since Independence, of which two have been International Fleet Reviews, in 2001 and 2016. “

## President to review Navy's fleet in Visakhapatnam on Feb 21

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 11

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind will review the Navy's fleet, which is done by every President once in his term, later this month in Visakhapatnam. For the review, more than 60 vessels of the Navy and Coast Guard, all of which have been made in the country, will participate.

The Navy said on Friday that this will be the 12th Presidential Fleet Review – the last one was conducted in 2016 under President Pranab Mukherjee.

According to the Navy, the fleet review is a “long-standing tradition followed by navies all across the world” and it is “an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance

to the sovereign and the state”.

By reviewing the ships, the head of the state, “reaffirms his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interest” and such an exercise is done without any “belligerent intentions”.

The Navy said that the review will take place on February 21, and to commemorate the 75th year of independence, the theme of PFR 22 is ‘Indian Navy – 75 years in Service of the Nation’.

More than 60 ships, including from the Coast Guard, the Shipping Corporation of India, and the National Institute of Ocean Technology, submarines and over 50 aircraft will participate in the review. The ceremony will include review at the anchorage, a steampast in a mobile column, a flypast, and parade of sails.

EXPLAINED  
**E** Importance of Presidential Fleet Review

A FLEET review is usually conducted once during the tenure of the President, the Navy said. So far, 11 Presidential Fleet Reviews have been conducted since Independence, of which two have been International Fleet Reviews, in 2001 and 2016. “In terms of significance, the Navy's Presidential review is second only to the Republic Day Parade,” the Navy said in a statement.

<https://www.expressnews-service.com>



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122. Recently In February Researchers Of Which Of The Following IIT have developed a cost-effective and environment-friendly water desalination method for making seawater drinkable ?

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Gandhinagar**
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Bombay

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, have developed a cost-effective and environment-friendly water desalination method for making seawater drinkable.

With the help of an electric field and potassium chloride ions, the researchers developed controllable water transport channels in graphite crystals. It allows only freshwater to move through while blocking salt ions.

The research is based on how trees naturally get water. Trees use the capillary effect to get water.

It is the first method that can control graphite inside an aqueous solution without damaging the structural integrity of graphite. A team led by Prof Gopinadhan Kalon has developed this method.

123. Recently In February The **INSAT-4B**, an Indian communications satellite that was part of the Indian National Satellite System, has been decommissioned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). **INSAT-4B was launched for DTH and other communication services In Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 2015
- B. 2009
- C. 2007**
- D. 2003

The INSAT-4B, an Indian communications satellite that was part of the Indian National Satellite System, has been decommissioned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

INSAT-4B has been decommissioned to comply with UN and INTER Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommended space debris mitigation guidelines.

Through 11 manoeuvres, the satellite was pushed into the desired orbit mandated by the IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

According to IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the minimum orbit rise required was 273 km, and INSAT-4B finally achieved approximately 340 km. On March 12, 2007,

INSAT-4B was launched for DTH and other communication services. INSAT-4B had completed almost 14 years of operation in orbit. It is the 21st Indian Geostationary (GEO) satellite to undergo Post Mission Disposal (PMD).

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

124. Recently In February NASA has selected two science missions – *the Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE)* With A Budget Of \_\_\_\_\_ and *HelioSwarm* With A Budget Of \_\_\_\_\_ to help improve our understanding of the dynamics of the Sun, the Sun-Earth connection, and the constantly changing space environment n?

- A. USD 288 Mn , USD 200 Mn
- B. USD 192 MN , USD 250 Mn**
- C. USD 154 Mn , USD 192 Mn
- D. USD 288 Mn , USD 300 Mn

NASA has selected two science missions – the Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE) and HelioSwarm – to help improve our understanding of the dynamics of the Sun, the Sun-Earth connection, and the constantly changing space environment.

MUSE and HelioSwarm will provide new and deeper insight into the solar atmosphere and space weather,

The MUSE mission will help scientists understand the forces driving the heating of the Sun's corona and the eruptions in that outermost region that are at the foundation of space weather

The mission will also provide complementary observations from heliophysics research such as the Extreme UltraViolet Spectroscopic Telescope and ground-based observatories.

The principal investigator for the MUSE mission is Bart DePontieu of the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center (LMATC) of Palo Alto, California. This mission has a budget of \$192 million. LMATC will provide project management.

The HelioSwarm mission is a constellation or “swarm” of nine spacecraft that will capture the first multiscale in-space measurements of fluctuations in the magnetic field and motions of the solar wind known as solar wind turbulence.

The HelioSwarm mission's principal investigator is Harlan Spence from the University of New Hampshire. The mission's budget is \$250 million. NASA's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, California, will provide project management.

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125. Recently In February Scientists Of Which Of The Following Country have reached a new milestone in the production of nuclear fusion energy or replicating the Sun's energy production process ?

- A. China
- B. UK
- C. France
- D. Germany

## Scientists set new record in fusion energy

Team at JET near Oxford generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Scientists in the United Kingdom said they have achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy, or imitating the way energy is produced in the sun.

Energy by nuclear fusion is one of mankind's long standing quests as it promises to be low carbon, safer than how nuclear energy is now produced and, with an efficiency that can technically exceed a 100%. A team at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility near Oxford in central En-

gland generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy during an experiment in December, more than doubling a 1997 record, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority said in a statement on Monday.

A kilogram of fusion fuel contains about 10 million times as much energy as a kilogram of coal, oil or gas. The energy was produced in a machine called a tokamak, a doughnut-shaped apparatus. The JET site is the largest operational one of its kind in the world.

Deuterium and tritium,

which are isotopes of hydrogen, are heated to temperatures 10 times hotter than the centre of the sun to create plasma. This is held in place using superconductor electromagnets as it spins around, fuses and releases tremendous energy as heat.

The record and scientific data from these crucial experiments are a major boost for the ITER, the larger and more advanced version of the JET. The ITER is a fusion research mega-project supported by seven members – China, the European Union, India, Ja-

pan, South Korea, Russia and the U.S. – and based in the south of France. It seeks to further demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy.

Ian Chapman, CEO, U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, said in a statement: "These landmark results have taken us a huge step closer to conquering one of the biggest scientific and engineering challenges of them all. It is reward for over 20 years of research and experiments with our partners from across Europe..."

Scientists in the United Kingdom have reached a new milestone in the production of nuclear fusion energy or replicating the Sun's energy production process.

During an experiment in December, a team at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility near Oxford, central England, created 59 megajoules of sustained energy, more than double the previous record set in 1997.

The energy was produced in a tokamak, a doughnut-shaped machine, and the JET site is the world's largest operational site of its kind.

Nuclear fusion energy is low-carbon energy and safer than current nuclear energy production methods.

A kilogram of fusion fuel has approximately ten million times the energy contained in a kilogram of coal, oil, or gas.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**126. Recently In February ISRO has recently launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 with three satellites. This was the PSLV-C52 Which Number launch in the series ?**

- A. 51st
- B. 52nd
- C. 53rd
- D. 54<sup>th</sup>

{ MY INDIA } CARRYING EOS-04 SATELLITE

## Isro to launch PSLV-C52 early Monday morning



Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) polar satellite launch vehicle, or PSLV-C52, is scheduled to be launched on February 14 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the space agency said on Friday, making it the first launch of 2022. In a statement issued on Friday, Isro said that the launch is scheduled for 5.59am on February 14. This will also be the first launch under the new chairperson, S Somnath, who assumed charge last month. "Isro plans to place the 1,170 kg earth observation satellite (EOS-4) in a sun-synchronous polar orbit of 529 km," an Isro statement read.

HTC

ISRO has successfully launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

PSLV-C52 has placed three satellites into orbit. It placed EOS-04 radar imaging satellite weighing 1710 kgs into orbit. This was PSLV-C52 launch vehicle's 54th launch in the series.

EOS-04 will provide high-quality images under all weather conditions. It will be positioned into a Sun synchronous polar orbit gradually.

PSLV-C52 also placed a co-passenger INS-2TD technology demonstrator satellite into orbit.

It also placed INSPIRE sat-1 student satellite into orbit. INS-2TD is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite INS-2B.

INSPIRE sat-1 is a small satellite from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in collaboration with Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics at University of Colorado

INS-2TD has a thermal imaging camera to assess land and water surface temperature and thermal inertia at day and night.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**127. Recently In February Which Of The Following has delivered ICGS 'Saksham', the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project ?**

- A. Goa Shipyard Ltd**
- B. Cochin Shipyard Ltd
- C. Larsen And Turbo
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd

Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has delivered ICGS 'Saksham', the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project.

All five vessels have been delivered ahead of the schedule to the Indian Coast Guard.

The contract for 5 CGOPVs was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence on 26th August 2016.

ICGS 'Saksham' 5th and the last vessel of the indigenous Project for 05 Offshore Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard was launched on 14th December 2020.

The indigenous Project for 05 Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard was launched by the Prime Minister on 13th November 2016.

**Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL): It is an Indian Government owned shipbuilding company. It is the first Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) Shipyard to formulate and adopt Make-in-India Policy.**

It is the first DPSU to adopt Purchase Preference Policy in October 2015 in order to provide preference to local Indian Manufacturers.

**128. Recently In February Which Of The Following IIT Has Established An Interdisciplinary Water Management And Policy Centre To Address Water Related Issues Called "AquaMAP" ?**

- A. IIT Gandhinagar
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Madras**
- D. IIT Roorkee

IIT Madras has established an Inter-disciplinary Water Management & Policy Centre to solve water problems in India. Called 'AquaMAP,' **the Centre is being established with support from IIT Madras Alumni who are providing a seed grant commitment of ₹3 crore,**

This Centre will provide smart solutions for challenging water problems by designing scalable models by leveraging innovative technologies. These models would be implemented at chosen locations across the country, as a proof of concept.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**129. Recently In February Indian Air Force Will Be Pitching Which Of The Following Aircraft At The Singapore Air Show ?**

- A. Tejas MK 1**
- B. Mig 27**
- C. Jaguar**
- D. Globemaster**

Indian Air Force (IAF) will be “pitching” the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas MK-I aircraft alongside participants from across the world at the Singapore Airshow next week. Three LCAs, along with a 44 member contingent of the IAF

Singapore Airshow is a biennial event which provides a platform for the global aviation industry to showcase their products

The participation in the airshow provides India with the opportunity to showcase the Tejas aircraft and to interact with counterparts from RSAF (Royal Singapore Air Force) and other participating contingents, the IAF said.

In the past, IAF had participated in similar airshows like LIMA-2019 in Malaysia and Dubai Airshow-2021 to exhibit indigenous aircraft and formation aerobatic teams.

**130. Recently In February Which country has become the first country to allow drones in civilian aerospace?**

- A. Israel**
- B. Iran**
- C. Japan**
- D. United Kingdom**

Israel has become the first country in the world to allow drones in civilian aerospace.

The approval will allow Hermes Starliner unmanned system to fly in civilian airspace like any other civilian airliner.

The Hermes Starliner can fly for up to 36 hours at an altitude of about 7,600 metres. It can carry 450 kg of electro-optical, thermal, radar, and other payloads.

It can take part in border security and anti-terror operations and can help in maritime search and rescue operations. The Hermes Starliner has been designed and manufactured under the supervision of the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).



## IAF to pitch Tejas in Singapore

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The IAF will be “pitching” the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-I aircraft alongside participants from across the world at the Singapore Air show next week.

Three LCAs, along with a 44-member contingent of the IAF, reached the Changi International Airport on February 12 to participate in the air show scheduled to be held from February 15 to 18.

“The air show is a biennial event which provides a platform for the global aviation industry to showcase their products... The Tejas aircraft will be enthralling the audience with its display of low-level aerobatics displaying its superior handling characteristics and manoeuvrability,” the IAF said. The participation also provides India with the opportunity to interact with counterparts from the RSAF (Royal Singapore Air Force) and other contingents, the IAF said.

The IAF had participated in similar air shows like LIMA-2019 in Malaysia and Dubai Air show-2021 .

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Second Week of February (08<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

131. Recently In February Ministry Of Defence Has Signed MOU With Which Of The Following Startup For Pseudo Staellite Deal

- ?
- A. PIXIL
  - B. Boltlabs
  - C. New Space Research
  - D. SpacLab

A development that can be seen as a giant leap in technology, the Ministry of Defence has inked a deal to design and develop 'High Altitude Pseudo Satellite' (HAPS) with a Bengaluru-based firm.

It is important to note that the deal for futuristic high-altitude pseudo satellite will be mentored under the Defence Ministry's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative. Further, the programme will strengthen the country's military strike capabilities and will see state-owned aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the lead prototype development partner.

Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research & Technologies joined hands with the Defence Ministry, with a plan to develop the first prototype for tests within the span of the next four years.

With the estimated budget of ₹700 crores to develop the system, the initiative will be part of HALs Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) which seeks to integrate manned airborne platforms with swarm drones and a high altitude surveillance network.

## MoD Signs up B'lore Startup for Pseudo Satellite Deal

Manu.Pubby@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The ministry of defence has signed up a design and development contract with a Bengaluru-based company to develop a High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) which will be able to conduct surveillance operations and support communications by staying airborne for months at a stretch.

Mentored under the ministry's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, the programme has been supported by the armed forces and will see Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the lead prototype development partner. NewSpace Research & Technologies signed the contract with defence ministry on Thursday, with plans in place to develop the first prototype for tests within the next four years. "Major UAV-related tech development was initiated under iDEX for High Altitude Platform System HAPS. HAPS UAV will fly in stratosphere for months. Huge step towards cutting edge aerospace development by startups," Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said. The first phase of the programme will be undertaken by the startup with the seed funding by defence ministry and the prototype development is likely to see HAL as the lead partner. The estimated budget to develop the system is upwards of ₹700 crore and it will be part of HALs Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) that seeks to integrate manned airborne platforms with swarm drones and a high altitude surveillance network.

Similar efforts to develop a pseudo satellite are being undertaken in Europe and the US but no such system has been deployed yet, giving the technology a cutting edge status. The HAPS is being designed to undertake surveillance and communication duties for months and will also have applications in the civilian domain in the future. The UAV is being designed to fly at 70,000 feet, which would be out of range for most air defence systems and would rely on solar energy to power itself for months to a stretch.

# One-third of ₹10,990 cr. in PM CARES fund spent: audit

₹100 crore promised for vaccine development not allotted; it had unspent balance of ₹7,044 crore as on March 31, 2021

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

The PM CARES Fund collected ₹10,990 crore since its inception in March 2020 until March 2021. It spent ₹3,976 crore during the 2020-21 financial year, according to the audited financial statement posted on its website. As on March 31, 2021, the Fund had an unspent balance of ₹7,044 crore.

The Fund was set up to deal with "any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19

pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected." During the year, funds were disbursed for COVID vaccine purchase and testing, ventilators, hospitals, testing labs, oxygen generation plants and migrant welfare. Despite an earlier announcement that ₹100 crore would be spent on supporting vaccine development, no such disbursement seems to have been done.

The Fund was established on March 27, 2020 and collected ₹3,076 crore – includ-



The fund was set up to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation.

ing an initial corpus, foreign and domestic contributions, and interest – within the first five days of its existence, be-

fore the end of the 2019-20 financial year. In the financial year 2020-21, it received voluntary contributions from domestic donors to the tune of ₹7,184 crore and foreign contributions amounting to ₹494 crore. Along with interest, and a ₹25 lakh refund of unspent balance from the National Disaster Management Authority, the Fund's total receipts for the year amounted to ₹7,193 crore.

On the expenditure side, the largest disbursement of ₹1,393 crore went to pur-

chase 6.6 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Another ₹1,311 crore was used to buy 50,000 Made in India ventilators for use in Central and State government hospitals. As *The Hindu* has previously reported, doctors and hospitals in several States have raised concerns about the quality of some of these ventilators, with others lying idle due to technical issues.

Other measures to improve infrastructure included ₹201 crore spent on installing 162 Pressure Swing

Adsorption medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities, and ₹50 crore to establish two makeshift COVID hospitals in Muzaffarnagar and Patna with 500 beds each, and to set up 16 RT-PCR testing labs in nine States/UTs.

Over ₹20 crore was used to upgrade two autonomous institute laboratories under the Department of Biotechnology as Central Drug Laboratories to test and release batches of the COVID vaccine.

# Last batch of Rafale jets to arrive next week

India-specific enhancements are being incorporated on all the aircraft, say defence officials

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The last batch of three Rafale fighter jets are scheduled to arrive in India next week while work on upgrading all the Rafale jets in service to the Indian standard configuration with the 13 India-specific enhancements (ISE) is currently under way in the country, according to defence officials.

This will leave one jet in France, though already delivered to the IAF. It is the instrumented aircraft RBO08 on which the ISE were incorporated and certified.

"IAF has taken delivery of the jets in France and the modalities of their ferry to India are being worked out and should be arriving in In-

dia by the middle of next week," a defence official said on the condition of anonymity.

Like in earlier instances, the jets would fly directly from France with in-flight refuelling during the journey which in the past was supported by the Air Forces of France and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"All ISE have been qualified and certified. ISE incorporation is under way on all aircraft at the moment," another official said adding it is proceeding at a fast pace.

The first Rafale for India, RBO08, had made its maiden flight on October 30, 2018 in France. It was on this aircraft that the 13 ISE have been incorporated, tested and certi-



**Multi-role fighters:** The Rafale jets would fly directly from France with in-flight refuelling. ■ AFP

fied. RB stands for former IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria who as then Deputy Chief of IAF led the Indian negotiation team and had a major role in the contract negotiations.

The Indian standard jets

are the most advanced among all Rafale aircraft across the world, officials noted.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the ISE are not present on the Rafale aircraft being operated by other

countries and pertain to radar enhancements, helmet-mounted display, ability to start and operate from high-altitude airfields, advanced infrared search and track sensor, a potent electronic jammer pod and avionics.

While some of the ISE were incorporated during the manufacturing of the aircraft, the remaining are being incorporated now post their certification which includes both hardware and software upgrades.

In September 2020, the IAF inducted the first batch of five Rafale jets into the No.17 Golden Arrows squadron based at Ambala and the second squadron based at Hasimara in West Bengal was operationalised last July.



## Award for GAIL

**New Delhi:** GAIL (India) Ltd's annual report and financial statement for FY21 has won the 'Gold Shield' at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2020-21. **ENS**

## Reliance to buy stake in EV tech firm

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, February 10

**RELIANCE INDUSTRIES ON** Thursday announced the acquisition of a stake in electric vehicle technology and solutions company Altigreen Propulsion Labs for ₹50.16 crore.

"Reliance New Energy (RNEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has entered into an agreement with Altigreen for the subscription of 34,000 Series-A Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares of face value ₹100 each for an aggregate consideration of ₹50.16 crore," Reliance said in a stock exchange filing.

The company did not say how much equity shareholding will it get against the investment.

The transaction is proposed to be completed before March 2022.

Based out of Bengaluru, Altigreen is an electric vehicle technology and solutions

### RIL's acquisition of 40% stake of SWREL completed

**BILLIONAIRE MUKESH** Ambani's Reliance Industries on Thursday said it has completed the acquisition of a 40% stake in Shapoorji Pallonji Group's Sterling & Wilson Renewable Energy (SWREL) for ₹2,845 crore. **— PTI**

company for commercial last-mile transportation through 2/3/4 wheeled vehicles.

It has developed an E3W vehicle, and its vehicles are built in-house in Bangalore on a mobility platform that is 100% indigenous. Altigreen is a private limited company incorporated in India on February 8, 2013.

## Indian-origin organ donor in Singapore awarded for saving one-year-old

**GURDIP SINGH**  
SINGAPORE, FEBRUARY 9

**AN INDIAN-ORIGIN** senior sales executive in Singapore, Sakthibalan Balathandautham, has received the "The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2021" award for donating a part of his liver to a one-year old girl he had never met before, a media report said on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old, who received the award from President Halimah Yacob on Wednesday, donated 23 per cent of his liver to baby Rheya on September 30, 2020, responding to a plea on social media in July 2020 by a

young Indian couple looking for a liver donor for their one-year-old child, *The Straits Times* newspaper reported

Balathandautham's generous gesture has given a new lease of life to Rheya, who was diagnosed with biliary atresia a few weeks after her birth in 2019. The rare disease causes bile ducts in the liver to be inflamed, blocking bile flow to the gallbladder. The condition can eventually lead to liver failure.

After a successful recovery by both donor and recipient, Balathandautham is now an advocate for organ donation, encouraging more people to step up and help patients in need, the reports said. **PTI**



### Bahrain extends F1 contract to 2036

**MANAMA**

Bahrain will host Formula One until at least 2036 after signing a 10-year contract extension, officials said on Friday. Bahrain became the Middle East's first F1 host in 2004 and is now one of four Gulf countries with a Grand Prix. Bahrain will open the 2022 season in March. It hosted two races in the pandemic-hit 2020 season.

**AFF**

# e-NAM platform to provide assorted agri services to farmers

**SANDIP DAS**  
New Delhi, February 10

**PRIVATE ENTITIES PROVIDING** services such as transportation, logistics, assaying, weather forecast and fintech will be integrated into the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), a move that would make more farmers use the platform to sell their produce to buyers of their choice.

Once the digital integration is completed, around 1.75 crores registered farmers, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), traders, commission agents and other stakeholders with the eNAM platform can avail themselves of these services. "The idea behind this integrated platform under e-NAM is to make available end-to-end services to farmers along with providing a platform for price discovery," Neel Kamal Darbari, MD, Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), told *FE*. Currently the modalities for integration of digital platforms of private entities on the e-NAM

platform is being worked out. SFAC is aiming at bringing on board as many players so that farmers have the choice to take agri-services after registering with e-NAM portal.

Currently, 1,000 mandis in 22 states and Union territories are integrated into the e-NAM platform, which was launched in April 2016. According to official data, 1.72 crore farmers, 2,050 FPOs, 2.13 lakh traders and around 1 lakh commission agents are registered with e-NAM. However, inter-state trade in farm produce — facility for a farmer in one state to sell his produce to buyer in another state — is yet to gather momentum. This is one of the chief objectives of this platform for price discovery.

Around 530-odd mandis are currently offering online trading facilities to farmers while around 97,000 unified licences valid for the state concerned have been issued to 2 lakh traders registered on e-NAM platform. Foodgrains, oilseeds, spices, fruits and vegetables are

## E-NAM PROGRESS

- 1k mandis out of 3k in 22 states/UTs linked
- Bihar, several north-eastern states yet come on board
- 1.72 crore farmers , 2,050 FPOs registered
- Integration of digital platform of private entities into e-NAM is being worked out

traded on the platform.

The mandate of e-NAM, being administered by SFAC, which is a registered society of the ministry of agriculture & farmers' welfare, is to provide a digital platform integrating physical wholesale mandis or markets of different states and UTs. This platform facilitates online trading of agricultural commodities.

Darbari of SFAC said that the

platform helps farmers in a transparent price discovery method, which enables farmers to realise better remunerative prices for their produce. "Farmers on the platform see the live prices prevailing in other parts of the country, which help in price discovery," Darbari said.

Because of small land holding of the farmers, SFAC has been focussing on formation of FPOs and encouraging them participate in the e-NAM platform for collective bargaining power. SFAC launched FPO trading module during covid-19 restrictions to enable FPOs to upload their produce from collection centres, farm gate with picture and quality parameter for online bidding, without physically bringing their produce to the mandis.

Meanwhile, SFAC has empanelled private banks such as Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Indusind Bank and ICICI Bank for provisioning of payment and settlement services for e-NAM transactions.

## BARC to resume news channels' ratings after 17 mths

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
Mumbai, February 7

**TV RATINGS BODY BARC** on Monday said it will be restarting issuing data on news channels from mid-March, over 17 months after suspending it.

In a statement, BARC said the Union ministry of information and broadcasting has given a directive to resume the release of data for individual news channels.

"BARC India is currently working towards ensuring the seamless release of individual news channel data and intends to commence release with effect from our reporting Week 10, 2022. As per our reporting cycle, this data will be released to the market on Thursday, 17th March 2022," the state-



ment said.

The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) had in October 2020 "temporarily suspended" the ratings on the news genre following a 'cash for ratings' scam allegedly involving top executives from *Republic TV*.

The audience estimates given by BARC influence ad spends. The total size of the ad placements was pegged at ₹32,000 crore annually by the Mumbai Police, which had

arrested a slew of people in connection with the case. The police alleged the ratings were being rigged by inducing the homes where the monitors were being placed. The data will be released as per the Augmented Data Reporting Standards for News and Special Interest genres, BARC said, adding that clients and stakeholders have been communicated about the same.

The Augmented Standards entail the reporting of audience estimates for News and Special Interest genre channels on a four-week rolling average basis, which would be released regularly every week along with the estimates for all other channels. All viewership data will be published on the same YUMI platform that all its subscribers use, the statement said.

## Thums Up now a \$1 bn brand

**Suneera Tandon**  
suneera.t@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

Nearly three decades after buying it from Parle Bisleri, The Coca-Cola Company on Thursday said home-grown fizzy Thums Up became a billion-dollar brand in 2021—the first to reach the milestone from its portfolio of drinks in India. Thums Up is the largest beverage brand in Coca-Cola's India portfolio as well as the largest soft-drink brand in the country.

"Our local Thums Up brand became a billion-dollar brand in India, driven by focussed marketing and execution plans," James Quincey, Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company said during a

post-earnings call on Thursday. Coca-Cola has been brewing plans to turn Thums Up into a \$1 billion brand for some time now.

The story of the beverage brand's success is an incredible tale of a local brand refusing to cave in to global heavyweights—both Coke and Pepsi. Its success can be attributed to the brand's dominance in the Indian market even before being bought over by Coca-Cola in the early 90s as well as the marketing heft it has continued to enjoy.

Coca-Cola bought Thums Up from Ramesh Chauhan's Parle Bisleri Ltd in 1993 along

with Maaza, Limca, Citra and Gold Spot. At the time, Thums Up dominated the Indian market with a more than 80% share. The deal also marked Coca-Cola's re-entry into India after an absence of 16 years.

**Thums Up is the largest beverage brand in Coca-Cola's India portfolio and the largest soft-drink brand here**

Over the years, the Indian fizzy has seen several large Bollywood celebrities such as Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar endorse it with its iconic "Taste the Thunder" tagline.

Meanwhile, for the three months ended 31 December, 2021, the maker of Sprite and Limca said its brands gained market share month-on-month while also growing business.

# 20 firms shortlisted for auto PLI

Those selected have proposed investments worth ₹45,016 crore, says government

**ARINDAM MAJUMDER & SHALY SETH MOHILE**  
 New Delhi/Mumbai, 11 February

As many as 20 applicants have been approved under the “Champion OEM Incentive Scheme” of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for India’s automotive sector. Major four-wheeler manufacturers, such as Hyundai, Suzuki, Kia, Mahindra, Ford, and Tata Motors, and top two-wheeler makers Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, and TVS Motor have been shortlisted.

Recent entrants — Hop Electric Manufacturing and Ola Electric Technologies — have also been chosen as new non-automotive investors.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries said the scheme has been a huge success in view of the overwhelming response and the ₹45,016 crore worth of cumulative proposed investment by approved applicants. Arun Goel, secretary at the ministry, said appli-

## WHO MADE THE CUT



CATEGORY	COMPANY
<b>CHAMPION OEM</b>	Hyundai, Ashok Leyland, M&M, Tata Motors, Suzuki Motors, Kia India
<b>CHAMPION OEM (2 &amp; 3 wheelers)</b>	Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, TVS Motors, Piaggio
<b>New Non-automotive OEM</b>	Ola Electric, Hop Electric Manufacturing, Booma Innovative Transport, Axis Clean Mobility

cations for the Component Champion Incentive scheme to incentivise auto component makers are being processed separately. The government has received 92 applications in this regard, he noted.

The PLI scheme for the automobile

sector proposes financial incentives of up to 18 per cent to attract investments in the indigenous supply chain of advanced automotive technology (AAT) products.

Among the surprises was the selection of Ford Motors, which had

announced to quit the Indian market last year. The company said that it was exploring the possibility of using one of its plants in India to produce electric cars for exports. When asked if the company may consider selling electric cars in India as well, a Ford India spokesman said, “there have been no specific discussions on this right now, but it is not out of the realm of future consideration”.

The PLI scheme for automobile and auto components (₹25,938 crore) and the PLI for advanced chemistry cell (₹18,100 crore), along with the FAME Scheme (₹10,000 crore), are aimed at enabling India to leapfrog to an environmentally cleaner, sustainable, advanced, and more efficient electric vehicle(EV)-based system.

A total of 115 companies had filed their application under the PLI scheme for the automobile and auto component industry in India, which was notified on September 23, 2021.

These incentives are applicable under the scheme for determining sales of AAT products (vehicles and components) manufactured in India from April 1, 2022, onwards for a period of five consecutive years.

The scheme has two components — Champion OEM Incentive Scheme and Component Champion Incentive Scheme.

Tata Motors, which has set up a separate unit for EVs and has attracted investments from private equity giant TPG Rise, said the scheme will help them to fasten its journey towards sustainable mobility. “We are committed to shaping India’s vehicular landscape with smart and sustainable mobility solutions powered by new-age technologies... and this opportunity will help us drive this with even greater vigour,” it said.

The Champion OEM (original equipment manufacturer) Scheme is a ‘sales value linked scheme’, applicable on battery electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

## Bharti-backed OneWeb deploys 34 satellites; its in-orbit fleet now stands at 428 satellites

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

**BHARTI-BACKED ONEWEB ON** Friday announced the successful deployment of 34 satellites by Arianespace from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana. The latest move by the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, brings its total in-orbit constellation to 428 satellites.

In a statement, OneWeb confirmed the successful deployment of 34 satellites by Arianespace from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana. This launch is the company’s first in 2022 and 13th overall. OneWeb has now launched two thirds of the LEO satellite fleet that is geared to deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity.

It represents 66% of OneWeb’s planned 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity, the company said.

The demand for OneWeb’s broadband connectivity services has continued to grow across telecommunications providers, aviation and maritime markets,



ISPs (internet service providers), and governments globally, the company informed.

Most recently, the company has signed new distribution partnership pacts with several companies last month, including Hughes Network Systems, Marlink, and Field Solutions Holdings, to help ensure connectivity is delivered to the most hard-to-reach places globally.

Commenting on the launch, Neil Masterson, OneWeb CEO said, “Our first launch of the year marks our significant progress in completing a truly global LEO network later in 2022.”

New Delhi



## Essar to build UK's first refinery-based hydrogen furnace in £45m investment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, February 9

**ESSAR OIL UK**, the firm that operates the Stanlow oil refinery in the UK, on Wednesday announced a new £45 million investment to install the United Kingdom's first refinery furnace capable of running on 100% hydrogen fuel.

It will reduce Stanlow's carbon emissions through the improved energy efficiency of the design, saving 16,600 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, the company said in a statement. "This marks another significant milestone in Essar's continued commitment to becoming the UK's first low carbon refinery.

"It follows the launch of Vertex Hydrogen last month, a new Essar-led joint venture, in which the company will invest £1 billion over the next five years to drive down emissions, including the development of new hydrogen production plants at Stanlow, forming a central part of the HyNet North West decarbonisation cluster," it said.

The scheme, which is subject to planning approval, comprises decommissioning of three existing furnaces (which include a chimney of approximately 140 metres in height) and their replacement with a single, highly efficient furnace, which includes a chimney approximately 71 metres high.

This will provide a number of improvements that will lead to benefits for Stanlow and the surrounding area, including lower carbon emissions due to gas-only firing and new burners that emit lower levels of Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and future-

proofing to enable the use of sustainable fuel types in the future such as hydrogen.

The furnace is currently being fabricated in Thailand.

"With an investment of £45 million, the new furnace forms a key part of the company's strategy to reduce its own carbon emissions. The furnace is unique in that it will have the capability to run entirely off hydrogen, becoming the first of its kind based at a UK refinery.

"It has an improved energy efficiency of 4% compared to existing furnaces, which will save 16,600 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, as well as reducing ongoing maintenance costs," the statement said.

Set to be installed in 2022, the furnace will become fully operational next year.

From 2026 onwards, it will be fuelled by hydrogen produced at Stanlow as part of the HyNet North West decarbonisation cluster. Essar's new joint venture, Vertex Hydrogen, will develop the world's first and largest blue hydrogen production plant at Stanlow. Hydrogen will be used at the site and will be distributed to industrial businesses in the region to support their own transition to low carbon.

Deepak Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer at Essar Oil UK, commented: "We have hugely ambitious plans for Stanlow and are committed to making it the UK's first low carbon refinery." "By affecting a significant and rapid transition to hydrogen, we are securing the long-term future of this vitally important national asset whilst also playing a key role in supporting the UK's plans for building the low carbon economy of tomorrow," he added.