

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Third Week of February (15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022)

**National /State News**

1. Recently In February **Arunachal Pradesh** Celebrated Its Which Edition Of State Hood Day On 20th February ?

- A. 35<sup>th</sup>
- B. 36<sup>th</sup>**
- C. 39<sup>th</sup>
- D. 40<sup>th</sup>



Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram had celebrated their 36th statehood day in 2022.

Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became a full-fledged state of India on 20 February, 1987. Mizoram became the 23rd state of India through the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India through the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986.

On this occasion, the Governor conferred the 'Arunachal Ratna', the highest State Honour to KAA Raja.

A month-long celebration commemorating the 50 years of Arunachal Pradesh's conception and existence also ended on 20 February 2022.

Capital of Arunachal Pradesh: Itanagar Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu  
Governor of Arunachal Pradesh: B D Mishra

Capital of Mizoram: Aizawl Governor of Mizoram: Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu Chief Minister of Mizoram: Zoramthanga

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**2. Recently In February Which Of The Following State Has Partnered With Google For Local Startups To Connect With Global Starup Community ?**

- A. **Telangana**
- B. **Kerala**
- C. **Maharashtra**
- D. **Andhra Pradesh**

## Kerala partners with Google for startups to foster global links

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
Trivandrum, February 19

**KERALA STARTUP MISSION** (KSUM) has announced a collaboration with tech giant Google for local startups to connect with the global startup community.

This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions. The partnership was announced by Paul Ravindranath, Head of Google for Startups Accelerator, India, at the 'Huddle Global conclave of KSUM that kicked off here on Saturday.

The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams

for scaled-up solutions, an official statement said here. The pact comes when markets outside of Silicon Valley are expected to increasingly impact the global startup and technology ecosystem in the coming years.

While it is easier than ever to start a firm, access to successful methodologies, expert mentors and best practices for building companies remain unevenly distributed. Ravindranath, who is also Google's

programme manager (developer relations), said the company's path-breaking programme is about empowering startup communities around the world and help them leverage each other for insights and resource sharing. "We are excited about bringing this to startups under the KSUM umbrella. We are thrilled to expand our collaboration with KSUM and its exceptional startup portfolio," he said.

Commenting on the tie-up, John M Thomas, CEO, KSUM, said, "Partnering with Google for Startups will help our startups experience new technology arenas and global standard.

**The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solutions**

KSUM is looking forward to imbibing the best practices from global arena that would bolster our ecosystem." This year, KSUM, as an enabler of

startup ecosystem in the state and a catalyst for the tech ecosystem's growth and development, will formalise its relationship with Google for Startups to continue supporting India's growing startup industry. Google for Startups operates a global startup accelerator programme and other startup-focused programmes to help fledgling firms focus on their core solution so as to grow, the statement explained.

The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has entered into a collaboration with technology major Google that will enable start-ups in the State to join a wider global network that provides mentorship and training.

The initiative will connect the KSUM to an elite group of the world's top accelerators, allowing it to share information and leverage resources.

**The pact with Google for Startups, a start-up programme launched by Google in 2011**

The partnership was announced by Mr Paul Ravindranath, Head of Google for Startups Accelerator, India, at the Huddle Global' conclave of KSUM that kicked off here on Saturday. The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solution



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3. Recently In February Prime Minister Modi Unveiled India's Largest BIO - CNG PLant Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant In Which Of The Follwoing City Which Is Funded By \_\_\_\_\_ Bank ?

- A. Indore , HDFC Bank
- B. Jabalpur , SBI
- C. Jaipur , Axis Bank
- D. Hyderabad , Yes Bank

## Modi inaugurates 550-tonne capacity bio-CNG plant in Indore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Indore, February 19

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA** Modi on Saturday virtually inaugurated 550-tonne capacity 'gobar-dhan' bio-CNG plant in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh.

The plant, named as Govardhan plant, is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation.

During the event, Modi said, "Lakhs of tonnes of garbage occupied thousand of acres of land for decades in cities across country that caused air and water pollution, which is a major reason for the spread of diseases." Therefore, in the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission, this issue is being addressed, he said.

The prime minister also said

**Situated on the Devguradia trenching ground, the 550-tonne per day capacity bio-CNG plant is the biggest of its kind in the entire Asian continent, an official claimed**

that ethanol blending in petrol used to be only 1% to 2% 7 to 8 years ago in India, which is now reaching around 8%.

"We have taken an important decision in the budget that stubble will also be used in coal-fired power plants, which will not only end farmers' woes, but also ensure extra income for them," he added.

Talking about Indore, which earned the 'cleanest city' tag for fifth time in a row last year, Modi said, as soon as the name of Indore is mentioned, Devi Ahilyabai Holkar and her service come to mind.

The work of cleanliness also comes to mind with the mention of Indore, he added.

Situated on the Devguradia trenching ground, the 550-tonne per day capacity bio-CNG plant is the biggest of its kind in the entire Asian continent, an official claimed.

Madhya Pradesh governor Mangubhai Patel, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, MP home minister Narottam Mishra, among others, present at the programme.

Being the country's cleanest city for the last five years in a row, Madhya Pradesh's Indore, got yet another feather in its cap on Saturday – Asia's biggest wet waste to bio CNG processing plant.

The new plant dubbed as Gobar-Dhan Plant has the capacity to process up to 550 MT of wet waste to up to 19,000 kg of Bio CNG daily, which will among other applications, be used for powering 400 city buses in Indore. The same plant will also daily convert wet waste to 100 MT organic manure, which will be helpful for farmers of Indore and neighbourhood. It will also help in the mitigation of 1.30 lakh tonnes of CO2 annually

the model set by the new plant which is in line with the guiding theme of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 – Waste to Wealth aimed at achieving Zero Waste Cities and Circular Economy

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4. **Recently In February The Government of India has approved the *scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31.03.2026 With An Outlay Of How Much Amount ?***

- A. Rs. 12929.16 crore**
- B. Rs. . 8120.97 crore
- C. Rs. 4808.19 crores
- D. Rs 5678.56 Crore

The Government has approved the scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31st March 2026 or till further review.**

Under this phase, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan will reach out to remote and rural areas, aspirational districts, tier-2 cities, etc.

This new phase has been designed to implement recommendations and aims of the New Education Policy.

The Central government will provide support to the state government for gender inclusion, enhancing employability, and skill upgradation.

The Central government will also provide grants for creating new model degree colleges.

**Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA):It was launched in 2013.**

**It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide funding to state government universities and colleges.**

**Its main objective is to improve the quality of state institutions and ensure reform in affiliation, academic, and examination systems.**

5. **Recently In Febraury The *first caravan park of Kerala will be set up at Which Of The Following Place ?***

- A. Periyar
- B. Imporut
- C. Wagoman**
- D. Trichur

The first caravan park of Kerala will be set up at Wagamon in the Idukki district.

Caravan parks includes less-crowded places with natural beauty. People can experience beautiful locations of the state while traveling in the caravan.

**It has been launched under the Keravan Kerala project to boost tourism in the state. It will be implemented by the Tourism department with private partners.** The Keravan Kerala project was launched to bring new technology and facilities to the tourism sector. Artists, artisans, and Kudumbasree Mission would also be part of this project.



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6. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana (PMFBY)**
1. Centre will **launch Meri Policy Apke Dwaar**, a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers.
  2. PM Modi had launched operational guidelines of PMFBY on **February 18, 2015 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh**.

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

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

Centre will launch **Meri Policy Mere Haath**, a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers.

The aim of the drive is to make farmers aware about their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.

**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana (PMFBY):**

Its aim is to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage due to natural calamities.

PM Modi had launched operational guidelines of PMFBY on February 18, 2016 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.

Its implementation started from Kharif season 2016. PMFBY has entered in 7th year of implementation from 2022 Kharif season.

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**7. Recently In Febraury *National Highway Authority Of India* Has Announced To Roll Out Its Ambitious Rs 1 Trillion Programme To Build 5795 KM Of National Highway To Connect How Many Aspirational Districts ?**

- A. 112
- B. 115
- C. 117**
- D. 123

India is set to unveil an ambitious ₹1 trillion programme to build 5,795km of national highways in 117 so-called aspirational districts, two officials aware of the matter said.

The road ministry identified 221 projects for expansion, in addition to the 5,566km of highways already being built in these districts, comprising 222 projects at a total cost of ₹66,000 crore

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will spend a total of ₹1.04 trillion on the new highway projects,

The four-year-old Aspirational Districts Programme aims to quickly transform least-developed districts through the convergence of central and state schemes

The Union budget for 2022-23 has focused on infrastructure development to boost economic growth and generate employment.

The road ministry was allocated 68% more funds totalling ₹1.99 trillion for 2022-23, compared with ₹1.18 trillion in the previous year's budget estimate. The highways construction target for FY23 has more than doubled to 25,000km, including ongoing projects, from 12,000km in FY22.

**NHAI to roll out ₹1 trillion plan to connect 117 districts**



The Union budget for 2022-23 has focused on infrastructure development to boost economic growth and generate employment (Photo: Mint)

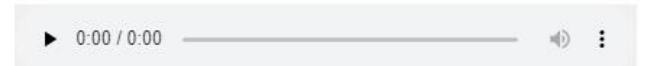
2 min read · Updated: 21 Feb 2022, 06:09 AM IST

Subhash Narayan

Experts said that connectivity will be a force multiplier for districts to usher in growth and for the estimated 250 million people living there



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The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will spend a total of ₹1.04 trillion on the new highway projects, the officials cited above said on condition of anonymity.

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8. The Government of India, the State Governments of **Karnataka and Odisha** and the **World Bank** have signed a loan agreement of How Much Amount for implementation of “**Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development**” (REWARD) Project ?
- A. USD 60 Million
  - B. USD 49 Million
  - C. USD 6 Million
  - D. USD 115 Million**

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of “**Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development**” (REWARD) Project.

The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and doubling farmers’ income by 2023. Effective watershed management can help enhance livelihoods in rainfed areas, while building a more resilient food system.

In this context, the new program will help the participating state governments in their efforts to transform watershed planning and execution and adopt science-based planning that could be replicated across the country. It will also help the participating and others states to adopt new approaches to watershed development.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) financing will support Karnataka with \$60 million (INR 453.5 crore), Odisha with \$49 million (INR 370 crore), and the remaining \$6 million (INR 45.5 crore) will be for the central government’s Department of Land Resources.

The \$115 million (INR 869 crore) loan has a maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.

9. Recently In February Union Minister and **MP from Udhampur** **Jitendra Singh**, announced that \_\_\_\_\_ has been designated as \_\_\_\_\_ brand product ?
- A. Saffron, Haldia
  - B. Cardomon, Kochi
  - C. Lavander, Doda**
  - D. Mango, Udhampur



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Union Minister and MP from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced that Lavender has been designated as Doda brand product.

Doda is a town and a notified area committee in Doda district in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Doda is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution (Aroma Mission) and lavender can be promoted under 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Government of India to attract Agri- StartUps, entrepreneurs and farmers.

CSIR-IIIM's Aroma Mission is providing means of livelihood to budding farmers and Agri- Technocrats and promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship giving a boost to Start-Up India campaign.

Jammu and other districts and later in the rest of the country to showcase the lucrative aspects of lavender cultivation so that StartUps under Aroma Mission would be encouraged. This would also enhance the image of district Doda District that is the birthplace of Purple

**10. Recently In February According To The *Ministry of Civil Aviation, Drone (Amendment) Rules 2022* that no remote pilot certificate will be required for operating a drone upto \_\_\_\_\_ for non-commercial purpose ?**

- A. 2kg**
- B. 1 Kg**
- C. 5 Kg**
- D. 10 Kg**

The requirement of a drone pilot licence has been abolished in the country .

In a gazette notification of Ministry of Civil Aviation, it has been said that the Remote Pilot Certificate issued by a Directorate General of Civil Aviation approved drone school through the single window Digital Sky platform will be sufficient for operating drones in the country.

Drone (Amendment) Rules 2022 further stated that no remote pilot certificate will be required for operating a drone upto two-kilogram for non-commercial purpose.

Earlier, in order to promote Made in India drones, the import of foreign drones has been prohibited in the country.

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- 11. Recently In February North India's first river rejuvenation project On River \_\_\_\_\_ Which Was In News Is Located In \_\_\_\_\_, While The country's first Highway Village being constructed by NHAI is coming up on fast track on \_\_\_\_\_ National Highway ?**
- A. Jhelum , Jammu & Kashmir , Anji
  - B. Gomti , Jammu & Kashmir , Imphal
  - C. Devika , Jammu & Kashmir , Udhampur**
  - D. Beas , Jammu & Kashmir , Kurfi

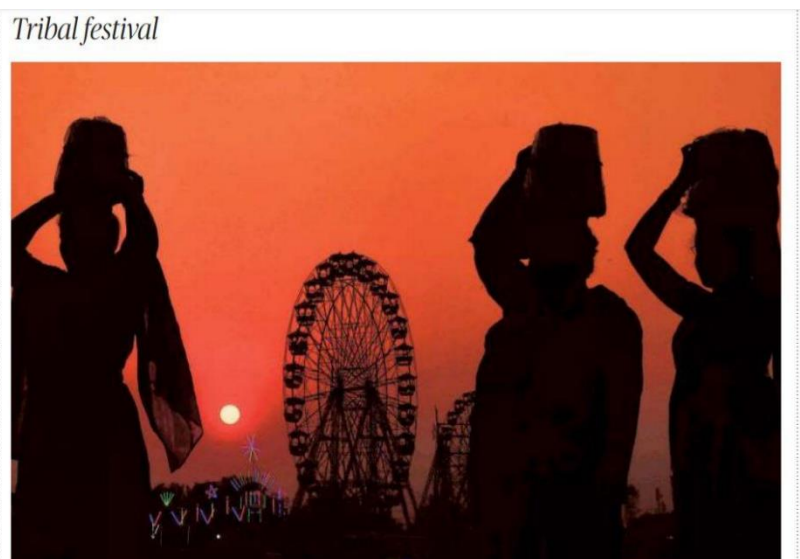
Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that the historic River Devika project, built at the cost of over Rs 190 crore, will be complete by June this year.

North India's first river rejuvenation project will offer a unique destination both for pilgrim tourists as well as recreation tourists, in addition to being a state-of-the-art cremation centre.

This will bring Udhampur in Jammu prominently on India's map. The Devika project was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu in early 2019.

The project includes the construction of three sewage treatment plants of 8 MLD, 4 MLD and 1.6 MLD capacity, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants. The country's first Highway Village being constructed by NHAI is coming up on fast track on Udhampur National Highway and the Centrally funded Medical College will start its classes next year through NEET selection.

- 12. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, Which Is celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of \_\_\_\_\_ - the Koya tribe for four days ?**
- A. Arnogya Festival , Himachal Pradesh
  - B. Sonpur Mela , Rajasthan
  - C. Medaram Jatara , Telangana**
  - D. Viva Carnival , Andhra Pradesh



Devotees carrying jaggery, equal to their weight, to worship tribal deities at the four-day Medaram Jatara festival in Mulugu district of Telangana which begins on Wednesday. Over 1 crore devotees are expected to visit the fair. \*G.N. RAO

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Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe for four days.

This year it is being celebrated from 16th-19th February, 2022. 4-day long biennial Medaram Tribal Fair has started in Mulugu, Telangana. It is believed to be Asia's largest tribal fair. It is celebrated every two years at Medaram village. The fair has been declared a state festival by Telangana state Government. It will culminate on the 19th Feb.

The tribals perform prayers in the bamboo grove every two years. They bring back a casket of vermilion and bamboo sticks wrapped in red cloth. It symbolizes the return of Sammakka and Saralamma. The fair also attracts non-Adivasis. Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned over two crore rupees for Medaram Jatara.

**13. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Crude Palm Oil (CPO) :**

- 1. The Government of India has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5% with effect from 12th February, 2022.**
- 2. After reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%.**

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

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

With a view to check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils due to rise in the prices of edible oils globally, the Government of India has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5% with effect from 12th February, 2022.

After reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%.

The increase in the gap between the CPO and Refined Palm Oil will benefit the domestic refining industry to import Crude Oil for refining.

Another pre-emptive measure taken by the Government to check the prices of edible oils is to extend the current basic rate of import duty of zero percent on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil upto 30th September, 2022.



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14. Recently The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued orders to ban \_\_\_\_\_ more apps, which either have originated in China or have some Chinese connection, under \_\_\_\_\_ of the Information Technology Act ?

- A. 54, Section 69
- B. 58, Section 71
- C. 68, Section 59
- D. 54, Section 64

## Govt. bans 54 new Chinese mobile apps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday banned over 50 new Chinese mobile applications, including Rise of Kingdoms: Lost Crusade, Tencent Xriver, Nice Video baidu and Viva Video Editor, citing concerns over privacy and national security.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had issued interim directions for blocking 54 apps, sources said, adding these were allegedly collecting sensitive user data, which were being misused and transmitted to servers outside India.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued orders to ban 54 more apps, which either have originated in China or have some Chinese connection. These apps were banned for being a threat to national security.

As per the new list, video editing apps such as Viva Video Editor- Snack Video Maker with Music and Nice Video Baidu, which are used extensively for making short videos, games such as Onmyoji Chess and Conquer Online II have been banned in India. The new apps, IT ministry officials said, have been banned using emergency powers under Section 69 of the Information Technology Act.

In June 2020, 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, UC Browser and Cam Scanner, were blocked under section 69A of the IT Act. This was followed by banning of 47 related apps in August 2020.

In September 2020, 118 apps were blocked.

In November 2020, 43 mobile apps were banned through an order under section 69A of the IT Act.

Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides government power to issue directions for blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource. This section allows government to block websites.

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15. Recently In February India's Defence Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ visited the Maldives on February 13-14, for discussions with the Maldives National Defence Force as part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Defence Cooperation Dialogue ?

- A. S jaishankar , First
- B. Ajit Doval , Third
- C. Ajay Kumar , Second
- D. Minakshi Lekhi , First

India's Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar visited the Maldives on February 13-14, for discussions with the Maldives National Defence Force as part of the second Defence Cooperation Dialogue.

The Defence Cooperation Dialogue is one of India's policy-level frameworks that aims to strengthen long-standing and mutually beneficial bilateral defence ties.

The first Defence Cooperation Dialogue was held in July 2016 during the presidency of Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and the second DCD was held in January 2019.

During the visit, Dr. Kumar handed over the refitted ship, the CGS Huravee to the Maldives.

The Trinkat-class patrol vessel was gifted to the Maldivian Coast Guard in 2006. This vessel is used by the Maldives for coastal surveillance and for combating transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

In 2016, the two countries also signed a comprehensive action plan to consolidate defence partnership.

16. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)* :

1. The Scheme will have four components with an approximate cost of Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
2. The Scheme will be implemented through a portal, developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

**Social Justice Ministry unveils scheme for tribes**

NEW DELHI

The Union Social Justice Ministry on Wednesday launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities (SEED), with a total expenditure of ₹200 crore over five years. Under the new scheme, students would be given free coaching for entrance tests like civil services, medicine, engineering and MBA and livelihood support.

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The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, will launch the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) on 16th February, 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

The Scheme will have four components with an approximate cost of Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Free Coaching for DNT students will help them to appear in competitive examinations and to take admissions in professional courses.

The Scheme have four components and around Rs, 200 crore will be spent over 5 years. The Scheme will be implemented through a portal developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.

The Government had constituted a National Commission for De-Notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Tribes in 2014.

The Government had also formed the Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs) in 2019. There are nearly 1,500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and 198 denotified tribes in India.

The Scheme will be implemented through a portal, developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. The other implementing agencies are Ministry of Rural Development, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and National Health Authority (NHA).

**17. Recently In February The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency. The Secretariat will be functional till \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. March 2023
- B. February 2024**
- C. December 2022
- D. December 2023

Feb 15, 2022, 7:59PM

Union Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat to implement overall policy decisions and arrangements for India's G20 Presidency

Union Cabinet today approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures. The Secretariat will be responsible for the implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.

India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December this year to 30th November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.

G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.

As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to knowledge, content, technical, media,





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**India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.**

As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to substantive / knowledge / content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.

It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant line Ministries / Departments and domain knowledge experts. The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024.

**The Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister, and comprising Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, and G20 Sherpa (Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister),**

**18. Recently In February Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the *inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit The theme for this year's Summit is \_\_\_\_\_ ?***

- A. *Your Right Your Role*
- B. *Digital Equity For All Ages*
- C. ***Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future***
- D. *'Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration'.*

## **PM to deliver address at TERI summit**

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit on Wednesday. The PMO noted that the theme for this year's summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.

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The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) organized by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 February. The theme of the summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'. It is scheduled to be held from 16-18 February.

Many issues will be discussed by experts including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, resource security, etc.

This three-day summit will be attended by the President of the Dominican Republic and the President of Guyana.

Ministers for Environment of many countries, heads of inter-governmental organizations, and delegates from 126 countries will participate in this summit.

The main objective of this summit is to bring governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists on a common platform to discuss the issues related to climate change.

**19. Recently In February India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Under An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. SARTHQ
- B. SAATHI
- C. SVAMITVA**
- D. NISTHA

# India to make digital maps of all villages

Updated guidelines to make it easier for surveys to be undertaken using drones, says Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Union Minister of State for Scienc and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday at an event to mark a year of the updated geospatial policy guidelines.

An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2020. The updated guidelines

## Surveying villages

The SVAMITVA scheme seeks to map land parcels using drone technology and providing 'record of rights' to those who own property

- Maps of 77,716 villages given to States
- 84,14,055 land parcels digitised
- Ownership cards prepared for 26,472 villages

**Drone survey completed for 1,08,337 villages**



help private companies prepare a variety of maps without needing approvals from a host of Ministries and make it easier to use drones and de-

velop applications via location mapping. The "trinity of geospatial systems, drone policy and unlocked space sector will be the hallmark of

India's future economic progress", Dr. Singh said in a statement. The complete geospatial policy would be announced soon as the liberalisation of guidelines had yielded very positive outcomes within a year's time, he said. The geographical information based system mapping would also be useful in forest management, disaster management, electrical utilities, land records, water distribution, and property taxation.

Dr. Singh estimated the size of the Indian geospatial market in 2020 to be ₹23,345 crore, including ₹10,595 crore of export which was

likely to grow to ₹36,300 crore by 2025.

When the scheme was launched, Mr. Modi had said that it would help establish "clear ownership" of property in rural areas by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing a "record of rights" to eligible households by issuing legal ownership cards to them.

So far, drone surveys have covered close to 1,00,000 villages and maps of 77,527 villages had been handed over to States. Property cards have been distributed to around 27,000 villages, according to current information on the SVAMITVA portal.

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India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said at an event to mark a year of the updated geospatial policy guidelines.

An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) was So far, the government had conducted surveys of more than 1 lakh villages and created maps of 77, 527 villages. launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2020.

The updated guidelines help private companies prepare a variety of maps without needing approvals from a host of Ministries and make it easier to use drones and develop applications via location mapping. The geographical information based system mapping would also be useful in forest management, disaster management, electrical utilities, land records, water distribution, and property taxation.

The size of the Indian geospatial market in 2020 to be ₹23,345 crore, including ₹10,595 crore of export which was likely to grow to ₹36,300 crore by 2025.

20. Recently In February Government approved a new scheme \_\_\_\_\_ for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of **Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22**. With the term "Education For All" With An Outlay Of \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. **New India Literacy Programme , Rs 1037 Cr**
- B. **Digital India Literacy Programme , Rs 26048 Cr**
- C. **Vidya Pravesh Scheme , Rs 819 Cr**
- D. **NISTHA , Rs 560 Cr**

Government approves ' New India Literacy Programme, a new scheme of Adult Education for FYs 2022-27"

Term "Adult Education" to be replaced with "Education For All"

Posted On: 16 FEB 2022 5:57PM by PIB Delhi

Government approved a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme (नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम) for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

The Union Budget 2021-22, announcement had been made to enable increased access of resources, online modules covering the entire gamut of adult education will be introduced.

The objectives of the scheme is to impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21<sup>st</sup> century such as critical life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare); vocational skills development (with a view towards obtaining local employment); basic education (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency); and continuing education (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).



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Government approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The entire cost of the ‘New India Literacy Programme’ is estimated to be over 1037 crore rupees.

School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme. Schools to be used for conducting survey of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs).

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above. Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs to implement the scheme and achievements on yearly basis by weighing both the physical and financial progress through UDISE portal.

From now onwards the term “Education For All” will be used in place of “Adult Education” by the Ministry as the terminology “Adult Education” is not incorporating appropriately all non-literates of 15 years and above age group.

21. The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31st March 2026 or till further review, With An Outlay Of \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. ₹ 11040 crore.
- B. ₹ 3179 crore.**
- C. ₹ 4096 crore.
- D. ₹ 4356 crore.

## Cabinet Nod to Capacity Development Scheme



**NEW DELHI** The government on Wednesday said that the Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Capacity Development (CD)

Scheme till March 31, 2026. The outlay approved for the continuation of the scheme during 15th Finance Commission cycle is ₹3,179 crore. The scheme has an overall objective to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling availability of credible and timely official statistics. –Our Bureau

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The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier, subject to the adherence to Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations and the financial ceilings etc.

The outlay approved for the continuation of the Scheme during 15th Finance Commission cycle is ₹3179 crore.

The CD Scheme is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The Scheme comprises Capacity Development (Main) Scheme and two sub schemes viz. Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) and Economic Census (EC).

The Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) is an ongoing sub scheme of the CD Scheme, which aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics.

**22. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Water Taxi services in Mumbai :**

1. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways virtually flagged off the ‘Most Awaited’ Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty.
2. The newly constructed Belapur jetty, built at a cost of Rs. 8.37 crore was funded in the 50-50 model under the Sagarmala scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

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

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



† A water taxi leaves from the Belapur Jetty in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. •EMMANUAL YOGINI

**India’s first water taxi service inaugurated in Maharashtra**

Project connects Navi Mumbai with the main city

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

India’s first water taxi service was inaugurated in Maharashtra on Thursday connecting the Navi Mumbai area to mainland Mumbai. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the Belapur jetty while Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal flagged off the service.

The ₹8.37-crore project will presently operate on three routes and the State and the Centre have shared

the expenditure. The three routes include Belapur to Ferry Wharf - the domestic cruise terminal, Belapur to Elephanta Caves and Belapur to JNPT.

In the initial stage, seven speedboats – each with a capacity of 10 to 30 passengers – and one catamaran with passenger capacity of 50 to 60 will run on these routes. The cost per person on a single journey will be between ₹820 to ₹1,200 for speed boats and ₹290 for the catamaran.

Addressing the event, Mr.

Sonowal said the Sagarmala project has offered 131 projects worth ₹1.05 lakh crore for Maharashtra. “Financial aid of ₹278 crore for 46 projects will be offered under the project,” he said.

“India’s first train ran between Mumbai and Thane and it expanded throughout the country gradually. What happens in Mumbai spreads across the country,” said Mr. Thackeray.

He said the ease of transport is a key factor for investors to set up businesses in the region.

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Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways virtually flagged off the 'Most Awaited' Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Udhav Thackeray presided over the on-ground function where he inaugurated the newly constructed Belapur Jetty. **The Water Taxi service will connect the twin cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai for the first time.**

**The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT. The service promises a comfortable, stress-free journey, is time-saving and promotes eco-friendly transport.**

The Water Taxi services are going to give huge impetus to the tourism sector, especially travel to the historic Elephanta caves from Navi Mumbai.

**The newly constructed Belapur jetty, built at a cost of Rs. 8.37 crore was funded in the 50-50 model under the Sagarmala scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**

**23. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ State Government has announced *New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27* ?**

- A. Gujarat**
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. Tamil Nadu**
- D. Andhra Pradesh**

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27.

Under this policy, the strategic projects and mega and large projects are eligible for special packages. This will attract new investment through anchor units and existing industries and create new employment opportunities in the state.

**According to this new policy, the MSMEs with a capital investment of less than 200 crore rupees will be given maximum assistance of 40 crore rupees.**

Similarly, the mega and large projects with a capital investment of more than 200 crore rupees and special projects like ecosystem empowerment, emerging technologies in challenging areas and strategic importance will be assisted up to 25 percent of the total capital expenditure up to a maximum limit of 200 crore rupees. This assistance will be provided in the form of 20 quarterly installments over five years. MSME units with a capital investment of less than 200 crore rupees will be assisted with a maximum of 5 crore rupees per annum.



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**24. Recently Seen In News *Kalyan Junction railway station* is located in Which Of The Following State ?**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the Nation two additional railway lines connecting Thane and Diva via video conferencing.

Kalyan Junction railway station is a major railway junction station on the central line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway network, lying at the junction of the north-east and south-east lines of the suburban Mumbai division of the Central Railway, 54 km north-east of Mumbai.

Kalyan is the main junction of Central Railway. Out of the four tracks between Kalyan and CSTM, two tracks were used for slow local trains and two tracks for fast Local, Mail Express and Goods trains. To segregate suburban and long distance trains, two additional tracks were planned.

The two additional railway lines connecting Thane and Diva have been built at the approx cost of Rs 620 crores.

**25. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging***

- 1. Reuse of rigid plastic packaging material has been mandated in the guidelines to reduce the use of fresh plastic material for packaging.**
- 2. The enforceable prescription of minimum level of recycling of *plastic packaging waste collected under EPR* along with use of recycled plastic content**
- 3. These guidelines coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with *effect from 1st July 2022***

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

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

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Ministry of Environment has notified the Guidelines on **Extended Producers Responsibility** on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

The Guidelines provide framework to strengthen circular economy of plastic packaging waste, promote development of new alternatives to plastics and provide further next steps for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging by businesses.

**Reuse of rigid plastic packaging material has been mandated in the guidelines to reduce the use of fresh plastic material for packaging.**

**The enforceable prescription of minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging waste collected under EPR along with use of recycled plastic content will further reduce plastic consumption and support recycling of plastic packaging waste.**

The EPR guidelines will give a boost for formalization and further development of plastic waste management sector.

In a significant first, the guidelines allow for sale and purchase of surplus extended producer responsibility certificates, thus setting up a market mechanism for plastic waste management.

**The implementation of EPR will be done through a customized online platform which will act as digital backbone of the system. The online platform will allow tracking and monitoring of EPR obligation. The funds collected shall be utilized for collection, recycling and end of life disposal of uncollected plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner.**

These guidelines coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, **with effect from 1st July 2022**, are important steps for reducing pollution caused due to littered plastic waste in the country.

## Centre notifies guidelines on plastic packaging

**Jayashree Nandi**

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) has notified guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging, to eliminate single-use plastics and promote alternatives. The ministry has also laid down roles and responsibilities of producers, importers, brands generating plastic packaging waste, central and state pollution control boards, recyclers and waste processors in minimising plastic waste.

Union environment minister Bhopender Yadav took to social media to announce the notification of the new Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, late on Thursday night. "Taking forward the clar-

ion call given by PM Shri @narendramodi ji to eliminate single-use plastics, @moefcc has notified comprehensive Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging," Yadav tweeted.

The latest guidelines will come into force with immediate effect, the notification said.

"The guidelines not only provide a framework to strengthen the circular economy of plastic packaging waste, but also promote development of new alternatives to plastics. They provide a roadmap for businesses to move towards sustainable plastic packaging," Yadav said.

Circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing products as long as possible, according to



**Plastic manufacturers say there could be some disruption in meeting the timelines.** AFP

European Parliament.

According to the new rules, plastics have been classified into four categories — category one will include rigid plastic packaging; category two will include flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with different types of

plastic), plastic sheets and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches.

Category three will include multi-layered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic) while plastic sheet or like used for packaging as well as carry bags made of compostable plastics will fall under category four.

Specifications for reuse, recycling, use of recycled plastic content, and end-of-life disposal of non-recyclable plastic packaging also featured in the EPR.

The ministry has also called for setting up a centralised online portal by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the registration as well as filing of annual returns by producers, importers and brand-owners, plastic waste processors of plastic packaging

waste by March 31.

Producers of plastic packaging, the notification said, will have to manage 35% of the 'Q1' waste in metric tonnes in 2021-22. The EPR target will be increased to 70% in 2022-23 and 100% from 2023-24 onwards.

Plastic manufacturers said there could be some disruption in meeting the timelines specified in the notification.

"The draft notification has sensitised the industry on the expectation and has been in preparation mode. The value chain facilitating EPR needs to be synchronised to improve timelines and capacities. There are ground-level challenges and bottlenecks that need to be addressed," said Hiten Bheda, chairman, environment committee, All India Plastics Manufacturers Association.



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**26. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy :**

1. Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years will be allowed to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia for the projects commissioned before 30th June 2025.
2. Green Hydrogen / Ammonia manufacturers may purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity themselves or through any other, developer, anywhere.
3. This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity.

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct**

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

**CLEAN POWER**

# Govt unveils first phase of green hydrogen policy

Waiver of inter-state transmission charges, priority grid connectivity among incentives; VGF, purchase obligations seen in the offering

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, February 17

**THE GOVERNMENT ON** Thursday unveiled the first part of the National Hydrogen Policy, offering waiver of inter-state transmission charges for 25 years for projects commissioned until June 30, 2025, and grid transmission connectivity on priority basis.

Power and new & renewable energy minister Raj Kumar Singh said the policy will help lower the cost of producing carbon-free green hydrogen, adding that green hydrogen produced in India will be globally competitive. "We want India to emerge as the export hub for green hydrogen and green ammonia," he said.

Singh also hinted at a viability gap funding mechanism for the sector. The Union power ministry had said earlier that it intended to put green hydrogen consumption obligations on fertiliser producers and petroleum refiners to create a hydrogen value-chain in the country, and bring down the costs of hydrogen production. These incentives could be part of the Part-2 of the policy, which is likely to be cleared by the Cabinet soon.

As per the first part of the policy, companies will have the

liberty to set up capacity to generate electricity from renewable sources such as solar or wind anywhere in the country, by themselves or through a developer. This electricity will be allowed to be wheeled, free of cost, through open access of the transmission grid, to the plant where hydrogen is to be produced.

The government will also allow banking (storage) of excess green hydrogen produced by any company for up to 30 days, in case of capacities which are set up before 2025.

Singh had earlier said that as much as 8,800 megawatt (MW) of electrolyser capacity is required to meet the demand of the obligated industries, if they are mandated to source even 10% of their requirements through domestic green hydrogen. The purchase obligation would be later increased to 20-25%, he had said.

The government is also planning to come up with a PFI scheme for setting up electrolyser-manufacturing capacities to expedite the uptake of green hydrogen. According to experts, such capacity may require investments between ₹15,000 crore and ₹20,000 crore.

Electrolysers are used to make green hydrogen using electricity generated from renewable sources. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on August 15 last year announced the National Hydrogen Mission as the government explores ways to reduce dependence on imported products such as crude oil and natural gas.

The country currently consumes about around 6 million tonne of hydrogen annually and the government is looking for ways to increase the pen-

**Green benefits**

■ Inter-state transmission charges will be waived for 25 years for green hydrogen/ green ammonia producers for projects commissioned before June 30, 2025

■ Green hydrogen/green ammonia plants will be granted open access for sourcing of renewable energy within 15 days



■ Banking will be allowed for 30 days for renewable energy used for making green hydrogen and ammonia

■ Land in renewable energy parks or in manufacturing zones can be allotted for such plants

charges to avoid a distorted green hydrogen market," Hemant Mallick, senior programme lead at CEEW, said.

Chandan Kumar Mondol, director commercial of NTPC, told FE: "The waiver of transmission charges for 25 years and the benefits similar to renewable purchase obligations will lead to faster adoption of green hydrogen in the country. However, a lot will depend on how soon the price of green hydrogen comes down from its current \$4.5 to \$5 levels."

State-run NTPC is evaluating a plan to set a \$2/kg benchmark cost for production of hydrogen by 2025-26, said Mohit Bhargava, CEO of NTPC Renewable Energy, at a virtual event ET Solar Power Congress. He, however, added that cost of renewable power and electrolysers will be important determinants.

Manoj K Upadhyay, founder & chairman of ACME Group, said: "The government would do well to come up with policy measures for initial demand creation by means of mandatory green hydrogen and ammonia purchase obligations and at the same time, an equivalent of PFI scheme for green ammonia to make India competitive globally."

According to Anish De, national head-energy, natural resources & Chemicals, KPMG in India, said: "Though discom-based supply is spoken about, the entire emphasis is on open access. Transmission charges waiver till 2025 is open-ended in terms of capacity." He added that cross subsidy surcharge implications need to be understood especially for third-party developers.

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Ministry of Power has notified the Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy. Green Hydrogen/ Ammonia manufacturers may purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity themselves or through any other, developer, anywhere.

**Open access will be granted within 15 days of receipt of application.**

The Green Hydrogen / Ammonia manufacturer can bank his unconsumed renewable power, up to 30 days, with distribution company and take it back when required.

**Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years will be allowed to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia for the projects commissioned before 30th June 2025.**

The manufacturers of Green Hydrogen / Ammonia and the renewable energy plant shall be given connectivity to the grid on priority basis to avoid any procedural delays.

To ensure ease of doing business a single portal for carrying out all the activities including statutory clearances in a time bound manner will be set up by MNRE.

Connectivity, at the generation end and the Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia manufacturing end, to the ISTS for Renewable Energy capacity set up for the purpose of manufacturing Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia shall be granted on priority. **This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity.**

**27. Recently In Febraury The Government of India has approved the *implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project* by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of \_\_\_\_\_ crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 ?**

- A. Rs 4506 Cr**
- B. Rs 3096 Cr**
- C. Rs.3,375 Cr**
- D. Rs 4096 Cr**

Modi Government approves implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project during the period 2022-23 to 2025-26

Under guidance of Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah, Phase II of the ICJS project will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing

Project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme at a total cost of Rs. 3,375 crore

Posted On: 18 FEB 2022 1:06PM by PIB Delhi

The Modi Government has approved the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs.3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. Under the guidance of the Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah, Phase II of the ICJS project will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing. The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.

The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Center (NIC). The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.



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The Government of India has approved the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs.3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

Phase II of the ICJS project will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing. The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.

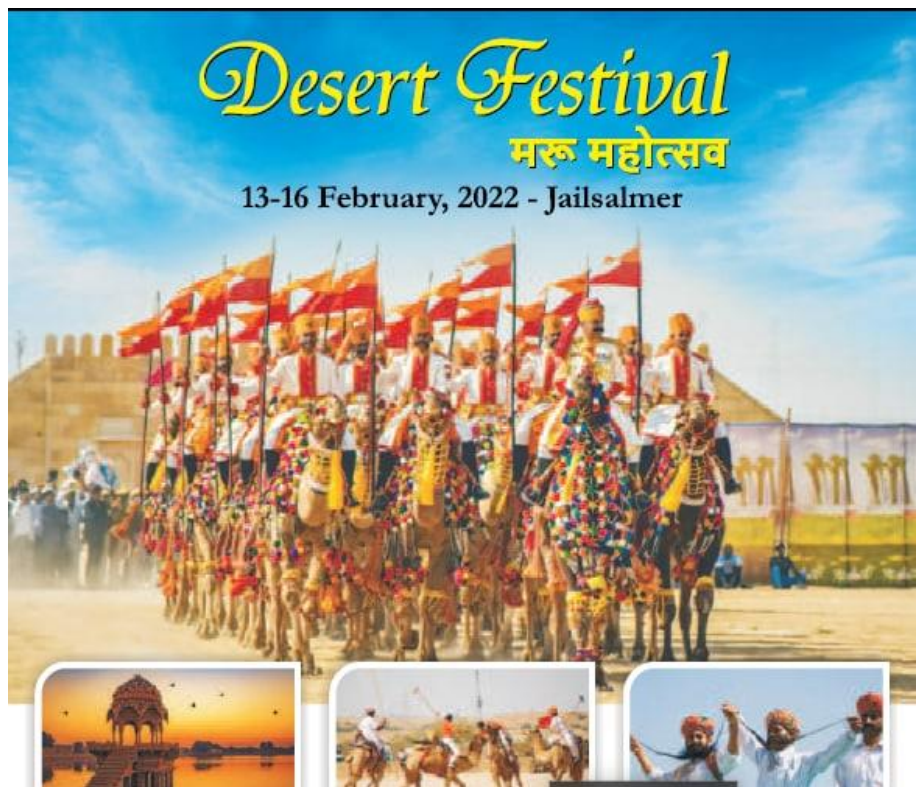
The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Center (NIC).

The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories. Under Phase-II, the system is being built on the principle of 'one data one entry' whereby data is entered only once in one pillar and the same is then available in all other pillars without the need to re-enter the data in each pillar.

28. Recently In February the *world-famous Jaisalmer Desert Festival*, also known as the *Golden City's Maru Mahotsav*, started at \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Dhar
- B. Pokhran**
- C. Khazhurao
- D. Hampi



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On February 13, the world-famous Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as the Golden City's Maru Mahotsav, started at Pokhran.

The four-day Festival began with a colourful grand procession, followed by competitions for Miss Pokhran and Mister Pokhran.

The Rajasthan Tourism Department, in collaboration with the district administration, is hosting Maru Mahotsav this year.

Turban tying, Panihari Matka, Mehandi, and Mandana competitions are the main tourist attraction events of the four-day festival.

Folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, and Gair were performed by groups of artists.

On February 16, the festival will conclude with a horse race, a camel dance, and firework display.

**29. Recently In February Eastern and northeastern India's first motorsports racing track will be built in \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. Aizwal
- B. Lengpui**
- C. Gangtok
- D. Imphal

Eastern and northeastern India's first motorsports racing track will be built in Mizoram.

An agreement has been signed between the Centre-owned Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and the Mizoram State Sports Council for the construction of this racing track.

This racing track will be 2 km long and 6 meters wide and it would be developed at Lengpui.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) will construct the motorsports racing track under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligation. The Madras Motor Race Track is the India's first permanent racing circuit. It was built in the late 1980s.

The Buddh International Circuit is located in Uttar Pradesh and it hosted the first Indian Grand Prix.

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**30. Recently In February The Prime minister Narendra Modi flagged off \_\_\_\_\_ *Kisan* drones in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India Which Has Been Developed By \_\_\_\_\_ Which Is Based In \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. 100, Garuda Aerospace, Chennai**
- B. 200, New Reserch Aerosapce, Indore**
- C. 150, Bot labs, Jabalpur**
- D. 250, IIFL Financing, Rajkot**

In a special drive aimed at helping farmers, Prime minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off 100 Kisan drones in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India.

During the Budget 2022-23 announcement, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a major stimulus for the agriculture and farming sector.

Sitharaman said the Centre will promote Kisan Drones, chemical-free natural farming, public-private partnerships for the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers across the country during the financial year 2022-23

**31. Recently In February Dr. Bharati Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, has inaugurated the *India's first Biosafety level-3 containment Mobile Laboratory* In \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

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

## PM launches 100 agricultural drones across the country

Zia Haq

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**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday virtually launched 100 Made in India agricultural drones across the country, which carried out farm operations in unique simultaneous flights. The PM labelled it a "milestone" for Indian agriculture.

The drone blitz is said to be, by far, the largest collective agricultural drone exercise in the country. The PM said new technologies would bring a "world of opportunities for farmers and youth".

A raft of recent policy relaxations and incentives, including proposals in the Union budget 2022-23, have opened up India's vast agriculture sector for commercial use of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles.

"This is a new chapter in the direction of modern agricultural facilities of the 21st century. I am confident that this beginning will not only prove to be a milestone in development of the drone sector but also will also open the sky to unlimited possibilities," the PM tweeted after the mega launch.

The Centre has been pushing for greater private investments in the farm sector, which contributes 21% to the country's GDP. But farmers in several states have been protesting to demand a legal guarantee for minimum prices of their produce.

Nearly half of all Indians

depend on a farm-based income, but a majority of India's agriculturists are small cultivators with low yields. Analysts say drones could prove transformative, making farming efficient, although the costs involved are still high.

An agricultural drone, which typically operates using Internet-based smart technologies, can undertake precise farm operations, from spraying to monitoring crop health. They can cost anywhere between Rs 5-10 lakh. The drones have been manufactured by Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace, a home-grown startup.

The Union Budget 2022-23 announced a special push for Kisan (farmer) drones. The budget also aimed to create public-private partnerships for high-tech farm services. On February 10, Anand Mahindra, the chairman of Mahindra group, announced a major decision to scale up farm drones. "Drones are destined to become a part of our daily lives. But nowhere will they have a more beneficial effect than in farmlands," he tweeted.

Drone hiring centres will also receive special funding to provide agricultural services through drones. "Agricultural drones will have to be offered cheaply through custom hiring centres. This will be possible if firms can achieve scale through widespread use," said Aranyak Nirverkar, an analyst with Aggrow, a farm technology firm.

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Dr. Bharati Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, has inaugurated the India's first Biosafety level-3 containment Mobile Laboratory in Nashik district.

The purpose of the mobile laboratory is to examine newly developing and re-emerging viral diseases that are extremely infectious and have the potential to harm humans.

The Biosafety level-3 Mobile Laboratory is significant addition to the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission's efforts to build healthcare infrastructure.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has designed the laboratory in partnership with Klenzaid, a Mumbai-based manufacturer of biosafety equipment.

The Laboratory built at a cost of over 25 crore rupees is a self-sufficient unit in itself.

32. Recently In February Assam government will launch \_\_\_\_\_ a four year mentorship programme to guide students and hone their skills ?

- A. Project Kalyan
- B. **Project Arohan**
- C. Project Matsya
- D. Project Anovolam

Assam Government will launch a four-year mentorship programme called 'Project Arohan' to provide guidance to students and improve their skills.

Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma met Anita Ranjan, CEO of Tata STRIVE, a skill development initiative of Tata Trusts, and sought cooperation for the project.

"To mentor our students and help them hone their skills, launch a four-year mentorship programme called Project Arohan

33. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Police Station becomes India's first security force to launch 'Smart Card Arms License'. While \_\_\_\_\_ App Has Been Launched For effective policing ?

- A. Punjab , Rakhsa App
- B. **Delhi , Shastra App**
- C. Bihar , Rudra App
- D. Haryana , Nirbhaya App



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Licensing unit of Delhi Police has decided to replace arms license booklet with Smart Card Arms License.

Smart Card Arms License has inherent security features and is easy to carry and handle.

It has been integrated with an e-beat book by means of mobile application Shastra App for effective policing.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah formally launched the smart card and Shastra App on 16 February on occasion of 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police. Both smart card and Shastra App have been designed and developed in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Delhi Police is also India's first police organization to have launched e-arms license module. The module was launched on 31 January 2019.

**34. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ and Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve collaboration in the promotion and marketing of domestic tourism across the country ?**

- A. Ministry Of Education
- B. Ministry Of Tourism**
- C. Ministry Of Minority Affairs
- D. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs

The Tourism Ministry and Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve collaboration in the promotion and marketing of domestic tourism across the country.

The MoU has been signed to achieve the common purpose of joint domestic promotion and to improve synergise in the activities of MoT and AAAL in the tourism markets.

Alliance Air is the front-runner in promoting the government's "Regional Connectivity Scheme", which is being promoted under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme.

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**35. Consider The Following Statement Regarding T-49 tunnel :**

- 1. Railway has successfully connected the main tunnel of the *Katra-Banihal* section, T-49 between *Sumber and Arpinchala* stations.**
- 2. T-49 tunnel is the longest transportation tunnel of India. It is 12.758 km long**

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

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 And 2**
- D. None of the Above**

Railway has successfully connected the main tunnel of the Katra-Banihal section, T-49 between Sumber and Arpinchala stations.

South entrance of the T-49 tunnel is located in Sumber village. It is 45 km from Ramban district headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir.

North entrance of the tunnel is located near Arpinchala village of Khari tehsil, Ramban district, in Mahu-Mangat Valley.

T-49 tunnel is the longest transportation tunnel of India. It is 12.758 km long. It is lengthier than 11.2-km long Pir Panjal Tunnel on the Banihal-Qazigund section.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is set to be 272-km long.

Out of 272-km, 161-km has already been commissioned and operationalized. The remaining 111-km stretch is under progress at a rapid pace

**36. Recently In February The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Second Advance Estimates of Major Crop Production for 2021-22. According To The Report For 2021-22, the government has expected a record foodgrains production of more than \_\_\_\_\_ in the country ?**

- A. 350 mt**
- B. 316 mt**
- C. 240 mt**
- D. 450 Mt**

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For 2021-22, the government has expected a record foodgrains production of more than 316 million tonnes in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Second Advance Estimates of Major Crop Production for 2021-22.

This is 5.32 million tonnes more than the foodgrain production in 2020-21. **Rice - 127.93 million tonnes**

**Wheat - 111.32 million tonnes** This financial year's production of foodgrains is 25.35 million tonnes more than the previous five years' average production.

37. Recently, **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council** has launched the \_\_\_\_\_ scheme for \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. **Kunsnyoms , differently-abled persons**
- B. **Aarohan , Farmers**
- C. **New India Literary Programme , Education**
- D. **Vrikshshala , Digital India**

Recently, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council has launched the 'Kunsnyoms' scheme for differently-abled persons.

It aims to provide assistive devices/technologies to differently-abled persons at a 90% subsidized rate.

The main objective of this scheme is to create an inclusive and accessible society in Ladakh.

**LAHDC Leh Chief Executive Councillor and Chairman Tashi Gyalson** launched this new scheme.

He and his executive councilors distributed 28 tri scooters, battery-run wheelchairs, and other devices **Radha Krishna Mathur** is the current Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

38. Recently In Febraury The **Indian Railways** will establish a **world-class wrestling academy** in \_\_\_\_\_ at a cost of \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. **Delhi , Rs 30.76 Cr**
- B. **Haryana , Rs 30.76 Cr**
- C. **Punjab , Rs 30.76 Cr**
- D. **Uttarakhand , 40.56 Cr**

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The Indian Railways will establish a world-class wrestling academy in Kishanganj, Delhi, at a cost of approximately 30.76 crores.

This will be India's biggest wrestling academy, with cutting-edge training facilities.

Sushil (in 2008 and 2012), Sakshi Malik (in 2016), Ravi Kumar, and Bajrang Punia (in 2020) from Indian Railways have won the majority of India's wrestling medals at the Olympics.

For their remarkable sporting achievements, railway sportsmen have received 27 Padam shri, 176 Arjuna, 12 Dhyanchand, 14 Dronacharya, and 9 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awards.

**39. Recently In February Centre has formed Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) and a national steering committee for interlinking of Ken-Betwa Rivers. The national steering committee will have \_\_\_\_\_ members, In Union Budget 2022-23, government has announced \_\_\_\_\_ for Ken-Betwa Link Project ?**

- A. 20, Rs 44,605 Cr
- B. 18, Rs 13056 Cr
- C. 16, Rs 48000 Cr
- D. 10, Rs 25098 Cr

## Central Govt Constitutes Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority

Five central secretaries in 20-member steering panel for linking two tributaries of Yamuna; panel will be chaired by Jal Shakti ministry secretary

Anubhuti Vishnoi  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre has constituted a Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) and a 20-member national steering committee for interlinking the two rivers. The committee will be chaired by Jal Shakti ministry secretary and will have on board secretaries of ministries of environment, power and tribal affairs and the Department of Expenditure secretary. Additional

chief secretaries of UP and MP governments, besides Central Water Commission chairman and heads of National Tiger Conservation Authority and National Waterway Development Authority and officials from state wildlife departments will be in the panel.

Those who advocate linking Ken to Betwa, tributaries of the Yamuna, say it would irrigate Bundelkhand. However, the project has generated controversy over possible environmental impact. It has been challenged in courts over possible displacement of inhabitants. Fi-

nance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced Rs 44,605 crore for KBLP in the 2022 budget.

The Centre has said that the steering committee would resolve any operational issue at the implementation stage. However, in case of a dispute with the committee, it would be referred to a high-level committee headed by the Jal Shakti minister and concerned ministers of both states. The notification issued last Wednesday by Ministry of Jal Shakti also said that rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected families and land

### RESETTLEMENT

UP, MP govts tasked with resettlement of affected families

acquisition for the projects would be done by respective state governments, "in a time bound and transparent manner as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the respective state government policy and as per environ-

mental management plan."

The steering committee will ensure compliance with provisions of the memorandum of agreement of 2021 between the Centre and the two states. A special purpose vehicle like authority will be headed by the chief executive officer at the level of additional secretary at the Centre and he will be assisted by five additional chief executive officers, all people with wide experience in planning and execution of similar projects. All central funds for the project will be routed through KBLPA, which will have a single treasury account.

the ministry and in keeping with the tripartite memorandum of agreement of 2021 between the Centre and the two states. A special purpose vehicle like authority will be headed by the chief executive officer at the level of additional secretary at the Centre and he will be assisted by five additional chief executive officers, all people with wide experience in planning and execution of similar projects. All central funds for the project will be routed through KBLPA, which will have a single treasury account.



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Centre has formed Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) and a national steering committee for interlinking of Ken-Betwa Rivers.

The national steering committee will have 20 members, including five central secretaries. It will be chaired by Jal Shakti Ministry Secretary.

It will also have secretaries of ministries of environment, power and tribal affairs and the Department of Expenditure Secretary.

Other members in the steering committee will be additional chief secretaries of UP and MP governments and Central Water Commission Chairman.

The committee will also include heads of National Tiger Conservation Authority and National Waterway Development Authority and officials from state wildlife departments.

The committee will meet at least twice a year, with a quorum of 2/3 of total members.

KBLPA has been formed as a vertical of National Water Development Agency, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Jal Shakti.

In Union Budget 2022-23, government has announced Rs 44,605 crore for Ken-Betwa Link Project. Ken River in Madhya Pradesh and Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh are both tributaries of Yamuna.

**40. Recently In February Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that \_\_\_\_\_ will be launched in the state to prevent cancer ?**

- A. Cure Express
- B. Hope Express**
- C. Life Express
- D. Cancer Express

Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer.

The Government will start Hope Express in every district of the state through district planning.

This will be the first such machine in India.

Maharashtra's Health Minister also inaugurated the Oncoprime Cancer Center at the Hattarki Hospital in Gadhinglaj. Globally, Cancer is the second leading cause of death. Every minute 17 people die from cancer in the world.

National Cancer Control Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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41. Recently In February The \_\_\_\_\_ government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with global business process management company QX Global Group Limited, for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the State ?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu

The Gujarat government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with global business process management company QX Global Group Limited, for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the State.

Under the MoU, signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, around 2,000 jobs will be generated in the IT sector in the coming days.

The Gujarat government's Department of Science and Technology had announced a new IT/ ITeS policy for the next five years in a push to develop a robust ecosystem for the IT and digital sector. Frank Robbins, CEO of QX Global Group,

## Gujarat govt signs MoU with QX Global Group

### OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, February 15

The Gujarat government on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with global business process management company QX Global Group Limited, for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the State.

Under the MoU, signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, around 2,000 jobs will be generated in the IT sector in the coming days.

The State Department of Science and Technology had announced a new IT/ ITeS policy for the next five years.

Snehal Patel, Deputy Director of the science and technology department and Gujarat representative of QX Global Group Ltd, signed the MoU on Tuesday, a State government communique informed.

“Gujarat is committed to contribute in building a self-reliant India under the leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with this new IT policy,” said the chief minister, adding that the state government will also provide assistance in the company's Gujarat operations.

Frank Robbins, CEO of QX Global Group, said over a video-conferencing link that the company, started in 2003-04, has over 2,300 trained IT manpower, of whom around 1,700 are in Gujarat.

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Ahmedabad : 079 - 26871105



42. Recently In February Govt sanctioned **construction of 60,000 homes under PMAY(U)** The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) stands at \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. 115.07 lakh
- B. 116.07 lakh
- C. 114.07 lakh**
- D. 119.07 lakh

Project proposals for the construction of over 60,000 houses were approved across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) .

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee of PMAY(U), was chaired by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) stands at 114.07 lakh, of which around 93.25 lakh have been grounded for construction and around 54.78 lakh have been delivered to the beneficiaries.

The total investment under the PMAY(U) stands at ₹7.52 lakh crore, with ₹1.87 lakh crore central assistance out of which ₹1.21 lakh crore has already been released.

## Govt approves plan for 60,000 houses under PMAY across five states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

THE MINISTRY of Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday approved project proposals for over 60,000 houses across five states – Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan – at the 58th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) now stand at 114.04 lakh, of which around 93.25 lakh have been grounded for construction and around 54.78 Lakh have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries, according to the ministry.

The total investment under the mission stands at Rs 7.52 lakh crore, with central assistance of Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

So far, central assistance amounting to Rs 1.21 lakh crore has already been released, the ministry said.

The meeting on Tuesday was chaired by secretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Manoj Joshi.

“Presiding over the meeting, Secretary, MoHUA also discussed the issues pertaining to grounding and construction of houses in different States under different verticals of PMAY(U). He reviewed the pace of completion of houses in the States and directed the officials to expedite the process and meanwhile also evaluate the beneficiary allotment and completion of Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) projects in their respective areas,” the ministry said.

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43. Recently In Febraury According to the data released by the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy, \_\_\_\_\_ has left behind Karnataka and Gujarat by developing more than 10 GW of solar power capacity as of 31st January 2022 ?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Praqdes
- C. **Rajashtan**
- D. Maharashtra

According to the data released by the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy, Rajasthan has left behind Karnataka and Gujarat by developing more than 10 GW of solar power capacity as of 31st January 2022.

Now the share of Rajasthan alone in the total developed solar power capacity in the country has exceeded 20 per cent,

Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy and Rajasthan Wind and Hybrid Policy were released in December 2019.

Out of the total installed capacity of 49 GW in the country, Rajasthan alone has developed 10.5 GW of solar power.



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**International News**

**44. Recently In February India With Which Of The Following Country Has Signed A Road Map On The Blue Economy And Ocean Governance TO Enhance The Preservation Of Marine Resources Through Scientific Cooperation ?**

- A. UAE
- B. Denamrk
- C. France**
- D. Australia

India and France have adopted a road map on the blue economy and ocean governance to enhance their partnership for the exploitation and preservation of marine resources through economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation.

The road map was adopted at a meeting between external affairs minister **S. Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris** The "India-France Roadmap on the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance" envisages enhancing partnership in blue economy through institutional, economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation

**France Capital Currency – Paris Euro**

## India, France adopt blue economy plan

HT Correspondent  
NEW DELHI

India and France have adopted a road map on the blue economy and ocean governance to enhance their partnership for the exploitation and preservation of marine resources through economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation.

The road map was adopted at a meeting between external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris on Sunday.

The road map is part of measures agreed by the two countries to deepen their bilateral strategic partnership, especially in trade and investments, defence and security, health, education, research and innovation, energy and climate change.

Jaishankar travelled to France after participating in the Munich Security Conference in Germany last week.

France is among India's closest strategic partners in Europe, and the two sides are also working with third countries in areas such as critical technologies and resilient supply chains.

During their talks, Jaishankar and Le Drian appreciated the close cooperation between India and France during the covid-19 pandemic and agreed on deepening the strategic partnership, the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

**The road map was adopted at a meeting between EAM S. Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian**

The "India-France Roadmap on the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance" envisages enhancing partnership in blue economy through institutional, economic, infrastructure and scientific cooperation, it said.

A readout from the French side said that under the road map, France and India will commit to "joint actions to make the Indo-Pacific an area of sustainable growth, rule of law and oceans protection".

**45. Recently In February Bangladesh-US Air forces will conduct bilateral tactical airlift exercise \_\_\_\_\_ between February 20-25 at BAF Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka, and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh ?**

- A. Eastern Bridge
- B. Cope South**
- C. Compact 22
- D. Concan

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**Bangladesh-US Air forces will conduct bilateral tactical airlift exercise 'Cope South 22'.**

**The six day long joint air exercises will be conducted between February 20-25 at BAF Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka, and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.**

**Two US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules and two Bangladeshi C-130Js will take part in the exercise.**

**The exercise aims to improve interoperability with Bangladesh's air force and to support the armed forces of Bangladesh's long-term modernization efforts.**

**46. Consider The Following Statement Regarding INDIA - UAE Pact :**

- 1. India and the UAE 18 signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with a view to boosting bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 billion over a five-year period**
- 2. Under the agreement, the UAE is offering overall duty elimination on over 97 per cent of its tariff lines (or products) corresponding to 99 per cent of India's exports in value terms.**
- 3. India-UAE trade was around USD 60 billion making UAE, India's third-largest trading partner for the year 2019-20 after China and the USA.**
- 4. India to set up its first IIT outside the country in UAE**

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

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

## India, UAE forge CEPA seeking to boost bilateral trade to \$100 b in five years

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, February 18

India and the UAE have formally forged a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that seeks to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion from \$60 billion in five years through significant tariff cuts on goods and freer flow of services and investments.

"Signed the path-breaking India-UAE CEPA along with the UAE Minister of Economy H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri. Sky is the limit for our trade and economic ties as we commit to building a shared future and enhancing the prosperity of our people," Goyal tweeted after signing the CEPA on Friday.

As both countries move towards increasing bilateral trade to \$100 billion, it would create an estimated 1 lakh jobs and opportunities for the MSME sectors including



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

food processing, Goyal said addressing a press conference.

"Major sectors that are likely to gain from the CEPA include gems & jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, plastic, furniture, agriculture products, engineering, pharmaceuticals and automobiles and most of the sectors are labour oriented," Goyal pointed out.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mo-

ammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued a joint vision statement establishing a roadmap for a future-oriented partnership between the two countries and identifying focus areas and outcomes in a virtual summit on Friday.

"The shared objective is to promote new trade, investment and innovation dynamic in diverse sectors, including economy, energy, climate action, emerging technologies, skills and education, food security, health-care and defence and security," per the statement. Goyal pointed out that the two countries had created a record by concluding a free trade pact in just 88 days.

**Investment zone**

The two countries also agreed to expedite work on a dedicated investment zone for UAE companies and work on for-

ging of joint ventures with a focus on setting up a food corridor and establishment of a dedicated India Mart in Jebel Ali Free Zone.

Sectors including logistics & services, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, agriculture, agri-tech, steel and aluminium have been identified as areas for creation of investment opportunities for Indian investors in establishing specialised industrial advanced technology zones in Abu Dhabi.

"This CEPA will be the foundation stone for next era of success," said the UAE Minister, adding that cut in tariffs on 80 per cent of goods and coverage of a vast array of areas including logistics, services, government procurement, digital trade and movement of professionals would give a boost to both economies.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** held a Virtual Summit.

They issued a Joint Vision Statement "Advancing the India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestone".

A major highlight of the Virtual Summit was the signing and exchange of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The Agreement will provide significant benefits to Indian and UAE businesses, including enhanced market access and reduced tariffs.

It is expected that the CEPA will lead to increase in bilateral trade from the current USD 60 bn to USD 100 bn in the next 5 years.

#### Other highlights

The two Leaders also released Joint Commemorative Stamp on the occasion of 75th anniversary of India's independence and 50th year of UAE's foundation.

Two MOUs signed between Indian and UAE entities were also announced during the Summit.

These are, MOU between APEDA and DP World & Al Dahra on Food Security Corridor Initiative and MOU between India's Gift City and Abu Dhabi Global Market on cooperation in financial projects and services.

Two other MOUs - one on cooperation in Climate Action and the other on Education have also been agreed between the two sides.

The Indian Institute of Technology will establish its first branch outside India in the UAE as part of the India-UAE trade deal signed on February 18. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.

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47. Consider The Following Statement Regarding WHO 'Commit to quit' campaign :

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the 'Quit Tobacco App' to quit tobacco in all forms. It is the first of its kind app launched by WHO
2. Every year Tobacco kills around 8 million people and around 1.6 million death occurs in the South-East Asia Region.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the 'Quit Tobacco App' to quit tobacco in all forms.

It is the first of its kind app launched by WHO and it helps users in setting the target, managing cravings and staying focused on quitting tobacco.

This app has been launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign. 'Commit to quit' campaign is an initiative started by WHO for South-East Asia Region.

Tobacco use can cause many non-communicable diseases (NCD) including cancers, cardiovascular diseases, lung diseases, and diabetes.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is one of the measures to reduce the demand and supply of tobacco.

Every year Tobacco kills around 8 million people and around 1.6 million death occurs in the South-East Asia Region.



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**48. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has Unveiled Its First Hydrogen Powered Train Named "Hybari " Taking A Step Toward Country Carbon Nuetral ?**

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

Japan’s largest railway company will begin testing the country’s first hydrogen-fueled train next month in a step toward the nation’s goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

The two car “Hybari” train -- a combination of hybrid and the Japanese word for a lark -- cost about 4 billion yen (\$35 million) to develop and can travel up to 140 kilometers (87 miles) at a top speed of 100 km/h on a single filling of hydrogen.

East Japan Railway Co., which developed the train in partnership with Toyota Motor Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. plan to use them to replace its diesel fleet and look to export markets. Commercial services should begin in 2030.

Europe has been a pioneer in hydrogen trains, with Germany rolling out the world’s first train built by Alstom SA in 2018. Siemens AG and Deutsche Bahn AG are developing new regional trains and special fueling stations and will test them in 2024.

**Japan to test run its first hydrogen train**



Japan’s largest railway company will begin testing the country’s first hydrogen-fueled train next month in a step toward the nation’s goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The two-car “Hybari” train — a combination of hybrid and the Japanese word for a lark — cost about \$35 million to develop and can travel up to 140km at a top speed of 100kmph on a single filling of hydrogen. East Japan Railway Co., which developed the train in partnership with Toyota Motor Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. plan to use them to replace its diesel fleet and look to export markets. Commercial services should begin in 2030. Japan has made hydrogen a key clean-energy source to reach net zero. The government has said it aims to boost hydrogen’s usage amount to 20 million tons by 2050. Europe has been a pioneer in hydrogen trains, with Germany rolling out the world’s first such train in 2018.

BLOOMBERG

**49. Recently In February India signed an agreement with the United Nation’s World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of \_\_\_\_\_ tonnes of wheat that it has committed to sending \_\_\_\_\_ as part of humanitarian assistance. The World Food Programme (WFP) is headquartered in \_\_\_\_\_ was formally established in \_\_\_\_\_ by the the FAO and the United Nations General Assembly ?**

- A. 50000 Tonns , Afghanistan , Rome , 1961**
- B. 40000 Tonnes , Nepal , Paris , 1956**
- C. 30000 Tonnes , Bangladesh , New York , 1965**
- D. 10000 Tonnes , Bhutan , London , 1976**

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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.

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. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.

It is headquartered in Rome.

The WFP was established in 1961 by the FAO and the United Nations General Assembly

50. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has **officially listed koalas as endangered species** As its most of the habitat has been destroyed due to bushfires, drought, and land clearing activities. ?

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

Australia has officially listed koalas as endangered species. Its most of the habitat has been destroyed due to bushfires, drought, and land clearing activities.

Koala species are inhabited in Australia for at least 25 million years. At present, only one species remains — the *Phascolarctos cinereus*.

It is found in the forest and coastal areas of the southeast and eastern sides of Australia.

Koala species survive on eucalyptus leaves and sleep for 18 hours a day to conserve energy.

The number of Koalas has declined drastically since 2001 and they were classified as "vulnerable" in 2012. The spread of chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease, also impacted the reproductive part of Koalas. The Australian government will spend \$35 million over the next four years for the conservation and recovery of the koala population. Koala is an arboreal herbivorous animal and is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN red list.

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51. Recently In February India Signed A letter of intent With \_\_\_\_\_ on **New and Renewable Energy Technology** That Will help in reducing the cost of new and renewable energy technologies ?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Germany
- C. Australia**
- D. Maldives

India and Australia have signed a letter of intent (LoI) on new and renewable energy technology aimed at scaling up manufacturing and deployment of ultra low-cost solar and clean hydrogen.

India and Australia have signed a letter of intent (LoI) on new and renewable energy technology aimed at scaling up manufacturing and deployment of ultra low-cost solar and clean hydrogen.

The LoI was signed during the 4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue held on Tuesday, February 15. The dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh the Australian Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Angus Taylor.

52. Recently In February India and \_\_\_\_\_ have signed the **work plan 2022** during the \_\_\_\_\_ annual meeting of the **Working Group on Quality Infrastructure** ?

- A. Australia, 6<sup>TH</sup>
- B. Maldives, 7<sup>TH</sup>
- C. Germany, 8<sup>TH</sup>**
- D. France, 4<sup>TH</sup>

India and Germany have signed the work plan 2022 during the 8th annual meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure.

The Working Group meeting is being held every year since 2013. It identifies areas of cooperation for strengthening quality infrastructure.

The Work Plan 2022 will create a roadmap for collaboration towards well-functioning and resilient systems of quality infrastructures. The Work Plan 2022 agreed between both countries will include collaboration in mobility, energy, circular economy, smart farming/ agriculture, etc. It will help in reducing technical trade barriers, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection. Germany also shared the outcome of the Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII).

India has been kept on 7th position on standardization aspect, 9th for Accreditation activities and 19th for the Metrology related activities.



## Lulu group to invest ₹400 cr to set up food park in Kerala

UAE-BASED retail major Lulu Group on Tuesday said it will invest ₹400 crore to set up food park in Kerala. The announcement was made by Lulu group chairman Yusuffali MA during food sector exhibition, Gul-food'22 being held at Dubai World Trade Centre.

## Govt brings in new rules for children on two-wheelers

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Wednesday notified new safety rules for two-wheelers carrying children aged between nine months and four years. As per the new regulations, children are required to wear a crash helmet and a safety harness. The new rules also impose a speed limit of 40 kilometres/hour on two-wheelers with children as pillion riders. The Motor Vehicles Act has been amended to introduce these rules. "These rules will come into force from February 15, 2023," the ministry said. Safety harnesses will be worn both, by the rider and the pillion, allowing for children to be securely attached to the rider. According to the new rules, safety harnesses need to be lightweight, durable, made from nylon, with the capacity to hold weight up to 30 kgs, the notification said.

**BS REPORTER**

# After Free Trade Pact, 80% of Exports to UAE to be Duty Free

FTA aimed at increasing bilateral trade to \$100b in 5 years, from \$60b now

**Kirtika.Suneja**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** India is likely to export at least 80% of its products to the UAE duty-free once the bilateral free trade pact comes into effect.

The country would be able to export textiles worth an additional \$2 billion in the next two years and treble the plastics exports to the UAE under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which the two sides will sign on Friday, said people aware of the matter.

The pact is aimed at increasing bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next five years, from \$60 billion now. It is also expected to create more than 500,000 jobs in India's gems and jewellery, textiles, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automobiles, leather, sports goods and furniture sectors, as per industry estimates.

### Trade Benefits

**80% of India's exports to UAE may get duty-free access**

**Zero duty on sports goods, furniture exports likely**

**5 lakh jobs to be created in India, 1 lakh in UAE**

**•Additional \$2 billion textile exports seen of which \$650 million is manmade fibre**

**Plastic exports expected to rise to \$1.3 billion from \$418 million**



"Almost all sensitivities have been taken care of. It is a win-win deal for both the sides. Around one lakh jobs are expected to get created in the UAE," said an official, who did not wish to be identified.

India is keen to get duty-free market access for its fresh and frozen bovine meat, cheese, spices, certain organic chemicals and paper products. Sports goods and furni-

ture exports to the UAE could also get zero-duty access while India's plastic exports could rise to \$1.3 billion from about \$418 million at present. Industry had identified about 1,100 products, including washing machines, ACs, refrigerators, spices, tobacco, cotton fabrics, textiles and leather; whose exports it wanted to increase through the pact. "We expect exports of plain

and studded gems and jewellery to increase to \$10 billion by 2023 and double thereafter in the next five years," said the official.

Industry has sought abolition of 5% import duty on the exports of gold, silver and platinum jewellery from India to the UAE, as exports of these goods shrank to \$1.18 billion in 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In December last year, the UAE lifted a ban on import of eggs and other poultry products from India, conceding a long-standing demand.

Negotiations for the CEPA were launched in September 2021, India's first such trade deal in the Gulf region. It is likely to cover areas such as goods, services, rules of origin, digital trade, government procurement and investment.

The UAE is India's third largest trade partner. It was India's second-largest export destination after the United States in the previous fiscal, with exports amounting to about \$29 billion.



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**Banking / Economy News**

**53. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following Has *Partnered With Indain Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) To Launch Co Branbded Rupay Contactless Credit Card ?***

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

BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) have launched the IRCTC BoB RuPay contactless credit card.

Cardholders can also use this card to transact at international merchants and ATMs through the JCB network

The 'IRCTC BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card' is specially curated to offer the maximum savings to the frequent travellers on the Indian Railways,

**IRCTC Chairman and Managing Director Rajni Hasija BFSL  
 Managing Director and CEO Shailendra Singh**

**BOB Financial, IRCTC launch co-branded RuPay contactless credit card**



The co-branded credit card will offer 4 reward points on grocery and departmental stores (Image for representation).

3 min read • Updated: 21 Feb 2022, 02:44 PM IST

Livemint



- The card is specially curated to offer maximum savings to frequent railway travellers

🔖 🔗 AA

BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) have launched the IRCTC BoB RuPay contactless credit card.

✕ Close

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**54. Recently In Febraury Tata Power Has Partnered With RWE**

**Renewables Of Which Of The Following Country To Explore The Potential For Joint Developemtn Of Offshore Wind Project In India ?**

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

## Tata Power, RWE ink pact to explore offshore wind projects

Deal in line with Centre’s aim of 30 GW of offshore wind installations by 2030

**OUR BUREAU**  
 Mumbai, February 21  
 Tata Power and German electricity generating company RWE have agreed on a partnership to explore the potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India.

A MoU has been signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy, a 100 percent subsidiary of Tata Power which is one of India’s largest integrated power companies, and RWE Renewables GmbH, one of the world’s leaders in offshore wind.

**Identifying potential**  
 Both will conduct technical and commercial site assessments and evaluate Indian offshore wind supply chain and supporting infrastructure, such as ports and grid connections, to identify the local strengths as well as ne-

cessary development potential.

**Global expertise**  
 Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director of Tata Power, said: “RWE is our ideal partner to support Tata Power’s plans to enhance and grow offshore wind business based on its global expertise in running and operating offshore wind projects.”

**Unexplored market**  
 The companies state that India is an unexplored and highly attractive market to develop opportunities for offshore wind as it has a large coastline of about 7,600 km. The MoU becomes significant in the light of the Indian Government’s announcement of achieving 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind installations by 2030 to



meet the country’s growing power demands.

**Clean regulations needed**  
 Sven Utermöhlen, CEO Wind Offshore of RWE Renewables, explains: “If clear regulations and an effective tender scheme are in place, we expect India’s offshore wind industry will gain a real momentum. RWE wants to be part of this development.”

The RWE Group has more than 120 years’ experience of electricity generation. Founded in 1898 as a municipal utility, RWE today is a leading global player in renewables. RWE has developed 17 offshore wind farms in five countries. By 2030, RWE intends to triple its global offshore wind capacity from currently 2.4 GW to 8 GW (capacity represents RWE share only).

RWE and Tata Power have agreed on a partnership to explore the potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India. A corresponding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, a 100 percent subsidiary of Tata Power, which is one of India’s largest integrated power companies, and RWE Renewables GmbH, one of the world’s leaders in offshore wind.

Partnership aims to support the establishment of a competitive and sustainable offshore wind market Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd adds its experience of the Indian renewable power sector RWE contributes its extensive technical and commercial expertise from a 20 year track record in offshore wind

**Sven Utermöhlen, CEO Wind Offshore of RWE Renewables Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director of Tata Power**

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If there are any suggestions/errors in this PDF contact us via this email: [support@crackwithjack.com](mailto:support@crackwithjack.com)

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**55. Recently In Febraury Tata Consultancy Has Launched Which Of The Following Programme In Sydney Australia To Bring The Company's global capabilities to the Australian market**

- A. Janta Garage
- B. Digital Garage**
- C. Meta Garage
- D. Saarthi Garage

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has launched a 'Digital Garage' in Sydney, Australia, to bring the company's global capabilities to the Australian market. The 'Digital Garage', an innovation and digital collaboration centre, is the first such centre in Asia-Pacific, adding to the other such centres in New York, Pittsburg, Amsterdam, and Tokyo.

"The advanced research hub is designed to holistically look at innovation, helping businesses establish their competitive differentiation, increase speed to market,

Digital Garage' provides access to the TCS global ecosystem of academia, startups, and technology providers.

**TCS launches 'Digital Garage' in Sydney to drive innovation**



Digital Garage provides access to the TCS global ecosystem of academia, startups, and technology providers. Photo: Aniruddha Chowdhury/Mint

2 min read • Updated: 21 Feb 2022, 02:21 PM IST

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- TCS' Digital Garage, an innovation and digital collaboration centre, is the first such centre in Asia-Pacific, adding to the other such centres in New York, Pittsburg, Amsterdam, and Tokyo

🔖 🔗 AA

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has launched a 'Digital Garage' in Sydney, Australia, to bring the company's global capabilities to the Australian market. The 'Digital Garage', an

**56. Recently In Febraury What Is Name Of The Subsdiary Of FedEral Bank Which filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO) ?**

- A. FedFina**
- B. FedFirm
- C. FedJet
- D. FedMirror

## FedFina files IPO papers with SEBI

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, February 20

Federal Bank subsidiary FedBank Financial Services (FedFina) has filed a draft red herring prospectus with SEBI for an initial public offering.

**The details**

The IPO will comprise fresh issue of equity shares up to ₹900 crore and an offer for sale of up to 4.57 crore shares.

As part of the OFS, Federal Bank will sell up to 1.64 crore shares while True North Fund VI LLP will offload up to 2.92 crore shares.



According to the prospectus, the company may in consultation with the book running lead managers, consider a private placement of up to 20 per cent of the fresh issue for cash consideration up to ₹180 crore, prior to filing of the red herring pro-

spectus with the RoC. The net proceeds of the offer will augment its Tier-I capital base.

"...the offer includes a reservation for subscription by eligible employees of our bank and FedFina (as defined in the DRHP) and a reservation for subscription by our Bank's shareholders (as defined in the DRHP)," Federal Bank said in a stock exchange filing on Sunday.

As on February 19, 2022, Federal Bank held 23.56 crore equity shares of FedFina, aggregating to 73.31 per cent of the issued, subscribed and

paid-up share capital of the company.

"...post undertaking the proposed IPO, FedFina will continue to be a subsidiary of our bank," Federal Bank further said.

FedFina acquired a NBFC licence in 2010 and at present has over 520 branches across the country. It caters to products like gold loan, home loan, loan against property (LAP) and business loan.

ICICI Securities, Equirus Capital, IIFL Securities and JM Financial are the BRLM to the offer.



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Shares of Federal Bank on Monday gained over two per cent after its subsidiary Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (FedFina) filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

FedFina has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an IPO. The public issue consists of a fresh issue aggregating up to Rs 900 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 45,714,286 equity shares by promoter and investor, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

**Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kochi.**

**57. Recently In February Which Of The Telecom Major Company Ha Joined SEA ME WE Undersea Cable Consortium To Scale Up Its High Speed Global Network Capacity To Serve India's Fast Digital economy ?**

- A. Airtel**
- B. JIO**
- C. BSNL**
- D. VI**

• **Recently In February RELiance Has Announced To Launch Its Jio IAX Undersea Cable System In Which Of The Following Country ?**

- A. Nepal**
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. Maldives**
- D. Afghanistan**

**Airtel joins undersea cable consortium**

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, February 21

Bharti Airtel on Monday said that it has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast growing digital economy.

The 19,200 Rkm SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France, and will be amongst the largest undersea cable systems globally, Airtel said.

Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will add 100 TBps capacity to its global network. Airtel has acquired one fiber pair on the main SEA-ME-WE-6 system and will co-build four fiber pairs between Singapore-Chennai-Mumbai as part of the cable system. Airtel will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai, it said.

**Reliance Jio's IAX undersea cable system to land in Maldives**

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, February 21

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (jio) will land the next-generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives, the company announced on Monday.

The project will land in the island nation Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives. The IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with the world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.

**To be ready by 2023**

The IAX system originates in Mumbai in the west and connects directly to Singapore, in-

cluding additional landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The India Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy.

It includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean.

IAX is expected to be ready for service by end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024, the company said.

"These high capacities and high-speed systems will provide more than 200Tb/s of capacity at speeds of 100Gb/s, stretching over 16,000 km. Employing open system technology and the latest wavelength switched RoADM/branching units ensures rapid upgrade deployment...", it said.





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Bharti Airtel has joined the 'SEA-ME-WE-6' undersea cable consortium in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast-growing digital economy.

Airtel said it is participating as a "major investor" in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring **20 per cent of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025.**

**The 12 other consortium members of SEA-ME-WE-6 include Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company, Dhiraagu (Maldives), Djibouti Telecom, Mobily (Saudi Arabia), Orange (France), Singtel (Singapore), Sri Lanka Telecom, Telecom Egypt, Telekom Malaysia, and Telin (Indonesia).**

The 19,200 Rkm (route kilometres) SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France, and will be among the largest undersea cable system globally. Airtel will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (Jio) will land the next-generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives

**The project will land in the island nation Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives. The IAX system will connect Hulhumale' directly with the world's major internet hubs in India and Singapore** The India Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy

IAX is expected to be ready for service by end-2023, while IEX will be ready for service in mid-2024,

**58. Recently In February Wego An Online Travel Platform Has Partnered With Which Of The Following For To Acquire West Asia Business Of Cleartrip ?**

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

Wego, an online travel marketplace in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, said it had signed a definitive agreement with the Flipkart Group, to acquire the West Asia business of Cleartrip, an online travel portal owned by Flipkart.

The transaction would also include the sale of Flyin.com, a Riyadh-based hotel rooms and flight tickets booking platform Cleartrip acquired earlier, and a technology cooperation agreement between Wego and Flipkart

**Wego to buy Cleartrip's West Asia business**

BENGALURU

Wego, an online travel marketplace in the Middle East and North Africa region, said it had signed a definitive agreement with the Flipkart Group, to acquire the West Asia business of Cleartrip, an online travel portal owned by Flipkart. The transaction would also include the sale of Flyin.com, a Riyadh-based hotel rooms and flight tickets booking platform Cleartrip acquired earlier, the company said in a release.

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**59. Recently In February IIFL Home Finance Has Inked Pact With Asian Development Bank for How Much Amount For Affordable Green Housing For LOWER Income Group In India ?**

- A. USD 68 Million**
- B. Usd 49 Million**
- C. Usd 6 million**
- D. USD 60 Million**

IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL) has signed a \$68-million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve financial access to affordable green housing for lower-income groups in India.

The funding comprises a direct ADB loan of up to \$58 million and a \$10-million concessional loan by the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia (CFPS). The Canadian funding will also be routed through ADB.

This is ADB's first such agreement with the private sector in the country. From ADB's loan, 80 per cent will be earmarked for lending to women borrowers or co-borrowers and 20 per cent will be allocated to financing mortgages for green-certified homes.

Monu Ratra, MD & CEO, IIFL HFL

## IIFL Home Finance inks \$68 m loan agreement with ADB

To boost affordable green housing

**KR SRIVATS**

New Delhi, February 21

IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL) has signed a \$68-million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve financial access to affordable green housing for lower-income groups in India.

The funding comprises a direct ADB loan of up to \$58 million and a \$10-million concessional loan by the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia (CFPS). The Canadian funding will also be routed through ADB.

This is ADB's first such agreement with the private sector in the country. From



This is ADB's first such pact with the private sector in India

ADB's loan, 80 per cent will be earmarked for lending to women borrowers or co-borrowers and 20 per cent will be allocated to financing mortgages for green-certified homes. The CFPS loan will support IIFL HFL's green housing portfolio, specifically towards incentivising developers to adopt green certification standards in building affordable housing. Monu Ratra, MD & CEO, IIFL HFL, said, "Funding

from ADB will help us to improve the penetration of green affordable housing in deeper markets of India and fulfill the dreams of many Indian families to own their own homes. We are glad to be partnering with ADB in our growth journey."

### Fighting climate change

"By leveraging IIFL HFL's focus on financial inclusion and CPFS' leadership on climate-resilient housing, ADB can help low-income communities to manage the impacts of climate change," said ADB Director General, Private Sector Operations Suzanne Gaboury.

IIFL HFL provides affordable home loans to the economically weaker section (EWS), low-income group (LIG) and middle-income group (MIG).

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**60. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Acquired 9.49 % Stake In Verve Financial Services For Nearly 20 Crore ?**

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

ICICI Bank said it has acquired 9.49% stake in Verve Financial Services Pvt Ltd. for nearly ₹20 crore, according to an exchange filing.

The lender said since the acquisition of shareholding is below 10%, regulatory approval is not required and the transaction is expected to close by March-end.

**ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in the city of Vadodara, India. CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi**

**ICICI Bank buys 9.49% stake in Verve Financial Services**



On Monday, ICICI Bank shares rose 0.69% to close at ₹754.05 apiece on NSE.

1 min read • Updated: 21 Feb 2022, 07:03 PM IST

Livemint



- ICICI Bank said since the acquisition of shareholding is below 10%, regulatory approval is not required and the transaction is expected to close by March-end

🔖 🔗 AA

Private lender ICICI Bank said it has acquired 9.49% stake in Verve Financial Services Pvt Ltd. for nearly ₹20 crore, according to an exchange filing.

✕ Close

**61. Recently In February The Union government has filed a DRHP with the stock market regulator for selling \_\_\_\_\_ % of its shares in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India , DRHP Stands For \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. 10 % , Draft Red Herring Priority**
- B. 5 % , Draft Recurring Herring Prospectus**
- C. 5% , Draft Red Herring Prospectus**
- D. 7 % , Draft Readiness Herring Prospectus**



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The Union government has filed a draft red herring prospectus with the stock market regulator for selling 5% of its shares in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.

A Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) is a document that is prepared to introduce a new business or product to a potential investor.

This is not a final document for an investor, but rather a way of demonstrating value and providing investors with enough information for them to decide whether they want to invest in the company or not.

The IPO is an 100% OFS [offer for sale] by the Government of India and entails no fresh issue of

In order to protect investors, Sebi has laid down rules that require companies to meet certain criteria before they can go to the public to raise funds. LIC has 66% market share in New Business Premiums. Its embedded value as on 30 September 2021 is Rs 5,39,686 crore (about INR 5.4 trillion).

Among other conditions, the company must have net tangible assets of at least Rs 3 crore, and net worth of Rs 1 crore in each of the preceding three full years, and it must have a minimum average pre-tax profit of Rs 15 crore in at least three of the immediately preceding five years.

## Govt files LIC DRHP, may mop up ₹1-lakh cr

Indian Embedded Value pegged at ₹5.40-lakh crore

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, February 13

The Union government may mop up ₹1-lakh crore from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) IPO going by the details of embedded value in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), which was filed with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Sunday evening.

The DRHP has pegged the Indian Embedded Value (IEV) – a measure of future cash flows in life insurance com-



The issue is expected to hit the market next month

panies, and the key financial gauge for insurers – at around ₹5.40-lakh crore. Taking a multiple of four on the IEV, market valuation could be ₹21.6-lakh crore.

On this basis, the government could easily get over ₹1-lakh crore from LIC IPO.

The government plans to sell 5 per cent of its holding in LIC through the IPO, aggregating to 31.62 crore shares, 35 per cent of which will be reserved for retail investors who put up bids of up to ₹2 lakh. Ten per cent of the offer is reserved for policy holders and 5 per cent for employees.

“The DRHP (Draft Red Herring Prospectus) of LIC IPO has been filed today with the SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India),” Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), said in a tweet posted late in the evening.

Once the regulator gives its

final observation, the insurance major will announce the date of the issue and the price.

It is expected that the issue will hit the market next month.

“The Offer has been authorised by resolution of our Board dated February 11, 2022. The Draft Red Herring Prospectus has been approved by our Board pursuant to a resolution passed on February 13, 2022.

The Selling Shareholder, through its letter dated February 11, 2022 conveyed its approval for the Offer for Sale of up to 316,249,885 (31.62 crore) Equity Shares,” the DRHP said.

[Also read p2](#)



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**62. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Jio Satellite Broadband Joint Venture :**

- 1. Jio Platform Has Forayed Into satellite Broadband In Partnership With London Based Space Technology Firm SES To Deliver Affordable Broadband Service**
- 2. Both The Firm Will Form " Jio Space Technology " Which Will Use Multi Orbit Space Networks Utilising The Capacity Of Low Earth Orbit Satellite**

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

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

## RJio in satellite broadband deal with SES

Reliance's entry will strengthen the case for auctioning satellite spectrum

**AYUSHI KAR**

Mumbai, February 14

Mukesh Ambani-backed Reliance Industries entered the satellite broadband race on Monday by announcing a joint venture between Jio Platforms Limited and SES, a Luxembourg-based satellite telecommunications provider.

Jio and SES will own 51 per cent and 49 per cent equity stake in the joint venture, respectively. The joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks, a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the country and neighbouring regions.

As part of the investment plan, the joint venture will de-

velop extensive gateway infrastructure in India to provide services within the country. Jio, as an anchor customer of the joint venture, has entered into a multi-year capacity purchase agreement, based on certain milestones, along with gateways and equipment purchase, with a total contract value of \$100 million.

Akash Ambani, Director of Jio, said: "While we continue to expand our fibre-based connectivity and FTTH business and invest in 5G, this new joint venture with SES will further accelerate the growth of multi-gigabit broadband.

"With additional coverage and capacity offered by satellite communications services, Jio will be able to connect the remotest towns and villages, enterprises, government establishments and consumers



to the new Digital India."

**Taking on OneWeb, Starlink** Jio will be competing with Bharti-backed OneWeb and Elon Musk's Starlink, among other players. Jio's entry will also put the weight behind those who have been arguing in favour of conducting an auction for spectrum broadband services.

While the satcom industry has been clamouring for satellite spectrum to be allocated with the argument that it cannot operate otherwise, Reli-

ance's entry into the space endorses the position that a business case for the satcom industry still exists even if spectrum is auctioned. Reliance has been vocal about auctioning spectrum, instead of allocating it.

Traditionally, satellite spectrum has not been auctioned, rather it was allocated. However, the satcom industry is just round the corner of a new disruption, where new satellite technology is emerging to provide high bandwidth broadband at low latency. Satellites such as high throughput geostationary orbit satellites, low earth orbit satellites and even certain medium earth orbit can be used to provide broadband at low latency.

As satcom operators venture into the business of providing similar broadband services like terrestrial telecom operators, telcos such as Vodafone and Reliance-Jio were seeking

to auction satellite spectrum as well, arguing the same services need the same rules. Bharti does not support the stance as its key promoter Sunil Mittal owns the largest stake in UK-based OneWeb, which has been eyeing the Indian market for broadband and backhaul services.

### 'A principled stance'

A senior executive at Reliance Jio told *BusinessLine*: "Our stance is a principled one, where spectrum that is going to be used for access (used directly by end-user) should be auctioned; we want to avoid another 2G scam like situation, where tomorrow someone misuses allocated spectrum."

For Reliance-Jio the joint venture with SES allows the telco to use satellite services to complement their terrestrial set-up and, therefore, allow for the dynamic utilisation of spectrum in "the most efficient manner".

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Digital services company Jio Platforms has formed a joint-venture with Luxembourg-based satellite-linked content connectivity solutions provider SES to deliver satellite broadband services across India.

The joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of GEO (geostationary equatorial orbit) and MEO (medium earth orbit) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions.

The joint venture will be the vehicle for providing SES's satellite data and connectivity services in India, except for certain international aeronautical and maritime customers who may be served by SES. Digital services company Jio Platforms has formed a joint-venture with Luxembourg-based satellite-linked content connectivity solutions provider SES to deliver satellite broadband services across India.

The joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of GEO (geostationary equatorial orbit) and MEO (medium earth orbit) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions. The joint venture will be the vehicle for providing SES's satellite data and connectivity services in India, except for certain international aeronautical and maritime customers who may be served by SES.

63. Recently In February As a part of the **Fintech Open Month**, NITI Aayog in association with \_\_\_\_\_ will be hosting the **first-ever open-to-all Hackathon** event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the FinTech space ?

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

As a part of the Fintech Open Month, NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all Hackathon event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the FinTech space.

The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code

Its main aim is to showcase path-breaking solutions for the Fintech Ecosystem. The winners of the Hackathon will be announced on 28 February. The first prize winner will get a cash prize of Rs 1 50,000 while the second place winner will get an award of Rs 1,00,000.



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**64. Recently In February Market regulator**

**Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made it voluntary for listed companies to separate the role of chairperson and managing director or Chief Executive Officer from**

**\_\_\_\_\_ For The Top \_\_\_\_\_**

**Companies ?**

- A. 1<sup>ST</sup> April 2023 , 500
- B. 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 , 250
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 , 500**
- D. 1<sup>ST</sup> July 2022 , 100

**REGULATOR TAKES A U-TURN**

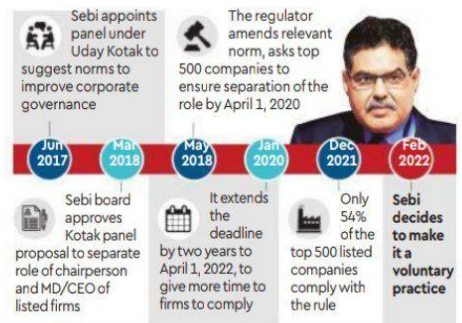
**Not must to split roles of chairman, MD: Sebi**

**Industry bodies hail the move; analysts warn of conflict of interest**

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, February 15

**CAPITAL MARKETS REGULATOR** Sebi on Tuesday did away with the mandatory requirement for listed companies to separate the role of chairperson and managing director (MD) or chief executive officer (CEO). It will now be a voluntary practice.

The U-turn, forced by 'unsatisfactory level of compliance', came almost four years after the regulator had stipulated the rule to improve corporate governance and less than two months before the deadline (April 1) for top firms to do so was to end. According to Sebi, only 54%



Sebi appoints panel under Uday Kotak to suggest norms to improve corporate governance

The regulator amends relevant norm, asks top 500 companies to ensure separation of the role by April 1, 2020

Sebi board approves Kotak panel proposal to separate role of chairperson and MD/CEO of listed firms

It extends the deadline by two years to April 1, 2022, to give more time to firms to comply

Only 54% of the top 500 listed companies comply with the rule

Sebi decides to make it a voluntary practice

of the top 500 listed firms complied with its rule by December 2021. In fact, over the past two years, the rule hasn't found many takers (50.4% of the companies had already complied by September 2019). "...hence, expecting the remaining about 46% of the top 500 listed companies to comply with these

norms by the target date would be a tall order," the regulator said after its board meeting. Many well-known companies, including RIL, JSW Steel, Bharat Forge, TVS Motors and Raymond, haven't yet complied with the Sebi stipulation.

Continued on Page 4

**Sitharaman asks Sebi to launch next-generation reforms**

FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA Sitharaman on Tuesday asked capital markets regulator Sebi to prepare for any possible market turbulence in the wake of tapering by the US Federal Reserve and also undertake the "next-generation reforms" to ensure greater ease of doing business, reports **fe Bureau** in



**New Delhi.** In her customary post-Budget address to the Sebi board, the finance minister highlighted the need to further slash the compliance burden of India Inc, reduce the cost of market intermediation and bolster investor protection mechanism.

Page 4

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday said the requirement to split Chairperson and Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer positions at 500 listed companies will not be mandatory and will be implemented on a voluntary basis. The listed entities were required to split the roles before April 2022

SEBI further said that, with the revised deadline less than two months away, it found that the compliance status which stood at 50.4% amongst the top 500 listed companies as on September 2019, has progressed to only 54% as at the end of December 2021.

Expecting the remaining about 46% of the top 500 listed companies to comply with these norms by the target date would be a tall order,

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65. Recently In February *India's milk production* has increased by 35.04% To \_\_\_\_\_ during 2015-16 to 2020-21 ?
- a. 148.15 Mt
  - b. 150 Mt
  - c. 155 Mt
  - d. 160 Mt

India's milk production has increased by 35.04% during 2015-16 to 2020-21.

India's milk production increased from 155 mt in 2015-16 to 210 mt in 2020-21.

Karnataka's milk production has increased by 72.39% from 6.3 mt in 2015-16 to 10.9 mt in 2020-21.

Uttar Pradesh is the top producer of milk. Its production declined by 1.58% over 2019-20. Its production increased by 18.84% during the period between 2015-16 and 2020-21.

The milk production in the states declined in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim in 2020-21 in comparison to 2019-20.

66. Recently In February *Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Have Mandated Resolution professionals (RPs) to preserve electronic records which give a complete account of CIRP for minimum of \_\_\_\_\_ years ?*
- A. 7 Years
  - B. 6 Years
  - C. 8 Years
  - D. 5 Years

Resolution professionals (RPs) have been mandated by IBBI to preserve electronic records which give a complete account of CIRP for minimum of 8 years.

Physical copies of records that give a complete account of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) have to be preserved for minimum of 3 years.

RPs cannot reject requests of Committee of Creditors (CoC) members (representing at least 33% voting rights).

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has officially said that RPs have to place proposals moved by CoC members in the meeting of CoCs.



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67. Recently In February Government is working to tighten Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme to plug leakages. Government has allocated \_\_\_\_\_ for 2022-23 In Budget For MGNREGA ?

- A. Rs 98000 Cr
- B. Rs 73000 Cr
- C. Rs 75000 Cr
- D. Rs 125000 Cr

## Govt to tighten MGNREGA scheme to plug 'leakages'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, February 13

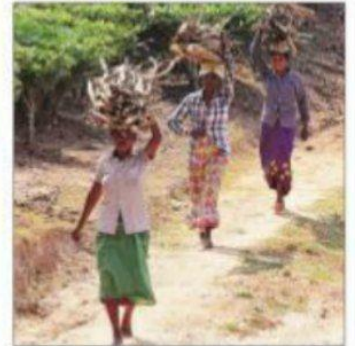
THE GOVERNMENT IS working to tighten the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme as 'tremendous leakages' have been noticed in the flagship rural jobs programme for the past two years, a top official said.

The Centre has allocated ₹73,000 crore for 2022-23, which is 25% lower than the ₹98,000 crore provided in the revised estimate (RE) for the current fiscal.

The allocation for the next fiscal is same as was budget estimate (BE) for the current fiscal, which will end in March 2022. The official said in the last two years, the RE has been higher than the BE significantly and it has been noticed that tremendous leakages are going on and middlemen are taking money for enrolling names of beneficiaries under the scheme.

"Direct Benefit Transfer has succeeded in reaching money directly to the person, but still there are human systems... There are middlemen who are telling the people that I will put your name in the MGNREGA master roll, but you will have to withdraw cash and give me after you get the DBT transfer. It is happening in a big way," the official told PTI.

"It is a recent phenomenon in the last two years. So much



now a temptation to grab the money deceitfully. The ministry of rural development will tighten it," he added.

Explaining the modus operandi, the official further said that the arrangement between the beneficiary and the middlemen is that since the beneficiary is giving some share to the middleman he would not even go for work and hence no work is taking place.

"The government has been very liberal in allocating MNREGA funds in the last two years. We put in ₹1.11 lakh crore in 2020-21. It used to be ₹35,000 crore in 2014-15," the official said.

During the first Covid19 lockdown in 2020, when the scheme was ramped up and given its highest-ever budget of ₹1.11 lakh crore, higher than the Budget estimate of ₹61,500 crore. For the next financial year, the budget allocation is ₹73,000 crore, while the revised estimates for the current fiscal were the same

Government is working to tighten Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme to plug leakages.

Government has allocated Rs 73,000 crore for 2022-23. This is 25% lower than Rs 98,000 crore provided in Revised Estimate (RE) for the current fiscal.

The allocation for next fiscal has been kept the same as the budget estimate (BE) for the fiscal ending in March 2022.

In the last two years, the RE for the scheme has been higher than the BE significantly. Government allocated Rs 1.11 lakh crore in 2020-21. In 2014-15, the allocation used to be Rs 35,000 crore.

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**68. Recently In February Rail tel has won the ICAI award for excellence in financial reporting in the Public Sector Entities category for the year 2020-21. RailTel is a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise. It was founded in \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. 2000**
- B. 2003
- C. 1999
- D. 2005

RailTel has won the ICAI award for excellence in financial reporting in the Public Sector Entities category for the year 2020-21.

**RailTel has been adjudged as winner in the 'plaque' category.**

The award has been conferred by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the country's preeminent accounting body. Despite the Covid epidemic, RailTel has recorded its highest-ever consolidated income of Rs 1,411 crore in FY 20-21, with an increase of 21%.

ICAI award was established to encourage higher standards in the preparation and presentation of financial statements information. The award has been given by ICAI annually.

**RailTel is a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise. It was founded in 2000.**

**69. Recently In February The deadline for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to adhere to new NPA recognition norms has been extended by RBI by \_\_\_\_\_. NBFCs will now have time till \_\_\_\_\_ to put in place the necessary systems to implement this provision ?**

- A. 1 Year , 31 March 2023
- B. 6 Months , 30 September, 2022**
- C. 3 Months , 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022
- D. 4 Months , 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

The deadline for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to adhere to new NPA recognition norms has been extended by RBI by six months. Earlier, 31 March, 2022 was the deadline for NBFCs to upgrade NPAs only after all arrears and principal dues are paid. NBFCs will now have time till 30 September, 2022 to put in place the necessary systems to implement this provision.

RBI has also issued a clarification that loans classified as NPA will be upgraded to the standard category only if all dues are paid. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs):

**Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and regulated by RBI under RBI Act, 1934. NBFCs are not allowed to accept demand deposits. Their depositors do not get a deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation. So, they are different from banks.**



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70. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ banks have announced subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) Public Sector Banks and financial institutions will hold a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ stake in IDRCL ?

- A. 4 , 49 %
- B. 5 , 49 %
- C. 6 , 51 %
- D. 3 , 51 %

**SBI, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank subscribe to shares of IDRCL**

Press Trust of India | 19/02/2022 | 2 days ago

Public sector banks SBI, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank on Friday said they have subscribed to 99,000 shares each of the yet to be operational asset reconstruction company IDRCL.

In a regulatory filing, country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) said it has acquired 99,000 shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), equivalent to 12.3 per cent stake.

It added that the holding will be brought down to 5 per cent by March 31, 2022.

"Bank of Baroda has subscribed to 99,000 shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)," the bank said in a separate regulatory filing.

The acquisition is subject to execution of investment agreement, it said.

The lender further said its equity stake of 12.30 per cent in IDRCL will be reduced to 9.90 per cent by March 31, 2022. The shares are to be subscribed at Rs 10 apiece.

Likewise, Union Bank of India (UBI) said it has subscribed to 99,000 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each in IDRCL towards the bank's initial subscription in the asset reconstruction company.

Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), equivalent to 12.3 per cent stake.

It added that the holding will be brought down to 5 per cent by March 31, 2022.

"Bank of Baroda has subscribed to 99,000 shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)," the bank said in a separate regulatory filing.

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The lender further said its equity stake of 12.30 per cent in IDRCL will be reduced to 9.90 per cent by March 31, 2022. The shares are to be subscribed at Rs 10 apiece.

Likewise, Union Bank of India (UBI) said it has subscribed to 99,000 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each in IDRCL towards the bank's initial subscription in the asset reconstruction company.

UBI said it will bring down the holding to 10 per cent in due course of time on subscription by other PSBs/FIs.

IDRCL is yet to become operational. As an asset management company, it will manage the asset and engage market professionals and turnaround experts for debt resolution.

Public sector banks (PSBs) and public financial institutions (FIs) will hold a maximum of 49 per cent stake in IDRCL and the rest will be with private sector banks.

Six banks have announced subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).

These banks are State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra.

State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India each have subscribed to 99,000 shares of IDRCL. PNB has subscribed to 90,000 shares.

Canara Bank has subscribed to 1.20 lakh shares. Bank of Maharashtra has subscribed to 50,000 shares.

National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) and IDRCL have been established by public sector and private sector banks and financial institutions. Public Sector Banks and financial institutions will hold a maximum of 49% stake in IDRCL. Private sector banks will hold the rest.

Public Sector Banks will hold 51% ownership in NARCL. Private Sector banks will have the rest.



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71. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has won **Best Technology Bank Of of the Year** award With Total \_\_\_\_\_ Awards at \_\_\_\_\_ edition of the annual IBA Banking Technology Awards ?

- A. Sate Bank Of India , 6 , 15<sup>th</sup>
- B. South Indian Bank , 6 , 17<sup>th</sup>**
- C. Axis Bank , 7 , 16<sup>th</sup>
- D. Punjab National Bank , 5 , 20<sup>th</sup>

### SOUTH INDIAN BANK BAGS 6 IBA AWARDS, INCLUDING BEST TECHNOLOGY BANK OF THE YEAR

The Kerala-headquartered South Indian Bank has bagged six awards, including 'Best Technology Bank of the Year', at the 17th edition of the prestigious annual IBA Banking Technology Awards. South Indian Bank received the awards, instituted by the Indian Banks' Association, representing 247 banking companies operating in India, in a virtual award ceremony held on February 14. This year's IBA Awards, celebrating "Next Gen Banking", has recognised technologies and practices in the banking industry that

have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year. With an amplified focus on technologies such as AI/ML, RPA, Data Analytics and Cloud Adoption, the bank has succeeded in bringing home the top awards in the respective categories. The bank's achievement in the Fintech arena is also noteworthy, displayed by an array of partnerships featuring new products and services for an enhanced customer experience, which helped it secure the top award in the category.

South Indian Bank has won Best Technology Bank of the Year award at 17th edition of the annual IBA Banking Technology Awards.

It has won total six out of the seven awards in the categories given below .

Winner - Best Technology Bank of the Year (Small Banks) Winner - Best IT Risk Management and Cyber Security Initiatives (Small Banks)

Winner - Best Fintech Collaboration (Small Banks) Joint winner - Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics (Small Banks)

Runner Up - Best Cloud Adoption (Small Banks)

Joint Runner Up - Best Payments Initiatives (among all private banks)

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

Karnataka Bank has won three banking tech awards at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards: 2020-21 Next Gen Banking. Karnataka Bank has won runner up awards under categories of Best Technology Bank of the Year, Best Fintech Adoption and Best Use of AI/ML & Data Analytics.

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**72. Recently In February The \_\_\_\_\_ has invested an undisclosed amount in Zand, an upcoming digital bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ?**

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. Reliance Industries
- C. Aditya BIRLA Group**
- D. Adani Green

The Aditya Birla Group has invested an undisclosed amount in Zand, an upcoming digital bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The USD 45-billion diversified conglomerate joins other investors like Franklin Templeton, Al Hail Holding LLC, Al Sayyah and Sons Investments LLC, Global Development Group, Mohamed Alabbar, Olivier Crespin, and Yusuff Ali M A as shareholders in the bank.

Zand said its launch is imminent and the entity will be the first digital bank to provide both retail and corporate services.

Zand's Chairman Mohamed Alabbar

## Aditya Birla Group invests in UAE digital bank

THE ADITYA BIRLA Group has invested an undisclosed amount in Zand, an upcoming digital bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The \$45-billion diversified conglomerate joins other investors like Franklin Templeton, Al Hail Holding, Al Sayyah and Sons Investments, Global Development Group, Mohamed Alabbar, Olivier Crespin, and Yusuff Ali M A as shareholders in the digital bank.

**73. Recently In February According To UNCTAD's Global Trade Update Overall, the value of global trade reached a record level of \_\_\_\_\_ in 2021 ?**

- A. USD 23.5 Bn
- B. USD 28.5 Tn**
- C. USD 33.5 Tn
- D. USD 36.9 Tn

## Global trade in 2021 rises 25% to touch \$28.5 tn: UNCTAD

Growth is expected to slow in 2022 due to dip in economic growth, challenges for global supply chains, debt sustainability

### AMITI SEN

New Delhi, February 17

Global trade in goods and services touched a record high of \$28.5 trillion in 2021 boosted by increases in commodity prices, subsiding pandemic restrictions and a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages, according to UNCTAD.

The growth recorded in global trade in 2021 was about 25 per cent relative to 2020 and 13 per cent compared to the pre-pandemic levels but is expected to slow in the first quarter of 2022, the Global Trade Update 2022

released by the UNCTAD on Thursday pointed out.

### Key factors

"The positive trend for international trade in 2021 was largely the result of increases in commodity prices, subsiding pandemic restrictions and a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages. As these trends are likely to abate, international trade trends are expected to normalise during 2022," the report stated.

Overall, world trade in 2022 is likely to be affected by factors such as slower than expected economic

growth, continuing challenges for global supply chains, rising concerns about debt sustainability, free trade agreements and government policies regulating the trade of high-carbon products, it added. The slowdown in growth of global trade expected in 2022 is, however, not likely to have a strong bearing on Indian exports, said Ajay Sahai, Director General, FIEO.

"India accounts for a small proportion of the total world trade and is unlikely to be affected by the predicted slowdown as there are other factors acting in favour," he said. Indian exports are likely to stay on the growth track supported by the various free trade agreements being signed such as with the UAE



Trade growth between developing countries (South-South) outpaced global trade during Q4 2021

and the UK and also the implementation of the production-linked incentive scheme in various sectors, he added. India's exports rebounded in the April-January 2021-22 period posting an increase of 46.73 per cent to \$335.88 billion over the comparable period of 2020-21, inching closer to the target of \$400 billion set for fiscal 2021-22 by the Commerce Department.

Trade in goods increased more strongly for develop-

ing than for developed countries in Q4 2021.

Exports of developing countries in Q4 2021 were about 30 per cent higher than in Q4 2020, while the growth for developed countries was about 15 per cent.

### Sector-wise growth

"Moreover, trade growth between developing countries (South-South) outpaced global trade during Q4 2021, with an increase of about 32 per cent relative to Q4 2020, and with an increase of about 38 per cent when excluding East Asian economies."

"Similar patterns are found when comparing Q4 2021 with the pre-pandemic level," the report stated. With the exception of transport

equipment, all economic sectors saw a substantial increase in trade in Q4 2021.

High fuel prices led to strong increase in the value of trade of the energy sector.

"Trade growth was also above average for metals and chemicals."

"As a result of the global shortage of semiconductors, trade growth in communication equipment, road vehicles and precision instruments was subdued during Q4 2021," it added.

Trade in goods and trade in services followed similar patterns during 2021, with stronger increases during the first half of the year.

Trade growth continued to be positive for both goods and services in Q3 2021 and especially in Q4 2021.

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UNCTAD's Global Trade Update published on 17 February shows that in 2021, world trade in goods remained strong and trade in services finally returned to its pre-COVID-19 levels.

“Overall, the value of global trade reached a record level of \$28.5 trillion in 2021,” the report says. That's an increase of 25% on 2020 and 13% higher compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

While most global trade growth took hold during the first half of 2021, progress continued in the year's second half.

After a relatively slow third quarter, trade growth picked up again in the fourth quarter, when trade in goods increased by almost \$200 billion, achieving a new record of \$5.8 trillion.

Meanwhile, trade in services rose by \$50 billion to reach \$1.6 trillion, just above pre-pandemic levels.

**74. Recently In January 2022, India's goods exports increased by 25.28% to \_\_\_\_\_**

**India's total exports Stands At \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. \$34.5 billion , \$335.88 billion.**
- B. \$ 25. 4 Billion , \$375.25billion.**
- C. \$37.8 billion , \$325.78 billion.**
- D. \$ 4134 Billion , \$335.88 billion.**

In January 2022, India's goods exports increased by 25.28% to \$34.5 billion. During April-January period of 2021-22, India's total exports increased by 46.73% to \$335.88 billion.

Total exports reached near to \$400 billion target set for financial year 2021-22 by the Commerce Department.

In January 2022, imports have shown an increase of 23.54% to \$51.93 billion. Gold imports have sharply fallen 40.52% in January 2022 to \$2.4 billion.

In January 2022, trade deficit increased to \$17.42 billion. It was \$14.49 billion in January 2021.

Imports have remained above \$50 billion in the last five months. In April-January 2021-22, imports were at \$495.75 billion.

Trade deficit may reach the peak level of \$190 billion seen in FY13. In April-January 2021-22, trade deficit more than doubled to \$159.87 billion. In April-January 2020-21, trade deficit stood at \$ 75.87 billion.



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## Exports rise 25% to \$34.5 bn in Jan.

Gold imports fall sharply to just \$2.4 billion; trade deficit reaches \$17.4 billion

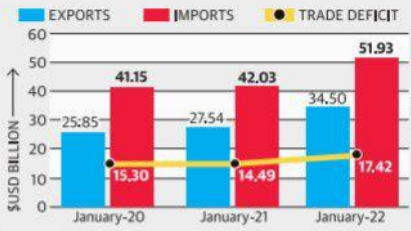
VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports touched \$34.5 billion in January, 25.3% higher than a year ago, while imports grew at a slightly slower pace, taking the country's trade deficit to a five-month low of \$17.4 billion, say official estimates released on Tuesday.

While January's goods exports are 8.75% lower than December's all-time record figure of \$37.81 billion, it takes India's exports near the \$400-billion target set for 2021-22, with the first 10 months of the year already clocking outbound shipments worth \$336 billion. This marks a nearly 47% increase from a year ago and a 27.1% increase over the pre-COVID period of 2019-20.

Gold imports fell sharply during January to just \$2.4 billion, 40.5% lower than that in the corresponding month in 2021 and almost

**Big leap** | India's merchandise exports increased by 25.3% year-on-year to \$34.5 billion in January 2022. Merchandise imports are estimated to be \$51.9 billion, with the growth rate at 23.5%



half the \$4.72 billion imported in the previous month.

**Biggest factor**

The decline in the yellow metal's imports was the biggest factor behind India's import bill dropping to \$51.9 billion in January, 12.7% lower than in December 2021.

Consequently, the trade deficit that had hit a record

\$22.9 billion in November 2021, and had averaged 21.7 billion since September, also dropped.

Exporters, however, said high imports remain a cause of concern with January's inbound shipments rising 23.5% year-on-year and staying above the \$50-billion mark.

"The surge in gold im-

ports in 2021 was driven by the pent-up demand of 2020 and we expect them to moderate to \$30-35 billion in this calendar year," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating firm ICRA.

"The fall in mobility and the demand for gold with the onset of the third wave and the associated restrictions, helped to pull back the merchandise trade deficit to the lowest level in five months, at \$17.4 billion," she noted.

The trade data released on Tuesday revised January's exports slightly upward from the \$34.06 billion estimated earlier this month, while imports were similarly revised down from \$52.01 billion.

Exports of coffee and petroleum products almost doubled in January, while cotton yarn and handloom products rose 42.4%.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Inflation edges past 6% in January

Rural India bears the brunt of spike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation accelerated past the 6% mark in January to hit 6.01%, breaching the central bank's tolerance threshold for consumer price inflation for the first time since June 2021. Retail inflation was 5.66% in December 2021.

Rural India bore the brunt of the inflation spike as per official data, with the pace of price rise touching 6.12% from 5.36% in December.

Inflation in urban India was virtually unchanged at

5.91% in January, from 5.9% a month earlier.

The Consumer Food Price Index spiked significantly from 4.05% in December to 5.43% in January, with rural India again reporting a sharper rise.

"Food inflation is high mainly due to the higher edible oils component, but the overall basket is below the headline number at 5.6%," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WHOLESALE PRICE INFLATION FALLS TO 12.96% PAGE 12

**75. Recently In January Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation reached \_\_\_\_\_ in January 2022 While Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation declined to \_\_\_\_\_ in January 2022 ?**

- A. 8.84% , 11.75 %
- B. 6.01 % , 12.96 %
- C. 9.32% , 13.58 %
- D. 5.96% , 13.76 %

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation reached above 6% in January 2022 as against 5.6% in December.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation declined to 12.96% in January 2022 as against 13.5% in December.

The reason for higher inflation rate was food and beverage inflation.

Core inflation (CPI excluding food and fuel) has remained at 5.96% in January as against 6.01% in December.

As per Commerce and Industry Ministry, double digit rate of wholesale inflation was caused by increase in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum and natural gas, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, food articles etc.

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76. Recently In February CBI has issued look out circulars against former chairman and managing director of \_\_\_\_\_ n a bank fraud case of over \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- A. Goa Shipyard , ₹27068 -crore
  - B. Cochin Shipyard, ₹26058-crore
  - C. ABG Shipyard , ₹22,842-crore**
  - D. Kolkata Shipyard , ₹25098-crore

The CBI on Tuesday said it has issued look out notices against Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, the former chairman and managing director of ABG Shipyard, and eight others in a bank fraud case of over Rs 22,842 crore.

The agency in a statement said Look Out Circulars (LOCs) have already been opened by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the accused, while maintaining that the accused have been located in India.

The State Bank of India (SBI) had also opened LOC against the main accused in 2019.

The CBI has booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its then chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks of over Rs 22,842 crore. It is the biggest bank fraud case registered by the CBI.

77. Recently In February According to the boardroom report by Deloitte India, board seats held by women in Indian companies have increased from 13.8 percent in 2018 to \_\_\_\_\_ percent in 2021 ?
- A. 16.5 %
  - B. 17.1 %**
  - C. 19.4 %
  - D. 20.4 %

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According to the boardroom report by Deloitte India, board seats held by women in Indian companies have increased from 13.8 percent in 2018 to 17.1 percent in 2021.

In Indian companies, 4.7 percent of chief executive officers and 3.9 percent of chief financial officers are women.

The number of women chairpersons has decreased in 2021 as compared to 2018. Globally, 19.7% of the board seats are held by women. It has increased by 2.8 % as compared to 2018.

At this pace, board seats held by women will reach 50% by 2045.

According to this report, the company that has women CEOs has more number of women in the board members.

Indian regulators have created a holistic framework to encourage the representation of women in key positions at corporates.

The stretch factor for women has slightly increased in 2021 from the figures of 2018. Australia (1.43), the US (1.33), and New Zealand (1.32) have the highest stretch factor for women.

In India, the average tenure of women directors has also increased from 5.0 years to 5.1 years in 2021.

**78. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Hurun India Wealth Report* :**

- 1. According to the *Hurun India Wealth Report 2021*, *India's millionaire (USD) households have increased by 11%* but the happiness Index has fallen as compared to the previous year.**
- 2. At present, *there are 4.58 lakh households that are millionaires in India*. These households have a net worth of at least ₹7 crores.**
- 3. *Mumbai topped the list of cities with the most number of millionaires, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.***

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

- A. Only 1 And 3**
- B. Only 1 And 2**
- C. Only 2 And 3**
- D. aLL of The Above**



According to the Hurun India Wealth Report 2021, India's millionaire (USD) households have increased by 11% but the happiness Index has fallen as compared to the previous year.

At present, there are 4.58 lakh households that are millionaires in India. These households have a net worth of at least ₹7 crores.

As per this report, the number of millionaire households will increase by 30% over the next five years and it will reach to 6 lakh households by 2026.

The happiness Index of this report is based on the survey of 350 dollars millionaire's households.

It indicates that the number of millionaires who classify themselves as happy has decreased from 72 percent to 66 percent in 2021.

Mumbai topped the list of cities with the most number of millionaires, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.

This report also throws light on the brand preferences, consumption habits, and lifestyle trends of Indian millionaire.

## Dollar millionaires in India rise 11% in Covid-hit 2021: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Mumbai, February 18

**DOLLAR MILLIONAIRES** OR those possessing a personal wealth of over ₹7 crore rose by 11% to 4.58 lakh households in India at the end of the pandemic-hit 2021, as per a survey. The survey of 350 such dollar millionaires also indicated that the number of those who classify themselves as happy in personal and professional lives slipped to 66% in 2021, down from 72% in the previous year.

The Hurun Report findings on the dollar millionaires come at a time when there is rising concern about the growing inequality in the country with a population of over 130 crore.

A recently released report by non-profit Oxfam pegged the wealth of top 100 richest Indians at \$775 billion, and added that India accounted for 4.6 crore or half of the overall people on the planet falling into extreme poverty in 2021.

The report estimated the number of Indian dollar millionaires to increase by 30% to touch 6 lakh households by

2026.

Mumbai is home to the largest number of dollar millionaires at 20,300 households, followed by Delhi at 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500, it said.

At a time when calls for taxing the super-rich are growing - Oxfam advocated higher taxation to save lives - less than a third among those surveyed felt paying taxes is a determinant of social responsibility, the report by Hurun said.

Similarly, when calls for greater help through philanthropy are growing, only 19% of the millionaires surveyed by Hurun said they believe in giving back to society.

Over two-thirds of those surveyed said they will prefer sending their kids abroad for education, with the US emerging the favourite destination followed by the UK, New Zealand and Germany.

The survey also focused on consumption, and found that a fourth of those in the list change their cars every three years with the German carmaker Mercedes Benz emerging as the most preferred.

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79. Recently In February Nepal *will be first country to adopt India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as the payments platform.* NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has joined hands with Which Of The Following To Deploy UPI in Nepal ?

- A. Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd
- B. Manam Infotech Private Limited
- C. Manikan Payment Limited
- D. Both A And B**
- E. Both B And C

Nepal will be first country to adopt India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as the payments platform.

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd and Manam Infotech Private Limited to deploy UPI in Nepal.

Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd is authorized Payment System Operators in Nepal. It will run and manage UPI in Nepal as the Nepal Rastra Bank Authorized Payment System Operator.

In 2021, UPI enabled 39 billion financial transactions. These transactions amount to commerce worth USD 940 billion, which is equivalent to approximately 31% of India's GDP.

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is the International arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Nepal: Bidya Devi Bhandari is the President of Nepal and Sher Bahadur Deuba is the Prime Minister of Nepal.

80. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ becomes *India's first 'plastic waste neutral' FMCG company* With Its \_\_\_\_\_ campaign Which Was as started in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule ?

- A. Coal India
- B. Dabur India**
- C. Thums Up
- D. Pepsi

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It has collected, processed and recycled around 27000 metric tonnes of plastic waste during last financial year.

Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was started in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule.

Dabur has also launched 'Save the Environment' campaign in Himachal Pradesh to create awareness about the management of plastic waste within households.

Dabur has also established a robust audit mechanism to ensure complete transparency and compliance of the state and central regulations and guidelines on Plastic Waste Management.

Dabur India is promoting cotton bags to replace plastic bags.

**81. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has signed a pact with Foxconn to establish a joint venture (JV) for the manufacturing of semiconductors in India. As Recently, the government has announced a \_\_\_\_\_ programme to boost the manufacturing of electronic chip and display ecosystems in India ?**

- A. Indian Oil , Rs 25098 Cr
- B. Samsung , Rs 73000 Cr
- C. Vedanta , Rs 76000 Cr**
- D. Dabur India , Rs 819 Cr

Vedanta has signed a pact with Foxconn to establish a joint venture (JV) for the manufacturing of semiconductors in India.

Vedanta is the first company to announce investment in the manufacturing of semiconductors in India.

According to this MoU, Vedanta will hold the majority stake and Anil Agarwal will be the Chairman of this joint venture.

Recently, the government has announced a Rs 76,000-crore programme to boost the manufacturing of electronic chip and display ecosystems in India.

This will be the first joint venture in electronics manufacturing after the announcement of the government policy.

Vedanta is also planning to set up factories at different places for the manufacturing of semiconductors in India.



## CBI books ABG in bank fraud of over ₹22,842 cr

After “scrutinising” for over one and a half-year, the CBI acted on the complaint filing an FIR on February 7, 2022.

Besides Agarwal, the agency has also named then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company ABG International for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act, the officials said.

The company was sanctioned credit facilities from 28 banks and financial institutions with the SBI having exposure of ₹2468.51 crore, they said. The forensic audit has shown that between 2012-17, the accused colluded together and committed illegal activities including diversion of funds, misappropriation and criminal breach of trust, they said.

# Vedanta signs up with Foxconn for chip plant in India

TWESH MISHRA & SHINE JACOB  
New Delhi/Chennai, 14 February

In a significant development for the performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta and Hon Hai Technology Group (also known as Foxconn) have formed a joint venture (JV) to manufacture semiconductors in India. This is the first JV in the electronics manufacturing space after the PLI policy, a joint statement issued by the companies said.

In December 2021, the Centre had cleared a PLI scheme for semiconductor and display board production in the country targeting an investment of ₹76,000 crore over the next five to six years. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was also announced recently with the aim to attract large investments for manufacturing facilities in the midst of a global chip crisis.

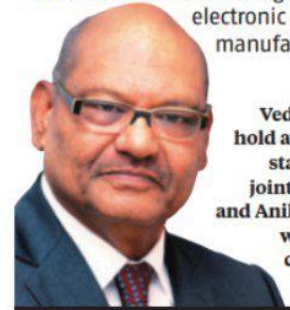
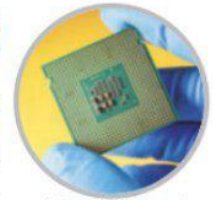
Discussions are being held with a few state governments to finalize the location of the plant. But company officials remained tight-lipped about the quantum of investment, location of project and estimated manufacturing capacity.

The Vedanta Group had in January shared its intent to invest \$15 billion for making displays and semiconductor chips in India over the coming five years. It had acquired AvanStrate, a Japanese glass substrate manufacturer in December 2017 from the Carlyle Group.

The Hon Hai Technology Group is a multi-billion Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer famed for making Apple’s iPhones and other popular products. In December, the company said it had raised stake in its India subsidiary by spending \$350 million, terming the new investment as part of its long-term development in India. Hon Hai, along with its subsidiaries including Foxconn, ranks first globally in the field of electronic manufacturing

## BETTING ON CHIP MAKING

- Vedanta eyes \$15 billion investment for making chips and displays in India
- Foxconn recently upped stake in India subsidiary by investing \$350 million
- India has launched a \$10-billion (₹76,000-crore) PLI scheme for semiconductor and display board production
- Foxconn controls 40% of global electronic manufacturing



Vedanta will hold a majority stake in the joint venture, and Anil Agarwal will be the chairman of the JV

services (EMS), with a market share exceeding 40 per cent.

According to the MoU signed between the two companies on Monday, Vedanta will hold majority in the JV while Foxconn will be the minority shareholder. Vedanta’s Agarwal will be the chairman of the joint venture company.

Bharat FIH Ltd, a subsidiary of FIH Mobiles and a Foxconn Technology Group company, had filed its draft papers for ₹5,000-crore initial public offering in India recently.

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82. Recently In February **Fisdom**, a wealth-tech company, has joined hands with \_\_\_\_\_ to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank ?
- A. State Bank Of India
  - B. Bank Of Maharashtra**
  - C. Canara Bank
  - D. Bank Of India

Fisdom, a wealth-tech company, has joined hands with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank. This partnership is to distribute the wealth products and services through the bank's network of more than 2,000 branches and its digital platforms, including the mobile banking app and internet banking.

A S Rajeev, MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra

83. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ announced that it has been empanelled by the **Small Farmers Agri–Business Consortium (SFAC)** to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for transactions between farmers and traders across the country ?
- A. Bank Of BARODA
  - B. IndusInd Bank**
  - C. Punjab National Bank
  - D. State Bank Of India

IndusInd Bank announced that it has been empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri–Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for the transactions between farmers and traders across the country.

IndusInd Bank has been directly integrated with e-NAM platform to provide safe and hassle free payments, clearing and settlement services to the farmers and traders. Under this arrangement the bank will offer an array of transaction services through digital modes including multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS and UPI to the buyer and seller of the agriculture produce.

Smt Neelkamal Darbari , Managing Director, SFAC

Launched in 2016, with SFAC as the nodal implementing agency under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India, eNAM is an online trading platform As of January 2022, there are 1.7+ crore farmers and 1.8+ lakh traders who are registered on eNAM and have benefitted from the digital marketplace

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84. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has launched *its new insurance plan -- Flexi Edge--a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings ?*

- A. Bahrati Axa Life Insurance
- B. Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance**
- C. Bajaj Life Insurance
- D. Life Insurance Corporation Of India

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched its new insurance plan -- Flexi Edge--a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings.

Flexi Edge addresses the growing needs of customers starting from savings to income and unplanned or recurring expenses Anuj Mathur, MD and CEO, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company

85. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ launched A *New Plan to support countries and communities to use digital technology as a lever to help drive down inequality, support inclusivity, tackle climate change, and open-up economic opportunities ?*

- A. WHO
- B. UNDP**
- C. UNEP
- D. UNGA

A bold new plan is being launched today to support countries and communities to use digital technology as a lever to help drive down inequality, support inclusivity, tackle climate change, and open-up economic opportunities. With its ambitious new Digital Strategy 2022-2025, UNDP aims to get ahead of the ever-evolving digital reality to accelerate work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As one of the three enablers of its new Strategic Plan, digitalization will help UNDP meet its ambitious goals. That includes supporting 100 million people to escape poverty and assisting 500 million people to gain access to clean energy.

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.



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86. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has signed an *Insurance Broker Agreement* for *distribution of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India products* ?

- A. NSE
- B. BSE Ebix**
- C. SBI
- D. PNB

## BSE Ebix, LIC join hands for insurance products

BSE EBIX INSURANCE Broking, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange, on Thursday announced signing of an insurance broker agreement for the distribution of Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) products on its platform. Under this agreement, BSE Ebix will offer their clients insurance products offered by LIC such as Life and Health, using its omni-channel digital presence, the exchange said.

BSE Ebix Insurance Broking, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange Pte Ltd, on Thursday announced signing of an insurance broker agreement for the distribution of Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) products on its platform.

Under this agreement, BSE Ebix will offer their clients insurance products offered by LIC such as Life and Health, using its omni-channel digital presence, the exchange said in a statement.

This partnership aims at offering customer centric solutions backed by technological innovations and best in class services.

BSE Limited, also known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, is an Indian stock exchange located on Dalal Street in Mumbai. Established in 1875 by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand, a Rajasthani Jain businessman, it is the oldest stock exchange in Asia, and also the tenth oldest in the world

87. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Has Partnered With *with Ezetap* to provide *integrated Point of Sale(PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India* That will further strengthen the Bank's presence in the digital payments market space ?

- A. Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- B. Canara Bank
- C. Indian Bank
- D. Bank Of BARODA

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Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL), the country's third largest private sector bank, today announced that it has partnered with Ezetap to provide integrated Point of Sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India. The initiative will further strengthen the Bank's presence in the digital payments market space.

Through this association, Ezetap's integrated and customised Point of Sale (PoS) solutions will benefit scores of KMBL's merchants in retail business spread across the country. It will give retail customers a way to pay through cards and digital modes across all touchpoints in the purchase journey whether at the counter in-store or paying on delivery.

Established in 1985, Kotak Mahindra Group is one of India's leading financial services conglomerates. In February 2003, Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. (KMFL), the Group's flagship company, received banking license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), becoming the first non-banking finance company in India to convert into a bank - Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

At Ezetap, veterans from payments, hardware, cloud, and SaaS industries have joined hands for the sole purpose of ushering in a new era of a frictionless digital payment ecosystem in India

**88. Consider The Following Statement Regarding SBI Ecowrap Report :**

- 1. India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow at 5.8% in the third quarter of fiscal 2022,**
- 2. The FY22 GDP growth is now revised downwards to 8.8% from earlier estimate of 9.3%, the report noted.**

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

- Only 1**
- Only 2**
- Both 1 and 2**
- None Of The Above**

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow at 5.8% in the third quarter of fiscal 2022, according to latest edition of SBI's research report Ecowrap.

The FY22 GDP growth is now revised downwards to 8.8% from earlier estimate of 9.3%, the report noted. The real GDP will be around Rs 2.35 lakh crore more or 1.6% higher than the FY20 real GDP of Rs 145.69 lakh crore, the report said.

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## GDP growth for FY22 cut to 8.8%: SBI

For Oct-Dec quarter, GDP expected to grow at 5.8%, says the research report

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, February 18

State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD) has revised India's full year (FY22) GDP growth downwards to 8.8 per cent from its earlier estimate of 9.3 per cent.

"This factors in the fatigue due to continued fight against the chimeric virus and the spillover of ripple effects intermingling in somewhat indecipherable ways," said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, in the bank's report "Ecowrap".

"With this, the real GDP will be around ₹2.35 lakh crore/1.6 per cent more than the pre-pandemic FY20 real GDP of ₹145.69 lakh crore.

"The good thing though is a part of this growth will be front-loaded into FY23 with

SBI GDP forecast at 8 per cent plus, higher than RBI and Government estimates at about 7.8 per cent or so," said the report.

### Nowcasting Model

Referring to SBI's Nowcasting model forecasting GDP growth for Q3 FY22 to be 5.8 per cent, with a downward bias, Ghosh observed that this slower growth momentum reconfirms recent assertion that incipient growth recovery needs to be supported by accommodative policy longer than anticipated.

"We thus expect liquidity normalisation may be delayed. This could have a further softening impact on government security yields from current 6.7 per cent towards about 6.55 per cent or so," the report noted.



According to the SBI Ecowrap report, investment activity is displaying a traction in pick up

SBI's 'Nowcasting Model' is based on 41 high-frequency indicators associated with industry activities, service activities and, global economy.

The report noted that re-

covery in domestic economic activity is yet to be broad-based, as private consumption remains at below pre-pandemic levels, though February has seen high frequency indicators gaining traction.

The high frequency indicators had suggested some weakening of demand in Q3 (October-December), also continuing to January 2022 reflecting the drag on contact-intensive services.

Rural demand indicators, say two-wheeler and tractor sales, have continued to decline since August 2021.

Amongst the urban demand indicators, consumer durables and passenger vehicle sales contracted in Q3 while domestic air traffic weakened in the wake of Omicron variant spread.

Investment activity is displaying a traction in pick up with merchandise exports remaining buoyant, according to the report.

**89. Recently In February Agro co-op giant NAFED inked an MoU with \_\_\_\_\_ n order to increase biofuel production in the country in order to reduce carbon emissions, among other things ?**

- A. BPCL
- B. IOCL
- C. HPCL
- D. NHPC

Agro co-op giant NAFED inked an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in order to increase biofuel production in the country in order to reduce carbon emissions, among other things.

The event was attended by senior officials from Nafed and the IOC.

"MoU b/w IOC & NAFED was signed on 15 Feb 2022 to set-up Bio-fuel projects, Plants for post-processing of products viz Cattle feed & Marketing of end products of CBG," the Agri cooperative posted on social media. The event was attended by senior executives from both organisations. NAFED is dedicated to achieving a greener and more sustainable future."

Earlier, the Agri cooperative declared that it will invest Rs 5,000 crore in a public-private partnership (PPP) to build 100 bio-CNG production plants utilising agri-waste such as stubble.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India was established on Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October 1958. NAFED is registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act , Dr. Bijender Singh, Ex-MLA(Chairman)



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90. Consider The Following Statement Regarding 'Waste to Wealth Creation'. Which Of The Following Is Incorrect ?

- A. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme.
- B. The program is designed for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- C. This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.
- D. It was established on April 2, 1992 through an Act of Parliament (thus, it is a statutory body).

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched a new programme named 'Waste to Wealth Creation'.

It will make ornaments and showpieces from fish scales in the Sundarbans in West Bengal. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme. The program is designed for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal. In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales.

In this programme, women are expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants.

This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.

SIDBI is the principal development financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India.

It was established on April 2, 1990 through an Act of Parliament (thus, it is a statutory body).

It is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

91. Recently In February Sandeep Bakhshi, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of \_\_\_\_\_ Won, the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21 for turning around the private sector lender ?

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

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Sandeep Bakhshi, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21 for turning around the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years.

Bakhshi took charge in October 2018 amid a controversy around his predecessor, who had to step down over corporate governance issues

**ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in the city of Vadodra, India.**

## ICICI Bank's Sandeep Bakhshi is BS Banker of the Year

5-member jury chooses him for turning around the pvt sector lender

**BS REPORTER**  
Mumbai, 13 February

Sandeep Bakhshi, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21 for turning around the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years.

Bakhshi took charge in October 2018 amid a controversy around his predecessor, who had to step down over corporate governance issues. Since then, he has not just unshingled the bank from the controversy but also delivered growth



**Bakhshi took charge in October 2018. Since then, he has delivered growth on almost all parameters**

on almost all parameters.

The second-largest private sector lender in the country is well-capitalised.

The unanimous decision was taken by a high-profile jury of five, chaired by former Reserve Bank of

India deputy governor SS Mundra. Other members were Keki Mistry, vice-chairman and CEO of Housing Development Finance Corporation; Anil Singhvi, chairman of Ican Investment Advisors; P S Jayakumar, former MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda who is also non-executive chairman of VBHC Value Homes and Northern ARC Capital; and A Balasubramanian, MD and CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC.

For the second year in succession, the jury met through video-conference to finalise the winner — a departure from the past because of the pandemic.

The criteria used for selecting the contenders were the following: i) banks with an asset size of ₹50,000 crore and above as of March 2021, and ii) 10 per cent or more growth in profits prior to provisioning in the past one-, two- and three-year periods. 6 ▶

## Jio to invest \$200 mn in Singapore's Glance

MUMBAI

Jio Platforms has announced that it would invest \$200 million in Glance, a Singapore-based AI-driven Lock Screen platform. The proposed investment is aimed at accelerating Glance's launch in several key international markets outside of Asia such as the U.S., Brazil, Mexico and Russia, Jio said in a statement. Glance is also backed by Google and Silicon Valley-based venture fund Mithril Capital.

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92. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has tied up with the Government of Bihar to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in the state ?

- A. SIDBI
- B. SEBI
- C. RBI
- D. SBI

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has tied up with the Government of Bihar to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in the state.

To this effect, two memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed between SIDBI and the industries department, Government of Bihar, and the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. Under the first MoU with Bihar's industry department, project management units (PMUs) will be deployed by SIDBI with the state government,

The PMU will support the state government in making necessary interventions for focused engagement of SIDBI with Bihar, with the objective of facilitating development of the MSME ecosystem.

Bihar is the 14th state of the country with which SIDBI has tied up and it will play an important role in strengthening the MSMEs of the state,

93. Recently In Febraury Softbank-backed digital payments infrastructure provider JusPay announced a software stack called \_\_\_\_\_ that helps prepaid instruments (PPI) such as digital wallets implement and comply with RBI's PPI interoperability rules ?

- A. SIB Mirror
- B. SIB Express
- C. Open PPI
- D. Swarajbility

Softbank-backed digital payments infrastructure provider JusPay on Thursday announced a software stack called OpenPPI that helps prepaid instruments (PPI) such as digital wallets implement and comply with RBI's PPI interoperability rules.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in May 2021 that all prepaid cards and wallets that are full-KYC compliant must be fully interoperable – mutually compatible – by March 31, 2022.

The National Payments Corporation of India, which runs UPI, is working with payment players to comply with the RBI's norms, and is in advance talks on the merchant discount rates (MDR) to be charged in the PPI-interoperability setup.



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94. Recently In Febraury \_\_\_\_\_ Bank announced that the Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam Rifles**, the oldest paramilitary force, to provide the Its Central Forces Salary Package ?

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

Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, today announced that the Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary force, to provide the Baroda Central Forces Salary Package. Under the agreement, Bank of Baroda will offer the Baroda Central Forces Salary Package to all personnel of the Assam Rifles, both serving and retired. Further, the Bank will also provide special benefits, including Personal Accident Insurance and a co-branded credit card.

Founded on 20th July, 1908 by Sir Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, Bank of Baroda is one of the leading commercial

banks in India. At 63.97% stake, it is majorly owned by the Government of India

95. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has launched **eInvest- a mutual fund mobile app** for investors for a smooth investing experience to help Ip investors perform all financial transactions on the go ?

- A. Edelweiss Asset Management**
- B. Chola General Insurance
- C. ICICI Prudential Insurance
- D. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Edelweiss Asset Management has launched eInvest- a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience. eInvest is an easy-to-use app that will help investors perform all financial transactions on the go.

Edelweiss Asset Management (EAM) – an arm of Edelweiss Group, is one of India's leading asset managers, housing the country's leading Alternatives Platform

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96. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has joined hands with *Unanu Technologies to introduce digital freight financing to fund transport contractors using the end-to-end logistics technology platform ?*

- A. RBL Bank
- B. Karur Vysya Bank**
- C. Federal Bank
- D. DCB Ban

Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB) has joined hands with Unanu Technologies to introduce digital freight financing to fund transport contractors using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.

**KVB is the first bank to introduce digital freight financing through marketplace in the banking sector, said MD & CEO B. Ramesh Babu.**

This feature would enable KVB to provide funding based on the invoice and other mandatory documents available in the digital freight finance system.

This Digital Freight Finance Programme will go a long way in releasing the working capital which otherwise has a longer cycle time.

97. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ will become the *first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift) after an approval for the same this week ?*

- A. National Housing BANK
- B. National Development Bank**
- C. World Bank
- D. UNCTAD

New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift) after an approval for the same this week.

NDB vice president representing India Anil Kishora said the multilateral agency will take all requisite steps to make the Indian office operational by the middle of May.

**NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS as well as other emerging markets in 2014. It became operational in 2015 and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. All the founding members equally own the bank.**

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97. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program, **Agri Infinity**, which seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field ?

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

YES BANK announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program, YES BANK Agri Infinity, which seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field.

As part of the agri-fintech enabler program, early as well as growth stage startups interested in exploring tech-enabled financial innovations in the agri space are invited to apply with their proposals.

The program will last up to six months, based on the maturity and readiness of the solution. It will culminate in a demo day that will explore the potential for partnered engagements for scale-up.

Prashant Kumar, MD & CEO, YES BANK,

## Yes Bank launches start-up enabler scheme for agri sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, February 15

### PRIVATE SECTOR LENDER

Yes Bank has launched a programme for digital financing solutions in the food and agriculture sector under its start-up enabler initiative, and it will also infuse equity capital in select ventures under this initiative.

Announcing the launch of an annual start-up enabler programme, 'Yes Bank Agri Infinity', the bank seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in this field.

Early- and growth-stage start-ups interested in exploring tech-enabled financial innovations in the agri space are invited to apply with their proposals, Yes Bank said in a statement on Tuesday.

Those meeting the eligibility criteria will receive the guidance and support neces-

sary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain.

A select cohort of start-ups will receive mentoring by veteran bankers for experiential co-development, as well as access to Yes Bank's digital banking infrastructure and network, collaborative opportunities to pilot new solutions and fundraising advisory.

"Fintech (financial technology) innovations in agribusiness are central to advancing sustainable growth of the Indian agri-food industry.

"By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and development of tech-enabled financial solutions for scalable agribusiness models, our programme aims to open a door for entrepreneurs to a thriving innovation ecosystem," Prashant Kumar, MD and CEO of Yes Bank, said.

— PTI

THIS IS A PUBLIC AN

98. Recently In Febraury In A First Of Its Kind \_\_\_\_\_ and **NIIF backed Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited (Ayana)** have entered into an arrangement to provide standalone storage capacity to develop firm and dispatchable RE solutions including **Round-the-Clock power supply (RTC) of up to 1 GW ?**

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



## Ayana & Greenko tie up for India's 1st power storage biz

Utpal Bhaskar  
 utpal.b@livemint.com  
 NEW DELHI

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with Hyderabad-based Greenko Group to store 6-gigawatt hour (GWh) of power in hydro pump storage plants that Greenko is building at Pinnapuram in Andhra Pradesh, the companies said.

The arrangement will help provide round-the-clock green energy to user industries and electricity distribution companies (discoms). The idea is to use cheap green power during off-peak hours to raise water to a height and then release it into a lower reservoir to generate electricity when the demand for electricity goes up.

"In a first of its kind partnership, Greenko Group and Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd have entered into an arrangement to provide standalone storage capacity to develop firm and dispatchable RE solutions, including round-the-clock power supply of up to 1GW," the firms said in a joint statement. Large storage facilities can help keep India's power grids stable, given electricity is produced intermittently from clean energy sources such as solar and wind.

This comes against the backdrop of the Union budget including energy storage systems such as dense charging infrastructure and grid-scale battery systems in the harmonized list of infrastructure, making it easier for such projects to raise funds.

"This will be offered to various industries and distribution companies in India. Greenko Group has offered in total 6,000 MWhr of storage capacity including 1,500 MWhr of storage capacity in the first



Large power storage facilities can help keep India's electricity grids stable. MINT

tranche from its unique Off Stream Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Project (OCPSP)," according to the statement.

Backed by GIC Holdings Pte Ltd, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Japan's ORIX Corp., Greenko has India's largest operational clean energy portfolio of 7.3 GW and is building 30 GWh of storage capacity as part of its plan to set up an energy storage cloud platform of 100 GWh. This comes amid a new

'Energy Storage System' (ESS) policy that has proposed no requirement for environment clearances for off-river pumped storage plants and no obligation for free power to the states concerned, as reported by *Mint* earlier.

India may also delineate building of standalone battery storage systems; allow their sale, lease or hire; and permit the sale of stored power through power purchase agreements and over exchanges, as part of the pro-

posed ESS policy. Also, the electricity transmission cost while selling or buying electricity from these storages may be waived off, according to the 'Discussion Paper on Policy on Energy Storage Systems'.

"The cooperation sets a template for storage transactions in the country and is in line with the focus of the ministry of power/ ministry of new and renewable energy to create a standalone storage market in India. Such inte-

grated renewable energy and storage projects, offering solutions superior to conventional energy sources in terms of dispatchability and round-the-clock supply, are testimony to the maturity of the renewable sector in India," according to the statement. CDC Group, UK's development finance institution, and EverSource Capital managed Green Growth Equity Fund are other shareholders in Ayana, which has 1.19 GW of operational renewable energy capacity.

**The arrangement will help provide round-the-clock green energy to user industries and electricity discoms**

Greenko Group and NIIF backed Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited (Ayana) have entered into an arrangement to provide standalone storage capacity to develop firm and dispatchable RE solutions including Round-the-Clock power supply (RTC) of up to 1 GW. This will be the first of its kind partnership between two independent power producers (IPP),

The power will be offered to various manufacturing industries like steel, aluminium and other manufacturing units and power distribution companies in India.

Greenko Group, which considers GIC of Singapore and ADIA among key shareholders, has offered in total 6,000 MWhr of storage capacity including 1500 MWhr of storage capacity in the first tranche from its unique off stream closed loop pumped storage project (OCPSP) being developed at Pinnapuram, Andhra Pradesh.

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99. NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company namely “NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)” for development of renewable energy, Small Hydro and Green Hydrogen based business of NHPC. NHPC Was Incorporated In Which Of The Following Year ?

- A. 1956
- B. 1986
- C. 1975
- D. 1961

NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company namely “NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)” for development of renewable energy, Small Hydro and Green Hydrogen based business of NHPC.

The Subsidiary has been incorporated with the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi and Haryana.

Recently, NHPC signed Letter of Intent with Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) for development of 10,000 MW renewable energy projects and parks in Rajasthan.

NHPC Limited (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation ) is an Indian government hydropower board under the ownership of Ministry of Power, Government of India that was incorporated in the year 1975 with an authorised capital of ₹2,000 million and with an objective to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects

NHPC CMD A K Singh



## NHPC incorporates subsidiary for green energy business

STATE-OWNED HYDRO POWER giant NHPC has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary for clean energy business, including green hydrogen. As per a BSE filing, the new company, NHPC Renewable Energy, was registered with Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana, on February 16. The subsidiary shall develop renewable energy projects either in standalone mode or through formation of special purpose vehicles with collaboration of other agencies.

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1. Recently In Febraury \_\_\_\_\_ has become the **first bank to enter the metaverse**, opening a lounge in the popular blockchain-based world, \_\_\_\_\_ – one of the most popular metaverses.
- A. Jp Morgan , Oynx Lounge
  - B. JP Morgan , Decentraland**
  - C. Morgan Stanley , Decentraland
  - D. Morgan Stanley , Oynx Lounge

JP Morgan has become the first bank to enter the metaverse, opening a lounge in the popular blockchain-based world, **Decentraland – one of the most popular metaverses. This marks the banking giant's entry into the metaverse, as it eyes the potential financial gains.**

The metaverse is a virtual world where people can interact, attend events, and explore, as digital avatars of themselves.

The bank's Onyx lounge, the name of which references the bank's suite of permissioned Ethereum-based services, offers institutions and businesses an opportunity to enter the metaverse.

Here, in the Onyx Lounge, located in Metaiuku, a virtual version of Tokyo's Harajuku shopping district, a tiger roams the first floor, overlooked by a portrait of the bank's boss Jamie Dimon, while on the second floor a person's avatar can watch experts talk about the crypto market.c



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**Appointment News**

2. Recently In February The Central Government Has Appointed **Whom Among The Following On The Central Board of RBI ?**

- A. Manoj Ahuja
- B. Shasi Kishore
- C. Sanjay Malhotra**
- D. Chitra Ramakrishna

Central government has nominated Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of RBI.

His nomination has become effective from 16 February, 2022 until further orders.

**He succeeded Panda, who completed his term on January 31, 2022.**

Central Board of RBI: The RBI Central Board consists of 21 members, including the Governor and four deputy governors. Central board of directors governs RBI's affairs. Its function is general superintendence and direction of the RBI's affairs.

Government of India appoints board in keeping with the Reserve Bank of India Act

3. Recently In February **Sportswear brand Adidas Has Appointed MANika Batra Who Is Related To \_\_\_\_\_ As Its Brand Ambassador focuses on empowering women to realise their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and create a reverberating impact in the world of sports ?**

- A. Tennis
- B. Badminton
- C. Table Tennis**
- D. Cricketer

Sportswear brand Adidas has brought on board India's top table tennis talent, Manika Batra. The company said, with this partnership, it would like to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports.

The partnership focuses on empowering women to realise their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and create a reverberating impact in the world of sports.

**The paddler is the first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis in the Commonwealth Games',**

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4. Recently In February The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as its **next chairman** on 14 February. As CBSE was formed on \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- a. Dinesh Sakhiani
  - b. **Vineet Joshi**
  - c. Santishree Pandit
  - d. Jagdish Kumar

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has appointed Vineet Joshi as its next chairman on 14 February.

Joshi has taken over from IAS Manoj Ahuja.

He is presently an Additional Secretary in the Department of Higher Education.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE):

It is a national-level board of education in India for public and private schools. It works under the Ministry of Education.

It was formed on 2 July 1929. Its headquarter is in New Delhi.

5. Recently In February Online gaming platform, **A23** Has Roped In Whom As The Brand Ambassador For Its 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign ?
- A. KL Rahul
  - B. **Shahrukh Khan**
  - C. Rishabh Pant
  - D. Disha Patani

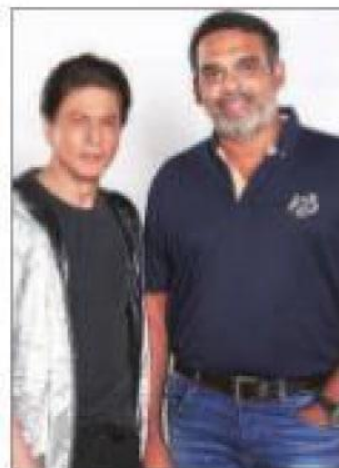
Online gaming platform, A23 roped Shahrukh Khan as its brand ambassador.

He will be part of the 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign.

Other brand ambassadors in News:

Sportswear company Adidas announced Manika Batra as its brand ambassador.

Suniel Shetty has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Protein water brand Aquatein



Online gaming platform A23 ropes in Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador



Taapsee Pannu becomes the face of Arata's Advanced Curl Care range

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**6. Recently In February Which Among The Following HAs Been Appointed As The new director of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) ?**

- A. Chetan Ghate**
- B. Sudha Raghunathan**
- C. Chitra Ramkrishna**
- D. Arvind Subramaniam**

Chetan Ghate has been appointed as new director of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG).

He will succeed Ajit Mishra. He was member of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee from 2016 to 2020.

He is the winner of 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in India within the age of 45 years.

He is a member of Advisory Committee of National Accounts System (ACNAS) in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Institute of Economic Growth: It was founded in 1952 by the eminent economist V.K.R.V. Rao. IEG is an autonomous, multidisciplinary center for advanced research and training.**

**Tarun Das is its Chairman and Prof. Chetan Ghate is its Director. N.K. Singh is its President.**

**7. Recently In February The Ministry of Culture has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC) ?**

- A. Sudha Raghunathan**
- B. Satish Parekh**
- C. Debasish Mishra**
- D. Sanjeev Sanyal**

The Ministry of Culture has appointed Sudha Raghunathan as a member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC).

**The members will provide policy advice to the Culture Ministry on developing programmes which would focus on creativity at different levels in various regions.**

The members of the board aid in having a participative process of decision making and give an integrated view of the different ideas and interests from various domains of culture.

From advising the Ministry on policies to giving inputs on the development of new need-based cultural programmes, the members will provide guidance on the work of the Ministry's national missions. The Board would be meeting once a quarter and presided by the Minister for Culture.



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8. Recently In Febraury \_\_\_\_\_ has been elected again for a second term of 5 years Of Germany , Where The Germany Parliament Is Known As \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Frank-Walter Steinmeie , Bundestag
- B. Alexander Zelanski , Azuri
- C. Debua Farnendo , Cardero
- D. Olaf Scholz , Raveges

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been elected again for a second term of 5 years.

Steinmeier was re-elected by a special assembly comprising of members of the lower house (Bundestag) of parliament and representatives of 16 states of Germany.

Steinmeier became president for the first time in 2017. Germany's president has little executive power. He is considered an important moral authority.



Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Reuters

#### GERMANY

### Steinmeier re-elected as President

Frankfurt: Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected to a second term as Germany's president on Sunday after a special assembly voted the veteran politician, seen as a symbol of consensus and continuity, back in to the prominent yet largely ceremonial post. Steinmeier's election by secret ballot by a majority of the assembly for another five years was widely expected, amid broad support from most of Germany's major parties during a time of global turmoil and following a recent change of government. In his acceptance speech, Steinmeier criticised Russia's military build-up near Ukraine. "I can only warn (President Vladimir Putin)... Don't underestimate the strength of democracy." REUTERS

9. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has become the brand ambassador for Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar ?

- A. Manoj Tiwary
- B. Pankaj Tripathi
- C. Manoj Bajpayee
- D. Ravi Kishan

Bhojpuri singer and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari has become the brand ambassador for Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar.

Manoj Tiwari will promote the use of Khadi fabric, which was popularized by Mahatma Gandhi during India's Independence movement. Krishi Network has announced Pankaj Tripathi as its ambassador. He has also invested in this start-up.

Mamaearth ropes Samantha Ruth Prabhu as its brand ambassador.

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10. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Has Been appointed as India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator And Will Be will be part of the National Security Council Secretariat ?

- A. Rahul Bhatia
- B. G Ashok Kumar**
- C. Ajit Doval
- D. IT Gen Karambir Singh

Former Navy Vice Chief G Ashok Kumar appointed as India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator.

National Maritime Security Coordinator will be part of the National Security Council Secretariat. He will report to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

National Maritime Security Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating will all the agencies involved in maritime security and maritime civil issues.

National Maritime Security Coordinator will be responsible to look after the maritime security of India and will be the nodal point for all issues related to it.

The need of this coordinating agency was first envisaged after the Kargil War. A group of ministers had recommended forming an apex body for the management of maritime affairs.

After the 26/11 terror attacks, Defense Ministry recommended forming a Maritime Security Advisory Board and appointing a Maritime Security Advisor.

The Navy has also proposed to set up a National Maritime Domain Awareness Center. It will be a multi-agency body comprising Navy, Coast Guard, intelligence agencies, state marine police forces, etc.

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**Days And Obituriy News**

11. Recently In February The **World Day of Social Justice** was observed on Which Of The Following Day With This year's theme As achieving social justice through formal employment ?

- A. 19<sup>TH</sup> Febraury
- B. 20<sup>th</sup> February**
- C. 21<sup>st</sup> February
- D. 22<sup>ND</sup> Febraury

Every year World Day of Social Justice is observed on 20 February.

It is observed to promote the Social Justice across the world to tackle issues related to gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, etc.

The UN General Assembly adopted 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007 under the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic. **The theme of 2022 World Day of Social Justice is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".**

12. Recently In February **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** announced that \_\_\_\_\_ will be celebrated as '**Shahid Diwas**' in the memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town in Munger district 90 years ago ?

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

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar announced that 15 February will be celebrated as 'Shahid Diwas'.

**It will be celebrated in the memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town in Munger district 90 years ago. The Tarapur massacre was carried out by the British police after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. A group of young freedom fighters planned to hoist Indian national flag at Thana Bhavan in Tarapur on 15 February 1932.**

The plan was known to the police, and numerous officers were present on the spot.

Around 4000 crowds pelted stones on police and in response police opened indiscriminate fire on the crowd. 34 freedom fighters died in this incident. The Bihar government has taken this initiative to recognize and to take pride in the modern history of the state.



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13. Every Year **International Mother Language Day** is commemorated On Which Of The Following Day To encourages multilingualism in society and attempts to preserve traditional knowledge and cultures through long-term strategies. ?

- A. 18<sup>th</sup> February
- B. 19<sup>th</sup> February
- C. 20<sup>th</sup> February
- D. 21<sup>st</sup> February

Every year on February 21, International Mother Language Day is commemorated.

International Mother Language Day encourages multilingualism in society and attempts to preserve traditional knowledge and cultures through long-term strategies.

The theme for International Mother Language Day 2022 is “Using Technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and Opportunities”.

In 1999, UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day at the 30th UNESCO General Conference.

The United Nations General Assembly had declared 2008 as the International Year of Languages. Since 2015, the Ministry of Education of India is celebrating 21 February as Matribhasha Diwas (Mother Language Day).

14. Recently In Febraury Padma Shri awardee **Shakuntala Choudhary** an Indian social worker Who Paassed Away Belonged To Which Of The Following State ?

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Assam
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Shakuntala Choudhary also known as Shkunthala Baideo, was an Indian social worker. Born in Assam, she was known for her commitment and devotion to the popularization of the Gandhian way of life.

She was closely associated with Vinoba Bhave who was the initiator of the Bhoodan Movement.

At Vinoba Bhave's instance, who was interested in promoting the Devanagari script among different linguistic groups, Shakuntala Choudhary started a monthly magazine “Asomiya Vishwa Nagari” in Devanagari script which she edited for many years. She was also associated with the “Cow Slaughter Satyagraha” started by Vinoba Bhave in 1978. In 2022, the Government of India conferred the Padma Shri award.

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**15. Recently In February *FICCI CASCADE* launched *Anti-Smuggling Day* Which Is To Be Celebrated**

On \_\_\_\_\_ Every Year ?

- A. 12<sup>th</sup> February
- B. 11<sup>th</sup> February**
- C. 13<sup>TH</sup> February
- D. 14<sup>th</sup> Febraury

It will be observed every year on 11th February. It has been launched to enhance coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies. Anti-Smuggling Day will help in raising awareness about the growing threat of smuggling.

This initiative will bring policymakers, international institutions, enforcement agencies, and industry members at one platform against smuggling.

FICCI CASCADE is playing a key role in raising awareness about the dangers of illegal, illicit, and counterfeit goods.

According to FICCI, illicit trade has resulted in an annual loss of US\$2.2 trillion (approx. 3 percent of world GDP) in 2020.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is the largest, oldest, and apex business non-governmental trade association in India.

**16. Recently In February *Sandhya Mukhopadhyay* Who Passed Away Who Was Known As *Geetashree*' Belonged To Which Of The Following State ?**

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

The film industry has given her the title of 'Geetashree'.

She was a recipient of Banga Bibhusan, the highest civilian honour given by the Bengal government. She received the National Film Award for best female playback singer in 1970.

She had sung the duet "Bol Papihe Bol" with Lata Mangeshkar for the film Tarana in 1951.

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17. Recently In February noted writer and poet, **Shri Chennaveera Kanavi** Passed Away Belonged To Which Of The Following State ?
- A. West Bengal
  - B. Odisha
  - C. **Karnataka**
  - D. Assam

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the demise of noted Kannada writer and poet, Shri Chennaveera Kanavi.

Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi (1928 – 2022) was an Indian writer.

He was considered one of the major poets and writers in the Kannada language and received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work Jeeva Dhvani (Poetry) in 1981.

He was popularly known as "Samanvayada Kavi" and "Soujanya Kavi".

In 2011, he was honoured with the Sahitya Kala Kaustubha Award.

18. Every Year **World Unani Day** is observed on \_\_\_\_\_ which is the birthday of noted physician **Hakim Ajmal Khan**, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India ?
- A. **10<sup>th</sup> February**
  - B. 11<sup>th</sup> February
  - C. 12<sup>th</sup> February
  - D. 13<sup>th</sup> February

World Unani Day celebrates the Islamic Unani system of medicine. The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician **Hakim Ajmal Khan**, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.

The Government of India, Ministry of AYUSH designated Khan's birthday, on February 11, as World Unani Day. The First Unani day was celebrated in 2017, at Hyderabad's Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM).

The **Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine**, Ministry of AYUSH, will organise an international conference on Unani medicine, on February 10 and 11. The theme of this conference is "Diet and Nutrition in Unani Medicine for good health and well-being."



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**19. Recently In February The *Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)* held the *Darkathon -2022* in New Delhi on February 15. to counter drug trafficking through darknet. Narcotics Control Bureau Was Established In \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. 1959
- B. 1956
- C. 1986**
- D. 1989

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) held the Darkathon -2022 in New Delhi on February 15.

It has been organized to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet.

The initiative aims to involve students, youth, and technology experts in order to discover effective solutions to the anonymity of darknet markets. This hackathon will be held in three phases, beginning on February 14th and ending on April 22nd.

The Darkathon registration began on February 15th and will close on the 31st of March.

Darkathon's winner will receive a cash prize of 2.5 lakh rupees, while the runner-up and third winner will receive 2 lakh rupees and 1.5 lakh rupees, respectively. Narcotics Control Bureau: It was established in 1986. It is a government agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs

**20. Recently In February *Bollywood Music Composer and Singer Bappi Lahiri* passed away recently. He won Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award at \_\_\_\_\_ Filmfare Awards. ?**

- A. 62<sup>ND</sup>
- B. 63<sup>RD</sup>**
- C. 64<sup>th</sup>
- D. 65<sup>th</sup>

{ 1952-2022 }

**Bappi Lahiri, hit-maker with a golden touch and India's original king of bling, dies at 69**



Lahiri was known for his songs in films of 70s, 80s and 90s. HT ARCHIVE

**MUMBAI:** Singer-composer Bappi Lahiri, who popularised disco music in Indian cinema in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, died following multiple health issues, a doctor treating him said on Wednesday. He was 69.

He was suffering from obstructive sleep apnea and a recurrent chest infection, the statement by Criticare hospital said. Lahiri died on Tuesday night.

The artiste, a familiar figure for many with his trademark gold chains that he wore for luck and his sunglasses, was known for his songs in several films of

the late 70s-80s. These included "Chalte Chalte", "Disco Dancer", and "Sharaab".

Popularly known as "Bappi Da", his death prompted tributes from the world of politics and Bollywood. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes, saying Lahiri's "lively nature will be missed". "Shri Bappi Lahiri Ji's music was all encompassing, beautifully expressing diverse emotions...Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers", the PM tweeted.

Lahiri is survived by his wife Chitrani and two children. →PR

Bollywood Music Composer and Singer Bappi Lahiri passed away recently.

Alokesh Lahiri, famously known as Bappi Lahiri was instrumental in popularizing Disco music in India. He won Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award at 63rd Filmfare Awards. He won Filmfare Best Music Album Award in 1985.

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**Sports Award Books News**

21. Recently In February Who has been honoured with the “Business Leader of the Year Award” at URJA Awards 2022?

- A. Manoj Ahuja
- B. Rahul Bajaj
- C. Yohan Poonawala**
- D. Sandeep Bakshi

Chairman and Director of various Poonawalla Group of companies Yohan Poonawalla awarded with the “Business Leader of the Year Award” at URJA Awards 2022.

Mrs. Amruta Fadnavis presented this award to Yohan Poonawalla for his remarkable work for society.

The Poonawalla Group supports several Corporate Social Responsibility activities.

Along with Yohan Poonawalla, eminent personalities like Farah Khan, Kedar Jadhav, Rinku Rajguru were also awarded. It was the fifth edition of the URJA Awards.

URJA award:

It is given to leaders of entertainment, sports, business, social activities, and educational sectors for their significant contribution to society. It is a brainchild of Usha Kakade's Gravittus Foundation.

22. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Been Awarded 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award?

- A. NTPC
- B. Coal India**
- C. BPCL
- D. HPCL

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Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata conferred the award to Coal India Limited in "Energy Meet & Excellence Awards function".

Coal India Chairman Mr. Pramod Agarwal was included in the list of "Top 40 CEOs of India". The list was released by the organization Start-up Lens in January 2022.

Vinay Ranjan, Director (Personnel & Industrial Relations) of Coal India, was included in Forbes India's list of "India's 100 Great People Managers, 2021" in January 2022

**Coal India Limited (CIL):**Coal India Limited is a coal mining and refinery company owned by the government of India.It is the world's largest coal producer. It is a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking.It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal. Pramod Agarwal is its Chairman and MD.

**23.Recently In Febraury Which film has been declared as *Film of the Year at the ceremony for Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 held on 20 February 2022?***

- A. Writing With Fire**
- B. Pushpa: The Rise**
- C. Jai Bhim**
- D. Another Round**

Pushpa: The Rise has been declared as Film of the Year at the ceremony for Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 held on 20 February in Mumbai.

**Ranveer Singh has won the award for Best Actor. Kriti Sanon won the award for Best Actress.**

Anupama has been declared as Television Series of The Year. Shershaah has been declared as Best Film.

**Manoj Bajpayee has won the award for Best Actor in Web Series. Raveena Tandon won the award for Best Actress in Web Series.**

Ken Ghosh has won the award for Best Director for State of Siege: Temple Attack.



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**24. Recently In February International Olympic Committie awarded India the right to host the IOC session After A Gap Of How Many Years in Which Of The Following City In 2023 ?**

- A. 30 Years , Delhi
- B. 40 Year , Mumbai**
- C. 15 Years , Pune
- D. 23 Years , Hyderabad

India has won the bid to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session. It will be held in Mumbai.

It will be the second IOC session in India. India hosted the first session in 1983 in New Delhi.

Mumbai received 99% of the votes in favour of its bid. The Session will be hosted at the new Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.

IOC Session is the general meeting of the International Olympic Committee. The IOC has a total of 101 members with voting rights and there are 45 honorary members.

**Mumbai to host IOC session in 2023**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday awarded India the right to host the IOC session in Mumbai next year.

Nita Ambani, the Indian representative on the committee, described it as "a significant development for the country's Olympic aspiration."

India will host the session for the first time since 1983.

Mumbai received a historic 99% of the votes in favour of its bid from the delegates participating in the process, with 75 members endorsing its candidature in the session held at Beijing.

An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC, comprising 101 voting members and 45 honorary members.

"The Olympic Movement is back in India after a 40-year wait. I am truly grateful



Nita Ambani. • FILE PHOTO

to the International Olympic Committee for entrusting India with the honour of hosting the IOC Session in Mumbai in 2023," said Nita Ambani, the first woman to be elected as an IOC member from India.

Apart from Nita Ambani, IOA president Narinder Batra, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, and India's first individual Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra were part of the Indian delegation.

**25. Recently In February Sakibul Gani of \_\_\_\_\_ has set a new world record in India's premier red-ball competition, the Ranji Trophy 2022 As \_\_\_\_\_ become the first batter in first-class cricket to score a triple century in his debut match against \_\_\_\_\_ in Kolkata ?**

- A. Mizoram , Bihar
- B. Bihar , Mizoram**
- C. Bihar , West Bengal
- D. Arunachal Pradesh , Bihar

Sakibul Gani of Bihar has set a new world record in India's premier red-ball competition, the Ranji Trophy 2022.

Gani has become the first batter in first-class cricket to score a triple century in his debut match against Mizoram in Kolkata.

Gani scored 341 off 405 balls with the help of 56 fours and two sixes at an outstanding strike rate of 84.20.

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26. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ founder and philanthropist \_\_\_\_\_ conferred with the **Hilal-e-Pakistan** award for his efforts to eradicate polio in Pakistan ?
- A. Amazon , Jeff Bezos
  - B. Microsoft , Bill Gates**
  - C. Apple , Tim Cook
  - D. Sapce X , Elon Musk

Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates conferred with the Hilal-e-Pakistan award for his efforts to eradicate polio in Pakistan.

Bill Gates was on his first-ever visit to Pakistan. He also visited the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) to see the efforts in fight against Covid-19.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has played a key role in polio eradication through the vaccine alliance 'Gavi'.

Nishan-e-Pakistan is the highest civilian award of Pakistan.

Hilal-e-Pakistan:

It is given to those people who have made a meritorious contribution to the national interests of Pakistan. It is the Pakistan's second-highest civilian award. It is given by the President of Pakistan every year.

27. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Had become the **third English team to win the FIFA Club World Cup** By Defeating \_\_\_\_\_ That was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi ?
- A. Chelsea , Palmeiras**
  - B. Barcelona , Chelsea
  - C. Paris Saint German , Arsenal
  - D. Arsenal , Paris Saint German

Chelsea becomes the third English team to win the FIFA Club World Cup.

The final match between Chelsea and Palmeiras was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi. The 2021 FIFA Club World Cup was the 18th edition of the FIFA Club World Cup.

It was organized by FIFA from 3 to 12 February 2022 in the United Arab Emirates. Brazilian footballer Thiago Silva gets the best player award of this tournament.

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**Science Tech And Environment**

28. President Ram Nath Kovind will take part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review. What is the name of the indigenous built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel which is going to be President's Yacht this year?

- A. INS Vikrant
- B. INS Sumitra**
- C. INS Vagir
- D. INS Vishakapatnam

# + Navy prepared for any contingency: Kovind

'Competence of maritime services showcased'

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Monday expressed satisfaction over the preparedness and combat readiness of the Navy, in Visakhapatnam.

He was here to review the Indian fleet as part of the Presidential Fleet Review (PFR), which is held once during the President's term in office.

Addressing the sailors and officers of the Navy after the PFR, Mr. Kovind said, "The excellent parade of ships, aircraft and submarines showcased the professional competence and determination of the maritime services



**In strength:** The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Ram Nath Kovind, is aboard Presidential Yacht *INS Sumitra* (left) for the Naval Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam. — THE HINDU

of the nation. The parade also displayed the preparedness of the Navy for any contingency."

Talking about the significance of the Indian Ocean

Region (IOR) and the Navy's role, Mr. Kovind said, "A large part of global trade flows through this region and a significant portion of our trade and energy needs

are met through the oceans."

"Safety of the seas and of the maritime commons, therefore, remains a critical requirement. The Navy's constant vigil, prompt response

to incidents and untiring efforts have been highly successful in this regard," he said.

The President also expressed satisfaction on the increasing self-reliance and the idea of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. He pointed out that about 70% of the contents of several warships and submarines under construction in various public and private shipyards across the country were indigenous.

He also expressed happiness on the progress of indigenous built aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, which would come into service shortly.

Earlier, the Presidential Yacht, carrying the President, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar and other dignitaries sailed past four columns of 44 warships of different classes, as part of the fleet review.



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President Ram Nath Kovind will take part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review.

President's Fleet Review is the country's President taking stock of the Navy's capability.

It takes place once under every President, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces.

The President is taken on one of the Naval ships, which is called the President's Yacht, to look at all the ships docked on one of the Naval ports. The President's Yacht this year "is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sumitra, which will lead the Presidential Column. The yacht will be distinguished by the Ashoka Emblem on her side and will fly the President's Standard on the Mast".

The idea is to showcase not all the Navy's ships, but every type of ship — and the kind of capabilities it has at that time. The review also includes merchant ships. In the current fleet review, which will take place in Vishakhapatnam, Kovind will review over 60 ships and submarines, and 55 aircraft, from the Navy and the Coast Guard.

There have been 11 President's Fleet Reviews since Independence.

The first was conducted in 1953, under Dr Rajendra Prasad. The next one was done not by the President but by the then Defence Minister, Y B Chavan, in 1964. Since then, it has been the President reviewing the fleet.

**29. Recently In February Researchers from the *Leiden Observatory* have found \_\_\_\_\_ , the *largest galaxy ever discovered by humans* , is 240 billion times the size of sun ?**

- A. Muse
- B. Arcetrop
- C. Alcyoneus**
- D. Zhertous

Researchers from the Leiden Observatory have found Alcyoneus, the largest galaxy ever discovered by humans.

Alcyoneus is 240 billion times the size of sun. It is named after the son of Greek god of sky, Ouranos.

Alcyoneus is 160 times the size of Milky Way galaxy. It spans across 16.3 million light-years.

Alcyoneus is four times the size of IC 1101. IC 1101 is a galaxy at the center of Abell 2029 galaxy cluster. IC 1101 is one of largest known galaxies.

Before the discovery of Alcyoneus, IC 1101 was the largest galaxy. It spanned across 3.9 million light-years.

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**30. Consider The Following Statement Regarding MH60R helicopters**

1. India had signed a \$2.2 bn deal for MH60R helicopters To Be built by Austin Martin
2. Indian Navy issued a Request for Information (RFI) for lease of 24 light helicopters.
3. The MH60Rs are a replacement for the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s,
4. In The first batch India Will Reciever three MH60R MultiRole Helicopters contracted by the Indian Navy from the United States To Be Based In Kochi

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

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

The first batch of three MH60R MultiRole Helicopters contracted by the Indian Navy from the United States are scheduled to arrive in India midJuly

They were handed over to the Navy last July in the U.S. and are being used for training Indian pilots at Pensacola, Florida and San Diego

This will the first major induction of helicopters by the Navy in decades for deployment on ships. The three helicopters are likely to be based in Kochi,

India had signed a \$2.2 bn deal for MH60R helicopters built by Lockheed Martin during the visit of then U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020. Deliveries are expected to be completed by 2025. Navy issued a Request for Information (RFI) for lease of 24 light helicopters

The MH60Rs are a replacement for the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s, and are envisaged to operate from frontline ships and aircraft carriers

## First batch of MH-60R copters to arrive by July

They are likely to be based in Kochi

**DINAKAR PERI**  
NEW DELHI

The first batch of three MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters contracted by the Indian Navy from the United States are scheduled to arrive in India mid-July, according to defence officials. They were handed over to the Navy last July in the U.S. and are being used for training Indian pilots at Pensacola, Florida and San Diego.

This will the first major induction of helicopters by the Navy in decades for deployment on ships. The three helicopters are likely to be based in Kochi, a defence official said.

### Acute shortage

India had signed a \$2.2 bn deal for MH-60R helicopters built by Lockheed Martin during the visit of then U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020. Deliveries are expected to be completed by 2025. The helicopters would also be modified with several India unique equipment and weapons, the Navy had stated.

The Navy is facing an



India had signed a \$2.2 bn deal for the choppers in February 2020.

acute shortage of helicopters on its frontline warships but procurement of new helicopters has been repeatedly delayed.

To address the shortfall in the interim, last April the Indian Navy issued a Request for Information (RFI) for lease of 24 light helicopters.

The MH-60Rs are a replacement for the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s, and are envisaged to operate from frontline ships and aircraft carriers providing them the critical attributes of flexibility of operation, enhanced surveillance and attacking capability.

M ND-NDE

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31. Recently In Febraury \_\_\_\_\_ has secured an order to supply **Compact Heat Exchanger sets** for \_\_\_\_\_ light combat **Tejas MK1A aircraft** from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** at an undisclosed amount ?

- A. BEML, 81
- B. BHEL, 83**
- C. IOCL, 84
- D. NHPC, 56

### BHEL bags order to supply compact heat exchanger sets for Tejas aircraft

STATE-OWNED BHARAT HEAVY Electricals (BHEL) on Monday said it has bagged an order from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to supply compact heat exchanger sets for Tejas aircraft.

“Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has received a prestigious order for the supply of compact heat exchanger sets for 83 LCA Tejas MK1A aircrafts, from Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL),” the company said.

The order envisages manufacturing, assembly, testing and supply of compact heat exchangers to be fitted in the light combat aircraft, Tejas, being manufactured by HAL.

The BHEL's Heavy Plates and Vessels Plant (HPVP), Visakhapatnam is the sole supplier of heat exchangers for LCA Tejas to HAL since 1996.

The BHEL-HPVP and Aeronautical Development Agency

(ADA), Bangalore have jointly designed and developed 13 different types of compact heat exchangers for Environmental Control System (ECS) and Secondary Power System (SPS) of LCA MK-1 programme.

The BHEL is also currently working with DRDO for the development of Air Cycle Machine based Liquid Cooling System (LCS) for Aircraft POD application for LCA MK-2.

The BHEL-HPVP has dedicated, intricate manufacturing and inspection facilities for manufacturing of state-of-the-art Compact Heat Exchangers for different types of aircraft manufactured by HAL. The same are progressively being augmented to meet International Aero Standards (AS9100) and BHEL is ready to meet the requirements of future programs of LCA, ALH, Sukhoi and AMCA. —PTI

Government-owned engineering and manufacturing enterprise Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has secured an order to supply Compact Heat Exchanger sets for 83 light combat Tejas MK1A aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at an undisclosed amount. This order involves manufacturing, assembly, testing and supply of compact heat exchangers to be fitted in the LCA Tejas aircraft.

BHEL-HPVP and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) Bangalore have jointly designed and developed 13 different types of compact heat exchangers for environmental control system (ECS) and secondary power system (SPS) of LCA MK-1 programme.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is an Indian government owned engineering and manufacturing enterprise based in New Delhi, India. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India. Established in 1956 CEO: Nalin Singhal



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32. \_\_\_\_\_ Space startup “Navars Edutech” envisages Has Partnered With Skyroot Aerospace For launching 100 student-developed satellites constellation in the next five years ?
- A. Bengluru
  - B. Delhi
  - C. Hyderabad**
  - D. Pune

Hyderabad-based space startup “Navars Edutech” envisages launching 100 student-developed satellites constellation with Skyroot Aerospace as a launch partner in the next five years.

This partnership enables Navars Edutech to become India’s first Space Education startup for K12 students to design and launch satellites to space, using an indigenously developed private launch vehicle of Skyroot Aerospace. **With a mission to take the first set of Satellites to LEO (Low Earth Orbit) with Skyroot’s maiden launch Vikram-I in December-2022, students will develop the intended satellite constellations for astronomical observations. Navars will lead this exciting EdTech transformation for the first time in the country at the school level.**

Sravan Varma, CEO, Navars Edutech.

Skyroot Aerospace is a national award-winning Indian Start-up developing small satellite launch vehicles, Vikram Series, with its maiden launch in December, 2022. Skyroot is open for launch booking now for its Vikram series.

## RBI's Regulations Review Authority for withdrawal of additional 100 circulars

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, February 18

The Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has recommended the withdrawal of additional 100 circulars in the second tranche of recommendations even as it suggested elimination of paper-based returns.

**Regulatory returns**

The authority, which was set up in April 2021 with an objective to reduce the compliance burden on Regulated Entities (REs), has identified 65 regulatory returns that would either be discontinued/ merged with other returns or be converted into online returns.

The RRA had recommended the withdrawal of 150 circulars in the first tranche of recommendations made in November 2021.

The central bank, in a statement issued on Friday,



The authority was set up in April 2021 with an objective to reduce the compliance burden on Regulated Entities

said the RRA has also recommended creation of a separate Web page, 'Regulatory Reporting' on the RBI website to consolidate information related to regulatory reporting and return submission by the regulated entities at a single source.

These recommendations

are expected to ease regulatory compliance for the regulated entities while improving the accuracy, speed and quality of data submission, it added.

The RBI emphasised that regulated entities would be notified of the discontinuation/ merger and online filing of returns separately.

Further, the central bank will separately issue notification containing the list of specific instructions recommended for withdrawal.

**Objective of RRA 2.0**

The objective of RRA 2.0 is to review the regulatory instructions, removing redundant and duplicate instructions, reduce the compliance burden on REs by streamlining reporting structure, revoking obsolete instructions, and wherever possible obviating paper-based submission of returns.

## Gangwal steps down from InterGlobe board

Will dilute stake over 5 years, he says

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

IndiGo's co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal on Friday resigned from the board of directors of the parent company, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., and said he would be gradually reducing his equity stake in the company over the next five years. Mr. Gangwal and his associates own 36.61% in InterGlobe. He was a non-executive, non-independent director.

"My intention is to slowly reduce my equity stake in the company over the next five-plus years, though future events may impact my current thinking," Mr. Gangwal said in a statement. He explained he was resigning as he didn't want to be privy to "unpublished price sensi-



Rakesh Gangwal

tive information" at a time he was thinking of lowering stake. Recently, co-founder Rahul Bhatia was named InterGlobe MD. Shareholders in December voted to remove clauses from the Articles of Association that required either promoter to seek permission from the other before selling shares.

# 20% of all EV four-wheelers used by govt entities, K'taka tops list

## Govt Agencies Using 5,384 EVs As Of Feb 4, LS Told

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** One in every five electric four-wheelers registered in the country is being used by government entities, according to road transport ministry data submitted in Parliament.

On Friday, Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari informed Lok Sabha that government agencies are using 5,384 electric vehicles as of February 4.

Earlier, he had informed Rajya Sabha that a total of 26,335 electric four-wheelers were registered across the country with Karnataka leading the list with 7,212 such vehicles, followed by Ladakh (5,484). Delhi, which has a high concentration

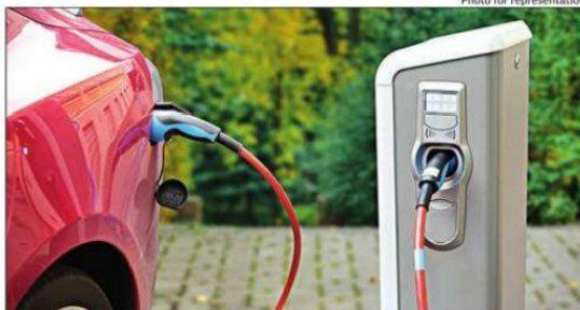


Photo for representation

So far, nearly 9.7 lakh EVs have been registered across India with UP leading the list among states with a little under 2.8 lakh such vehicles, Delhi is in second spot

of government offices, has registered barely 3,051 4-wheeler EVs.

Meanwhile, vehicle registration data also shows that the number of eco-friendly vehicles — electric, CNG, petrol and diesel hybrid, ethanol and methanol — registered in 2021 trebled to 4.8 lakh, compared to

2018. The surge was led by electric battery-operated vehicles or EVs. So far, nearly 9.7 lakh EVs have been registered across India with UP leading the list among states with a little under 2.8 lakh such vehicles, followed by Delhi with 1.3 lakh.

While the government has been

nudging people to go for electric vehicles instead of those powered by petrol and diesel, it is the electric three-wheelers, largely electric rickshaws, that have a 67% share. Two-wheelers account for 29% of the registered EVs.

The number of ethanol-fuelled vehicles has so far seen registration of 116 vehicles, while there are 2,326 registered vehicles running on methanol across the country.

"This trend will continue as people find EVs a better option due to huge savings in fuel. The number of vehicles running on ethanol and methanol will also see a quantum jump in the next few years as the government is putting more focus on alternative fuels," said an official.

Different states such as Delhi and Jharkhand have come up with attractive incentives to promote EVs while others are also following such models. While the operation and maintenance cost are lower, the capital cost is higher.



**FIRM VALUATION AROUND \$2 TRILLION**

# Saudi Arabia gives \$80-bn stake in Aramco to fund

**JON GAMBRELL**  
Dubai, February 13

**SAUDI ARABIA SAID** on Sunday it will transfer 4% of the stake in state-run oil giant Aramco to a sovereign wealth fund, an infusion valued at nearly \$80 billion, as the kingdom tries to overhaul its energy-dependent economy.

The announcement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency comes as the oil firm is valued at just under \$2 trillion and as oil trades above \$90 a barrel — its highest level since 2014.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the assertive son of King Salman, made the decision to transfer the stock, the state media report said. It will go to the Public Investment Fund, the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, which has been Prince Mohammed's vehicle to invest in everything from Uber to



British football team Newcastle United. The fund also is part of the prince's Neom project along the Red Sea coast.

"His Highness added that the transfer of these shares is part of the kingdom's long-term strategy aimed at supporting the restructuring of the national economy," the report said. That will include creating private sector jobs in the kingdom, it said.

Saudi Arabia has reaped the

benefits of a spike in oil prices after the pandemic crashed prices at one point into negative territory, but it also sees the growing worldwide concern over climate change being fuelled by burning fossil fuels.

Prince Mohammed's plans hope to see that oil wealth pay to create jobs for the kingdom's youth to pivot away from oil over time. The Public Investment Fund also has invested in the electric car manufacturer

Lucid Motors of Newark, California. The fund did not immediately acknowledge what its plans for the stock would be and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ratings agency Moody's Investors Service last week said the fund's assets had grown to \$412 billion in 2020, up from \$152 billion in 2015.

The kingdom remains the largest shareholder in the firm with some 94% of the company. The Saudi Arabian Oil Co. long has served as both the main economic engine in the kingdom and the main source of funds for its ruling Al Saud royal family.

Saudi Arabia offered a sliver of shares of the oil firm on Riyadh's Tadawul stock market in 2019. That listing made Aramco one of the world's most-valued firms alongside Apple and Microsoft. —AP

## CSB Bank gets nod to appoint Pralay Mondal as Deputy MD

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, February 18

CSB Bank, on Friday, said the Reserve Bank has approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal as Deputy Managing Director of the private sector lender for three years.

"Pralay Mondal has been appointed as Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank post RBI's approval in terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. His tenure is for three years from February 17, 2022," said CSB Bank in a statement.

His prior appointment in the bank since September 23, 2020 was as President (Retail, SME, Operations and IT).

With over 30 years of banking experience across multiple business and functions, including retail assets, retail liabilities, business banking, products and technology, Mondal has been instrumental in building up various facets in leading banks.

## BPCL opens EV charging stations on Chennai-Madurai highway

Facilities to come up at every 100 km inside its large formal fuel outlets

**BALACHANDAR G**

Chennai, February 17

Now, electric car owners can drive through the Chennai-Tiruchi-Madurai highway without worries over availability of charging stations. Oil major Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has set up what it calls 'India's first EV fast-charging corridor' under which it has set up charging stations every 100 km inside its large formal fuel outlets along the highway.

"With 10 charging stations located on both sides along the highway, this is the first chain of EV charging stations set up on the highways in In-

dia. We have invested about ₹1 crore in setting up these fast-charging stations," said PS Ravi, Executive Director In-Charge - Retail, BPCL.

With top-up charging for about 30 minutes, electric cars could get an additional range of 100-150 km.

**Other facilities**

"The BPCL fuel stations also house food outlets and other state-of-the-art amenities for the people to spend time during the charging time," Ravi said. He explained that BPCL fuel stations would offer clean and hygienic washrooms for ladies and gentle-



PS Ravi at the launch of the EV fast-charging corridor in Chennai on Thursday **BIJOY GHOSH**

men, safe and secure parking while charging and 24-hour operations, among others.

Select fuel stations will also offer nitrogen-filling facilities.

These large-format bunks also house food outlets such as McDonald's, A2B, Cube

Stop, Café Coffee Day and other regional players.

**More corridors planned**


The first phase launch on Chennai - Tiruchi - Madurai highway will be followed up by key routes that have high existing motorist traffic and a propensity for the shift to electric vehicles.

Ravi indicated that BPCL would be setting up similar EV charging corridors on the Chennai-Bengaluru expressway and Coimbatore-Salem-Chennai highway in the coming months.

The company has chalked out plans to set up 600 EV charging stations by the end of June this year and 1,200 stations by the end of next fiscal.



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# Counting down to the first launch of 2022

Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) first launch mission of 2022, to orbit earth observation satellite EOS-04 onboard a PSLV-C52, takes place in the early hours of Monday. A look at the mission, and its importance

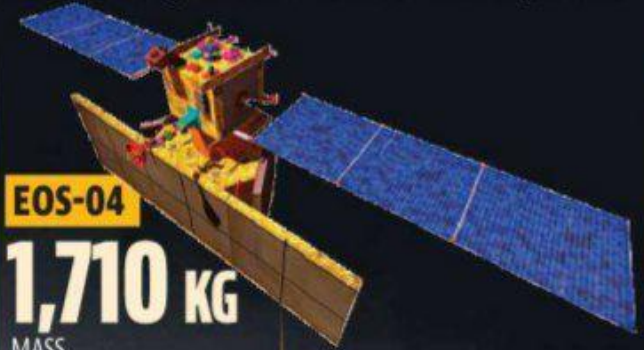
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5.59 AM,  
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**WHERE**  
FIRST LAUNCH PAD  
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**THE LAUNCH VEHICLE**  
Carrying one main, and two additional satellites, the mission will be launched using a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C52). This will be Isro's first launch mission of 2022.

**321 TONNE** | **44.4 M**  
LIFT-OFF MASS | HEIGHT

IT WILL BE  
**54<sup>th</sup>** FLIGHT  
OF PSLV  
The 23rd mission on PSLV-XL configuration with 6 PSOM-XLs (strap-on motors)



**EOS-04**  
**1,710 KG**  
MASS

**10 YEARS**  
MISSION LIFE

**529 KM**  
ORBIT ALTITUDE

- This is a radar imaging satellite designed to provide high quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping
- It will be placed in a sun synchronous orbit – a form of orbit where the satellite passes over a given point at the same of the day, letting it image an area with the same illumination. This makes it useful for imaging, reconnaissance satellite, and weather satellites

**OTHER PAYLOADS BEING CARRIED**

The mission will also carry two small satellites as co-passengers

**INSPIRESAT-1**  
**8.1 KG MASS**  
**1 YEAR MISSION LIFE**  
This is a student satellite from Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in association with University of Colorado, Boulder. It is also contributed by NTU, Singapore and NCU, Taiwan. Payloads in this are aimed at improving understanding of ionosphere dynamics and sun's coronal heating

**INS-2TD**  
**17.5 KG MASS**  
**6 MONTHS MISSION LIFE**  
This is a technology demonstrator satellite, which is a precursor to India-Bhutan joint satellite (INS-2B). With thermal imaging camera, it will help in assessment of land and water surface temperature, delineation of vegetation and thermal inertia

Source: Isro



**GOVT SCHEME TAKES OFF**

# 5 firms commit ₹1.53L cr for setting up fab units

● **JV of Vedanta and Foxconn, IGSS, ISMC propose plants to make chips**

**KIRAN RATHEE**  
New Delhi, February 19

**THE GOVERNMENT'S ₹76,000-crore incentive scheme for development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country got a start on Saturday with five companies submitting proposals for setting up manufacturing units with an investment of ₹1.53 lakh crore.**

As per an official statement, the companies include Vedanta, which has formed a joint venture with Foxconn; Singapore-based IGSS Ventures; ISMC, which has partnered with Israel's Tower Semiconductor, and Elest. Vedanta has applied for two units, one on its own and the other in partnership with Foxconn.

While the government will examine the proposals and take a final call on them, even if

**SELF-RELIANCE IN SEMICONDUCTORS**

■ **3 firms** apply for setting up semiconductor fabs

■ **2 applications** received for display fabs

■ **Planned investment** to the tune of **\$20.5 bn**

■ **Govt support** likely to be **\$8.3 bn**

■ **Successful firms** to be selected in coming two months



■ **Govt still open** to take more applications from big local and global firms

■ **Fiscal support** of up to 50% of project cost for semiconductor and display fabs

approved, the real challenge for foundries — the epicentre for chip fabrication — eventually set up in India would be to get global orders. Currently, India is attractive as a design centre but not fabrication. Ultimately, it is the relocation of global units into the country that would determine the success of the policy, as any unit which is not assured of large-scale orders runs the risk of low capacity utilisation.

Indian and global firms can still reach out to the ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) with proposals to set up fab units. Based on the response, a second round of applications will be opened.

For semiconductor fabs, three firms have applied — Vedanta through a joint venture with Foxconn, Singapore-based IGSS ventures, and ISMC Analog Fab, which is led by investment agency Next Orbit Ventures

Fund. The technology partner proposed by ISMC is Tower Semiconductor Limited (Israel). The applications have been received for setting up 28 nm to 65 nm semiconductor fabs with capacity of approximately 1,20,000 wafers per month, and the projected investment is of \$13.6 billion, where fiscal support from the government is being sought for nearly \$5.6 billion.

For display fabs, two firms — Vedanta and Elest — have submitted applications with projected investment of \$6.7 billion and fiscal support sought is for around \$2.7 billion.

Apart from the five firms that have applied for display manufacturing plants, SPEL Semiconductor, HCL, Syrma Technology and Valenkani Electronics have registered for semiconductor packaging and Ruttonsha International Rectifier has registered for compound semiconductors. Three companies — Terminus Circuits, Trispace Technologies and Curie Microelectronics — have submitted applications under the design-linked incentive scheme.

**Continued on Page 13**

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# Reliance lists \$7-b foreign currency bonds on India INX

Largest-ever listing by a private company in GIFT IFSC platform

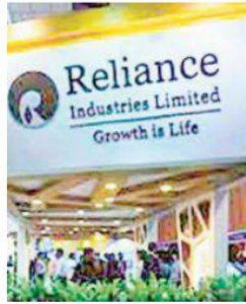
**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, February 17

Reliance Industries Limited on Tuesday announced the listing of its existing foreign currency bonds aggregating over \$7 billion on India INX. This is the largest such listing by a private entity in India INX and GIFT IFSC.

This includes \$4 billion jumbo bonds raised in January, which was termed as the largest ever foreign currency bond issuance by an Indian entity.

V. Balasubramaniam, MD, and CEO, INDIA INX, said, "This is a proud moment for us as we



welcome Reliance Industries Ltd on India INX, this being the first such access of Reliance Industries in seeking services from our very own IFSC. We are sure that this will give confidence to various other corporates to follow."

**\$41-b bonds in India INX**

The India INX MD and CEO further added that with this listing, their total bond listings are now over \$41 billion with the total medium-term notes established to the tune of over \$58 billion.

Srikanth Venkatachari, Joint Chief Financial Officer, RIL said: "We are delighted to list our existing foreign currency bonds, including the recent landmark \$4 billion jumbo bond issuance, at the India INX."

The listing framework and the seamless process is comparable with what is offered at any global financial centre. We look forward to a long-term association with India INX."

Shares of Reliance Industries closed 1.35 per cent higher at ₹2,444.90 on the BSE.

## Petersen, Knight win ICC award for January

DUBAI

South African batter Keegan Petersen pipped under-19 star and compatriot Dewald Brevis and Bangladesh pacer Ebadot Hossain to claim the ICC men's

Player-of-the-Month award for January following a fine Test series against India.

England skipper Heather Knight beat Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu and West Indies star Deandra Dottin to clinch the women's honour. PTI



# Demerger of Nagarnar plant will be completed by June 2022: NMDC

**ABHISHEK LAW**

New Delhi, February 17

The country's largest iron-ore producer NMDC Ltd is expecting to complete the demerger of its upcoming three mtpa Nagarnar iron and steel plant by "late March or around April-June" and the value happening once it is listed "in another two to three months".

According to Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance), NMDC Ltd, the State-run company has requested for waiver of creditors meeting. If the Ministry of Corporate Affairs accedes to the request, then the demerger process could be completed by March-end or end-of-April.

Necessary clearances from the board, SEBI and the stock exchanges have already been received.

In case, the MCA "directs"

NMDC to go ahead with a creditors meeting (there are two creditors), then there could be a delay of "a month or a month-and-a-half". "We will have to give at least a 21-day notice for the creditors meeting, then meet, get it filed all over again. That will extend the process by about two months," he said during a post earnings investor call.

**Steel plant commissioning**

The commissioning of 3 mtpa steel plant in Chattisgarh has begun and commercial production is expected around July.

The management indicated that coke oven heating process has begun and production is expected "maybe in the end-of-March" or "beginning-of-April".

Nearly ₹19500 crore has been invested till Q3 FY22 in the project.

According to Mukherjee, NMDC is "going to make a windfall profit" of around ₹400-500 crore in cash from the sale proceeds of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products Ltd.

**Sale of Neelachal Ispat**

NMDC, a 10 per cent stake holder in NINL, had given an interest-bearing loan of around ₹80 crore. "So, we will be comfortably getting the entire thing back along with interest," he said.

"I think at the outset, more than ₹5,000 crore will be left over after meeting all its liabilities (of NINL) and we will get 10 per cent of that."

NINL has been closed since March 2020 and its debt and liabilities exceeded ₹6,600 crore as on March 31, 2021.

## RBI becomes net seller of US dollar in December

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) turned net seller of the US currency in December 2021 after it sold \$2.917 billion on a net basis in the spot market. In the reporting month, the RBI bought \$7.475 billion and sold \$10.392 billion in the spot market, the RBI Bulletin for February 2022, released on Wednesday, showed.

## EGR: BSE collaborates with regional exchanges

DAYS AFTER RECEIVING in-principle approval from the Sebi to launch the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment, the BSE on Wednesday said it has collaborated with four regional associations from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to promote such products. These pacts are aimed at providing impetus for growth and development of commodities segment in general, the exchange said.



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# Gurgaon gets its first woman police chief

Bagish Jha@timesgroup.com

**Gurgaon:** Kala Ramachandran, a 1994-batch IPS officer, has been named police commissioner of Gurgaon, the first woman to be appointed to the post. Ramachandran, who had a long stint with the Intelligence Bureau and was named transport secretary – an IAS cadre post – in September 2021, is expected to take charge on Tuesday.



**TOP JOB:** Kala Ramachandran

Ramachandran is the second IPS officer of additional director general of police (ADGP) rank to become Gurgaon police chief. The first was Mohammad Akil (February 2019 to July 2020), who is now director-general, prisons. Rules mandate that the Gurgaon police commissionerate, formed in 2007, is to be headed by an officer of IG (inspector-general) rank or above. Ramachandran is married to senior IPS officer Navdeep Singh Virk, who is also a former Gurgaon police commissioner. Virk, who was additional DG (law and order), has been given charge of the transport department as principal secretary.

Ramachandran told TOI she will focus on street crimes by strengthening “basic policing” and prioritising traffic management. Gurgaon is a place where different cultures – cosmopolitan, rural and industrial – coexist, making its management a complex task. “So, going back to basic policing, starting from the beat system to regular interaction with the public, will be our focus,” said Ramachandran. Traffic, she added, is a big concern and it is important to curtail the number of accidents, which is worryingly high in the city. Originally from the Tamil Nadu

cadre, Ramachandran switched to the Haryana cadre after marriage, with stints as SP Rewari, Fatehabad and Panchkula. In 2002, she went to the IB on deputation. She returned to the Haryana cadre from the central agency, where she was at the level of joint director; in June 2020. She was subsequently posted as ADGP (headquarters) in Panchkula before being named transport secretary last year, despite objections from state home minister Anil Vij.

Vij and chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar were at loggerheads over the appointment of IPS officers for an administrative cadre role. Vij had refused to relieve Ramachandran of her duties to assume charge and had raised questions over the appointment cleared by the CM’s office. Vij had also similarly objected to the appointment of IPS officer Shatrujeet Kapoor, Ramachandran’s predecessor, as transport secretary but the CM prevailed.

Ramachandran replaces KK Rao, who served as Gurgaon police chief twice. Rao was first appointed as head of the police force in the NCR city in June 2018 and shifted after eight months. He was brought back in June 2020.

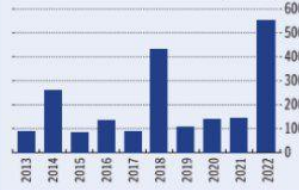
## Action at the 2022 IPL auction



The two-day-long Tata IPL 2022 auction concluded in Bengaluru on Sunday. While fans are gearing up to watch the action on the ground, we took a look at the money spent over years, the most expensive players and more

### It's all about the money!

The 2022 auction saw the most amount of money spent in the premier league's auction in a decade at ₹5,51,70,00,000 (in ₹ crore)



### Who's the costliest of them all?

In the past 10 years, South Africa's Chris Morris, whom Rajasthan Royals bought for ₹16.25 crore, has been the most expensive IPL player. Morris retired earlier this year

Year	Most expensive player	Country	Cost (₹ cr)	Team that acquired them	Where are they in the 2022 season?
2015	Yuvraj Singh	India	16	Delhi Daredevils	Retired
2017	Benjamin Stokes	England	14.5	Rising Pune Supergiants	On an indefinite break
2020	Pat Cummins	Australia	15.5	Kolkata Knight Riders	
2021	Chris Morris	South Africa	16.25	Rajasthan Royals	Retired
2022	Ishan Kishan	India	15.25	Mumbai Indians	



### 10 most expensive players in the upcoming season

Mumbai Indians bagged the 23-year-old opening batsman and wicket-keeper Ishan Kishan for ₹15.25 crore

Ishan Kishan Mumbai Indians ₹15.25 cr	Deepak Chahar Chennai Super Kings ₹14 cr	Shreyas Iyer Kolkata Knight Riders ₹12.25 cr	Liam Livingstone Punjab Kings ₹11.50 cr	Shardul Thakur Delhi Capitals ₹10.75 cr
Wanindu Hasaranga Royal Challengers Bangalore ₹10.75 cr	Harshal Patel Royal Challengers Bangalore ₹10.75 cr	Nicholas Pooran Sunrisers Hyderabad ₹10.75 cr	Lockie Ferguson Gujarat Titans ₹10 cr	Avesh Khan Lucknow Super Giants ₹10 cr
Prasidh Krishna Rajasthan Royals ₹10 cr				

### Players sold over 10 years

With the addition of two new teams, Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, this season saw a rapid increase in the number of players sold. Four teams – CSK, PBKS, MI and KKR – went for a full strength of 25 players





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# States to also be ranked on delivery of civic utilities

**Dilasha Seth**  
 dilasha.seth@livemint.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has kicked off state-level consultations on its proposal to promote ease of living alongside ease of doing business, suggesting 94 parameters by which to judge the performance of states, said government officials.

Parameters suggested by officials from the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) include single-window portal and time-bound

delivery for obtaining electricity, water and gas connections, driving licence and death and marriage certificates—services that are notorious for bureaucratic delays. *Mint* has reviewed a copy of a presentation made to states last week, with the draft recommendations yet to be finalized.

DPIIT, the nodal department for the exercise, has proposed an equal weightage for both 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business' for rankings.

However, some states have opposed the move, first made in

the budget proposals, saying they want to begin with a smaller weightage for the yet-to-be-introduced ease of living rankings.

"We need to create awareness about ease of living to citizens, who will be the respondents in the survey aware of this. Hence, it will be better if Centre agrees for a smaller weightage of ease of living this time, and gradually increases it," said a state official.

Queries sent to a DPIIT spokesperson on Wednesday remained unanswered till press

time.

With an equal focus on citizens as much as businesses, the latest version of the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) may include considerations such as an online dashboard to track applications, pendency and clearance on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. This in turn would clearly highlight the number of certificates or licences issued and the average time taken for them. E-payment of utility bills such as electricity and water is among the 94

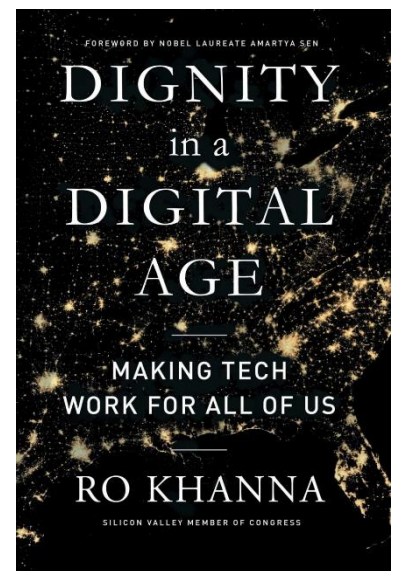
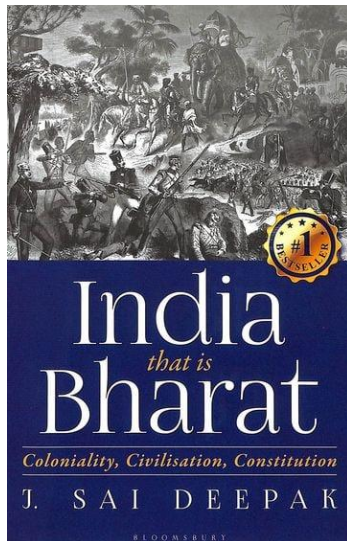
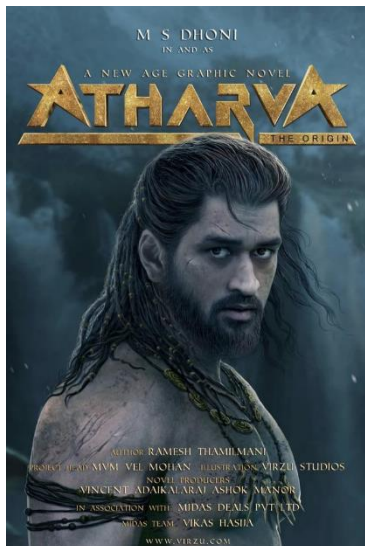
action points.

DPIIT secretary Anurag Jain told *Mint* in an interview earlier this month that the 2022 states rankings will be done on a new "BRAP Plus" framework.

The proposed BRAP is expected to have 263 action points under Ease of Doing Business and 94 action points under Ease of Living, making for a total of 357 action points. Ease of Living includes 11 reform areas—an online single window system, transport, employment exchange, ease of obtaining cer-

tificates, utility permits, LPG cylinder or piped connection, accessing public distribution system, healthcare, land administration and transfer of land and property.

DPIIT has also proposed a single window portal for property registration, birth certificate, death certificate, health card, income certificate, driving licence and utility permits. Under Ease of Doing Business it has proposed additional reforms pertaining to bio-medical waste management.



## IISc Bengaluru gets largest donation of ₹425 cr.

The institute is planning to start a medical school and a 800-bed multi-speciality hospital on campus

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
 BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has received its single largest private donation of ₹425 crore, which will be used to set up a postgraduate medical school along with a multi-speciality 800-bed hospital on its Bengaluru campus.

The project will be in line with global examples of integrating science, engineering and medicine under a single institution, creating "physician-scientists."

IISc inked a partnership with philanthropists Susmita and Subroto Bagchi, and Radha and N.S. Parthasarathy, who collectively donated the amount.

Addressing mediapersons in Bengaluru on Monday, IISc Director Govindan Rangarajan said the new venture



The IISc inked a partnership with philanthropists who collectively donated amount to set up a medical school.

would be named IISc Medical School and Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital.

"The academic centre-piece of this initiative will be an integrated dual degree M.D.-Ph.D programme aimed at creating a new breed of physician-scientists,

who will pursue a career in clinical research to develop new treatments and healthcare solutions, driven by a bench-to-bedside philosophy.

They will be trained simultaneously in the hospital as well as in the science and en-

gineering laboratories at IISc," he said.

The building of the 800-bed multi-speciality hospital, catering to clinical training and research activities of the academic programme, has been designed by Ahmedabad-based company Archi Medes (I) Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Work on the project will start in June 2022, and the hospital will be operational by the end of 2024.

The hospital will also implement advanced digital technologies and solutions, such as integrated Electronic Medical Record systems and a comprehensive telemedicine suite with haptics interfaces, the director explained.

Asked if the hospital will be accessible to the public, Prof. Rangarajan said it will be open for all but will not be

a charitable facility. "It will have a mixture of beds – private as well as insurance beds where patients can avail themselves of benefits under the government insurance schemes," he said. The PG medical school will have an intake of 70 students and will start admission from 2025, he added.

Speaking on behalf of the Bagchis, Ms. Susmita said, "In a country like ours, medical research and delivery cannot be left to the government or the corporate sector alone. With IISc, we find a shared vision. It is an institution with depth, competence, leadership, and capacity to deliver in scale."

Ms. Radha said IISc's larger vision to integrate science, engineering, and medicine in one campus is a new concept in India.



**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Third Week of February (15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022)**

**IPO: Capital Small Finance Bank, Jisons Industries get SEBI nod**

Uma Exports also gets green signal

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, February 14

Capital Small Finance Bank and Jisons Industries, a manufacturer of speciality coating emulsions, have received markets regulator SEBI's go-ahead to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs). In addition, Uma Exports too obtained SEBI's green signal for floating an initial share-sale.

**Observation letters**

These companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers with SEBI between September and November 2021, received the regulator's observation letters during February 7-8, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Monday.

In SEBI's parlance, its observa-

tion implies its go-ahead to launch IPO.

Going by the draft papers, Capital Small Finance Bank's IPO consists of fresh issuance of equity shares worth ₹450 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 38.40 lakh equity shares.

The small finance bank (SFB) proposes to utilise net proceed from the fresh issue towards augmentation of the bank's Tier-I capital base to meet future capital requirements.

The initial share-sale of Jisons Industries comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹120 crore and an OFS of up to 12,157,000 equity shares by promoter Dhires Shashikant Gosalia, according to the DRHP. At present, Gosalia holds an 86.53 per cent stake in the company.

The public issue includes a reservation of 77,000 equity shares for employees.

**FE BUREAU**  
Mumbai, February 19

**THE BOARD OF** directors of Kalpataru Power Transmission on Saturday approved the merger of JMC Projects (India) with itself in a swap ratio of one share of Kalpataru Power for every four shares held by JMC shareholders. The merger is expected to be completed in Q4FY23 subject to regulatory approvals.

"With the appointed date of April 1, 2022, the merger process is expected to be completed in Q4FY23. The merger is subject to approvals from the Gujarat bench of National Company Law Tribunal, statutory authorities, stock exchanges, shareholders, creditors and such other authorities," the company said.

Manish Mohnot, MD & CEO of Kalpataru Power told FE, "The merger of two listed companies complementary to each other will make the combined entity one of the largest EPC company in the field of transmission & distribution, roads, waterways and



engineering and construction. Together we will have a order-book visibility of 37,000 crore. Out of this 14,000 crore have come in nine months of FY22. We expect another ₹4,000 crore of orderbook in Q4FY22."

As of December 31, 2021, the company had a net debt of ₹2,000 crore, which included ₹800 crore of debt towards four road assets and remaining ₹1,100 crore towards the core T&D business. "Low leverage

position and the merger will allow us to take our six segments to international markets. We already have a presence in 65 countries throughout T&D business, and we plan to take our remaining business global post the merger," Mohnot said.

The company has around 35% of its revenue coming from international business. "We plan to take the revenue from international business to around 50% in the next five years time in align-

ment with our plan to become \$3 billion company in terms of turnover," Mohnot said.

The company in its statement said, The merger will also enhance KPTL's business portfolio and pre-qualifications by JMC's expertise in civil works business. At the same time, JMC will be able to leverage KPTL's expertise, global business access and financial flexibility, to pursue value-creating opportunities by expanding the current business and bid for large-size infrastructure projects. The merger will drive immense operational synergies and cross learnings, thereby improving competitiveness to increase scale and relevance both in India and international EPC markets.

The combined entity will benefit from collective management expertise. The collective management expertise, would in turn enhance the overall corporate capability, provide focused strategic leadership and ability to operate a large business structure.

**Takuya Tsumura to take over as new president & CEO of HCIL**



**FE BUREAU**  
New Delhi, February 19

**JAPANESE AUTO COMPANY** Honda on Saturday said Takuya Tsumura will take on the role of president & chief executive of Honda Cars India (HCIL) from April 1 this year.

The appointment of the president is a part of the management changes announced annually by Honda Motor Co.

During his four-year tenure in India, outgoing president & CEO Gaku Nakanishi steered the company through one of the toughest business phase for the Indian auto industry, struck by unprecedented Covid crisis and slowdown, the automaker said.

**In a first, IPCC to list impact of climate crisis on mental health**

**Jayashree Nandi**  
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**NEW DELHI:** Climate scientists and national representatives gathered on Monday for a virtual two-week conference to finalise the latest section of the sixth report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is, for the first time, expected to also inform on the mental health impacts of the climate crisis.

"A part of the mental health challenge is apocalyptic fears among young generations. So, we have to be careful how we communicate the results of our science and whether we talk of collapsing of the biosphere and disappearance of mankind," Petteri Taalas, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization, said during the opening ceremony of 55th session of the United Nations (UN)-backed body that collates latest scientific opinion on global warming.

The report, which will have a summary for policymakers that the conference will review line by line, will cover economic, food security, biosphere, health and mental health impacts of the climate crisis. The summary will be published on February 28.

The IPCC in August last year released a comprehensive report on the physical science



According to the United Nations weather agency, the growing trend of disasters is expected to continue at least till the 2060s. AP

basis of climate change that influenced the Glasgow climate summit in November. The physics community was clear on what is happening so far and expected to happen in the coming decades, especially on the melting of glaciers and rise in sea levels, Taalas said.

"The growing trend of disasters is expected to continue at least till the 2060s, and sea level rise will continue much longer because we have already exceeded 420 ppm of CO2 concentrations," said the chief of the UN weather agency. "If we have carbon removal technologies available, we could change that. So far that is not the case." In 1980, the concentration of

carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere was around 340 parts per million (ppm), according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Impacts of climate crisis are visible and clearly understood by heads of states, and they did not question the scientific information at the Glasgow conference, Taalas pointed out. "Africa, South Asia and Pacific Islands are very vulnerable when it comes to impacts of climate change," he said.

The current sixth cycle of the assessment report is the most ambitious one in IPCC's history, said Hoesung Lee, chair of the scientific body. Compared to its previous reports, the latest one

will have more general and local information with focus on natural, social and economic sciences, Lee said.

In the next two weeks, policymakers from 196 countries and 270 scientists from 67 nations will scrutinise the summary for policymakers.

"The first working group report of the IPCC sixth assessment in 2021 quantified the physical changes in the past and future climate, due to increased greenhouse gas emissions. The second working group report will elaborate on the impacts and risks due to these physical changes and point out ways to reduce these risks through adaptation," Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, said last week.

"South Asia, and particularly India, is already facing increased risks due to rising extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, and droughts, cyclones, heatwaves and cold waves, and a rising sea level. The dense population and low household income in the region will raise the vulnerability and risk that we are facing," Koll had said. "Hence, we urgently need to embrace adaptive measures to build a climate-resilient, disaster-proof country, but that will require immediate policy and action."

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