

**National /State News**

1. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) :
  1. Central Government Has Approved The Roll Out Of The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission For 5 Years With An Outlay Of Rs 1600 Cr
  2. The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Which Of The Following Statement IS Correct ?

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

## Govt. nod for health account numbers

Citizens can link them to digital health records

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the national roll-out of the Central sector scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with a budget of ₹1,600 crore for five years.

The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

The Union government on Saturday said digital health solutions across healthcare ecosystem had proven to be of immense benefit over the years, with CoWIN, Arogya Setu and eSanjeevani further demonstrating the role technology can play in enabling access to healthcare. However,



Better access: Digital health records can help with portability of services. ■ FILE PHOTO

er, there is a need to integrate such solutions for continuum of care and effective utilisation of resources.

Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked. This will enable creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers.

The mission is expected to improve equitable access to quality healthcare by encouraging use of technologies such as telemedicine and enabling national portability of health services.

"Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is creating a seamless online platform through

the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information," said the release.

The pilot of the ABDM was completed in the six Union Territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with successful demonstration of technology platform developed by the NHA.

During the pilot, a digital sandbox was created in which more than 774 partner solutions are undergoing integration. As on February 24, 17,33,69,087 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in the ABDM.

The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the nationwide roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with a budget of ₹ 1,600 crore for five years, according to an official statement.

The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of the central sector scheme.

Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked, Under the ABDM, a user can generate their unique ABHA number of 14 Digit They can use the ABHA number to link their existing and new medical records including doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital records etc. and also share these records with registered health professionals and health service providers and also access other digital health services whilst maintaining a common pool of medical history.

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**Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**2. Recently In February MSME Minister Shri Narayan Rane Launched *The KONBAC SFRUTI (Konkan Bamboo And Cane Development Centre – Scheme Of Fund For Regeneration Of Traditional Industries ) In Sindhudurg . Which Of The Following Is The Nodal Agency Of SFURTI Initiative ?***

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

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Narayan Rane today announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg

Earlier in the day, the MSME Minister inaugurated the KONBAC SFURTI (Konkan Bamboo and Cane Development Centre - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) bamboo cluster at Kudal. The cluster will support 300 artisans. Ministry of MSME has released Rs 1.45 crore for setting up of the cluster.

KONBAC is an independent non-profit organization which has developed into a self-sustaining institutional ecosystem

Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) is an initiative by Ministry of MSME to promote Cluster development. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi.

**3. Recently In February To Provide a further boost to the ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government of India in the Defence Sector, *Ministry of Defence has today signed a contract Worth \_\_\_\_\_ with M/s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T90. ?***

- A. Rs. 1700 crore
- B. Rs. 1600 crore
- C. Rs. 1075 crore**
- D. Rs. 819 crore

The Ministry of Defence has signed a Rs 1,075 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T90 for the Indian Army.

"The retro-modification will be carried out in 957 tanks. **The total value of the contract is Rs 1,075 cr (including all taxes and duties)**

Ministry of Defence signs Rs 1,075 cr contract with BEL for retro-modification of Commander Sight for T-90 tanks

PTI • Last Updated: Feb 28, 2022, 02:36 PM IST

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**Synopsis**

The successful indigenous development of Thermal Imager-based Commander Sight, jointly by IRDE, DRDO and BEL, with improved performance than its predecessor provides a further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.



The [Ministry of Defence](#) has signed a Rs 1,075 crore contract with [Bharat Electronics Limited](#) for the retro-modification of [Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T90](#) for the [Indian Army](#). "The retro-modification will be carried out in 957 tanks. The total value of the contract is Rs 1,075 cr (including all

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The successful indigenous development of Thermal Imager-based Commander Sight, jointly by IRDE, [DRDO](#) and [BEL](#), with improved performance than its predecessor provides a further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India, it said.

4. Recently In February The *Air India Flight Evacuated Indian Students From Ukraine* With Amid War Tense With Russia Under Which Of The Following Operation ?
- A. Operation Durga
  - B. Operation Shakti
  - C. Operation Ganga
  - D. Operation Bandar

# Govt launches Operation Ganga to rescue Indians stuck in Ukraine

ADITI PHADNIS  
New Delhi, 27 February

To quicken the process of rescuing the Indians stranded in Ukraine, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, as part of Operation Ganga, on Sunday outlined new steps, including opening fresh exit points judged safe for them to leave the country.

The government will pay for the operation entirely.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to this in Varanasi during an election campaign meeting, where he said India was making every effort to get its citizens out of Ukraine.

However, India continued to stay neutral on the conflict and suspended judgement on who was responsible for the war.

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has been in touch with his equivalent in Moldova, which has a border with Ukraine. He has also spoken to ministers in neighbouring countries.

The exit route from Moldova is less choked than the ones from Poland, which are jammed by Ukrainians seeking to flee from the war.

Shringla said around 4,000 Indians were in the Kharkiv and Sumy regions in East Ukraine, as well as Odessa and the Crimea, where fighting is most intense.

These regions are also close to the Russian border, just at a distance of 70 km, and teams from the Indian embassy

are at the border points, ready to evacuate Indians as soon as a window opens and there is respite from the fighting.

A direct train from Kyiv to the Hungarian border is another option, he suggested. Shringla said he spoke to the envoys of Russia and Ukraine separately and expressed concern about Indian students, asking both to direct the forces in the warring countries to ensure protection. Both reassured him that steps would be taken to make sure the Indians were not harmed.

"We're asking citizens to move westwards. Take a train, then take the most appropriate border staging points and then leave the country. There are teams from our embassies in all the countries to ensure you exit in an orderly and safe manner," he said at a special briefing.

Earlier, the government had circulated the mobile phone numbers of officials who are part of the teams. This has been replaced with a hotline, which can be tapped to connect every caller to the most appropriate border point team.

Shringla said four flights had been run and two more will leave on Monday. Private airlines like IndiGo are arranging flights to Budapest, capital of Hungary, via Istanbul, capital of Turkey. "Our plan is to ensure that as citizens mass together, flights are made ready and all aircraft are ready to go at short notice," Shringla said.

The International Council of the Red Cross (ICRC), which deals with conflict-

## Poland to let in Indian students without visa

Poland will allow Indian students to enter from war-hit Ukraine without any visa restrictions, according to media reports. Polish ambassador to India Adam Burakowski Tweeted Sunday, "Poland is allowing to enter without any visa all Indian students who escape from Russian aggression in Ukraine."

torn regions, will start operations from Monday and India is in its close touch.

"The government has chartered these flights and the cost of the flights henceforth will be met by the government," Shringla said.

However, Shringla was cautious about offering help to either country to act as honest broker. Turkey and Azerbaijan have offered their services to both countries as moderators.

"We don't want war," Shringla said, echoing the prime minister, who told President Vladimir Putin on the phone the differences between Russia and the NATO group could be resolved only through honest and sincere dialogue.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while campaigning in Ballia, said: "India is peace-lover. India has never attacked any country and never grabbed the land of other country. We want world peace and everyone should accept it."

5. Recently In February The Delhi Cabinet Has **Approved India's First** \_\_\_\_\_ **To Curb Pollution And Will Set Up E- Film Clearance Portal And Will Provide Subsidy up To** \_\_\_\_\_ **For Film Production In Delhi ?**

- A. Waste To Art Theme Park , Rs 5 Cr
- B. E- Waste Eco Park , Rs 3 Cr
- C. E –Waste Eco Clinic , Rs 3 Cr
- D. E – Waste Pollution Hub , Rs 5 Cr

The Delhi government will soon pitch the capital as an international filmmaking destination as the Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved India's most progressive state film policy to promote the national capital as a hub for cinema activities of European standards.

"The objectives of the 'Delhi Film Policy 2022' include promoting an environment where every city resident associates with what they see on the silver screen with their culture and society.

A new 'Delhi Film Card' of a value of Rs 1 lakh will also be introduced to offer special deals and packages to filmmakers and production agencies

Cabinet Said It Will launch the 'e-film clearance' portal "The government will provide subsidies of up to Rs 3 crore for films made in Delhi. This will bring down the overall production cost of the film but will be provided as per certain parameters." Delhi Film Fund, endowed with an initial allocation of Rs 50 crore, will shortly be established for branding Delhi as a national and international tourism destination from the film promotion POV.

## Narela to get India's 1st e-waste park

HT Correspondent  
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government will build India's first electronic waste eco-park in the national capital which will include dismantling, segregating, refurbishing, storage, testing, plastic recycling and precious metal extraction facilities, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said on Thursday.

The e-waste park is being planned in Narela industrial area and will be spread across 20 acres. The Delhi cabinet, chaired by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal approved a proposal on Thursday to appoint a project consultant.

"As the use of technology is increasing by the day, the amount of e-waste generation has also

gone up. But it is not being handled scientifically and safely, which results in many life threatening incidents such as fire, and harmful impact on the health of capital's residents and waste handlers. At this eco-park recycling, refurbishing, and dismantling of waste will be done in a scientific and environmentally safe manner," Sisodia said in a press conference after the cabinet meeting.

He said no other state has started work on such a facility yet. To be sure, this is not the first time the project has been announced.

On September 22 last year, the project was first announced by the office of lieutenant governor Anil Bajaj, who convened a meeting to finalise the modalities of the e-waste eco-park.



The eco-park will engage informal operators with sufficient knowledge in the collection network.

**MANISH SISODIA,**  
Delhi deputy chief minister

It is estimated that Delhi generates about 200,000 tonnes of e-waste annually from electrical appliances, electronic items, computers, accessories and mobile phones, among others. This is potentially hazardous to not only

the environment but can, in the short-term, also harm humans. Collection centres across 12 zones will be set up to channelise e-waste. The eco-park will provide infrastructure, training and tools to operators in the informal sector to groom them as formal recyclers, Sisodia announced.

"The e-waste eco-park shall engage informal operators involved in this work for a long time and with a sufficient knowledge base in the collection network. Cooperation with the informal sector will help to ensure availability of e-waste for processing in the formal sector and will contribute to make the formal units economically viable. There will be end-to-end processing of e-waste and zero landfill will be ensured," Sisodia said.

## Cabinet approves e-waste eco park

Govt. also clears State film policy

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved setting up of an e-waste eco park. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the park will help in curbing pollution and it will be the first such project in the country.

"Currently, Delhi releases over 2,00,000 tonnes of e-waste every year, which is mainly handled by informal recyclers. At this eco-park, recycling, refurbishing and dismantling of waste will be done in a scientific and environmentally safe manner," Mr. Sisodia said.

The park will be an integrated facility which will accommodate various handlers such as e-waste refurbishers, dismantlers, recyclers, plastic waste processors and others. It will also have different types of processing and recycling units for the materials recovered from e-waste sites.



Manish Sisodia

Reacting to the decision, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the government's announcement was not a "well-thought-out or planned decision".

"If the Delhi government is serious towards solving this problem, then it should first set up one or two e-waste collection centres in every municipal ward," he said.

Mr. Sisodia said the Cabinet has also approved "India's most progressive" State film policy to promote Delhi

'Waste-to-art' theme park gets SDMC nod

NEW DELHI

To mark 75 years of India's Independence, the SDMC has decided to set up a theme park based on 'waste-to-art' concept, at Shaheed Park, ITO. The civic body gave the nod for the project, to be developed at a cost of ₹29 crore, during its House session on Thursday.

as the "hub" for modern filmmaking on European Standards.

"The (Arvind) Kejriwal government will set up e-Film Clearance Portal where approvals of over 25 agencies, including police and DDA, will be given online within 15 days. The government will also provide a subsidy of up to ₹3 crore for film production in Delhi and will incentivise hiring of locals," he said. Under the policy, there will be annual scholarship for students of Delhi studying at NSD, FTII and other recognised institutes

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Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

6. Recently In February Which of the following organizations/ministries has launched **Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign** to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat?
- A. Ministry of Culture
  - B. Ministry of Education**
  - C. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
  - D. Ministry Of Minority Affairs

The campaign has been launched to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

It aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Education and MyGov India. The app is developed by a startup named Multibhashi.

People can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages with the help of Bhasha Sangam mobile app. As part of 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative, people are being encouraged to upload their selfie with the certificate from their social media accounts.

Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat: It was launched on 31 October 2015 on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

7. Recently In February State-run **Indian Railway Construction (IRCON)** on has been appointed as a project implementation agency for the construction of the \_\_\_\_\_ worth road project in \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- A. Rs 1600 Cr , Bhutan
  - B. Rs 1780 cR , Myanmar**
  - C. Rs 1987 Cr , Bangladesh
  - D. Rs 819 Cr , Nepal

State-run Indian Railway Construction (IRCON) on Saturday said it has been appointed as a project implementation agency for the construction of the Rs 1780 crore worth road project in Myanmar.

"IRCON has been appointed as 'Project Implementation Agency' for "Construction of Road from Paletwa (Myanmar) to Zorinpuri (Mizoram) under Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP)" in Myanmar, on EPC mode at Lump Sum cost of Rs 1780 crore by the Ministry of External Affairs,"

IRCON, set up under the ownership of the Ministry of Railways, has so far completed more than 300 infrastructure projects in India and more than 100 projects across the globe in more than 21 countries.

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8. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Mizoram state budget** for financial year 2022-23

:

1. Mizoram CM Zoramthanga presented state budget for financial year 2022-23 with a total outlay of Rs 14,008 crore.
2. He tabled the supplementary demands for grants for the fiscal year 2021-22, totaling to Rs 6,025.44 crore.
3. The funds for implementation of Mizoram government's flagship **Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP)** has been increased from Rs 400 crore in the previous budget to Rs 700 crore for 2022-2023 fiscal.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

He also tabled the supplementary demands for grants for the fiscal year 2021-22, totaling to Rs 6,025.44 crore.

He said that state is facing major financial problems because of inadequate release of the share of taxes from the Centre.

In the budget, there is no proposal for levying new taxes or increasing existing tax rates.

Out of total outlay of Rs 14,008 crore, 28.57% has been kept for capital expenditure. CM said that the aim is to keep a revenue surplus of Rs 1,419.69 crore.

The government will explore all possible avenues to augment the revenue income with the formation of Mizoram Resource Mobilization Committee.

CM said that Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 39,458.50 crore.

The funds for implementation of Mizoram government's flagship Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) has been increased from Rs 400 crore in the previous budget to Rs 700 crore for 2022-2023 fiscal. Its capital is Aizawl. Its governor is Hari Babu Kambhampati.

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9. Recently In Febraury The state-owned **Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI)** and the Fisheries Department of \_\_\_\_\_ signed a MOU to work together for the maintenance and development of fishing harbours, reservoirs, ponds and other water bodies in State through dredging and other marine activities ?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Guajarat**
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

Recently In Febraury The state-owned Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI) and the Fisheries Department of **Gujarat** signed a MOU to work together for the maintenance and development of fishing harbours, reservoirs, ponds and other water bodies in State through dredging and other marine activities

Under the MoU, DCI will act as a nodal, single point contact agency for holistic and turnkey solutions for civil maritime, dredging and other works, including carrying out dredging and reclamation projects, conducting surveys and soil studies, preparation of detailed project reports and consultancy services for the harbours/ water bodies of the state government's Fisheries Department,

**Dredging Corporation of India Limited, or DCI, is unit engaged in the business of dredging. DCI does dredging for Indian seaports exclusively. Headquarters: Visakhapatnam Founded: 29 March 1976**

10. Recently In Febraury Sri G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the conference on Indian Temple Architecture titled "**DEVAYATANAM – An Odyssey of Indian Temple Architecture**", organized by the Archaeological Survey of India at Whcih Of The Following Temple ?

- A. Hoysala Temple
- B. Khuzraho Temple
- C. Hampi**
- D. Dhar

Sri G. Kishan Reddy inaugurates the conference on Indian Temple Architecture titled "DEVAYATANAM – An Odyssey of Indian Temple Architecture", **organized by the Archaeological Survey of India at Hampi, Karnataka**

The Minister further said that this was in line with the overall vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who inspires us with 5 V's, i. e. Vikas (development), Virasat (heritage), Vishwas (trust), Vignan (knowledge) will lead us to becoming a vishwaguru so that India shows the world the way.

**temples of Hampi are already featured in the World Heritage List of the UNESCO for their Sheer brilliance, Scale of imagination,**

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11. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ the airport operator which owns the **world's first airport fully powered by solar energy** -- is all set to commission its new solar power plant at \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Indira Gandhi International Airport , Delhi
- B. Cochin International Airport , Pyannar**
- C. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport , Telangana
- D. Belagum Airport , Belagum

**National**

**Cochin International Airport to launch 12 MWp solar power plant at Payyanur**

BL Kochi Bureau | Updated On: Feb 27, 2022



A panoramic view of CIAL's solar plant at Payyanur

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the plant on March 6

Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) -- the airport operator which owns the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy -- is all set to commission its new solar power plant at Payyanur.

With this, CIAL has emerged forward from its current status

of being a power neutral airport to a power positive airport.

Marking the start of another era in sustainable development, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) — which runs the world's first fully solar-powered airport in Kochi — **is set to commission its new solar power plant at Payyannur**. With this, CIAL progresses from a power neutral airport to a power positive airport.

The 12 megawatt-peak (MWp) Payyannur plant — at Ettukudukka — is slated to be dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on March 6. With the commissioning of the new plant, CIAL's cumulative installed solar plant capacity will be scaled up to 50MWp.

CIAL Managing Director S.Suhas said the airport attained the status of World's first airport fully powered by solar energy way back in 2015.



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12. Recently In February India With Which Of The Following Country Will Develop 125 KN Engine For The Indigenous Fifth Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) ?

- A. Russia
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. US

## DRDO, Safran to develop engine for aircraft

India, France to ink deal to develop 125KN engine for indigenous fighter soon

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

India and France are close to concluding a deal, likely in the next couple of months, for the joint development of a 125KN engine for the indigenous fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) under development, according to defence officials.

The collaboration is between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and French engine maker Safran.

“External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed this issue with French Defence Minister Florence Parly during his visit to Paris [last week]. We expect to have an agreement in a month or two,” a defence official said.



**New beginning:** S. Jaishankar with French Defence Minister Florence Parly in Paris to discuss the engine deal. •PTI

In December 2021, speaking at an event after Ms. Parly’s visit to India, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said a major French company will come to India and “make the engine in strategic partnership with an

Indian company”.

Last year, the government had informed Parliament that it is proposed to develop indigenous engines for powering aircraft such as the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) variants and AMCA in asso-

ciation with an international engine house.

### Parallel progress

The initial design of the AMCA started way back in 2009 and is envisaged as a twin engine stealth aircraft with internal weapons bay, which has been developed for the first time and for which the design is complete, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier.

Once the agreement is concluded with France, development of the aircraft as well as the engine will progress parallelly to meet the timelines, officials said.

The manufacturing and production of the aircraft is planned through a Special Purpose Vehicle, which will also involve private industry.

India and France are close to concluding a deal, likely in the next couple of months, for the joint development of a 125KN engine for the indigenous fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) under development. The collaboration is between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and French engine maker Safran.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed this issue with French Defence Minister Florence Parly during his visit to Paris.

Last year, the government had informed Parliament that it is proposed to develop indigenous engines for powering aircraft such as the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) variants and AMCA in association with an international engine house. The initial design of the AMCA started way back in 2009 and is envisaged as a twin engine stealth aircraft with internal weapons bay, which has been developed for the first time and for which the design is complete

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**13. Recently In February The Central Government Has Announced The Target Of \_\_\_\_\_ Million Tonnes Of Wheat During And \_\_\_\_\_ Million Tonnes Of RABI Grown rice Under The Minimum Support Price Programme For The Year 2022 – 23 ?**

- A. 44.4 mt , 4.29 Mt**
- B. 48.5 Mt , 7.8 Mt**
- C. 51.6 Mt , 6.8 Mt**
- D. 41.5 Mt , 5.9 Mt**

## Centre targets 44.4 mt wheat procurement, 4.3 mt rabi rice

Wheat procurement target exceeds last year's total purchase of 43.34 mt

**PRABHUDUTTA MISHRA**

New Delhi, February 27

The Centre has announced that it would buy 44.4 million tonnes (mt) of wheat during 2022-23 and 4.29 mt of rabi-grown rice under the minimum support price (MSP) programme. However, the rice target does not include the estimates of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The wheat target, finalised by the Food Ministry after a meeting of State Food Secretaries through video conference, exceeds last year's total purchase of 43.34 mt. "The target of 4.29 mt rice (rabi crop)

### Wheat procurement in major States (lakh tonnes)

|                | 2022-23 (target) | 2021-22 (actual) |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Punjab         | 132              | 132.22           |
| Haryana        | 85               | 84.93            |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 60               | 56.41            |
| Madhya Pradesh | 129              | 128.16           |
| Rajasthan      | 23               | 23.40            |
| Bihar          | 10               | 4.56             |



Source: Food Ministry

has been estimated for procurement during the forthcoming rabi crop in the current season (October-September) from seven procuring States.

"Estimates of procurement of rabi-grown rice from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana is awaited," the ministry said in a statement. Rice procurement could be around 7 mt in the three States from

rabi grown crop, considering the past trend, provided Telangana does not reduce the target (about 6 mt). In Telangana, against a procurement target of 10.5 mt (both kharif and rabi crops) in the last season (October-September), the Centre had procured 9.45 mt of rice. In the current season, the procurement in the State reached 4.7 mt out of a target of 4.6 mt from the kharif crop.

The Centre announced on Friday that it would purchase 44.4 million tonnes (mt) of wheat and 4.29 million tonnes (mt) of rabi-grown rice under the minimum support price (MSP) programme in 2022-23.

The rice target, however, excludes Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana estimates.

The wheat target, which was finalized by the Food Ministry following a video conference meeting of State Food Secretaries, exceeds last year's total purchase of 43.34 mt.

"A target of 4.29 million tonnes of rice (rabi crop) has been estimated for procurement from seven procuring States during the upcoming rabi crop in the current season (October-September)

In the current season, the state procured 4.7 million tonnes out of a target of 4.6 million tonnes from the Kharif crop.

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**14. Recently In February India With Which Of The Following Country Has agreed to set up a joint task force on “proposal to construct a hydropower project” from investments of both the countries. ?**

- A. France
- B. Bangaldesh
- C. Nepal**
- D. Bhutan

Try GOLD >>

India, Nepal agree to form joint task force on building hydropower project

Business Standard | 4 days ago



Photo: Shutterstock



from investments of the two neighbouring countries.

The task force will have maximum three members from both the countries.

The agreement was reached at the 9th meeting of the Nepal-India Energy Secretary-Level Joint Steering Committee in Kathmandu, according to officials at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation.

The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary of the Energy

India and Nepal on Thursday agreed to form a joint task force on a proposal to construct a hydropower project from investments of the two neighbouring countries.

The task force will have maximum three members from both the countries.

The agreement was reached at the 9th meeting of the Nepal-India Energy Secretary-Level Joint Steering Committee in Kathmandu, according to officials at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation.

The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary of the Energy Ministry Debendra Karki from Nepal and Secretary of the Energy Ministry of India Alok Kumar.

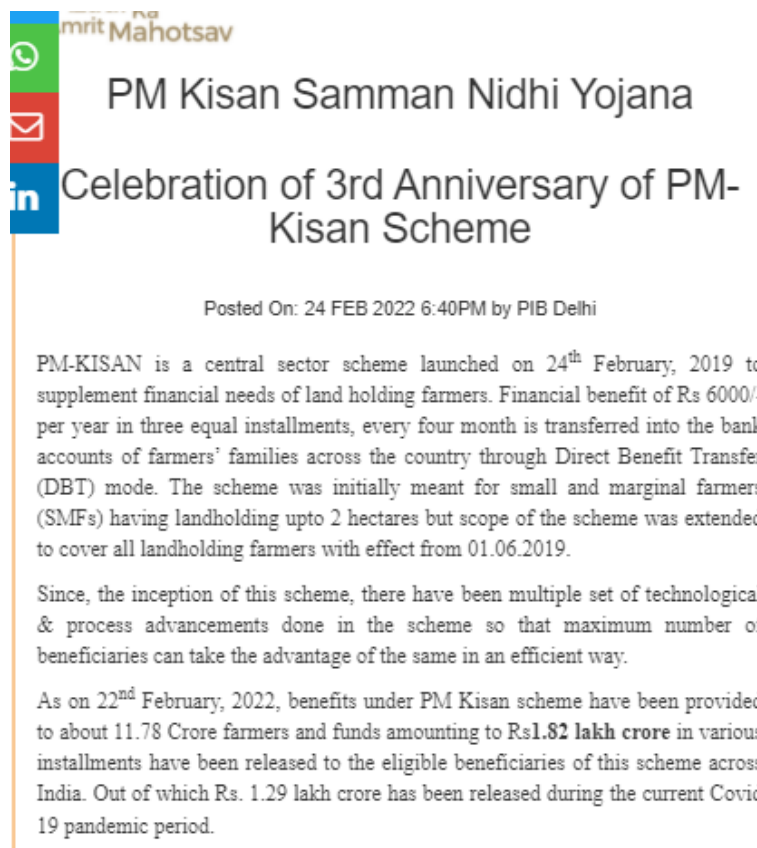
Both sides agreed to increase the capacity of energy being imported and exported through the interstate 400 KV Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line. The 400 KV transmission line will span 140 kilometers (20 kilometers in Nepali territory and the remaining 120 in Indian territory).

15. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **PM-KISAN** :

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is an initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support
2. This scheme was initially launched for small and marginal farmers having up to 2 hectares of landholdings, but in June 2019 it was extended to include all landholding farmers.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct

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



mrit Mahotsav

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

Celebration of 3rd Anniversary of PM-Kisan Scheme

Posted On: 24 FEB 2022 6:40PM by PIB Delhi

PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme launched on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers. Financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, every four month is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The scheme was initially meant for small and marginal farmers (SMFs) having landholding upto 2 hectares but scope of the scheme was extended to cover all landholding farmers with effect from 01.06.2019.

Since, the inception of this scheme, there have been multiple set of technological & process advancements done in the scheme so that maximum number of beneficiaries can take the advantage of the same in an efficient way.

As on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022, benefits under PM Kisan scheme have been provided to about 11.78 Crore farmers and funds amounting to Rs.1.82 lakh crore in various installments have been released to the eligible beneficiaries of this scheme across India. Out of which Rs. 1.29 lakh crore has been released during the current Covid 19 pandemic period.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan Yojana) is a government scheme through which, all small and marginal farmers will get up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support. This 75,000-crore scheme aims to cover 125 million farmers, irrespective of the size of their landholding in India.

The PM Kisan Yojana came into effect from December 1, 2018. It was launched by prime minister Narendra Modi-led government.

Under the PM Kisan Yojana, income support of Rs 6000 per annum is provided to all eligible farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each every four months. The scheme defines family as husband, wife and minor children. The fund of Rs 2,000 is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the farmers/farmer's family.

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16. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following State Is Celebrating **Viva Carnival** ?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Delhi
- C. **Goa**
- D. Assam

## Viva Carnaval! 4-day carnival kicks off in Goa today, here's what's lined up

The four-day celebration that starts on Saturday marks the days before the month of Lent, observed by Catholics as a season of abstinence and prayer. Traditionally, the Lent season is about six weeks ahead of Easter, during which Christians abstain from alcohol, meat and observe fasts.

Written by [MAYURA JANWALKAR](#), Edited by Explained Desk | Panaji |  
Updated: February 26, 2022 3:12:27 pm



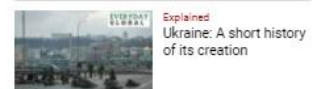
Panaji all set for Carnaval 2022 celebrations. (Express Photo)

Goa celebrates its annual 'Carnaval' or carnival from February 26 to March 1. The colourful festival, a vestige of the state's erstwhile Portuguese rulers, is a celebration before the month of Lent followed by Catholics in Goa. With float parades, music, dance and culinary delights, over the decades, the exuberant celebration has been an eagerly awaited annual event showcasing Goa's vibrant culture.

The capital city of Panaji has been adorned with carnival masks under the street-lights on the main Dayanand Bandodkar Marg from the offshore casinos on the Mandovi river to Miramar Beach, on the road running parallel to the river. The traffic in the capital will be diverted for the better part of Saturday, and the city's gardens and open spaces will come alive with traditional music and dance over the



### MORE EXPLAINED



### BEST OF EXPRESS



Goa is celebrating its annual 'Carnaval' or carnival from February 26 to March 1.

Carnival in Goa is also called "Carnaval", "Intruz", "Entrado", or (colloquially) "Viva Carnival The colourful festival, a vestige of the state's erstwhile Portuguese rulers, is a celebration before the month of Lent followed by Catholics in Goa.

With float parades, music, dance and culinary delights, over the decades, the exuberant celebration has been an eagerly awaited annual event showcasing Goa's vibrant culture. While carnival celebrations are held across the state by the Goa Department of Tourism, Panaji is the centre of action during the carnival.

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**17. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Successfully Commissioned 1.7 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Which Is First Solar Plant Of Indian Railways Installed In Which Of The Following District In Madhya Pradesh ?**

- A. NTPC , Indore
- B. NHPC , Khandwa
- C. BHEL , Bina**
- D. IOCL , Ujjain

**Indian Railways first solar power plant at Bina which feeds traction power directly| Watch video**



Indian Railways present demand would be fulfilled by the solar projects being deployed, making it the first transport organisation to be energy self-sufficient (PTI)

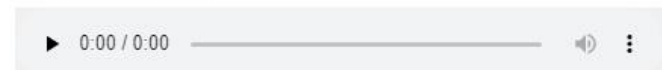
2 min read . Updated: 24 Feb 2022, 02:15 PM IST

**Livemint**

- Indian Railways : The key challenge in this project was the conversion of DC power generated from solar panels to the single phase 25 KV AC power which is used by the Railways traction system



Listen to this article



Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited x Close has successfully commissioned a 1.7-megawatt solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the [Indian Railways](#). The plant will directly feed power to traction systems of Indian Railways. The move to create a solar plant was taken after Indian Railways decided to be self-reliant for its energy needs and solarise railway stations by utilizing its vacant lands for Renewable Energy (RE) projects. The Ministry of Railways has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands on mega scale.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned a 1.7-MW Solar Photovoltaic Plant at Bina, Madhya Pradesh. Indian Rail. The plant will directly supply electricity to the traction system of the Indian Railways. The move to build solar plants was taken after Indian Railways decided to become self-sufficient for its energy needs and solarize railway stations by using its vacant land for renewable energy (RE) projects.

It has started procuring energy from various solar projects like 3 MWp solar plant installed at MCF Raebareli (UP). About 100 MW of rooftop solar systems have already been commissioned at various stations and buildings of Indian Railways

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, BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer. CEO - Nalin Singhal.

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18. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** :

1. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in the year 2000. It was launched with the objective of providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations across the country.**
2. **NRIDA is the nodal implementation agency of the PMGSY scheme.**

Which Of The Following Statement IS Correct ?

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

Feb 22, 2022, 2:09PM

Union Minister Raj Giriraj Singh launches Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain



Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh launched Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain in New Delhi today. This includes Data for over 8 lakh rural facilities, 10 lakh habitations & 25 lakh kilometre of rural roads which has been collected & digitised using GIS platform developed for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency, the nodal implementation agency of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has also signed MoU with 3 renowned GIS Firms & collaborating with Gati Shakti for releasing Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain. The technology will be utilised for improvement in planning and implementation of projects in India's rural areas. The objective of the collaboration is to exchange the data for better planning and implementation of both Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and GatiShakti.

Rural connectivity GIS data released in public domain by Giriraj Singh.

It covers GIS data for eight lakh rural facilities, 10 lakh habitations and 25 lakh km of rural roads.

It has been collected and digitized using the GIS platform developed for the PMGSY scheme.

GIS technology will be used to enhance the planning and implementation of rural development projects.

GIS firms ESRI India, MapmyIndia, and DataMeet signed an MoU with NRIDA and collaborated with Gati Shakti to release rural connectivity GIS data in the public domain.

NRIDA is the nodal implementation agency of the PMGSY scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in the year 2000. It was launched with the objective of providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations across the country.

Gati Shakti is a national master plan and digital platform for planning and executing infrastructure projects in India, with the goal of lowering logistics costs and improving infrastructure.

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**19. Consider The Followign Statement Regarding National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS)**

:

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme. It was launched in May 2008 to provide scholarships for meritorious students of classes IX to XII.**
- 2. Government has proposed to award scholarships to 14.76 lakh students with a financial outlay of Rs 1827 crores.**
- 3. The eligibility criteria for the scheme has been slightly modified. Income ceiling has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum.**

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

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

Ministry of Education

Government approves the continuation  
of National Means-cum-Merit  
Scholarship (NMMSS) for a period of  
five years

Posted On: 22 FEB 2022 5:20PM by PIB Delhi

Government has approved the continuation of Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) over the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle for a period of five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore with minor modifications in eligibility criteria such as increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.

The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop-out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.

Government approved continuation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) for next five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The eligibility criteria for the scheme has been slightly modified. Income ceiling has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum.

Government has proposed to award scholarships to 14.76 lakh students with a financial outlay of Rs 1827 crores. Since the launch of the NMMSS in 2008-09, 22.06 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned till 2020-21.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS): It is a Central Sector Scheme. It was launched in May 2008 to provide scholarships for meritorious students of classes IX to XII.

It aims to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to prevent them from dropping out of class VIII and encourage them to continue their study and complete secondary stage.



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20. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)**

1. It is a rural housing scheme. It **was launched with effect from 1st April 2016** to achieve the aim of providing “Housing to All” by the year 2024.
2. The **dashboard has been launched for stringent monitoring of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)**. The stakeholders of PMAY-G will use the dashboard for monitoring and managerial purposes.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The dashboard has been launched for stringent monitoring of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G). The stakeholders of PMAY-G will use the dashboard for monitoring and managerial purposes.

The Minister said that the dashboard will provide complete transparency in the implementation of the scheme.

He further said that Block Officer should be given responsibility for providing a link to the dashboard to all elected and non-elected representatives of the block.

The Dashboard will enable the users to see, at a glance, an overall situation of PMAY-G.

The Minister asked the officials to make the dashboard public so that it can be made 'Aam Janta Ka Portal'.

**Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G):**

It is a rural housing scheme. It was launched with effect from 1st April 2016 to achieve the aim of providing “Housing to All” by the year 2024. It envisages the completion of 2.95 crore PMAY-G houses with all basic amenities by the year 2024.

As on 21st February 2022, 1.73 crores PMAY-G houses have been completed. It is being implemented and monitored through end to end e-governance solutions, AwaasSoft and AwaasApp.

21. Recently In February Under which Of The Following initiatives, the Union government wants to promote India's medical facilities and infrastructure?

- a. Heal by India
- b. Heal in India
- c. Heal through India
- d. Heal under India

## Govt plans to promote medical infra through 'heal in India' initiative

Rhythma Kaul

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The government is looking to promote India's medical facilities and infrastructure under a new 'heal in India' campaign, with plans to standardise processes and treatment packages for foreign nationals.

The initiative is meant to reframe the industry to steer away from the connotations that come with the tag medical tourism, officials said.

"When talking about medical treatment, tourism somehow does not sound right, which is why there have been discussions around branding the process as 'heal in India' wherein we provide health care delivery services to patients coming from outside India in a far streamlined manner," said a government official aware of the matter, on condition of anonymity.

The steps could also include checks on pricing. "The objective behind standardisation of packages is to ensure patients coming on medical visa for treatment are not overcharged. As things happen right now, different hospitals quote different rates or monetary packages for almost similar procedures or treatment, which is not fair to the patient. The idea is to standardise it so that variation is not huge," said the official cited above.

The Union government also plans to have a certified grievance redressal mechanism for international patients.

"There needs to be a system in place where these patients can register their complaints as the country is new for most of them and they would not know where

THE UNION GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANS TO HAVE A CERTIFIED GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS

to go if they faced any issues during their stay," said the official.

India is one of the sought-after destinations among international patients primarily because a significant number of doctors are trained in developed countries; English language fluency; state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment etc. Patients from abroad come for cancer treatment, organ transplant surgeries, plastic surgery etc.

The government also plans a parallel campaign named 'heal by India', which will look at providing manpower from India in the health care sector based on requirements in other countries.

"Heal by India initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for our trained professionals in the sector, especially those in the allied health care that has huge demand outside India. There are about 56 professional allied health care segments that includes x-ray operator, technicians, physiotherapist etc. for which there is huge demand," said the official.

According to people familiar with the matter, India is likely to open offices in various countries to facilitate the process under skill development mission.

'Heal in India' initiative has been launched to boost medical facilities and infrastructure. The plan of this initiative is to standardize processes and treatment packages for foreign nationals.

The goal of the initiative is to reframe the "medical tourism" industry.

This step could also include price checks to ensure that patients who are visiting on a medical visa are not overcharged. The government also plans to set up a certified grievance redressal procedure for international patients.

The government is also planning a parallel campaign named 'Heal by India'. It will consider providing manpower from India in the health care sector based on the needs in other countries.

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**22. Recently In February The *first biodiversity park in Himachal Pradesh* has been built at a cost of Rs 1 crore in the *Bhulah area of the Janjehli Valley* in the district of \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. Karnal
- B. Sonipat
- C. **Mandi**
- D. Kurfi

The first biodiversity park in Himachal Pradesh has been built at a cost of Rs 1 crore in the Bhulah area of the Janjehli Valley in the district of Mandi.

This will prove to be a boon for researchers and tourists and will also help in the conservation of the endangered Himalayan herb.

The park has been constructed by the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department as part of the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project.

Biodiversity is the shortened form of two words "biological" and "diversity". It refers to all the variety of life that can be found on Earth as well as the ecological systems in which they live.

**23. Recently In February Which Of The Following State government has launched a *mobile app for navigation on rivers at night* The night navigation mobile application has been launched by the transport department in association with scientists of Which Of The Following IIT ?**

- A. Manipur , IIT Kanpur
- B. Karnataka , IIT Ropar
- C. **Assam , IIT Madras**
- D. Mizoram , IIT Delhi

Assam government has launched a mobile app for navigation on rivers at night.

Assam is the first state of India to launch this kind of night navigation mobile app for rivers.

The night navigation mobile application has been launched by the transport department in association with scientists of IIT Madras.

The first night journey with this navigation system was completed between Guwahati and North Guwahati.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also launched ten Aadhar-based contactless services to make public delivery service efficient.

The Common Service Centres under the Ministry of Information Technology and Transport Department also signed an MoU for providing online services at the Panchayat level.

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**24. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Deep Manned Submersible Mission* :**

- 1. A small watercraft designed to operate underwater - developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Bengaluru**
- 2. This vehicle is called *Matysa6000* and this mission is called *Samudravayyaan*.**
- 3. The vehicle specifications to carry three persons with operation endurance of 12 hours at 6,000 m depth**

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

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

The Deep water Manned Submersible - a small watercraft designed to operate underwater - developed by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai**, will be ready by 2024, according to its director GA Ramadass.

We are in the process of developing a scientific human submersible which can take three human beings to 6,000 m water depth. This vehicle is called **Matysa6000** and this mission is called **Samudrayaan**. This will be done by 2024," he said at OCEANS 2022, Conference and Exposition, a Bi-annual event for Global Marine Researchers & technologists hosted jointly by NIOT and IIT Madras.

The vehicle specifications to carry three persons with operation endurance of 12 hours at 6,000 m depth and emergency endurance of 96 hours were finalised for the development of personnel sphere/human capsule,

The United Nations has declared this decade as the Decade of Oceans and the Government of India has announced the Deep Ocean Mission for which a budget of \$530 million for five years and the Blue Economy Policy has been unveiled,

**News**

Deep water manned submersible developed by NIOT will be ready by 2024

BL Chennai Bureau | Chennai, February 22 |

Updated On: Feb 22, 2022



1 | Photo Credit: HO

Information in NIOT website said that the manned submersible will allow scientists to get down in the environment to observe the life in its natural habitat in deep-waters

The Deep water Manned Submersible - a small watercraft designed to operate underwater - developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, will be ready by 2024, according to its director GA Ramadass.

"We are in the process of developing a scientific human submersible which can take three human beings to 6,000 m water depth. This vehicle is called **Matysa6000** and this mission is called **Samudrayaan**. This will be done by 2024," he said at OCEANS 2022, Conference and Exposition, a Bi-annual event for Global Marine Researchers & technologists hosted jointly by NIOT and IIT Madras.

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25. Recently In February Industry Body All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) Has Announced The Launch Of Newly Intelligence Service Portal Named Aigfintelligence.in Where Is The Headquarter Of AIGF ?

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Lucknow

The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF), India's apex industry and self-regulatory body for online gaming, has launched a new intelligence services portal, <https://aigfintelligence.in/> that would "monitor, track and give latest updates, analysis on developments in court cases, regulations and policy developments both at the Centre and states" on the online gaming industry.

"Powered by the gaming focused online news portal g2g.news, AIGF's intelligence platform will give exclusive access to fast-paced developments in different courts, state and central governments

"AIGF is happy to partner with G2G Technologies to launch a new intelligence-based regulatory updates platform

26. Recently In February Union Minister for Rural Development Giriraj Singh launched Which Of The Following App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances based on complaints he received from various sources ?

- A. MgNg App
- B. Ombudsperson App
- C. Gandhi Rural App
- D. PeopleChoice App

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA today. Addressing the launching event the Minister said that the Ombudsperson App is a step towards e-governance, this will be helpful in ensuring transparency and accountability. Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme in the States/UTs. At present, the reporting of complaints, passing awards and disposal of complaints are in physical form.

The app will help the ombudsperson to a greater extent in discharging her/his duty towards transparency and accountability. Also, smooth disposal of the grievances in a time-bound manner with minimal support of further human resources will be possible through the app.

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**27. Recently In February India's 1st Cable Stayed Rail Bridge Which Is To Come Up At Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district Ha Total Length Of How Much Meter ?**

- A. 473 Meter**
- B. 375 Meter**
- C. 258 Meter**
- D. 369 Meter**

Adding yet another feather in its cap, the Indian Railways is constructing India's first-ever cable-stayed rail bridge situated over Anji river (Anji Khad Bridge) in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir.

The engineering marvel 'Anji Khad bridge' is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which will connect Katra and Reasi areas of J&K through the rail link.

The under-construction rail bridge, once ready, will stand tall at a height of 331 meters above the river bed – higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The total length of the bridge is 473.25 meters and it is supported by 96 cables

In a landmark development, Indian Railways recently also connected the main and the longest tunnel of T-49 between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section of Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

T-49 is the 12.758-Km-long tunnel and it is going to be the longest tunnel of Indian Railway surpassing Peer Panjal Tunnel of 11.2 Km length constructed by USBRL on Banihal-Qazigund section."c

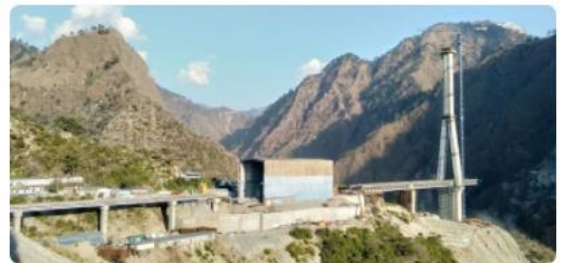
**Another Engineering marvel: Railways making India's first-ever cable-stayed rail bridge**

By PBNS

**NATIONAL NEWS** | **PBNS**

February 17, 2022 | Updated: February 17, 2022

Facebook Twitter



of Jammu & Kashmir.

The engineering marvel 'Anji Khad bridge' is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which will connect Katra and Reasi areas of J&K through the rail link.

**ANOTHER ENGINEERING MARVEL IN MAKING!**

**INDIA'S FIRST-EVER CABLE-STAYED RAIL BRIDGE SITUATED OVER ANJI RIVER (ANJI KHAD BRIDGE) IN DISTRICT REASI WILL CONNECT KATRA & REASI SECTION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR. @DRJITENDRASINGH PIC. TWITTER.COM/R0VNM20NAM**

– PRASAR BHARATI NEWS SERVICES  
 पी.बी.एन.एस. (@PBNS\_INDIA) FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**Humongous than Eiffel Tower**

The under-construction rail bridge, once ready, will stand tall at a height of 331 meters above the river bed – higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The total length of the bridge is 473.25 meters and it is supported by 96 cables.

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**28. Recently In February Which Edition Of *Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022*' at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho Was Inaugurated By Mangu Bhai Patel ?**

- A. 28<sup>th</sup>
- B. 36<sup>th</sup>
- C. 48<sup>th</sup>**
- D. 51<sup>st</sup>



The 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival commenced from today in Madhya Pradesh. The week long festival will be held till February 26th. Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel inaugurated the festival at Khajuraho this evening.

, the 48th edition of the world famous 'Khajuraho Dance Festival' is being organized in Khajuraho, located in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The festival is being organized on the theme of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Renowned artists from across the country and the world are performing at the festival. On the first day Kathak performance by the disciples of late Pandit Birju Maharaj, Kalashram New Delhi is centre of attraction.

**29. Recently In February The Ministry of Defence (MoD) Announced That *DRDO With Which Of The Following IIT Has successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link for a distance of over \_\_\_\_\_ km between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh ?***

- A. IIT Ropar , 75 Km
- B. IIT Kanpur , 50 Km
- C. IIT Delhi , 100 Km**
- D. IIT Mumbai , 20 Km

Scientists from DRDO and IIT Delhi for the first time in the country demonstrate Quantum Key Distribution link between two cities 100 kilometres apart.

The Quantum Key Distribution link has been demonstrated over a distance of over 100 km between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh. This technological breakthrough was achieved on commercial grade optical fiber already available in that region.

The country has demonstrated indigenous technology of secure key transfer for bootstrapping military grade communication security key hierarchy. This technology will enable security agencies to plan a suitable quantum communication network with indigenous technology base.

Quantum Key Distribution is also known as Quantum Cryptography. It is a secure communication method which enables two parties to produce a shared random secret key known only to them

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**30. Recently In February The Central Government Has Approved How Much Amount Of For Umbrella Scheme For The Continuation Of The *Border Indfrastructure And Management (BIM)* During The 15<sup>TH</sup> Finance Commision Cycle From 2021 – 2026 ?**

- A. Rs 24908 cR
- B. Rs 819 Cr
- C. Rs 13020 Cr**
- D. Rs 15899 Cr



The decision will strengthen infrastructure. AFP

## Govt okays ₹13K cr border infra plan

**T**he Modi government has approved a ₹13,020 crore central sector umbrella scheme for continuation of the Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) during the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The decision will strengthen infrastructure for improving border management, policing and guarding, an official statement said.

The Narendra Modi government has approved the continuation of the central sector umbrella scheme of BIM over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26, at a cost of ₹13,020 crore, it said.

The ministry of home affairs under the guidance of home minister Amit Shah is committed to improving border infrastructure and management, the statement said.

The BIM scheme will help in the creation of infrastructure such as border fence, border flood lights, technological solutions, border roads and border outposts (BOPs) and company operating bases to secure India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

PTI

The Modi government has approved a Rs 13,020 crore central sector umbrella scheme for continuation of the Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) during the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The BIM scheme will help in the creation of infrastructure such as border fence, border flood lights, technological solutions, border roads and border outposts (BOPs) and company operating bases to secure India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar

India's border with Pakistan is 3,323 km long, including about 775 km of the Line of Control. The length of border is 4,096 km with Bangladesh, 3,488 km with China, 1,751 km with Nepal, 699 km with Bhutan, 1,643 km with Myanmar.



**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**31. Recently In February India Has Improved Its Overall IP Score From 38.4 % tO 38.6 % And Ranked At 43 Out Of 55 Countries On The International Intellectual Property Index Which Has Been Topped By US . In The 10th Edition Of IP Index Which Two New Countires Has Been Addd In 55 Countries As Of Traidtional 53 ??**

- A. Ukraine And Russia
- B. Ghana And Honduras**
- C. Kuwait And Indonesia
- D. Vnenezual And Alzeria

India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index, according to an annual report compiled by the influential US Chambers of Commerce

“India’s overall score has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition

**Ghana and Honduras were added to the Index.**

Out of the 53 economies included in both the ninth and tenth editions, 45 economies saw a net improvement in their scores. **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Nigeria, and Peru had the largest improvements in score at 4.04%, 3.91%, and 2.76%, respectively.** **United States Chamber of Commerce Founder: Charles Nagel** **Founded: 12 April 1912 HQ - Washington**

Top 5 And Bottom 5 Are Givben Below

| Country   | 2022 IP Index Score | 2022 IP Index Ranking |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Venezuela | 14.10%              | 55                    |
| Algeria   | 26.36%              | 54                    |
| Pakistan  | 27.43%              | 53                    |
| Kuwait    | 27.92%              | 52                    |
| Indonesia | 30.42%              | 51                    |

| Country | 2022 IP Index Score | 2022 IP Index Ranking |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| France  | 92.10%              | 5                     |
| Sweden  | 92.14%              | 4                     |
| Germany | 92.46%              | 3                     |
| UK      | 94.14%              | 2                     |
| US      | 95.48%              | 1                     |

## India’s overall ranking on IP protection improves: USCC

**Washington:** India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index, according to an annual report compiled by the influential US Chambers of Commerce (USCC) on Thursday.

“India’s overall score has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition. This reflects a score increase on indicator 32,” said the report ‘Global Innovation Policy Center’ of the USCC. The report said it welcomed last year’s Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India released by the Parliamentary Standing

32. Recently In February The Central Government Has Approved The *Continuation Of Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme Up To March 31 2026 With A Financial Outlay Of How Much Amount ?*

- A. Rs 1700 Cr
- B. Rs 1364.88 Cr**
- C. Rs 25098 Cr
- D. Rs 45016 Cr

The Indian government has approved the continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond March 31, 2021, for five years starting April 1, 2021, up to March 31, 2026, with a financial outlay of Rs 1,364.88 crore.

One of the core objectives of IVFRT is to modernise and upgrade Immigration and Visa services. After the commencement of IVFRT, the number of Visa and OCI cards issued increased from 44.43 lakh in 2014 to 64.59 lakh in 2019 at a CAGR of 7.7%.

The average visa processing time of 15 to 30 days (during the pre-IVFRT period) has been reduced to a maximum of 72 hours in e-visas, with 95% of e-visas issued within 24 hours.

## Centre Approves Outlay of ₹1,364 Crore for Next Phase of Emigration Reforms

### Our Political Bureau

**New Delhi:** The government on Friday approved continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme up to March 31, 2026, with a financial outlay of ₹1,364.88 crore.

One of the core objectives of the IVFRT scheme is modernising and upgrading immigration and visa services. After the commencement of IVFRT, the number of visas and Overseas Citizenship of India cards issued increased from 4.443 million

in 2014 to 6.459 million in 2019. Meanwhile, international traffic to and from India grew from 37.1 million to 75 million during the last 10 years, official figures showed.

The project has a global outreach and seeks to interlink and optimise functions relating to immigration, visa issuance, registration of foreigners and tracking of their movements in India, by covering 192 Indian missions across the globe, 108 immigration check posts (ICPs) in India, 12 foreigners regional registration officers and offices (FRROs), as well as more than

700 foreigners registration officers (FROs), superintendents of police and deputy commissioners of police.

The average visa processing time of 15 to 30 days (during the pre-IVFRT period) has been reduced to a maximum of 72 hours in e-visas, with 95% of e-visas issued within 24 hours. "The government aims to provide a secure and integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travellers while strengthening national security, through this scheme," reads a statement issued by the union home ministry.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

33. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following State Has Unvieled A **New Agriculture Export Policy In Line With Centre Directives To States To Formulate Region Specific Policies For Promoting GI Tagged Product ?**


- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Harayana

Maharashtra launches it's own Agriculture Export Policy; seeks consistency in centre's export policy to promote state's agri exports

By Jayashree Bhosale, ET Bureau · Last Updated: Feb 25, 2022, 11:35 PM IST

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**Synopsis**  
The Government of India had unveiled its Agriculture Export Policy in December 2018, directing the state governments to draft their own policy. Accordingly, the state government had constituted a committee in May 2019 to draft the policy.



The Government of Maharashtra launched the state's Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) on Friday, which will focus on export promotion of 21 agricultural commodities.

The Government of India had unveiled its Agriculture Export Policy in December 2018, directing the state governments to draft their own policy. Accordingly, the state government had constituted a committee in May 2019 to draft the policy.

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4. Carlyle plans to acquire 10 per cent in Yes Bank for \$500-600 million

Maharashtra on Friday unveiled a new Agriculture Export Policy (AEP) in line with the Centre's directives to states to formulate region-specific policies with a focus on promoting exports of geographical indication- (GI) certified and 'unique', region-specific products.

The policy focuses on developing entrepreneurs in agri exports and diversifying the export basket to boost high-value and value-added agricultural exports.

Around 26 agricultural products have been granted GI tag from the state and we will be working towards boosting exports of these products

GI registration provides exclusive right to the community concerned to promote and sell the products in world markets. Of the 417 GI certifications granted by India so far, around 150 belong to the agricultural and food sectors.

The Centre's AEP launched in December 2018 has identified six agri export clusters in Maharashtra to promote shipment of mangoes, pomegranates, bananas, oranges, grapes and onions. The state government has identified 21 such clusters and sub-clusters which have a high potential of exports.

Since the AEP's launch, 21 states and two Union Territories have finalised their state-specific action plans. In accordance with the Centre's policy

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**Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**34. Recently In February Which Of The Following State has achieved the *Number One position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in the country, wresting the top slot back from Karnataka ?***

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

## TN pips Karnataka as the leader in overall renewable capacity

With rapid addition to capacity, Gujarat is racing towards pole position

**G BALACHANDAR**  
Chennai, February 25

**Tamil Nadu has achieved the Number One position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in the country, wresting the top slot back from Karnataka.**

In 2018, Karnataka toppled Tamil Nadu to become the leader in total installed capacity in the clean energy sector, supported by huge capacity addition in the solar segment and good progress in the wind power capacity. In January 2019, Karnataka's total renewable capacity was 13,402 MW, while Tamil Nadu's



As of Jan 31, Tamil Nadu's total installed renewable capacity stood at 15,914 MW as compared to Karnataka's capacity of 15,795 MW

total capacity was 12,125 MW.

Thanks to faster capacity addition in Tamil Nadu in recent years across solar and wind segments, the State has now regained the top position that it lost to Karnataka.

### Installed capacity

As of January 31, 2022, Tamil Nadu's total installed renewable capacity stood at 15,914 MW as compared to Karnataka's

total clean energy capacity of 15,795 MW, according to the information provided by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

"Tamil Nadu has been one of the early proponents of clean energy and is at the forefront of India's clean energy transition. We believe, with the State government's endeavour to become energy self-sufficient, there is im-

mense opportunity for solar energy generation across segments- rooftop, large-scale solar parks, wind-solar hybrid projects," Gyanesh Chaudhary, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, Vikram Solar told *BusinessLine*.

Tamil Nadu's total solar capacity increased to 4,894 MW (includes ground-mounted, rooftop and off-grid capacity) as of January 31, 2022, from 2,575 MW as of March 31, 2019, while wind capacity grew to 9,857 MW from 8,969 MW during the period.

Karnataka's solar capacity increased to 7,535 MW as of January 31, 2022, from 6,096 MW as of March 31, 2019, while its wind capacity grew to 5,077 MW from 4,695 MW.

Now, Gujarat is racing to become Number one with a huge increase in capacity ad-

dition in recent months. As of January 31, 2022, Gujarat's total renewable capacity was 15,518 MW. It is the Number One state in total rooftop solar installations. Of the total 6,405 MW of rooftop capacity in the country, Gujarat accounted for 1,679 MW.

**Rajasthan not far behind**  
"Rajasthan and Gujarat added the highest renewable capacity (4.8 GW and 2.4 GW respectively) in the current fiscal year till January 31, 2022. Other renewable resource rich States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh added a combined 2.2 GW of capacity during the same period," Gagan Sidhu, Director, CEEW Centre for Energy Finance.

Gujarat has identified

1,00,000 hectares of wasteland in the Kutch district to build the world's largest renewable energy park that may generate an energy of 30,000 MW. This hybrid park will accommodate wind and solar power plants of 24,800 MW capacity.

Rajasthan is not far behind in total renewable capacity and it is now the top solar state in India with a record installed capacity, overtaking Karnataka, which had held the position since 2018. As of January 31, 2022, Rajasthan's total solar capacity crossed 10,000 MW, the first state to achieve this, and stood at 10,507 MW, followed by Karnataka (7,535 MW) and Gujarat (6,310 MW) and Tamil Nadu (4,894 MW). Rajasthan's overall renewable capacity was 14,983 MW.

Tamil Nadu has achieved the Number One position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in the country, wresting the top slot back from Karnataka.

In 2018, Karnataka toppled Tamil Nadu to become the leader in total installed capacity in the clean energy sector, supported by huge capacity addition in the solar segment and good progress in the wind power capacity. In January 2019, Karnataka's total renewable capacity was 13,402 MW, while Tamil Nadu's total capacity was 12,125 MW.

As of January 31, 2022, Tamil Nadu's total installed renewable capacity stood at 15,914 MW as compared to Karnataka's total clean energy capacity of 15,795 MW, according to the information provided by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

"Rajasthan and Gujarat added the highest renewable capacity (4.8 GW and 2.4 GW respectively) in the current fiscal year till January 31, 2022. Other renewable resource rich states such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh

35. Recently In February Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will launch a weatherbased crop insurance scheme for \_\_\_\_\_ growers in the Western Ghats On The Eve Of coral jubilee celebrations of the Spices Board ?

- A. Wheat
- B. Cardamom
- C. Lavander
- D. Saffron

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will launch a Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme for cardamom growers of Western Ghats on Saturday.

The Minister will launch the scheme in connection with the Coral jubilee celebrations of the Spices Board which will be for a fortnight from Saturday. Later, the Minister will hold discussions with growers and exporters on the scheme.

Spices Board officials said Idukki will be primarily considered for the Weather-Based Insurance scheme. Around 2,500 hectares of cardamom cultivated area will be covered under the scheme and small-scale farmers in the district would benefit from the pilot scheme during 2021-26.

Spices Board - The Spices Board is the Indian government regulatory and export promotion agency for Indian spices The board is headquartered in Kochi. Presently, Shri A G Thankappan is the Chairman of Spices Board.

#### FOR CARDAMOM GROWERS

### Centre to launch weather-based crop insurance scheme today

#### OUR BUREAU

Kochi, February 25

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will launch a weather-based crop insurance scheme for cardamom growers in the Western Ghats on Saturday.

The minister will launch the scheme in connection with the coral jubilee celebrations of the Spices Board which will go on for a fortnight from Saturday. Later, the minister will hold discussions with growers and exporters on the scheme.

Spices Board officials said Idukki will be primarily considered for the weather-based insurance scheme. Around 2,500 hectares of cardamom cultivated area will be covered under the scheme and small-scale farmers in the district would benefit from the pilot scheme during 2021-26.

BVR Subramanyam, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will deliver the special address. AG Thankappan, Chairman, Spices Board will deliver



Piyush Goyal, Commerce Minister

the presidential address in the presence of D Sathiyam, Secretary, Spices Board, and Malaai Kumar Poddar, Managing Director and Chairman, Agricultural Insurance Company.

#### Key events

The celebrations will also include other key events at various locations such as a facilitation programme titled 'Decoding the Flavoured Profiles of International Cuisines' in association with the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition (IHM), Pusa for the benefit of spice exporters on March 3.

36. Consider The Following Statement Regarding “National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing (AM)” or 3D printing.

1. National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing aims to add \$2-3 billion to the GDP by 2027
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology aims to raise India’s share in global additive manufacturing to 5% within the next 3 years

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

## 3D manufacturing policy: Target of 500 items by '25

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) aims to increase India’s share in global additive manufacturing to 5 per cent within the next three years, with hopes that it could likely add \$ 1 billion to the gross domestic product by that time.

As per the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing, by 2025, India will aim to achieve certain

targets such as 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software, 100 new startups for additive manufacturing, 500 new products. In total, MeitY hopes that these new startups and opportunities will give jobs to at least 1 lakh new skilled workers over the next three years.

“We have taken some very clearly defined goals in this strategy...,” IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while releasing the strategy document.

3D printing or additive man-

3D printing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials

ufacturing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by

laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic. With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.

In its national strategy, MeitY has suggested that to get ahead in the additive manufacturing or 3D printing space, India must adopt it in all sectors, including in defence and public sectors. An apex body which has subject matter experts

and leaders from local and global industries could be established to lead the mission.

The Indian Express had in December 2020 first reported that the IT ministry was readying a national policy on promoting 3D printing on an industrial scale and helping domestic companies “overcome technical and economic barriers” so that they can build supportive and ancillary facilities for world leaders in the technology, such as the US and China.

Centre released a “National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing (AM)” or 3D printing.

National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing aims to add \$2-3 billion to the GDP by 2025.

Centre have plans to create 50 India-specific technologies to make India a 3D-printed design and manufacturing hub.

As per the strategy, India will aim to achieve targets like 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software, 100 new startups for additive manufacturing and 500 new products.

The aim of National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing (AM) is to create a conducive ecosystem for design, development and deployment. It also aims to overcome technical and economic barriers for Global AM leaders to establish their operations with supporting ancillaries in India.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology aims to raise India’s share in global additive manufacturing to 5% within the next 3 years. In 3D printing, computer-aided designing is used to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials like plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.

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**Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**37. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following Ministry has inked an MoU to provide pension services under the *System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH)* initiative at four lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) ?**

- A. Ministry Of Finance
- B. Ministry Of Education
- C. Ministry Of Defence**
- D. Ministry Of MSME

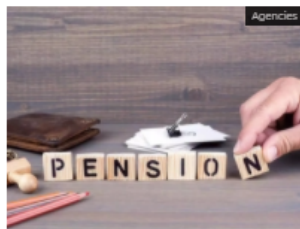
### Defence Ministry signs MoU with CSC e-Governance to provide online pension services

PTI · Last Updated: Feb 24, 2022, 06:05 PM IST

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**Synopsis**

The MoU will provide last mile connectivity to pensioners, especially those who reside in remote areas of the country and those who do not have the means or technical wherewithal to log on to System for Pension Administration-Raksha (SPARSH), the ministry's statement noted.



Representative Image

The [Ministry of Defence](#) has signed a memorandum of understanding with CSC [e-Governance Services India Limited](#) to provide online [pension services](#) at over four lakh common service centres across the country, an official statement said on Thursday.

The MoU will provide last mile connectivity to pensioners, especially those who reside in remote areas of the country and those who do not have the means or technical wherewithal to log on to [System for Pension Administration-Raksha \(SPARSH\)](#), the ministry's statement noted.

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Defence Ministry has inked an MoU to provide pension services under the System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) initiative at four lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs).

The MoU will help in providing last-mile connectivity to pensioners. The Service Centres will act as an interface for 'SPARSH'.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Defence Ministry have also signed an MoU for setting up service centers in areas with high ex-servicemen density.

The MoU will promote ease of living and resolve pension-related issues in a time-bound manner.

**System for Pension Administration (RAKSHA) (SPARSH):**

It is an initiative of the Ministry of Defense.

It provides a single-window for the pensioners to avail pension related services.

It is administered by DAD through the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Prayagraj.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
**Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**

**38. Recently In February With Which Of The Following State National Health Mission Has Partnered With WISH Foundation To Provide 100 Primary And Community Health Centres In The State To Render Healthcare Services ?**

- A. Haryana
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Madhya Pradesh

An MoU was signed between NHM Rajasthan and its technical partner institute 'WISH Foundation' at Swasthya Bhawan with the aim of improving the essential facilities and services as per the National Quality Assurance Standard in the state hospitals and health centers of Rajasthan.

Minister of Medical Health & Services, Parsadi Lal Meena informed that due to this MoU for a period of three years, necessary reforms will be brought in proper utilization of medical services and resources available at 100 health centers of the state as per national standards.

Under these programmes, health centers are inspected by skilled monitors at various levels. According to monitoring, marks are given for each service, on the basis of which three-year certificate and financial amount are given to the winning health institutions.

## Rajasthan to provide national quality health care

An MoU was signed between NHM and a technical partner institution

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
JAIPUR

As many as 100 primary and community health centres in Rajasthan will start rendering healthcare services as per the national quality assurance standards following a memorandum of understanding signed between the National Health Mission (NHM) and a technical partner institution. The MoU will especially make the health care accessible to underserved population.

### Optimum utilisation

Medical & Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said here on Monday that the MoU would ensure optimum utilisation of resources available at the health centres and improve the quality of essential services. The MoU was signed between NHM-Rajasthan and WISH Foundation at Swasthya Bhawan here.

The formal partnership will bring together the infrastructure and reach of the government healthcare system with the implementation experience of private institutions. A direct implementation model is already operative in the State to transform the under-performing and low-performing primary health centres.



Healthcare workers taking details of the beneficiaries for COVID-19 vaccination at Beawar in Rajasthan.

\* FILE PHOTO

Mr. Meena said the health centres covered in the MoU included those functioning in the remote, rural and tribal areas with difficult terrains, high levels of poverty and poor health indicators. The parameters in the quality assurance programmes evolved by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare require improvements and innovations in the healthcare services.

### Monitoring, evaluation

Skilled monitors will inspect the health centres at different levels and give marks for each service. The Minister said each of the winning institutions would get a certificate valid for three years as well as financial assistance as an incentive.

The MoU is also expected to set in motion the processes which will ensure long-term success of health centres through monitoring, evaluation and cost reductions.

M ND-NDE



39. Recently In Febraury In A First Jammu And Kashmir Has Approved A Policy On Foriegn Direct Investment (FDI) For The State With A Minium Of How Much Percent Foriegn Stake ?

- A. 74 %
- B. 49 %
- C. 51 %
- D. 100 %

In a first, the Lieutenant Governor's administration on Wednesday approved a policy on foreign direct investment (FDI) for J&K with a minimum of 51% foreign stake.

L-G Manoj Sinha, who headed a meeting of the Administrative Council (AC) in Jammu, gave his nod for the Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in the industrial sector in J&K.

"The new policy is based on the guiding framework on FDI issued by the Government of India through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and will be valid for the next 10 years," a government spokesman said.

The J&K FDI policy aims to facilitate foreign investments greater than ₹100 crore with a minimum of 51% foreign stake,

The UAE's pioneering financial services company, Century Financial, is likely to invest \$100 million in J&K on three hotels and one commercial-cum-residential complex.

## J&K govt. approves FDI policy for UT

It aims to facilitate investments exceeding ₹100 crore with minimum 51% foreign stake

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

In a first, the Lieutenant Governor's administration on Wednesday approved a policy on foreign direct investment (FDI) for J&K with a minimum of 51% foreign stake.

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"The new policy is based on the guiding framework on FDI issued by the Government of India through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and will be valid for the next 10 years," a government spokesman said.

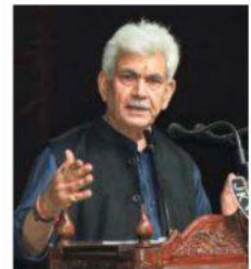
The J&K FDI policy aims to facilitate foreign investments greater than ₹100 crore with a minimum of 51% foreign stake, he added.

### Land for industries

It will pave way for identifying parcels of land in various industrial estates "to be given exclusively to industries with foreign investments, including vertical rise premises in the form of multipurpose buildings, complexes, with plug-and-play facilities".

The government said the land allotment process will be regulated by the J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, 2021-30.

The UT administration also decided to extend benefits, incentives, and support under the Jammu and Kash-



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. •PTI

mir Industrial Policy 2021-30 and New Central Sector Scheme to these units.

The J&K administration plans to set up multipurpose complexes for foreign investment by developing IT tower projects through private players in Sempora, Pampore and Exhibition Ground, Jammu.

"This is for optimal utilisation of land resources and to provide integrated services to multiple players. These towers will house different business activities and will form a part of the 'Industrial Complex for Foreign Investment'," the spokesman said.

The J&K government has already approved the transfer of about 290 acres in seven villages at 17 locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts for the construction of housing colonies which are open to foreign investment.

This comes after the L-G administration wooed multiple investors in Dubai earlier this year with hopes of attracting ₹44,000-plus-crore investment. The Dubai ports giant, DP World, is planning an inland port in J&K to ship products produced in the UT to outside markets. Besides, ₹3,000 crore investment is likely from industrial giants such as Emaar, Lulu, MATU Investments, Al Maya Group, GL Employment Brokerage LLC, Century Financial, Noon e-commerce etc. Magna Waves Pvt. Ltd.

40. Recently In February Japan Interantional Cooperation Agency (JICA) Has Approved How Much Amount Project For Cleaning Up Of Which River Of Pune ?

- A. Rs 1000 Cr , Mula - Mutha
- B. Rs 850 Cr , Godavari
- C. Rs 1000 Cr , Kaveri
- D. Rs 500 Cr , Krishna

green signal has been given by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for tendering a Rs 1000 crore project to clean up Pune's rivers, Mula, Mutha, and Mula-Mutha.

This project aims to improve the water quality in the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) area by increasing sewage treatment facilities and sewage collection infrastructure.

The Rs 1000-crore assistance that will be given by JICA will be used to reduce pollution in the Mutha, Mula, and Mula-Mutha rivers, as well as to improve living conditions and sanitation in the downstream area and the city. Under this project 55 km of trunk lines and 11 new sewage treatment units (STP) will be installed. The combined capacity of these 11 newly installed STPs would be 396 million liters per day (MLD).

## JICA nod to ₹1,000-cr river clean-up project in Pune

FE BUREAU  
Pune, February 22

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION Agency (JICA) has green signalled the tendering process for a ₹1,000-crore project for cleaning up Pune's rivers, Mula, Mutha and Mula-Mutha (confluence of both rivers).

The pollution abatement of river Mula-Mutha had been delayed with issues of land acquisition, re-tendering and objection to the project.

The Mula and Mutha rivers are heavily polluted with the city's sewage being dumped into the rivers.

The project was aimed at improving the water quality by augmenting sewage collection systems and sewage treatment facilities in Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) area.

JICA's assistance of ₹1,000 crore would be for mitigation of pollution of Mula, Mutha and Mula-Mutha and also improving the sanitation and living conditions in the city and in the watershed of the downstream area.

The funding would go in for construction of sewer lines, pumping stations and treatment plants for treatment of the sewage before its discharge into Mula, Mutha and Mula-Mutha rivers.

Murlidhar Mohol, Pune city mayor, said the project implemented would involve 55 km trunk lines and adding 11 new sewage treatment plants (STP).

These 11 new STPs would together have a capacity of 396 million litres per day (MLD). Work orders would be issued soon by the civic body soon, the mayor said.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
Third Week of February (22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

41. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **PM Cares Scheme For Children Orphaned By Covid 19** :

1. **PM CARES Scheme For Children Orphaned By Covid 19 Has Been Extended Till March 31 ,2022**
2. **The Scheme Provides Education And Health And A Monthly Stipend From The Age Of 18 Years Apart From Lump Sum Amount Of Rs 10 Lakh When a Beneficiary Turns 23 Years Old ?**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

## Scheme for COVID-19 orphans extended

Its earlier validity was till Dec. 31, 2021

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Tuesday that the PM CARES scheme for children orphaned by the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended till February 28, 2022.

The scheme was earlier valid till December 31, 2021.

The scheme covers all children who have lost both parents, the lone surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parent or parents, due to COVID-19 after March 11, 2020.

To avail the scheme, a child should not have

turned 18 on the date of death of his or her parents.

### Education aid

The scheme announced on May 29, 2021, provides gap funding for education and health and a monthly stipend from the age of 18 years, apart from a lump sum amount of ₹10 lakh when a beneficiary turns 23 years old.

Till January 31, 2022, the government had received 6,624 applications, out of which 3,855 had been approved. Applications can be submitted at <https://pmcaresforchildren.in>.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Tuesday that the PM CARES scheme for children orphaned due to COVID-19 pandemic has been extended till February 28, 2022.

The scheme was earlier valid till December 31, 2021.

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42. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Upper Bhadra Project :

1. A high power committee formed by the Central government has approved the proposal to declare the Upper Bhadra Project as a National Project.
2. It is the Second project of Karnataka to get the status of the National Project.
3. The Upper Bhadra Project foundation stone was laid by former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in 2008.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

## Upper Bhadra gets national project status

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday announced that the high-powered committee of the Centre gave national project status to the Upper Bhadra Project on Tuesday.



Published: 17th February 2022 06:27 AM | Last Updated: 17th February 2022 06:27 AM

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Upper Bhadra Irrigation ProjectUpper Bhadra Irrigation Project

By Express News Service

CHITRADURGA: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday announced that the high-powered committee of the Centre gave national project status to the Upper Bhadra Project on Tuesday. Bommai said this is the first project in the state to get the status and this will change the irrigation scenario of central Karnataka.

"The national project tag will help us in getting Rs 12,500 crore from the Centre and speed up the ambitious irrigation project that will transform central Karnataka from being water

A high power committee formed by the Central government has approved the proposal to declare the Upper Bhadra Project as a National Project.

The Central government will give 12,500 crores for the implementation of this project. It will transform central Karnataka from being water- scarce to water-rich region.

This project will bring a large tract of land of Central Karnataka under irrigation. It will also help in raising the underground water table.

It is the first project of Karnataka to get the status of the National Project.

Upper Bhadra Project: The Upper Bhadra Project foundation stone was laid by former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in 2008.

This project is designed to irrigate 2.25 lakh hectares in Chitradurga, Davangere, Tumakuru, and parts of Chikkamagaluru.

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**43. Consider The Following Statement Regarding budget of Rajasthan for the Financial Year 2022-23 :**

- 1. A separate agriculture budget has been presented by the government in the assembly.**
- 2. Rajasthan government will increase the employment days from 100 to 150 under MGNREGA.**

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

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

## Old pension scheme back in Rajasthan

Other States should also think on the NPS, says CM Gehlot while presenting the budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Presenting a populist budget ahead of the 2023 State Assembly election, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday announced restoration of the old pension scheme for the government employees who joined the service on or after January 1, 2004.

No new taxes were levied in the budget in view of the pandemic's impact on all sectors. Mr. Gehlot said the National Pension Scheme (NPS), introduced in 2004, had led to apprehensions among the employees about their security in old age.

"Bringing back the old scheme is a historic decision. The then Union government might have brought the NPS for some strong reasons, but we need to consider it again," he said.

Mr. Gehlot told presspersons after presenting the budget that other States should also think on the NPS in a new perspective.

The contribution-based NPS is a major issue in the ongoing Assembly election in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, where the ruling BJP has been caught in a difficult sit-



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot addressing the media after presenting the State budget in Jaipur on Wednesday. •PTI

uation after the Samajwadi Party and other Opposition ensembles made promises on retirement benefits.

### Annual burden

The Chief Minister also rolled back a decision of the previous BJP regime in 2017 to cut the salaries of employees, which had created a discrepancy in the assured career progression. The budgetary announcement for restoration of the next grade pay system will put an annual burden of ₹1,000 crore on the State government from 2022-23.

Rajasthan Karmachari Samyukta Mahasangh president Gajendra Singh welcomed the decision to discontinue the NPS, saying

it would benefit over 4 lakh employees who have been agitating on the issue for several years.

Mr. Gehlot also announced an increase in the number of promotional posts and extension of benefits of the Seventh Pay Commission to the employees of boards, corporations, universities and autonomous bodies.

In his three-hour-long speech, Mr. Gehlot announced new measures for welfare of different sections of society with the focus on health, education, infrastructure, social security and tourism.

He also presented the first-ever agriculture budget separately, with a provision of ₹5,000 crore for Krishak

Sathi Yojana and adoption of mission mode for 11 thematic areas.

The budget proposed an increase in the health cover under the ambitious Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh per year per family and free-of-cost IPD and OPD services in the government health facilities.

The State government will also spend ₹4,500 crore on giving power tariff subsidy to the consumers in different slabs.

The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme will be launched to provide 100 days of employment on lines of the rural employment guarantee scheme with a budget outlay of ₹800 crore, while the work for 125 days instead of the earlier 100 days will be provided under the latter.

A Right to Service Guarantee and Accountability Bill will also be brought shortly in the State, for which the civil rights groups have been agitating.

Mr. Gehlot proposed to conduct the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) in July following its recent cancellation be-

cause of a controversy over the leak of its question paper.

An anti-cheating cell would be set up in the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan police, Mr. Gehlot said.

**'Develop infrastructure'** Reacting to the budget, BJP State president Satish Poonia said several announcements were made in the health and education sectors, there were no sincere efforts to develop their infrastructure.

"It is difficult to understand what will be the financial source of budgetary provisions. The government claims that its manifesto promises and previous budgetary announcements have been fulfilled, but the situation on the ground is different," he said.

All the 200 MLAs were given an Apple iPhone-13 each along with the copies of budget after Mr. Gehlot's speech. An iPhone operating system-based mobile app of the Assembly was earlier launched for the convenience of the legislators, who could use it for accessing questions, motions, Bills, agenda, session review, business rules and the source of news.

Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot has presented the budget of Rajasthan for the Financial Year 2022-23.

A separate agriculture budget has been presented by the government in the assembly.

Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced the formation of the Rajasthan Industrial Security Force.

Under Indira Gandhi Shahri Rozgar Guarantee Yojna, 100 days of employment will be given in urban areas. Rajasthan government will increase the employment days from 100 to 125 under MGNREGA. Electricity up to 50 units per month will be provided for free. The government has increased health cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per family in a year.

The government has allocated Rs 5,000 crore for CM Krishak Saathi Yojna. The government has allocated Rs 2,700 crore for the Rajasthan Micro Irrigation Mission. It will benefit more than 5 lakh farmers. Gehlot also proposed to increase the health cover under the state government's much ambitious Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per year per family. Under the CM Digital Service Scheme announced by the chief minister, 1.33 crore women will get internet enabled smartphones for 3 years.

44. Recently In February Which of the following have conducted virtual consultation workshop on **'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport'** aimed to identify strategies and mobilize financing institutions for promoting innovative financing policies for the decarbonization of transport ??
- A. NITI Aayog and WRI India
  - B. NITI Aayog, WRI India and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
  - C. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, NITI Aayog and GIZ India
  - D. NITI Aayog, WRI India and GIZ India**

The workshop was held as part of NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project in New Delhi on 22 February.

The workshop aimed to identify strategies and mobilize financing institutions and transport organizations to jointly work for promoting innovative financing policies for the decarbonization of transport. World Resources Institute is a global research non-profit organization headquartered in Washington. GIZ is a German development agency. It provides services in the field of international development cooperation.

NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA): It is a joint programme of seven organizations that includes India, China and Vietnam in furthering a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries. It is a part of International Climate Initiative (IKI). It is supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for the India component of the NDC-TIA project

45. Recently In February **General MM Naravane has awarded President's colours to four battalions of which of the following regiments of Indian Army?**
- A. Garhwal Rifles
  - B. Jat regiment
  - C. Parachute regiment**
  - D. Punjab regiment

The battalions were awarded President's colours during a Colour Presentation Parade held at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru on 23 February.

These battalions include 11 PARA (Special Forces), 21 PARA (Special Forces), 23 PARA and 29 PARA.

Parachute Regiment is an elite force of the Indian Army. It has been conferred with a large number of awards.

President's Colours is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of exceptional service. It is popularly called Nishan in Army parlance.

## International News

46. Recently In February 'Museum of the Future' Has been Opened In Dubai Which Is Considered As The World Most Beautiful Building , It Has Been Designed By ?

- A. Shaun Killa
- B. XIN Fhou
- C. Mark Antony
- D. Simu Lou

'Museum of the Future' has been opened in Dubai. It is considered as the world's most beautiful building.

It is seven-storey circular building and is spread across 30,000 square meters.

It is designed by architect Shaun Killa of Killa Design. It is made of stainless steel.

The structure of the museum is dedicated to the future. It will exhibit design and technology innovations and take the visitors on a "journey to the year 2071".

The museum was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.,



47. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country successfully tested a new naval air defense system Called C-Dome system ?

- A. Iran
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. Ukraine

Israel on Monday said it successfully tested a new naval air defense system, intercepting a series of threats in what officials called a key layer of protection against Iran and its proxies in the region.

The C-Dome system is a naval version of the Iron Dome, which has been used to shoot down rockets fired from the Gaza Strip for the past decade.

The C-Dome is being installed on Israel's latest-generation corvette warships, which protect Israel's coastline and offshore natural gas assets in the Mediterranean.

The C-Dome is to become part of Israel's multilayer missile defense system which includes weapons capable of intercepting everything from long-range missiles to short-range rockets

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**48. Recently In February Which Of The Following Country Has Announced To Build World's Biggest Vertical Farm, Plans to Boost Food Production ?**

- A. UAE**
- B. Singapore**
- C. Malaysia**
- D. India**

UAE will establish the world's biggest vertical farm near the Expo 2020 site to boost the food production of the country. "

UAE farmers have grown 70 different types of vegetables, fruits, and herbs in recent years, including tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, mangoes, and oranges.

The UAE has over 35,000 farms, many of which employ advanced agricultural techniques such as hydroponics and vertical farming.

To promote food security and boost local agricultural output, the UAE created the National Food Security Strategy 2018.

**Vertical Farming: UAE to Develop World's Biggest Vertical Farm, Plans to Boost Food Production**

Shivani Meena Updated 22 February, 2022 12:40 PM IST



Vertical farm

As per a senior official, the UAE will establish the world's biggest vertical farm near the Expo 2020 site to boost the food production of the country. "It will be operational very soon and will generate many of the basic food products that we require, such as tomatoes, leafy greens, and so on," stated Essa Abdul Rahman Al Hashemi, Head of the UAE's Food and Water Security Office.

Hashemi said the government is progressively moving toward food self-sufficiency by spending big on technology and innovation, speaking at the Food, Agriculture, and Livelihoods Business Forum at Expo 2020 on Monday.

**49. Recently In February China New Long March 8 Rocket Placed \_\_\_\_\_ Satellite In Space Setting A Domestic Record For The Most Spacecraft Launched By A Single Rocket ?**

- A. 51**
- B. 36**
- C. 22**
- D. 48**

**World**

**China's Long March-8 rocket launches 22 satellites into space**

PTI | Beijing, February 27 | Updated On: Feb 27, 2022



Satellites to be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation

China's new Long March-8 rocket placed 22 satellites in space on Sunday, setting a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket.

The rocket blasted off at 11:06 am (Beijing Time) at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern Hainan Province before sending the satellites into pre-set orbits, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.



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The rocket blasted off at 11:06 am (Beijing Time) at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern Hainan Province before sending the satellites into pre-set orbits

These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation. The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier rockets. The Long March-8 used for Sunday's launch is a modified version of the medium-lift carrier rocket and is 48 meters long with a take-off weight of 198 tonnes.,

50. Recently In February Whom Among The The Following HAS launched The New Social Media Platform Named "TRUTH Social ?

- A. Xi Jinping
- B. Kim Jopng Un
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Ebrahim Raisi

## Trump's new social media app launched on App Store

REUTERS  
FEBRUARY 21

DONALD TRUMP'S new social media venture, Truth Social, launched late on Sunday in Apple's App Store, potentially marking the former president's return to social media after he was banned from several platforms last year.

The app was available to download shortly before midnight Eastern Time and was automatically downloaded to Apple devices belonging to users who had pre-ordered the app.

Some users reported either having trouble registering for an account or were added to a waitlist with a message: "Due to massive demand, we have

placed you on our waitlist."

Trump was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube following the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by his supporters, after he was accused of posting messages inciting violence.

Led by former Republican US Representative Devin Nunes, Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG), the venture behind Truth Social, joins a growing portfolio of technology companies that are positioning themselves as champions of free speech and hope to draw users who feel their views are suppressed on more established platforms.

TMTG is planning to list in New York through a merger with blank-check firm Digital World Acquisition Corp. **REUTERS**

Donald Trump has launched his own social media venture called Truth Social. The app has been listed on the Apple App Store in the US. It is currently unavailable in India

The Truth Social application has been available for beta testers for a while now. Before the official release, the app was made available to select users for testing. The app is available for free download for iPhone users in the United States.

The launch of Truth Social marks the return of former US President Donald Trump on social media. To recall, Trump was banned from Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube for posting messages inciting violence.

51. Recently In February Adani Group HAS Signed a Non Binding MOU With Ballard Power System Of Which Of The Following Country , To Explore The Possibility For Commercialisation Of Hydrogen Fuel Cells In India ?

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Canada
- D. Russia

Ballard Power Systems announced today it has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Adani Group to evaluate a joint investment case for the commercialization of fuel cells in various mobility and industrial applications in India. Under the MOU, both parties will examine various options to cooperate, including potential collaboration for fuel cell manufacturing in India.

Adani Group, founded in 1988, is the largest and fastest-growing portfolio of diversified businesses in India, with a current market capitalization of approximately US\$150 billion,

“Green hydrogen is the fuel of the future and fuel cells will be a game-changer in India’s energy transition,”

## Adani, Ballard Power Ink MoU to Explore Joint Investment in Hydrogen Fuel Cell

### Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The Adani Group on Monday said it has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Nasdaq-listed Ballard Power Systems to evaluate making joint investment for commercialisation of hydrogen fuel cells in various mobility and industrial applications in India.

Under the MoU, both parties will examine various options to cooperate, including potential collaboration for fuel cell manufacturing in the country.

Hydrogen is increasingly viewed as a critical medium for decarbonization of energy, industry, and mobility. Adani aims to be one of the largest green hydrogen producers in the world through accelerated investment in renewable energy.

Efforts under this MoU will be anchored by Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), the newly-formed subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, focused on generation of green hydro-

rogen, including downstream products, green electricity generation, manufacture of electrolyzers and wind turbines, among others.

“Green hydrogen is the fuel of the future and fuel cells will be a game-changer in India’s energy transition,” said Vneet S Jaain, director at Adani New Industries Ltd. “We will be deploying innovative use cases across our businesses with fuel cell trucks, mining equipment, marine vessels, off-road vehicles, and critical industrial power. We will shape the industry through this strategic collaboration.”

Ballard president and CEO Randy MacEwen said India represents a new growth opportunity for the company. “We look forward to working with the Adani Group to support and accelerate their energy transition and decarbonisation goals.”

Adani Group has a current market capitalisation of \$151 billion, comprising seven publicly-listed companies.



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52. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Partnered *With National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)* signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program' ?

- A. UNEP
- B. WEF
- C. WHO
- D. UNDP

## WEF, NIUA sign MoU to design sustainable cities India programme

**New Delhi:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to design 'Sustainable Cities India' programme aimed at enabling cities to generate decarbonisation solutions across sectors including energy and transport. The partnership gains significance on the backdrop of India's commitment at COP26 summit in Glasgow to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070.

RITURAJ BARUAH

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to design 'Sustainable Cities India' program aimed at enabling cities to generate decarbonisation solutions across sectors including energy and transport.

The partnership gains significance on the backdrop of India's commitment at COP26 summit in Glasgow to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070.

The 'Sustainable Cities India' intends to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems

World Economic Forum - The World Economic Forum is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation based in Cologny, canton of Geneva, Switzerland. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.

53. Recently In February Union Minister for Ports ,Shipping and Waerways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated \_\_\_\_\_ – *The DCI (Dredging Corporation of India) Dredging Museum at DCI campus In Which Of The Following City ?.*

- A. Kala Kumbh , Delhi
- B. Atma Nirbhar Bharat Museum , Delhi
- C. Nikarshan Sadan , Vishakhapatnam
- D. Future Museum, Mumbai

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Union Minister for Ports ,Shipping and Waerways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Nikarshan Sadan” – The DCI (Dredging Corporation of India) Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Vishakhapatnam

The museum displayed models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones of this dredging behemoth from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.

Dredging Corporation of India Limited, or DCI, is unit engaged in the business of dredging. Dredging is the excavation of material from a water environment.

DCI is headquartered at Visakhapatnam and reports to the Ministry of Shipping.

Sarbananda Sonowal also inaugurated skill development facility -Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) at a function in Visakhapatnam.

CEMS also has a Mumbai campus at the Head Office of Indian Register of Shipping which mainly caters to re-skilling.CEMS equips students with employable engineering and technical skills in the areas of Ship Hull Design, Ship Detailed Design, Shipbuilding & Maintenance etc.

**54.Recently In February The European Union, along with the United States and other allies plan to cut off Russia from the SWIFT Payment System.SWIFT Stands For Which Of The Following Acronymn ?**

- A. Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.**
- B. Social for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.**
- C. Society for Worldwide International Financial Telecommunication.**
- D. Society for Worldwide Internabntional Fare Telecommunication.**

## Exclusion from SWIFT: what it entails

What is SWIFT? Why is Russia being threatened with a ban on using its services?

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

**The story so far:** The U.S., Europe and several other western nations are moving to exclude Russia from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), an international network for banks to facilitate smooth money transactions globally. This could be the strongest economic sanction against Russia over its military moves in Ukraine, as it will potentially cut off the country from receiving international payments.

### What is SWIFT?

SWIFT is a messaging network used by banks and financial institutions globally for quick and faultless exchange of information pertaining to financial transactions. The Belgium-headquartered SWIFT connects more than 11,000 banking and securities organisations in over 200 countries and territories.

Each participant on the platform is assigned a unique eight-digit SWIFT code or a bank identification code (BIC). If a person, say, in New York with a Citibank account, wants to send money to someone with an HSBC account in London, the payee would have to submit



to his bank, the London-based beneficiary's account number along with the eight-digit SWIFT code of the latter's bank. Citi would then send a SWIFT message to HSBC. Once that is received and approved, the money would be credited to the required account. SWIFT is merely a platform that sends

messages and does not hold any securities or money. It provides standardised and reliable communication to facilitate the transaction.

**What happens if one is excluded from SWIFT?**  
If a country is excluded from the most

participatory financial facilitating platform, its foreign funding would take a hit, making it entirely reliant on domestic investors. This is particularly troublesome when institutional investors are constantly seeking new markets in newer territories.

An alternative system would be cumbersome to build and even more difficult to integrate with an already expansive system. SWIFT, first used in 1973, went live in 1977 with 518 institutions from 22 countries, its website states. SWIFT itself had replaced the much slower and far less dynamic Telex

### Are any countries excluded from SWIFT?

Certain Iranian banks were ousted from the system in 2018 despite resistance from several countries in Europe. "This step, while regrettable, was taken in the interest of the stability and integrity of the wider global financial system, and based on an assessment of the economic situation," SWIFT states on its website.

**How is the organisation governed?**  
SWIFT claims to be neutral. Its shareholders, consisting of 3,500 firms across the globe, elect the 25-member

board, which is responsible for oversight and management of the company. It is regulated by G-10 central banks of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland, and Sweden, alongside the European Central Bank. Its lead overseer is the National Bank of Belgium.

The SWIFT oversight forum was established in 2012.

The G-10 participants were joined by the central banks of India, Australia, Russia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, the Republic of Turkey, and the People's Republic of China.

In 2021, the SWIFT financial messaging platform had recorded an average of 42 million FIN messages per day, as per the data on its website.

The full-year figure was an 11.4% growth on a year-over-year basis. Europe, West Asia, and Africa, combined sent approximately 4.66 billion messages.

The Americas and the United Kingdom stood second with 4.42 billion interactions, with the Asia Pacific on third with an approximate 1.50 billion messages.

## THE GIST

■ The U.S., Europe and several other western nations are moving to exclude Russia from SWIFT, an international network for banks to facilitate smooth money transactions globally.

■ If a country is excluded from SWIFT, the most participatory financial facilitating platform, its foreign funding would take a hit, making it entirely reliant on domestic investors.

■ In 2018, certain Iranian banks were ousted from the system despite resistance from several countries in Europe.

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The European Union, along with the United States and other allies plan to cut off Russia from the SWIFT Payment System. The decision has not been officially issued yet but the technical preparations are ongoing, according to Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

SWIFT is a Belgium-based co-operative that serves as an intermediary and executor of financial transactions between banks worldwide.

Swift Transfer is also called International Money Transfer. SWIFT payment system does not facilitate funds transfer but it sends payment orders, which must be settled by correspondent accounts that the institutions have with each other. It is overseen by multiple government banking systems including the European Central Bank, the National Bank of Belgium and the US Federal Reserve System among others. It is headquartered at La Hulpe in Belgium, near Brussels.

SWIFT banking system was founded on May 3, 1973 in Brussels under the leadership of its inaugural CEO, Carl Reuterskiöld.

The system is supported by 239 banks in 15 countries across the globe

**55. Recently Seen In News *Chernobyl Plant As Russian troops launched a full-scale invasion in Ukraine and targeted its bases and cities with airstrikes and shelling. In Which Year World's deadliest nuclear accident occurred at the nuclear plant ?***

- A. 1986**
- B. 1991**
- C. 1995**
- D. 1997**

On February 24, Russian troops launched a full-scale invasion in Ukraine and targeted its bases and cities with airstrikes and shelling. The Russian army captured airfield near capital of Ukraine, Kyiv. It also took control of the Chernobyl nuclear plant. It has attacked Ukraine, from three sides (Land, Sea, Air)

The Russian army has deliberately captured the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Chernobyl is the shortest route to reach Kyiv through Belarus. However, it is not very important from a military point of view. It is fastest route from Belarus to Kyiv, just 20 kms from Belarus border. This nuclear plant is located 108 km north of the capital Kyiv.

World's deadliest nuclear accident occurred at the nuclear plant in April 1986. Then, a nuclear reactor exploded and spread radioactive radiation across Europe. This plant is located in Pripyat, which is at a distance of 130 from Kyiv.

56. Recently In February Government Official Announced That An Mou Will Be Signed With Which Country For The Procces Of *Reintroduce Chetahs At Kuno National Park In Mp* ?

- A. Nigeria
- B. South Africa
- C. Namibia**
- D. Zimbawe

It could be many months before cheetahs from Namibia make it to India. An expert team of wildlife officials from Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Forestry department and Wildlife Institute of India that visited Namibia for a site visit last week is reportedly "satisfied", but a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the transfer is yet to be signed.

It could be many months before cheetahs from Namibia make it to India. An expert team of wildlife officials from Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Forestry department and Wildlife Institute of India that visited Namibia for a site visit last week is reportedly "satisfied", but a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the transfer is yet to be signed.

According to the plan, the Central government, along with the Environment Ministry and the Cheetah Task Force, will create a formal framework to collaborate with governments of Namibia and/or South Africa, through the Ministry of External Affairs.

## Namibia ready to send 35-40 cheetahs to India: Official

Amit.Bhattacharya  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The ambitious project to reintroduce cheetahs into the Indian wilderness took another step forward with Namibia agreeing in principle to give 35-40 animals for translocation to India, officials who have just returned from the south African country said.

A five-member delegation from the Union environment ministry, MP — where the first cheetahs are scheduled to be relocated — and Wildlife Institute of India visited Namibia from February 18 to 22.

"During talks with Namibian officials, we asked for 35-40 cheetahs over a period of five years. They've



READY FOR A COMEBACK

agreed," said Yadvendra Dev Jhala, dean of WII, who was part of the delegation.

The next step, Jhala said, would be the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the environment ministries of the two countries on the transfer of cheetahs to India.

The Asiatic cheetah was wiped out in India and was

formally declared extinct by the government in 1952. The project aims to reintroduce the predator in the Indian wilderness by bringing in African cheetahs from Namibia in batches.

"The number of animals to be transported in the first batch is not yet decided," Jhala said. The first lot of cheetahs will be settled in MP's Kuno National Park.

Now, experts said, the timeline of the cheetah's arrival in India will depend on how fast the governments of the two countries move in signing the MoU and taking the subsequent steps for the translocation, which will probably be the world first inter-continental transfer of a large predator for release in the wild.

**Banking And Economy**

57. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Which Became **First Indian Company To Completely Plastic Waste Neutral** Has Partnered With \_\_\_\_\_ For Its Retail Business While \_\_\_\_\_ Company Became The **First Billion Brand Value Coke** In India Has Appointed \_\_\_\_\_ As Its Brand Ambassador ?

- A. ThumsUp , SBM Bank , Bisleri , Salman Khan
- B. **Dabur , Indian Oil , ThumsUp , Shahrukh Khan**
- C. Dabur , Pepsico , ThumsUp , Disha Patani
- D. ThumsUp , Dabur , Pepsico , Akshay Kumar

SRK is brand ambassador for Thums Up

BEVERAGES MAJOR COCA-COLA has signed Bollywood heartthrob Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador for Thums Up.

Earlier, Khan was associated with rival cola brand, Pepsi, for a long period of time and this is his first big endorsement after the controversy involving his son Aryan Khan



in a drug case last year. The new commercial for Thums Up featuring Khan, will

have an integrated campaign across TV, social, digital, shopper, and OOH platforms.

“Teaming up with King Khan, the brand amplifies this core value and adds an action-packed cinematic storytelling with SRK portraying both reel and real-life hero in the ad-film,” said a joint statement.

PTI

Indian Oil becomes Dabur’s retail biz partner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, February 23

DABUR ON WEDNESDAY announced a partnership with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), as part of which the state-owned refiner’s LPG distributors will become retail business partners for the homegrown FMCG major.

This partnership will provide direct access to Dabur’s range of products to around 14 crore Indane LPG consumer households across India, according to a joint statement.

“As part of the tie-up, Indian Oil’s Indane LPG distributors will become retail business partners for Dabur and will help sell the entire Dabur range of products directly to the crores of Indane LPG consumer households through their network of delivery personnel, creating customer delight,” it said.

A technological and system integration is being carried out by IndianOil and Dabur to connect the entire value chain, especially Indane LPG users, it added. “This initiative will help Dabur to leverage Indian Oil’s unmatched reach to Indian households,” it said.

Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said this partnership of two of the oldest and largest Indian brands should be able to unlock significant value for both companies.

Packaged consumer goods and ayurvedic products maker Dabur India has tied up with energy provider IndianOil in an exclusive partnership, which will provide direct access of Dabur’s products to around 14 crore Indane LPG consumer households across India.

As part of the tie-up, IndianOil’s Indane LPG distributors will become retail business partners for Dabur and will help sell the latter’s range of products directly to Indane LPG consumer households through their network of delivery executives. this is the first time an FMCG company has joined hands with IndianOil for such a partnership.

Beverage major Coca-Cola has signed Bollywood heartthrob Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador for Thums Up. The new commercial for Thums Up featuring Khan, will have an integrated campaign across TV, social, digital, shopper, and OOH platforms.

Thums Up, which has become a billion dollar brand in 2021, has partnership with the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and cricket.

Thums Up was acquired by The Coca-Cola Company in 1993, when the Atlanta-headquartered company had re-entered the Indian market, from Ramesh Chauhan of Parle Bisleri.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
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58. Recently In February **Ideal Finance Limited**, a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial announced the rebranding of its company name to \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. **Mahindra Ideal Finance Limited**
- B. Mahindra Identity Finance Limited
- C. Motar Ideal Finance Limited
- D. Mahindra Ideal Fincare Limited

Ideal Finance, a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, today announced the rebranding of its company name to Mahindra Ideal Finance (MIFL).

This rebranding will form the bedrock on which the two joint venture partners (Mahindra Finance and Ideal Group) will build the vision of making Mahindra Ideal Finance one of the leading licensed finance companies (LFC) in Sri Lanka,

Ideal Finance already provides a wide range of financial services products to the Sri Lankan customers  
Nalin Welgama, Chairman, Ideal Group Ramesh Iyer, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, Mahindra Finance

59. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank has joined hands with **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd** as a corporate agent to provide a slew of innovative health insurance products for the Bank's more than 6.5 million customers spread over 923 branches across the country.

- A. Bank Of BARODA
- B. Yes Bank
- C. **South Indian Bank**
- D. SBM Bank

South Indian Bank has joined hands with India's leading standalone health insurance company, Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd., as a corporate agent to provide a slew of innovative health insurance products for the Bank's more than 6.5 million customers spread over 923 branches across the country.

The Bank's customers can avail benefits of Star Health's retail insurance products and group affinity products through the Bank's various distribution channels thus helping customers address their health insurance needs under one roof.

Mr. Murali Ramakrishnan, MD & CEO, South Indian Bank , Mr. Anand Roy, Managing Director, Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.



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**60. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with *National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)* to boost rural development initiatives in Kerala ?**

- A. South Indian Bank
- B. ESAF Small Finance Bank**
- C. Kerala Bank
- D. Jana Samll Finance Bank

ESAF Small Finance Bank on Tuesday announced that the bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to boost rural development initiatives in Kerala.

The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of agriculturalists, commercial horticulture, farmer producer organizations, agri clinic, agri start-ups etc. in the State

ESAF Small Finance Bank is an Indian small finance bank providing banking services and small loans to the underbanked. It was founded as a small finance bank in March 2017. ESAF Microfinance started its operations as an NGO in 1992 as Evangelical Social Headquarters: Thrissur

**61. Recently In Februiary Which Of The Following General Insurance Company Has Announced Its Participation In The *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)* Nationwide Doorstep Insurance Policy Distribution ?**

- A. Sbi General Insurance
- B. Reliance General Insuarance**
- C. HDFC Ergo Life Insurance
- D. Edewlwehis General Life Insurance

India's 4th largest private general insurance company, has announced its participation in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana's nationwide Doorstep Crop Insurance Policy Distribution Mega Drive - 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign – India@75'. The Company fully supports the initiative and is committed towards playing its part in building a better financial ecosystem for the farmers

Reliance General Insurance has set up special camps at gram panchayat/village level to educate farmers, who are enrolled with Reliance General Insurance under the PMFBY, about their existing crop insurance policies.

**Rakesh Jain, CEO of Reliance General Insurance,**

62. *has become an official acquiring partner for e-RUPI vouchers, Recently The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had increased the cap of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the government to How Much Amount per year from Existing amount and allowed beneficiaries to use the voucher multiple times until fully redeemed ?*

- A. 2 Lakh , Rs 20000
- B. 3 Lakh , Rs 20000
- C. 1 Lakh , Rs 10000**
- D. 5 Lakh , Rs 50000

Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has become an official acquiring partner for e-RUPI vouchers, further making it accessible at offline stores across the country.

e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via SMS or QR Code. Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account.

PPBL has also partnered with One97 Communications Limited (OCL), the company that owns Paytm, to leverage the latter's strong merchant base.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recently increased the cap of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the government to ₹1 lakh per year from ₹ 10,000 and allowed beneficiaries to use the voucher multiple times until fully redeemed.

Satish Gupta, MD and CEO, Paytm Payments Bank

### Money & Banking

Paytm Payments Bank enables merchants to accept e-RUPI prepaid vouchers

K.R.Srivats | February 22 | Updated On: Feb 22, 2022



Promotes offline digital payments push  
Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has become an official acquiring partner for e-RUPI vouchers, further making it accessible at offline stores across the country.

e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via SMS or QR Code. Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account. This will benefit beneficiaries (users), even those who do not have access to formal banking services or smartphones to avail the convenience of digital payments.

**63. Recently In February The Government Has Announced To Infuse \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Via Zero Coupon Bonds In FY 22 ?**

- A. Rs 20000 Cr
- B. Rs 15000 Cr
- C. Rs 25000 Cr
- D. Rs 30000 Cr

ECONOMICTIMES.COM | GURGAON | WEDNESDAY | 23 FEBRUARY 2022 | WWW.ECONOMICTIMES.COM

# PSBs to Get ₹15,000 Cr Via Zero-Coupon Bonds in FY22

Banks seek clarity as RBI wants them to account for these bonds at fair value

**Dheeraj Tiwari**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The government will provide the budgeted ₹15,000 crore capital allocation for state-run banks this fiscal through non-interest-bearing zero-coupon bonds.

This comes even as some banks had reached out to the government seeking clarity given that the Reserve Bank of India has asked them to account for these bonds at fair value.

Zero-coupon bonds or non-interest-bearing bonds sell at a discount as they offer no interest. The return to investors come via capital gains when they are redeemed at face value. Accounting for these bonds at the discounted market would depress banks' capital that hold these bonds.

"The government is committed to capitalise banks as per regulatory requirements. We do not see any divergence towards



**New Instrument**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>The return to investors come via capital gains when redeemed at face value</p> | <p>Last fiscal, ₹20,000 crore was infused in five lenders via non-interest-bearing securities</p> |
| <p>This method to save on interest costs for the govt</p>                         |   |

that with the issuance of non-interest-bearing bonds," said an official confirming that any capital infusion this fiscal will be done through the same instrument.

Last fiscal, the government had infused ₹20,000 crore in five lenders including Punjab & Sind Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank through non-interest-bearing securities.

Punjab & Sind Bank was the first and largest beneficiary with an allocation of Rs 5,500 crore.

Earlier, the government used to issue bonds that were subscribed by banks, and the proceeds were subsequently infused back into the lenders as equity capital. The money invested by banks in recapitalisation bonds is classified as an investment and earns them interest.

This switch to this method is to save on interest costs for the government.

As per the FY23 budget, the government is expected to shell out ₹17,689 crore towards interest payments on bank recapitalisation

bonds in the next fiscal.

Last year, a India Ratings report had pointed out that the intrinsic net worth of these instruments could be lower by more than 50% at the outset than similar-maturity government papers in the market.

"Non-interest-bearing bonds would bolster their regulatory capital levels, but their lower intrinsic values would not strengthen their tangible equity by as much," it had said.

However, a senior bank executive said they do not expect the discounting on these instruments to significantly impact their regulatory ratios. "On adjusted values we will be fairly comfortable to meet our capital adequacy ratios," he said.

The government had slashed the bank capitalisation allocation by ₹5,000 crore in the revised estimates for FY22 and has made no provision in FY23.

It feels the banks are now strong enough to raise capital from the market and do not need support.

The government will provide the budgeted ₹15,000 crore capital allocation for state-run banks this fiscal through non-interest-bearing zero-coupon bonds.

This comes even as some banks had reached out to the government seeking clarity given that the Reserve Bank of India has asked them to account for these bonds at fair value.

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**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend**  
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**64. Recently In February The API Holdings The Parent Company Of Online Pharmacy StarUp Pharmeasy Recived The Approval From Sebi For IPO Amount Of How Much ?**

- A. Rs 8426 Cr
- B. Rs 14527 Cr
- C. Rs 6250 Cr**
- D. Rs 3600 Cr

## Swiggy's \$800-m IPO early next year

REUTERS  
Bengaluru, February 22

FOOD DELIVERY COMPANY Swiggy, which is backed by SoftBank Group, has started preparations to raise at least \$800 million in an IPO early next year, the Nikkei reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Swiggy has begun adding independent directors to the board, and plans to position itself as a logistics company and not just a food delivery firm, according to the report.

The company did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Swiggy doubled its valuation to \$10.7 billion in its latest funding round, Reuters reported last month, citing sources.

Rival Zomato, which saw a stellar market debut last year has struggled to keep the momentum going. It reported tepid order value growth in the third quarter.



India has seen booming demand for delivery of food and grocery, especially during the pandemic. Swiggy's grocery delivery service

Instamart is now competing with the likes of Blinkit and Zepto, which are luring customers with the promise of 10 minute deliveries.

API Holdings, the parent firm of PharmEasy, has got clearance from markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India for the online pharmacy's initial public offering.

Mumbai-based API Holdings had filed its draft IPO papers in November to raise Rs 6,250 crore through a sale of primary shares. Existing shareholders aren't planning to sell shares.

PharmEasy is India's one of the top online pharmacy apps. Launched in 2015,

### ● PROCEED TO BOOST CORE AREAS

## PharmEasy parent gets Sebi nod for ₹6,250-cr IPO

SALMAN SH  
Bengaluru, February 21

API HOLDINGS, THE parent company of online pharmacy start-up PharmEasy, on Monday received the definitive approval from Sebi to raise ₹6,250 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

API Holdings, which owns an umbrella of brands including PharmEasy, Thyrocare, Docon, Retailio, and Aknamed, had filed draft papers to raise ₹6,250 crore in fresh equity shares through its proposed IPO in November 2021.

The online pharmacy start-up was last valued at \$5.6 billion (₹42,197.79 crore) in a ₹2,635.22-crore pre-IPO round in October.

The Mumbai-headquartered company is an integrated, end-to-end business that provides solutions for healthcare needs of consumers including digital tools and information on illness and wellness, offering tele-consultation, offering diagnostics and radiology tests, and delivering treatment protocols including products and devices.

The start-up also plans to issue a pre-IPO placement offer which will be undertaken through consultation with the book running lead managers for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹1,250 crore. If the pre-IPO placement is undertaken, the issue size will be reduced by the amount raised from the pre-IPO placement and the minimum issue size.

"The issue so reduced by the amount raised from the pre-IPO placement shall constitute at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity share capital of our company," the start-up said in its DRHP in November 2021. API Holdings plans to use around ₹1,929 crore from the IPO proceeds to repay or prepay borrowings and ₹1,259

#### Joining the queue

PharmEasy intends to use the IPO proceeds to invest in three core areas – including marketing and promotional activities, supply chain infrastructure and fulfilment and for upgrading its tech infrastructure

The online pharmacy start-up was last valued at \$5.6 billion (₹42,197.79 crore) in a ₹2,635.22-crore pre-IPO round in October

The start-up also plans to issue a pre-IPO placement offer for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹1,250 crore



The start-up reported revenues of ₹2,335.26 crore during the financial year ended March 31, 2021, a 3X increase compared with ₹667.54 crore reported in FY20

crore to fund organic growth initiatives, besides allocating ₹1,500 crore on inorganic growth opportunities through acquisitions and other strategic initiatives.

Morgan Stanley India, BofA Securities India, Kotak Mahindra Capital, JM Financial and Citigroup Global Markets India have been appointed lead bankers for the IPO.

The pharmacy start-up reported revenues of ₹2,335.26 crore during the financial year ended March 31, 2021, a 3X increase compared with ₹667.54 crore reported in FY20. Its losses stood at ₹641.33 crore in FY21, against ₹335.27-crore loss in FY20.

PharmEasy said it does not have an identifiable promoter. Some of its largest investors include South African Internet

holding firm Naspers and Singaporean investment firm Temasek which hold 12.04% and 10.8% shares, respectively.

Founded in 2015 by Dharmil Sheth and Dhaval Shah, PharmEasy currently claims to connect more than 60,000 brick-and-mortar pharmacies and 4,000 doctors across 16,000 zip codes across the country. The start-up also claims to have served more than 20 million customers.

To date, PharmEasy has raised over \$1.2 billion in equity and debt funding and its last significant deal was the \$600-million acquisition of diagnostics chain Thyrocare in June this year.

PharmEasy was also the first unicorn in the online pharmacy start-up space, achieving the status in April 2021.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend  
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65. Recently In February **TripMoney** Has Partnered With Which Of The Following Bank To Launch **Global Credit Card** ?

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. SBM Bank**
- C. DBS Bank
- D. Axis Bank

TripMoney, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip, and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card. "The TripMoney Global card offers multiple value-added

The card is powered by Visa and can be used across over 150 countries. "The card is targeted at international travellers, including the student population

State Bank of Mauritius, is a bank in Mauritius that the Bank of Mauritius, the national banking regulator, has licensed as a commercial bank. SBM is the second-largest bank in Mauritius with a market share of about 25% of domestic banking assets Headquarters: Port Louis, Mauritius Founded: 1973 Parent: SBM Holdings Ltd,

MakeMyTrip is an Indian online travel company founded in 2000. Headquartered in Gurugram,

### Money & Banking

TripMoney partners with SBM Bank India to launch global credit card

BL Mumbai Bureau | Updated On: Feb 23, 2022



A representational image

The card offers multiple value-added benefits, including zero forex mark-up, lifetime free validity, and 100 per cent digital in-app card management

TripMoney, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip, and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card. "The TripMoney Global card offers multiple value-added benefits including zero forex mark-up, lifetime free validity and 100 per cent digital in-app card management," the two said in a statement on Wednesday. The card is powered by Visa and can be used across over 150 countries. "The card is targeted at international travellers, including the student

66. Recently In February Reserve Bank Of India Has Cancelled The Certificate Of Registration Issued To PC Financial ,Which Carries Out Lending Operations Through An App Called ?

- A. sRide
- B. Cashbean
- C. FedFina
- D. FutureRide

Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said it has cancelled the registration of PC Financial Services on account of violation of its directions on outsourcing and KYC norms.

"The CoR (certificate of registration) of the company has been cancelled on account of supervisory concerns such as gross violations of RBI directions on outsourcing and Know Your Customer norms,

PCFS was primarily engaged in mobile app-based lending operations through an app called 'Cashbean

PC Financial Services shall not transact the business of a non-banking financial institution (NBFI), as defined in clause (a) of section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934,"

## Central bank cancels Cashbean parent PC Financial's registration



FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, February 24

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Thursday said it has cancelled the certificate of registration issued to PC Financial, which carries out lending operations through an app called Cashbean. This is the first instance of regulatory action against an entity in the wake of a surge in complaints against usurious and unfair recovery practices being followed by several digital lenders.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 45-IA (6) (iv) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Reserve Bank has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) issued to M/s PC Financial Services Private Limited, New Delhi. As such, M/s PC Financial Services Private Limited shall not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI), as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934," the central bank said in a statement.

The CoR of the company has been cancelled on account of supervisory concerns such as gross violations of RBI directions on outsourcing and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, the RBI said. The company was also found to be charging usurious rates of interest and other charges to its borrowers in an opaque manner, apart from indulging in unauthorised use of logos of

The company was found to be charging usurious rates of interest and other charges to its borrowers in an opaque manner, apart from indulging in unauthorised use of logos of the RBI and the CBI for recovery from the borrowers in gross violation of the Fair Practices Code

the RBI and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for recovery from the borrowers in gross violation of the Fair Practices Code.

According to a recent report by the *Hindu Business Line*, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had seized bank/payment gateway funds worth ₹288 crore belonging to PC Financial Services vide three seizure orders issued under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

After a furore over the excesses committed by digital lending apps in 2020, the RBI had set up a working group to present a report on the regulation of such apps. The recommendations of the group, released in November 2021, range from subjecting digital lending apps (DLAs) to a verification process by a nodal agency to a separate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities.



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**67. Recently In February South Indian Bank Has Announced Two New Services To Further Enhance Remittances Through Net Banking And NPCI Up Mode ?**

- A. SibNet, SibXpress
- B. SibMirror + ,SibFina
- C. SIBerNet ,SibMirror
- D. SIB Express , SIBerNet**

**Money & Banking**

**South Indian Bank introduces two new services for customers**

BL Kochi Bureau | February 23 | Updated On: Feb 23, 2022



The bank has rolled out SIB Express to provide inward remittance

Resident Indian customers can now initiate outward remittances in more than 100 currencies

South Indian Bank has introduced two new services to further enhance both “remittances to” and “remittances from” abroad. The bank has enabled online outward remittances through Net Banking and inward remittances through NPCI’s UPI mode, providing an enhanced experience, convenience and safety.

SIB online outward remittance facilitates Foreign Outward Remittance through the bank’s Internet Banking platform, “SIBerNet”.

Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS),

Resident Indian customers can now initiate outward remittances in more than 100 currencies

South Indian Bank has introduced two new services to further enhance both “remittances to” and “remittances from” abroad. The bank has enabled online outward remittances through Net Banking and inward remittances through NPCI’s UPI mode, providing an enhanced experience, convenience and safety.

SIB online outward remittance facilitates Foreign Outward Remittance through the bank’s Internet Banking platform, “SIBerNet”.

Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), RBI permits resident individuals to remit up to \$2,50,000 or equivalent in other currencies in a financial year for permissible purposes.

The bank has further rolled out a new service feature in its ‘SIB Express’ inward remittance service.

This feature will enable NRIs to send money to their relatives or their own NRE/NRO account in India instantly through NPCI’s UPI mode.

Murali Ramakrishnan, MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

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**68. Recently In February According To The Government Data FDI Equity Inflow Has Dipped To 16 % to How Much Amount During The April - December Period ?**

- A. USD 43.17 Bn**
- B. USD 51.87 Bn**
- C. USD 80.97 Bn**
- D. USD 64.78 Bn**

## FDI equity inflows dip 16% during Apr-Dec

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, 25 February

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16 per cent to \$43.17 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The inflows had stood at \$51.47 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The total FDI inflows

(which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital) aggregated at \$60.34 billion during the nine month period of the current fiscal year as against \$67.5 billion in the year-ago period.

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to \$12 billion as against \$21.46 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, the data showed.

The total FDI inflows fell to \$17.94 billion during the

third quarter as against \$26.16 billion in the year-ago period.

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to \$12 billion as against \$21.46 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, the data showed.

The total FDI inflows fell to \$17.94 billion during the third quarter as against \$26.16 billion in the year-ago period. During April-December 2021, Singapore was at the top with \$11.7 billion worth of investments. It

was followed by the US (\$7.52 billion), Mauritius (\$6.58 billion), Cayman Islands (\$2.74 billion), Netherlands (\$2.66 billion) and UK (\$1.44 billion).

The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of \$10.25 billion during the nine-month period of this fiscal. It was followed by the automobile industry (\$5.96 billion), services sector (\$5.35 billion), construction (infrastructure) activities (\$1.6 billion) and pharma (\$1.2 billion), the data showed.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16 per cent to USD 43.17 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to USD 12 billion as against USD 21.46 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, the data showed.

Singapore was at the top with USD 11.7 billion worth of investments.

It was followed by the US (USD 7.52 billion), Mauritius (USD 6.58 billion), Cayman Islands (USD 2.74 billion), Netherlands (USD 2.66 billion) and UK (USD 1.44 billion).

**69. Recently In February The Vodafone Has Announced That It Will Sell Its How Much Percent Stake In Indus Towers To Airtel ?**

- A. 9.95 %**
- B. 9.49 %**
- C. 4.7 %**
- D. 5.54 %**

## Vodafone may sell 4.7% stake in Indus Towers to Airtel

**KIRAN RATHEE**  
New Delhi, February 23

**VODAFONE PLC IS** considering selling a portion of its stake — 7.1% — in Indus Towers to support the Indian entity's (Vodafone Idea) efforts to strengthen its balance sheet, the company said on Wednesday. Sources said that talks are on with Bharti Airtel to sell 4.7% of the stake.

**Indus Towers (BSE)**



The total sale of 7.1% stake could fetch the company something in the range of

Prev close: 252.1

■ Vodafone Plc holds 28.12% stake in **Indus Towers**, Bharti Airtel 41.73%  
 ■ Company also in talks with other parties for **residual stake sale**

₹4,328 crore-₹4,405 crore. Of this, the sale to Bharti could fetch around ₹2,885-2,936

crore, and the block sale around ₹1,443-1,469 crore.

“The company is in advanced discussions with one of the largest shareholders in Indus for the purchase of 127.1 million Indus shares from Vodafone, or 4.7% of Indus’ outstanding share capital,” Vodafone Plc said in a statement.

**Continued on Page 13**



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UK's Vodafone Group Plc has said it is planning to sell 2.4% stake in Indus Towers through a block deal on Thursday and is also in talks with one of the tower company's largest shareholders to sell 4.7% more. It could raise up to Rs 4,300-4,400 crore through these stake sales and the funds will be infused into loss-making Vodafone Idea. The company further said it was in talks with "several interested parties" to also sell its residual stake in the tower company.

the UK company said it and the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) intend to contribute towards an issue of equity share by Vodafone India (Vi). "Vodafone and ABG, the promoters of Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), are committed to support Vi in its efforts to strengthen its balance sheet

Vodafone is offering the 2.4% stake, or 63.6 million shares, held by unit Euro Pacific at Rs 227-231 per share. This could net the company between Rs 1,444 crore and Rs 1,469 crore. In the same price band, Vodafone's 4.7% stake should net it an additional Rs 2,885.2-2,936 crore. Banking sources added that the Sunil Mittal-led telco is pushing to buy the stake for a price of under Rs 225 a share.

**70. Recently In February Indian food aggregator Zomato has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) called Zomato Financial Services Ltd. What is minimum capital required to open NBFC ?**

- A. 1 Cr
- B. 2 Cr
- C. 3 Cr**
- D. 5 Cr

Zomato has incorporated wholly owned subsidiary namely 'Zomato Financial Services' as Non- Banking Finance Company (NBFC) on February 25, 2022. Earlier, The company's board had approved incorporation of a wholly owned subsidiary as NBFC. **The NBFC will have a proposed authorised capital of Rs 10 crore and proposed paid-up capital of Rs 3 crore.**

Zomato is an Indian multinational restaurant aggregator and food delivery company founded by Pankaj Chaddah and Deepinder Goyal in 2008. It provides information, menus and user-reviews of restaurants as well as food delivery options from partner restaurants in select cities.

**Companies**

**Zomato incorporates wholly-owned NBFC Zomato Financial Services Ltd**

BL Mumbai Bureau | Updated On: Feb 26, 2022



Both UrbanPiper and AdOnMo investments are synergistic to our core business, said Zomato | Photo Credit: Jaishankar P@Chennai

The NBFC company will allow Zomato to extend short-term credit to its delivery partners, customers and restaurant partners

Indian food aggregator Zomato has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) called Zomato Financial Services Ltd.

"We wish to intimate Zomato Financial Services Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, which was incorporated on February 25, 2022," the company informed the exchanges on Saturday.

**71. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) On Fees Structure Of Electronic Gold Receipt :**

1. SEBI has now introduced a fee of ₹0.00010 per cent of turnover (₹10 for every ₹1 crore transacted) for EGR
2. SEBI has also now stipulated that every clearing member and self-clearing member dealing in EGR should have a deposit of ₹1 crore

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

## Electronic gold receipts: SEBI specifies stock broker fees

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, February 27

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken the next big step towards operationalising spot gold exchanges in the country. It has now specified the fee that a stockbroker would be required to pay the markets regulator for sale and purchase transactions of electronic gold receipts (EGRs) in the bourses.

SEBI has now introduced a fee of ₹0.00010 per cent of turnover (₹10 for every ₹1 crore transacted) for the EGR. This fee will be applicable for purchase and sale transactions in EGR at the proposed gold exchanges. SEBI has also now stipulated that every clearing member and self-clearing member dealing in EGR should have a deposit of ₹1 crore. Put simply, an EGR is an electronic receipt issued on the basis of a deposit of underlying phys-



ical gold in accordance with the regulations made by SEBI.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2021-22 budget said that SEBI will be the regulator for gold exchanges.

It maybe recalled that SEBI in September last year gave its nod for setting up a gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of an EGR.

SEBI had said that any recognised stock exchange, existing as well as new, can launch trading in EGRs in a separate segment. The denomination for trading of the EGRs and conversion of an EGR into gold can be decided by

the stock exchanges with the approval of SEBI.

Commenting on the latest move, Narinder Wadhwa, President, Commodities Participants Association of India (CPAI), told *BusinessLine* that this fee is in nature of transaction charge and will help operationalise the spot gold exchanges.

### Derivatives and ETFs

So far, the only instruments through which members of exchanges could have exposure to gold are derivatives and ETFs.

"EGRs are a new area and a new instrument that we always wanted so that we have an option to take delivery also. Indians have a great love for gold. This EGR will enable investors to have physical gold. This is a welcome step and I hope there will be good traction for this in times to come," Wadhwa said.

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72. Recently In February The RBI has Directed All The NBFC To Implememnt Core Finacial Services  
Soluntion By \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- B. 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023
- D. 30 September 2022

## RBI: Specified NBFCs must implement core financial services solution by Sept 30, 2025

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, February 23  
Specified non-banking finance companies will have to implement core financial services solution by September 30, 2025. "...it has been decided that NBFCs - Middle Layer and NBFCs-Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 1, 2022, shall be mandatorily required to implement 'core financial services solution (CFSS)', akin to the Core Banking Solution

(CBS) adopted by banks," the Reserve Bank of India said on Wednesday. A 'fixed point service delivery unit' is a place of operation from where the business activity of non-banking financial intermediation is carried out by the NBFC and which is manned either by its own staff or outsourced agents.

NBFC - Middle and Upper Layers with 10 or more 'fixed point service delivery units' would be expected to implement this on or before September 30, 2025.

**NBFCs - Middle Layer and NBFCs - Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS**

"However, NBFC - Upper Layer shall ensure that the CFSS is implemented at least in 70 per cent of 'fixed point service delivery units' on or before September

30, 2024," the RBI said. Implementation of CFSS would not be mandatory for NBFC - Base Layer and NBFC - Middle and Upper Layers with less than 10 'fixed point service delivery units'.

NBFCs would be expected to submit a quarterly progress report on implementation of the CFSS, along with various milestones as approved by the board or committee of the board to the RBI from quarter ending March 31, 2023.

RBI has said that NBFCs – Middle and Upper Layers with 10 and more Fixed Point Service Delivery Units (FPSDUs) as on October 1, 2022 shall mandatorily implement CFSS on or before September 30, 2025. However, NBFCs-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) are required to implement Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS) in at least 70% of FPSDUs on or before September 30, 2024.

The implementation of CFSS is not mandatory for NBFC – Base Layer and NBFC – Middle and Upper Layers with fewer than 10 FPSDUs.

Such NBFCs can consider implementation of CFSS for their own benefit.

NBFCs will be required to submit quarterly progress report on implementation of CFSS to the RBI's Senior Supervisory Manager (SSM) Office from March 31, 2023.

Four layer regulatory structure for NBFCs:

In October 2021, RBI has issued Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs. Regulatory structure for NBFCs was categorized into four layers on the basis of size, activity, and perceived riskiness.

NBFCs in the lowest layer were called NBFC - Base Layer (NBFC-BL). The Top Layer was called NBFC - Top Layer (NBFC-TL).

NBFCs in middle layer and upper layer were termed NBFC - Middle Layer (NBFC-ML) and NBFC - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) respectively.

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. RBI (Department of Non-Banking Supervision-DNBS) is the regulator of NBFCs.

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73. Recently In February Which Of The Following Bank Has Launched **Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) And Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) To Met The Liquidity Management Needs Of Institutional Customers ?**

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. IDBI Bank**
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Punjab National bank

### Money & Banking

IDBI Bank launches liquidity management solution for institutional clients

BL Mumbai Bureau | February 26 | Updated On: Feb 26, 2022



It helps corporate customers to manage liquidity efficiently

LMS and G-LMS provide real-time, web-based and formula driven liquidity management solutions

IDBI Bank has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers.

“LMS and G-LMS provide real-time, web-based and formula driven liquidity management solution,” said the private sector in a statement.

IDBI Bank has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers. “LMS and G-LMS provide real-time, web-based and formula driven liquidity management solution,”

These solutions provide tools to institutions for enhanced visibility of liquidity position across the organisation, helping them in forecasting and projecting the cash positions at a glance,

The IDBI Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank and a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation providing financial and banking services. It was established in 1964 as Industrial Development Bank of India, Headquarters: Mumbai CEO: Rakesh Sharma

74. Recently In February The Central Government Has Allowed 20 % FDI In LIC Through Automatic Route . The Existing FDI Policy Did Not Prescribe Any Specific Provision For Foreign Investment In LIC , Which Is Statutory Corporation Established Under \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Companies Act 1956
- B. Lic Act 1956
- C. Insurance Regulatory And Development Authority Act 1999
- D. Insurance Act 1938

The union cabinet on Saturday approved 20% Foreign Direct Investment in Life Insurance Corporation of India. Though the government did not make a formal announcement, sources said the cabinet has allowed up to 20 per cent FDI under the direct route in the government-owned corporation.

Government sources say that insurance is a permitted sector under FDI policy. But, this policy currently lists only insurance company and intermediaries or insurance intermediaries under the Insurance sector. LIC being a statutory corporation, it is not covered under either insurance company or intermediaries or insurance intermediaries.

Further, no limit is prescribed for foreign investment in LIC under the LIC Act 1956 ; the Insurance Act, 1938; the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 or regulations made under the respective Acts

The government has given a go-ahead to divest 5% stake in LIC through listing of the insurer's share on stock exchanges. The listing is likely to happen next month. The amendment in FDI policy would allow foreign investors to participate in the LIC's share sale offer, which is likely to be the biggest in the country.

### MOVE TO FACILITATE INSURER'S IPO

# Cabinet Nod for Up to 20% FDI in LIC Under Auto Mode

Existing FDI policy also 'simplified and enhanced' to provide clarity

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The cabinet approved a proposal to allow up to 20% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through the automatic route, a move that will facilitate the insurer's upcoming initial public offer (IPO), said people with knowledge of the matter.

The existing FDI policy has also been "simplified and enhanced" to provide clarity, one of them said.

The country's biggest life insurer had filed for the sale of a 5% stake by the government on February 13. The IPO, expected to be the country's biggest ever, is likely to be launched next month. The pricing of the issue is yet to be decided with some estimates pegging the offer size at about Rs 63,000 crore.

Certain changes and alignments under various provisions of the FDI policy have also been made to provide greater clarity through an updated, consistent and easily comprehensible framework for overseas investment in LIC. This was crucial as the existing policy doesn't have any specific provision for overseas investment in LIC, which is a statutory corporation established under the LIC Act, 1956. "Since, as per the present FDI policy, the foreign inflows ceiling for public sector

### Easing Investments

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Cabinet move in sync with regime for public sector banks | FDI already permitted in insurance; LIC not included |
|--|--|

Cabinet approval to allow foreign investors to participate in LIC IPO

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LIC has filed DRHP with Sebi for its nod | Govt expects to complete listing by March |
|--|---|



banks is 20% under the government approval route, it has been decided to allow foreign investment of up to 20% for LIC and such other corporate bodies," another person said.

Additionally, FDI in LIC and other such state-owned corporate entities has been kept in the automatic route, as in the case of the rest of the insurance sector; to expedite the capital-raising process by cutting down approval requirements. This means prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India or the central government is not required.

FDI Inflows >> 9

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75. Recently In February Life Insurance Corporation Of India Has Increased Its Stake In Capri Capital Ltd (cgcl) From 4.95 % To What Percent ?

- A. 5.04 %
- B. 4.99 %
- C. 6.71 %
- D. 9.95 %

Life Insurance Corporation of India has increased its stake in Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL) from 4.959 per cent to 5.044 per cent. LIC has acquired the stake via market purchase, per the Corporation's disclosure to the exchanges.

Life Insurance Corporation of India is an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation headquartered in the city of Mumbai, India. It is under the ownership of Government of India

Chairperson: M R Kumar Founded: 1 September 1956

### LIC stake in Capri Global crosses 5%

Mumbai, February 22

Life Insurance Corporation of India has increased its stake in Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL) from 4.959 per cent to 5.044 per cent. LIC has acquired the stake via market purchase, as per the Corporation's disclosure to the exchanges. Shares of CGCL closed flat at ₹591.35 on the BSE. CGCL had reported 22 per cent year-on-year increase in third quarter standalone net profit at ₹48.51 crore against ₹39.81 crore in the year ago period. The non-banking finance company's board on February 12 had approved entering gold loans as a new line of business. OUR BUREAU

76. Which of the following statements is correct about the *Frontiers* report?

1. It is released by *United Nations Environment Programme*.
2. According to this report, *wildfires incidents have increased due to climate change and human activities*.

Which Of The Following Statement Is CVorrect ?

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

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its annual Frontiers report has estimated that wildfires incidents will increase in coming years.

According to this report, wildfires incidents have increased due to climate change and human activities.

The rising concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases have increased the risk factor of wildfires.

The rapid expansion of cities towards forest areas has further increased the wildfires incidents.

Wildfires have also become more common in the Savannah ecosystem. It has affected one-fourth of species in the Savannah ecosystem.

An average of about 423 million hectares' earth's land has burnt every year between 2002 to 2016.

As per this report, Africa was the most affected region due to wildfires in 2021.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): It is an authority that sets the global environmental agenda and also helps the developing countries in implementing environment-related policies.

**77. Recently In February Which Of The Following Small Finance Bank Has Become The First Bank To Sign MOU With HeroMotocorp For Two Wheeler Finance To Its Customers ?**

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

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has become the first Small Finance Bank to enter into a strategic tie-up with Hero MotoCorp- the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, to finance the purchase of a two-wheeler. The financing tie-up would help deepen the two-wheeler market penetration and fulfil the aspirations of customers in the mid to low-income segment across the country.

Ujjivan SFB would be funding up to 100 per cent of the on-road price of the vehicle (LTV), depending on the customer's credit profile. Prospective two-wheeler customers in urban, semi-urban & rural regions across the country

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited is one of the leading small finance banks. Headquarters: Bengaluru

The New Delhi (India) headquartered Hero MotoCorp Ltd. is the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, in terms of unit volumes sold by a single company in a year — the coveted position it has held for the past 21 consecutive years.

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**78. Recently In February As per the analysis by Swiss brokerage UBS Securities, Which Of The Following Is The the largest holder of G-secs With 19% of G-secs ?**

- A. Lic**
- B. RBI**
- C. SBI**
- D. NABARD**

The IPO-bound national insurer LIC is not only the largest holder of government debt — owning 19 percent of the G-secs — but also the single largest owner of equities, the largest fund manager as well as holder of household savings, dwarfing even SBI deposits, as per a report

Holding 17 percent of the over Rs 80.7 lakh crore dated government securities, maturing by 2061, the Reserve Bank is the second-largest holder of government debt, while led by public sector banks, commercial banks collectively own around 40 percent. Other insurers cumulatively own only 5 percent.

LIC's ownership of G-secs peaked in March 2019 when it held 20.6 per cent and 20.5 percent in March 2020, according to Swiss brokerage UBS Securities. With \$520 billion of total assets under management (AUM), LIC is the largest institutional investor in the around \$3 trillion domestic equities market. RBI is the second largest holder of government debt. It holds 17% of over Rs 80.7 lakh crore dated government securities, maturing by 2061.

Commercial banks collectively own around 40% of government debt. Other insurers collectively own only 5%.

**79. Recently In February Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Has announced its partnership with Which Of The Following kisan / Institution To carry out its Youth Employment Program, BridgeIT, goIT, Ignite My Future and Adult Literacy Program ?**

- A. University Of Oulu**
- B. University Of Kashmir**
- C. IISc Bangalore**
- D. IIT Bomaby**

The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered up with the University of Kashmir to launch a programme with the aim to improve employability skills of students in Kashmir, under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

TCS aims to carry out its Youth Employment Program (YEP), BridgeIT, goIT, Ignite My Future (IMF) and Adult Literacy Program (ALP) within the next three years

College students from Kashmir will be trained to prosper in the digital economy through the YEP programme, which have proved successful in the past too.



**80. Recently In February According To The Government Data During April-December 2021, outward remittances of Indians have reached To How Much Billion Amount ?**

- A. \$12.68 billion
- B. \$13.80 billion**
- C. \$14.40 billion
- D. \$15.62 billion

Indians have sent more money abroad in the first nine months of the current fiscal compared to the whole of FY21. Thanks to pick up in overseas education and pent-up travel demand, outward remittances, under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), touched \$13.80 billion during April-December 2021, exceeding \$12.68 billion in remittances made for whole of FY21.

**Under LRS, a resident individual can remit up to \$250,000 in a financial year for current account transactions**

## Indians remitted \$13.8 b abroad in April-Dec, surpassing FY21 level

Education accounted for a third, followed by travel

NARAYANAN V  
Chennai, February 19

Indians have sent more money abroad in the first nine months of the current fiscal compared to the whole of FY21. Thanks to pick up in overseas education and pent-up travel demand, outward remittances, under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), touched \$13.80 billion during April-December 2021, exceeding \$12.68 billion in remittances made for whole of FY21.

Under LRS, a resident individual can remit up to \$250,000 in a financial year for current account transactions such as private visit, gift or donation, overseas employment expenses, emigration, maintenance of close relatives abroad, business trip, medical treatment abroad, and overseas educational expenses.

Outward remittances of Indians have grown more than ten times in the last six years. From a mere \$1.33 billion in FY15, outward remittances under the LRS peaked at \$18.76 billion in FY20. With the

Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent curbs impacting international travel and overseas education plans, remittances dropped to \$12.68 billion in FY21. According to RBI data, outward remittances for education accounted for 32 per cent of the total during April-December 2021 at \$4.40 billion. This was higher than \$3.83 billion that Indians spent on overseas education in FY21 and close to even pre-Covid levels of \$4.99 billion spent in FY20.

### 'Exponential growth'

"The year 2021 has seen a very strong bounce back from the Covid-induced disruption in terms of larger number of students going abroad and hence higher remittances. With borders opening up and countries welcoming international students, the study abroad segment has seen an exponential growth in the past year," said Vaibhav Singh, Co-founder, Leap Scholar.

South Asia's largest study abroad platform, Leap Scholar, says it has helped over 60,000

students move overseas for education and facilitated more than \$150 million worth of education loans in 2021. With \$4.16 billion in spending, 'travel' was the second highest purpose of outward remittance followed by 'maintenance of close relatives', under which Indians sent \$2.31 billion during the first three quarters of the current fiscal.

### Investments up

Although smaller in size, remittances for investment in overseas equity and debt have exceeded even the pre-Covid levels. Indians sent \$508 million for overseas investment during April-December 2021 as against \$472 million and \$431 million for the whole of FY21 and FY20 respectively.

"There has been a healthy growth of LRS investments over the last few years. The trend was triggered in 2019, when US tech stocks were on a bull run. But it has sustained even beyond that. While desire for higher returns was the key motivator initially, the reasons now are more long term in nature," said Asheesh Chanda, Founder & CEO of global digital private wealth platform, KristalAI



**81. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) :**

1. The 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
2. It was setup in 2010 by Indian Government as an executive body. It replaced the High Level Coordination Committee on Financial Markets (HLCCFM).
3. A sub-committee of FSDC has also been set up under the chairmanship of Governor RBI.

**Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct**

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

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The 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

It was setup in 2010 by Indian Government as an executive body. It replaced the High Level Coordination Committee on Financial Markets (HLCCFM). The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.

FSDC is not a statutory body. No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.

Its objectives are to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and Enhancing inter-regulatory coordination. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister of India. There Are 12 Others Members In The Committee : A sub-committee of FSDC has also been set up under the chairmanship of Governor RBI. It discusses and decides on a range of issues relating to financial sector development and stability including substantive issues relating to inter-regulatory coordination.

**82. Recently In February The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Custom (CBIC) has lowered the threshold for mandatory issuance of e- invoice (electronic invoice) under Goods & Services Tax (GST) to \_\_\_\_\_ crore from the earlier prescribed limit of \_\_\_\_\_ crore ?**

- A. Rs 20 Cr , Rs 50 Cr**
- B. Rs 10 Cr , Rs 25 Cr**
- C. Rs 1 Cr , Rs 5 Cr**
- D. Rs 5 Cr , Rs 10 Cr**

## From April 1, GST e-invoice mandatory for businesses with ₹20-crore turnover

Standardisation and inter-operability to reduce disputes, cut processing costs

**SHISHIR SINHA**

New Delhi, February 25

The threshold of issuing GST e-invoice (electronic invoice) has been lowered to ₹20-crore turnover from ₹50 crore earlier by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custom (CBIC).

By the new rule, which is to kick in from April 1, businesses with turnover of ₹20 crore or more will have to issue e-invoices. If the invoice is not valid, not only the receipt cannot claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) but will also face a penalty.

### Simplifying norms

Experts say this amendment seems to be dovetailed to the government's digital eco-

nomy agenda. Bipin Sapra, Tax Partner with EY India, said: "By making it mandatory for all assesses whose turnover is more than ₹20 crore to issue e-invoices, the government has expanded the compliance automation to a larger set of taxpayers, which will not only simplify compliance but also plug revenue leakages on account of input tax credit frauds."

E-invoices are formatted to be machine-readable, with B2B invoices authenticated electronically by the Goods & Services Tax Network for further use on the common GST portal. Under the electronic invoicing system, an identification number is issued against every invoice by the

Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) managed by the GSTN.

### Standardised format

The government has already made it clear that the new mandate will not add financial burden on businesses as GSTN has empanelled seven accounting and billing software products that provide basic accounting and billing system free-of-cost to small taxpayers.

### Several advantages

Tax officials say e-invoice has advantages such as auto-reporting of invoices into GST return and auto-generation of e-way bill. E-invoicing will also facilitate standardisa-

tion and inter-operability leading to reduction in disputes, improve payment cycles, reduction of processing costs and thereby improving overall business efficiency.

Businesses use various accounting/billing software generating and storing invoices in their own electronic formats. E-invoicing aims at machine-readability and uniform interpretation. To ensure

inter-operability of e-invoices across the GST ecosystem, an invoice standard is a must. By this, e-invoices generated by one software can be read by any other software, thereby eliminating the need of fresh/manual data entry.



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The threshold for mandatory issuance of e- invoice under GST has been lowered from Rs 50 crore to Rs 20 crore.

From April 1, GST e- invoice (electronic invoice) will be mandatory for businesses with turnover of ₹20 crore or more.

If the invoice is not valid, recipient cannot avail Input Tax Credit (ITC) on the invoice. E-invoices have a standardized format which can be read by a machine.

In e-invoicing, B2B (Business-to-Business) invoices are authenticated electronically by GSTN (Goods & Services Tax Network). Under e-invoicing system, an identification number will be issued against every invoice by the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) to be managed by the GSTN.

83. Recently In February Which Of The Following in partnership with the *International Air Transport Association (IATA)* has launched IATA Pay in India ?

- A. DBS Bank
- B. SBM Bank
- C. Standard Chartered Bank**
- D. Deutsche Bank

Global banking group Standard Chartered on Thursday said it has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch a payment platform for airline industry in India.

In addition to existing payment options such as credit cards, IATA Pay will be a new payment option that enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan and Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay), Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered will be supporting the rollout of IATA Pay in other markets as well.

IATA Pay in India is powered by Standard Chartered's Straight2Bank Pay, a payment platform that helps online merchants digitalise collections via multiple payment options through a single global connectivity

The launch of IATA Pay builds on Standard Chartered and IATA's existing partnership to co-create an industry-wide payments solution,

84. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ Became The \_\_\_\_\_ ILO Member State And Seventh African Fishing Nation TO ratify The \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Zimbabwe, 17<sup>th</sup> , Maritime Labour Convention 2003
- B. Kenya , 20<sup>th</sup> , Work In Fishing Convention 2007**
- C. Namibia , 11<sup>th</sup> , Seafearers Convention 2003
- D. South Africa , 38<sup>th</sup> , Watergate Convention 2009

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Kenya has become the 20th ILO Member State and the seventh African fishing nation to ratify the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 The Convention, which entered into force on 16 November 2017, provides the international legal framework for decent work in the fishing sector. It aims to ensure that the world's 38 million fishers working on commercial fishing vessels enjoy decent working and living conditions on board.

The Kenyan Government also submitted the instrument of ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended making it the 38th country to do so. The Convention provides for a global, mandatory identification system for seafarers, strengthens security The Government has also submitted a notification of acceptance of the 2014 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006,

**85. Recently In February Which Of The Following has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with doorstep diesel delivery service Humsafar India for supplying 20-litre capacity metallic petroleum storage jerry cans to IOCL channel Under The Programme " Fuel Humsafar " ?**

- A. Indian Oil Corporation**
- B. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd**
- C. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd**
- D. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd**

State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with doorstep diesel delivery service Humsafar India for supplying 20-litre capacity metallic petroleum storage jerry cans to IOCL channel partners to meet small volume requirements of end customers across India.

This 20 litre PESO approved jerry can diesel at doorstep service will benefit small housing societies, malls, hospitals, banks

As per the MoU, Humsafar India would also offer its tech platform 'Fuel Humsafar' to facilitate diesel doorstep delivery. The app has integrated multiple payment gateways and is also equipped with live tracking.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), is an Indian government corporation. Owner: Government of India (51.5%)

86. Recently In February Reserve Bank of India has issued a warning to the public against the use of the **carpooling app** \_\_\_\_\_ under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 ?

- A. Cashbean
- B. sRide**
- C. Ombudsperson App
- D. DigiLite

## RBI flags unauthorised wallet risks

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday said Gurugram-registered Ride Tech Private Ltd. was operating a pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app 'sRide' without obtaining permission.

RBI said sRide Tech Private Limited is operating a semi-closed (non-closed) pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app 'sRide' without obtaining the required authorisation from RBI under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

The RBI urged people to exercise utmost caution while using such application/s before parting with their money to any such unauthorised entity.

RBI said that the sRide is being run without the required permissions.

It further said that Gurgaon-based sRide Tech Private Limited is operating a semi-closed wallet without getting the necessary authorization under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

sRide is a carpooling mobile application that connect people in the community to share rides.

**Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007:**

It came into force with effect from August 2008. It provides for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India.

It designates RBI as the authority for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India.

Payment and settlement systems in India are regulated by RBI and Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).

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**87. Recently In February Which of the following settlement cycles has been implemented in stock market on 25th February?**

- A. T+1**
- B. T+2**
- C. T+3**
- D. T+4**

## BSE, NSE set to launch T+1 settlement cycle from tomorrow

Analysts see little impact, as only bottom 100 scrips will enter new cycle

**KS BADRI NARAYANAN**

Chennai, February 23

The Nse and BSE are all set to launch T+1 settlement from Friday for bottom 100 stocks in terms of market value. T+1 means settlement (delivering of securities to buyers and transfer of cash to sellers) will have to be done within one day of the actual transaction taking place.

### Tweak in T+1

The market regulator in September had asked stock exchanges to introduce T+1 settlement cycle from January 1, 2022, on any of the securities available in the equity segment on

optional basis. As market intermediaries had raised concerns that the same security having two settlement cycles could cause unnecessary operational complexity and risk in the settlement system, SEBI has restricted the securities under T+1 to the bottom 100 stocks based on market capitalisation.

Besides, FPIs also had raised concerns of their operational problems due to working in different time zones.

So, SEBI has allowed exchanges to launch the T+1 settlement cycle in a phased manner from February 25, starting with bottom 100 stocks, and 500 more stocks will be added, based on the same market value cri-

teria from the last Friday of March 2022 and every following month.

### 'Good move'

"T+1 should be a good move making settlement cycle shorter reducing margin requirement for clients with margin blocked for just 1 day, thereby increasing retail participation and investments coming to equity markets," said Anupam Agal, Head Operations & Legal, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Edelweiss Alternative Research, which had analysed the list of stocks which will be part of T+1 settlement cycle, said, "Going by our understanding of methodology, the key stocks (NSE and BSE 500 constituents) will be part of T+1 Settlement

cycle only after end of November 2022". All the current Nifty 50 constituents will only move to T+1 cycle in the last batch (w.e.f January 27, 2023), it added. "Thus the T+1 Settlement will be a gradual process (mainly lower to higher market capitalisation) and because of the adoption of new settlement cycle, we expect no near term impact," it added.

### Fixed settlement cycle

It may be recalled that prior to July 2001 exchanges had fixed settlement cycle. While the BSE had its settlement cycle from Monday to Thursday, which meant that all trades that happened between Monday and Thursday had to be settled on subsequent Fridays. Similarly, on the NSE, trades had to be settled on every Tuesday, as it had followed Wednesday-Monday settlement cycle.



In the first phase, T+1 settlement cycle will be applicable for the 100 stocks based on the lowest market capitalisation on the NSE.

On the last Friday of each month, 500 stocks will be added under the new settlement mechanism. In the stock market, there is a settlement cycle of buying and selling of shares in the stock market.

Settlement means official transfer of shares to the buyer's account and cash to the seller's account.

SEBI introduced the T+5 rolling settlement in the equity market in July 2001. In early 2002 the settlement cycle was reduced from T+5 to T+3, then from T+3 to T+2 in 2003.

India is the second country in the world after China where T+1 settlement has been implemented. T+1 settlement cycle means investors will get their money or shares delivered within 24 hours.

Shares in which T+1 settlement cycle will be implemented. The investors will get the delivery of those shares in their demat accounts within 24 hours of buying the shares. In T+2 settlement cycle, this process is completed in 48 hours

88. Recently In Febraury India's first "Smart Managed EV Charging Station" has been inaugurated in Delhi by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL). It has been built by \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. Wish Foundation
- B. Ashirvad Pipes
- C. Nudge Foundation
- D. Fortum Charge and Drive

India's first "Smart Managed EV Charging Station" has been inaugurated in Delhi by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL).

The station has been launched as a pilot project, which has been partially funded by Nordic Innovation.

It has been built by Fortum Charge and Drive, a Gurgaon-based private enterprise, and would be the first BYPL-operated and managed smart EV charging station.

This smart managed EV charging station is located at BYPL's 11 kV Sub Station building in Mayur Vihar Extension Phase-1 and can charge five EVs at the same time.

The EV chargers at the outlet are being linked to a smartphone app that will allow customers to find the charging station, book an appointment, and even pay at the EV charging station

## EV charging station that can be managed remotely comes up at Mayur Vihar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Power discom BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) on Friday said it has commissioned the country's first 'smart-managed' electric vehicle (EV) charging station at Mayur Vihar Extension - I.

On Friday, the station was inaugurated by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) chairperson Justice Shabihul Hasnain and DERC Member AK Ambasht. It can charge five e-vehicles simultaneously, a BSES spokesperson said. "Unlike a conventional EV charging station, this smart-managed EV charging station' can be integrated with BYPL's SCADA system — the state-of-the-art nerve system of the discom — and mana-



Tarun Rawat

### CHARGING AHEAD

ged remotely," he said.

He said that the charging station is located at BYPL's 11 kV sub-station building in Mayur Vihar Extension-I. It has been carefully selected as it is a gateway to Noida and can be easily accessed by EV users and EV fleet operators. "The EV chargers at the outlet are being integrated with a mobile application that enables end consumers to locate, pre-book an appointment and pay at the charging station," he said.

"The growing incidence of the EV charging load is adding to the peak power demand of the power utilities," he said, adding that such 'smart managed' EV charging stations will help in managing this power load through automated and efficient management of the distribution network in both peak and off-peak hours.

"For example, during the time of peak power demand or an unforeseen power exigency, the power supply to the EV charging station can be optimised and the extra power diverted to the nearby residential and essential establishments without curtailing the functioning of the EV charging station," he said. "We plan to install more such smart public EV charging stations in the future depending on the response," he added.

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

#### e-Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer Alipurduar Division, Social Sector, PW.Dte., Manna Dey Street, Alipurduar Pin 736122, on behalf of governor of West Bengal invites e-Tender online on contract rate basis Vide Tender reference No. WBPWD/EE/APD/SS/PWD/NieT No. 07 of 2021-2022. For the Construction of 20 bedded COVID Ward at 1) Bhatibari R.H under Alipurduar-II Block, Tender Id-2022\_WBPWD\_366864\_2, Rs.8062687.00. 2) Uttarlatabari RH under Kalchini Block, Tender Id 2022\_WBPWD\_366877\_1, Rs.8162482.00. 3) at Kamakshyaguri RH under Kumar Gram Block, Tender Id-2022\_WBPWD\_366881\_1, Rs.8739088.00. 4) Madarihath RH under Madarihath Birpara Block, Tender Id-2022\_WBPWD\_366885\_1, Rs.8095669.00 in Alipurduar during the Year 2021-22. Bid submission start date (Online) 25.02.2022 at 11.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (Online) 14.03.2022 upto 5.00 P.M. The details of NIET and Tender document may be downloaded from <http://etender.wb.nic.in> & <http://wbtdender.gov.in> Sd/- EE/APD/SS/PWD. ICA-T3495(3)/2022

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**89. Recently In February Which Of The Following has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant to help design a *Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS)* under the *National Pension System (NPS)* ?**

- A. IRDA
- B. PFRDA**
- C. RBI
- D. SIDBI

**MINIMUM ASSURED RETURN SCHEME UNDER NPS**

## PFRDA appoints EY Actuarial Services as design consultant

Rollout of the scheme likely in 6-8 months

**KR SRIVATS**

New Delhi, February 25

Pension regulator Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant to help design a Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS) under the National Pension System (NPS).

Now that a consultant has been appointed for MARS design, it may take another

6-8 months before the actual product gets rolled out to the public, sources in PFRDA said.

The whole idea behind having MARS is to have a separate scheme that can offer a guaranteed minimum rate of return to NPS subscribers, especially those who are risk averse. Currently, the NPS gives returns annually, based on prevailing market conditions.

EY Actuarial Services is expected to help formulate or design a MARS that can be offered to existing and prospective subscribers by the pension funds.



It is also expected to set up a procedure to evaluate and approve basic scheme design modifications by the pension funds and supervise MARS. The consultant would be required to prescribe fees,

solvency requirements, risk management and reporting mechanisms for pension funds in respect of MARS.

**New request for proposal**

It maybe recalled that PFRDA had come out with a new Request for Proposal (RFP) in August last year. This new RFP had relaxed the eligibility criteria set earlier for a bidder and had allowed those with experience of designing or development of at least one scheme with guarantee for its client, to bid for the consultant role.

The eligibility criteria had

to be tweaked as the response for the previous RFP— issued in May last year — was tepid with only one entity showing interest.

The earlier RFP mandated that a bidder, which has to be a corporate entity registered in India, should have experience of designing or development of schemes of guarantee with atleast three schemes being in operation or running in India, after being offered by its clients to the public at large. This RFP was cancelled on July 22.

To enable pension funds and its sponsors to offer

MARS-like products, PFRDA has already tweaked the capital requirement norms for the sponsors and stipulated higher networth and paid up capital for those looking to set up pension funds in the country.

**Pension funds**

India's pension assets under management have already crossed the ₹7-lakh crore mark and are expected to touch ₹7.5-lakh crore by end March this fiscal. PFRDA is aiming for an AUM (assets under management) of ₹30-lakh crore by 2030.

Pension regulator Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant to help design a Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS) under the National Pension System (NPS).

Now that a consultant has been appointed for MARS design, it may take another 6-8 months before the actual product gets rolled out to the public

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EY Actuarial Services is expected to help formulate or design a MARS that can be offered to existing and prospective subscribers by the pension funds.

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To enable pension funds and its sponsors to offer MARS-like products, PFRDA has already tweaked the capital requirement norms for the sponsors and stipulated higher networth and paid up capital for those looking to set up pension funds in the country.



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**90. Recently In Febraury Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane launched the Union MSME RuPay Credit Card With Which Of The Following Bank For simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses. ?**

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

Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane launches Union Bank MSME RuPay Credit Card

Posted On: 25 FEB 2022 5:42PM by PIB Mumbai

Sindhudurg / Mumbai | 25 February 2022

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane today launched the Union MSME RuPay Credit Card of Union Bank of India in Sindhudurg at the two day MSME Conclave being held in the district.

The card is being offered by Union Bank of India in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It provides a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses. MSME borrowers will be able to enjoy an interest-free credit period of up to 50 days on their business spends.

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Narayan Rane today announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg. The MSME-Technology Centre will provide the best of technology, incubation as well as advisory support to the industry, especially MSMEs, to enhance their competitiveness and provide skilling services for the employed and unemployed youth of the area to enhance their employability. MSME Minister inaugurates KONBAC-SFURTI Bamboo Cluster at Kudal Earlier in the day, the MSME Minister inaugurated the KONBAC SFURTI (Konkan Bamboo and Cane Development Centre - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) bamboo cluster at Kudal. The cluster will support 300 artisans. Ministry of MSME has released Rs 1.45 crore for setting up of the cluster.

Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) is an initiative by Ministry of MSME to promote Cluster development. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi.

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane today launched the **Union MSME RuPay Credit Card** of Union Bank of India in Sindhudurg at the two day MSME Conclave being held in the district. The card is being offered by Union Bank of India in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It provides a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses.



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91. Recently In February *Capital Market Regulator SEBI Has Extended Ther Deadline Till \_\_\_\_\_ For Existing Tading And Demat Account Holders To Provide Choice Of Nominations Or Opt Out Nomination ?*

- A. 30th July 2022
- B. 31st December 2022
- C. **31st March 2023**
- D. 31st March 2025

Capital markets regulator Sebi has extended the deadline till March 2023 for existing trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination or opt out of nomination.

In July last year, Sebi had asked all existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination on or before March 31 this year, failing which the trading and demat accounts will be frozen for debits.

existing investors who have not submitted nomination details till date and intend to submit their nomination or opt out of nomination (not to nominate any one) may also be allowed to do so by way of two factor authentication login on the internet trading platform for stock brokers/depository participants providing such service.

## SEBI extends time till March 2023 to provide choice on nomination

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, February 24

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Thursday extended the deadline till March next year for existing trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination or opt out of nomination.

SEBI, in July 2021, asked all existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination on or before March 31, 2022, failing which the trading and demat accounts will be frozen for debits.

On the basis of representations received from various stakeholders, it has been decided that the provision “with respect to freezing of accounts shall come into force with effect from March 31, 2023 instead of March 31, 2022.” SEBI said

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**92. Recently In Febraury Which Of The Following Has Partnered With SBI Payments To Boost Digital Payments Acceptance Infrastructure In Guwahati , Lucknow And Varansai ?**

- A. VISA
- B. Mastercard**
- C. NPCI
- D. IRCTC

Mastercard partners with SBI Payments to boost digital payments acceptance infrastructure in Guwahati, Lucknow and Varanasi **As an extension of its flagship campaign 'Team Cashless India'**, Mastercard organized three on-ground engagements in Guwahati, Lucknow and Varanasi to generate greater awareness and understanding of digital payments. Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers partnered with the Auto Rickshaw Association in Lucknow, All Assam's Restaurant Association (AARA) in Guwahati,

During these engagements, Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers and SBI Payments spoke to micro-merchants about the convenience,

**Sbi Payments SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd Founded: 2010 CEO -Rama Mohan Rao Amara**

**Mastercard Inc. is an American multinational financial services corporation headquartered in the Mastercard International Global Headquarters in Purchase, New York. Ajay Banga is executive chairman of the board of directors of Mastercard.**

**93. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has Partnered With Ashv Finance , A Tech Led NBFC To Present Financial Protection To Latter's Business Loan Borrowers In India ?**

- A. Edelweiss General Insurance**
- B. Chola General Insurance
- C. ICICI Prudential Insurance
- D. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Digital Insurer Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has joined hands with Ashv Finance, a tech-led NBFC present in over 100 locations in India, to offer financial protection to latter's business loan borrowers, according to the insurer.

While Ashv is offering timely credit to fund the growth aspirations of small businesses and MSMEs, EGI will ensure that there are no brakes in achieving their dreams by offering health insurance cover to safeguard the financial interest of this very important segment.

**Shanai Ghosh, executive director & CEO, Edelweiss General Insurance Edelweiss General Insurance Company is a part of Edelweiss Group, which is a multinational investment and financial services company based in Mumbai, India.**

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94. Recently In February The Office Of **Prinicipal Scientific Advisor To The Governemnt Has** Partneree With Which Of The Following Organisation To Launch **Clean Water ChallengeTo Provide Clean Water To The Unpriviledged And Rural Households Under The Jal Jeevan Mission ?**

- A. Nudge Foundation
- B. Ashirvad Pipes
- C. Wish Foundation
- D. Both A And B**
- E. Both B And C
- F. All Of The Above

## Nudge Foundation, Ashirvad Pipes launch clean water challenge

### OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, February 24

The/Nudge Foundation, and Ashirvad Pipes, in partnership with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India announced a prize for start-ups and innovators working on solutions to provide clean drinking water to the underprivileged and rural households. The initiative aims to support solutions that address population-scale water challenges.

With a total prize purse of ₹2.5 crore (₹75 lakh for the winning solution and runner up and milestone grants for finalists), the pro-

gramme will run for 18 months and will support entrepreneurs in developing, testing, and scaling solutions through a network of investors, mentors, technology and knowledge partners, and policy circle advisors.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

The challenge will give impetus to the government's Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections in rural India by 2024.

The prize seeks solutions pertaining to source water purification, smart distribu-



tion and storage provisions ensuring sustained clean drinking water availability and accessibility, and recycling solutions like water source recharge, desalination, wastewater treatment to increase availability of drinking water in regions with water scarcity.

Participants will be supported by an eminent advisers, partners and experts such as Prof Asit K Biswas, Visiting Professor, University of Glasgow; Vedika Bhandarkar, COO, Water.org, and VK Madhavan CEO, WaterAid India, among others. Investor partners include social impact venture funders such as Social Alpha, Bharat Innovation Fund, Aavishkaar, Caspian, Lightrock and Upaya Social Ventures.

K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, said: "Through the The/Nudge Prize | Ashirvad Water Challenge, we are witnessing the

collaborative and catalytic role government, academia, industry and innovators can play in finding scalable solutions for water security, along with ensuring sustained drinking water availability, reducing barriers to access (social and geographic), and devising recycling solutions, thereby improving health and hygiene in communities."

The evaluation criteria for the solutions include scalability with a sustainable unit economics of the business model, significant increase in access to clean drinking water and social & environmental impact.

The/Nudge Foundation, and Ashirvad Pipes, in partnership with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India announced a prize for start-ups and innovators working on solutions to provide clean drinking water to the underprivileged and rural households.

With a total prize purse of ₹2.5 crore (₹75 lakh grand prize for the winning solution and runner up and milestone grants for finalists), the program will run for 18 months

The challenge will give impetus to the government's Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections in rural India by 2024.

The/Nudge Foundation is an Indian non-profit organization. It was established in July 2015 in Bengaluru.

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**Appointment News**

**95. Recently In February IDBI Bank Has Appointed Whom As Its MD And CEO For Three Years**

**.What Is LIC Stake In IDBI Bank ?**

- A. Rakesh Sharma , 49.24 %**
- B. Sanjeev Sanyal , 51.25 %**
- C. Sanjay Malhotra , 48.63 %**
- D. Debashish Mitra , 45.81 %**

## Rakesh Sharma reappointed MD, CEO of IDBI Bank

IDBI Bank on Thursday informed the stock exchanges that its board approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19. This move has been approved by the banking regulator Reserve Bank of India.

**BS REPORTER**

# LIC wants to retain part of its stake in IDBI Bank

Insurance giant allays fears about government control post IPO

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, February 21

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC) is keen to retain some of its 49.24% stake in IDBI Bank, chairman MR Kumar said on Monday, given the strategic nature of the investment in the form of gains from the bancassurance channel. The equity stake had been bought for a strategic reason, Kumar explained, which was still relevant. "It has been the strongest contributor to our bancassurance channel. Going forward, this will help us grow that channel and so I would like to see that relationship continuing," Kumar said, addressing mediapersons.

Continued on Page 5



- Says IDBI Bank has been strongest contributor to bancassurance channel
- DIPAM to decide extent of stake to be retained
- LIC had infused **₹4,743 cr** in IDBI Bank in Oct 2019 using policyholders' funds



We are watching the (geopolitical) situation closely and carefully...but we are very keen on having a listing in March.

—MR KUMAR, CHAIRMAN, LIC



IDBI Bank informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD&CEO) of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022.

Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod, the exchange notification said. Sharma was initially appointed as the MD&CEO of the bank in October 2018.

The move comes amid the government's effort to privatise the bank by selling a part of its stake. LIC, which is the promoter of the bank, is also expected to sell some part of its stake in the bank in the privatisation process

LIC had picked up a 51 per cent stake in IDBI Bank in 2019. Subsequently, in 2020, it reduced its shareholding to 49.24 per cent. Currently, the government of India and LIC hold 94.71 per cent in the bank.

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96. Recently In February India Has Been Elected Unanimously As The Chairm

Rubber Study Group (IRSG) Which Is

Headquartered In \_\_\_\_\_ And The Indian Delegation Will Be Lead  
By \_\_\_\_\_ For A Period Of \_\_\_\_\_ Years ?

- A. Malaysia , Nageshwar Rao , 2 Years
- B. Singapore, KN Raghavan , 2 Years**
- C. Switzerland , V Ruppla , 3 Years
- D. Kenya , Pankaj Sobti , 5 Years

KN Raghavan will be the Chairman of IRSG for the next two years. He is head of Indian delegation to IRSG, and Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board.

The position of chairman was vacant because Cote'd Ivoire (a country on the southern coast of West Africa) completed its term as chairman.

International Rubber Study Group (IRSG):

It is the inter-governmental organization of natural rubber and synthetic rubber producing and consuming countries. IRSG was formed in the year 1944 with Singapore as headquarters. It is the only International commodity body that has been approved by Common Fund for Commodities for development financing in rubber sector..

India to head  
global rubber  
study group

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, February 22

India has been unanimously elected for the new Chairmanship of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG). IRSG is the inter-governmental organisation of natural rubber (NR) and synthetic rubber (SR) producing and consuming countries.

Head of the Indian delegation to IRSG, and Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board, KN Raghavan, will officiate as the Chairman of IRSG for the next two years.

The group was formed in the year 1944 with Singapore as headquarters.

The IRSG provides its member governments with a forum for discussion on matters affecting the world rubber industry and acts as an interface between government and the industry. Further, it is the only International commodity body approved by Common Fund for Commodities for development financing in rubber sector.

97. Recently In February Which Of The Following has been elected to the Bc

National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI), the apex body of dairy and allied oil cooperatives in the country ?

- A. Vivek Singhal
- B. Ks Mani**
- C. Vivek Johri
- D. Sanjeev Sanyal

KS Mani has been elected to Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI).

He is the chairman of Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, which is popular by its brand name Milma.

Representatives of federal cooperatives of all states and Union Territories are part of NCDFI board.

National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) is the apex body for the cooperative dairy sector. It is based in Anand, Gujarat. It was established 1970 as a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board

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**98. Recently In February The Finance Minister Principal Economic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Has Been Included As Full Time Member Of Economic Advisory Council To The Prime Minister ?**

- A. Debashish Mitra
- B. Sanjeev Sanyal**
- C. N Chandrasekaran
- D. KV Kamarth

Sanjeev Sanyal has been appointed as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Before this, he was the Principal Economic Adviser to the Finance Minister.

Sanjeev Sanyal was appointed as Principal Economic Adviser of the Finance Minister in 2017.

He has been appointed for two years. He has been working with the financial markets since the 1990s.

**Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM):** It is an independent body constituted to advice on economic and related issues to the Prime Minister.

**Current Chairman:** Dr. Bibek Debroy

The Chairman had the rank equivalent to a Cabinet Minister of India.

## Sanjeev Sanyal heads to PMEAC after 5 years in FinMin

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, February 24

Economist Sanjeev Sanyal on Wednesday left the Finance Ministry to begin a new stint at the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).

Sanyal served as the Principal Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry for five years.

"As I leave the Ministry of Finance to take up my new role at the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, I would like to thank FM @nsitharaman and all my colleagues for their support and guidance during an eventful five years.

"Look forward to continuing to work together," San-

yal said in a tweet. On Tuesday, Chairman of PM EAC, Bibek Debroy had announced on the micro blogging site Sanyal's appointment as fulltime member.

Besides being an economist, Sanyal is also a best-selling author who writes on Indian history.

He spent two decades in the financial sector and was Global Strategist & Managing Director at Deutsche Bank till 2015. He was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2010.

He is also a well-known environmentalist and urban theorist. In 2007, he was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship for his work on urban dynamics.



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**99. Recently In February Dish TV India's *direct-to-home brand D2H* has roped in Whom as the new brand ambassador For Two Years ?**

- A. Sharukh Khan
- B. KL Rahul
- C. Risabh Pant**
- D. Shreyas Iyer

Dish TV India's direct-to-home brand D2H has roped in cricketer Rishabh Pant as the new brand ambassador. Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication for the next two years.

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was the face of the parent brand Dish TV for several years. More recently, in 2018 the DTH provider roped in Ranveer Singh to headline the marketing campaigns for Dish TV. Dish TV also operates a region focused brand Zing in its portfolio.

## Dish TV's D2H ropes in Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador

While Rishabh Pant has been roped in for Dish TV's d2h brand, Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was the face of the parent brand for several years followed by Ranveer Singh. Pant will now feature in 360-degree brand communication for the next two years...

BE Staff • ETBrandEquity  
 • February 24, 2022, 14:20 IST



D2H ropes in Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador.

Dish TV India's direct-to-home brand D2H has roped in cricketer Rishabh Pant as the new brand ambassador. Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication for the next two years.

Bollywood actor [Shah Rukh Khan](#) was the face of the parent brand Dish TV for several years. More recently, in 2018 the DTH provider roped in [Ranveer Singh](#) to headline the [marketing](#) campaigns for Dish TV. Dish TV also operates a region focused brand [Zing](#) in its portfolio.



100. Recently In February Whom Among The Following Was Elected As The **New New And First Women Chairperson Of The Market Regulator Securities And Exchange Board Of India (Sebi) For \_\_\_\_\_ Year Terms Replacing \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. Madhabi Puri Bach , 5 Years ,Sanjeev Sanyal
- B. Alka Upadhyay ,2 Years , Ajay Tyagi
- C. Madhabi Puri Bach , 3 Years ,Ajay Tyagi**
- D. Soma Mondal , 3 Years , Ajay Tyagi

The government on Monday announced Madhabi Puri Buch as new the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). This appointment also marks a departure from the regular practice of hiring Sebi chairmen members who were typically men coming from the public sector or bureaucracy.

This is the first time that a woman and a person from the private sector has been chosen for a key post with the market regulator.

Buch, who was serving as the whole-time member at Sebi till last year and before that was serving at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, has been appointed for a period of three years, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) She will replace Ajay Tyagi as the Sebi chief who was a 1984 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre and was appointed as the chairman of Sebi on 1 March 2017, for a period of three years. Subsequently, he was given a six-month extension and later in August 2020, his tenure was extended by 18 months.

101. Recently In February Formert **Srilankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatilleka Has Been Appointed As The New Chief Financial Officer Of Which Of The Following Airlines ?**

- A. IndiGo
- B. Air India
- C. Jet Airways**
- D. SpiceJet

Former CEO of SriLankan Airlines, Vipula Gunatilleka has been appointed as the chief financial officer (CFO) of the grounded Jet Airways. The decision was taken by the promoters of the airlines, Jalan Kalrock consortium.

Vipula Gunatilleka was serving as the CEO of Sri Lankan airways till last month. He has now been tasked with reviving the grounded carrier.

Gunatilleka will join Jet Airways officially from March 1, 2022

## Vipula Gunatilleka is Jet Airways CFO

The new promoters of Jet Airways (India) Limited, Jalan-Kalrock consortium, has appointed former Sri Lankan Airlines chief executive Vipula Gunatilleka as the chief financial officer (CFO) of Jet Airways (India) Limited.

Gunatilleka, who will be joining the airline from 1 March, has also been credited for the turnaround of the loss-making national carrier of Angola, TAAG Angola Airlines, where he held the position of CFO and board member.

"Vipula is an aviation expert and regarded as a turnaround specialist in the industry. He has been shortlisted after a rigorous process run by our executive team over the last several months," said Ankit Jalan, member of the monitoring committee of Jet Airways and part of the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium.

Jet Airways, whose founder Naresh Goyal led for more than 25 years, was grounded on 17 April 2019 after it ran out of cash. **RHIK KUNDU**

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**102. Recently In February The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee That Will be chaired By Whom Among The Following ?**

- A. MS Sahoo
- B. Jai NARYAN Patel
- C. **N R Narayana Murthy**
- D. Madhabhai Puri B Ach

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee.

It will be chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy. It has 20 members. Earlier, it had 22 members.

It includes members from SEBI, the Ministry of Finance, and industry associations.

It will advise SEBI on issues related to the development of the Alternative Investment Fund industry.

It will also identify hurdles that can hinder the development of the Alternative investment fund industry.

Earlier, this committee was formed in March 2015. It has till now submitted three reports on the Alternative Investment Fund industry. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

It was set up in 1988. It was given statutory status in 1992. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Ajay Tyagi is its chairman.

**103. Recently In February Hindustan Unilever Has Separated The Position Of Chairman And Chief Executive Office And Appointed Whom As Its New Chairman With Effect Form March 31 ?**

- A. Sanjiv Mehta
- B. **Nitin Paranjpe**
- C. Ashish Pandey
- D. Sanjay Malhotra

Consumer goods company Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Thursday announced the splitting up of positions of the company's chairman of the board and the chief executive officer & managing director, in line with Securities and Exchange Board of India's mandate seeking listed companies to now voluntarily split the two roles.

The maker of Dove soaps and Knorr soups announced the appointment of Nitin Paranjpe, currently chief operating officer of Unilever as a non-executive chairman of the company with effect from 31 March, 2022. Sanjiv Mehta will continue as the CEO&MD of HUL.

Hindustan Unilever Limited is a consumer goods company headquartered in Mumbai, India. It is a subsidiary of Unilever, a British company. CEO: Sanjiv Mehta

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**104. Recently In February American President Has Appointed Whom As The *First Black Women To Serve As The Supreme Court Judge Of America ?***

- A. *Maya Angelou*
- B. *Ketanji Brown Jackson*
- C. *Neena Aiyyer*
- D. *Pamela Anderson*

President Joe Biden on Friday, February 25, 2022, nominated federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman selected to serve on a court that once declared her race unworthy of citizenship and endorsed segregation. Ms. Jackson would be the current court's second Black justice — Justice Clarence Thomas, a conservative, is the other — and just the third in history. She would replace liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who is retiring at the end of the term this summer, so she won't change the court's 6-3 conservative majority.

She would be only the sixth woman to serve on the court, but she would join three others already there, including the first Latina, Justice Sonia Sotomayor

## Biden nominates Ketanji Brown Jackson to SC

First Black woman to serve in top court

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden picked Ketanji Brown Jackson on Friday to be the first Black woman in U.S. history to serve on the nation's highest court.

"I'm proud to announce that I am nominating judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court," Mr. Biden said. "She is one of our nation's brightest legal minds and will be an exceptional Justice."

The President will officially unveil his decision later on Friday at an appearance with judge Jackson, the White House said.

Judge Jackson, 51, was ap-



Ketanji Brown Jackson

pointed to the Federal Bench in 2013, and was backed by three Republican Senators last year when she was elevated to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, seen as a staging ground for aspiring Supreme Court justices.

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105. Recently In February In a first, **Union Law Secretary Anoop Kumar Mendiratta** was elevated as a judge of the \_\_\_\_\_ High Court ?
- A. Bombay
  - B. Delhi**
  - C. Kolkata
  - D. Madras

In a first, a Union law secretary has been appointed as a judge of a high court. Anoop Kumar Mendiratta has been elevated as a judge of the Delhi High Court. His name was recently recommended by the Supreme Court collegium.

It might be mentioned here that Mendiratta's appointment as the union law secretary in October 2019 was also a first. He was serving as the district and sessions judge when he was named the union law secretary.

His appointment as union law secretary was seen as a departure from the old procedure wherein one of the additional secretaries from a pool of Indian Legal Services (ILS) cadre used to be elevated to the post of law secretary.

## Union Law Secretary elevated as Delhi HC judge

Mendiratta was in Delhi Higher Judicial Services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In a first, Union Law Secretary Anoop Kumar Mendiratta on Friday was elevated as a judge of the Delhi High Court.

The formal official notification of the latest appointments in the Delhi High Court was tweeted by the Department of Justice in which Mr. Mendiratta was among four judicial officers who were elevated as judges.

Sources in the government claimed that Mr. Mendiratta, who belongs to the Delhi Higher Judicial Services, was appointed judge



Anoop Kumar Mendiratta

based on his seniority.

His name was recently recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, one of the sources said.

Mr. Mendiratta was serving as the District and Sessions Judge of Karkardooma in northeast district when he was made the Law Secretary in October 2019.

**A break with tradition**  
That appointment too was a break with tradition.

The post of Law Secretary used to be filled by elevating one of the additional secretaries coming from the Indian Legal Service (ILS) cadre.

His appointment order said he was appointed on a contractual basis until March 30, 2023, his attaining the age of 60.

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106. Recently In February Which Of The Following Has *Partneerd With Ed Tech Platform*

*Unacademy To Offer High Quality Cricket Educations To The Masses ?*

- A. Mahendara Singh Dhoni
- B. Suresh RAINA
- C. **Sachin Tendulkar**
- D. Rahul Dravid

Edtech platform Unacademy has launched a new learning product, 'Unacademy Icons', with an initial annual subscription price of Rs 299, which will provide a structured curriculum taught by industry icons and stalwarts.

To start with, Icons will have an interactive course developed by Sachin Tendulkar and his brother Ajit.

Tendulkar will mentor Unacademy learners through a series of thirty-one interactive lessons of over seven hours

Gaurav Munjal, cofounder and CEO, Unacademy

107. Recently In February IKEA Has Announced The Appointment Of Whom As *Its New And First Woman Chief Executive Officer For Its India Business ?*

- A. Pamela Anderson
- B. **Susanne Pulverer**
- C. Kieth Rooney
- D. Iker Alicysi

Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA (part of Ingka Group) on Thursday announced the appointment of Susanne Pulverer as its new and first woman Chief Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer, for its India business.

Pulverer, an experienced IKEA leader, takes over from the outgoing India CEO Peter Betzel, who will move on to his next assignment within the IKEA Group,

IKEA is a Swedish-founded, Dutch-headquartered multinational conglomerate that designs and sells ready-to-assemble furniture, Founder: Ingvar Kamprad CEO: Jesper Brodin

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**Days And Obituary**

108. Recently In February **World NGO Day** is celebrated every year on Which Of The Following Day Of February in several countries across the world ?

- a. 26<sup>TH</sup> February
- b. 27<sup>th</sup> February**
- c. 28<sup>th</sup> February
- d. 25<sup>th</sup> February

World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27th February in more than 89 countries.

It is dedicated to recognize and honour all non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

It is observed to mark the contribution of NGOs and social workers in society.

In 2014, the UN, EU leaders, and international organizations adopted 27th February as the World NGO day.

India has more than three million non-governmental organizations (NGO). They are playing important roles of facilitator and partner in different sectors.

109. Every Year **World Thinking Day** is observed On Which Of The Following Day to help, spread awareness and give voice to young women all over the world ?

- A. 21<sup>st</sup> February
- B. 22<sup>nd</sup> February**
- C. 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- D. 24<sup>th</sup> February

World Thinking Day is observed every year on February 22 to help, spread awareness and give voice to young women all over the world. World Thinking Day 2022 is celebrated by the girl guides and girl scouts in 150 countries and donations are also made to support them.

World Thinking Day 2022 is a platform for the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts) members to speak out on the issues and also provide suggestions on how the problems can be tackled.

This year the theme of the World Thinking Day is announced to be 'Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality' which highlights the significance of the environment in the context of gender equality.

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110. Recently In February Which Of The Following Day Was Celebrated As The **National Science Day** ?

- A. 25<sup>th</sup> Febraury
- B. 26<sup>th</sup> February
- C. 27<sup>th</sup> February
- D. 28<sup>th</sup> Febraury**

National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on February 28 in India, to commemorate the remarkable work of Indian physicist CV Raman in the field of light scattering. Raman is known as one of the greatest scientists and an inspiration to many. Theme-based science communication activities are carried out all over the country on the occasion of National Science Day.

In 1986, the Government designated the day as National Science Day as on this day Sir CV Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. This year's National Science Day 2022 Theme is "Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future."

111. Every year, 24 February is observed as **Central Excise Day across India**. When Was Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) established ?

- A. 24 February 1944
- B. 1 January 1964.**
- C. 24 January 1969
- D. 24 February 1949

Every year, 24 February is observed as Central Excise Day across India.

The main aim of this day is to honour the efforts, services, and contributions of the 'Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs'.

Central Excise Day is observed to mark the enactment of the 'Central Excise and Salt Act' on 24 February 1944.

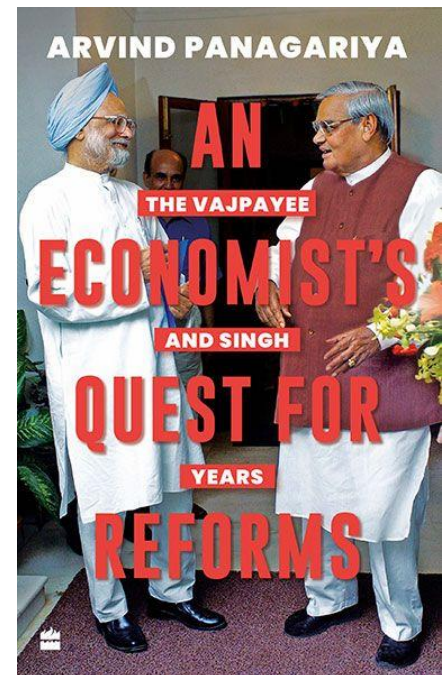
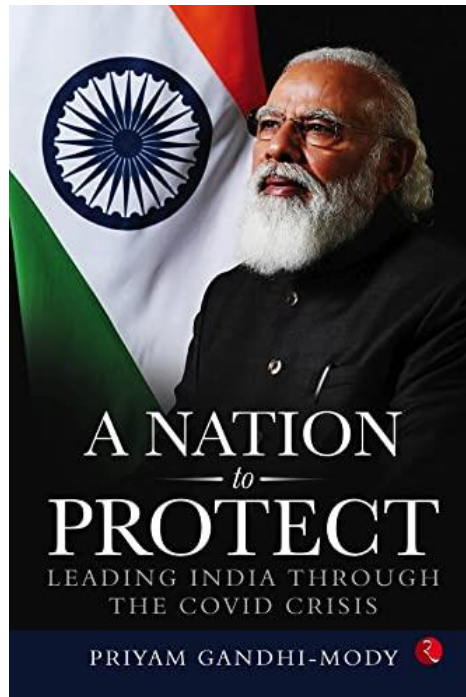
It encourages the employees of the excise department to perform their duties.entral Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):

It was established on 1 January 1964. Vivek Johri is the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

**Sports Awards Books**

112. Recently In February A New Book Titled " *An Economist Quest For Reforms : The Vajpayee ANd Singh Years* Has Been Authored By \_\_\_\_\_ Who Was The First Vice Chairman Of \_\_\_\_\_ Form 2015 To 2017 ?

- A. Acharya Krishan , Ebisxicash
- B. Subhash Garg , Palnning Commision
- C. Arvind Pangariya , Niti Aayog
- D. Amitav Ghosh , Niti Ayog



In this volume, veteran economist Arvind Panagariya compares two Prime Ministers' approach towards economic reforms-Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. He shows how the Vajpayee government was almost relentless in pursuit of reforms and enacted them in all areas, save a few. In his opinion, along with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Vajpayee 'must be credited with laying the foundation of the new India'.

Arvind Panagariya served as the first vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog from January 2015 to August 2017. He is the author of more than fifteen books, among them India's Tryst with Destiny with Jagdish Bhagwati, which has been called 'a manifesto for policymakers and analysts'. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 2012.



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**113. Recently In February \_\_\_\_\_ has won three awards for indigenously designed & developed innovative Telecom solutions in various categories at Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards ?**

- A. C- Dot**
- B. CSC
- C. Coal India
- D. RailTel

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has won three awards for indigenously designed & developed innovative Telecom solutions in various categories at Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards.

C-DOT has won the award in Tech for Social Good, Preventive measures to combat COVID 19, and Innovation in Lockdown Management categories. C-DOT has won the award in the "Tech for Social Good" category for its Early Warning Platform for Disaster Management & Preparedness based on ITU's Common Alerting Protocol. C-DOT SAMVAD has won the award in the "Innovative in Lockdown Management" category.

C-DOT Quarantine Alert System (CQAS) has won the first prize in the "Preventive measures to combat Covid 19" category. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is a government owned telecommunications technology development center. It was established in 1984. **Aegis Graham Bell Award: It is the largest innovation award given by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It has been named after the father of telephony and great innovator, Alexander Graham Bell.**

**114. Recently In February Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal in the \_\_\_\_\_ weight category at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 ?**

- A. 49 Kg
- B. 55 Kg**
- C. 51 Kg
- D. 63 Kg

Competing for the first time post-Olympic triumph, the Indian lifted **86kg in the snatch category and 105kg in clean and jerk which totalled the weight lifted by the champion to 191kg.** Ending the Singapore weightlifting tournament with a Gold Medal ensured her position in the upcoming Commonwealth Games 2022, in Birmingham. **Before the tournament, Mirabai had decided to change her weight category from 49kg to 55kg.** Chanu has been highly successful in the 49kg category with one Olympic silver medal. The Olympian also has a world record in clean and jerk to her name in the 49kg weight category

## Mirabai books CWG berth

SPORTS BUREAU  
SINGAPORE

Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu claimed the gold in women's 55kg category at the Singapore weightlifting international meet, a Commonwealth Games qualifying event, here on Friday.

In her first competition since the Tokyo Olympics, Mirabai, who lifted 86kg in snatch and 105kg in clean and jerk to total 191kg, qualified for the 55kg weight at the Birmingham Games later this year.

Sanket Sargar took the men's 55kg gold with two Commonwealth records in



Mirabai Chanu. ■ FILE PHOTO

143kg in clean and jerk and 256kg in total. He did 113kg in snatch.

C. Rishikanta Singh claimed the silver medal in 55kg.

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**115. Recently In February Indian Boxers Nikhat Zareen (52 Kg) And Nitu (48Kg) Struck Gold Medal At The 73<sup>RD</sup> Strandja Memorial Tournamet Which Was Held In Which Of The Following Country ?**

- A. Dubai
- B. Bulgaria**
- C. Australia
- D. Singapore

## Nikhat and Nitu strike gold

### BOXING

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) struck gold at the 73rd Strandja Memorial tournament in Sofia by notching up comprehensive victories in their respective finals on Sunday.

Nitu prevailed 5-0 over Italy's Erika Prisciandaro, a former youth World Championship bronze medallist. On the other hand, Nikhat outpunched Ukraine's Tetiana Kob, a three-time European Championships medallist 4-1.

While Nitu produced a



Nikhat.



Nitu.

wonderful counter-attacking performance by taking full advantage of her longer reach, Nikhat was engaged in a draining and messy bout which had its fair share of clinching, holding and even some tumbling over in the

ring. Nikhat had won gold in the 2019 edition as well.

Nitu is also a former gold-medallist at the Asian youth championships.

The 21-year-old boxer hails from Haryana's Bhiwani District.

**Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) struck gold at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria by notching up thoroughly comprehensive victories in their respective finals**

Nitu prevailed 5-0 over Italy's Erika Prisciandaro, a former youth world championship bronze-medallist. Zareen, on the other hand, outpunched Ukraine's Tetiana Kob, a three-time European Championships medallist 4-1

The Hyderabad-based Zareen, who is a multiple-time national medallist, had won a gold medal at the Strandja Memorial's 2019 edition as well. Nitu The 21-year-old hails from Haryana's famed cradle of Indian boxing, Bhiwani's Dhanana village

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116. Recently In February **Rafael Nadal defeated Cameron Norris 6-4, 6-4 to win the \_\_\_\_\_ Open and extend his career-best start for a season to 15-0 as he won his \_\_\_\_\_ ATP title ?**

- A. Rio , 95<sup>th</sup>
- B. Qatar ,99<sup>th</sup>
- C. Mexican , 91<sup>st</sup>**
- D. Melbourne , 94<sup>th</sup>

### IN BRIEF



#### Nadal triumphs in Acapulco for 91st title

ACAPULCO

Rafael Nadal beat Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4 to lift the Acapulco ATP title, the 91st of his career. Nadal needed one hour and 54 minutes to take his fourth Acapulco crown after wins in 2005, 2013 and 2020. And, as he did in 2020, Nadal won this week without dropping a set.

AFP

**Rafael Nadal** The 35-year-old Spaniard defeated Cameron Norris 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday to win the Mexican Open and extend his career-best start for a season to 15-0 as he won his 91st ATP title. Nadal, who won his third title in 2022, including the Australian Open for his record 21st Grand Slam singles title, is three victories from tying Ivan Lendl's total of 94 for third place for most championships in the Open Era

**Jimmy Connors** leads with 109 and **Roger Federer** has 103. The Spaniard won for the fourth time in Acapulco (2005, 2013 and 2020)

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**117. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 :**

- 1. The Beijing 2022 Winter Games concluded on 20 February with a Closing Ceremony at the Silver National Stadium in Beijing.**
- 2. Germany with 16 Gold, 8 Silver, and 13 bronze topped the medal tally. Followed By Norway And China**
- 3. India won 1 medal at the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.**

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

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

The Beijing 2022 Winter Games conclude on Sunday 20 February with a Closing Ceremony that follows the 17 days of competition.

The showpiece event will officially bring the Olympics to an end, and see the hosts hand the flag over to Milano Cortina 2026, where the next Winter Games will be held.

Beijing 2022 was the second Olympic Games to be staged in the space of six months following the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games, held in July 2021 after the 12-month postponement due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Closing Ceremony will be held at the Beijing National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, in the Chinese capital.

Norway topped the medal count with 16 gold, eight silver, and 13 bronze for a total of 37 medals.

Germany were second with 12 gold, 10 silver, and five bronze for a total of 27 medals. Hosts China were third with nine gold, four silver, and two bronze for a total of 15 medals.

Norwegian biathlete Johannes Thingnes Bø was the most successful athlete at Beijing 2022 with three gold and one bronze medal.

As part of the customary ceremonial flag handover, the Olympic flag will be passed to the mayors of the Italian cities of Milan and Cortina-D'Ampezzo, hosts of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games

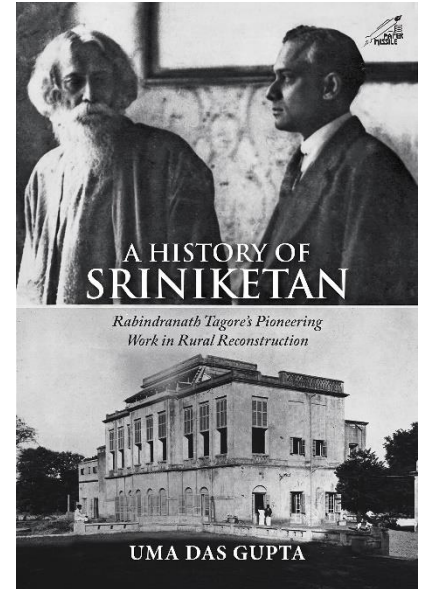
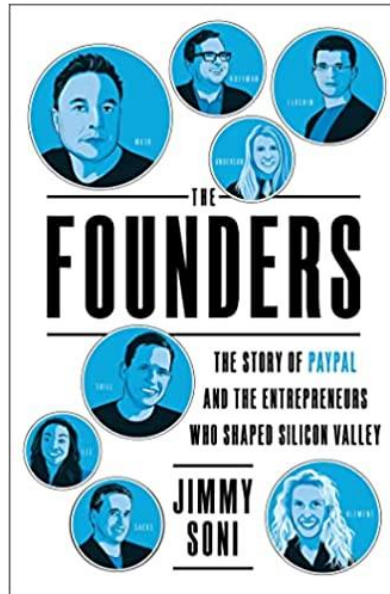
The Summer and Winter Olympics will then officially return to the traditional two-year cycle, starting with Paris 2024.

Link News - <https://olympics.com/en/news/beijing-2022-closing-ceremony-guide>

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**118. Recently In February The Book Titled “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” Has Been Released Which Has Been Authored By ?**

- A. Shantanu Gupta
- B. Swapnil Pandey
- C. Uma Das Gupta**
- D. Vikram Desai



The book titled “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” has been released.

Famous historian Uma Das Gupta has written this book.

The book highlights the contribution of Rabindranath Tagore in rural reconstruction through setting up of Sriniketan in 1992 at Santiniketan. Sriniketan was a wing of Visva Bharati International University.

Other books written by Uma Das are “Rabindranath Tagore: A Biography” and “The Oxford India Tagore: Selected Essays on Education and Nationalism”.

**119. Recently In February Indian chess GM R. Praggnanandhaa defeated World No. 1 player, Magnus Carlsen, in an online rapid chess tournament. He became the youngest International Master at the age of 10 years, 10 months and 19 days in Which Of The Following Year ?**

- A. 2015
- B. 2016**
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

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Indian chess GM R. Praggnanandhaa defeated World No. 1 player, Magnus Carlsen, in an online rapid chess tournament.

He defeated Magnus Carlsen in the 8th round of the Airthings Masters.

R. Praggnanandhaa is only 16 years old and is the 5th youngest Grandmaster in the world.

He became the youngest International Master at the age of 10 years, 10 months and 19 days in 2016.

He had earlier won the World Youth Chess Championship Under-8 title in 2013.

**120. Recently In Febraury *Carlos Alcaraz Garfia* Of Spain has won \_\_\_\_\_ Open title after defeating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina *become the youngest ATP 500 champion* since the category was created in \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. Dubai , 2005
- B. Rio , 2009**
- C. Bengaluru , 2009
- D. Miami , 2008

Spain's 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz Garfia overcame Argentina's third-seeded Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 in one hour, 26 minutes to win the Rio Open. He, in, became the youngest ATP 500 winner.

**121. Recently In Febraury \_\_\_\_\_ Will Be Crowned To *become the world's No. 1 Tennis Player* after By ReplacinG *Novak Djokovic* has spent a record of \_\_\_\_\_ weeks at No.1 in the ATP rankings ?**

- A. Daniil Medvedev , 351
- B. Daniil Medvedev , 361**
- C. Daniil Medvedev , 409
- D. Daniil Medvedev , 368

## Medvedev is World No. 1 as Djokovic loses

Serb suffers a shock defeat to Vesely

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DUBAI

Novak Djokovic lost his Dubai quarterfinal and his World No. 1 ranking in one go on Thursday as he suffered a 6-4, 7-6(4) reverse at the hands of Czech World No. 123 Jiri Vesely.

Competing in his first tournament of the season, Djokovic needed to at least reach the semifinals to try and stop Russia's Daniil

Medvedev from replacing him at the top of the rankings.

But Vesely had other ideas as the qualifier improved his career record against Djokovic to 2-0 – a result that will see Medvedev become the first man since 2004 outside the Big Four (Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray) – to occupy the No. 1 ranking on Monday.

### Fast facts

- On Monday, Medvedev will be the new ATP No. 1, replacing Djokovic who would have held the spot for a record 361 weeks
- The last ATP No. 1 not named Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Djokovic or Andy Murray was Andy Roddick (Feb. 1, 2004)
- Vesely is one of just three players to beat Djokovic multiple times without losing one. The Czech is 2-0 against the Serb; as are Nick Kyrgios and Marat Safin



**Hail the new king!** Djokovic, left, was displaced at the top by Medvedev. •AFP

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Following Novak Djokovic's loss to Jiri Vesely in Dubai, Daniil Medvedev is guaranteed to reach the top spot in the ATP Rankings on Monday.

Medvedev will become the first man outside the "Big 4" to reach World No. 1 since Andy Roddick in 2004. The 26-year-old Russian is the first player other than Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to claim the top spot since 2004. Djokovic has spent a record 361 weeks at No. 1 in the ATP Rankings.

**122. Recently In Febraury Which Among The Following Has Won The Gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022 ?**

- A. Neetu Kumari
- B. Nikhat Parveen
- C. Sadia Tariq**
- D. Aliya Pathan

India's star Wushu player Sadia Tariq has made the entire nation proud especially Jammu and Kashmir by winning gold medal in the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship held in the Russian capital from February 22 to 28.

Sadia Tariq, who hailed from Bemina, Srinagar, has consecutively bagged gold medals in 19th and 20th Junior National Championship held in Haryana and Jalandhar respectively. In the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship, Sadia won the gold medal by defeating a local favourite at the event.

**123. Recently In Febraury Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the appointment of Tan Kim Her, as India's Doubles Coach till the Asian Games in 2026. He Hails From Which Of The Following Country ?**

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

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the appointment of ace Malaysian badminton coach, Tan Kim Her, as India's Doubles Coach till the Asian Games in 2026.

The 50-year-old's return to India will raise the stock of the doubles combinations in the country.

The 24-year-old Chirag Shetty, who is ranked World No. 8 with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in men's doubles,

In his first stint (2015-2019) as Doubles Coach in India, Tan trained Satwiksairak Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to the top 10 in the Badminton World Federation men's doubles ranking and Ashwini Ponappa and Sikki Reddy to a top 20 spot in the women's doubles ranking. Besides, six pairs were ranked among the top 50 across different pairs.

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**124. Recently In February Which Of The Following Team Has Become The *First Indian Team To Launch Its Logo In Metaverse* ?**

- A. Punjab Kings
- B. Gujarat Titans**
- C. Lucknow Super Giants
- D. Chennai Super Kings

Gujarat Titans unveiled team logo in the Metaverse on February 20, 2022. The logo symbolises the franchise's aspirations to achieve pinnacle of success in the upcoming IPL 2022 edition.

The Gujarat Titans logo was unveiled by Head Coach Ashish Nehru along with Captain Hardik Pandya and Shubman Gill in the virtual dugout.

Gujarat Titans read that the IPL team is the first one to embrace the metaverse. The Gujarat Titans metaverse will be a space where the Titans and their fans will meet and interact seamlessly.

Gujarat Titans Owner- CVC Capitals Gujarat Titans is one of the two new teams in IPL 2022. CVC Capitals placed the winning bid for the team with a bid of Rs 5000 crores.

**Gujarat Titans set to launch its logo in the Metaverse**



As one of the youngest franchises, Gujarat Titans aims to make their foray into the IPL a strong and resilient one.

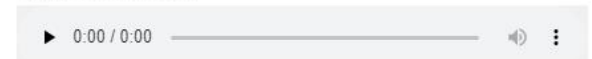
1 min read · Updated: 20 Feb 2022, 08:55 PM IST

Livemint

- Gujarat Titans to become the first team to launch its own fan-engagement space in the virtual world



Listen to this article



**NEW DELHI :** Franchise x Close Gujarat Titans has announced that it has created a virtual space in the Metaverse, The Titans Dugout. This, the Indian Premier League sports franchise said, will be a space for engagement with the fan community throughout the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League. With this the team said it will become the premier sports team in India to introduce a dedicated virtual space for its global community of fans and players.

**125. Recently In February *Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You)* Is The Autobiography Of Which Of The Following Leader That Is To Be Released By Congress President Rahul Gandhi ?**

- A. HD Dev Gowda
- B. MK Stalin**
- C. YSR Jagannathan Reddy
- D. Naveen Patnaik

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said the first part of his autobiography, titled 'Ungalil Oruvan (One among you)', will be released by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on February 28 at a grand event in Chennai.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah, Bihar's Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav are also set to attend the event.

Stalin said the autobiography would cover the first 23 years of his life till 1976.



126. Recently In February Russia was stripped of hosting the *Champions League final* by UEFA with St. Petersburg replaced by Which Of The Following City ?

- A. Paris
- B. Tokyo
- C. Berlin
- D. London

Russia was stripped of hosting the Champions League final by UEFA on Friday with St. Petersburg replaced by Paris, and Formula One dropped this season's Russian Grand Prix at Sochi, as the invasion of Ukraine drew punitive measures in the sporting world.

The showpiece final in the European men's football season will still be held on May 28 but now at the 80,000-seat Stade de France in the Saint-Denis suburb of the French capital after the decision by UEFA's executive committee.

This is the third consecutive year that UEFA has had to change its Champions League final location after two switches due to coronavirus issues.

The Stade de France last hosted the Champions League final 16 years ago, when Barcelona beat Arsenal in the 2006 final. UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin

## Champions League final moved to Paris

### Formula 1 drops Sochi Grand Prix

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Russia was stripped of hosting the Champions League final by UEFA on Friday with St. Petersburg replaced by Paris, and Formula One dropped this season's Russian Grand Prix at Sochi, as the invasion of Ukraine drew punitive measures in the sporting world.

The showpiece final in the European men's football season will still be held on May 28 but now at the 80,000-seat Stade de France in the Saint-Denis suburb of the French

capital after the decision by UEFA's executive committee.

The F1 race wasn't due until September in the Black Sea resort of Sochi but the motorsport series leadership decided it would be "impossible" to stage the Grand Prix after talks with teams and the FIA governing body.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) urged sports bodies to cancel or move events they plan to hold in Russia and Belarus, and stop using the countries' flags and national anthems.

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**127. Recently In February Which Of The Following Team pulled off a coup as it beat Patna Pirates 37- 36 to clinch its maiden ProKabaddi League title At The 8th Edition ?**

- A. Bengal Warriors
- B. Delhi Dabang**
- C. U Mumba
- D. UP Yoddha



## Dabang steals it from Pirates



**Ultimate glory:** It was a night to remember for Dabang as it subdued three-time champion Pirates in the summit clash. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### PKL

**SHYAM VASUDEVAN**  
BENGALURU

Dabang Delhi pulled off a coup as it beat Patna Pirates 37-36 to clinch its maiden ProKabaddi League title on Friday. Dabang was narrowly beaten by Bengal Warriors in last season's final, but coach Krishan Hooda's men crossed the finish line this time.

Dabang once again rode on Naveen Kumar and Vijay's raiding brilliance, the duo bagging Super 10s and

scoring a total of 27 points (73% of their team's total). The defence managed only four points, with Sandeep Narwal and Manjeet Chhillar scoring two each.

Pirates had proved superior to many teams through the season, but came up short against Dabang when it mattered most. A strategic error cost the three-time champion dear.

Coach Ram Mehar Singh exhausted his full quota of five substitutions early in the second half, forcing his ace raiders Sachin and Guman

to miss the last eight minutes. The team severely lacked a raider at the death and the Dabang raiders took full advantage, with Naveen bagging a point off the final raid to seal victory.

Naveen had scored a whopping 18 points in the previous final but still came up short. It was only fitting that he scored the winning point to power Dabang to the title. Life, indeed, came a full circle for the *Naveen Express*.

**The result (final):** Dabang Delhi bt Patna Pirates 37-36.

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**Science Tech And Environment**

128. Recently In February Which of the following IITs has launched **KISAN mobile app for dissemination of Agromet Advisory Services?**

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Roorkee**
- D. IIT Madras

KISAN mobile app has been launched by IIT Roorkee for dissemination of Agromet Advisory Services.

Through the KISAN mobile app, farmers can easily access the block-level weather forecast and weather-based Agromet Advisory Bulletins on their mobile phones. These Agromet Advisory Bulletins are being provided to the farmers for all six blocks of Haridwar district, Uttarakhand by Agro-Meteorological Field Unit (AMFU) Roorkee.

The app is bilingual. Users can select either Hindi or English language. Farmers can also submit their feedback about bulletins. The app has been developed by a scientist in Regional Remote Sensing Centre, National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO.

129. Consider following statements with respect to **Exercise MILAN 2022**.

1. MILAN 2022 will be conducted over a duration of 9 days in **three phases**.
2. **Camaraderie – Cohesion - Collaboration** is the theme for MILAN 2022 exercise.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The exercise MILAN 2022 will be conducted over a duration of 9 days in two phases.

The harbor phase is scheduled from 25th to 28th February and the sea phase is scheduled from 1st to 4th March.

“Camaraderie - Cohesion – Collaboration” is the theme for MILAN 2022 exercise. More than 40 countries are expected to participate in this edition of exercise MILAN.

MILAN 2022 will also host an International Maritime Seminar with the theme - ‘Harnessing Collective Maritime Competence through Collaboration’ on 27-28 February. Exercise MILAN: It is a biennial multilateral naval exercise. It was started by the Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command. Exercise MILAN has been conducted biennially every time except in 2001, 2005, 2016 and 2020.

# MILAN to be held in Vizag from Feb. 25

## Warships of 15 countries to join the naval exercise

**DINAKAR PERI**  
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia, warships of Quad countries, France, Myanmar, South Korea and Vietnam and several others will come together at Visakhapatnam later this week for the largest multilateral exercise MILAN, hosted by the Indian Navy. Russia, Iran, Israel and Saudi Arabia among others are

participating in the exercise without ships.

The exercise, scheduled from February 25 to March 4, will see participation of around 42 countries with ships from over 15 countries.

The U.S. will be joining the exercise for the first time.

### Collaborative theme

“The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is ‘Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration’, which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large,” the Navy said in a statement on Wednesday.

“The aim of the exercise is to hone operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain through professional interaction between friendly navies,” the statement elaborated.

The opening ceremony on February 26 will see the inauguration of the MILAN village and an International City Parade is scheduled the next day with the participation of foreign contingents, the Navy said.

Activities include an international maritime seminar, professional and subject

matter expert exchanges and deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) demonstration, it added.

The invitees include all Indian Ocean littoral states and countries from south-east Asia among others. The harbour phase is scheduled from February 25 to 28 and the sea phase from March 1 to 4.

Starting with the participation of four countries – Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand – in 1995, the exercise has since transitioned in terms of number of participants and complexity of exercises.

## 130. Consider The Following Statement Regarding India, Oman a bilateral air force exercise

1. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have begun a five-day bilateral air force exercise ‘Eastern Bridge-VI’.
2. It will be held at Jodhpur Air Force Station from 21 to 25 February.
3. It is the sixth edition of this exercise.

### Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

## RAJASTHAN

### Indian, Omani air forces begin joint exercise

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman began a bilateral joint exercise on Monday. The IAF said in a statement Monday that the bilateral exercise named Eastern Bridge – VI will be held from February 21 to February 25 at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

ENS

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have begun a five-day bilateral air force exercise 'Eastern Bridge-VI'.

It will be held at Jodhpur Air Force Station from 21 to 25 February. It is the sixth edition of this exercise. It will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.

It will also promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences, and enhancement of operational knowledge.

Oman provides operational support to the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea and it is one of India's strongest defence partners in the Gulf region.

India's all three services conduct bilateral exercises with Oman's services.

AL NAGAH - Army , Naseem-al-Bahr - Navy , EASTERN BRIDGE - Air Force (biennial)

131. Recently Seen In News **Venera-D** is a planned joint space exploration project between Russia's Roscosmos and US space agency NASA to explore Which Of The Following Planet ?

- A. Sun
- B. Uranus
- C. Venus
- D. Mars

The US may not be a part of the joint space project Venera-D with Russia to explore planet Venus following American sanctions on the country and Moscow will carry out the mission alone or with China's participation,

Venera-D is a planned joint space exploration project between Russia's Roscosmos and US space agency NASA to explore Venus.

On Friday, Russia used its veto power in the UN Security Council to block a resolution proposed by the US and other Western countries that would have condemned Russia's military operation in Ukraine.

Roscosmos has also suspended its cooperation with European partners on space launches from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou and withdrawn its technical personnel from the French Guiana in response to the EU sanctions following Russia's military offensive against Ukraine.

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132. Recently In February **Vedanta Aluminium Has Launched A New Low Carbon Brand Named \_\_\_\_\_** Which IOs First Of Its Kind Non Ferrous For Customers Worldwide ?

- A. Restora
- B. Decotra
- C. Durga
- D. FedFina

Vedanta Aluminium Business, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, launched 'Restora', its low carbon, 'green' aluminium brand. The company unveiled two product lines - Restora (low carbon aluminium) and Restora Ultra (ultra-low carbon aluminium) under the brand.

**Vedanta Aluminium is the first major non-ferrous Indian metals producer to manufacture low carbon products (primary aluminium) for customers worldwide, exhibiting a strong step towards its commitment of achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050.**

Both products have been verified as low-carbon aluminium post assessment by an independent, global verification assurance firm.

Vedanta Limited is an Indian multinational mining company headquartered in Mumbai, India

## Vedanta launches green aluminium

Rituraj Baruah  
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

Vedanta Aluminium Business on Thursday launched 'Restora', a low-carbon, green aluminium brand. The company unveiled two product lines—Restora (low-carbon aluminium) and Restora Ultra (ultra-low carbon aluminium).

A company statement said that it is the first major non-ferrous Indian metals producer to make low-carbon products (primary aluminium) for customers worldwide, taking a step towards its commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. Both products have been verified as low-carbon aluminium by an independent, global verification assurance firm.

"With Restora, Vedanta Aluminium will address the fast-growing global demand for low carbon aluminium, driven by greater climate con-

sciousness. Vedanta's Restora is being manufactured at the company's world-class aluminium smelter using renewable energy. Restora has a GHG (greenhouse gas) emission intensity that is well below 4 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) per tonne of aluminium manufactured—the global threshold for aluminium to be considered as low carbon aluminium, and Restora Ultra has an even lower carbon footprint that is among the lowest in the world," it said.

**The company has unveiled its low-carbon brand Restora, and ultra-low carbon aluminium brand Restora Ultra**

Vedanta Aluminium has the capability to tailor-make Restora and Restora Ultra as billets, primary foundry alloy (PFA), wire rods, slabs, P1020 Ingots, and more, customized to the needs of the end-use industries.

Rahul Sharma, chief executive officer-aluminium business, Vedanta Ltd said: "Restora has a GHG emission intensity which is almost half of the global threshold to be considered as low carbon aluminium."

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133. Recently In Febraury Meta Has Unvieled Which New Project To Generate World Through Speech Voice Assistant To Build The Metaverse ?

- A. BuildBot Project
- B. Metafl Project
- C. CAIRaoke Project
- D. Restora Project

in an overnight repo auction. added. "All responsibility for bloodshed "You are engaging in hypothetical draw his troops and "give peace a chance".

## Zuckerberg unveils AI projects to build metaverse

REUTERS  
February 24

FACEBOOK-OWNER META is working on artificial intelligence research to generate worlds through speech, improve how people chat to voice assistants and translate between languages, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said on Wednesday, as he sketched out key steps to building the metaverse.

Zuckerberg is betting that the metaverse, a futuristic idea of virtual environments where users can work, socialise and play, will be the successor to the mobile internet.

"The key to unlocking a lot of these advances is AI," he said, speaking at the company's live-streamed "Inside the Lab" event.

Zuckerberg said Meta was working on a new class of generative AI models that will allow people to describe a world and generate aspects of it. In a prerecorded demo, Zuckerberg showcased an AI concept called Builder Bot, where he appeared as a legless 3D avatar on an island and gave speech commands to create a beach and then add clouds, trees and even a picnic blanket.



"As we advance this technology further, you'll be able to create nuanced worlds to explore and share experiences with others, with just your voice," said Zuckerberg. He did not set a timeline for these advancements or give more details on how Builder Bot works.

He said Meta was working on AI

research to allow people to have more natural conversations with voice assistants, a step towards how people will communicate with AI in the metaverse. He said the company's Project CAIRaoke was "a fully end-to-end neural model for building on-device assistants."

A demonstration of the Project

CAIRaoke tech showed a family using it to help cook a stew, with the voice assistant chiming in to warn that salt had already been added to the pot. The assistant also noticed they were running low on salt and ordered more. Meta said it was using the model within its video-calling Portal device and aimed to integrate it into devices with augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR). In an interview with Reuters, Meta's vice president for AI Jérôme Pesenti said it was tightly restricting the responses of its new CAIRaoke-based assistant until it could ensure that the system did not generate offensive language. "These language models are very powerful...so we are making a lot of effort to be able to control them," said Pesenti.

Zuckerberg also announced that Meta was working on a universal speech translator, aiming to provide instant speech-to-speech translation across all languages. The company previously set a goal for its AI system to translate all written languages. The social media company, which recently lost a third of its market value after a dismal earnings report, has invested heavily in its new focus on building the metaverse.

US Internet giant Meta/Facebook has launched a barrage of information on AI projects it is working on, including translation systems, virtual assistants and metaverse voice command tools.

Elsewhere project CAIRaoke was unveiled, which is designed to make virtual assistants better using 'conversational AI'. It is described as an 'end-to-end neural model that can power much more personal and contextual conversations than the systems people are familiar with today.

Project CAIRaoke will underlie next-generation interaction between people and devices.

BuilderBot was held up as a 'new tool for fuelling creativity in the metaverse'. It enables voice commands to summon up objects and environments within virtual spaces.

134. Recently In February Indian And Japanese Armies Will Start Thier Annual **Dharma Gaurdian Exercise** In Which Of The Following Palace Of Karnataka ?

- A. Tirchur
- B. Manglore
- C. **Belagum**
- D. Sonari

India and Japan will participate in a joint military exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' in Karnataka from 27th February to 10th of March.

'Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual military exercise between India and Japan. It is being conducted since 2018.

This joint exercise includes house interventions drills, raids on terrorist hideouts in semi-urban terrain, combat first aid, unarmed combat, etc.

Platoon level joint training on operations in the jungle and urban terrain will be also part of this exercise.

The 15th Battalion the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces will participate in this exercise.

Exercise Dharma Guardian will strengthen the defense cooperation between the Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces.

## India-Japan joint military drill begins tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 25

INDIAN AND Japanese armies will start their annual Dharma Guardian exercise in Karnataka over the weekend. The exercise will begin on February 27 and go on till March 10 at the Foreign Training Node in Belgaum, Karnataka.

The exercise with Japan "is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation" and the "scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi-urban/urban terrain", the Army

said in a statement on Friday.

The 15th battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry regiment will participate for India, and for Japan, the 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) will participate, the Army said.

They will "share experiences gained during operations in order to enhance inter-operability in planning and execution of various operations in jungle & semi urban/ urban terrain."

While the Army statement did not mention China, but both India and Japan have strained relations with China, which claims parts of Indian and Japanese territories.



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**135. Recently In February Vedanta Group Firm Cairn Oil & Gas Announced The New Discovery Of Oil Block In Which City And Named It As \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

- A. Sochi , Lakshmi
- B. Barmer , Durga**
- C. Karnal , Kaali
- D. Thirsur , Sarawati

Vedanta group firm Cairn Oil & Gas on Monday announced an oil discovery in a Barmer district block of Rajasthan, not very far away from its prolific oilfield in the same desert.

In a stock exchange filing, the firm said it has notified the government and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) of the discovery **The discovery has been named 'Durga'.**

The block is one of the 41 areas that the company had won in the first round of the open acreage licensing policy (OALP) bid round in October 2018.

**Cairn Oil & Gas, a unit of Mumbai-listed Vedanta Ltd, holds 100 per cent participating interest in the block. This is the third hydrocarbon discovery notified by the company under the OALP portfolio**

**Vedanta founder and chairman Anil Agarwal**

## Cairn discovers new oil block in Rajasthan

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, February 21

Vedanta group firm Cairn Oil & Gas on Monday announced an oil discovery in a Barmer district block of Rajasthan.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said it has notified the government and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) of the discovery, which has been named 'Durga'.

An approval from the block oversight panel has also been sought, said the company.

The block is one of the 41 areas that the company had won in the first round of the open acreage licensing policy (OALP) bid round in October 2018. Cairn Oil & Gas, a unit of Mumbai-listed Vedanta Ltd, holds 100 per cent participating interest in the block.

This is the third hydrocarbon discovery notified by the company under the OALP portfolio.

### ESG roadmap

The 542 square kilometre RJ-ONHP-2017/1 Block is located in Gudamalani and Chohtan Tehsil of Barmer district, Ra-



The block is one of the 41 areas that Cairn won in the first round of the open acreage licensing policy bid round in October 2018

jasthan. It lies in the vicinity of the prolific Rajasthan block which produces about 150,000 barrels per day of oil and gas. Separately, the company said it is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Vedanta founder and chairman Anil Agarwal said, "Guided by the philosophy of 'zero harm, zero waste, zero discharge', we have formulated robust ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) targets for our operations which will

help India's energy sector become more efficient."

The ESG objectives will broadly focus on uplifting lives of people in operational areas through sustainable livelihood opportunities to 1 million people, educating 9 million students by 2030 through digital education programmes alongside uplifting 20 million women and children through education, nutrition, healthcare, and welfare, a company statement said.

136. Recently In February *Aviation and defence colossus Boeing* delivered India's \_\_\_\_\_ maritime surveillance and *anti-submarine warfare P-8I aircraft* on February 24. The first of these aircraft was inducted in \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. 11th , 2017
- B. 12th , 2013**
- C. 13th , 2010
- D. 12th , 2015

Aviation and defence colossus Boeing delivered India's 12th maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare P-8I aircraft on February 24

The first of these aircraft was inducted in 2013, and it made India the first country outside the United States to get one. The Navy has been receiving them regularly since.

The first aircraft produced by Boeing flew in 2009, and has been in service with the US Navy since 2013, the same year as the Indian Navy. Apart from India and the US, it has been chosen by six other militaries in the world.

The aircraft has two variants —

The P-8A Poseidon, which is flown by the US Navy, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, and the Royal Norwegian Air Force. It has also been selected by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the Republic of Korea Navy, and the German Navy.

The aircraft for the Indian Navy are called P-8I, and have replaced the ageing Soviet/Russian Tupolev Tu-142s.

The P-8Is are capable of anti-submarine; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR); patrolling, coastline defence, and other operations.

## Navy gets 12th P-8I aircraft from Boeing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the 12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy. This completes the follow-on clause for four additional P-8I aircraft contracted in 2016.

“The P-8I is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 35,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013,” a statement from company said.

In May 2021, the U.S. State Department approved the possible sale of six additional P-8I aircraft and related equipment, a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion. Earlier, in November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of the six aircraft.

The number was cut down from 10 to six due to budgetary constraints as also the Navy undertaking fleet rationalisation and deciding to go for long-endurance unmanned platforms.

## Moody's raises India's 2022 GDP outlook to 9.5% from 7%

'Sanctions on Russia may spur oil, gas prices'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service scaled up its 2022 growth forecast for India to 9.5% with a further 'upside potential' from an earlier projection of 7%, citing the Union Budget's focus on capital spending, which 'will help consolidate' the economic recovery even as it identified high oil prices and supply distortions as growth dampeners.

The agency expects 5.5% growth in 2023. It noted that these estimates translated into 8.4% growth rate for India's financial year 2022-23, followed by 6.5% in FY24.

In a global macro outlook report released on Thursday, Moody's said the speed of India's recovery from the



first lockdown-driven contractions of 2020 and the second wave in 2021, were stronger than expected. The economy, it said, was estimated to have surpassed the pre-COVID-19 GDP level by more than 5% in the October-December 2021 quarter.

"Sales tax collection, retail activity and PMIs suggest solid momentum. However,

high oil prices and supply distortions remain a drag on growth... recovery is lagging in contact-intensive services sectors, but it should pick up as the Omicron wave subsides," the firm stated.

As per Moody's 'bear' scenario, elevated inflation globally would accompany weakening growth, with sanctions on Russia – after it invaded Ukraine – resulting in a substantial decline in energy supply, sending oil and gas prices surging.

The scenario also factors in new COVID-19 variants affecting recovery, financial market volatility rising to dent equity and bond prices, and aggressive shifts in monetary policy tightening financial conditions.

## Ind-Ra pegs FY22 GDP growth at 8.6%

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
Mumbai, February 23

India Ratings has revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to 8.6 per cent from the consensus 9.2 per cent projected earlier.

The National Statistical Organisation (NSO), which has forecast 9.2 per cent real GDP growth for the year, will release the second advance estimate of national income on Monday.

According to an India Ratings analysis, NSO is likely to peg the FY22 real gross domestic product growth at ₹147.2-lakh crore. This translates into a GDP growth rate of 8.6 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent forecast in the first advance estimate released on

January 7, 2022. The major reason for the likely downward revision is the upward revision of FY21 GDP to ₹135.6-lakh crore in the first revised estimate of national income for FY21, which was released on January 31, 2022, the agency said.

As a result, GDP for FY21 is improved to (-) 6.6 per cent from the provisional estimate of (-)7.3 per cent released on May 31, 2021. Besides this, the second revised estimate of national income for FY20 stood at 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent projected earlier while the third estimate retained FY19 growth at 6.5 per cent.

The growth rates of GDP drivers from the demand side, namely private final consump-

tion expenditure, government's final consumption expenditure, gross fixed capital formation, have undergone a change due to these revisions, and quarterly GDP growth numbers are also expected to undergo a change this year.

### BusinessLine

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## World Bank India head to be MIGA's VP, Operations

**LALITK JHA**  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 26

THE WORLD Bank's India head, Junaid Kamal Ahmad, has been appointed as one of the vice presidents of the global lending institution. Ahmad – who as Vice President, Operations would head the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) – is the second Bangladeshi national to be appointed to such a high position in the history of the bank.

Ahmad, 61, will assume his new role from April 16, an official release said here on Friday. He has been the country director for the World Bank in India since September 2016

Fayez Choudhury was the first Bangladeshi national who became the vice president on the administration side.

In his new role, Ahmad will work to advance and enhance MIGA's brand partnering across the World Bank Group and with financial institutions, private investors and development actors; originate and pursue meaningful, impact-driven projects and lead the Operations team to deliver on MIGA's mandate of mobilising private finance for development projects in Emerging Market

## IAF PULLS OUT OF MULTINATIONAL AIR EXERCISE IN UK

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) will not take part in a multi-national air exercise, Cobra Warrior 22, planned at Waddington in the UK from March 6 to 27 because of events related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, officials familiar with the matter said on Saturday. Some media reports said the UK has cancelled the exercise.

IAF announced on Twitter that it will not take part in the drills "in light of recent events". However, the tweet was deleted later.

Five Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) were to take part in the exercise, with IAF's C-17 heavy-lifters providing transport support for induction and de-induction. The LCA has never taken part in a combat exercise on foreign soil.

The decision to pull out of the exercise came amid a deepening crisis in Ukraine with Russian troops advancing on Kyiv and other key cities.

## HGS bags ₹2,100-cr contract from UK govt health agency

SHIVANI SHINDE  
Mumbai, 20 February

Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS) on Sunday announced that its subsidiary, HGS UK, had bagged a contract from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) worth £211 million (₹2,100 crore).

HGS will provide critical customer support to UK citizens for an initial period of two years, with an option to extend the deal. The partnership was launched last week, and the contract will employ over 2,000 work from home positions across the UK, HGS, the BPM provider from the Hinduja Group, said in a statement.

The UKHSA is responsible for NHS Test & Trace and this contract will assist with future contact tracing needs for Covid-19 and other health security risks such as a large flu outbreak or new pandemics. The advertised cost of the contract is the maximum that can be spent, and the total could be less.

HGS has been operating in the UK market for over 10 years. While revenues for the year ended March 2021 were £67 million, in the nine months ended December 2021, HGS UK's revenues surged to £87 million, said the company.

"Our public sector business has been a key part of this success story with some marquee clients. The significant investments we have made in strengthening our

expertise in this vertical, focused-sales strategy, cloud technology, and deployment of work at home delivery have enhanced

our presence in this demanding market. The UKHSA engagement is a fantastic addition to the UK business, both from a growth and complexity perspective," said Partha DeSarkar, executive director and group CEO, HGS.

Over the last decade, HGS has developed and grown its partnership with the UK government, with this becoming its biggest-ever win in the public sector to date.

The contract will employ over 2,000 work-from-home positions across the UK

## Hero MotoCorp ties up with BPCL

Hero MotoCorp has collaborated with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to set up charging infrastructure for two-wheeled electric vehicles (EVs) across the country. This is first such collaboration between an automotive OEM with an oil sector public sector undertaking (PSU) to set up charging infrastructure in the country.

As part of its focus on new business segments for sustainable growth, BPCL in September 2021 announced that it is converting 7,000 conventional retail outlets into energy stations providing multiple fuelling options, which will include EV charging facility also, in the medium to long term. The two entities will first establish a substantial charging infrastructure at the existing nationwide energy station network and subsequently may broaden the collaboration to develop more synergies within the EV ecosystem.

STAFF WRITER

## WHO sets up bio production training centre in Korea

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 23

Close on the heels of the mRNA vaccine tech-transfer hub in Africa, the World Health Organization, the Republic of Korea and the WHO Academy, have announced a global bio-manufacturing training hub to serve low- and middle-income countries looking to produce biologicals such as vaccines, insulin, monoclonal antibodies and cancer treatments.

### Training for companies

The Korean government has offered a large facility outside Seoul, which is already carrying out bio-manufacturing training for companies based in the country, and will now expand its operations to accommodate trainees from other countries, the WHO said.

The facility will provide technical and hands-on training on operational and good manufacturing practices,

and will complement specific training developed by the mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub in South Africa, it said. Further, a curriculum on general bio-manufacturing would also be on the anvil, they added.

Meanwhile, the global mRNA hub in South Africa will support five more countries, the WHO said, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Serbia and Vietnam. These countries were vetted by a group of experts and proved that they had the capacity to absorb the technology and, with targeted training, move to production stage relatively quickly, it added.

| Corona count* |            |             |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Cases         | Single day | Till now    |
| Active cases  | -(16,553)  | 1,64,522    |
| Discharged    | 31,377     | 4,21,89,887 |
| Deaths        | 278        |             |
| New cases     | 15,102     |             |

Source: Health Ministry \*As of

## Stiff deadlines delaying Centre's ₹43,000-cr submarine project

With most foreign builders not meeting deadline, bid submission deadline postponed



INS Vagir is one of the eight F-Class vessels

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR

Mumbai, February 20

The Indian Navy's wait for six conventional diesel-electric submarines under Project P-75(1), is likely to get extended, pushing the acquisition plan back by almost a year. The ₹43,000-crore project is part of the Centre's 30-year submarine building plan that began in 1999.

The latest delay is due to the stringent deadline set in the request for proposal (RFP) issued by the Ministry of Defence in July 2021. The government had shortlisted five foreign submarine makers that were to partner with one of the two Indian counterparts to produce them locally.

The government had to push back the bid submission date from November 2021 to June 2022 after a majority of the foreign participating companies found it difficult to meet the first deadline, a top official of

India's largest submarine builder said.

Field evaluation trials were expected to begin in mid-April 2022 if the bids come in November itself. Further delay is expected as the Centre is yet to issue approvals to participating foreign companies.

Vice-Admiral Narayan Prasad, CMD, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, said, "Now the revised schedule for bid submission is at the end of June 2022. And while everyone is trying their best, the government approvals have still not been processed and my assumption would be these are still susceptible to some more delay, by a couple of months."

### Shortlisted OEMs

Naval Group, France; TKMS, Germany; JSC ROE, Russia; Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine

Engineering, South Korea, and Navantia, Spain were the shortlisted foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEM). They had to choose between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilder and Larsen and Toubro. The order will go to the lowest bidder (L1) and will not be split between the two Indian companies.

If the bid submission happens in June, it will take another two years for the government to consider it before orders are placed by the end of 2024.

"Who is going to be our collaborator that has not been clarified, but certainly both DSME Korea and TKMS Germany have sound potential; they are the only ones compliant in terms of timelines. They are yet to come up with their bids and we are waiting for that," Prasad added.

### INS Vagsheer

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders can simultaneously construct 11 submarines at its Mumbai facility. The company is presently building INS Vagsheer, which is the sixth and the last of the Kalavari-class Scorpene submarines under P75.

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR

# Delimitation panel term extended 2nd time in a yr

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

FOR THE second time in a year, the Central government has extended the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission that was tasked with redrawing assembly constituencies in the union territory.

The Centre extended the term by two months by amending the notification issued on March 6, 2020. "In the said notification, in paragraph 2, for the words, "two years", the words, "two years and two months" shall be substituted," a notification by the Ministry of Law and Justice stated.

Now, the panel's term will end on May 6.

The delimitation process is crucial for kick-starting the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said elections would be held in J&K after

the delimitation process in the UT was over. On March 6, 2020, the government had set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to wind up delimitation within a year. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the Jammu region.

The panel was granted one-year extension last year.

In its draft report, the panel had proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the UT. The report was sent to the five associate members Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Akbar Lone (Lok Sabha MPs from the NC) and Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore (BJP MPs) earlier this month. They were to submit their views by February 14. A final report is expected to be prepared considering the objections filed.

## Veteran Malayalam actor KPAC Lalitha passes away

She won two national awards and four State awards

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHI

Versatile actor KPAC Lalitha, 74, died at Thripunithura, near Kochi, on Tuesday. Once an inevitable part of Malayalam films, both commercial and art school, she has been ailing for some time.

A winner of two national awards for the best supporting role and four State awards, she held the post of Chairperson of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi before she took seriously ill and disappeared from the public scene.

Born at Ramapuram in Alappuzha, Lalitha learned dance and became a singer-actor at the Kerala People's



KPAC Lalitha

Arts Club (KPAC), which staged several landmark plays that also catalysed the Communist movement in Kerala.

The theatre's name stuck to her when in 1970 K.S. Sethumadhavan adapted KPAC's play *Koottukudum-*

*bam* to the silver screen. She got married to noted filmmaker Bharathan and went on to give several immortal characters to Malayalam cinema.

While her characters in films such as *Amaram* (directed by Bharathan) and *Aravam* made her a household name, she also played with elan a variety of characters, including several noted comic roles.

Her voice alone gave a distinctive identity to the unseen character Narayani in Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Mathilukal*.

She is survived by daughter Sreekrutty and son Sidharth, himself an actor and director.

# Ukrainians wake up to thunder of war

After Russian invasion, smoke rose from across cities, desperate people rushed to buy fuel, flee to safety

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KIEV

The missile fragment pierced the ceiling of Mikhail Shcherbakov's apartment in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city. A Russian attack, after weeks of warnings, had hit home.

"I heard noise and woke up. I realised it sounded like artillery," Mr. Shcherbakov said. He jumped from the couch and ran to wake his mother, and something exploded behind him.

The missile left a nearby computer and teacup shrouded with dust, instant artefacts of Europe's latest crisis.

At dawn on Thursday, Ukrainians' uneasy efforts at normality were shattered. Smoke rose from cities, even well away from the country's disputed eastern border.

### 'Worst sunrise'

"Today I had the worst sunrise in my life," said another Kharkiv resident, who gave her name only as Sasha. She rushed to her balcony and realised the sounds that had woken her weren't fireworks.

## Ukraine rocked

Russia has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea in the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since Second World War



**In grief:** A man sits outside his destroyed building after bombings in the eastern Ukraine town of Chuguiv on Thursday. ■ AFP

Farther from the border, a morning commute transformed into chaos, with lines of cars waiting at fuel stations or fleeing from the capital, Kiev. People carrying luggage took shelter in the subway, unsure of where to go.

Some panicked. Others clung to routine, with irritation.

"I'm not afraid. I'm going to work. The only unusual thing is that you can't find a taxi in Kiev," one resident complained, as air raid sirens wailed.

Many seemed unsure how to react. Kiev's main street, Khreshchatyk, rippled with anxiety as people checked their phones. Some walked their dogs or waved at

friends. "I'm not scared at the moment. Maybe I'll be scared later," resident Maxim Prudskoi said.

Some residents waited at bus stops, seemingly on their way to work, while others rushed to leave the city that is only about 15 km from the front line with the Donetsk People's Republic, one of two separatist-held areas re-

cognised by Russian President Vladimir Putin as independent this week in a prelude to the attack.

As the day progressed, alarm rose across Ukraine. People crowded grocery stores. In Kharkiv, worried residents inspected fragments of military hardware strewn across a children's playground.



Sources: Reuters, AP, AFP, BBC

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