

National /State News

1. Recently In March India GDP Is Estimated To Grow By _____ In 2021 - 22 Instead Of 9.2 % Estimated Earlier While The GDP Growth Rate In Third Quarter During October - December Slipped To _____ % From 8.5 % In The Previous Quarter ?

A. 8.2% , 9.2 %

B. 8.9% , 5.4 %

C. 7.2 % , 6.6 %

D. 6.6 % , 7.2 %

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 8.9% in 2021-22 instead of the 9.2% estimated earlier, with year-on-year growth during October-December 2021 slipping to 5.4% from 8.5% in the previous quarter, as per the second advance national income estimates released.

Gross Value-Added (GVA) in the economy is expected to grow by 8.3% this financial year, from a 4.8% contraction in 2020-21, the National Statistical Office (NSO) India's GDP shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, with the first half of the year recording a sharp contraction before GDP resurfaced to clock 0.7% growth in the October-December 2020 quarter.

Economists expect the full year growth hopes for this year to be pared further from the 8.9% projected by the NSO, especially in light of the high oil prices as well as inflation trajectories.

The GDP growth rates for the first and second quarters of 2021-22 were revised upwards marginally by the NSO from 20.1% to 20.3% and 8.4% to 8.5%, respectively.

GDP to grow at 8.9% in 2021-22 instead of 9.2%

Oil price shocks may dent recovery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 8.9% in 2021-22 instead of the 9.2% estimated earlier, with year-on-year growth during October-December 2021 slipping to 5.4% from 8.5% in the previous quarter, as per the second advance national income estimates released on Monday.

Gross Value-Added (GVA) in the economy is expected to grow by 8.3% this financial year, from a 4.8% contraction in 2020-21, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said. Barring the contact-intensive segment of trade, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting, all sectors are expected to surpass pre-pandemic GVA levels this year.

India's GDP shrunk 6.6%

Core sector growth at 3%

India's output from all eight core infrastructure sectors surpassed pre-pandemic production levels this January, even as the pace of growth slowed marginally to 3.7% from a 4.1% uptick in December 2021. ▶ PAGE 14

in 2020-21, with the first half of the year recording a sharp contraction before GDP resurfaced to clock 0.7% growth in the October-December 2020 quarter.

Economists expect the full year growth hopes for this year to be pared further from the 8.9% projected by the NSO, especially in light of the high oil prices as well as inflation trajectories.

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2. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Operation GANGA**, The Government of India, Decided To Dispatch Four Ministries To Countries Bordering Ukraine To Help Better Coordinate The **Evacuation Of Indian Nationals From War Torn Country**. Which Of The Following Ministries Is Not Among The Following?
- A. Ministry Of Civil Aviation
 - B. Ministry Of Education**
 - C. Minister Of State For Road And Transport Highways And Civil Aviation
 - D. Ministry Of Law And Justice

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after a third high-level meeting on the Ukraine crisis, decided to dispatch four Ministers to countries bordering Ukraine to help better coordinate the evacuation of Indian nationals from the war-torn country. Jyotiraditya Scindia will travel to Romania and Moldova, Kiren Rijiju to Slovakia, Hardeep Singh Puri to Hungary and Gen. V. K. Singh (retd.) to Poland.

While the Ministry of External Affairs has been running helplines and officials are posted at border checkpoints at Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, the rush at these checkpoints, especially on the Poland-Ukraine border, has seen clashes there and a wait of two to three days in freezing temperatures before making a crossing. Sources in the government said that while private airlines such as Indigo and SpiceJet had also announced evacuation flights, the presence of Ministers may help ease some of the paperwork required to complete the process.

PM sends 4 Ministers for evacuation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after a third high-level meeting on the Ukraine crisis, decided to despatch four Ministers to countries bordering Ukraine to help better coordinate the evacuation of Indian nationals from the war-torn country. Jyotiraditya Scindia will travel to Romania and Moldova, Kiren Rijiju to Slovakia, Hardeep Singh Puri to Hungary and Gen. V. K. Singh (retd.) to Poland. ▶ PAGE 10

3. Recently In March **India's first 100 percent women-owned industrial park** opened in _____ The industrial park has begun its operations with _____ women-owned and operated Green Projects It is called the _____ ?
- A. Mumbai , 20 , Wo Industrial Park
 - B. Pune , 50 , She Champions Her
 - C. Hyderabad , 25 , FLO Industrial Park**
 - D. Gurugram , 30 , Pragati Industrial Park

India's first 100 percent women-owned industrial park opened in Hyderabad, Telangana on March 8, 2022, commemorating the International Women's Day 2022. The park was inaugurated by Telangana Industries Minister KT Rama Rao.

The industrial park has begun its operations with 25 women -owned and operated Green Projects It is called the FLO Industrial Park, as it is promoted by FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) in partnership with the Telangana government.

The FLO Industrial park that stretches across 50 acres has been built with an investment of Rs 250 crore. It is a flagship project that is the first-of-its-kind in India. The participation is open to chapter members and national members of Flo

FLO is the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), which is the top body of industry and commerce in India.

The full form of FLO is FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO). It was established in 1983. Its members include professionals, corporate executives and entrepreneurs.

4. Recently In March Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organized a conclave on '**Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management**' in collaboration with the Government of _____ under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0?
- A. Gujarat
 - B. Chhattisgarh**
 - C. Madhya Pradesh
 - D. Haryana

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

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organized a conclave on 'Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management'. On 3 March 2022, this conclave has been organized in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 in Raipur.

It provided a platform to States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for learning various centralized and decentralized waste management practices.

The "National Capacity Building Framework for Garbage Free Cities" was also released during the conclave.

Representatives from 17 states and their ULBs participated in this day-long conclave. The main attraction of this conclave was various women-led waste management initiatives.

The theme song 'Swachhata Jaari Hai' was also released during the conclave.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 was launched for creating "Garbage Free Cities". It is being implemented under the principle of "waste from wealth", and "circular economy" for maximizing resource recovery.

5. Recently In March _____ launched *three new digital initiatives including ' _____ , ' a QR code-based feedback system, and e-Chittha portal in February 2022?*
- A. Haryana Police, Nirbhay
 - B. Delhi Police, Anubhuti**
 - C. Maharashtra Police, Neerja
 - D. Bihar Police, Abhudya

Delhi police commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Monday launched three digital initiatives, including the department's refurbished, more user-friendly website. Launching Anubhuti, a QR code-based feedback system, the refurbished Delhi Police website and e-Chittha portal, Asthana said the aim is to add a new dimension in digitising and modernising the Delhi Police.

The citizens visiting the police station need to scan the QR code of the police station and mark their feedback response. Response database will be utilised to analyse and take corrective steps for improvement in police-public interface while the identity of the user will not be disclosed,"

e-Chittha has been operative in all 178 territorial police stations from Monday, she said.

With this initiative, the staff members will get to devote sufficient time to their family and can look after their own health and wellbeing.

6. Union Minister of State for MSME inaugurated International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management today being organized by Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) from 4th – 5th March, 2022 at New Delhi. Ministry of MSME also launched two special initiatives - _____ ?
- A. 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban'
 - B. Swamitva And Sarthaq
 - C. Sambhav And Swamitva
 - D. Svavlamban And Sarthi

Union Minister of State for MSME inaugurated International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management today being organized by Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) from 4th – 5th March, 2022 at New Delhi.

Ministry of MSME also launched two special initiatives - 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' to promote entrepreneurship amongst youth, especially in aspirational Districts all across the country.

The Mega International Summit emphasizes on "Know your Waste and how Recycling is the right thing to do, which is to be done in a right way". The 2-day Summit scheduled at New Delhi

7. Recently In March MSME Minister Narayan Ran launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women- _____ on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022 ?
- A. PRAGATI
 - B. PRATISHTA
 - C. SAMARTH
 - D. SWAMITVA

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Union Minister for MSME, Narayan TatyaRane, along with Minister of State for MSME, BhanuPratap Singh Verma, launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "SAMARTH" at New Delhi in the presence of Secretary (MSME), AS&DC (MSME), Chairman (KVIC),

Rane announced a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women called "SAMARTH", which is being implemented by the Ministry to provide them an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking self-employment opportunities.

Under the initiative, 20 percent seats in free Skill Development Programs organised under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for women, through which 7,500 women are expected to be benefitted

8. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Knight Frank's latest edition of the Wealth Report*, :

1. According to Knight Frank's latest edition of the Wealth Report, the number of ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) has increased by 11 percent in India.
2. Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs followed by Delhi.
3. India has third largest population of billionaires

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

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

India has third largest population of billionaires: Knight Frank

According to Knight Frank's latest edition of the Wealth Report, the number of ultra-high net worth individuals (UHNWIs) has increased by 11 percent in India.

At present, India has 145 billionaires and Mumbai has the highest number of 1596 UHNWIs followed by Hyderabad with 467 UHNWIs.

Bengaluru witnessed the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs followed by Delhi.

Equity markets and digital adoption are the key factors in the growth of UHNWIs in India.

In the next five years, the global UHNWIs population will increase by 28%. The UHNWI population in India is expected to grow by 39%.

At present, the United states has the highest number of UHNWIs while China is on the second spot.

9. Recently In March _____ topped in terms of *Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices*. By surpassing Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu?

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

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

Telangana has become India's best performing state by surpassing Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

In 2014, Telangana State started its journey with the spirit of "Startup State".

Its goal was to stay flexible, open to expansion, and dedicated to developing a one-of-a-kind model of good governance.

Among states with a population of over 1 crore, Telangana has the highest growth rate in terms of per capita net state domestic product at current prices, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

The state's GDP has increased by 31.12% in the last decade - the highest jump for any state in the country. The TRS government, under the leadership of CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, has implemented given below schemes.

RythuBandhu-Focussed on farmers.

Kaleshwaram - World's largest lift irrigation project, with the aim of providing water to the fields of Telangana.

10. Recently In March, The Central Government has approved the *Modernisation Plan-IV scheme for the Central Armed Police Forces*. It will equip the force with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment with a total outlay of _____ ?

- A. Rs 1498 Cr
- B. Rs 1000 Cr
- C. Rs 1523 Cr**
- D. Rs 2653 Cr

the Central government on Friday extended the modernisation programme of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) till March 31, 2026. The scheme—Modernisation Plan-IV—for CAPFs has been approved with a total financial outlay of Rs 1,523 crore, with a vision of equipping the CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres

The Ministry said that with the extension of this scheme for the next five financial years, the paramilitary forces will “improve the overall operational efficiency/preparedness which will positively impact the internal security scenario in the country

Recently, the Home Ministry extended the Central government-sponsored Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) till 2026 at a cost of Rs 13,020 crore. According to officials, this decision will strengthen the border infrastructure for improving border management, policing, and guarding the borders.

11. Recently In March Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and _____ Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the _____ Agreement for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in _____ on 3rd March 2022 ?
- A. Houlin Zhao , Host Country Agreement , New Delhi
 - B. Hakim Zunnai , City Country Agreement , New Delhi
 - C. Shiekh Salman , Host Country Agreement , New Delhi
 - D. Ming Zhou , Host Country Agreement , New Delhi

India and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for establishing an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.

The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for the establishment and operations of the Area Office.

The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU will encourage research and development in telecommunication technologies in South Asia.

The Innovation Centre will provide a platform to academics, start-ups, and SMEs to showcase their innovation at a global stage

The World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) is a global conference for the standardization of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). India will host the next WTSA in 2024. ITU recognized one of the three technologies standard developed for 5G.

12. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *SagarParikrama* :
- 1. *SagarParikrama* will start from *Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of AzadiKaAmritMahotsava.*
 - 2. *Government of India's Department of Fisheries is organizing SagarParikrama along with Gujarat government's Fisheries Department, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India, Gujarat Maritime Board and fishermen representatives.*

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

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

SagarParikrama will start from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of AzadiKaAmritMahotsava.

It will be conducted in all coastal states/UTs through a pre-decided sea route to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders.

Government of India's Department of Fisheries is organizing SagarParikrama along with Gujarat government's Fisheries Department, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India, Gujarat Maritime Board and fishermen representatives.

The first leg of 'SagarParikrama' will start on 5th March 2022 from Mandvi and end at Porbandar on 6th March 2022. India has a coastline of 8118 km, which passes through 9 coastal states and 4 union territories.

13. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Sustainable Development Goals According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022 Which Of The Following Is Incorrect :

- 1. India has been placed in the 120th position on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. India's last year's rank was 117th.**
- 2. India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score is 65 out of 100.**
- 3. In the latest ranking, India is behind of all south Asian nations except Pakistan.**
- 4. In the latest ranking, Kerala is on the first position while Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are on second positions.**

SDG goals: India slips to 120th rank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 1

India has slipped three spots to rank 120 on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by United Nations member states in 2015, a new report said.

With the latest rankings on the 17 SDG goals, India is now behind all South Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129. Bhutan is ranked 75, Sri Lanka 87, Nepal 96 and Bangladesh 109. India's overall Sustainable Development Goals score was 66 out of 100.

Poor performance

According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, released by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Tuesday, India's rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and well being, gender equality and sustain-



UN members adopted 17 SDG goals as part of 2030 agenda

able cities and communities. India also performed poorly in dealing with quality education and life on land aspects, the report stated. The previous year, India had suffered on ending hunger and achieving food security, gender equality and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.

On the State-wise preparedness, the report said Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.

Kerala ranked first, followed

by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position. The third position was shared by Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was ranked first, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the second place and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the third, the report said.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was adopted by all 192 United Nations Member States in 2015, which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. Some of these goals are no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure.

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India has been placed in the 120th position on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. India's last year's rank was 117th.

India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score is 66 out of 100.

In the latest ranking, India is behind of all south Asian nations except Pakistan.

According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, India's ranking has fallen due to challenges in 11 SDGs.

India has performed poorly on zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities, etc. SDGs.

According to the report, India also not performed well on quality education and life on land aspects.

Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to achieve the SDGs by 2030. In the latest ranking, Kerala is on the first position while Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are on second positions.

The third position is shared by Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh is on the first position, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry in the second place.

In the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Finland is on the top position with a score of 85.90 while Sweden is on second spot with 85.61 points. Denmark and Germany are on the fourth and fifth position respectively. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

It was adopted by 193 United Nations countries in 2015. It is based on 17 Goals. These are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

14. Recently In March *India's first fully equipped mobile ambulance for on-site treatment of street animals has been launched by the _____?*

- A. Wish Foundation
- B. Hansa Foundation
- C. Blue Cross Of India**
- D. Red Cross Society

An animal welfare charity has launched India's first ambulance for street animals in Chennai. The Blue Cross of India has started the project in collaboration with international animal welfare organisation Four Paw. Launched by Madras High Court Justice DrAnithaSumanth on Sunday, the Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals, The Chennai-based charity gets around 500 requests for animal care each day but manages to treat around 60 animals only as it has to pick up and transport them first. The charity's rescue-call service will support the initiative. Only animals that cannot be treated on site will be transported to hospitals.

15. Recently In March the government has approved the proposal to continue seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme “Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates”. A total outlay of _____ for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 ?

- A. Rs 1700 Cr
- B. Rs 1452 Cr**
- C. Rs 1350 Cr
- D. Rs 819 Cr

The government has approved the proposal to continue seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme “Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates”.

It has been approved with a total outlay of Rs 1,452 crore for the period 2021 -22 to 2025-26.

The government had started different schemes at different points of time.

It will help migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

The scheme will provide financial assistance and other facilities to persons, who were victims of militancy, insurgency, communal and Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

It will also help displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Victims of the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots.

16. Recently In March The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** Partnered With _____ government set up electricity generation units using cattle dung and agriculture waste?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Chhattisgarh**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will help the Chhattisgarh government set up electricity generation units using cattle dung and agriculture waste.

Also, the state, which is buying cow dung under the GodhanNyay Scheme, is likely to start procuring cow urine “for scientific and systematic use of cow urine in the agriculture sector”. The BARC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state on Saturday for setting up power plants using cattle dung and farm waste.

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is India's premier nuclear research facility, headquartered in Trombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Founded by HomiJehangirBhabha Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay in January 1954 as a multidisciplinary research program essential for India's nuclear

16. Recently In March The Government has approved *the scheme-Modernisation Plan-IV- for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) with an outlay of _____ the extension of the “Modernisation Plan-III” scheme for CAPFs from 1 February 2022 to 31 March, 2026?*

- A. Rs 1300 Cr
- B. Rs 1523 Cr**
- C. Rs 1658 Cr
- D. Rs 26589 Cr

The Government has approved the scheme-Modernisation Plan-IV- for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) with an outlay of Rs 1,523 crore.

It is the extension of the “Modernisation Plan-III” scheme for CAPFs.

The Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs will be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs from 1 February 2022 to 31 March, 2026

Its main vision is to provide modern weapons and equipment to CAPF as per their requirement.

Under this scheme, upgraded IT solutions will also be provided to CAPFs.

The implementation of the scheme will improve the operational efficiency/preparedness of CAPF.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF): It was established on 27 July 1939.

Kuldiep Singh is the Director general of CRPF.

17. Recently Union Minister of Railways inspected the trial of _____ working system between _____ Railway stations on *Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway.*

- A. Kavach , Mumbai- Thane Railway stations
- B. Kaushal , Adarshnagar- Devalii Railway stations
- C. Kavach , Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations**
- D. Garud , Dhanbad - Asonsol Railway stations

Indian Railways has successfully conducted anti-collision test of the 'Kavach' system, which is an indigenously developed system to avoid rail accidents.

Kavach, an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, has been created to assist the Railways in achieving their goal of zero accidents.

'Kavach' automatically stops the train before 380 metres of other locomotives at the front.

The Kavach will be the world's most cost-effective system for preventing train collisions. It will cost 50 lakh rupees per kilometre to operate once it is implemented.

In February 2016, the first field tests on passenger trains began. Based on the experience gained, the Kavach's first specifications were finalised on in May 2017.

On the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors, the Kavach will be implemented to increase speed to 160 kmph as part of the "Mission Raftaar Project."

18. Recently In March _____ launched "*NaanMudhalvan*" (I am first), a skill-enhancing programme that aims to hone the education, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh youth every year ?

- A. Chattisgarh
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Telanagana

Chief Minister MK Stalin on his 69th birthday on Tuesday launched "NaanMudhalvan" (I am first), a skill-enhancing programme that aims to hone the education, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh TN youth every year. Launching the scheme, Stalin said the initiative will come under his direct supervision

A web portal (naanmudhalvan.tnschools.gov.in) and logo for the scheme were also launched on the day. The portal will have information on higher education and career opportunities for students of Classes 9-12.

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19. *Hollongi Airport* Which Was Seen In News Recently Is Located In Which Of The Following State?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Manipur
- C. Arunachal Pradesh**
- D. Karnataka

Arunachal Pradesh will construct its Greenfield Airport in Hollongi.

Considering the significance of air connectivity to the capital city, the Airports Authority of India has begun construction on developing a Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, 15 kilometres from Itanagar.

The project costing Rs 645 crore includes construction of airport pavement, air side work, terminal building and city side work.

The proposed airport is designed to accommodate A-320 aircraft.

The airport's terminal structure spans 4100 square metres. It will be able to accommodate 200 people during peak hours.

The airport is expected to be operational on August 15, 2022. The Greenfield Airport Policy 2008 was created by the government to give extant guidelines for the development of greenfield airports in the country.

The central government has given its approval for the development of 21 greenfield airports.

20. *'Herath' Festival* is observed on the day of Mahashivratri in which of the following states/UTs?

- A. Kerala
- B. Jammu & Kashmir**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Goa

Festival Mahashivratri locally known as 'Herath' in Kashmir is being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir by Kashmiri Pandit Community with religious fervour by offering "WatakNathPooja".

The festival assumes colossal importance among the Kashmiri Pandit Community who celebrate it to mark the wedding of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati.

21. Recently In March Ministry of Defence has approved 9 indigenous defence projects Out of nine projects, _____ projects have been approved under the 'Make-I category' while _____ projects have been approved in the 'Make-II category'

- A. 7, 2
- B. 4, 5**
- C. 6, 3
- D. 1, 8

The government has approved nine projects for the design and development of defence equipment by Indian industries.

It is a significant step towards self-reliance in the defence sector. The Central government will provide 90 percent funding in a phased manner.

Out of nine projects, four projects have been approved under the 'Make-I category' while five projects have been approved in the 'Make-II category'.

The four projects include design and development of light tanks, communication equipment with Indian security protocols, airborne electro-optical pod with ground-based system, and airborne stand-off jammers.

After the launch of Defence Acquisition Procedure-2020, it will be the first time that Indian industry has been involved in the development of light tanks and communication equipment with Indian security protocols.

In the 'Make-II category', Government will provide no funding for the prototype development.

The indigenous development of these (nine) projects will position India as a design leader in these technologies.

22. Recently In March _____ government announced 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' The State Government has allocated a budget of _____ crore for the rearing, protection, and overall development of camels.

- A. Gujarat, 12 Cr
- B. Haryana, 15 Cr
- C. Rajasthan, 10 Cr**
- D. Madhya Pradesh, 20 Cr

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Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan but its number is continuously declining.

Rajasthan government has allocated a budget of Rs 10 crore for the rearing, protection, and overall development of camels.

At present, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan and in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh since 2012.

According to the 2019 livestock census, around 2.52 lakh camels have left in India.

About 85 percent of camels are found in Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

The Rajasthan government had declared the camel as the state animal in 2014. World Camel Day is observed every year on 22 June to recognize the importance of camels to the livelihood of a large population.

23. Consider The Following Statement Regarding PM Visit To Pune :

1. Pune Metro Rail Project is total 32.2 km long
2. It is being built at a total project cost of Rs 11,400 crores.
3. He also unveiled the statute of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation. The statue is made up of 1,850 kg gunmetal and is about 9.5 feet tall.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

PM Modi inaugurated 12km stretch of Pune Metro Rail Project.

He also unveiled the statute of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation. The statue is made up of 1,850 kg gunmetal and is about 9.5 feet tall.

PM Modi also inaugurated the Symbiosis Arogya Dham at Lavle campus, Pune.

PM Modi also inaugurated a state-of-the-art electric bus depot and charging station in the Baner locality of Pune.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of Rejuvenation and Pollution Abatement of Mula-Mutha River projects. Further, he inaugurated R K Laxman Art Gallery Museum at Balewadi in Pune.

Pune Metro Rail Project is total 32.2 km long. It was sanctioned in 2016 and its foundation stone was laid by PM Modi on 26 December 2016. It is being built at a total project cost of Rs 11,400 crores.

Mula-Mutha River is formed by confluence of Mula and Mutha rivers in Pune. It later meets Bhima River (also known as Chandrabhaga River). Bhima River is left bank tributary of Krishna River.

24. Recently In March Union Minister of Earth Sciences **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** on the occasion of **National Science Day 2022**. The **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** will be hosted at _____ ?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Madras
- C. **IITM Pune**
- D. IIT Roorkee

Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.

The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years.

It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme. Both the World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme are international programmes coordinated by the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The IMPO would support activities of the Monsoons Panel, jointly established by the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) projects. India will soon launch the third phase of Monsoon Mission, First launched in 2012, the Monsoon Mission has been a flagship project undertaken by the MoES to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.

25. Recently In March A team of scientists from the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** have discovered a **new gin berry species** from the _____ in **Tamil Nadu**?

- A. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. **Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary**
- C. Panna Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. None of the above

A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

The species, *Glycosmis albicarpa*, with a distinct large white fruit, is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The species belongs to the Orange family Rutaceae.

Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups are being utilised for their medicinal values and food. Most commonly related species of these plants are collected from the wild, mainly for local use as food and medicine.

26. Recently In March **National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)** signed a MoU with the _____ to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) ?

- A. Ministry Of Education
- B. Ministry Of Minority Affairs
- C. Ministry of Rural Development**
- D. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs

National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).

SVEP is a sub-component of DeendayalAntyodayaYojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.

It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors. The partnership will enable the rural community by helping them set up their trades and provide complete support till they are stabilized.

Under the partnership rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support for starting their enterprises, including support from MUDRA bank. Integrated ICT techniques and tools will also be provided for training and capacity building along with enterprise advisory services to augment the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India's villages. National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

27. Recently In March The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** and **NIMHANS Bengaluru** launched the _____ with the goal of improving women's mental health in India ?

- A. StreeShaskatikaran Project
- B. StreeManoraksha Project**
- C. StreeManorma Project
- D. StreeRaksha Project

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and NIMHANS Bengaluru launched the 'StreeManoraksha Project' on Wednesday with the goal of improving women's mental health in India. The project would concentrate on increasing the ability of OSC (One-Stop Center) officials in terms of tools and procedures for dealing with women who come to One-Stop Centers, particularly those who have experienced violence and distress, with compassion and care.

The project, which has been painstakingly described by NIMHANS based on the Ministry's expected requirements, will be delivered in two formats.

All OSC functionaries, including security guards, cooks, helpers, caseworkers, counsellors, centre administrators, paramedical staff, and others, will receive basic training in one format.

28. Recently In March The Government of India has approved the continuation of the SwatantrataSainikSammanYojana (SSSY) and its components beyond 31.03.2021 for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total financial outlay of _____ ?

A. Rs.3,274.87crore.

B. Rs 1538 cR

C. Rs 50000 Cr

D. Rs 2689 Cr

The Government of India has approved the continuation of the SwatantrataSainikSammanYojana (SSSY) and its components beyond 31.03.2021 for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total financial outlay of Rs.3,274.87 crore.

The proposal for continuation of the SSSY was received from the Ministry of Home Affairs under Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah.

Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned the SwatantrataSainikSamman Pension and presently, there are 23,566 beneficiaries across the country covered under this scheme.

The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and Dearness Relief is also given since 15.08.2016.

29. Recently In March National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) is building a green charging hub along _____ ?

A. Delhi-Mumbai E-highway

B. Delhi-Agra-Hyderabad E-highway

C. Jaipur Delhi-Agra- E-highway

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

D. Lucknow-Agra-Jaipur E-highway

National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) is building a green charging hub along Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway.

The charging station will have facilities like a restaurant, coffee lounge, a bank, an ATM and a showroom.

Two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have been opened in Gurgaon in the previous two months. Gurgaon now has two of the largest electric vehicle charging stations in the country.

NHEV is an organization for promoting electrification of the India's transportation systems.

30. Recently In March India And _____ have entered into MoU during a virtual ceremony. The MoU was signed for the long-term supply of urea and DAP (Di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizers?

A. Japan

B. Nepal

C. Bhutan

D. Afghanistan

India and Nepal have entered into MoU during a virtual ceremony. The MoU was signed for the long-term supply of urea and DAP (Di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizers. It will be supplied to Nepal from India under the Government to Government (G2G) agreement. The MoU will also enhance agriculture cooperation between both countries.

It will enhance the economy and food security in Nepal.

The MoU was signed to fulfill the shortages of fertilizer being faced and enhance agricultural productivity in Nepal.

31. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Karnataka Budget :

- 1. Rs 1000 cr Has Been Allocated For Makedaku Project And Yeshashwani Health Insurance Has Been Re Introduced**
- 2. The Size Of The Budget Is Fixed At Rs 2,65719 Cr**

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

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

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None Of The Above

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has proposed no increase in taxes in the Budget 2022-23 presented by him in the state Legislative Assembly

In his maiden budget, the Chief Minister who also holds the Finance portfolio has expressed his government's commitment for the implementation of the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, to which neighbouring Tamil Nadu is opposed to, and has provided Rs 1,000 crore for it this year.

Also for the first time in the state, the government will launch 'Punyakoti Dattu Yojane' to encourage public and private institutions to adopt cows in the Goshalas by paying Rs 11,000 annually.

To encourage the use of farm machinery and to reduce fuel expenditure for the first time in the state, diesel subsidy at Rs 250 per acre subject to maximum for 5 acres will be given through DBT under a new scheme "Raitha Shakti" for which Rs 500 crore has been provided in the budget.

32. Recently In March _____ State Government Has Signed A MOU With British Council In The Area Of Education ?

A. Telanagana And Delhi

B. Delhi And Karnataka

C. Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh

D. Uttar Pradesh Bihar

The Government of Karnataka and the British Council, the United Kingdom's International Organisation for Educational Opportunities and Cultural Exchange, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The MoU was intended to renew the partnership in the sectors of Education, English, and Arts for imparting global skills and creating global opportunities for the state's youth,

"The extended 3 years MoU would enable to develop the skills of faculty and students from higher education institutions in the State and to expand collaborations through British Council initiatives such as the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) and the Going Global Partnerships,

33. Recently In March _____ is going to launch a new Aama Yojana 2022 soon. In this scheme, the state govt. will provide Rs. 20,000 each to all non-working mothers per annum?

A. Tripura

B. Sikkim

- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram

Sikkim government is going to launch a new AamaYojana 2022 soon. In this scheme, the state govt. will provide Rs. 20,000 each to all non-working mothers per annum. Chief Minister P S Tamang has also announced to start Bahini Scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to all girl students of class 9 and above in the state.

Under the AamaYojana scheme, all non-working mothers in the state will receive financial assistance annually in their bank accounts.

In the Bahini scheme the state government will provide free sanitary napkins to girl students studying in class 9 and above. Over 18,000 girl students study in class 9 and above in the state. CM added that “the state government also plans to establish sanitary napkin vending machines in schools and also increase awareness and sensitisation programmes about menstrual health and hygiene”.

34. Recently In March _____ division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned a private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision “Gati Shakti” and the Ministry of Railways’ policy regarding the “Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal” (GCT) ?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Asansol
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

The Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned a private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision “Gati Shakti” and the Ministry of Railways’ policy regarding the “Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal” (GCT), informed the Ministry of Railways on Thursday.

Since the publication of the GCT policy in December of 2021, this is the FIRST such GCT to be commissioned in Indian Railways.

The Maithan Power Project began construction in 2009, and power generation began in 2011. Until now, coal was delivered to the power plant through a road, which is scheduled to be converted into 120 inward coal rakes every month. Also 02 to 04 outward rakes of Fly Ash are projected to be handled from the siding.

Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity is heralding a new chapter in governance. It is a digital platform that brings 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

35. Recently In March _____ Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment for which the Bureau will provide financial support to IIT ?.

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Roorkee**
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kanpur

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITRoorkee), hosts an online event today to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India established under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016. The MoU establishes the appointment of a Chair in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment for which the Bureau will provide financial support to IIT Roorkee.

BIS is a standard body for the harmonious development of the activities of standardisation, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services in India

36. Recently In March Pune River Cleaning Project Of **MulaMutha River** Has Bagged How Much Funding From **Japan International Cooperation Agency**?

- A. Rs 1000 Cr
- B. Rs 1270 Cr**
- C. Rs 1500 Cr
- D. Rs 1372 Cr

The Mula-Mutha pollution abatement project in Pune will be funded through a loan of Rs 1,270 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) India office.

According to JICA, the project has been awarded to a joint venture between Indian company Enviro Control and Japanese company Toshiba Water Solutions. The procurement package awarded was for 11 sewerage treatment plants (STPs) with 396 million litres per day (MLD) treatment capacity, intermediate pump stations and sewers.

The project aims to improve the water quality in the three rivers by augmenting sewage collection systems and sewage treatment facilities in the Pune.

37. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Matsya Set 2.0* :

1. *MatsyaSetu Is An Android Mobile App Developed By ICAR – Central Institute Of Reshwater Agriculture*
2. *The ParashanMantriMatsyaSampadaYojna Implemented From 2020-21 To 2024-25 With An Outlay Of 20050 Cr*

Which of The Following Statement Is Correct?

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

In an initiative to bring inland fisheries trade under a single digital platform, the government will soon launch a mobile app whereby farmers, wholesale buyers, suppliers of feed and equipment and other members of the value chain will be able to share information on market prices and availability of produce.

MatsyaSetu 2.0, an android mobile app developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with funding from the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, has features to facilitate trade in freshwater fisheries based on geographical location of the stakeholders. The Pradhan MantriMatsyaSampadaYojana, a scheme to bring about the 'blue revolution' is being implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore. The Centre has allocated Rs 1,879 crore towards the scheme in 2022-23, while `1,200 crore was allocated under revised estimates in 2020-21.

38. Recently In March *India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), Hoegh Giant, arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal In _____ ?*

- A. West Bengal
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), Hoegh Giant, arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra on Tuesday. With the berthing, the FSRU will now be gearing up towards commissioning in the coming weeks.

India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), Hoegh Giant, arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra on Tuesday. With the berthing, the FSRU will now be gearing up towards commissioning in the coming weeks. The Hoegh Giant will deliver re-gasified LNG to the 56-km long Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline, connecting the LNG terminal to the national gas grid.

DarshanHiranandani, CEO, H-Energy

39. Recently In March Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** launched the '**Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**' Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs _____ will be given to women on the birth of second girl child ?

- A. Rs 2000
- B. Rs 3000
- C. Rs 4000
- D. Rs 5000**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' and gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood at a state-level conference held here on Monday, a day before International Women's Day,

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be given to women on the birth of second girl child,

On the occasion, the chief minister felicitated Anganwadi workers, officials doing excellent work in the direction of women protection under 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihan Yojana'.

He also released 'Kanya Vivah Yojana' Coffee Table Book, Sakhi One Stop Center Telephone Directory, and brochures of schemes related to women empowerment.

40. Recently In February In First _____ And **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai**, are jointly conducting **OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition**, the bi-annual event for global marine researchers?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IISc Bangalore

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, are jointly conducting OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition, the bi-annual event for global marine researchers, technologists and engineers, students, and policymakers, from Feb 21 -24.

OCEANS is being conducted in India for the first time, coordinated by the department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Ocean Engineering Society (IEEE OES) and Marine Technology Society (MTS). The conference is being held in hybrid mode.

41. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Report* :

- 1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its Climate Report 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' Sixth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2022.**
- 2. Both the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river basins will also see increased flooding as a result of climate change, particularly if warming exceeds 1.5° C.**
- 3. According to the report, high levels of warming could cause a global GDP decline of 10.23 per cent by the end of the century, compared to a world without warming.**

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**

According to the second installment of IPCC Working Group II report on Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, "Only 7 per cent of all disaster events were drought related between 1970 and 2019, yet they contributed disproportionately to 34 per cent of disaster related death, mostly in Africa."

Climate change and rising demand mean about 40 per cent of people in India will live with water scarcity by 2050 compared with about 33 per cent now, according to a study cited by the report.

Both the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river basins will also see increased flooding as a result of climate change, particularly

if warming exceeds 1.5° C. In India, rice production can decrease by 10 to 30 per cent and maize 25 to 70 per cent assuming a temperature increase of 1° to 4° C,

According to the report, high levels of warming could cause a global GDP decline of 10.23 per cent by the end of the century, compared to a world without warming.

Temperatures may hit ‘unsurvivable’ levels if emissions are not cut: IPCC

High levels of warming could cause a global GDP decline of 10-23% by 2100

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, February 28

The Centre's focus on natural farming through traditional method can get a leg up as the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that indigenous, traditional and local knowledge have increased drought resilience among crop and livestock farmers in India. It has also warned that the country will be seriously harmed if emissions are not cut amid rising temperature.

According to the second installment of IPCC Working Group II report on *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, “Only 7 per cent of all disaster events were drought-related between 1970 and 2019, yet they contributed disproportionately to 34 per cent of disaster-related death, mostly in Africa.”

Climate change and rising demand mean about 40 per cent of people in India will live with water scarcity by 2050 compared with about 33 per cent now, according to a study cited by the report.

Repercussions

Both the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river basins will also see increased flooding as a result of climate change, particularly if warming exceeds 1.5°C.

In India, rice production can decrease by 10 to 30 per cent and maize 25 to 70 per cent assuming a temperature increase of 1° to 4° C, it said.

These factors, along with salt-water intrusion from sea-level rise, will harm agriculture in India, which, according to the report, is the most vulnerable country in Asia in terms of crop production. Rice, wheat, pulses,



Climate-related risks to agriculture in Asia will progressively escalate with the changing climate

coarse cereal yields could fall almost 9 per cent by 2050. In South India, maize production could decrease 17 per cent if emissions are high. These disruptions are expected to cause price spikes, threatening food affordability, food security and economic growth.

Wet-bulb temperatures

Also continued climate change will cause a decline in the fisheries output.

Referring to wet-bulb temperatures, a measure of heat and humidity, the report warned that if emissions continue to rise, wet-bulb temperatures will approach or exceed the unsurvivable limit of 35° C over much of India, and 31° C or more over majority area.

“Currently, wet-bulb temperatures in India rarely exceed 31° C, with most of the country experiencing maximum wet-bulb temperatures of 25-30°,” said the report. A wet-bulb temperature

of 31° C is extremely dangerous for humans and 35° C unsurvivable for more than about six hours, even for fit and healthy adults resting in the shade.

Water scarcity

“By mid-21st Century, the international transboundary river basins of Amu Darya, Indus, Ganges and inter-State Sabarmati-river basin in India could face severe water scarcity challenges with climate change acting as a stress multiplier,” it said.

Warning about the sea level rise, the report said, “By the middle of the century, around 35 million Indians could face annual coastal flooding, with 45-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high,” it said.

GDP decline

According to the report, high levels of warming could cause a global GDP decline of 10-23 per cent by the end of the century, compared to a world without warming.

Unemployment rate rises again, at 6-month high

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE rose to a six-month high of 8.1% in February, after it ebbed to a 10-month low of 6.57% in January, reports **Surya Sarathi Ray** in **New Delhi**. The rise is mainly due to a 251 basis points jump in the rural joblessness rate to 8.35%, the highest level in eight months.

GST revenues cross 1.3 lakh crore in Feb.

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in February was 26% higher than the pre-pandemic levels at ₹1,33,026 crore, the Finance Ministry said.

The collections are 18%

higher than those of February 2021 and mark the fifth time that GST revenues have crossed ₹1.3 lakh crore since its launch in July 2017.

Revenues from import of goods were 38% higher year-on-year, while revenues from domestic transaction,

including import of services, were 12% higher than the revenues from these sources during February 2021.

GST Compensation Cess collections crossed ₹10,000 crore in a month for the first time in February, which the Ministry said “signifies re-

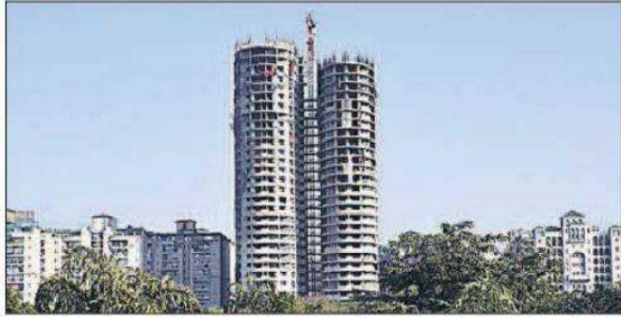
covery of certain key sectors, especially, automobile sales”.

The cess collections in February were ₹10,340 crore, and included ₹638 crore collected on import of goods.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

{ MY INDIA } SUPREME COURT TOLD

'Supertech twin towers will be demolished by May 22'



Work on the demolition of the 32-storey twin towers situated at Supertech's Emerald Court society in Noida has begun and will be over by May 22, the Noida authority told the Supreme Court on Monday. In a status report, the authority said the demolition work began on February 20 after getting approval by all stakeholders, adding that it will be a six-month exercise. In the next three months ending August 22, the debris will be cleared by Edifice Engineering, the firm engaged by Supertech to carry out the demolition, the report added. A bench of justices Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant took the report on record and said, "All concerned agencies, including Noida authority and Supertech will strictly comply with the time schedule in the report." Posting the matter for May 17, the court directed Noida authority to file an updated status report before the next date of hearing. The Supreme Court ordered the demolition of the twin towers on August 31 last year, after the residents of the project claimed that the buildings were in violation of the National Building Code.

→PS

Police chief launches 3 digital initiatives for better service

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To improve the service delivery system and ensure the safety and security of people, Delhi Police commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Monday launched three digital initiatives.

These are the QR code-based feedback system (Anubhuti), the refurbished Delhi Police website and the e-Chittha portal. Speaking on the occasion, the police commissioner said that these three initiatives have added a new dimension in the digitisation and modernisation of Delhi Police.

During the launch of these initiatives, a robocop was also present at the dais in PHQ to hand over the remote to CP Delhi for inauguration. An officer said that this is a high-tech robot that they are exploring.

According to police, the Anubhuti feedback management system will establish a two-way communication



During the launch of these initiatives, a robocop was also present at the dais

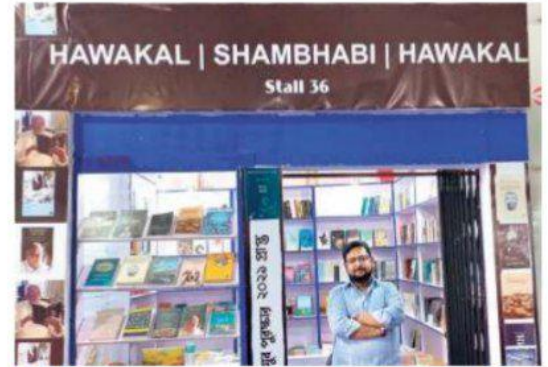
with the public and improve the working by analysing the feedback.

"Citizens visiting the police station have to scan the QR code of the police station and mark the feedback responses," the officer said, adding that the identity of the user will not be disclosed.

Police said the refurbished user-friendly and more informative website of Delhi Police will be quite useful for citizens to know about their services at one click.

Book fair kicks off to delight of Kolkatans

Bangladesh is the theme country



Bitan Chakraborty of Hawakal Publishers at the Kolkata Book Fair, which began on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

The eagerly-awaited Kolkata Book Fair got under way on Monday, much to the relief of small publishers and the delight of the lovers of the printed word.

Inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the fair, which will go on till March 13, is being held after a gap of a little over two years, the longest book lovers in the city have been deprived of it.

It was last held from January 31 to February 9 in 2020 – just weeks before COVID-19 forced a nationwide lockdown – and the issue that dominated the event at the time was the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which was strongly opposed by West Bengal.

"It's always a pleasure to meet new readers, especially when they are curious to know about our new releases. It's even more rewarding when somebody from a distant location comes to pick up a few books they want to buy but could not order online due to delivery issues. In 2020, we were acknowledged as the best small stall and the footfall had enhanced overnight," said Bitan Chakraborty, founder of

Hawakal Publishers and a writer himself, as he assumed his position at the stall.

Book lover Arpita Mandal, once upon a time a regular at the fair but who now lives in the Caribbean, was all set to fly back after a short visit to Kolkata when she was forced to postpone her return, giving her a chance to relive her memories after 16 long years.

"It was an yearly ritual when I was growing up, first with parents and then with friends. Initially, it was Feluda and Byomkesh, then Nancy Drew and Agatha Christie. Even if the queues were long, one endured it because of books, food and friends. Many new Indian writers are now on the scene. In fact, a few of my contacts are now writers and their books will be released during the fair; I am so looking forward to visiting those stalls," said the Jamaica-based Dr. Mandal, an associate professor at the University of West Indies.

Bangladesh, which celebrated 50 years of freedom in 2021, the year the fair could not be held, is the theme country from where 50 publishers are participating in the event.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Pune Metro Rail Project on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

PM to chair webinars on infra, divestment

ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 6 March

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi will chair webinars on infrastructure (infra) and divestment-related Budget announcements on March 8 and March 9, respectively.

The objectives of these meetings will be to brainstorm with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and industry, and identify strategies on how best to move forward towards implementation of various issues under different sectors.

The finance ministry said in a statement that the webinar on Tuesday will see participation from 16 ministries, NITI Aayog, Capacity Building Commission, and state governments. It will also include participation from regulators like the Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, GIFT City, industry associations, subject matter experts, and the investor community.

While the official statement only spoke about the infra meeting, sources told *Business Standard* that a similar webinar will be held on privatisation, asset monetisation, and other divestment plans of the government on Wednesday. These are part of a series of post-Budget interactions being chaired by the PM and organised by various ministries on the implementation of the Budget announcements.

"Representatives from various infra companies, real estate

investment trusts, infra investment trusts, and funds will attend the webinar on Tuesday. The focus will be on various means of infra financing, project implementation, and opportunities for private sector," said an official.

According to the ministry, the webinar will have breakaway sessions on themes, including infra financing, financing sectors with high employment potential, creating enablers of infra, navigating the digital opportunity for banking and finance, climate and sustainable finance, and financing for sunrise sectors.

"Through the webinar, the Ministry of Finance seeks to get valuable inputs on ways to accelerate the pace and achieve the agenda of the themes. By leveraging stakeholders' expertise and experience, an action plan for effective implementation of growth reforms will be catalysed," it said.

High-multiplier infra projects are the main thrust of the Centre's plans to revive the economy after three waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. The focus will be on roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics infra, as laid down in the PM Gati Shakti Mission. The Centre will also provide push in energy transmission, technology, bulk water and sewerage, and social infra.

To this end, the 2022-23 (FY23) capital expenditure (capex) target as laid out by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is ₹7.5 trillion, which includes ₹1 trillion in 50-year interest-free loans to states for their capex needs.

{ UNVEILS SHIVAJI STATUE }

Modi launches infra projects on Pune visit

Abhay Khairnar,
Jigar Hindocha and
Dheeraj Bengrut

letters@hindustantimes.com

PUNE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Pune Municipal Corporation and inaugurated a slew of development projects, including a 12 km stretch of the Pune Metro Rail Project, during his visit to the city on Sunday.

The Prime Minister, who landed at the Lohegaon International Airport here at 10.30 am, began his tour by visiting the municipal corporation headquarters to unveil the 9.5-foot tall statue, which is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal. He also paid floral tribute at a statue of social reformer Jyotiba Phule.

"Unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune. His life and ideals are a source of great inspiration," he tweeted.

Following this, the Prime Minister flagged off the Pune metro rail project at Garware metro station and proceeded to take the metro ride to Anandnagar station, nearly five km away.

Built at a cost of over ₹11,400 crore, Modi had laid the foundation stone for the metro project on December 24, 2016.

The Union government is proactively working on enhancing the means of the mass transport system at a rapid scale, Modi said.

"Earlier (during past governments), the foundation laying used to take place, but it was not known when the inauguration of the same project would take place," he added.

"...for decades, we had such systems that the completion of important projects used to take a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Pune on Sunday. PTI

long time. This sluggish attitude has been affecting development of the country as well," he said.

Modi's remarks came a day after Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar alleged that the Prime Minister would inaugurate an "incomplete Metro project."

The Prime Minister also attended the golden jubilee celebrations of Symbiosis University and addressed a public meet at MIT college ground.

At Symbiosis University, Modi attributed the success of the ongoing 'Operation Ganga' for

evacuating citizens stranded in war-torn Ukraine to India's growing influence in the global arena.

"Several big countries are facing difficulties in doing so for their citizens," he added.

Modi also urged the students to take full advantage of the opening up of various sectors as India is the third-largest startup ecosystem of the world.

The Prime Minister also virtually inaugurated a modern art gallery-cum-museum dedicated to legendary cartoonist R K Laxman, who passed away in 2015.

81 infra projects make it to Gati Shakti list

Road projects top the pecking order, states to upload data by March-end

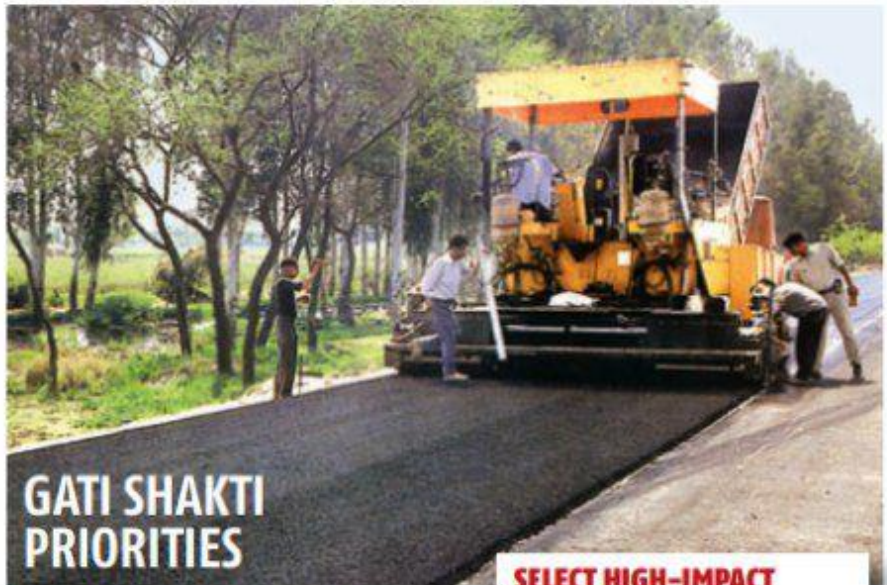
SHREYA NANDI
 New Delhi, 6 March

The industry department has identified 81 high-impact projects under various infrastructure ministries for the government's Gati Shakti initiative. These projects will be closely monitored in 2022-23, according to officials.

Major industrial corridors of National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), key expressways and highways, such as 1,257-km Amritsar-Jamnagar expressway, 1,350-km Delhi-Mumbai expressway, and 210-km Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun expressway, and the world's largest broadband project BharatNet will be among the government's priority projects, two officials told Business Standard.

Of the 81 high-impact projects that have been identified, 50 per cent belong to the ministry of road transport and highways, followed by others. "These projects have been tagged under PM Gati Shakti and are being closely monitored," said one of the officials cited above.

The development assumes significance, with the government pinning Gati Shakti as one of its four priorities for the next financial year, as laid out in the Union Budget 2022-23. Speedy implementation of infrastructure projects is expected to have a multiplier effect by creating demand and jobs, thereby



- GATI SHAKTI PRIORITIES**
- Develop online tools for obtaining clearances, such as environment, CRZ
 - Identification of critical gaps to fix connectivity issues in infra projects
 - Ensure all states and ministries implement infra projects using Gati Shakti tool

- SELECT HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS**
- Industrial corridors of NICDC, Amritsar-Jamnagar expressway, Delhi-Mumbai expressway, Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun expressway, and BharatNet

accelerating growth.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2021, Gati Shakti — a digital portal — is currently in a test phase; officials said a full-fledged launch can be expected by the end of this month. An exercise is being conducted to integrate the existing portal and data of key infrastructure ministries, as well as

state governments. The Union Budget 2022-23 has made a provision of assistance worth ₹1 trillion for states so that state governments can use this amount on multimodal infrastructure. **Turn to Page 4 ▶**

PM TO CHAIR WEBINARS ON INFRA, DIVESTMENT 6▶

International News

42. Consider The Following Statement **Regarding NATO** Which Of The Following Is Incorrect :

1. NATO is a military alliance that was formed in 1949 by 12 countries, including the US, Canada, the UK and France.
2. NATO member countries include 2 North American countries, 27 European countries and 1 Eurasian country.
3. **Last Country to join NATO is - Ukraine**
4. NATO's headquarters are located in located in Brussels, Belgium.

NATO is a military alliance that was formed in 1949 by 12 countries, including the US, Canada, the UK and France. NATO's full form is North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

NATO was formed largely to counter the threat from the Soviet Union post World War II. The USSR had created its own military alliance in 1955 to counter NATO, called the Warsaw pact. Warsaw got disbanded with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990 and several of Warsaw pact countries became NATO members.

NATO's purpose is to implement the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on April 4, 1949. NATO constitutes a system of collective security. NATO's headquarters are located in located in Brussels, Belgium.

NATO member countries include 2 North American countries, 27 European countries and 1 Eurasian country.

Last Country to join NATO is - North Macedonia , Ukraine is not a NATO member country. Ukraine is though a NATO partner country, which means that it may join the NATO in the future.

43. Recently In March **Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant** Which Was Seen In News Recently Located In Which Of The Following Country?

- A. Poland
- B. **Ukraine**
- C. Russia
- D. Belarus

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend

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

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant: Russia has captured Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is the largest in Europe. This comes after intense fighting was reported in the region between Russian and defending Ukrainian forces following shelling by Russian military.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. It is located in southeastern Ukraine, near the city of Enerhodar, on the Dnieper river. The Zaporizhzhia power plant accounts for about one-quarter of Ukraine's power generation.

Ukraine's State Emergency Service reported that the fire had been put out at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station. The fire was reported in a building identified as a training centre.

44. Recently In March India and _____ are commemorating 75th anniversary of the beginning of their diplomatic relations in 2022. ?

- A. *Netherland***
- B. *Australia***
- C. *Germany***
- D. *Canada***

India and the Netherlands are commemorating 75th anniversary of the beginning of their diplomatic relations in 2022.

To mark the occasion, special logo was unveiled on 2nd March 2022. The logo features a lotus and a tulip – the national flowers of both countries.

Netherlands presented 3000 fresh tulips to India, as a symbol of friendship.

India and the Netherlands had established diplomatic relations in 1947. In FY 2019-20, Netherlands was the third largest investor in India after Mauritius and Singapore.

In FY 2019-20, Netherlands was the fourth highest destination for overseas direct investment (ODI) from India. It was also the fourth largest ODI destination in FY 2020-21.

Dutch Indo Water 3 Alliance Leadership Initiative has been created to identify solutions for water-related challenges, in which both nations can collaborate to build solutions.

Netherlands capital is Amsterdam and currency is Euro.

45. Recently In March _____ UN Environment Assembly ended with _____ resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

- A. *3rd, 12***
- B. *4th, 13***

C. 5th , 14

D. 6th , 16

The Fifth UN Environment Assembly ended with 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The overall theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Three resolutions were related to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, resource efficiency, consumption, and production patterns.

Member countries also signed a resolution on animal welfare for protecting animals, and their habitats.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution to accelerate actions to significantly reduce nitrogen waste from all sources.

Member nations agreed to create an intergovernmental committee to negotiate and finalize a legally binding plastics treaty by 2024. UN Environment Assembly brings together businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to resolve environmental challenges. It has 193 members.

UN environment meet: 175 nations sign mandate to curb use of plastic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

ONE HUNDRED and seventy-five countries, parties to the United Nations Environment Assembly, on Wednesday signed a mandate which makes it legally binding for the signatories to address the full life of plastics – from production to disposal, to end plastic pollution. An International Negotiating Committee will now be tasked with drafting and ratifying over the mandate over next two years.

A Global Plastics Treaty adhering to the blueprint laid out in Wednesday’s mandate will join the Montreal Protocol and the

Paris Climate Agreement as one of the most significant international environmental laws in history.

“Historic step at UNEA 5.2. 175 nations endorse a resolution to beat plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024. Under leadership of our PM Narendra Modi, India has already taken resolute steps to address plastic pollution,” Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel Yadav tweeted.

According to the mandate, the treaty will tackle the whole life cycle of plastic – not just post-consumer waste. This is a critical shift in policymakers’ approach, which previously focused on plastic as a “marine litter” issue.

The mandate recommends measures to tackle plastic production, which as of now is slated to almost quadruple by 2050, and take up 10-13% of global carbon budget, endangering climate. It also recommends addressing the toxic burden of plastic.

Dharmesh Shah, senior technical adviser with Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, said, “The basis for negotiations were the three draft resolutions, a joint one by Rwanda-Peru endorsed by 60 countries.... To streamline the process, co-facilitators of the working group cluster, Canada and Ghana, merged texts of Rwanda-Peru and Japan, which became the base document for negotiations...”

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46. Recently In March **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has recently placed UAE on Which Of The Following List ?

- A. Blue List
- B. Grey List**
- C. Black List
- D. White List

FATF has said that UAE hasn't taken enough steps to stop criminals and militants from hiding wealth there.

UAE government had formed an Executive Office to combat illicit flows in the country.

Financial Action Task Force has retained Pakistan on its "grey list".

The FATF's "grey list" is not as severe as its "black list". India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

It is an intergovernmental organization.

It was established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing, and other related threats for the integrity of the international financial system.

Currently, it has 39 members including two regional organizations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

North Korea and Iran are currently on the FATF's black list.

FATF retains Pak. on its terror funding 'grey list'

Country meets 32 of 34 action points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF has retained Pakistan on its terrorism financing "grey list" and asked Islamabad to address at the earliest the remaining deficiencies in its financial system, according to a media report on Saturday.

Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.

Since then, the country continues to be on that list due to its failure to comply

with the FATF mandates.

The plenary on Friday decided against exiting Pakistan from the category despite the country meeting 32 out of 34 action points, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

Commendable efforts

However, Pakistan's robust progress on its global commitments to fight financial crimes was appreciated at the concluding session of its hybrid plenary meeting, which noted that Pakistan had completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 action plan of the FATF and of the seven action items of the 2021 action plan of the watchdog's Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering.



Mobile World Congress '22 starts in Spain with focus on 5G and economic recovery

Staff writer

feedback@livemint.com

Global 5G subscriptions are expected to breach the 1 billion mark in 2022 with rapid adoption in key markets, according to the Global Mobile Economy Report released on Monday at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

"In 2021, mobile technology and services generated \$4.5 trillion in economic value, equating to 5% of global gross domestic product (GDP). This will grow to \$5 trillion in 2025. The report within three years 5G will account for around a quarter of mobile connections, with over two in five people, worldwide, living within the reach of a 5G network.

Focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries was the main theme of this year's event organized by GSMA.



Focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting nations was the main theme of the event organized by GSMA. REUTERS

Mats Granryd, director general, GSMA, emphasised the importance of a responsible leadership in investments for global telecom networks--the engines of growth for a post-pandemic economic recovery. "Responsible leadership is the way to reject the vision to innovate for global recovery

and to unleash the full power of connectivity to transform lives and society," he added.

According to Granryd, the global telecom industry will invest \$600 billion till 2025 in mobile capex and 85% of it will be on 5G.

GSMA said investments in digital skills training, utilising

public funds for connectivity, adopting a balanced approach to collecting revenues through taxes and fees in the mobile sector, and prioritising digital transformation in government services, will be key to achieve a resilient post-covid recovery.

4G connections, on the other hand, will account for 55% of the total numbers by 2025, down from its peak of 58% in 2021.

It will have more room to grow in Sub-Saharan Africa, where adoption of 4G is below one-fifth of the total number of connections.

Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, Amazon Web Services chief executive Adam Selipsky, Federal Communications Commission chairperson Jessica Rosenworcel, and Qualcomm president and chief executive Cristiano Amon are expected to deliver keynote addresses at the Mobile World Congress.

Ilker Ayci turns down CEO role at Air India

FORUM GANDHI

Mumbai, March 1

Ilker Ayci, who was named the CEO of Air India, has declined to take up the assignment. His appointment was announced by the Tata Group on February 14.

"My appointment at Air India within Tata Group was announced earlier in February, with a start date of April 1. Since the announcement, I have been carefully following news in some sections of the Indian media attempting to colour my appointment with undesirable colours," Ayci said in a statement on Tuesday afternoon.

He said that he is a person who has always prioritised professional credo and, importantly, the happiness and well being of his family above all else. "I have come to the conclusion that it would not be a feasible or an honourable decision to accept the position in the shadow of such narrative."

This comes in the wake of reports that the government was not happy with Ayci's appoint-



Ilker Ayci

ment due to his links with the Turkish regime. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a staunch supporter of Pakistan and often stands against India on the International platform.

Earlier, Ayci was the Chairman of Turkish Airlines.

The Tatas had sought the government's approval for Ayci's appointment. Background checks are routine for foreign nationals appointed to key positions in any Indian company. However, the approval has not come through for Ayci.

Industry watchers said that Ayci may have anticipated the scenario of the government rejecting his appointment due to his political connections.

The Tata Group did not offer a comment.

Banking / Economy News

47. Recently In March _____ has become an **official partner for TATA IPL**, as per the announcement made by the **Indian Premier League Governing Council** announced on March 3, 2022 Which Is A Flagship Product Of _____ ?

- a. Unacademy, Edutech
- b. Rupay, NPCI**
- c. Paytm, NPCI
- d. PhonePe, RBI

RuPay has become an official partner for TATA IPL, as per the announcement made by the Indian Premier League Governing Council announced on March 3, 2022. RuPay is a flagship product of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This will be a multi-year partnership.

RuPay is the first-of-its-kind Global Card payment network from India. It provides a self-reliant card payments network with innovative features that have made it a successful interoperable card.

RuPay cards are widely accepted at POS devices, ATMs as well as on e-commerce websites TATA IPL 2022 will start on March 26th and the final will be played on May 29, 2022. The tournament will be played in Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra. A total of 70 league matches will be played across four international venues in Mumbai and Pune.

IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel NPCI was incorporated in 2008. It is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

48. Recently In March FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched a major e-governance initiative-**Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system on occasion of _____ Civil Accounts Day celebration. E-Bill System Is further step to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system.**

- A. 17TH
- B. 46TH**
- C. 43rd
- D. 48th

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend

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FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched a major e-governance initiative-Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system on occasion of 46th Civil Accounts Day celebration.

As announced in the Budget 2022-23, the e-bill system will be implemented in all central ministries and departments.

It is a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system.

Suppliers and contractors will now be able to file their claims online, which can be tracked in real-time.

46th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated on 1st March 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

Civil Accounts Day is celebrated every year on 1st March. The Departmentalization of Union Accounts (Transfer of Personnel) Act, 1976 came into force on 1 March 1976.

49. Recently In **March Centre's fiscal deficit for April to January 2022 stood at _____ ?**

- A. **Rs 9.38 Lakh Cr**
- B. Rs 15.38 Lakh Cr
- C. Rs 12.69 Lakh Cr
- D. Rs 14.58 Lakh Cr

The Centre's fiscal deficit for April-January FY22 came in at Rs 9.38 trillion, or 58.9 per cent of full-year Revised Estimates, compared with 66.8 per cent for the same period last year, on the back of higher tax proceeds, official data showed In April-December 2021, Centre's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 7.59 lakh crore. This was 50.4% of budgeted fiscal deficit of Rs 15.06 lakh crore.

Till January 2022, center's capital expenditure was Rs 4.42 lakh crore. This is 73.4% of revised estimate of Rs 6.02 lakh crore.

Fiscal Deficit is defined as the difference between the government's total income and total expenditure when government's expenditure exceeds its revenue in a year.

Fiscal Deficit indicates total borrowings required by government.

50. Recently In March **APEDA Partnered With _____ To train farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in five districts of UP as part of a five-year plan to boost agricultural exports ?**

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

The names of five districts are Varanasi, Mirzapur, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur and Chandauli.

In the initial phase, 30 FPOs in these five districts of Uttar Pradesh will be trained.

Earlier this week, both APEDA and NABARD have agreed to launch training programme at the earliest.

Nabard Consultancy Services (NABCONS) will be the project manager to implement the training programme.

In 2020, government had launched “Formation and Promotion of FPOs” scheme.

Under the scheme, 10,000 new FPOs are targeted to be formed by 2027-28. As part of this scheme, Centre grants up to ₹33 lakh as handholding and financial support for five years to each new FPO.

51. Recently In March _____ has *partnered with Mahagram to launch ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in _____ ?*

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

Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with Mahagram to launch ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha.

The partnership will provide access to the doorstep and hassle-free banking services to the people of Odisha.

Mahagram, a rural fintech company, has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep.

Bank of Maharashtra is a scheduled public sector bank headquartered in Pune.

52. Recently In March _____ and *CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd* have entered into partnership For The loans That will be provided to citizens through CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd’s network of over four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) ?

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Axis Bank
- C. LIC Housing Finance Ltd**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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LIC Housing Finance Ltd and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd have entered into partnership. Under this partnership, loans will be provided to citizens through CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd's network of over four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

To get the loans, customers can approach their nearest CSC office with Know Your Customer (KYC) documents.

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited has been set up by Ministry of Electronics & IT under the Companies Act, 1956 to oversee the implementation of the Common Services Centers (CSC) scheme.

LIC Housing Finance Ltd is a subsidiary company of LIC. It is one of India's largest Housing Finance Mortgage loan companies.

53. Recently In March Reserve Bank Of India Has Signed e amendment and restatement agreement of the bilateral swap agreement (BSA) Of _____ ?

- A. USD 50 Million
- B. USD 75 Million**
- C. USD 25 Million
- D. USD 60 Million

India and Japan renewed bilateral swap arrangement of up to \$75 billion.

The Bank of Japan and the RBI signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the bilateral swap agreement (BSA).

It aims to strengthen financial safety nets and promote cooperation between both countries.

The Bilateral swap agreement is a two-way arrangement to swap the local currency in exchange of the Dollar.

Prime Ministers of India and Japan had negotiated the Bilateral swap agreement in 2018. It will bring greater stability to foreign exchange. India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on 16 February, 2011. India and Japan have upgraded their bilateral relations to 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.

54. Recently In March _____ announced that it will be developing National Gender Index. National Gender Index will measure the gaps in gender equality and help the government in framing policy related to gender equality

- A. DPIIT
- B. BAARC**

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C. Niti Aayog

D. NCPCR

NITI Aayog is developing National Gender Index.

National Gender Index will measure the gaps in gender equality and help the government in framing policy related to gender equality.

It will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

It will act as a tool to measure the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics.

NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index.

Clean energy initiatives, generation capacity, environmental sustainability and new initiatives, affordability and reliability of energy, and energy efficiency are the indicators of the State Energy and Climate Index. The index will assist states in managing their energy resources more efficiently

55. Recently In March _____ will be first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel Which Will Be Constructed By _____ ?

A. British Airlines, Saint Gobin

B. Swiss Airlines, Synhelion

C. SpiceJet, SPIC

D. IndiGo, Aston Energy

Swiss International Air Lines AG commonly referred to as Swiss or Swiss Air Lines will be first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel.

Synhelion has devised a process, which uses concentrated sunlight to produce carbon-neutral kerosene.

This year, Synhelion will construct world's first facility for industrial production of solar fuel in Germany. Swiss will become first consumer for solar kerosene in 2023.

As part of the agreement, Swiss and its parent company Lufthansa will also support Synhelion's commercial fuel production facility in Spain.

Synhelion is a company. It uses solar energy to change CO₂ and water into syngas. Solar kerosene, diesel, gasoline, or hydrogen are the end products of the process. Solar fuels are synthetic fuels that are produced from solar energy.

56. Recently In February _____ and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) signed a MoU in order to realize green energy objectives and Government of India's efforts towards carbon-neutral economy. ?

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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- A. HPCL**
- B. IOCL**
- C. NTPC**
- D. SJVN**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed in order to realize green energy objectives and Government of India's efforts towards carbon-neutral economy.

MoU envisages cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy and Electric Mobility.

It also envisages cooperation in the field of alternative fuels including the development of ESG Projects.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, which is owned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

It is the third-largest oil refining and fuel marketing company in the country. Its headquarters is in Mumbai.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI):

It is Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

It was set up in September 2011 to facilitate the implementation of National Solar Mission.

57. Recently In March In A First Of Its Kind _____ partnered with UNESCO to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India to transform the landscape of tourism in the post-COVID 19 world.

- A. Federation Of Hotel Management**
- B. Indian Hotels Company Ltd**
- C. Adani Green**
- D. Reliance Industries**

Indian Hotels Company Ltd partnered with UNESCO to preserve intangible cultural heritage in India.

It is the first of its kind collaboration to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India.

This partnership is part of the initiative to transform the landscape of tourism in the post-COVID 19 world.

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by 178 countries in 2003. Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) represents the "living" heritage of a country. India has 14 Intangible Cultural Heritage. It includes KumbhMela, Kutiyattam, Durga Puja etc.

IHCL and UNESCO will offer special tours packages for a better experience of the living heritage of India. UNESCO: It was established on 16 November 1945. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations based in Paris, France.

58. Recently In March Which of the following bank licences has the RBI recently revoked?

- A. SarjeraodadaNaikShiralaSahakari Bank
- B. BavlaNagarikSahakari Bank Limited
- C. Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank
- D. Ahmedabad Mercantile Cooperative Bank

The license of Sangli-based SarjeraodadaNaikShiralaSahakari Bank Ltd has been cancelled due to lack of adequate capital and earning prospects.

The bank with its present financial position is unable to pay its present depositors in full.

RBI has prohibited it from conducting business, which also includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits.

The bank is not complying with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim up to Rs 5,00,000 from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

RBI has also given an order to appoint a liquidator for the SarjeraodadaNaikShiralaSahakari Bank Ltd.

59. Recently In March Ministry of Culture Organized “Swacchagraha: celebrating Swachhta and Swadhinta” event in collaboration with _____ to encourage mass awareness with focus on “Swachhta, Swadhinta, and Sulabh” ?

- A. Usha International
- B. Sulabh International
- C. Wish Foundation
- D. State Bank Of India

Ministry of Culture to organize “Swacchagraha: celebrating Swachhta and Swadhinta” event in collaboration with Sulabh International.

It will be organized as part of AzadikaAmritMahotsav on 5 March to encourage mass awareness with focus on “Swachhta, Swadhinta, and Sulabh”.

This event will be conducted in two sessions and many eminent personalities like Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Baba Ramdev, Prof. KameshwarNath Singh will participate in this event.

On this occasion, a special screening of the AmritMahotsav film will be also done.

The evening session themed ‘EkShaam Sur, TaalaurSwachhtakeNaam’ will be addressed by Chief Guest Vijay Goel.

60. Recently In March _____ and Jupitice have signed MoU to offer digitalised Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services and become India's first-ever fully-digitalized ADR Centre to provide online institutional ADR services?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation (IIAM)**
- C. NitiAayog
- D. DPIIT

IIAM and Jupitice have signed MoU to offer digitalised Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services. Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation (IIAM) will become India's first-ever fully-digitalized ADR Centre to provide online institutional ADR services.

Jupitice, world's first Justice Technology (JusTech) company, will provide its technological support to IIAM.

IIAM's ADR Centre will get digital transformation and disputants will be able to prepare their pleadings and upload supporting documents on a single platform remotely.

They will also be able to draft and submit proposals, appear online and conduct the entire proceedings on a single platform remotely.

IIAM will become India's first ADR institution to conduct its end-to-end operations online. IIAM provides institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services. It was started in 2001. It is a non-profit organization registered in India.

61. Recently In March RBI has exempted investments by **Primary UCBs in the capital of Umbrella Organisation (UO) from the non-SLR securities holding limitations**. As per RBI's 2009 circular on 'Investments in Non-SLR securities by Primary UCBs', non-Statutory Liquidity Ratio (non-SLR) investments were limited to _____ % of total deposits of the bank as on March 31 of the previous year ?

- A. 10 %**
- B. 20 %
- C. 40 %
- D. 30 %

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RBI has exempted investments by Primary UCBs in the capital of Umbrella Organisation (UO) from the non-SLR securities holding limitations.

This will encourage Primary urban co-operative banks (UCBs) to subscribe to the capital of UO and acquire its membership.

As per RBI's 2009 circular on 'Investments in Non-SLR securities by Primary UCBs', non-Statutory Liquidity Ratio (non-SLR) investments were limited to 10% of total deposits of the bank as on March 31 of the previous year. According to the same circular, investments in unlisted securities were not to exceed 10% of the total non-SLR investments at any time.

In June 2019, RBI gave regulatory approval to National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd. (NAFCUB) for the formation of a UO for the UCB sector. The approval also permitted UCBs to subscribe to the capital of the UO on a voluntary basis. Debentures/bonds, preference shares, equity shares, mutual fund units, commercial paper, and investment in securities issued by a securitisation/reconstruction company are Non-SLR securities.

62. Recently In March _____ has sanctioned ₹1,000 crore loan to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC) as part of its plan to widen credit growth and funding infrastructure.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Indian Overseas Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. Bank Of Maharashtra

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has sanctioned ₹1,000 crore loan to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC).

The bank has already disbursed ₹500 crore of the total sanctioned amount to JKIDFC.

The bank has sanctioned loans as part of its plan to widen credit growth and funding infrastructure.

Indian Overseas Bank is a nationalized bank headquartered in Chennai. Partha Pratim Sengupta is its MD and CEO.

63. Recently In March _____ Has Launched \$25-million Agri Seed Fund to support emerging and new-age start-ups in agriculture sector?

- A. Snapchat
- B. Ninjacart**
- C. Flipkart
- D. Google

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\$25-million Agri Seed Fund launched by Flipkart-backed agtech platform, Ninjacart.

The fund has been launched to support emerging and new-age start-ups in agriculture sector. Ninjacart will make seed investments in start-ups, entrepreneurs and tech innovators who provide unique, sustainable and tech-enabled solutions.

Ninjacart will also lend these startups access to the agri-platforms extensive technology infrastructure.

Ninjacart is largest Fresh Produce Supply Chain Company of India.

64. Recently In March **Tata Elxsi** has partnered with _____ for establishment of a design centre in Bengaluru for electric vehicles?

- A. Jaguar
- B. Mercedes
- C. **Renasas**
- D. KiYA

Tata Elxsi and Renesas Electronics Corporation have announced partnership.

The partnership is for establishment of a design centre in Bengaluru for electric vehicles.

Renasas Electronics Corporation is a Japanese company. It is an advanced semiconductor solutions provider.

Tata Elxsi is a design and technology services company of Tata Group.

65. Recently In March _____ and **Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL)** will collaborate for coal gasification projects ?

- A. IOCL
- B. BPCL
- C. **Coal India**
- D. HPCL

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Coal India (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) will collaborate for coal gasification projects. Coal Ministry aims to achieve 100 MT gasification by 2030. For this, CIL has taken up four projects.

The projects will be implemented in phases. In the first phase, the project based on low ash coal available in CIL will be taken up.

In August 2020, Coal Minister has said that India aims for 100 MT coal gasification by 2030 with ₹4 lakh crore investments.

India has reserve of about 344 billion tonne (BT) of non-coking coal. Out of this, 163 BT are proven reserves.

Coal gasification is cleaner option than burning of coal. Syngas, produced from gasification, can be used to produce gaseous fuels such as hydrogen, substitute natural gas (SNG or Methane) and Di-Methyl Ether (DME).

66. Recently In March Hero **MotoCorp** launched new electric mobility brand named as _____ Will The Company produce electric vehicles at a factory in _____ ?
- A. Hira, Pune
 - B. Vida, Chittoor**
 - C. Maeastro, Mumbai
 - D. Activa, Chittoor

Hero MotoCorp launched new electric mobility brand named as Vida.

The first electric two-wheeler under Vida will be launched in India on July 1, 2022.

The company will produce electric vehicles at a factory in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

Hero MotoCorp had previously announced that its first e-scooter would be released in March.

Hero MotoCorp is an Indian two-wheeler manufacturer headquartered in New Delhi. PawanMunjal is its MD and CEO.

67. Recently In March The **agriculture sector** has grown by a CAGR of _____ per cent between 2015 and 2020 with the sector witnessing the highest disruption in terms of smartphone and internet penetration, ?
- A. 10 %
 - B. 20 %**

C. 11 %

D. 15 %

Agriculture sector grew at a CAGR of 11 per cent during 2015-20: Report

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 1

The agriculture sector has grown by a CAGR of 11 per cent between 2015 and 2020 with the sector witnessing the highest disruption in terms of smartphone and internet penetration," a report on "Innovation in India's Rural Economy" prepared jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Bain and Company, has said.

Agriculture is the largest sub-sector in the rural economy, contributing nearly 37 per cent of total rural GDP in 2019-20. Its contribution to the nation's GDP was ₹35-lakh crore, said the report by Parijat Jain, partner of Bain and Company.

Stating that the Indian rural sector is large and growing steadily, it said the rural economy contributed nearly half the nation's overall GDP in 2019-20. Besides, it



provided employment for 350 million people, who made up 68 per cent of the total workforce.

10% growth in agri credit

Agriculture credit has grown by 10 per cent in the last five years, from ₹8-lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹14-lakh crore in 2019-20. Rural microfinance gross loan portfolios also grew, rising from ₹1,32,900 crore in March 2020 to ₹1,46,700 crore in March 2021.

Demand for credit has increased, especially among consumption-driven loan products like those for two-

wheelers and consumer durables. Technology disruption played a key role in this growth by lowering loan servicing costs, which enabled lenders to service lower-value loans.

All these have resulted in the growth of agtech startups, which attracted ₹6,600 crore as private equity investments between 2017 and 2020. "As newer generations of farmers and FPOs become digitally savvy, new business models are emerging across the agriculture value chain, from inputs and harvesting to processing and distribution," the report said.

The Centre's policies such as formulating a Model Contract Farming Act in 2018 and permitting initiatives by private and non-profit organisations have boosted the setting up and development of farmer producer organisations (FPOs), it said.

CM

68. Recently In March **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) limit for investing in debt issues has been increased by SEBI. Investment limit for retail investors applying in public issues of debt securities via UPI mechanism has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to _____ ?**

- A. Rs 10 Lkh
- B. Rs 5 Lakh**
- C. Rs 3 Lakh
- D. Rs 4 Lakh

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) limit for investing in debt issues has been increased by SEBI. Investment limit for retail investors applying in public issues of debt securities via UPI mechanism has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

The limit has been increased to bring uniformity in requirements and for ease of investment for investors.

The new investment limit will be applicable to public issues of debt securities that open on or after May 1, 2022.

As per the current SEBI rules, investors have an option to apply in public issues of debt securities with the choice of blocking funds via UPI mechanism for application value of up to Rs 2 lakh.

Investors will be able to block funds through UPI for application value of up to Rs 5 lakh per application.

In December 2021, the per transaction limit in UPI was increased by NPCI from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) Initial Public Offer (IPO).

69. Consider The Following Statement **Regarding V - DEM Latest Democracy Report :**

1. The V-Dem Institute at **Sweden's University of Gothenburg** has come out with their annual democracy report. The study is **titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'**.
2. **Sweden topped the LDI index**, other Scandinavian countries such as Denmark and Norway, along with Costa Rica and New Zealand make up the top five in liberal democracy rankings.
3. The report notes that India is part of a broader global trend of an anti-plural political party driving a country's autocratisation. **Ranked 93rd in the LDI**,

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

- A. Only 1

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- B. Only 2**
- C. All Of The Above**
- D. None Of The Above**

The V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg has come out with their annual democracy report. The study is titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'

The report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy. It classifies India as an electoral autocracy ranking it 93rd on the LDI, out of 179 countries.

While Sweden topped the LDI index, other Scandinavian countries such as Denmark and Norway, along with Costa Rica and New Zealand make up the top five in liberal democracy rankings.

The report notes that India is part of a broader global trend of an anti-plural political party driving a country's autocratisation. Ranked 93rd in the LDI, India figures in the "bottom 50%" of countries. It has slipped further down in the Electoral Democracy Index, to 100, and even lower in the Deliberative Component Index, at 102. In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117) in the LDI.

70. Recently in March _____ has received letter of award (LOA) to set up 150 MW solar power project

- A. SJVN**
- B. NTPC**
- C. Adani Renewable Energy**
- D. IOCL**

Adani Green Energy Ltd on Tuesday announced that its subsidiary Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited has received letter of award (LOA) to set-up 150 MW solar power project. The fixed tariff for this project capacity is ₹2.34/ kWh for a period of 25 years.

Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited, a Wholly-owned Subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited participated in a Tender issued by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited for procurement of 250 MW Solar Power from ground mounted grid connected solar PV power plants and has received the Letter of Award (LOA) to set-up 150 MW Solar Power Project,"

Part of Indian conglomerate Adani Group, Adani Green Energy Limited is an Indian renewable energy company headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Shares of Adani Green Energy have given over 61% return in a year's period, whereas, the stock has rallied more than 36% in 2022 (year-to-date or YTD) so far as compared to about 5% fall in benchmark BSE Sensex.

71. Recently In March _____ Has Been Appointed As The New Director Of L & T Financing Holdings Limited?

- A. Sanjiv Kumar
- B. Debasish Panda
- C. SN Subramaniyan**
- D. Rajkiran Rai

The board of directors of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd (LTFH) on Monday approved the appointment of S N Subrahmanyan as its director and chairperson.

This is in line with L&T's overall commitment to strengthen its presence in the services area. Subrahmanyan is the chief executive and managing director of Larsen & Toubro and serves on the board of directors of the multi-billion-dollar conglomerate, "

Subrahmanyan takes over from Shailesh Haribhakti who served as the chairperson on the board of L&T Finance Holdings from 1 June 2017. Haribhakti will continue as a board member.

Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T, is an Indian multinational conglomerate, with business interests in engineering, construction, manufacturing, technology and financial services, headquartered in Mumbai.

72. Recently In March _____ has partnered with fintech NIRA to provide personal loans of up to ₹1 lakh ?

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

IIFL Finance has partnered with fintech NIRA to provide personal loans of up to ₹1 lakh.

"Through this partnership, salaried customers can avail a personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh from IIFL Finance by downloading the NIRA app from Google Play Store. This partnership will enable NIRA to continue scaling up its business and help IIFL build its unsecured lending book,

IIFL Holdings Limited d/b/a IIFL and India Infoline, is an Indian diversified financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. The organisation was founded by Nirmal Jain

NIRA is an Indian consumer finance business offering small-ticket loans to low income salaried individuals.

73. Recently In March India installed a record _____ gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during calendar year 2021, registering a year-on-year rise of 212 per cent, according to Mercom India Research?

- A. 15 GW
- B. 10 GW**
- C. 20 GW
- D. 25 GW

India installed a record 10 gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during calendar year 2021, registering a year-on-year rise of 212 per cent, according to Mercom India Research.

The country had made 3.2 GW of solar capacity installations during 2020, the research firm said in its latest report.

Cumulative solar installed capacity in India was approximately 49 GW at the end of December 2021, the report titled 'Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update'

Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity accounting for 50 per cent of the installations in the country as of December 2021.

In 2021, Rajasthan led the capacity addition with 4.5 GW of solar capacity installation,

74. Recently In March _____ Committed \$150 Million to SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance to Strengthen India's Healthcare Infrastructure?

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

Axis Bank Commits \$150 Million to SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance to Strengthen India's Healthcare Infrastructure

Under this partnership, Axis Bank will provide affordable finance of up to \$150 million through SAMRIDH, to support health enterprises and innovators who would otherwise not have access to affordable debt financing.

SAMRIDH, an initiative supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), leverages philanthropic capital and public sector resources, to offset barriers for commercial investments in small and medium health enterprises.

Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

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75. Recently In March _____ announced the launch of 'Oh My Dog!' a digital campaign to raise awareness of the importance of buying dog health insurance to protect our furry friends?
- A. Oriental Insurance Company
 - B. HDFC ERGO General Insurance
 - C. Future Generali India Insurance**
 - D. Reliance General Insurance

Future Generali India Insurance recently announced the launch of 'Oh My Dog!' a digital campaign to raise awareness of the importance of buying dog health insurance to protect our furry friends.

Future Generali had enlisted celebrities known for their affection for dogs and therefore aligned with the idea of buying dog health insurance coverage to protect their beloved pets.

Ruchika Malhan Varma, Marketing Director, Future Generali India

76. Recently In March _____ been awarded the **most prestigious ASSOCHAM Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management?**
- A. CtrlS**
 - B. Swaraj Green
 - C. Ather Energy
 - D. SJVN

CtrlS, Asia's largest Rated-4 Hyperscale Data Center, announced that it has been awarded the most prestigious ASSOCHAM Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management. CtrlS joins an impressive slate of awardees that include organizations, projects who have adopted sustainable practices to efficiently manage energy consumption and reduce carbon footprint.

The company is also building a Solar Plant spread across 500 acres, the largest ever by an Indian Datacenter aimed at replacing conventional sources of energy, this is a part of the clean energy drive by the company.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India.

77. Recently In March _____ and **Indian Oil Corporation** on Friday announced a strategic partnership to launch the **Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card. ?**
- A. Stat Bank Of India
 - B. Kotak Mahindra Bank**
 - C. Punjab National Bank

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D. Bank Of Baroda

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Indian Oil Corporation on Friday announced a strategic partnership to launch the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card.

“The collaboration will offer more value to customers in the form of an enhanced rewards programme giving customers value on fuel spends and on special non-fuel and frequent-spend categories, such as dining and groceries,”

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in the city of Mumbai, India

Indian Oil Corporation Limited, d/b/a IndianOil, is an Indian government corporation. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Chairperson: ShrikantMadhav Vaidya

78. Recently In March *Ambit Finvest*, has signed a co-lending agreement with _____ for lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers ?

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

Ambit Finvest, on Tuesday, said it has signed a co-lending agreement with Union Bank of India (UBI) for lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. Ambit Finvest is the non-deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) of the Ambit Group.

The partnership with Ambit Finvest Pvt Ltd is part of Bank’s strategy to serve the most deserving and under-served businesses. This initiative is also part of Union Bank’s commitment to support the MSMEs by providing tailor-made financial solutions and accelerating the growth of MSMEs to contribute to the country’s economic development.”

This alliance will ensure underwriting for originations, positively impacting the creditworthiness of MSMEs, in 11 states that are currently covered by Ambit Finvest.

79. Recently In March _____ Partnered **With MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to cohort 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups By Launching Appscale Academy cohort ?

- A. Amazon
- B. Meta
- C. Google**
- D. Paytm

Google and MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), on Wednesday announced a cohort of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups, to help these startups build high-quality global apps and games as part of the Appscale Academy.

As part of the six-month programme, the 100 startups will be trained through a customised curriculum designed to help them drive high-quality apps for a global market. Appscale Academy is to empower early to mid-stage startups with the right knowledge and mentorship to drive app and game innovations for the world," said Jeet Vijay, CEO, MeitY Startup Hub.

80. Recently In March _____ has announced the launch of **Religare 'Pre Apply LIC IPO' app**, which will be a one-stop app to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the LIC IPO ?

- A. Religare Broking**
- B. Standard Chartered Bank
- C. Edelweiss General Insurance
- D. hdfc Ergo General Life Insurance

Religare Broking has announced the launch of Religare 'Pre Apply LIC IPO' app, which will be a one-stop app to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the LIC IPO.

Even before the public announcement, the investors can share their interest in the upcoming LIC IPO and get instant mobile notification, SMS and e-mail communication as soon as it opens up for public subscription, All types of investors, including existing LIC policy holders and first-time investors can register their interest by filling up their name, email ID and mobile number.

81. Recently In March **Leading stock exchange NSE on Friday** said it has collaborated with the _____ government to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Telangana**

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C. Tamil Nadu

D. Gujarat

Leading stock exchange NSE on Friday said it has collaborated with the Telangana government to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing.

As part of the pact, NSE with the support of the Telangana government will conduct awareness drive through seminars, camps, knowledge sessions, road shows and workshops to guide corporates across the state in fund raising on NSE Emerge platform, and also handhold the companies in the listing process.

National Stock Exchange of India Limited is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by number of contracts traded based on the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association, a derivatives trade body

82. Recently In March *bankruptcy rule-maker Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and _____ have tied up to improve how creditors, key players in turning around distressed businesses, perform their functions during bankruptcy proceedings?*

A. State Bank Of India

B. Punjab National Bank

C. Bank Of Baroda

D. Indian Banks Association

Insolvency regulator IBBI and Indian Banks Association (IBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.

The MOU was signed in the capital by Amit Pradhan, Executive Director, IBBI and Sunil Mehta Chief Executive, IBA in the presence of Ravi Mital, Chairperson, IBBI

To improve the processes under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Mital urged bankers to share their suggestions and feedback regarding the IBC ecosystem with the IBBI.

83. Consider The Following Statement *Regarding All India House Price Index (HPI) Released By RBI :*
1. The All India House Price Index (HPI) rose 3.1 per cent in the third quarter of the fiscal on an annual basis, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

2. The RBI releases its quarterly house price index (HPI) (base: 2010-11) based on transaction-level data received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

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

The All India House Price Index (HPI) rose 3.1 per cent in the third quarter of the fiscal on an annual basis, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI releases its quarterly house price index (HPI) (base: 2010-11) based on transaction-level data received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities. The cities are -- Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai. "All India HPI recorded an annual growth (y-o-y) of 3.1 per cent in third quarter of 2021-22 as compared with 2.4 per cent in the previous quarter and 2.2 per cent a year ago,"

While Chennai and Kanpur recorded sequential decline in HPI during the current quarter, the index increased for the remaining cities, with Delhi recording the highest sequential growth of 9.5 per cent.

All India House Price Index rises 3.1% in Q3: RBI data

Kochi recorded a high of 19.8%, Chennai, Kanpur reported a decline

annual growth (y-o-y) of 3.1 per cent in third quarter of 2021-22 as compared with 2.4 per cent in the previous quarter and 2.2 per cent a year ago," the central bank said in a statement.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, February 28

The All India House Price Index (HPI) rose 3.1 per cent in the third quarter of the fiscal on an annual basis, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

The RBI releases its quarterly house price index (HPI) (base: 2010-11)

based on transaction-level data received from housing registration authorities in 10 major cities -- Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

"All India HPI recorded an

Growth variation

HPI growth varied widely, ranging from 19.8 per cent (Kochi) to a decline of 4.1 per cent (Chennai).

On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all India HPI registered an increase of 3.1 per cent in October-December



of 2021-22.

While Chennai and Kanpur recorded sequential decline in HPI during the current quarter, the index increased for the remaining cities, with Delhi recording the highest sequential growth of 9.5 per cent.

84. Recently In March **New India Assurance (NIA)** will soon complete the placement of property cover for units three and four of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), Which Is Located In _____ with a sum assured of over _____ ?

- A. Gujarat , Rs 18000 Cr
- B. Karnataka , Rs 20000 Cr

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C. Tamil Nadu , Rs 43000 Cr

D. Andhra Pradesh , Rs 15000 Cr

New India Assurance (NIA) will soon complete the placement of property cover for units three and four of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), with a sum assured of over Rs 43,000 crore. New India Assurance (NIA) is India's largest insurer. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance. New India Assurance has provided the property covers for the first two units of the plant with the participation of state-owned GIC Re.

GIC Re is an abbreviation of General Insurance Corporation of India.

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (or Kudankulam NPP or KKNPP) is the largest nuclear power station in India.

It is located in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

It is being developed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL). KKNPP is scheduled to be built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). An additional four units are scheduled to be added according to the agreement signed between India and Russia in 2008.

85. Recently In March In recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage, Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) has awarded _____ with 'National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21' ?

A. State Bank Of India

B. Bank Of Baroda

C. J & K Bank

D. Nanital Bank

In recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage, Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) has awarded J&K Bank with 'National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21'.

Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma received the national award on behalf of Bank from the Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh during the event organized by the Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) to celebrate Women's Day at VigyanBhawan Delhi.

The event was attended by various women self-help groups who shared their success stories and praised the Bank for providing them timely support in gaining not only self-sufficiency but earning livelihoods for others as well.

Meanwhile, keeping its commitment to extend banking facilities and financial services into the under-banked areas of Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has expanded its footprint by commissioning four Business Units (BUs) in the valley.

86. Recently In March _____ becomes the *first company in the world to have its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) conferred with IS12795:2020 certification by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.*

- A. SPCI
- B. TPL**
- C. SJVN
- D. IOCL

In a significant development, Chennai-based petrochemicals manufacturer Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) becomes the first company in the world to have its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) conferred with IS12795:2020 certification by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. TPL is a part of the petrochemicals division of AM International, the Singapore-headquartered diversified, multinational group of companies with a federated operating architecture.

The company is India's leading manufacturer of LAB and the only producer in South India. Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited (TPL), a part of the Singapore-based AM International, is a leading manufacturer of industrial intermediate chemicals with its headquarters in Chennai, India. The company was established in 1984 with the founding objective of setting up a state-of-the-art Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB) manufacturing facility.

87. Consider The Following Statement *Regarding legal responsibility partnership (LLP) :*

1. *The Limited Liability Partnership (Second Amendment) Rules 2022 primarily offers with solvency statements and certificates of truthfulness, that are a part of the annual returns.*
2. *LLP's assertion of solvency, which is required to be signed by a chosen accomplice accountable for compliance, might be signed off by a decision skilled in case of a bankrupt entity,*
3. *The new rules additionally cowl the requirement of submitting a certificates endorsing the truthfulness and correctness of annual returns of LLPs with gross sales of as much as ₹5 crore, or accomplice contribution of as much as ₹50 lakh.*

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct?

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

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The ministry of company affairs has amended the restricted legal responsibility partnership (LLP) rules to handle the considerations of entities dealing with chapter proceedings. The rules, efficient 4 March, modified reporting necessities of LLPs in monetary misery. The Limited Liability Partnership (Second Amendment) Rules 2022 primarily offers with solvency statements and certificates of truthfulness, that are a part of the annual returns.

Hence, an LLP's assertion of solvency, which is required to be signed by a chosen accomplice accountable for compliance, might be signed off by a decision skilled in case of a bankrupt entity, it mentioned.

The new rules additionally cowl the requirement of submitting a certificates endorsing the truthfulness and correctness of annual returns of LLPs with gross sales of as much as ₹5 crore, or accomplice contribution of as much as ₹50 lakh.

The rules outlines the executive modifications LLPs endure as soon as chapter proceedings are underway and the turnaround skilled employed by lenders to take cost of the affairs of an LLP. Partners or shareholders will stay accountable for a enterprise as long as debt is serviced, however after a default, lenders get the higher hand in taking selections below the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, together with the correct to take over the administration and restructure the enterprise.

88. Recently In March Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen _____ to implement the upgraded version of the *Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution* to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda?

- A. Standard Chartered Bank
- B. EY Analytical Firm
- C. Intellect**
- D. Hughes Foundation

Intellect Design Arena said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen Intellect to implement the upgraded version of the Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda.

The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices architecture supported by a rich set of packaged business components.

Intellect Design Arena, a specialist in applying true digital technologies, is the a full spectrum banking and insurance technology products company, across global consumer banking, central banking, global transaction banking (iGTB), risk, treasury and markets, and insurance.

89. **Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL)**, a part of the Edelweiss group has announced a strategic co-lending partnership with _____ for extending loans against property (LAP) to our prospective customers especially MSMEs?

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Bank Of India
- C. **Standard Chartered Bank**
- D Bank OfMaharastra

Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL), a part of the Edelweiss group has announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property (LAP) to our prospective customers especially MSMEs. Definitive agreements as per RBI's Co-Lending Model (CLM) have been executed between EHFL and Standard Chartered Bank. This business partnership model will combine Standard Chartered Bank's expertise in this segment with Edelweiss' reach and strong origination capabilities, to improve the flow of credit at an attractive cost.

RajatAvasthi, MD & CEO, EHFL

Standard Chartered plc is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in London, England.

90. Recently In March _____ announced that it has further expanded its partnership with **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country?

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

Digital payments company Paytm on Thursday announced that it has further expanded its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.

This is the first time Indian Railways is providing an option to pay digitally for ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs to promote cashless commuting among railway passengers.

The ATVMs placed at the railway stations are touch-screen based ticketing kiosks that will allow passengers to pay digitally, without requiring smart cards.

.The new Quick Response (QR) code-based digital payment solution has already gone live across all ATVM machines at railway stations in India.

91. Recently In March **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has partnered with _____ and SBI Cards and Payment Services to launch co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network. ?

A. Railtel

B. Yatra.Com

C. Paytm

D. State Bank Of India

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with Yatra.com and SBI Cards and Payment Services to launch co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network. The holiday-cum-shopping credit card gives travel benefits on booking flights and hotels which would be applicable 6 times a year.

The benefits of the 'Yatra SBI Card' were as a welcome onboarding gift, users will be entitled to Yatra.com vouchers worth Rs 8,250, and also the voucher can be used to book flight tickets, hotel reservations, and the likes from Yatra.com. Users will get 6 reward points per Rs 100 spent on departmental stores, grocery, dining, movies, entertainment, and international travel.

SBI Cards and Payment Services is a payment solutions provider in India.

92. Recently In March _____ has launched **the electronic bill (e-Bill) processing system** as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system on 2 March 2022?

A. Amit Shah

B. Nirmala Sitharaman

C. Narendra Modi

D. Piyush Goyal

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday launched electronic bill (e-Bill) processing system that seeks to bring in broader transparency and expedite the process of payments.

The move is a part of 'Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Digital India eco-system'. The Finance Minister had announced this major e-governance initiative in the Union Budget 2022-23 presented in Parliament on February 1.

The electronic bill processing system was launched at an event organised to mark the 46th Civil Accounts Day celebration.

new e-Bill system will reduce time lags further and will serve as a model for accounts towards digital India and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)

93. Recently In March Which Of The Following IT Firm Became The India First IT Firm To Launch Exclusive Company In Metaverse?

- A. Wipro
- B. Infosys
- C. Tech Mahindra**
- D. Flipkart

Information technology (IT) services major Tech Mahindra Ltd has entered metaverse with the TechMVerse launch, to offer interactive and immersive experiences to customers.

The company plans to hire and train 1,000 employees for TechMVerse in the first year. Initially, the operations will be spread across Dallas, London, Pun and Hyderabad.

With the aim to transform customer experience and deliver real business outcome, Tech Mahindra will leverage its world-leading network and infrastructure capabilities along with its foundational technological capabilities such as pervasive artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, 5G,

TechMVerse is expected to be an extension of Tech Mahindra's NXT.NOW framework, which aims to enhance human-centric experiences by investing in emerging technologies and solutions

'Timely IBC resolution in stakeholders' interests'

IBBI, IBA ink pact to create awareness among bankers

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 6

Insolvency regulator IBBI and the Indian Banks Association (IBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.

Amit Pradhan, Executive Director, IBBI and Sunil Mehta, Chief Executive, IBA signed the pact here in the presence of IBBI chairperson Ravi Mital, whole time members Mukulita Vijayawargiya and Sudhaker Shukla, and J Swaminathan, MD, State Bank of India, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Mital said timely resolution of insolvency cases potentially impedes the value erosion of

assets of the corporate debtor and therefore, it is in the interest of all the stakeholders, including the Committee of Creditors (CoC) and Resolution Professionals/Interim Resolution Professionals (IRPs).

He dwelt upon several issues relating to procedural delays at various stages of an insolvency resolution and highlighted the need to give a fresh look to various formats to facilitate quick decision making. Mital also urged bankers to share their suggestions and feedback regarding the IBC ecosystem, to improve the process.

Sunil Mehta highlighted the significant behavioural outcomes and improvement in credit discipline in the economy in the regime post enactment of IBC. Swaminathan highlighted the importance of capacity building of bankers who drive the commercial wisdom of the CoCs.

IOB's contact-cum-call centre in Chennai

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK (IOB) has launched a contact-cum-call centre in Chennai which will provide interactive voice response system (IVRS) around 36 facilities, including balance enquiry, debit card block and last five transactions, among others. The facility was inaugurated by Sanjay Malhotra, secretary, Department of Financial services, Ministry of Finance, the lender said in a release.

NPCI launches 'Yatra SBI card'

THE NATIONAL PAYMENTS Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with Yatra.com and SBI Card to launch a co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network. It is a holiday-cum-shopping credit card with exclusive travel benefits on booking flights and hotels.

RBI cancels licence of Maharashtra lender

THE RBI ON Wednesday cancelled the licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

UCO Bank extends partnership with Fisdom

UCO BANK HAS extended the fintech partnership with Fisdom to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing, with an objective to offer customers a three-in-one personal banking experience. The extension suite will be offered through UCO Bank's mobile banking application, UCO mBanking Plus, and will gradually be accessible through its internet banking platform also, Fisdom said on Wednesday.

Edelweiss, StanChart in co-lending partnership

EDELWEISS HOUSING FINANCE has entered into a co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, under which they will jointly service loans against property to customers in 20:80 ratio. The Edelweiss group's housing finance arm said the arrangement is especially targeted toward MSMEs. This partnership model will combine Standard Chartered Bank's expertise in this segment with Edelweiss' reach and strong origination capabilities.

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



Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, at the 46th Civil Accounts Day in New Delhi. TV Somanathan, Finance Secretary, and Sonali Singh, Controller General of Accounts, are also seen. KAMAL NARANG

E-bill system will end 'rent seeking' in govt contracts: FM

New initiative will be implemented in phases in 2022-23

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 2

The new Electronic Bill (e-bill) processing system will stop any possible 'rent seeking' in clearance of dues to contractors or suppliers to government departments, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Wednesday.

The Minister launched the new mechanism while inaugurating the Foundation Day event of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the book-keeper of the government.

In her Budget speech, she had announced that, to enhance transparency and reduce delays in payments, a completely paperless, end-to-end online e-bill system will be launched for use by all Central ministries for their procurements. The system will enable suppliers and contractors to submit online their digitally signed bills and claims, and track their status from anywhere.

Digitisation drive

Sitharaman said the system will ensure end-to-end digit-

isation and make payment process transparent, by using technology not just within the government departments but extending the second leg to the citizens' own use. The e-bill, she said, will shut even "any small window which is available" for "misuse in terms of rent seeking" as a contractor or supplier to government will be able to file their claims digitally.

The system will be implemented across all Central ministries and departments, and suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claims online that can be tracked real-time. "Put your claim with digital signatures and you do not have to come to government offices. Your payment reaches (to you) as soon your claim reaches with digital signature," Sitharaman said.

Digitally signed bills

Giving details of the e-bill system, Additional Controller General of Accounts Dharitri Panda said currently the claimants are required to submit physical copies of bills to the departments for scrutiny. With the e-bill initiative, claimants would be able to submit digitally signed bills on the PFMS and

check status without approaching offices.

"The system will provide huge convenience to suppliers and contractors. It will have a shorter bill payment cycle, more effective audit trail... It will be an effective tool to facilitate uninterrupted Government disbursements in a pandemic-like situation," she said.

Pilot basis

With the launch of the e-bill, the system has been rolled out on a pilot basis in eight ministries. It will be implemented in all ministries and departments in a phased manner in 2022-23.

The civil accounts officers, she said, have ensured that the common man who works with the government will not have to wait for months, or meet officials, seeking release of dues.

BusinessLine

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EHFL joins hands with Standard Chartered Bank

Strategic partnership will co-lend against property

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 2

Edelweiss Housing Finance on Wednesday announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property to prospective customers, especially MSMEs.



"Definitive agreements as per RBI's co-lending model have been executed between EHFL (Edelweiss Housing Finance) and Standard Chartered Bank," the two said in a statement, adding

that the business partnership model will combine the bank's expertise in this segment with Edelweiss' reach and strong origination capabilities

Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain 20 per cent of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80 per cent will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank.

The co-lending partnership will help the bank grow its loan portfolio, it would provide an alternate model for loan disbursements that is asset-light and creates a sound revenue model for sustainable business for EHFL, the statement added.

IHCL, UNESCO to save heritage sites

Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) on Thursday said that it has partnered with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to help preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India, as part of an initiative in the post-pandemic world.

"We are delighted to partner with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this industry-first collaboration to work towards preserving India's cultural heritage.

"Leveraging our business strengths, value chains and partner networks, we will work towards a holistic plan to safeguard the living heritage of the country while empowering local communities," IHCL senior vice-president and global head (human resources) Gaurav Pokhariyal said in a statement.

IHCL and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization together will offer experiential tours for travellers at various IHCL hotels.

PTI

SUM ASSURED OF OVER ₹43,000 CRORE

NIA set to insure Kudankulam plant with global participation

GIC Re, NIA in talks to sort out the difference in quotes with global reinsurers

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 2

NEW INDIA Assurance (NIA) will soon complete the placement of property cover for units three and four of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP), with a sum assured of over Rs 43,000 crore. The cover is likely to be executed with the participation of major global reinsurers, sources said.

NIA, which has provided the property covers for the first two units of the plant with the participation of state-owned GIC Re, has already won the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) mandate for insuring two more units of the KKNPP after a competitive bidding last November.

The placement of Kudankulam insurance has to be completed soon, as the reinsurance market has shown a hardening tendency in view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine which has started impacting the reinsurance rates, industry officials said.

GIC Re – which has already participated in reinsuring the first two units of KKNPP, not only in terms of mandatory 5 per cent

AFTER COMPETITIVE BIDDING LAST NOVEMBER

■ New India Assurance (NIA) has already won the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd mandate for insuring two more units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant after a competitive bidding last November

■ The placement of Kudankulam insurance has to be completed soon, as the reinsurance market has shown a hardening tendency in view of the invasion of Ukraine, which has started impacting reinsurance rates

obligatory and taken much larger share – is currently having discussion with NIA for deciding its share, if any, in the other two units. KKNPP is one of India's largest nuclear plants, being set up by NPCIL.

GIC Re has quoted a higher price of Rs 177 crore for its participation, while NIA has managed a lower quote of Rs 160 crore from a set of international reinsurers located outside India. Going by existing reinsurance norms, in order of preference, NIA has to first approach GIC Re which has the first "right of refusal" for any reinsurance business in India. As phases one and two of the plant have remained claims-free, NIA – India's largest insurer – has managed to get a cheaper reinsurance quote

from international reinsurers.

As per current regulations, once GIC refuses fully or partly, NIA – following the order of preference – can approach foreign reinsurance branches (FRBs) in India, reinsurers who are present in GIFT City (presently only GIC Re) and lastly cross-border reinsurers registered with Irdai. A senior NIA official said, "Currently, senior officials of both GIC Re and NIA are discussing the placement of deal which will mutually benefit them and NPCIL. NIA is committed to comply with all reinsurance regulations and safeguarding the interest of NPCIL in terms of the best reinsurance cost."

Insurance covers for nuclear plants are purely reinsurance dri-

ven, like aviation insurance, where the primary insurer reinsures over 90 per cent of the high value cover with large sum assured, and more than one global reinsurer.

Sources said this is done to ensure that in any case of mishaps, that can trigger large claims, financial compensations are easily mobilised from a clutch of large high net-worth reinsurers which would not be possible in the case of a limited number reinsurers.

NPCIL had mandated NIA among the domestic insurers, which had provided the cheapest bidding in terms of premium, after cancelling the first bidding in 2020. A nuclear plant has two covers: a property cover and a liability cover. The liability cover for a nuclear plant is always covered by the Nuclear Pool, formed by the general insurers and managed by state owned reinsurer GIC Re. While the ground-breaking ceremony for construction of units three and four was performed in February 2016, due to technology changes, inflation and insistence of the supplier and operator for additional liability insurance, construction cost of these additional units has already gone up.

Paytm parent strengthens tie-up with IRCTC

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 2

One97 Communications, which owns the brand Paytm, has further expanded its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through automatic ticket vending machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.

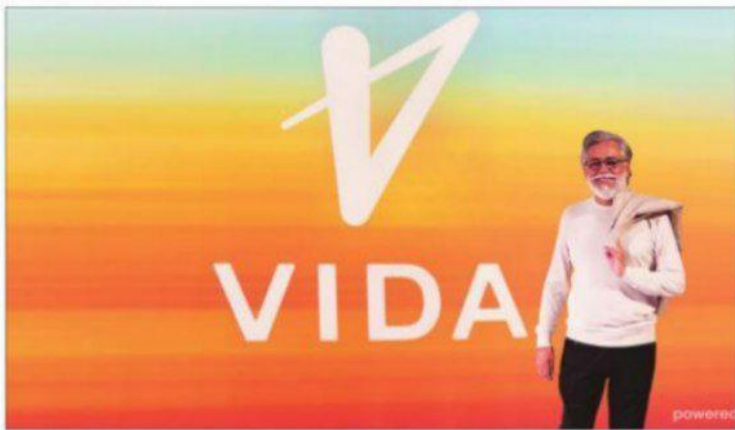
Cashless commute

"Having pioneered the QR code revolution in India, we are glad to take it forward by bringing ease of ticketing across railway stations. Through our solutions, passengers will be able to go for a completely cashless commute," a Paytm spokesperson said.

The new QR code-based digital payment solution has already gone live across all ATVM machines at railway stations in India.

● **FIRST 'VIDA' LAUNCH ON JULY 1**

Hero MotoCorp announces new name for EV arm



Hero MotoCorp chairman & CEO Pawan Munjal unveils the new brand logo

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, March 4

HERO MOTOCORP ON THURSDAY announced a new brand — Vida — for its electric mobility business. The company will unveil its maiden electric two-wheeler on July 1 under the new brand.

The electric two-wheeler will be rolled out from Hero MotoCorp's manufacturing facility in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. Customer deliveries will start later this year.

The announcement from Hero MotoCorp comes amid an ongoing legal tussle with Hero Electric, the largest electric two-wheeler manufacturer in India, over the use of the Hero brand name for EV business. Last month, the Delhi High Court had denied interim relief to Hero Electric on its plea seeking an injunction against Hero MotoCorp for using the Hero brand name for electric two-wheelers.

Though Hero Electric then withdrew its petition, the Delhi HC formed a three-member arbitral tribunal comprising retired judges Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Indu Malhotra, and Justice Indermeet Kaur, to adjudicate the matter.

Hero Electric is owned by Vijay Munjal and his son Naveen Munjal, while Pawan Munjal owns Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of internal

combustion engine-powered motorcycles and scooters.

Unveiling the new brand logo, Pawan Munjal said "Vida" means life, and the brand's sole purpose is to create a positive impact on the world and "move us all forward in meaningful ways". "We believe the name is perfect for what we are building for our children and the next generation. This is truly the dawn of something special. In only 17 weeks from today we will unveil our Vida platform, products and services to make the world a better place," he added.

Besides, Hero MotoCorp also announced a \$100-million Global Sustainability Fund, which will aim to establish global partnerships spearheaded by the BML Munjal University and Hero MotoCorp. Its objective will be to nurture over 10,000 entrepreneurs on ESG solutions.

Hero MotoCorp recently joined hands with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) to set up charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers. The first phase will see charging stations coming up across nine cities, beginning with Delhi and Bengaluru.

In January, Hero MotoCorp pumped in ₹420 crore in Ather Energy, increasing its shareholding in the EV start-up to 37% from its prior stake of 34.8%. In the same month, it invested \$285 million in its battery swapping joint venture with Taiwan's Gogoro.



Axis Bank has committed to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure.

MINT

Axis commits \$150 mn via Samridh

P private sector lender Axis Bank on Thursday said that it has committed to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IPE Global Ltd for the Samridh Healthcare Blended Finance Facility.

Under this partnership, Axis Bank said that it will provide affordable finance of up to \$150 million through Samridh to support health enterprises and innovators who would otherwise not have access to affordable debt financing.

Samridh, an initiative supported by the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid), leverages philanthropic capital and public sector resources, to offset barriers for commercial investments in small and medium health enterprises.

The ability to access loans will help them increase production and provide advanced health solutions to address covid-19 along with other health emergencies, especially across the vulnerable communities of India from tier two and three cities, it said.

Samridh is an initiative supported by the Usaid.

STAFF WRITER

Govt tweaks rules on bankrupt LLPs

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com

The ministry of corporate affairs has amended the limited liability partnership (LLP) rules to address the concerns of entities facing bankruptcy proceedings. The rules, effective 4 March, modified reporting requirements of LLPs in financial distress.

The Limited Liability Partnership (Second Amendment) Rules 2022 primarily deals with solvency statements and certificate of truthfulness, which are part of the annual returns.

Hence, an LLP's statement of solvency, which is required to be signed by a designated partner in charge of compliance, can be signed off by a resolution professional in case of a bankrupt entity, it said.

The new rules also cover the requirement of filing a certificate endorsing the truthfulness and correctness of annual returns of LLPs with sales of up

to ₹5 crore, or partner contribution of up to ₹50 lakh.

In normal cases, the certificate is to be signed by a designated partner, other than the one who has signed the annual return. Designated partners have additional responsibility related to compliance requirements of an LLP, compared to other partners. In case of small LLPs facing bankruptcy, the certificate may be signed by a resolution professional or administrator, it added.

The rules outline the administrative changes LLPs undergo once bankruptcy proceedings are underway and the turnaround professional hired by lenders to take charge of the affairs of an LLP. Partners or shareholders will remain in control of a business so long as debt is serviced, but after a default, lenders get the upper hand in taking decisions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, including the right to take over the management and restructure the business.

The rules, effective 4 March, modified reporting requirements of LLPs in financial distress

Bank of India to launch digital lending platform

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 6

Bank of India (BoI) plans to put in place a mobile-based lending platform to grow its RAM (retail, agriculture and micro, small & medium enterprises) portfolio from about 54 per cent of total domestic loans to 65 per cent in two years.

The bank is developing a tech-stack for enhancing its digital banking presence, according to PR Rajagopal, Executive Director.

He observed that digital lending will help re-balance BoI's portfolio composition towards RAM advances.

"We will launch a super app by Q2 FY23. Vendors have been on-boarded to build the app," Rajagopal said. The app will ensure digitising of loan sourcing, in-principle sanction to customers, and cross-selling of non-banking financial services products.



India added a record 10 GW of solar capacity in 2021

INDIA INSTALLED A record 10 GW of solar capacity in the calendar year 2021, registering a y-o-y rise of 212%, according to Mercom India Research. The country had made 3.2 GW of solar capacity installations during 2020, the research firm said in its latest report. "Solar accounted for 62% of new power capacity additions in 2021, the largest share of power capacity ever," it said. During the year, large-scale solar projects accounted for 83% of installations and saw a 230% y-o-y surge. Rooftop installations registered a y-o-y increase of 138% in 2021. Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity, accounting for 50% of the installations in the country as of December 2021. In 2021, Rajasthan led the capacity addition with 4.5 GW of solar capacity installation, the report further said.

IS AT STAK, IT SAID.

INDIA.

LICHFL, CSC to rope in village-level entrepreneurs to disburse loans

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 2

LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC) have partnered to disburse loans through CSC's network of over four lakh village-level entrepreneurs.

VLEs will be able to provide a range of LICHFL loans such as home loans; loans for serving or retired employees who are entitled to pension; residential plot loan; Griha Suvridha for private sector workers or self-employed; and loan against property and top-up loan. To avail these loans, customers can approach their nearest CSC office with KYC documents like PAN card, Aadhaar or driving licence, passport, and proof of residence; income documents like salary slip, IT returns and bank statements; and property documents like proof of ownership, tax receipts, among oth-

ers, LICHFL and CSC said in a joint statement. Y Viswanatha Gowd, MD & CEO, LICHFL, said, "We aim to provide last mile accessibility to our services and grow our reach into the untapped demographics."

Dinesh Kumar Tyagi, Managing Director, CSC, said, "Our partnership with LIC Housing will help us reach out to the younger generation who aspires to own a home not just in urban but rural areas too."

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BusinessLine

BBB to improve quality of PSU bank

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has introduced a development programme for the management of public sector banks (PSBs) with a view to improving the quality of bank boards.

The nine-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) is designed for the directors of the PSBs and financial institutions with the key objective of enhancing director effectiveness to increase their impact on the boards, the BBB said in a statement. It is expected that the programme will help the directors think of the road ahead in the business and elevate themselves to be a source of wisdom and guidance for the management and stakeholders to raise the performance levels of PSBs in the global landscape, it said. The programme designed in collaboration with IBA and others will help empower and enrich the board critical for the decision making.

PTI

Tech Mahindra to tap into Metaverse

New division will train 1,000 engineers in new-age technologies

KV KURMANATH

Hyderabad, February 28

With the Metaverse gaining traction globally, Tech Mahindra has announced the launch of TechMVerse, the company's exclusive practice to tap the opportunities in this emerging field, becoming the first top league IT firm to do so.

With its base in Hyderabad, the new practice would also have labs in Pune as it pursues projects for its 1,200 clients in various verticals.

The firm, which started off with two projects and 100 employees working in the new practice, says it would deploy about 1,000 employees in the next few months.

Metaverse is a fast-evolving digital environment where individuals in their virtual 'avatars' can interact with each other. Global Metaverse revenue opportunity could be around \$800

billion in 2024, the company said.

"We are going to train 1,000 of our engineers in various aspects of the Metaverse. This number will grow significantly. About half of the practitioners would be existing employees, while the rest would be fresh hires," CP Gurnani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra, said.

Immersive experiences

Making the announcement here on Monday, Gurnani said the new division would deliver interactive and immersive experiences in the Metaverse for its customers. The company simultaneously made this announcement at the Mobile World Congress 2022 being held at Barcelona in Spain.

He said the company would build business-to-business use cases, piggybacking on its network, infrastructure capabilities and strengths in technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, 5G, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and



CP Gurnani, MD and CEO of Tech Mahindra, speaks at the launch of TechMVerse in Hyderabad on Monday

quantum computing. To start with, the company would build use cases in DealerVerse (Metaverse-based car dealership), Middlemist (NFT market place), gaming and Meta Bank (a virtual bank).

"We will offer immersive digital and professional experience services around design, content and low code plug-and-play NFT and Blockchain platforms. Besides this, we will align

the Metaverse strategy with Tech Mahindra's digital and environmental, social and governance goals," he said.

The firm worked with Mahindra & Mahindra to offer exclusive digital collectibles. To start with, it would offer a series of collectibles from the auto major's brands. The collectibles will be listed, minted and offered for sale through Tech Mahindra's NTF Marketplace platform.

FM's dream project, ₹81-cr planetarium in Mysuru, takes off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mysuru, March 6

UNION FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said 'Cosmos', coming up on the Mysuru University campus will be more than just a planetarium to gaze at the sky on a real-time basis as it will offer data which can be used by young scientists for "future learning".

After laying the foundation stone for the state-of-the-art planetarium, Sitharaman said, "It's not just a planetarium for which all of you have gathered. A planetarium, yes, but it is more than a planetarium. It is going to give you all the data that you can use."

Coming up at an estimated cost of ₹81 crore from Sitharaman's MP local area development fund, the project is expected to be ready by March 2023. Speaking on the idea behind setting up a planetarium on the University of Mysore campus, the FM, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, said she always wanted to recreate a "beautiful, undisturbed and no glare Leh



Nirmala Sitharaman at Mysore University's Chamundi Hill campus PTI

sky" in Mysuru. "If Ladakh sky can be viewed from Delhi, it can be viewed from Mysuru as well. Technology helps us."

Dwelling on the need to have a planetarium in Mysuru, she said today everyone uses a cliché that data is the new oil. Data may be the new oil, but it cannot be of any use if one does not know how to use it, Sitharaman told the gathering.

She said the country needs a centre where real-time astrophysics data are available to students and researchers.

Pune's river cleaning project bags ₹1,270-crore Japanese funding

FE BUREAU
Pune, March 6

THE MULA-MUTHA POLLUTION abatement project in Pune will be funded through a loan of ₹1,270 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) India office.

According to JICA, the project has been awarded to a joint venture between Indian company Enviro Control and Japanese company Toshiba Water Solutions. The procurement package awarded was for 11 sewerage treatment plants (STPs) with 396 million litres per day (MLD) treatment capacity, intermediate pump stations

The project has been awarded to a joint venture between Indian company Enviro Control and Japanese company Toshiba Water Solutions

and sewers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the river project in Pune on Sunday. Suzuki Satoshi, ambassador of Japan to India and Saito Mitsunori, chief representative, JICA India, were also present.

Ambassador Satoshi said the India-Japan relationship is at its zenith and bilateral collabora-

tions had been widening and deepening day by day. "This year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the independence of India as well as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations," he said.

Pune generates 728 MLD of sewage, while the total sewage volume treated at the existing STPs is estimated at only 476 MLD, with 252 MLD being discharged directly into the Mula, Mutha, and Mula-Mutha rivers. The three rivers have been classified among the 35 most polluted by the Central Pollution Control Board. The project aims to improve the water quality.

Japan, India renew \$75-b currency swap agreement

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, February 28

Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) of up to \$75 billion with effect from February 28.

The Bank of Japan, acting as agent for the Minister of Finance of Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), signed the Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the BSA, per an RBI statement. BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar.

"Japan and India believe that the BSA, which aims to strengthen and complement other financial safety nets, will further deepen financial cooperation between the two countries and contribute to regional and global financial stability," said the RBI.

Fiscal deficit stood at 58.9% of target in January

FY22 estimate revised upwards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit at end-January worked out at 58.9% of the annual budget target for FY22, according to official data released on Monday.

A year earlier, the fiscal deficit was 66.8% of the Revised Estimate (RE) of FY21.

In actual terms, the deficit was ₹9,37,868 crore at end-January 2022 against the upwardly revised annual estimate of ₹15.91 lakh crore, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The fiscal deficit – the difference between the government's total revenue and total expenditure – is projected to be higher at 6.9% this fiscal ending March 2022 than the 6.8%



estimated earlier.

Total receipts were ₹18.71 lakh crore or 85.9% of the Revised Estimates (RE) for FY22, compared with 80% a year earlier. CGA data also showed total expenditure at end-January was ₹28.09 lakh crore or 74.5% of this year's RE, compared with 73%. The RE for FY22 shows a fiscal deficit of ₹15,91,089 crore against the Budget Estimate of ₹15,06,812 crore.

Appointment News

94. Recently In March _____ has been appointed as the **new Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways**. His appointment will be effective from April 4, 2022. Jet Airways was one of the largest airlines in India. It ceased operations in _____ ?

- A. Iker Ayci , 2021
- B. Vinod Agarwal , 2020
- C. Sanjeev Kapoor , 2019**
- D. Vipula Gunatileka , 2018

Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways. His appointment will be effective from April 4, 2022. Jet Airways are set to restart their operations this summer.

This is the second top-level announcement and it comes just few days after former Sri Lankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatileka was appointed as the chief financial officer of the airline.

The airline also recently appointed Captain PP Singh, as its new accountable manager, replacing Sudhir Gaur. PP Singh is former Indian Air Force (IAF) squadron leader and Nepal Airlines Corporation executive.

He is currently serving as the president of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts.

His appointment was confirmed by Jet Airways promoters- Jalan-Kalrock Consortium. The lead partner of the consortium, Murari Lal Jalan Jet Airways was one of the largest airlines in India. It ceased operations on April 17, 2019. The airline is, however, expected to restart its operations by early 2022

95. Recently In March _____ has been **appointed as chairperson of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** ?

- A. Jagdish Kumar
- B. AK Shani
- C. Sanjiv Nandan Sahani
- D. Bhushan Patwardhan**

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Former vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan has been appointed as chairperson of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Currently, he was the chairman of the interdisciplinary AYUSH R&D task force on Covid-19. He has been a member of various academic research and policy committees including NITI Aayog, Planning Commission, and National Board of Examination.

He will try to align the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with the recommendations of the National Education policy. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC):

It is an autonomous body funded by the University Grants Commission. It is responsible for assessing and accrediting higher educational institutions of India.

96. Recently In February Whom Among The Following Was Elected As The *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**

Government has appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for three years.

She is the first woman chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. She replaced Ajay Tyagi whose term ended on 28 February.

She was whole-time member (WTM) of SEBI from 5 April 2017 to 4 October 2021. She also headed a seven-member expert group formed to help SEBI design in-house technological systems. She has also served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Securities Limited.

The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC) headed by Cabinet Secretary has recommended the name after shortlisting candidates. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): It was set up in 1988 and given statutory status in 1992.

L&T Finance to exit wholesale lending biz, appoints Subrahmanyam as Chairman

Company to restrict focus to retail finance

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, February 28
SN Subrahmanyam, CEO and MD of Larsen & Toubro (L&T), has been appointed the Director and Chairperson of the board of L&T Finance Holdings (LTFH), an NBFC and a subsidiary of L&T. The appointment is in line with L&T's overall commitment to strengthen its presence in the services area.

LTFH will defocus on wholesale lending and instead, focus only on retail finance. The company is present in the infrastructure and realty lending space and is among the



SN Subrahmanyam, Chairperson, L&T Finance Holdings

market leaders in farm equipment finance, two-wheeler finance as well as micro loans. It also continues to be one of the leading players in financing infrastructure sectors like renewables and roads.

Subrahmanyam replaces Shailesh Haribhakti who

served as the Chairperson on the LTFH's board from June 1, 2017. Haribhakti will continue as an independent director on the board.

Subrahmanyam is also the Vice-Chairman on the boards of L&T Infotech, L&T Technology Services & Mindtree and Chairman of L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad).

'Performance below mark'
AM Naik, Group Chairman, L&T, said, "I have been hearing from our shareholders and independent board members that we have to improve the performance of L&T Finance. Our own board members have been saying that greater L&T involvement is desirable so that we can drive the ideas and strategies that we want to

improve its performance substantially."

During the nine months ended December 31, 2021, LTFH recorded a net profit growth of 3.6 per cent y-o-y at the consolidated level to ₹707.89 crore.

"We decided it is a major decision (of focussing on the retail segment) where virtually we are changing the character and the structure of the company because more changes will follow once the chairman is appointed. I have not been happy with the performance of L&T Finance," Naik added.

LTFH's retail portfolio mix during December quarter was at 50 per cent while disbursements for the segment were up 29 per cent to reach all-time high of ₹7,600 crore.

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed Sebi chief

SAMIE MODAK
Mumbai, 28 February

Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the regulator in charge of overseeing India's \$3.3-trillion stock market ecosystem. She replaces Ajay Tyagi, whose tenure as Sebi chairman ended on Monday.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, approved her appointment for an initial period of three years, the government said in a notification on Monday. She is likely to take charge on Wednesday (March 2), as Tuesday is a market holiday.

Puri Buch, 56, will be the first woman, and the first person from the private sector, to head the securities market watchdog. However, she has had a more than four-year stint at Sebi as a whole-time member (WTM) — a post just below the chairman. The IIM-Ahmedabad alumna will also be the youngest Sebi chief. [Turn to Page 13](#)



BUCH'S MANY FIRSTS AT SEBI

- ▶ **First woman** to be appointed chairperson
- ▶ **Youngest** chairperson at 56
- ▶ **First person from private sector** to become regulatory body's chief
- ▶ **First woman whole-time member** (her term ended in Oct 2021)
- ▶ **First WTM** to become chairperson

TECH-SAWY PURI BUCH ALL SET TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING P10

EDIT: BRIDGE THE GOVERNANCE DEFICIT PAGE 9

97. Recently In March Chief Justice DN Patel has been appointed as chairperson of _____ ?

- A. Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)
- B. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)
- C. Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
- D. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Chief Justice DN Patel appointed as chairperson of TDSAT.

He has been appointed for four years or till attainment of the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

His appointment has been approved by the Appointment Committee of the cabinet.

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT):

TDSAT was established in 2000. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. It was established to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector.

It consists of a Chairperson and two Members appointed by the Central Government.

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

98. Recently In March _____ has been hired as Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways.?

- A. VipunGoentilka
- B. Swapnil Pandey
- C. Sanjiv Kapoor
- D. MurariLalJalan

Sanjiv Kapoor has been hired as Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways.

Sanjiv was earlier Chief Commercial Officer at Vistara. He has earlier worked as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SpiceJet.

VipulaGunatilleka has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Jet Airways.

Under its new promoters, Jet Airways is expected to resume flights in May. MurariLalJalan is proposed Non-Executive Chairman of Jet Airways. Jalan is Lead Partner of the Jalan -Kalrock Consortium.

Jalan-Kalrock Consortium is a consortium of Kalrock Capital and businessman MurariLalJalan.

In October 2020, it got approval for its resolution plan to revive and restart Jet Airways.

99. Recently In March _____ has been appointed by SBI as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and Head of Digital Banking?

- A. Sanjiv Kumar
- B. Nitin Chugh
- C. Kamlesh Sharma
- D. Swapnil Pandey

Nitin Chugh has been appointed by SBI as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and Head of Digital Banking.

Chugh was the MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank before joining SBI.

Chugh had earlier served at HDFC Bank.

State Bank of India (SBI): It is a nationalized public sector bank and the largest lender in India. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

Current Chairman of SBI is Dinesh Kumar Khara.

100. Recently In March _____ Has been Appointed As MD And CEO Of LIC Mutual Fund ?

- A. NityanandPrabhu
- B. S Subraymanian

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
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C. TS Ramakrishnan

D. Sanjiv Kumar

LIC Mutual Fund on March 1 announced the appointment of TS Ramakrishnan as its managing director and chief executive officer.

Ramakrishnan, who succeeds Dinesh Pangtey, has spent more than 34 years at LIC, its subsidiaries and associate companies. He has served in various positions including, those of regional manager pension group and Scheme in the South Central Zone (Hyderabad) and senior division manager in charge at Delhi 1 & 2.

Before joining LIC Mutual Fund, Ramakrishnan was the Regional Manager-Western Region at LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) and subsequently transferred to General Manager LICHFL. He has worked across four zones of LIC, including a stint at ZTC Bhopal as Vice Principal.

101. Recently In March **Global pharma major Lupin Limited (Lupin)** has announced that it has signed on _____ as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign. **While Upgrad Has Signed _____ As Its Brand Ambassaodr ?**

A. Risbah Pant , Taniya Bahatia

B. VidyaBalan , ShefaliVerma

C. Marrycom , Amitabh Bacchan

D. DishaPatani , KL Rahul

Homegrown pharma major Lupin Ltd on Monday said it has signed six-time world boxing champion and Olympics bronze medallist Mary Kom as brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign

upGrad, an edtech major, has signed Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan as the official brand ambassador.

As a part of the partnership, Bachchan will be seen supporting upGrad's brand value through endorsements and promotions of services offered by the higher Edtech leader, while emphasizing the importance of LifeLongLearning for progressive career growth,

102. Recently In **March Ashneer Grover** resigned from _____ and its board?

A. Phonepe

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

- B. Bharatpe**
- C. Paytm**
- D. Adani Green**

BharatPe's cofounder and managing director Ashneer Grover has resigned from the fintech startup as well as its board while alleging that he has been 'vilified' and treated in the 'most disrespectful manner', capping a high-decibel conflict that has raged for nearly two months.

BharatPe is an Indian fintech company that caters to small merchants and kirana store owners in India. The company offers a range of fintech products including interoperable QR code for UPI payments, Bharat Swipe for card acceptance, and small business financing. Headquarters location: New Delhi

103. Recently In March _____ Has Been Nominated Again As The Chairman Of Bank Of Baroda ?

- A. HasmukhAdhia**
- B. SanjivSanyal**
- C. Sanjiv Kumar**
- D. Debashish Panda**

Former Finance Secretary HasmukhAdhia has been nominated again as the chairman of state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), according to a government order.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for re-nomination of Adhia as non-executive chairman of the BoB,

His term has been extended by another two years as chairman with effect from March 1, 2022, BoB is the third biggest public sector lender after State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.

Ramakrishnan appointed new LIC MF chief

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 1

LIC Mutual Fund has appointed TS Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director and CEO from Tuesday. He will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO.

Ramakrishnan has over 34 years of experience at LIC and its subsidiaries/associate companies. He joined LIC MF AMC last April. Before that, he was the General Manager, Western Region at LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Nityanand Prabhu, ED & Business Head at LICMF, said Ramakrishnan comes on board at an exciting phase of the mutual fund business, consolidating its position in the market and deepening presence across Tier II, III cities to gain retail penetration.

Jet Airways appoints Sanjiv Kapoor as CEO

Rhik Kundu

rhik.k@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The new promoters of Jet Airways (India) Limited, Jalan-Kalrock consortium, has appointed former Vistara chief strategy and commercial officer, Sanjiv Kapoor, as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the airline. Kapoor, who is currently serving as the president of Oberoi Hotels & Resorts, will be joining Jet Airways from April 4.

Kapoor, who led SpiceJet through a turnaround during 2014-2015 as chief operating officer steering the airline through a period of high oil prices and a cash crunch, is expected to oversee the revival of Jet Airways under the new ownership.

"I am certain he (Sanjiv) will be able to lead Jet Airways and

make it become the most preferred full-service carrier of India," said Murari Lal Jalan, Lead Partner of the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium and proposed Non-Executive Chairman of Jet Airways, in a statement.

"Sanjiv is a seasoned aviation professional who has the right blend and demeanour to stitch a team together," Jalan added.

Jalan-Kalrock consortium had earlier on February 23 announced the appointment of former Sri Lankan Airlines chief executive Vipula Gunatilleka as the chief financial officer (CFO) of Jet Airways (India) Limited.

Gunatilleka, who has joined the airline from 1 March, has 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.

BoB Chairman

New Delhi: Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has been nominated again as the Chairman of state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), according to a government order. **PTI**

Sanjay Pandey appointed new Mumbai Police Commissioner

An alumnus of IIT Kanpur, he replaces Hemant Nagrale

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Monday appointed IPS officer Sanjay Pandey as the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai.

Mr. Pandey, a 1986 batch officer, was the former acting Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra. He has replaced Hemant Nagrale who has been appointed as the MD of Maharashtra State Security Corporation. He was appointed on March 17, 2021, after Param Bir Singh was transferred as the Director General of Maharashtra Home Guard. Mr. Singh had to step out for mishandling the explosive cases when 20 gelatin sticks were found inside a car outside the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

In a Public Interest Litigation that came up before the Bombay High Court earlier



Sanjay Pandey

this year, seeking directions for a permanent DGP, Mr. Pandey had said that the UPSC committee had ignored his outstanding annual confidential record and left his name out of the empanelment for the post.

His lawyer had told the court that Mr. Pandey is currently the senior-most IPS officer in the State and was appointed the acting DGP last year after the then DGP Subodh Jaiswal was transferred as the chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Pandey is an alumnus

of IIT Kanpur and worked with Tata Consultancy Service when he left the police force. In 2017, the High Court had granted relief to Mr. Pandey by directing the Department Promotion Committee to consider his promotion and he was later appointed the acting DGP.

After being rapped by the High Court for non-appointment of a permanent DGP, the Maharashtra government appointed IPS officer Rajnish Seth from the 1988 batch as the DGP on February 18, 2022.

New Chief Secretary

Meanwhile, following the retirement of State's Chief Secretary Debashish Chakraborty, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Manukumar Srivastava of 1986-batch of IAS has become the new chief of the State administration.

Ashneer Grover quits as BharatPe MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Fintech firm BharatPe's MD Ashneer Grover resigned minutes after receiving an upcoming board meeting agenda, which included consideration of action against him based on the report submitted by advisory firm PwC.

"Ashneer Grover resigned as Managing Director and from the Board Director of BharatPe minutes after receiving the agenda for an upcoming Board meeting that included submission of the PwC report regarding his conduct and considering actions based on it," Bharatpe said in a statement.

Queries sent to Mr. Grover did not elicit any immediate reply. There has been an allegation of financial irregularities in the company by him.

MPL makes inroads into Europe, partners GameDuell

Mobile Premier League, one of the world's largest mobile eSports and skill gaming platforms, said that it has joined hands with GameDuell in line with its strategy to expand operations across key global markets. Headquartered in Berlin, Germany, GameDuell is one of Europe's most experienced games studios. It is also a global leader in community card and board games, a cross-platform gaming community with more than 40 casual online skill games delivered in seven languages. GameDuell becomes part of the MPL family. Following this transaction, MPL now has a presence across three continents of Europe, Asia and North America. The companies didn't reveal the value of this deal.

PTI

Days And Obituriy News

104. Recently In March **International Women’s Day** is celebrated every year around the world on _____ as a symbolic reminder of the historic journey that women have taken globally ?

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

International Women’s Day is celebrated every year around the world on March 8 as a symbolic reminder of the historic journey that women have taken globally.

International Women’s Day has been celebrated globally for over a century. The first gathering of women’s day was in 1911 which was supported by over a million people.

International Women’s Day 2022 theme is ‘Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow’. The theme of International Women’s Day 2022 is declared by UN Women

The Charter of the UN, in 1945 became the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality but it was only on March 8 during International Women’s Year in 1975 that the United Nations celebrated its first official International Women’s Day

105. Recently In March _____ **cricket great Rod Marsh**, widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has Passed Away .

- A. West Indies
- B. Australia**
- C. South Africa
- D. England

Australian cricket great Rod Marsh , widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has died after suffering a heart attack at a charity event,

Australian cricket great Rod Marsh , widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has died after suffering a heart attack at a charity event, Marsh made his debut in 1970 before retiring in 1984 with what was then a world-record 355 Test dismissals, many off the bowling of legendary paceman Dennis Lillee.He was the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a Test century.

Rod Marsh passes away at 74

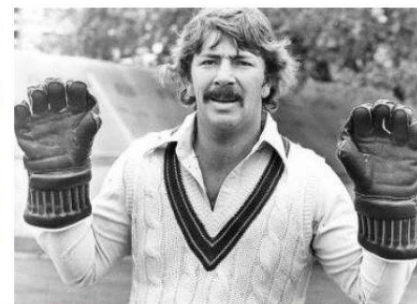
He was in a hospital in induced coma in Adelaide

1947 TO 2022
 AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 SYDNEY

Australian cricket great Rod Marsh, widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has died after suffering a heart attack at a charity event, his former teammates said on Friday.

The 74-year-old, who played 96 Tests and was later a long-time national selector, had been in an induced coma and passed away at a hospital in Adelaide.

Marsh made his debut in 1970 before retiring in 1984 with what was then a world-record 355 Test dismissals, many off the bowling of legendary paceman Dennis Lillee.



A giant: Rodney Marsh was a legend with the big gloves.
 FILE PHOTO

He was the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a Test century. After his playing career, Marsh remained closely linked to the game as head of the Australian Cricket Academy, helping nurture

dozens of Test players including Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer, before becoming chairman of selectors. Marsh is survived by wife Roslyn and sons Daniel, Paul and Jamie.

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106. Consider The Following Statement *Regarding Shane Warne* :

1. Warne was arguably the greatest leg-spinner of all time, with a tally of 708 Test match wickets
2. Warne added to his legend by doubling up as captain and coach of IPL team Rajasthan Royals'
3. Warne was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century for his unparalleled achievements in a 15-year career between 1992 and 2007.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

Shane Warne, Australian cricket legend who helped his nation win the World Cup in 1999 and was part of five Ashes-winning teams during his career, died aged 52 on Friday.

Affectionately known as 'Warnie', he made his Test debut at the SCG in 1992 against India and gained international fame when he delivered the ball of the century in 1993, one to remember for ages for cricket fans around the world.

Warne was arguably the greatest leg-spinner of all time, with a tally of 708 Test match wickets. He also took 293 One-Day International wickets and made more than 300 appearances for Australia across all formats. Warne has also bagged more Ashes wickets than any other bowler in history.

Warne was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century for his unparalleled achievements in a 15-year career between 1992 and 2007

After retiring from international cricket, Warne added to his legend by doubling up as captain and coach of IPL team Rajasthan Royals' remarkable title triumph in the event's inaugural edition He was the second highest wicket taker in Test history and only Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has more wickets than him with 800. In 2013, the year he retired from the game completely, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. His international retirement happened much before that in 2007.

107. Recently In March _____ is observed as *National Security Day in India*. It is also known as *Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas* and is celebrated to honour the National Security Day.

- A. 3RD March
- B. 4th March
- C. 5TH March

D. 6TH March

March 4 is observed as National Security Day in India. It is also known as RashtriyaSurakshaDiwas and is celebrated to honour the National Security Day. The day aims to show gratitude to our security forces which include military, para-military, commandos, police officials, guards, and India's security forces and to those who maintain peace and security of our country.

March 4 marks the day when the National Safety Council of India was established in 1966. The Ministry of Labour under the Government of India took this decision and National Security Day was celebrated for the first time in 1972. National Security Council, the apex agency looks into the country's political, economic, energy and strategic security concerns which were established by the then Prime Minister of India AtalBihari Vajpayee on November 19, 1998.

108. Recently In March **Sunith Francis Rodrigues** passed away on March 4, 2022, at the age of 88.

Rodrigues headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993 and had also served as the Governor of _____ between 2004 and 2010?

- A. Goa
- B. Punjab**
- C. Haryana
- D. Rajashtan

The Prime Minister, Shri NarendraModi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of former Indian Army Chief General S F Rodrigues.

General Sunith Francis Rodrigues (1933 – 2022) was an Indian army officer who was Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army from 1990 to 1993.

After his retirement, he served two terms on the National Security Advisory Board.

He was also the Governor of Punjab from 2004 to 2010.

IN BRIEF



Ex-Army chief S.F. Rodrigues passes away

NEW DELHI

Former Chief of Army Staff General Sunith Francis Rodrigues passed away in Goa on Friday. "General M.M. Naravane COAS and all ranks of Indian Army express heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of General S.F. Rodrigues, who passed away today. Known as a thinker and strategist, he leaves behind a legacy of utmost dedication and service to the nation," the Army said on Twitter.

109. Recently In March **Legendary Cricketer Sonny Ramadhin** Who Passed Away Belonged To Which Of The Following Countries ?

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

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Sonny Ramadhin, whose beguiling spin bowling helped West Indies to secure their first Test series victory in England in 1950, has died at the age of 92. Born in Trinidad in 1929, Ramadhin was the first man of Indian heritage to represent the region in cricket and a star of his time, claiming 158 wickets from 43 Tests during a 10-year international career.

Legendary West Indies spinner, Sonny Ramadhin passed away in Feb 2022.

He played 43 Tests, taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98, with his best being a 7/49 and 10 five-wicket hauls besides 10 wickets in a match.

His record included match figures of 11-152 when West Indies claimed a first-ever Test victory in England at Lord's 72 years ago.

110. Recently In March **International Women's Day week** is being celebrated by Ministry of Women and Child Development from _____ The celebration started on 1st March in collaboration with _____ to raise awareness on safety and security of women ?

- A. 1st March – 8th March , Bureau of Police Research and Development
- B. 1st March – 7th March , NitiAayog
- C. 1st March – 6 March , SPIC
- D. 2nd March – 8th March , DPIIT

The celebration started on 1st March in collaboration with Bureau of Police Research and Development to raise awareness on safety and security of women.

The events on 2nd March focused on the role played by One Stop Centres (OSCs) in supporting women in distress.

Ministry will launch the StreeManoraksha Project in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru. On 7th March 2022, MoWCD and UNICEF India will jointly launch 'Back to School' Campaign as 'KanyaShikshaPraveshUtsav'.

On 8th March 2022, two major events—Nari Shakti Puraskaar and International Women's Day Conference for Women Police Delegates from all States/ UTs will be organised.

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March. 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow' is the UN theme for International Women's Day 2022.

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111. Recently In March On March 1, the **National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** commemorated its _____ **Foundation Day at the Red Fort in New Delhi ?**

- A. 16th
- B. 17TH**
- C. 18TH
- D. 19th

On March 1, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) commemorated its 17th Foundation Day at the Red Fort in New Delhi.

SmritiZubinIrani, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, was the chief guest at the event.

On this occasion, Smritilrani unveiled the NCPCR's new motto, "' भविष्योरक्षतिरक्षितः"

She also praised the NCPCR and Border Security Force's collaboration on the 'SAHARA' special initiative.

'SAHARA' is an initiative aimed at providing psychosocial counselling and assistance to the children of BSF jawans who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

112. Recently In March Every year on _____ the **World Health Organization commemorates World Hearing Day**. to raise awareness about preventing hearing loss and also to promote ear and hearing care across the world ?

- A. 2ND March
- B. 3rd March**
- C. 4th March
- D. 5th March

Every year on March 3, the World Health Organization commemorates World Hearing Day.

It is celebrated to raise awareness about preventing hearing loss and also to promote ear and hearing care across the world.

The theme of World Hearing Day 2022 is "To hear for life, listen with care."

According to the World Health Organization, the day was established in 2007 to raise awareness of deafness. It was initially named International Ear Day, but in 2016 it was renamed World Hearing Day.

In 2021, WHO released the World Report on Hearing, which highlighted the growing number of people living with hearing loss.

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113. Recently In March Every year on _____, **Zero Discrimination Day** is celebrated around the world to promote equality before the law.

- A. 1st March
- B. 2nd March
- C. 3rd March
- D. 4th March

Every year on March 1st, Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated around the world.

This day was established by the United Nations and other international organisations to promote equality before the law.

It is observed to end inequality on the basis of income, gender, age, health status, occupation, disability, etc.

The theme of the Zero Discrimination Day 2022 is 'Remove Laws That Harm, Create Laws That Empower.'

It was first started by UNAIDS Director Michel Sidibe in December 2013 and celebrated for the first time on 1 March 2014. Under Article 16 of the Indian constitution, discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, gender, origins, place of birth, and place of residency are prohibited.

114. Recently In March **World Wildlife Day** is celebrated annually on _____ With The theme "Safeguarding key species for ecosystem restoration" ?

- A. 2nd March
- B. 3rd March
- C. 4th March
- D. 5th March

World Wildlife Day is celebrated annually on 3rd March.

The theme for World Wildlife Day 2022 is "Safeguarding key species for ecosystem restoration". In December 2013, UN General Assembly, in its 68th session, decided to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day.

3 March is day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

3 March was proclaimed as World Wildlife Day by UN to raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

Sustainable Development Goal 15 focuses on halting biodiversity loss.

115. Recently In March Every year on _____ **World Civil Defence Day** is celebrated around the world ohonor the sacrifice of Civil Defence personnel and to spread awareness about the importance of self-Defence ?

- A. 2nd March
- B. 3rd March
- C. 1st March**
- D. 4th March

Every year on 1 March, World Civil Defence Day is celebrated around the world.

World Civil Defence Day was established by the International Civil Defence Organization (IDCO).

It is celebrated to honor the sacrifice of Civil Defence personnel and to spread awareness about the importance of self-Defence.

It is also observed to mark the anniversary of the recognition of ICDO by the United Nations.

The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is “Civil Defence and Management of Displaced Populations in Face of Disasters and Crises; Role of Volunteers and the Fight Against Pandemics”.

International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO):It was formed in 1931 by George Saint-Paul.

116. Recently In March The **National Safety Council of India commemorates National Safety Day (NSD)** every year on _____ **With the goal of raising awareness and commitment to work safely ?**

- A. 4th March**
- B. 3rd March
- C. 5th March
- D. 6th March

The National Safety Council of India commemorates National Safety Day (NSD) every year on 4th March.

This day is celebrated with the goal of raising awareness and commitment to work safely.

The theme of the National Safety Day 2022 is ‘Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture’.

National Safety Day was first observed in 1972, on the anniversary of the National Safety Council's establishment.

National Safety Council:It was founded on March 4, 1966, by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

117. Recently In March Ministry of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** is organizing the **JanaushadhiDiwas** from _____ 2022 to spread awareness about the Pradhan MantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP) ?

- A. 2nd March to 8th March
- B. **1st March to 7th March**
- C. 3rd March to 9th March
- D. 1st March to 5th March

On the 2nd Day of Jan AushadhiDiwas celebrations, Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers flagged off Jan AushadhiRath, Jan Aushadhi Mobile Vans and Jan Aushadhi E-rickshaws from New Delhi as a part of the weeklong celebration across the country.

The Jan AushadhiRath will travel 7 days covering 4-5 States and Vans and E-rickshaws will travel across Delhi up to 7th March to raise awareness at the grassroot level about the benefits of the Pariyojana and Jan Aushadhi generic medicines which are available at affordable prices for all.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is organizing the JanaushadhiDiwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022 to spread awareness about the Pradhan MantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP).theme of the JanaushadhiDiwas in 2022“Jan Aryogya-Jan Upyogi”

With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan MantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in 2008.

118. Recently In March The **United Nations observance of International Women’s Day** will be held virtually on _____ to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women ?

- A. 7th March
- B. **8th March**
- C. 9th March
- D. 10th March

The United Nations observance of International Women’s Day will be held virtually on 8 March, 2022.

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.

Spurred on by the universal female suffrage movement that had begun in New Zealand, IWD originated from labor movements in North America and Europe during the early 20th century.

IWD became a mainstream global holiday following its adoption by the United Nations in 1977.

The theme for this year’s observance is “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”.

119. Recently In March Union Minister of Home Affairs attended _____ Raising Day celebration of CISF as Chief Guest in Ghaziabad on _____ March 2022 ?

- A. 51st, 6TH March
- B. 52nd, 6TH March
- C. 53rd, 6TH March
- D. 54th, 6TH March

Union Minister of Home Affairs attended 53rd Raising Day celebration of CISF as Chief Guest in Ghaziabad on 06 March 2022.

Shri Amit Shah also released the Force's magazine 'Sentinel-2022'. He also presented medals to Officers and Jawans of CISF for gallantry and outstanding services.

He appreciated CISF's role during coronavirus pandemic. He urged CISF to prepare a roadmap of next five years as there will be huge expansion in the private sector.

He said that CISF is the only industrial security force in the world. CISF Raising Day lies every year on 10 March.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

It was formed on 10 March 1969 under the act of the Parliament. It works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The CISF provides security to India's most critical infrastructure facilities like nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants etc.

It also protects important government buildings, iconic heritage monuments and the Delhi Metro.

Its headquarters is in New Delhi. SheelVardhan Singh is its Current Director-General. The motto of CISF is "Protection and Security".

Sports Award Books News

120. Recently In March _____ has become **first Indian to win Boltzmann Medal**, is presented by Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics once in three years ?

- A. AK Sikri
- B. Ravi Chopra
- C. Deepak Dhar**
- D. AbinavChandrachud

Professor Deepak Dhar has become first Indian to win Boltzmann Medal. He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University. The medal ceremony will take place during the StatPhys28 conference, which will take place in Tokyo in August 2022.

Professor Dhar is a physicist. He is a professor at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.

Boltzmann Medal is presented by Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics once in three years.

Boltzmann Medal is given for contributions in the field of statistical physics. StatPhys is an international conference on statistical physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

121. Recently In March The _____ **Southeast Asian Games** will be held in _____ from May 12 to 23, 2022 ?

- A. 12TH, Japan
- B. 11TH, China
- C. 31st, Vietnam**
- D. 35TH, Uzbekistan

The 31st Southeast Asian Games will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022, which is the region's most important sporting event. Around 10,000 participants are expected to attend the Games, which will feature 40 sports and 526 events.

The main venue will be Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, as well as 11 neighbouring cities such as QuangNinh, PhuTho, and BacNinh. The biennial event was originally scheduled for November 2021, but was postponed because of the COVID pandemic in Vietnam and the surrounding region.

Vietnam is hosting the event for the second time since 2003. Its capital is Hanoi, and the currency is Vietnamese dong.

122. Recently In March _____ has been awarded 'Special Jury Award' at 7th India Industry Water Conclave and 9th edition of FICCI Water Awards ?

- A. NitiAayog
- B. NCPCR
- C. NMCG**
- D. SJVN

7th India Industry Water Conclave and 9th edition of FICCI Water Awards was held virtually, from 2nd to 3rd March, 2022.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated 2nd edition of the 'Roorkee Water Conclave'.

Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee and National Institute of Hydrology are jointly organizing the conclave from 2nd March to 4th March 2022.

'Water Security for Sustainable Development' is the central theme of the Roorkee Water Conclave this year.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has set up an exhibition at the Roorkee Water Conclave till 7th March 2022.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society on 12 August 2011. It acted as the implementation arm of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA). G. Asok Kumar is the Director General of NMCG.

123. Recently In March _____ received 1st prize in IspatRajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and IspatRajbhashaPrerna Award for 2019-20 ?

- A. IOCL
- B. BPCL
- C. NDMC**
- D. NitiAayog

NMDC received 1st prize in IspatRajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and IspatRajbhashaPrerna Award for 2019-20.

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) received the awards in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel organized in Madurai on 3rd March 2022. The awards were presented by Union Minister of Steel, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh to Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC.

IspatRajbhasha Award and IspatRajbhashaPrerna Award are given in order to encourage use of Hindi. NMDC is country's largest Iron Ore producer. It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Steel. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.

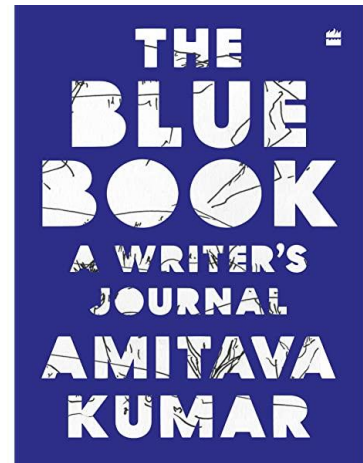
124. Recently In March _____ Hashas authored a new book titled “The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life”. ?

- A. Swapnil Pandey
- B. Richa Ghosh
- c. **Deepam Chatterjee**
- D. StutiJha

Former Indian Army Captain, Deepam Chatterjee has authored a new book titled “The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life”. This is a book that mixes mysticism and music that takes readers on a journey of awakening. The book talks about Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay, who has a shady-yet-mercurial rise in his journey as an entrepreneur and Vini, a mystic monk. The book is published by Ebury Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

125. . Recently In March The Book Titled “The Blue Book ” Is Authored By Whom Among The Following ?

- A. **Amitava Kumar**
- b. BimanNath
- C. Rahul Bose
- D. Ranjith Rae



126. Recently In March _____ Has Been Awarded As The 31st Bihari Puraskar For Her Novel “Hum Yahan The” By KK Birla Foundation ?

- A. **MadhuKankariya**
- B. Rajshree
- C. Geetanjali Shree
- D. RichA Ghosh

Author Madhu Kankariya is being awarded the 31st Bihari Puraskar for her 2018 novel 'Hum Yahan The', the KK Birla Foundation announced on Wednesday.

The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the foundation in 1991. Named after the famous poet Bihari, the award for Rajasthani authors carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation

Among books written by the 64-year-old are Pattakhori, Khule Gaganke Laal Sitaare, Salaam Aakhri and Bhaari Dupahr ke Andhere.

In the past, Kankariya has been conferred with the Kathakram Puruskar, Hemchandra Smriti Sahitva Samman, Viiav Verma Katha Samman and Pratham Vidva Sahitva Samman.

127. Recently In March _____ has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition which is set to be held in March 2022 ?

- A. Aarushi Sharma**
- B. Richa Ghosh**
- C. Arpita Sharma**
- D. Swati Sinha**

A national-level shooter and an environmentalist hailing from Delhi, Aarushi Verma has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition which is set to be held in March 2022.

She is a national-level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting and a State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist.

She will be fully supported and sponsored by The Hans Foundation. 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition is a global initiative to train and develop the next generation of sustainability champions and to help corporations with their sustainability solutions. 2041 Climate Force is derived from the year which marks the Madrid Protocol protecting Antarctica from exploitation would come up for debate, revision, and/or possible cancellation. The participants of the expedition will graduate as 'Ambassadors for the Antarctic'.

128. Recently In March The Book Titled " The TCS Story And The Beyond Is Authored By Whom Among The Following ?

- A. R Kaushik**
- B. Gunsapa Vishwanath**
- C. S Ramadorai**
- D. N Chandrasekaran**

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The salt-to-software Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata today launched a book 'TCS Story...and Beyond' that chronicles the story of the country's largest IT exporter.

The book, written by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Vice-Chairman S Ramadorai, gives an account of the journey of the company over the past 40 plus years.

"This is a narration of the company's transformational journey. Ram (Ramdorai) is a key member of the team which has made TCS into an end-to-end global IT services company," Tata, who is the chairman of TCS, said launching the book.

{ FOR 2018 BOOK 'HUM YAHAN THE' }

Novelist Madhu Kankariya wins 2021 Bihari Puraskar

Malavika Murali

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Author Madhu Kankariya is being awarded the 31st Bihari Puraskar for her 2018 novel 'Hum Yahan The', the KK Birla Foundation announced on Wednesday.

The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the foundation in 1991. Named after the famous poet Bihari, the award for Rajasthani authors carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation.

Kankariya has written several prose, poems and books. Her novel 'Hum Yahan The' is based on the struggles of the tribal people in Jharkhand. It also provides an insight into the culture, society and economic conditions of Kolkata.



Madhu Kankariya

Among books written by the 64-year-old are Pattakhor, Khule Gagan ke Laal Sitaare, Salaam Aakhri and Bhaari Dupahr ke Andhere.

In the past, Kankariya has been conferred with the Kathakram Puruskar, Hemchandra Smriti Sahitya Samman, Vijay Verma Katha Samman and Pra-

tham Vidya Sahitya Samman.

The Bihari Puraskar is awarded every year for outstanding work published in the last 10 years by a Rajasthani author in Hindi or Rajasthani. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee headed by chairman Om Thanvi.

Other members of the jury are Hemant Shesh, Murlidhar Vaishnav, Alka Saraogi, Hariram Meena and Dr Suresh Rituparna. Dr Rituparna is the director of the KK Birla Foundation.

The first Bihari Puraskar was awarded to Dr Jai Singh Neeraj for his poem Dhani ka Admi in 1991.

Besides the Bihari Puraskar, the Saraswati Samman and Vyas Samman are the literary awards instituted by the foundation.

Divya is new champion

Sakshi is runner-up; Priyanka third

SPORTS BUREAU
BHUBANESWAR

Divya Deshmukh played out an 18-move draw with Soumya Swaminathan following a three-fold repetition of moves to claim her maiden MPL National women's chess title here on Wednesday.

Divya, 16, played way over her eighth seeding in the nine-round competition and garnered eight points for the first prize of ₹5.50 lakh – the highest in the 47 editions of the championship.

Important results: Ninth round: Divya Deshmukh (8) drew with Soumya Swaminathan (6.5); Padmini Rout (6.5) drew with N. Priyanka (7); Arpita Mukherjee (6) lost to Sakshi Chitlange (7); Srija



Divya Deshmukh. ■ FILE PHOTO

Seshadri (7) bt Isha Sharma (6); Pratyusha Bodda (5.5) lost to R. Vaishali (6.5); Mary Ann Gomes (6.5) bt Rakshit Ravi (5.5); K. Priyanka (6.5) bt Nisha Mohota (5.5); Parnali S. Dharia (6.5) bt Savitha Shri (5).

Final standings (top-10): 1. Divya, 2 Sakshi, 3. N. Priyanka, 4. Srija, 5. Soumya, 6. Vaishali, 7. Padmini, 8. Mary, 9. K. Priyanka, 10. Parnali.

Spin legend Ramadhin passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Legendary West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin, who was part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950, has died at the age of 92, Cricket West Indies said on Sunday.

Having had made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950, Ramadhin ended up playing 43 Tests and taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98.

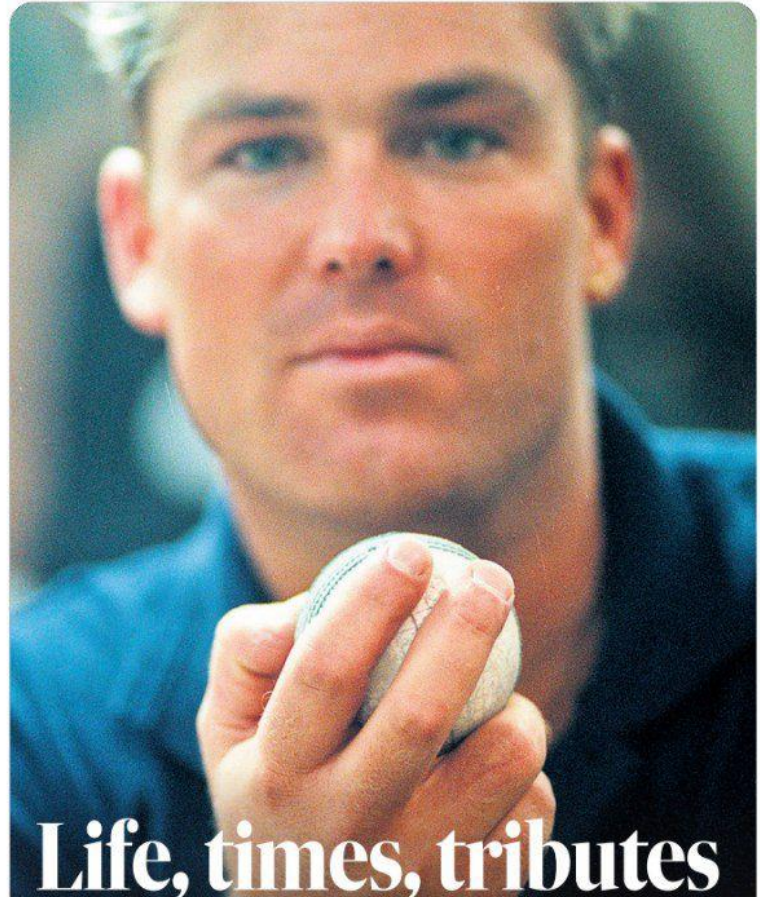
His record included match figures of 11-152 when West Indies claimed a first-ever Test victory in England at Lord's 72 years ago.



Ramadhin.

IN MEMORIAM

Shane Warne (1969-2022)



Life, times, tributes

Shane Warne, one of the greatest cricketers to ever play the game, died on Friday. Warne, who leaves behind a legacy that will remain unmatched for generations, was widely credited with saving the art of spin bowling through the 1990s in a discipline that was increasingly dominated by pace. In 145 Tests, he took 708 wickets – a mark that has only been surpassed by one other bowler, Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan.

A CAREER BEYOND COMPARE

TEST			ODIs		
MATCHES	WICKETS	BEST FIGURES	MATCHES	WICKETS	BEST FIGURES
145	708	8/71	194	293	5/33



During a parade in Melbourne to celebrate Australia's 1999 World Cup victory. GETTY

January 1992: Makes his Test debut against India at Sydney
December 1992: First five-wicket haul in Tests (7/52) against West Indies
March 1993: Makes his ODI debut against New Zealand
June 1993: Produces the 'Ball of the Century' in his Ashes debut, and off his first ball to dismiss Mike Gatting

REMEMBRANCE

"Will miss you Warchie. There was never a dull moment with you around, on or off the field. Will always treasure our on field duels & off field banter. You always had a special place for India & Indians had a special place for you."
 —SACHIN TENDULKAR

"I literally don't know how to sum up this situation. My friend is gone!! We have lost one of the greatest sportsmen of all time!"

Science Tech And Environment

129. Recently In March *India's first indigenous flying trainer* _____ *successfully completed the sea level trials at* _____ *from February 19 to March 5, 2022. designed and developed by* _____ ?
- A. HANSA –NG, Punducherry , CSIR National Aerospace , Bangalore
 - B. HANSA –MG , Vishakapatnam , BHEL
 - C. HANSA –AG , Mumbai , C-DAC
 - D. HANSA –BG , Vishakapatnam , Goa Shipyard Ltd

India's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March, 2022.

HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite light weight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, electrically operated flaps etc.

CSIR-NAL further said that HANSA-NG is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. NAL has already received more than 80 nos. of Lols (Letter of Intents) from various flying clubs.

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories in Bangalore designed and developed the HANSA-NG. On 19 February, the aircraft flew 140 nautical miles in one and a half hours at a cruising speed of 155 kilometers per hour.

The HANSA-NG is a cutting-edge flying trainer powered by the Rotax Digital Control Engine.

130. Recently In March _____ *The World's largest plane destroyed by Russia strikes in Ukraine ?*
- A. Posedian
 - B. Artmeis
 - C. Mriya
 - D. Karbi

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The world's largest cargo aircraft, the Antonov AN-225 or 'Mriya', Or The Dream, has been destroyed in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Antonov AN-225 was designed during the 1980s. It was initially part of the Soviet aeronautical program.

The six-engine 84-metre-long behemoth, with its 32-wheel landing gear, had its first flight on December 21, 1988, built mainly for the transportation of the Buran shuttle orbiter and components of the Energiya carrier rocket.

It made its maiden landing in India, in May 2016, at Hyderabad's Shamshabad airport while en route to Perth to deliver a 117-tonne power generator (from Prague, the Czech Republic) to a mine in Australia. Weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom estimated that the restoring cost would be over \$3 billion and take more than five years.

- 131. Recently In March The *Ministry of Science and Technology* has Signed An MOU Wirh _____ to support a one-of-a-kind start-up in the latest Daylight Harvesting Technology in order to reduce carbon emissions and increase building energy efficiency ?**
- A. Mk Daylighting Solutions Pvt Ltd**
 - B. New Space Research Ltd**
 - C. Skyshade Daylights Pvt Ltd**
 - D. Saint Gobin**

The Ministry of Science and Technology has decided to support a one-of-a-kind start-up in the latest Daylight Harvesting Technology in order to reduce carbon emissions and increase building energy efficiency.

Hyderabad-based "Skyshade Daylights Pvt Ltd" has signed an MoU with the Technology Development Board, a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology.

TDB will provide Skyshade a Rs 5 crore grant to develop new technologies for basement illumination on a 24x7 basis.

The Skyshade has now come up with two more innovative solutions, named Human Centric-Climate Adaptive Building Facade and Central Integrated Daylighting System.

Daylighting technology is basically bringing natural sunlight inside the rooms. It will reduce electrical lighting energy consumption by 70-80%.

- 132. Recently In March What Is The Name Of The Exercise That Gone Postponed _____ Which Was Set To Be Held at Rajasthan's Pokhran test facility on March 7**

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- A. *Dharma Gaurdian*
- B. *SagarParikrama*
- C. *Vayu Shakti***
- D. *Pragati*

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has postponed Exercise Vayu Shakti that was scheduled to take place near Bikaner in Rajasthan on March 7, government officials said on Friday.

However, they did not share the reason for deferring the exercise.

The IAF was to conduct a firepower demonstration and full spectrum operations and showcase their fighterjets, helicopters, several kinds of missiles, and other capabilities with 148 aircraft and some air defence assets.

It is one of the most significant events of the Air Force. The last edition was conducted in 2019. The exercise had started in 1953.

This is the second major defence event that was postponed on Friday. The defence ministry had earlier announced postponing of the marquee DefExpo, which was scheduled to take place in Gujarat's Gandhinagar between March 10 and March 14

133. Recently In March *NASA launched next generation weather satellite* _____ for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- A. *GSAT– 1*
- B. *GOES-T***
- C. *MDSAT*
- D. *NOOR*

NASA launched next generation weather satellite to monitor environment and climate.

The satellite named Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T) has been launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

It is third in a series of next-generation weather satellites.

It was launched from United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

It will help National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in forecasting "hazardous weather conditions" like hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, and fires in the western hemisphere.

It will also forecast space weather near earth that can interfere with satellite electronics, GPS, and radio communications.

134. Recently In March _____ Launched nanoparticle *bio-degradable-carbonoid-metabolite (BioDCM)* And a soil testing device called *BhuParikshak* to measure soil health in 90 seconds ?

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Kanpur**
- C. IIM Khozikhode
- D. IIT Delhi

Researchers of IIT Kanpur have developed a biodegradable nanoparticle to protect crops from disease.

It can be used in the place of chemical-based pesticides and will help farmers in protecting their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.

A team led by Santosh K Misra and Piyush Kumar in association with researchers of ICAR has developed nanoparticle bio-degradable-carbonoid-metabolite (BioDCM). The biodegradable and non-harmful nature of the nanoparticle will help farmers in doing Organic farming.

In December 2021, IIT Kanpur had launched a soil testing device called BhuParikshak to measure soil health in 90 seconds.

135. Consider The Following Statement *Regarding Exercise SLINEX* :

1. Ninth edition of Exercise *SLINEX* started in *Visakhapatnam* on *07th March 2022*.
2. The exercise is being conducted in *two phases*. Its *harbor phase* is being carried out at *Vishakhapatnam* on *March 7 and 8*. The *sea phase* of *Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX* will be carried out on *March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal*.
3. *Indian Navy* will be represented by *INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette*.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

The exercise is being conducted in two phases. Its harbor phase is being carried out at Vishakhapatnam on March 7 and 8.

The sea phase of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX will be carried out on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

SLNS Sayurala, the Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel of Sri Lanka Navy, will represent Sri Lankan Navy in the exercise.

Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette.

INS Jyoti, a Fleet support tanker, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Seaking and Chetak Helicopters and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft are other participants from Indian Navy. Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise- SLINEX: It was last held in October 2020 off the coast of Trincomalee.

136. Recently In March Jagan Mohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh *dedicated INS Visakhapatnam, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam, in a formal ceremony held at Naval Dockyard on 27 Feb 2022.*

What's The Motto Of The Ship ?

- A. YashasviBahwa
- B. The Future
- C. YashoLabhasva'**
- D. KirtiLabhasava

Jagan Mohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh dedicated INS Visakhapatnam, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam, in a formal ceremony held at Naval Dockyard on 27 Feb 2022.

The ship is on her maiden visit to the port for participating in the PFR and MILAN 2022.

INS Visakhapatnam is the lead ship of P15B class of guided missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on 21 Nov 2021.

The crew of the ship abides by her motto 'YashoLabhasva' - a sanskrit phrase that translates to 'Attain Glory'.

137. *Hapcheon dam recently seen in news in February is located in _____ which floats 17 Flowers Solar Plants Which is biggest floating solarplants in the world that is built by Hanawaha Solutions ?*

- A. North Korea
- B. South Korea**
- C. Indonesia
- D. Singapore

More than 92,000 solar panels in the shape of plum blossoms, floating on the surface of a reservoir in South Korea, offer a vision of how land-scarce developed nations can overcome local resistance to giant renewable-energy projects.

The 17 giant flowers on the 19-kilometer-long (12-mile-long) reservoir in the southern county of Hapcheon are able to generate 41 megawatts, enough to power 20,000 homes, according to Hanwha Solutions Corp., which built the plant.

It's one of the biggest floating-solar plants in the world, and it's in a nation that has been a laggard in adopting renewable energy — even though South Korea's industrialized economy relies heavily on imported fossil fuels. Thailand built the world's largest hydrofloating solar-hybrid system on the Sirindhorn reservoir last year, and Singapore has started a 60-megawatt-peak plant on its Tengeh Reservoir. India plans to complete its huge 600 MW plant above the Omkareshwar dam by 2023.

138. Recently In March *Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)* developed *monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs)* that have been used in radar imaging satellite modules of _____ which was launched by ISRO on February 14 ?

- A. EOS 01
- B. EOS 04**
- C. EOS 03
- D. EOS 08

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs) that have been used in radar imaging satellite modules of EOS 04, which was launched by ISRO on February 14. Many of the Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMIC) were designed and developed and produced at Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) DRDO and Gallium Arsenide Enabling Technology Centre (GAETEC) foundry of DRDO.

This is an example of collaborative achievement between two advanced technology departments of the government along with the support of industry partners. The use of indigenously designed and developed MMICs is an important step towards Atmanibhar Bharat.

139. Recently In March American space agency *NASA* has started building the *Europa Clipper spacecraft* that will launch in _____. The mission's purpose is to find if Jupiter's moon *Europa* has conditions to support life ?

- A. 2023
- B. 2024**
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

American space agency NASA has started building the Europa Clipper spacecraft that will launch in 2024. The mission's purpose is to find if Jupiter's moon Europa has conditions to support life.

The Europa Clipper mission will conduct detailed recon naissance of icy moon of Jupiter. NASA said that scientists are "almost certain" a vast ocean lies beneath Europa's icy shell.

"The mission will send a highly capable, radiation -tolerant spacecraft into a long, looping orbit around Jupiter to perform repeated close flybys of the icy moon,

The main body of the spacecraft is a giant 10-foot-tall (3-meter-tall) propulsion module, designed and constructed by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland.

Scientists are confident that Europa - one of the 53 moons orbiting Jupiter - harbours an internal ocean with twice the amount of water in Earth's oceans combined and may currently have conditions suitable for supporting life. Europa is named after a woman who, in Greek mythology, was abducted by the god Zeus.

Biocon arm to buy Viatrix' biosimilars business for \$3.3 bn

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 28

BIOCON BIOLOGICS Ltd (BBL), a subsidiary of Biocon Ltd, on Monday said it will acquire Viatrix Inc's biosimilars business in a \$3.3 billion cash-and-stock deal.

US-based Viatrix will receive cash consideration of \$2 billion on closing of the transaction and up

to \$335 million as additional payments expected to be paid in 2024. Additionally, after the closure of the transaction, BBL will issue \$1 billion of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) to Viatrix, equivalent to an equity stake of at least 12.9 per cent in the company, on a fully diluted basis.

The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2022, subject to satisfaction of closing

conditions (including certain regulatory approvals). Biocon shares fell 11.47 per cent to Rs 348.95 on the BSE on Monday.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson, Biocon Biologics, said: "This acquisition is transformational and will create a unique fully integrated, world leading biosimilars enterprise. Our global partnership with Viatrix has enabled us to achieve many firsts."

World's largest plane, Ukraine's Mriya, destroyed by Russia strikes

AP/File photo



Kyiv: The largest plane in the world — Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane — was destroyed by Russian strikes at the Antonov airport in Gostomel near Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow's invasion, Ukraine's state-owned Ukroboronprom group said on Sunday.

The aircraft was unique to the world, at 84m-long (276ft) it could transport up to 250 tonnes of cargo at a speed of up to 850kmph. It had been named "Mriya" — "dream" in Ukrainian. Ukroboronprom estimated that restoring the "Mriya" would cost over \$3 billion and could take over five years. Initially built as part of Soviet aeronautical programme, An-225 made its first flight in 1988. AFP



On hold: IAF rehearsing for a fire power demonstration, the Vayu Shakti 2022 in Jaisalmer on Friday. •PTI

IAF decides to postpone Ex Vayu Shakti 2022

Due to developing situation: sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided to postpone its firepower demonstration, Ex Vayu Shakti, scheduled in the Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan on March 7 "due to the developing situation", sources in the Air Force said on Saturday.

"Fresh dates shall be intimated subsequently," said an IAF source.

Amid the deepening crisis in Ukraine, on Friday, the Defence Ministry announced that the 12th edition of the biennial DefExpo to be held in Gujarat for the first time has also been postponed "due to logistics problems being experienced by participants."

The triennial Ex Vayu Shakti 2022, aimed at show-

ing the capability of the IAF to conduct full spectrum operations, was to see the participation of 148 aircraft and helicopters, including 109 fighter aircraft, 24 helicopters, seven transport aircraft and four unmanned aerial vehicles.

The frontline aircraft in the IAF inventory, including the Russian SU-30MKI and MiG-29UPG fighters, the latest induction from France, the Rafale, as well as the Mirage 2000, the U.S.-origin C-130 and C-17 transport aircraft, AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Advanced Light Helicopter and the Light Combat Helicopter, were to demonstrate their capabilities at Vayu Shakti.

Locally made trainer aircraft finishes sea trials

HANSA-NG is reportedly one of the most advanced trainers

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind indigenous aircraft trainer, HANSA-NG, developed by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), has completed sea-level trials in Puducherry, a necessary condition before evaluation by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

HANSA-New Generation is reportedly one of the most advanced flying trainers, powered by a Rotax digital control engine with features such as a composite light-weight airframe, a glass cockpit, a bubble canopy with a wide panoramic view, and electrically operated flaps.

The CSIR-NAL says the aircraft is designed to meet the need of flying clubs in India for trainer aircraft.

"It is an ideal aircraft for commercial pilot licensing due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. NAL has already received more than 80 nos. of LoIs [letters of intent] from various flying clubs," the organisation said in a statement.

The aircraft had so far completed 37 flights and 50



On the ramp: The HANSA-NG aircraft being rolled out at the CSIR-NAL in Bengaluru on March 31, 2021. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

hours of flying and a few more were necessary before getting "type certification" by the DGCA. This certification process is likely to be completed by April and thereafter, industry will begin to manufacture the aircraft.

Cruise to Puducherry

For the sea trials, the aircraft was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry covering 140 nautical miles in an hour and a half at a cruising speed of 155 kmph on February 19. The objectives were to evaluate handling qualities, climb and cruise performance, baulked landing and structural performance, including positive and negative G-forces, and power

plant and other systems performance.

CSIR-NAL said in a statement that "all the objectives of the sea-level trials are met", and the aircraft was being ferried back to Bangalore, the headquarters of the CSIR-NAL.

The two-seater Hansa-NG, a revamped version of the original Hansa developed three decades ago, had a successful maiden flight on September 4 when it took off from the HAL airport in Bengaluru and flew for about 20 minutes.

The CSIR-NAL has said the aircraft will be certified within the next four months before it gets inducted into service.

Matsya Setu 2.0 to boost freshwater fisheries

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, March 6

IN AN INITIATIVE to bring inland fisheries trade under a single digital platform, the government will soon launch a mobile app whereby farmers, wholesale buyers, suppliers of feed and equipment and other members of the value chain will be able to share information on market prices and availability of produce.

Matsya Setu 2.0, an android mobile app developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with funding from the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, has features to facilitate trade in freshwater fisheries based on geographical location of the stakeholders.

"This app focuses on freshwater fisheries trade, where aqua farmers get access to price information and availability of suppliers based on geographical locations," Saroj Kumar Swain, director, CIFA, told FE. The app is likely to be formally launched next month and will cater to the B2B (business-to-business) segment of the trade.



Currently, information about prevailing wholesale prices of freshwater fish is scattered and patchy. Matsya Setu 2.0 will help farmers with real-time information on prices. India's fish production was 14.2 million tonne in 2019-20. Inland fisheries have a 74% share of total fish production, while the rest is contributed by marine fisheries.

The app will also have online courses, wherein experts on aquaculture demonstrate breeding, seed production and information about commercially important fish like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish and pearl farming.

It will be an upgraded version of the Matsya Setu app launched in July 2021, which provided freshwater aquaculture technologies to farmers. In the first version of the app, information about management practices to be followed in maintaining soil and water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations was provided.

An official said the fisheries sector is considered a 'sunrise sector' and has witnessed average annual growth of 10.87% since 2014-15. "There has been a definitive shift in fish production from marine fisheries to inland fisheries, primarily because of rapid growth of inland aquaculture," the official said.

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, a scheme to bring about the 'blue revolution' is being implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with an investment of ₹20,050 crore. The Centre has allocated ₹1,879 crore towards the scheme in 2022-23, while ₹1,200 crore was allocated under revised estimates in 2020-21.

India is the second-largest fish producing country in the world, accounting for 7.56% of global production in 2020. The sector contributed about 1.24% to the country's gross value added (GVA) and over 7.28% to the agricultural GVA in 2020-21.

BBB unveils plan

remained unchanged

Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index

NITI AAYOG IS in the process of developing a National Gender Index to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.

In its latest annual report, Niti Aayog said the index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.

The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

Niti Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as dis-coms' viability and competition; access, affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; generation capacity; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives.

The index will help states to efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access to energy to the people, it added. —PTI

CAMEL FESTIVAL
 ऊँट उत्सव
 Bikaner: 6-8 March 2022

Once again, the most beautiful festival of Rajasthan is here

6 March

New gin berry species discovered in T.N.

Glycosmis albicarpa bears distinct large white fruit

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The species, *Glycosmis albicarpa*, with a distinct large white fruit, is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The species belongs to the Orange family *Rutaceae*.

The findings have been published in the latest issue of the *Nordic Journal of Botany* published from Sweden.

Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups



The gin berry species discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

are being utilised for their medicinal values and food. Most commonly related species of these plants are collected from the wild, mainly for local use as food and medicine.

Berries of the *Glycosmis* species have the unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and gained in popularity as an edible fruit. The species is al-

so a larval host plant for butterflies like other species of *Glycosmis*, said K.A. Sujana, the leader of the scientific team.

The species, an evergreen small tree, was found as undergrowth in the Tirunelveli semi-evergreen forests at the Panagudi forest section of the wildlife sanctuary as a single population that covers

an area of approximately 2 sq. km., said Dr. Sujana.

"While exploring the study site, four sub-populations of the species were located in the valley between two hillocks, with each having three-seven mature individuals in groups," she said. Though flowering, natural regeneration and seedling recruitment of this taxon is found to be fairly good within the locality, habitat modification causes a major threat to the survival of this species, she added. "A special conservation effort for this particular region is the need of the hour," said Dr. Sujana.

The discovery not only re-emphasises the uniqueness and endemism in Western Ghats' flora but also add to the growing inventory of the region's flora, said Ragesh Gopala Vadhyar, co-author.

Ram Charan new brand ambassador for Frooti

PARLE AGRO on Friday said it has signed actor Ram Charan as a brand ambassador for its mango juice brand Frooti. Charan and Alia Bhatt, who is already a brand ambassador, will become the face for Frooti. The company is looking at an "action-packed" summer of 2022, two years after major beverage companies missed out on the peak season because of the coronavirus pandemic, Parle Agro said in a statement.

Made in India: BMW rolls out 1,00,000th car from Chennai factory

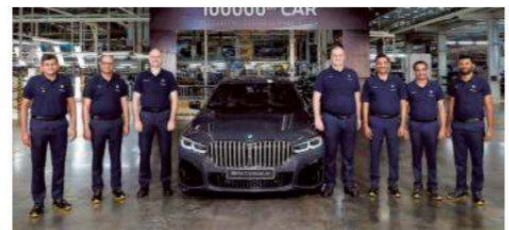
OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 4

Luxury carmaker BMW Group on Friday said it achieved a milestone with the rolling out of 1,00,000th car – BMW Individual 740Li M Sport Edition – from its factory near Chennai.

"It is a day of great joy and pride for us as the 1,00,000th 'Made-in-India' car drives out of our assembly lines. This accomplishment is a result of the team's hard work, efficiency and consistency which ensures that every BMW or MINI car locally produced here in Chennai is of the same international quality standards as any other BMW plant across the world," Thomas Dose, Managing Director, BMW Group Plant Chennai, said in a statement.

It said highly skilled employees, advanced manufacturing processes along with



The BMW Individual 740Li M Sport Edition was launched on Friday

state-of-the-art technology and a strong focus on sustainability provided the necessary ingredients for the milestone.

Value for all

Also, increased localisation of up to 50 per cent and robust collaboration with local supplier partners has created more value for everyone in the ecosystem.

BMW Group Plant Chennai looks to raise the bar in sustainable manufacturing fur-

ther as the India story grows. Making sustainability a top priority, the plant runs on 100 per cent green electricity.

BMW Group Plant Chennai, which started operations in March 2007, employs more than 650 people. Currently, 13 models are locally produced and these include 2 Series Gran Coupe, 3 Series, 3 Series Gran Limousine, M340i, 5 Series, 6 Series Gran Turismo, 7 Series, X1, X3, X4, X5, X7 and MINI Countryman.