

National /State News

1. Recently **India's public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati** has signed a memorandum of understanding with _____, an over-the-top (OTT) platform to expand the reach of DD India channel on global platforms.

- A. Netflix
- B. Yupp TV**
- C. Amazon Prime
- D. Disney +

DD India is now on OTT platform

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Yupp TV to expand channel's reach to U.S., Europe

DEVESH K PANDEY
NEW DELHI

India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has signed a memorandum of understanding with Yupp TV, an over-the-top (OTT) platform, in order to expand the reach of DD India channel, which puts forth the country's perspective on various international developments on global platforms.

Global reach

With this, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, West Asia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

The content hosting agreement was signed by



Wider footprint: The DD India channel of Prasar Bharati is now available in more than 190 countries. • V.V. KRISHNAN

Prasar Bharati's chief executive officer Shashi Shekhar Vempati and Yupp TV founder and chief executive officer Uday Reddy.

Available in more than 190 countries, the channel offers international viewers India's perspective on all domestic

and global developments and also acts as a bridge between India and Indian diaspora across the world. It showcases India's culture and values to the world, said the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday.

"DD India has established

itself as a global influencer on India related issues through its sharp analysis and commentary, thought provoking views and opinions and cutting edge visual presentation," said the Ministry.

Popular show

The channel's one of the popular shows, based on in-depth analysis and research, is Bio-Quest.

"This series deals with the origin of COVID-19, vaccine development and other scientific discoveries related to COVID. Some of the other high viewership shows are India Ideas, World Today, Indian Diplomacy, DD Dialogue, News Night etc," it said.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said Prasar Bharati has signed a memorandum of understanding with Yupp TV, an OTT platform.

The move is part of the public broadcaster's "vision" to expand the global reach of Doordarshan DD India channel

"With this, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand," Through Yupp TV, one can watch live TV "anytime, anywhere" in the world, the ministry

The content hosting agreement was signed by Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati and Yupp TV founder and CEO Uday Reddy,

Available in more than 190 countries, DD India also acts as a "bridge between India and the Indian Diaspora" spread across the world,"DD India, Prasar Bharati's international channel, is India's window to the world. The channel, through its various programmes, offers international viewers India's perspective on all domestic and global developments,

2. Recently, _____ launched the “**donate a pension**” scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an un-organised worker under the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Scheme**.

- A. Labour Ministry
- B. Education Ministry
- C. Minority Affairs Ministry
- D. Tribal Ministry

Labour Ministry launches ‘donate a pension’ scheme

It allows a citizen to pay premium for unorganised workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday launched the “donate a pension” scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.

The pension scheme, which was launched in 2019, allows unorganised sector workers between the age of 18 and 40, who earn up to ₹15,000 a month, to enroll by paying a premium amount between ₹55 and ₹200, depending on the age, that would be matched by the government.

On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a ₹3,000 monthly pension. As of March 3, the scheme had 46.34 lakh enrollments, according to the Labour Ministry’s portal.

Launching the scheme,



No security net: Women migrant workers on the way to their workplace in Palakkad. ■K.K. MUSTAFAH

Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav said he himself had paid the premium of the gardener who worked at his home.

Scheme benefit

“Donate a pension” scheme allows a citizen to “donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, caregivers, nurses, in their hou-

sehold or establishment,” the Ministry said in a statement.

The donor can pay the contribution for a minimum of one year, with the amount ranging from ₹660 to ₹2,400 a year, depending on the age of the beneficiary.

The premium amount can be paid through maandhana.in or by visiting a Common Service Centre anywhere in the country.

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry launched the “donate a pension” scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganized worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.

The pension scheme, which was launched in 2019, allows unorganized sector workers between 18 and 40 years who earn up to ₹15,000 a month to enroll by paying a premium amount between ₹55 and ₹200, depending on the age, that would be matched by the government. On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a ₹3,000 monthly pension.

As of March 3, the scheme had 46.34 lakh enrollments, according to the Labour Ministry’s portal

The donor can pay the contribution for a minimum of one year, with the amount ranging from ₹660 to ₹2,400 a year depending on the age of the beneficiary, by paying through Mandhana

3. Which of the following state Government has launched the “Aam Aadmi School Clinics” as a project to focus on the mental well being and physical health of students?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Punjab
- C. Delhi
- D. Uttar Pradesh

The Delhi Government on Monday launched Aam Aadmi School Clinics, an initiative to promote the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of school students; Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia along with Health Minister Satyendra Jain inaugurated 20 Aam Aadmi School Clinics at an event held at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Moti Bagh. These 20 clinics are a part of a pilot project implemented by the Delhi Government in collaboration with The Hans Foundation

The program is carefully crafted to cater to young students keeping in mind their physical and mental health needs. It aims to provide health care by providing regular full-body health checkups by trained professionals, guidance on health management by Doctors, “This is a unique first-of-its-kind project in the whole country. It is currently being executed in 20 schools of the Delhi government

4. Consider the following statement regarding “New Saksham Anganwadi Scheme” that aims to bring 4 Lakhs girls back to schooling :

1. Central Government has launched the campaign, ‘Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav’, is being steered by the ministry of women and child development in partnership with the ministry of education.
2. “In The new scheme under Poshan 2 and Saksham Anganwadi, we will be only taking up girls in the age group of 14-18 years. Girls aged 11-14 years will not be coming in the Anganwadi system.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

On the eve of International Women’s Day, the ministry of women and child development (MoWCD), in partnership with the ministry of education and UNICEF, launched “Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav”, a campaign to bring out-of-school adolescent girls in India back into the formal education and/or skilling system.

The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls between 11-14 years of age in school. The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) and the National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls. The campaign will be rolled out under the umbrella of MoWCD’s BBBP initiative by targeting more than

Plan to bring 4 lakh girls back to school

New-generation anganwadis to exclude children aged 11 to 14; focus on 14-18 age group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre is launching a back-to-school campaign to bring at least four lakh young girls who are out of school into the formal education system.

Under the new Saksham Anganwadi scheme of the Women and Child Development Ministry, these girls in the 11-14 age group will no longer receive anganwadi support, as the focus shifts to 14 to 18-year-olds, Women and Child Development (WCD) Secretary Indevar Pandey said at an event on Monday.

The campaign to enrol them in schools will be driven by anganwadi workers in collaboration with district education officers, supported by tracking systems used by the WCD and Education Ministries, he added.

A UNICEF survey of 50,000 Indian adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, also released at the same event, reported that



Joining hands: The campaign to bring girls back to school will be undertaken by anganwadi workers in collaboration with district education officers. • PICHUMANI K.

while 90% of respondents were currently enrolled in school, a third of them knew of at least one girl who had dropped out. The dropouts were either engaged in domestic work or had got married, said UNICEF India representative Yasumasa Kimura. He added that at least a third of these girls wished to return to school, with respondents suggesting

strategies to convince parents, to ensure girls' safety in school and on the commute, and to provide better awareness of government programmes.

Mr. Pandey noted that the government's success in bringing adolescent girls into the school system could be seen in the sharp fall in dropout girls who are dependent on the anganwadi sys-

tem for nutritional and skilling support. In 2018-19, there were 11.88 lakh girls aged 11-14 years who were part of the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) in anganwadis, but this had dropped to 5.03 lakh by 2021. With the new Saksham Anganwadis set to pivot their focus to 14 to 18-year-olds from this year, it becomes imperative to ensure that the four lakh

remaining 11 to 14-year-olds are absorbed by the school system, Mr. Pandey added.

Mapping dropouts

Anganwadi workers would map the number of girls in each district and the list would be shared with the Education Department, whose local officials would then ensure that each girl was enrolled either directly in the school system or in vocational training programmes, skill centres or open schooling, explained Mr. Pandey. Data from the Education Ministry's Prabh portal and WCD Ministry's Poshan tracker would be combined to monitor the status of each girl and ensure that none of them fell through the cracks.

The anganwadi workers will be given additional financial incentives ranging from ₹500 to ₹1,000 to counsel adolescent girl dropouts in their anganwadis and ensure that they are enrolled in schools.

5. Recently the central government has reopened the application window for the **production Incentive scheme for white goods that includes AC and LED**, the scheme is to be implemented over a _____ years with an outlay of _____.

- A. 5 , Rs 4500 Cr
- B. 6 , Rs 19500 Cr
- C. 7 , Rs 6238 Cr
- D. 8 , Rs 25938 Cr

PLI FOR WHITE GOODS

Govt re-opens application window

Prospective investors get another chance to apply between March 10 and Apr 25

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 7
The government has reopened the application window for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods — which includes ACs and LED lights — from March 10 to April 25, 2022, giving another chance to prospective investors who failed to apply the first time round last year.

Remaining tenure only

However, the incentive shall be available only for the remaining tenure of the scheme, according to an official release issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Monday.



With an outlay of ₹6,238 crore, the scheme is to be implemented over seven years from 2021-22 to 2028-29

The scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2021-22 to 2028-29, with an outlay of ₹6,238 crore.

The additional applications have been invited on the same terms and conditions offered to investors last year.

A total of 52 companies had filed their application last year, when on-line applications were invited from

June 15 to September 15 through a web portal. After evaluation, 42 applicants — including companies such as Daikin, Hitachi, Panasonic, Voltas, Mettube, Nidec, Dixon and Havells — with committed investment of ₹4,614 crore were provisionally selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme.

Those selected included 26 air conditioner-manufacturing companies with committed investments of ₹3,898 crore and 16 LED lights manufacturing companies with committed investments of ₹716 crore.

Foreign investments

Interestingly, six other applicants who proposed foreign direct investment (FDI) from countries sharing land border with India, specifically China, were advised to submit approval for the FDI (under Press Note 3) for consideration of approval under the PLI scheme.

The government has reopened the application window for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods — which includes ACs and LED lights — from March 10 to April 25, 2022, giving another chance to prospective investors who failed to apply the first time round last year.

Already 42 firms, including Daikin, Panasonic, Syska and Havells, with committed investment of Rs 4,614 crore, have been provisionally selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme for the white goods sector (AC and LED lights).

The scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2021-22 to 2028-29.

6. Recently *India's first international furniture park* has been established at _____ with an investment of _____.

- A. Mumbai , Rs 4500 Cr
- B. Hyderabad , Rs 4755 Cr
- C. Thoothukudi , Rs 2845 Cr
- D. Jaipur , Rs 36856 Cr

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on 7th March 2022 laid the foundation stone for India's first international furniture park at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. The 1,156 acres park will be set up in Meelavattan and South Veerapandiyapuram in the Thoothukudi district, 13 km from the VOC Port.

The facility has been designed to fulfill 70-80 per cent of its raw material demands in house, and will increase competition in the international market, the chief minister said, pointing out that a Belgium-based company, making wooden doors and windows, will establish a unit here at a cost of Rs 430 crore. "Besides, many establishments have come forward to start units at an estimated value of Rs 300-750 crore,"

Thoothukudi gets India's first furniture park at an investment of ₹2,845 cr and...

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 7

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday laid the foundation stone for India's first international furniture park at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. At the event, 33 companies signed Memoranda of Understanding involving an investment of ₹4,755 crore with potential to generate employment for 17,476 people. This includes investment of ₹2,845 crore in a furniture park.

The 1156-acre park will be set up in Meelavattan and South Veerapandiyapuram in the Thoothukudi district, 13 km from the VOC Port. The park seeks to create a better ecosystem to meet 70-80 per cent of the raw material demand, drastically reduce production costs and increase



Chief Minister MK Stalin laying the foundation stone for the international furniture park in Thoothukudi, on Monday RAJESH N

the competitiveness of Tamil Nadu in the furniture sector.

Some of the companies that signed MoUs include Hettich (investment of ₹750 crore), New Century (₹400 crore), Deceuninck (₹400 crore), Vikas (₹320 crore) and Marque Impex (₹150 crore), says a tweet by Guidance

potential for employment of 3-3.50 lakh people, says a State government release.

The State government also signed MoUs with six companies across food processing, textile and garments and chemicals & fertilizers. The MoUs represent total investments of about ₹1,643 crore and can generate jobs for more than 3,650 people in southern districts.

MSME segment

In the MSME segment, the State government signed pacts for a total investment of ₹267 crore. These projects, spread across construction, food processing, glass, solar and medical equipment and textiles, may create jobs for more than 2,370 people, the release said.

... SPIC's ₹150-crore floating solar power unit

Plant built over company's storage ponds to generate 42 m units of clean energy

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 7

Leading fertiliser manufacturer Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd (SPIC) has set up a floating solar project at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, said to be the country's largest, at an estimated cost of ₹150.4 crore.

The power plant over the storage ponds of SPIC's campus was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday, said a statement.

The state-of-the-art 25.3 MW DC/22 MW AC floating solar power plant will optimise energy production on a sustainable basis.

The project aligns with the group's ESG strategy to imple-

ment new-age green and sustainable technology, according to a statement.

Located on the large water reservoir within SPIC's premises, the solar plant can generate 42.0 million units of electricity per annum. All the power generated would be consumed by SPIC and Greenstar Fertilisers.

The solar plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. SPIC worked with France-based Ceil & Terre to design, engineer, and anchor the floating islands. EDAC Engineering Ltd, another arm of the AM International group, undertook the plant's construction.

"SPIC is continuously work-



ing towards effectively harnessing green energies through innovative projects to reduce carbon footprint. We are glad to be at the forefront of India's and Tamil Nadu's march towards clean energy. It is an example of our ESG commitment to progress towards renewable energy," said Ashwin Muthiah, Chairman, SPIC & Founder Chairman, AM International Group.

Cooling effect

The new plant will generate more energy as water facilit-

ates a cooling effect helping in a higher yield. Apart from clean power, the project will help the environment by curbing water evaporation in the reservoir by about 60 per cent.

"The demand for clean power is the need of the hour, and Tamil Nadu currently holds the capacity to generate more than 15,500 MW of renewable energy. The government is focused on environmentally sustainable projects and the establishment of a similar facility in the existing dams and water reservoirs in the State. These initiatives would lead to the generation of more renewable power, conserving water and minimising the scarce agricultural land being used for establishing solar power generating facility," said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.

7. Recently **India's largest floating solar plant set up at _____ with an outlay of _____ by _____ in partnership of _____ based Ceil & Terre company for designing and anchoring of floating island.**

A. Jabalpur , Rs 200 Cr , SJVN , Japan

B. Thoothukudi , Rs 150 Cr , SPIC , France

C. Indore Rs 120 Cr , Ather Energy , Australia

D. Rajkot , Rs 150 Cr , BHEL , Germany

Leading fertilizer manufacturer Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd (SPIC) has set up a floating solar project at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of ₹150.4 crore.

The power plant come up on the storage ponds of SPIC's campus was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin located on the large water reservoir within the SPIC's premises, the solar plant can generate 42.0 million units of electricity per annum. All the power generated would be consumed by SPIC and Green star Fertilisers.

The solar plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. SPIC worked with France-based Ceil & Terre to design, engineer, and anchor the floating islands. EDAC Engineering Ltd, another arm of the AM International group, undertook the plant's construction.

8. Recently the world's first and Asia's largest floating world glass complex has been inaugurated at _____ by Saint Gobain, which is _____ based company with an investment of _____.

A. Tuthookudi , France , Rs 200 Cr

B. Sindhugarh , Russia , Rs 300 Cr

C. Sriperumbedur , France , Rs 500 Cr

D. Kochi , Germany , Rs 250 Cr

French float glass maker Saint-Gobain has invested Rs 500 crore in a new float glass facility and an integrated window line in its World Glass Campus at Sriperumbedur, west of Chennai. The two new facilities, which will provide employment to 200 people, will take the cumulative investments in the World Glass Complex to Rs 3,750 crore and continues to be the single largest investment destination for the group.

The integrated windows line is Asia's largest fully integrated facility. Spread over 10,000 sq m, it will have an annual capacity of one lakh windows by end of 2022. The integrated windows line is aligned with Tamil Nadu

Three facilities of Saint-Gobain involving ₹500-cr outlay flagged off

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 9

French glassmaker Saint-Gobain has completed over ₹500-crore expansion at the company's World Glass Complex at Sriperumbedur near Chennai. The expansion included a new float glass unit, an integrated windows line facility and an urban forest. The new projects were inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday.

The new facilities will provide employment to over 200 people and take the cumulative investment in the complex to over ₹3,750 crore. Globally, the complex continues to be the group's single largest investment destination.

Exponential growth

"Our experience in India has been extremely good; we have sustained high growth rates for a long period and have leadership positions in building materials (glass and glass solutions, gypsum, mortars, insulation and construction chemicals). We are today, the number one company in light and sustainable construction in India. We strongly believe in India's future and have consistently invested ahead of time in capacity, capability, technology, innovation and people. About 25 per cent of our global Capex in 2022 will be spent in Indian operations," said Benoit Bazin, Chief Executive Officer, Compagnie de Saint-Gobain.



MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurating Saint-Gobain's Float Glass plant at Sriperumbedur near Chennai on Wednesday. B Santhanam (left), CEO, Asia Pacific and India Region, Saint-Gobain, and TR Baalu, MP, are also seen.

"Investments close to ₹4,700 crore in Tamil Nadu across 15 plants in four locations, consistently exceeding the MoU investment commitments made to Tamil Nadu government," said B Santhanam, CEO, Saint-Gobain Asia Pacific and India Region.

The company claims its new integrated windows line facility as the world's first and Asia's largest fully integrated facility. Spread over 10,000 sq m, it will have an annual production capability of 100,000 windows by the end of 2022. The fully digitised and completely automated plant will make a large portfolio of UPVC window products focusing on the evolving needs of acoustics, solar/thermal comfort and security.

"Today, with five plants, we have over 50 per cent of India's float glass manufacturing capacity. 60 per cent of our float glass investments are in Tamil Nadu in the World Glass Complex. The World Glass Complex is also an export house that accounts for over 90 per cent of value-added flat glass exports from India," said AR Unnikrishnan, Managing Director, Saint-Gobain India-Glass Business.

In the Saint-Gobain-SIPCOT urban forest, close to 60,000 trees spanning over 40 resilient native species have been planted over an area of 300,000 sq ft.

9. Recently _____ launched *India's first ever digital water data bank* _____, formed by Aqua Kraft Group Ventures while *India's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)* has been launched in _____ on 14 March 2022.

- A. Karnataka, AQVERIUM, Bangalore
- B. Maharashtra, ARTVERIUM, Mangalore
- C. Uttar Pradesh, ARTPARK, Lucknow
- D. Haryana, AQUAPARK, Chandigarh

India's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) has been launched in Bengaluru on 14 March 2022.

ARTPARK has been promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru. India's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' has also been launched in Bengaluru on 14 March 2022.

AQVERIUM is formed by Aqua Kraft Group Ventures, which is an enterprise focused on providing clean drinking water and sanitation.

Minister of Information Technology – Biotechnology and Science & Technology of Karnataka, Dr. C. N. Aswatha Narayana, launched both ARTPARK and AQVERIUM.

He told that Indian water & sanitation market opportunity which was pegged at USD 297 billion is highly unorganized.

10. Consider the following statements regarding *first drone school in India*:

1. First drone school of *Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh* inaugurated in *Gwalior and Kangra* respectively.
2. In March 2022, a MoU was signed between Department of Technical Education, *H.P* and *Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Akademi (IGRUA)* to establish the first drone pilot school at *ITI Shahpur, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh*.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

First drone school of Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh inaugurated in Gwalior and Kangra respectively.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the first drone school of Madhya Pradesh in Gwalior.

During the first drone Mela held at Gwalior in December 2021, Aviation Minister announced that five drone schools will be opened in Madhya Pradesh at Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna.

These drone schools will help in creating an ecosystem for drone operations in India.

Madhya Pradesh is one of the leading states in the use of drone technology.

In March 2022, a MoU was signed between Department of Technical Education, HP and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Akademi (IGRUA) to establish the first drone pilot school at ITI Shahpur, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur also inaugurated the first Drone Pilot School of the state at ITI Shahpur.

IGRUA is an autonomous body that functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Drone or Unmanned Ariel Vehicle is an airborne system or an aircraft operated remotely by a human or autonomously by an onboard computer. It is used in various sectors from delivering medicines/vaccines to employing them for crop assessment, spraying of insecticides, etc.

The use of all manned or automated aerial vehicles in India is governed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

In order to ease out drone ownership and operation for civilian drone operators, Drone Rules were issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in August 2021.

11. Recently Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented a budget of _____ for Jammu and Kashmir for FY23 on 14 March 2022.

- A. Rs 1.51 Lakh Cr
- B. Rs 1.42 lakh Cr**
- C. Rs 1.71 Lakh Cr
- D. Rs 1.56 lakh Cr

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget for Jammu and Kashmir for FY 2022-23 on 14 March 2022.

On the same day, Lok Sabha passed JK Appropriation Bill, 2022 and JK Appropriation No.2 Bill 2022.

According to the JK Appropriation Bill 2022, Rs 797.34 crore has been allocated for the general administration department and Rs 10,831.18 crore for the home department.

Finance Minister said that 75 off beat destinations have been identified across J&K. They will be developed with proper infrastructure and requisite facilities for tourists.

She said National Highway project between Jammu and Srinagar is being completed on a fast track basis.

She said it will take only six hours to reach Shri Mata Vaishnav Devi Shrine from Delhi with the completion of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway.

She further said that every household will be provided tapped water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission by August 2022.

She quoted Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and said that unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir has come down from 20% in 2016 to 13.2% in late February 2022.

12. Recently ISRO has introduced 'Young Scientist' program for class _____ students. "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme's objective is to select _____ students of class 11 across the country.

- A. 10th , 100 Students
- B. 9th , 150 Students**
- C. 12th , 100 Students
- D. 9th , 100 Students

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is organizing a special programme for school children called "Yuva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme" to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially for those from rural areas.

The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the "future building blocks of our nation," according to the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.

"The programme aims to select 150 students across the country, who are studying in Class IX as on March 1, 2022 in a school located within the territory of India,"

13. Recently the President of India has conferred the '*Nari Shakti Puraskar*' to _____ outstanding and exceptional women achievers for the years 2020 and 2021.

- A. 40
- B. 29**
- C. 35
- D. 28

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 on International Women's Day 2022.

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

'#Break the Bias' is the campaign theme for International Women's Day 2022.

'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow' is the UN theme for International Women's Day 2022.

Week-long celebration of International Women's Day 2022 had started on 1st March. The celebration culminated with the conferment of awards by President Ram Nath Kovind.

In all, 28 awards were presented to 29 individuals. Some of winners of Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 are given in the next table.

14. Which of the following state has not yet *permitted free trade of agriculture produce outside the Mandi's without charging any fees?*

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Karnataka
- D. Uttar Pradesh**

Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka permit free trade of agriculture produce outside Mandis without charging any fees.

Most big states regulate agri trade. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh issue licences and charge Mandi fees even for direct buying from farmers.

Direct buying from farmers is not allowed in Union Territory of Chandigarh. In Gujarat and Maharashtra, local Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) is allowed to decide rates. These rates vary from crop to crop between 0.5 and 6%.

Traders and businesses are permitted to buy outside Mandis for de-regulated commodities, primarily fruits and vegetables, without paying any fees.

However, if fruits and vegetables are sold inside Mandis, most states charge a 1% user fee, which is collected from the buyer.

15. Consider the following statements regarding **Telangana budget** :

1. **Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao presented a tax free budget of Rs 2.56 Trillion for 2022- 23.**
2. **The budget proposed an outlay of Rs 17,700 crore for the state government flagship Dalit Welfare Scheme “Dalit Bandhu”.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct

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

Telangana govt presents tax-free Budget for 2022-23

Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Monday presented a tax-free budget of ₹2.56 trillion for 2022-23, up from about ₹2.31 trillion last year. The budget proposed an outlay of ₹17,700 crore for the state government's flagship Dalit welfare scheme 'Dalit Bandhu'. "For the financial year 2022-23, I am proposing a total expenditure of ₹2,56,958.51 crore. Out of this, revenue expenditure is ₹1,89,274.82 crore and capital expenditure is ₹29,728.44 crore," the Minister said. PTI

Telangana's Finance Minister T Harish Rao presented 2.56 lakh crore budget for financial year 2022-23.

The budget for the 2022-23 financial year is Rs 26,000 crore higher than the budget for 2021-22.

In this Budget, the total expenditure has been proposed at Rs 2,56,858.51 crore.

The Government will be spent Rs 17,500 crore on the Dalit Bandhu Scheme.

The revenue expenditure has been estimated at Rs 1.89 lakh crore and capital expenditure at Rs 29,728 crore.

16. Recently the **Haryana Government** has presented a tax fee budget for 2022 – 23 with an outlay of _____, an increase of 15.6% compared to the previous year.

- A. Rs 177255 Cr
- B. Rs 243000 Cr
- C. Rs 188989 Cr
- D. Rs 256300 Cr

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal presented Rs 1.77 lakh crore budget for FY 2022-23.

The budget estimates fiscal deficit of 29618 crore rupees and the primary deficit of 8623.84 crore rupees.

The total revenue receipts are projected to be 1, 06,424.70 crore rupees.

The government has allocated Rs 530.94 crore for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. A 150-km long nature trail from Kalka to Kalesar will be established.

Haryana Government will give soft loans to women entrepreneurs whose family's annual income is less than Rs 5 lakh.

17. Recently the Central Government has approved a financial assistance for _____ vessels amounting to _____ crore under the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SFBA).

- A. 40 Vessels , Rs 272 Cr
- B. 47 Vessels , Rs 155 Cr**
- C. 51 Vessels , Rs 500 Cr
- D. 53 Vessels , Rs 819 Cr

The Centre has approved financial assistance for 47 vessels amounting to ₹155 crore under the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFA). The total contract value of these ships stands at ₹850 crore.

T, the shipping ministry said that 95 applications have been received till now seeking an in-principle approval for 170 vessels with contract value of Rs 2,620 crore.

The guidelines of the policy have been in force from April 1, 2016 and shall be applicable for shipbuilding contracts signed between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2026.

18. Recently the *Suraj kund International Handmade Festival* organized in _____ and _____ Country has been chosen as its partner country.

- A. Bikaner (Rajasthan) , Bangladesh
- B. Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) , Nepal
- C. Bina (Madhya Pradesh) , Bhutan
- D. Faridabad (Haryana) , Uzbekistan**

The Suraj kund International Crafts Mela is a handicraft fair organized about 40 km from Delhi at Suraj kund in the Faridabad district of Haryana. The annual handicraft fair at Suraj kund during the first fortnight of every February celebrates everything fine in Indian folk traditions and culture. Over a million people visit the crafts fair during the fortnight.

The 35th Suraj kund International Crafts Mela 2022, which was to be held from February 4 to February 20, has been deferred due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme state this year is Jammu and Kashmir. Uzbekistan has been chosen as the partner country this year. Hence we are looking forward to tasting solid dollop of Central Asian art and culture.

19. North India's first big centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space centre is located at _____, however the first space centre is located in _____.

- A. Pokhran , Faridabad
- B. Mohali , Punjab
- C. Jammu , Thiruvananthapuram**
- D. Ladakh , Imphal

North India's first big space centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space training institute after the Thiruvananthapuram hub was inaugurated in Jammu.

Jitendra Singh called the move a "historic decision" and said though most space technology institutes were confined to southern states, the "opening of this centre in 75th year of independence marked the march of space journey from Kerala to Kashmir"

India gets its 2nd space training centre in Jammu

New Delhi: North India's first big space centre and the country's second-of-its-kind space training institute after the Thiruvananthapuram hub was inaugurated in Jammu on Saturday, reports **Surendra Singh**.

While launching the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences on the premises of the Central University of Jammu, spaceminister Jitendra Singh called the move a "historic decision" and said

though most space technology institutes were confined to southern states, the "opening of this centre in 75th year of independence marked the march of space journey from Kerala to Kashmir".

He said 60 students will be taken in the course. He also said "after studying aviation and aeronautics from here, students will be able to find a career in space technology not only in India but in institutes like Nasa".

20. Recently the Ministry of Power has **launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park virtually**. The SGKC has been established by _____ in _____.

- A. SJVN , Karnal
- B. NTPC , Piparpati
- C. POWERGRID , Maneser**
- D. IOCL , Khuntia

As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program, Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh has launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) and Innovation Park.

POWERGRID has established the SGKC in Maneser for demonstration and advancement of cutting-edge smart grid technologies. SGKC aims to be one of the world's top centers of excellence for smart grid technology innovation, entrepreneurship, and research, as well as building capacity in the power distribution sector.

POWERGRID has design and developed the Virtual SGKC with support from the Union Ministry of Power and technical help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

POWERGRID: It is a Maharatna company headquartered in Gurugram. It was founded on 23 October 1989. Its Chairman & MD is Kandikuppa Sreekant.

Virtual launch of knowledge centre

UNION POWER MINISTER R.K. Singh on Tuesday inaugurated a Smart Grid Knowledge Centre (SGKC) and an Innovation Park, an official statement said. The virtual launch event was as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', which is an initiative of the government to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the ministry of power said.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

21. Recently, _____ again emerged on top in maternal and child health with the lowest **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.**

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

Kerala topped in maternal and child health.

According to the latest data, India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19.

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Kerala has dropped from 42 to 30. Kerala has achieved the UN Sustainable Development Goals of MMR in the year 2020 itself.

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has worsened in West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh.

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has drastically improved in UP, Rajasthan, and Bihar.

Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra are included in the top 3 states with the lowest MMR in India.

Italy, Norway, Poland, and Belarus have the lowest MMR in the world.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100000 live births.

22. **India's first 'World Peace Centre will be established in _____ by _____ organization.**

- A. **Pune , Ashirvad Pipes**
- B. Gurugram , Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti**
- C. **Gurugram , Nudge Foundation**
- D. **Pune , Wish Foundation**

India's first 'World Peace Center' will be established in Gurugram.

Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organization will set up India's first 'World Peace Center' in Gurugram.

'World Peace Center' will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.

Programs of Peace Education will be prepared in the coordination of ancient knowledge and modern science.

The World Peace Center will work for the mental, emotional, and character development of the people.

Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organization was founded by eminent Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni to spread the message of Peace, Harmony, and Non-Violence.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

23. Recently the **Union Environment Minister** has released a report on rejuvenation of _____ major rivers through forestry interventions. The proposed cumulative budget outlay of these thirteen DPRs is _____.

- A. 15 , Rs. 18,342.62 crore
- B. 13 , Rs. 19,342.62 crore**
- C. 12 , Rs. 16,342.62 crore
- D. 16 , Rs. 17,342.62 crore

Union Environment Minister released report on rejuvenation of 13 Major Rivers through Forestry Interventions.

The rivers identified for forestry interventions include Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Luni, Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery.

Detailed project reports (DPR) for these rivers have been prepared by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.

The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board under the Environment Ministry will provide funding for rejuvenation of the identified rivers.

These DPRs will set a target of green cover expansion for the upcoming 10 years to 20 years.

The total budget outlay of thirteen DPRs is Rs 19,342.62 crores. These DPRs will be implemented through the State Forest Departments as nodal agency.

The largest outlay has been allocated for the Yamuna of Rs 3,869 crore and the smallest for Chenab of Rs 376 crore.

The main objective of DPR is to contain soil erosion, recharge water table, and increase green cover. DPRs will focus on ecological restoration, moisture conservation, livelihood improvement, income generation,

24. Recently, _____ government has announced "**Mukhyamantri Chaa Srani Kalyan Prakalpa**" scheme for tea garden workers and also allot _____ for the implementation of the scheme.

- A. Sikkim 65 Cr
- B. West Bengal 75 Cr
- C. Assam , 85 Cr
- D. Tripura , 85 Cr**

Tripura government announced "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srani Kalyan Prakalpa" scheme for tea garden workers.

Tripura government has launched this scheme to provide social security cover to more than 7000 tea garden workers. The scheme will provide housing, rations and financial support to the tea garden workers. The government has allocated 85 crores for the implementation of the scheme.

The government has also increased daily wages of workers from Rs.130 to Rs.176.

Providing land to farmers for constructing house, allocating land of defunct tea garden on lease through cooperative, providing drinking water, electricity, etc. are the key components of the scheme.

25. Recently the _____ has organized a national level 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' to start communication with the Start-ups in the water sector.

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tribal

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organized a national level 'India Water Pitch -Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' on 12 March.

This conference has been organized at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Its main aim is to start communication with the Startups in the water sector.

The Government has also launched the 'India Water Pitch -Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' during the conclave. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will provide Rs 20 lakh to the winners of this challenge. More than 50 Startups showcased their innovative solutions for urban water problems.

On 1 October 2021, the government had launched the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) for making Indian cities 'Aatma Nirbhar' and 'Water Secure'.

The Technology sub-mission is a key component of AMRUT 2.0. It focuses on providing financial support and mentoring to start-ups finds solutions of the water problems of Indian cities.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):

It was launched in June 2015. Its main objective is to ensure a strong sewage network and water supply for urban transformation.

26. Recently Prime Minister has dedicated "Rashtriya Raksha University's" building to nation, built in which of the following states?

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

PM dedicated Rashtriya Raksha University's building to nation.

Rashtriya Raksha University is situated at Lavad village near Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

Rashtriya Raksha University will emerge as a center for national security and defense.

.Rashtriya Raksha University: It is a central University located in Gujarat. It was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2009. It was upgraded as the Institutions of National Importance through Rashtriya Raksha University Bill, 2020. It provides academic qualifications in the field of counter-terrorism, Counter-insurgency, and cyber security.

27. *St. Anthony festival is a customary festival for the fishermen and pilgrims of India and Sri Lanka. It was held in _____.*

- A. Sriharikota
- B. Drivenrayam
- C. Katchatheevu**
- D. Medaram

A two-day annual festival St. Anthony is being held at Katchatheevu.

St. Anthony's festival is a customary festival for the fishermen and pilgrims of India and Sri Lanka.

It will strengthen the cultural ties between both countries. People from both countries attend the festival at the Katchatheevu Island.

Katchatheevu Island is located between Neduntheevu, Sri Lanka and Rameswaram, India.

India ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka under the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement" in 1974. St. Anthony's shrine is the only structure on the island. It was built by Srinivasa Padaiyachi in the early 20th century.

At this place, Christian priests from both India and Sri Lanka conduct worship services (mass) and procession.

28. *Recently _____ edition of **Khel Mahakumbh** was inaugurated in Ahmadabad, Gujarat by Prime Minister Modi.*

- A. 11th**
- B. 12th
- C. 13th
- D. 14th

11th Khel Mahakumbh inaugurated in Ahmadabad by PM Modi.

Khel Mahakumbh was started with 16 sports and 13 lakh participants and now 36 general sports and 26 para-sports are played.

For the 11th Khel Mahakumbh, almost 45 lakh sports people have registered.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the Mahakumbh was postponed for two years.

It is a one-of-a-kind combination of traditional sports like Kabaddi, kho-kho, Yogasan, and Mallakhambh with modern sports such as artistic skating, tennis, and fencing.

It began in Gujarat in 2010 under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister.

It has also promoted para-sports in Gujarat.

29. Recently the **Meghalaya and Assam Government** signed a pact to consider how many border villages of Assam as the village of Meghalaya?

- A. 30
- B. 36
- C. 39
- D. 26

Thirty of the 36 disputed villages along the Meghalaya-Assam border will remain in Meghalaya as recommended by regional committees of the two States, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma informed the Assembly on March 7.

“Of the 36 villages claimed by Meghalaya in 2011, a total of 30 will remain in Meghalaya as recommended by regional committees of the two States. The Chief Minister said that both the states have signed a MoU in January end on the resolution and conclusion of dialogue in six areas of difference and it was forwarded to Prime Minister

30 OF 36 VILLAGES TO REMAIN IN MEGHALAYA: CM

SHILLONG: Thirty of the 36 disputed villages along the border with Assam will be retained by Meghalaya as recommended by regional committees of the two states, Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma told the state assembly on Monday.

The chief minister also said that he will take the matter forward with Union home minister Amit Shah during his visit to New Delhi on March 9. “I am very hopeful that we will be able to announce some positive statements based on the MoU that have been signed between the two states... that we should be able to come to a conclusion,” Sangma said, while addressing the House on the status of talks with the Assam government to on the border dispute. **HTC**

30. Recently **DIPAM** has collaborated with **NITI Aayog** to organize an Apex level consultative post budget with the theme _____.

- A. Privatization and Disinvestment
- B. Asset Monetization of Core and Non-Core Assets
- C. Experience The Expertise Of Budget
- D. Both A & B
- E. Both A & C

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, are organizing an apex level consultative post-Budget webinar on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the webinar and kick-start the deliberations. Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisan Rao Karad will also be part of the webinar, with the Finance Minister's address in the concluding session of the webinar. The themes of the Webinar are:

Privatization and Disinvestment.

Asset Monetization of Core and Non-Core Assets.

DIPAM will incorporate valuable thoughts/experiences from the panelists and participants to formulate robust implementation strategy for privatization, asset monetization and disinvestment programme of the Government of India with sharper focus.

31. Consider the following statements regarding “*Make in India - Defence*”:

1. The Defence Ministry of India has identified **18 major platforms** for industry led design and development in defence sector through various route.
2. Under the **Make-1 category**, **14 projects** have been identified for Research and Development purpose.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Defence Ministry of India has identified 18 major platforms for industry led design and development in defence sector under various routes. This is in sync with the announcement in the Union Budget 2022-23 that allocated 25 percent of defence R&D budget for industry led research and development.

Under the Make-1 category, 14 projects have been identified for Research and Development purpose. They include Hypersonic Glide Vehicle, Directed Energy Weapons, Naval Ship Borne Unmanned Aerial System, Light Weight Tank and Plug and Play’ Housing and Infrastructure for soldiers posted at extreme altitudes. For Projects under Make-I sub-category, the Ministry of Defence will provide financial support up to 70 percent of total cost of prototype development.

Under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Model category, two platforms namely Long Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Indian Multi Role Helicopters have been identified.

Under this category, private industries will be encouraged to take up design and development of military platforms and equipment in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organization and other organizations.

Under Make-II category, which is funded by industry with assured procurement, Anti-jamming Systems for Multiple Platforms has been identified.

The indigenous development of these projects will help harness the design capabilities of domestic defence industries and position India as a design leader in these technologies.

32. In which of the following cities the first event “*Jharokha-compendium of Indian Handicraft/Handloom, art and Culture*” was organized?

- A. Delhi
- B. Bhopal

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

- C. Hyderabad**
- D. Bangalore**

Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organizing “Jharokha” programme to promote Indian handicrafts and art and culture.

It will be organized at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs from 8th -14th March.

The first event under this celebration was organized in Bhopal at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station on 8th March.

All the stalls under this program will be set up by the women artisans.

Cultural events including folk dance and singing performances by local teams and artists will be organized for eight days.

It is being organized as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

33. Consider the following statement regarding Maharashtra Budget:

- 1. As per the Budget estimates, revenue receipts would be to the tune of ₹ 403,427 crore and revenue expenditure at ₹ 427,780 crore.**
- 2. The state proposes GST amnesty scheme for goods and services tax (GST) payees and a reduction of VAT on natural gas, among other tax concessions.**
- 3. The government intends to establish a high-tech “Indrayani Medicity” on 300 acres near Pune.**
- 4. The budget also proposed ₹ 100 crore to set up the Bharat Ratna, Late Lata Mangeshkar International College of Music and Museum at the Kalina campus of Mumbai University.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1, 3, 4**
- B. Only 2, 3, 4**
- C. All of the above**
- D. None of the above**

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Maharashtra Deputy CM and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar presented the state Budget 2022.

A revenue deficit budget was presented by Ajit Pawar in the Maharashtra assembly with a total outlay of Rs.5.84 lakh crore (13% higher than Budget Estimates for 2021-22).

FM of Maharashtra said that Maharashtra will become the first state to have a \$1 trillion economy.

The economy of Maharashtra will grow by 12.1% which is higher than the expected growth rate (8.9%) of the Indian economy.

To achieve the above mentioned goals, the government has launched a new five-point development agenda called Panchasutri of Development. Rs 4 lakh crore will be made available in the next three years for this programme.

The five elements of Panchasutri are agriculture, health, human resource, transport and industry.

The state has focused on building both physical and social infrastructure. This will result in higher job creation, increase income and boost the state's economy.

The state is also focusing on establishing a safe and fast transportation system to promote industrialization, tourism and agriculture.

The government will waive off the loan of Land Development Bank worth Rs 964 crore for 34,788 farmers and also clear Rs 275.40 crore dues of bank employees.

In the health sector, the budget proposed to establish 100-bed women hospitals in 16 districts and a state-of-the-art 'Indrayani Medicity' near Pune city. Telemedicine centres will also be set up in every district hospital through 'Shiv Arogya Yojana'.

The budget proposed mobile services to 1.2 lakh Anganwadi workers and supervisors through e-Shakti Yojana and setting up of Amrut Mahotsav Mahila and BAL Bhavan in every district.

Hindu Hruday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Samruddhi Highway will be extended from Nagpur to Bhandara-Gondia and Nagpur to Gadchiroli.

Government has announced a new scheme- "Pandita Ramabai Smriti Shatabdi Mahila Udyojak Yojana". Under the scheme, there is a provision of 100% interest refund to start a self-employment project for women who lost their husbands due to COVID-19.

The budget proposed GST amnesty scheme (named Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears of Tax, Interest, Penalty or Late Fee Scheme, 2022) and reduction in VAT on compressed natural gas (CNG) from 13.5% to 3% and reduce stamp duty.

Maharashtra government has allocated Rs 100 crore for improvement works in slum areas outside Mumbai.

As per the economic survey of the State, service sector accounts for about 60% of the state's economy and is expected to grow by 13.5%.

As per the Budget estimates, revenue receipts will be Rs 4,03,427 crore and revenue expenditure will be Rs 4,27,780 crores.

34. Consider the following statements regarding “*Andhra Pradesh State Budget*” :

1. The Andhra Pradesh government has pegged an expenditure of ₹ 2.56 lakh crore in the annual budget for 2022- 23.
2. The separate *agriculture budget* was also presented with an outlay of ₹43,052 crore.
3. The *Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)* were allocated ₹18 crore while ₹7,020 crore was allotted for the ‘*Rythu Bharosa PM Kisan scheme*’.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Andhra Pradesh government has pegged an expenditure of ₹2.56 lakh crore in the annual budget for the year 2022-23 compared to ₹2.29 lakh crore in the previous year.

The main focus of the Government in terms of allocation is on welfare schemes. “

The separate agriculture Budget presented had an outlay of ₹43,052 crore. The Rhythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) were allocated ₹18 crore while ₹7,020 crore was for the Rythu Bharosa PM Kisan scheme.

35. Consider the following statement regarding “*West Bengal Budget*”:

1. The West Bengal government has proposed to *exempt registration fees and road tax for battery operated two and four wheelers for the next two years starting FY23.*
2. West Bengal Minister of State for Finance (Independent Charge), *Chandrima Bhattacharya*, presented a ₹ 3.21 lakh crore budget for 2022- 23.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya has presented a Rs 3.21-lakh crore budget for the 2022-23 fiscal, proposing incentives for battery-operated and CNG vehicles and tax relief for the tea sector.

Total budget allocation for 2022-23 will see 3.8 times growth to Rs 3, 21,030 crore as against the figure in 2010-11,

The budget also proposes exemption from registration fee and road taxes for two years for battery-operated and CNG vehicles both two and four-wheelers.

36. Consider the following statement regarding “Kerala Budget”.

- 1. K.N. Bala Gopal has announced ₹4,000 cr. for tackling inflation, food security in Kerala Budget**
- 2. The Budget Proposes four science parks which will be established at a cost of ₹2,000 crore and plans to promote private industrial parks**
- 3. A ‘Gift Bill’ scheme, where GST invoices can be uploaded via an app, will be rolled out to encourage prompt filing of tax returns with gifts.**

Which of the following statement is/are in-correct?

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

Kerala government presented budget for FY 2022-23.

Kerala government presented the state budget in the Assembly. Government has focused on the knowledge economy and linking skill with manufacturing.

In the Budget for 2022-23, the government has announced the setting of four science parks and 14 district skill parks for young entrepreneurs. The government has allocated Rs 2000 crores for four IT corridors, a Kerala genomic data center for health care, and 20 micro-IT parks.

Translational research centers will be developed in university campuses.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) would give Rs 2,000 crore for land acquisition for the proposed semi-high speed rail corridor.

The state government is aiming for net-zero carbon emission by 2050. The government will also launch ‘Suchithwa Sagaram’ scheme for removing plastic waste from the sea and water bodies.

Maharashtra will be the first State to have a \$1-trillion economy: Ajit Pawar

State FM announces outlay of ₹1.15-lakh cr towards agriculture, health, human resources, transport and industry sectors

OUR BUREAU

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday presented the annual State Budget for 2022-23 with revenue receipts of ₹4,03,427 crore and revenue expenditure of ₹4,27,780 crore. Despite a revenue deficit ₹24,353 crore, Maharashtra will be the first State to have a \$1-trillion economy, Pawar said.

Pawar announced an outlay of ₹1,15,215 crore for Panchsutri (five-point programme) encompassing agriculture, health, human resource, transport and industry. About ₹4-lakh crore will be provided for this programme in the next three years. An outlay of ₹23,888 crore is proposed for agriculture and allied sectors, ₹5,244 crore for the health sector, ₹46,667 crore for human development and human resources, ₹28,605 crore for transportation infrastructure and ₹10,111 crore for the development of the industry and energy sectors.

Incentive grant for farmers

Pawar announced an incentive grant of ₹50,000 for farmers who repay their loans regularly. The disbursement will be made this year benefitting 20 lakh farmers. The expected ex-

penditure on this programme is ₹10,000 crore. The scheme was announced last year but was not implemented due to financial constraints.

He also announced waiver of loans amounting to ₹964 crore owed to the Land Development, benefitting 34,788 farmers. As much as ₹1,000 crore will be provided in three years for a special action plan for soybean and cotton crops. The Minister also proposed an interest subvention scheme for 306 APMCs for infrastructure up-gradation and 100 per cent repayment of interest. The investment expected for this programme is ₹10,000 crore. The government has also made a provision of ₹6,952 crore for purchase of agricultural commodities at the minimum support price.

New hospitals

Level-4 Trauma Care Units of 50 beds each will be set up at Nanded, Amravati, Jalna, Bhandara, Ahmednagar and Satara. Lithotripsy treatment will be introduced in all 200-bed hospitals in the next three years. The government will also introduce a modern 'Phaco' treatment method for cataract surgery at government hospitals. Fifty-bed hospitals will be equipped with mechanical washing



Maharashtra Finance Minister Ajit Pawar and Minister for Home Affairs (Rural) Shambhuraj Desai arrive at the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan for the Budget presentation on Friday.

plants and 30-bed hospitals will have cleaning machines.

The government has also proposed the establishment of 100-bed women's hospitals at Hingoli, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, Wardha, Bhandara, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Solapur, Ratnagiri, Aurangabad and Raigad.

India's first Medcity

The government intends to establish a high-tech 'Indrayani Medcity' on 300 acres near Pune. This city will have hospitals, medical research facilities, pharmaceutical manufacturing units, and wellness and physiotherapy clinics.

Transport provisions

The government has proposed a provision of ₹7,500 crore for

10,000 km of roads under Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-II. The government will also launch 6,550-km road improvement programme under Prime Minister's Village Road Scheme Phase-3. The ₹16,039-crore Nashik-Pune medium high-speed railway project has been sanctioned. The government will provide financial assistance by way of capital for 3,000 new environment-friendly buses and for modernisation of 103 busses to Maharashtra State Transport Corporation.

Industry development

Pawar said that about 1 lakh employment opportunities through 30,000 self-employment projects under the Chief Minister Employment Generation Programme will be created.

Investment totalling ₹1.89 lakh-crore through 98 investment agreements under Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 will be made and 3,30,000 new employment opportunities will be created. Under the e-vehicle policy, by 2025, the share of electric vehicles in vehicle registration will be grow manifold.

VAT on CNG reduced

The government has proposed to reduce VAT on CNG from 13.5 per cent to 3 per cent. This will benefit public transport and consumers of piped gas.

Under the VAT Amnesty Proposal - Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears of Tax, Interest, Penalty or Late Fee Scheme - 2022, the government will write off total pending dues of ₹10,000 or less per year. The lump sum payment option will also be provided with VAT dues between ₹10,000 and ₹10 lakh per year; one can pay only 20 per cent of the dues. For dues above ₹50 lakh, payment of a minimum 25 per cent (first instalment) is necessary before September 30, 2022. Balance three quarterly instalments could be paid in the next nine months.

The government also announced an amnesty scheme under the Stamp Duty Act which will be applicable for pending penalties. The annual budget also proposed to waive the stamp duty of 0.1 per cent on gold-silver imported in Maharashtra.

West Bengal proposes to waive registration fees, road tax for EVs

Presents ₹3.21-lakh cr Budget for 2022-23

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, March 11

The West Bengal government has proposed to exempt registration fees and road tax for battery-operated two-wheelers and four-wheelers for the next two years starting FY23.

The State government has also proposed to waive registration fee and road tax on all categories of CNG vehicles for the next two years in order to incentivise reduction in carbon footprint and reduce dependence on petrol and diesel.

West Bengal Minister of State for Finance (Independent Charge), Chandrima Bhattacharya, on Friday presented a ₹3.21-lakh crore budget for 2022-23, amid a walkout by opposition BJP.

Revenue receipts are pegged at ₹1,98,047 crore and the State plans to raise public debt of ₹1,14,958 crore in 2022-23. Revenue expenditure for the fiscal is estimated at ₹2,26,327 crore, while capital expenditure is pegged at around ₹33,144 crore.

Exemptions

"In order to incentivise investment in battery-operated two-wheeler and four-wheeler electric vehicles (BEV), I propose to exempt registration fees and road tax



West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya during tabling of the State Budget 2022-23 in the Assembly, in Kolkata, on Friday.

for the next two years from FY 2022-23," Bhattacharya said in the budget statement.

The West Bengal government has extended the exemption of two per cent stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate on circle rate of land and property for home buyers till September 30.

The State government had allowed exemption of two per cent stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate on circle rate of land and property in FY-22 and it comes to an end on March 31, 2022.

"Home buyers have been very badly affected due to Covid pandemic. Keeping the interests of home buyers in mind, I propose to extend the two per cent rebate on stamp duty and 10 per cent rebate

on circle rate of land / property for another six months up to September 30, 2022," she said.

Tea industry

With a view to providing relief to tea industry, tea estates and lakhs of tea workers dependent upon the industry for their livelihood, the State government has proposed to exempt payment of Rural Employment Cess (RE) under the West Bengal Rural Employment and Production Act 1976; and Education Cess under the West Bengal Primary Education Act 1973 for FY-23. It has also proposed to waive the agricultural income tax for FY-23 to give relief to tea gardens especially the small ones.

AP to focus more on welfare schemes

Pegs expenditure for 2022-23 at ₹2.56-lakh crore

G NAGA SRIDHAR

Hyderabad, March 11

The Andhra Pradesh government has pegged an expenditure of ₹2,56-lakh crore in the annual budget for 2022-23 compared to ₹2,29-lakh crore in the previous year.

In his Budget presentation in the State Assembly in Amravati on Friday, Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath said the revenue expenditure and capital expenditure would stand at ₹2,08,261 crore and ₹47,996 crore, respectively.

The revenue deficit is estimated at ₹17,036 crore and the fiscal deficit at ₹48,724 crore. The fiscal deficit will be around 3.64 per cent of the GDP, whereas the revenue deficit will be around 1.27 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

The main focus of the gov-



Buggana Rajendranath, Finance Minister, Andhra Pradesh

ernment in terms of allocation is on welfare schemes. "In the last three years, our government has set in motion transformational changes in the State through the Navaratnalu and manifesto schemes. Through sustained efforts of our Government, institutional strengthening and social inclusion, this process has gathered the momentum to make AP a leader in all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)," the Minister said.

While ₹29,143 crore has been earmarked for welfare

schemes for Backward Castes (BC-Sub Plan), ₹18,000 crore is allocated for the YSR Pension Scheme. Other major allocations in the Budget include Health and Family Welfare (₹15,384 crore) and Rural Development (₹15,846 crore)

Agri Budget

The separate agriculture budget presented had an outlay of ₹43,052 crore. The Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) were allocated ₹18 crore while ₹7,020 crore for the Rythu Bharosa PM Kisan scheme.

Other important allocations included YSR Corp Insurance (₹1,802 crore), ₹500 crore for YSR Zero interest crop loans, ₹200 crore for subsidised seeds, ₹2,000 crore for Natural Calamities Fund and ₹1,612.62 crore for investment subsidy to farmers. The Budget has allocated ₹5,000 crore to power subsidy, ₹8,328 crore for linking MGNREGS to agriculture and ₹11,450 crore for irrigation.

Kerala plans ₹2,000-cr programme to deal with inflation

To mobilise ₹602 crore in additional resources against spends of ₹1,081 crore

OUR BUREAU

Thiruvananthapuram, March 11

The State's Budget for FY23 has proposed mobilisation of additional resources to the tune of ₹602 crore, mainly through a revision of basic land tax (₹80 crore), a one-time increase of 10 per cent in the fair value of land (₹200 crore) and 1 per cent tax on motorcycles costing ₹2 lakh (₹60 crore).

The basic land tax will be revised by introducing a new slab above 40.47 ares in grama panchayats, municipalities and corporations, the State Finance Minister KN Balagopal said while presenting the Budget in the State Assembly on Friday. The basic land tax rates will be increased in a calibrated way across all slabs.

'Green tax'

The one-time increase of 10 per cent in fair value will also

be implemented across all segments, the Finance Minister said. This apart, the 'Green tax' imposed on old vehicles (above 15 years) is being raised by 50 per cent and will be levied on diesel vehicles (except motorcycles) such as three-wheelers, private motor vehicles, medium and heavy motor vehicles, and other diesel vehicles to net ₹10 crore.

The one-time settlement scheme to pay pending arrears on motor vehicle tax will be continued this year also to bring in ₹2 crore in revenue. To fetch ₹50 crore in revenue, the compounding scheme to settle pending undervaluation cases will be extended to this financial year.

Against a cumulative revenue mobilisation of ₹602 crore, the Finance Minister announced additional expenditure of ₹1,081 crore. But a bulk



Finance Minister KN Balagopal presenting the Budget at the Kerala Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

of the big-ticket spends is being routed through the now-familiar Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), an off-budget mechanism for raising finances.

Guarantee ceiling revised

Significantly, the Finance Minister announced that the current guarantee ceiling, finalised through an amendment in 2018, will be amended upwards to facilitate KIIFB borrowings and repayment.

The present ceiling on government guarantee is 5 per cent of the GDP. As per the proposed amendment, 'the

total outstanding guarantee as on the first day of April of any year shall be 100 per cent of the total revenue receipts based on the annual financial statement of the State in the preceding year or at 10 per cent of the GDP, whichever is lower.'

Turning to revenue receipts, the Finance Minister said that the State is likely to have a ₹1,000-crore GST compensation shortfall after June, since the Centre plans to disperse with the system. Besides, the State receives only 1 per cent share of the Central-sponsored schemes.

The Finance Minister also said that the average GST collections in January and February 2022 recorded a growth of 14.5 per cent, indicating economic recovery. However, this does not mean that the crisis has come to an end, given the chances of outbreak of a fourth Covid wave and the Russia-Ukraine war, he said.

The pandemic has resulted in long-term negative impact on the economy and government's finances. This is known as 'long economic Covid.' The Finance Minister proposed a ₹2,000-crore programme to deal with the impact of inflation.

The State hopes to achieve better growth while ensuring environment conservation, sustainability in development and social justice. This is the objective of 'Nava Kerala Nirmanam' (building a modern, resilient State). The budget is based on this concept, which is also the central theme of the 14th five-year plan of the State.

37. Consider the following statements regarding the Solar energy:

1. India's total installed capacity in the solar segment (including Ground-mounted, rooftop and off-Grid) has surpassed the milestone of 50 GW in February 2022.
2. Total renewable energy capacity stood at 1, 06,374 MW as of February 28, 2022.
3. The Centre has committed a 500 GW capacity addition in non-fossil capacity by 2030 to make the share of renewable energy as 50 percent.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India's total installed capacity in the solar segment (including ground-mounted, rooftop and off-grid) has surpassed the milestone of 50 GW as of February this year.

Total renewable energy capacity stood at 1, 06,374 MW as of February 28, 2022, and the share of the solar segment was 50,778 MW, accounting for 48 per cent of the total clean energy capacity. In solar capacity, ground-mounted projects contributed 42,822 MW, while the rooftop segment added 676 MW. Off-grid capacity was 1,480 MW.

The Centre has committed a 500-GW capacity addition in non-fossil capacity by 2030 to make the share of renewable energy 50 per cent.

"The target of 500-GW renewable energy by 2030 and India's net-zero emission targets by 2070 announced at COP26 will bring incredible new opportunities for green energy growth. As domestic solar manufacturers, we are appreciative of the government's focus to strengthen the domestic solar ecosystem and reduce India's import dependence.

38. Which Of The following statement Regarding "National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)" is correct:

- A. C-DAC has been entrusted with the responsibility to design, development, deployment and commissioning of the supercomputing systems under the build approach of Mission.
- B. IISc Bangalore has designed and developed a computer server "Rudra" and high-speed interconnector "Trinetra", the major sub-assemblies required for supercomputers.
- C. NSM has also deployed "PARAM Ganga", a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Peta flops.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Peta scale Supercomputer “PARAM Ganga” established at IIT Roorkee under National Supercomputing Mission.

“PARAM Ganga”, a supercomputer installed at IIT Roorkee, has capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.

It has been designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission.

C-DAC has been entrusted with the design, development, deployment, and commissioning of supercomputing systems.

The National Supercomputing Mission aims to construct and deploy 24 facilities with a total compute capacity of over 64 petaflops.

Under NSM Phases 1 and 2, C-DAC has installed 11 systems with a total compute power of more than 20 Petaflops at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali, and C-DAC.

C-DAC has designed and constructed a computer server called "Rudra" and a high-speed interconnects called "Trinetra," which are the major sub-assemblies required for supercomputers.

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) it was launched in 2015.

It is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) through C-DAC and IISc Bangalore.

It aims to connect national academic and research institutions with a grid of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities over the next seven years at an estimated cost of 4,500 crores.

39. Consider the following statements regarding the re-launch of FTA (Free Trade Agreement) between the India and Canada:

1. India and Canada have been negotiating CEPA since 2010 while the latest round of negotiations held in August, 2018.
2. Between April 2021-January 2022, India's export to Canada has increased to \$4 billion.
3. Recently a bilateral meeting between Piyush Goyal and his Canadian counterpart Mary Ng who jointly chaired the sixth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment took place.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. None of the above**
- D. All of the above

India-Canada re-launches negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) between India-Canada was held in New Delhi on 11 March 2022.

Many bilateral trade and investment issues were discussed during the meeting.

India-Canada will also consider signing the Interim Agreement or Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) to encourage trade in goods and services.

Both sides also discussed the potential for strengthening the cooperation in the public health sector.

India-Canada Bilateral Center will also be set up for dedicated S&T activities between the two countries. Both sides identified the areas of Collaboration like Green Technologies, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, Agriculture and Food Technologies, etc.

Canada agreed to think on the request to give Conformity Verification Body (CVB) status to APEDA.

The bilateral trade of goods between both countries has reached US\$ 6.29 billion with the growth rate of 12% as compared to the previous year.

40. Consider the following statements regarding the government issued guidelines for "Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)" scheme.

- 1. The guidelines for this scheme have been released by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals, and Fertilizers.**
- 2. The scheme's total financial outlay for FY22 to FY26 is Rs.500 crore.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above

Government issued guidelines for "Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)" scheme.

The guidelines for the scheme "Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)" have been released by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals, and Fertilizers.

The scheme will help existing pharma groups and MSMEs across the country to enhance their productivity, quality, and sustainability by providing them the necessary support services.

The scheme's aim is to enhance existing infrastructure facilities in order to make India a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry. The scheme's total financial outlay for the period FY 21-22 to FY 25-26 is Rs.500 crore.

Scheme has 3 components / sub-schemes: Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities (APICF) Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS) Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS)

41. In a bid to uplift the *Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)*, the government has extended the *Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)* up to_____.

- A. 31ST September 2022
- B. 31st December 2022
- C. 31st March 2023
- D. 31ST July 2023

In a bid to uplift the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the government has extended the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) up to March 31, 2023. The scheme was approved by the government on June 1, 2020, as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Stimulus package, and was launched on June 24 the same year to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs.

This includes SMA-2 and NPA accounts that are eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the lending institutions. In February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also announced that the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) has been extended to March 31, 2023.

42. Recently, the _____ government has launched 'My EV Portal' to help the auto rickshaw drivers for switching to the electric ones from the CNG.

- A. Karnataka
- B. Delhi
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttar Pradesh

To ease the availing of interest subvention on loans taken to purchase electric autos (e-Auto Rickshaws), the Delhi Government has launched 'My EV Portal'. The move is expected to help the auto rickshaw drivers who look to switch to the electric ones from the CNG.

My EV Portal website has been developed by the Government of Delhi along with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) which has made Delhi the first state to provide such a facility. The portal can be accessed at <https://www.myev.org.in> "The interest rate subvention provided on electric autos will provide an additional incentive of Rs 25,000 over the purchase incentive of Rs 30,000.

43. Recently _____ has achieved 90.5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4.0.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Kerala

Odisha has become the only state in the country to achieve 90.5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4.0. In a step towards preventive health care for mothers and children,

The intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 has been rolled out in the state from March 7 for boosting full immunization coverage of the targeted women and children.

44. Recently _____ has become the first South Asian city to make plans for eliminating carbon emissions by 2050.

- A. Pune
- B. Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Hyderabad

The city of Mumbai announced its detailed plans to eliminate carbon emissions from the city by the year 2050. The timeline is nearly two-decade ahead of India's national goal. To note, Mumbai is the first South Asian city to set such a timeline.

The city has laid out the plans that propose to change the way it manages its energy, water, transport, green, waste, spaces as well as air. It may cost the city a whopping USD 920 million, considering the climate change that is going to hit India's financial capital and also rising sea levels would hit the major parts of the city.

45. Recently the government has approved the establishment of **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** in which of the following cities?

- A. Pune
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jamnagar**
- D. Mumbai

Government approved the establishment of WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine.

The establishment of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat has been approved by the Union Cabinet. It will be the first and only global out posted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe. It will be set up under the Ministry of AYUSH.

The Indian government has inked a Host Country agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO). The move will aid in the development of essential technical norms, standards, and regulations, as well as tools and methodologies for data collection, analytics, and effect assessment.

46. Consider the following statements regarding the **“MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022”**.

1. It will promote the adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs and also provide the financial assistance up to **Rs 15 lakh per idea and 1 crore for the plant and machine.**
2. The Government will also provide financial assistance up to **Rs 5 lakh for foreign patents and 1 Lakh for Domestic Patents.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above

Government launched MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) and MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.

MSME Innovation Scheme will promote creativity in the MSME sector. It will act as a hub for innovation activities.

It will also promote the adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs and provide financial assistance of up to Rs 15 lakh per idea and 1 crore for the plant and machine.

It will also help in providing expert advice and cost-effective solution of the design of the new product. Financial grant up to Rs 40 lakh will be given for the design product.

It also aims to improve the IP culture in India and increase awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) amongst the MSMEs.

The Government will also provide financial assistance up to Rs 5 lakh for foreign patents and 1 Lakh for Domestic Patents.

These schemes will help entrepreneurs in developing new ventures.

47. Recently the Government of India, West Bengal and the World Bank have jointly signed an IBRD loan agreement of _____.

- A. USD 150 Million
- B. USD 125 Million**
- C. USD 200 Million
- D. USD 250 Million

The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, and the World Bank have signed an IBRD loan agreement for \$125 million.

The agreement has been signed to support initiatives in West Bengal to enable poor and vulnerable groups to gain access to social protection services.

More than 400 initiatives in West Bengal provide social assistance, health care, and jobs.

The majority of these services are provided via an umbrella platform named Jai Bangla.

These measures will be supported at the state level by the West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection Project.

According to a recent survey, poor and vulnerable households have limited access to cash transfers, while elderly, widowed, and disabled people have limited access to social pensions due to the lengthy application process.

During the next four years, the project will aid the state's ability to extend coverage, access to social assistance, and the distribution of cash transfers to the poor and vulnerable through a consolidated social register.

48. Consider the following statement regarding “Madhya Pradesh Budget”:

1. The Government has presented a Budget of Rs 2, 79,237 crore for FY23.
2. The allocation of Rs 370 crore for a statue of Adi Shankaracharya and Advaita Vedanta Monastery in Omkareshwar, Khandwa has also been announced.
3. The Government for the first time has presented a 'child budget' allocating Rs 57,800 crore for 220 schemes.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Madhya Pradesh government has presented a Budget of Rs 2, 79,237 crore on 09 March 2022. In the state budget 2022-23, no new tax has been announced and there is no change in existing ones.

This announcement was made by Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Dewda in his second Budget speech.

The budget laid emphasis on rural housing and employment generation.

The budgetary allocation to self-help groups and Rural Development department has been increased by 141% and 74%, respectively.

The budgetary allocation to the Panchayat department has been increased by 36%.

Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Dewda has promised 10 lakh homes under PM Aawas Yojana in current fiscal year.

He proposed to cut the budget of Urban Development and Housing department by 1%.

The allocation of Rs 370 crore for a statue of Adi Shankaracharya and Advaita Vedanta Monastery in Omkareshwar, in Khandwa district has also been announced.

Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister said expansion work for Mahakal Temple is being carried out at a cost of over Rs 700 crore.

He also announced 13,000 teachers will be recruited in 2022-23.

State government has for the first time presented a 'child budget' as part of the annual financial plan, allocating Rs 57,800 crore for 220 schemes.

Finance Minister said the estimated fiscal deficit was Rs 52,511 crore. This is 4.56% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

49. Recently the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has signed an agreement with _____ for the establishment of '**BIS Standardization Chair Professor**'.

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

Government agency Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Thursday signed an agreement with IIT Roorkee for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor'. This would be the first standardization chair established by BIS in an institute for activities on standardization and conformity assessment,

This will also help in sensitizing students on how standards can encourage and facilitate innovation and will help in grooming students, making them better prepared for their future professional challenges, The Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body of India under Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.

50. According to report of Dealroom.co investment data, India was the _____ largest global venture capital investment hub for digital retail start-ups in 2022.

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

According to research by London & Partners and its analysis of Dealroom.co investment data, India was the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital retail startups in 2022, increasing sharply by 175% from US\$ 8 billion in 2020 to US\$ 22 billion in 2021. Last year, India came in second to the United States, which attracted US\$ 51 billion in investment, followed by China, which received US\$ 14 billion, and the United Kingdom, which received US\$ 7 billion. Bengaluru led the way in terms of worldwide Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021, with US\$ 14 billion, followed by Gurugram with US\$ 4 billion and Mumbai with US\$ 3 billion.

Bengaluru was a global leader in digital shopping investment last year. The metropolis nearly tripled its inflows of investments from US\$ 5 billion in 2020 to take first place, ahead of New York City (second), San Francisco (third), London (fourth), and Berlin (fifth). Bengaluru was placed fifth among cities with the potential to produce future unicorns, just behind London, according to the research. Following a large consumer shift to e-commerce platforms during the pandemic, global venture capital investment in digital shopping more than doubled in 2021. In 2021, total worldwide venture capital investment is estimated to have reached a new high of US\$ 140 billion, up from US\$ 68 billion in 2020.

51. _____ is declared as the *theme country for International Kolkata Book Fair 2023* recently during the conclusion of the 45th edition of the 14-day event.

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Spain
- C. Bhutan
- D. Nepal

Spain will be next year's theme country for International Kolkata Book Fair, organizers said at the conclusion of the 45th edition of the 14-day event on Sunday.

Books worth Rs 20 crore have been sold at the book fair, considered the World's biggest in terms of footfall, till Saturday, Publishers and Booksellers Guild general secretary Mr. Chatterjee told reporters.

The net sales are expected to breach the Rs 22-crore-mark notched in the previous edition two years back before the COVID-19 outbreak.

52. According to the Mercom India Research report, India has installed _____ of rooftop solar capacity in 2021.

- A. 1700 MW
- B. 1500 MW
- C. 2000 MW
- D. 2200 MW

India installed a record 1,700 megawatt (MW) of rooftop solar capacity in 2021, registering a 136 per cent year-on-year rise, according to a Mercom India Research report.

The country had added 719 MW of rooftop solar capacity in 2020, the research firm said in its latest report

India added a record 1.7 GW of rooftop solar capacity in 2021, the highest ever in a year. The installations were up 136 per cent compared to 719 MW in 2020, the Annual 2021 India Rooftop Solar Market Report said.

In 2021, the residential and commercial segments accounted for 35 per cent and 33 per cent of installed rooftop solar capacity, respectively. Industrial rooftop solar installations constituted 26 per cent, and the remaining 6 per cent was from the government segment.

Gujarat was the leading state for cumulative rooftop solar installations with a 27 per cent share, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan, which added 14 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively

53. India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha of around _____ feet long and 30 feet high is being built in Bodh Gaya by the Buddha International Welfare Mission.

- A. 90 Feet
- B. 96 Feet
- C. 100 Feet
- D. 110 Feet

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya built by Buddha International Welfare Mission; the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fiberglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata.

The idol of this posture of Lord Buddha is in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar where he attained his Mahaparinirvana.

He further informed that the giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023.

54. Recently, _____ state gets first rank in Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. West Bengal
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh gets first rank in Skoch State of Governance ranking 2021.

Andhra Pradesh also got top position in police and safety, agriculture, district administration, and rural development.

Andhra Pradesh retained the first rank in governance for the second consecutive year.

In the transport, Andhra Pradesh is on third spot after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019.

West Bengal and Odisha have got second and third rank respectively while Gujarat and Maharashtra got fourth and fifth rank respectively. Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh are declared as “performers”.

Bihar, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have been kept in the “Catching up” category.

SKOCH gives ranking after evaluating various projects implemented by states. SKOCH Group is India’s leading think tank.

GOVT INITIATIVE

Kerala to launch its own OTT platform

RAJESH RAVI
Kochi, March 6

THE KERALA GOVERNMENT is all set to launch its own over-the-top (OTT) streaming platform to supplement the income of independent low-budget filmmakers and to stream films that fail to find a release.

According to the Kerala Film Chamber Of Commerce, the apex body of the Malayalam film industry, 209 films were censored in 2021 — a year that saw complete lockdowns and restrictions on film shooting.

Trade sources said only 61 films managed a theatrical release in 2021 — most of them made it to OTTs — while more than 90 films have not been able to find an interested OTT player.

The Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) has shortlisted four bidders for the platform, from a list of eight, after the technical presentation. The state government has budgeted ₹5 crore for the initiative, which will be a vendor-hosted platform in the initial phase.

Established in 1975 to facilitate production and promotion of Malayalam cinema, KSFDC also owns 17 screens in



STREAMING SOON

- Only 61 films managed a theatre release in 2021
- Small films are not picked by the big OTT players, as per KSFDC
- The platform will stream films after theatre release and those that to find theatrical release
- KSFDC will not buy the films, but will share revenue with producers

the state and is on its way to acquiring seven more.

Maya N, managing director of KSFDC, told FE the idea is not to compete with theatres, but to supplement the income after theatrical release.

“We plan to stream films

after theatre release and films that fail to find theatrical release. Small films are not picked by the big OTT players, who look for star value,” she said.

She said the idea is to expand the reach of Malayalam films and help the industry. “Then there are globally acclaimed art-house films and old Malayalam films that the young generation has not seen. We are talking to producers to digitise the films and share them on our platform,” she said.

The platform will also screen award-winning films not released in theatres. Maya said KSFDC has no plans to purchase the films for the platform, but will share the revenue with producers.

The non-exclusive revenue sharing model is good for both producers and the streaming platform, Jerit Venugopal, content head of regional OTT platform Cave Stream, said. Close to 100 films that were made during the pandemic have been unable to find theatrical release or to be sold to established big OTT players, he said.

There are eight to 11 small players in the Malayalam OTT sector, including some operated from West Asia.

Snake rescuer to innovator: 29 get Nari Shakti awards

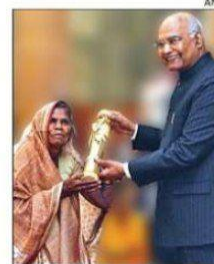
Ambika.Pandit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Widowed at 40, Jodhaiya Bai Baiga started learning the “Baiga” tribal art form at the age of 70. On Tuesday, Jodhaiya, whose artworks have been displayed in exhibitions at renowned galleries in France and Italy, was one of 29 women who walked down the red carpet at Durbar Hall at Rashtrapati Bhawan to receive the “Nari Shakti Puraskar” from President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

On the list of women achievers recognised on International Women’s Day, are innovators, tribal artists working painstakingly to preserve their heritage, and social workers empowering survivors of abuse and those on the margins of society.

Vanita Jagdeo Borade from Buldana in Maharashtra is India’s first woman snake rescuer who rescued and released 50,000 snakes.

The citation of Nasira Akhter, a grassroots innova-



President Kovind presents the Nari Shakti award to Jodhaiya Bai Baiga at Rashtrapati Bhavan

tor from Kulgam in Kashmir refers to her as the “first Indian woman to convert polythene to ashes,” a biodegradable product that does not pollute the environment.

Another innovator among the awardees is Bengaluru-based Intel India country head Nirvuti Rai. She built a platform for diagnostics and analytics based on AI, genomic and comorbidities to combat Covid-19.

The ceremony brought focus on tribal artisans when Jaya Muthu and Tejamma from Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu came forward to receive their award. They hail from the vulnerable tribal group, the pastoral Toda tribals. The intricate Toda embroidery is an art work exclusively done by the women of this tribe.

Women with disabilities too made their presence felt as Saylee Nandkishor Agavane from Pune walked up to receive her award. A Kathak dancer, she has not allowed Down Syndrome to come in the way of achieving her dreams.

Radhika Menon, the first woman captain of Indian merchant navy, from Kerala was awarded for her courage. She is known for the rescue operation in June 2015 which saved the lives of seven fishermen trapped for a week in a boat.

Tage Rita Takhe from Arunachal Pradesh was awarded for establishing “Naara Aaba”, India’s first organic Kiwi wine with an annual capacity of approximately 60,000 litres and a turnover of Rs 4.5 crore.

Centre Okays ₹155 crore for Building 47 Ships

Twesh.Mishra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre has approved financial assistance for 47 vessels amounting to ₹155 crore under the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFA). The total contract value of these ships stands at ₹850 crore.

In response to queries from ET, the shipping ministry said that 95 applications have been received till now seeking an in-principle approval for 170 vessels with contract value of Rs 2,620 crore.

The guidelines of the policy have been in force from April 1, 2016 and shall be applicable for shipbuilding contracts signed between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2026.

“The focus of the policy is to make domestically produced ships competitive with Chinese ones. Till date we have not rejected any request for financial assistance under the policy,” an official told ET on condition of anonymity. “Shipyards will have to make their own investments if they intend to undertake capacity expansion. The purpose of the policy is to support specific ship building projects.”

Under the SBFA policy, 21 shipyards having various capacities have registered under the scheme. Prominent companies registered under the scheme include



About 95 applications received till now seeking in-principle approval for 170 vessels with contract value of ₹2,620 crore

or actual payments received of each vessel built by them for a period of at least 10 years commencing 2016-17. This rate of 20 per cent will be reduced by 3 per cent every three years,” said a shipping ministry statement.

Under the policy, only those ves-

L&T Shipbuilding Ltd, Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Titagarh Wagons Ltd and Goa Shipyard Ltd.

“Financial assistance is being granted to Indian shipyards equal to 20 per cent of the lower of contract price or the fair price

sels, which are constructed and delivered within three years from the date of contract, shall be eligible for availing financial assistance. In case of specialised vessels, the Centre can grant an in-principle approval for construction and delivery of such vessels for up to six years.

Prior to the existing policy, the

Centre had a shipbuilding subsidy scheme for Indian shipyards which expired in 2007. The earlier scheme had provided subsidies for domestic orders of 80 metres length and above which were obtained only on a global tender basis. Export orders were also eligible for subsidy.

LAND FOR SALE

20.23 Acres of developed Industrial Land with some basic infrastructure at APIIC Growth Centre, Gundlapalli Village, Maddipadu Mandal, Prakasam District, Ongole(AP) for Sale.

Interested parties may contact.

Cell No.: 09489648414
Brokers Excuse.

Cabinet nod for centre for traditional medicine

It will come up at Jamnagar in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the establishment of the WHO (World Health Organization) Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) at Jamnagar in Gujarat. An agreement was signed by the Government of India with the world body in this regard.

The WHO GCTM, to be established under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yo-

ga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy), will be the first global centre for traditional medicine.

“The move will help to position AYUSH systems across the globe, provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine, ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use of traditional medicine while developing specific capacity building,” a government release said.

Key decisions

Other than the nod for setting up of the National Land Monetisation Corporation, the Cabinet also cleared:

1 Amendment of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, for specifying rate of royalty in respect of certain minerals

2 MoUs signed between ICMR and...
● Germany's Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V. (DFG)
● America's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health of Deptt of Health & Human Services
● United Kingdom's Oxford University

3 Establishment of WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

Government creates policy advocacy arm for transition to clean energy sources

Power Minister RK Singh is Chair; Former Power Secretary appointed as DG

RISHI RANJAN KALA

New Delhi, March 10

The government has set up a society under the Ministry of Power which will act as the top policy advocacy arm for the power and allied sectors and will assist states and businesses with research as well as help create solutions and processes for India's energy transition journey.

Society make up

The Power Foundation is registered under the Societies Act, under the Power Ministry, by CPSEs such as NTPC, Powergrid, REC, PFC, NHPC, THDC,

NEEPCO and SJVN. The Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh is the Chair of the society. Former Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai has been appointed as the Director General by a search-cum-selection committee.

"The Power Foundation aims to be the foremost policy advocacy body, which would engage in national dialogues on power and allied sectors, providing authoritative analysis, data, policy recommendations and real world solutions to help states provide secure and sustainable energy for all and to cre-



ate smooth pathways for India's energy transition," said the Power Ministry.

Commission studies

It also aims to undertake pioneering efforts in commissioning independent and evidence-based research studies, through credible institutions, on various aspects concerning energy transition in the power sector, and subsequently disseminate the

gathered information through appropriate communication channels for creating awareness of the identified stakeholders, it added.

This is a part of India's transition to clean energy sources.

India is estimated to have an aggregate potential of more than 1,636 gigawatts (GW) renewable energy (including large hydro). The power generation through various renewable energy sources has increased from 203,925.77 million units (MU) in FY17 to 297,547.03 MU in FY21. Besides, India has seen record low RE tariffs of ₹1.99 per KWh for solar power and ₹2.43 per KWh for wind power.

Shining bright: Solar capacity crosses 50-GW milestone in Feb

Segment doubled its installed capacity over 3 years

G BALACHANDAR

Chennai, March 11

India's total installed capacity in the solar segment (including ground-mounted, rooftop and off-grid) has surpassed the milestone of 50 GW as of February this year.

Total renewable energy capacity stood at 1,06,374 MW as of February 28, 2022, and the share of the solar segment was 50,778 MW, accounting for 48 per cent of the total clean energy capacity. In solar capacity, ground-mounted projects contributed 42,822 MW, while the rooftop segment added 676 MW. Off-grid capacity was 1,480 MW.

Solar segment

The solar segment has doubled its installed capacity over three years. This fiscal alone saw the solar segment adding a total of 9,542 MW of new capacity from three solar segments. As of December 31, 2018, India's total installed renewable power capacity was 74,786 MW, of which the solar segment accounted for 25,212 MW (including ground-mounted and rooftop).

Solar power has been witness-



Solar power has been witnessing significant capacity additions since FY12, led by a favourable policy framework

ing significant capacity additions since FY12, led by a favourable policy framework and regulatory support from the Central government and several States such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

The Centre has accelerated the transition to clean energy with solar adoption. This has been possible due to the government's conducive policy impetus for the renewable energy sector, Gyanesh Chaudhary, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Vikram Solar, told BusinessLine.

Amid certain challenges, the momentum in the solar capacity is expected to continue as more than 40-GW solar projects are under various stages of imple-

mentation. Meanwhile, the Centre has committed a 500-GW capacity addition in non-fossil capacity by 2030 to make the share of renewable energy 50 per cent.

"The target of 500-GW renewable energy by 2030 and India's net-zero emission target by 2070 announced at COP26 will bring incredible new opportunities for green energy growth. As domestic solar manufacturers, we are appreciative of the government's focus to strengthen the domestic solar ecosystem and reduce India's import dependence. This is evidenced in various policy actions such as the enhanced PLI outlay for solar modules, notifying basic custom duties of 40 per cent on solar modules and 25 per cent on solar cells effective April 1, 2022, the approved list of module manu-

facturers of solar PV modules among others," said Chaudhary. Industry analysts point out that achieving the 2030 target would require capacity addition of over 40 GW annually over the remaining eight years.

"Tendering this year has been comparable to last year with 15.3 GW tendered till December 31, 2021 (against 19.2 GW for FY 2021). The current pace should double if we are to achieve 40-GW annual capacity addition levels," said Gagan Sidhu, Director, CEEW Centre for Energy Finance.

Discussing the challenges of new capacity addition, he said capital infusion would be a major challenge - not because it's not flowing, but because the amount of capital required to fund the targets is so immense.

Green bonds

On this note, the Finance Minister's announcement on India's intention to issue sovereign green bonds is a positive development. If this can act as a catalyst that spurs the development of the domestic green bond markets, it will be a bonus. Further, policy consistency is a must - particularly, as overseas investors are key equity-funders of Indian renewable energy, Sidhu added.

Govt launches online portal for e-autos

New Delhi: The Delhi government Saturday launched an online portal 'My EV' for purchase and registration of e-autos in the city. The government will also provide 5% interest subvention on purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi EV Policy, an official statement said. **PTI**

Kerala tops in maternal, child health

Records lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio in country

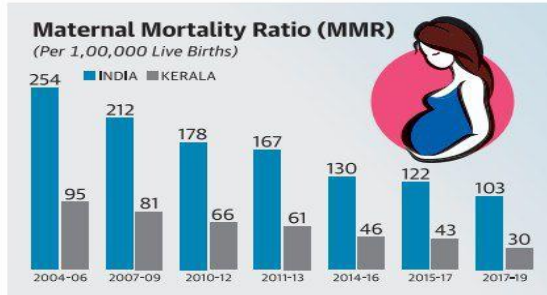
C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has yet again emerged on top in maternal and child health, recording the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.

According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017-19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, Kerala's MMR has dropped by 12 points. The last SRS bulletin (2015-17) had put the State's MMR at 42 (later adjusting it to 43).

National MMR is 103

This puts Kerala way ahead of the national MMR of 103. Another State which has made significant gains is



Maharashtra, whose MMR dipped from 55 to 38.

"This is an exciting moment for us, because Kerala has already achieved the target it had set for itself, based on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, of an MMR of 30 by 2020, that too, one year ahead. We have to acknowledge the contribution of the private health sector in the State too, where 65% of the deliveries take place,

though all complicated deliveries finally end up at public sector tertiary care maternity hospitals," a senior health official said.

"COVID-19 has claimed over 90 mothers in Kerala in the past two years. This will reflect badly in our figures next year. But the State has made substantial investments in setting up high dependency units in every district and in improving 39

delivery points under the Union Health Ministry's LaQshya (a quality improvement initiative in labour room & maternity operation theatres). Hence everything looks bright for us to achieve the next SDG target of an MMR of 20 by 2030," he said.

Targeted initiatives

Kerala's achievement is a result of a decade of sustained efforts and taking up targeted initiatives to tackle each of these.

It developed the quality standards in obstetric care, in partnership with NICE International and specialists in 2012-13 and focused on the management of common causes of maternal deaths – postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH), sepsis and amniotic fluid embolism. "There has been a substantial reduction in deaths due to sepsis, PIH and PPH,

though postpartum haemorrhage continues to be a serious concern. Depressive disorders amongst young pregnant women leading to suicides is another major concern we need to address," V.P. Paily, senior obstetrician, said.

"Confidential Review of Maternal Deaths, diligently done by KFOG since 2004-05 and which laid the foundation for all maternal health improvement initiatives was strengthened by maternal near-miss audits in all districts to analyse critical events which resulted in near maternal deaths. Kerala is perhaps the only State to have acted upon the operational guidelines released by the Union Health Ministry for Maternal Near Miss Review (MNMNR) in 2014. This got the districts involved, along with much hand holding for the private sector too," a Health official said.

ICAR, AYUSH Ministry and CSIR sign a Tripartite MoU

ICAR, Ministry of AYUSH and CSIR signed a MoU for cooperation in areas of common interest including facilitation of R&D, validation and deployment of technologies related to medicinal plants and Ayur-Ahaar for the benefit of human and animals. Dr Shekhar C. Mande, Secretary, DSIR & Director General, CSIR; Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, signed the tripartite MoU. The key objective of tripartite MoU is to take cog-



nizance of traditional agricultural practices of India, and undertake joint R&D activities for validat-

ing and deploying these interventions for facilitating socio-economic growth.

ArtPark launches robotics, AI lab at IISc

Abhijit Ahaskar & Vignesh Ananthanarayanan
NEW DELHI

ArtPark Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK), an Indian government-funded not-for-profit organization, opened on Monday an 'Innovation Lab' at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to provide support to researchers and startups working in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics with the aim of helping them build products that are ready to go to market.

The lab will focus on three areas—digital and physical connectivity using 5G and drones, making health-care services available at people's doorsteps, and using AI for inclusive learning.

"In the age of AI, knowledge will be everywhere. Students won't have to cram information anymore and can focus on applying it to create things. Similarly, healthcare should be available everywhere and not just in hospitals," said Umakant Soni, chief executive officer of ARTPARK.



The fund will be backed by government and private firms. **STOCK**

Soni said startups currently struggle to take technology from labs to the market, which is a key gap for the industry.

"Primarily, we are trying to create successful companies out of India which will solve problems, create jobs, and ultimately export to the world," said Subhashis Banerjee, chief information officer of ARTPARK.

The lab has technical teams working in collaboration with multiple labs at IISc. It will also work with other technical institutes and bodies, including the

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT Jodhpur, the University of Aalto in Finland, Indian Council of Medical Research and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

The lab will focus on digital and physical connectivity using 5G and drones, AI learning, etc.

"Our Indian academics have produced talent that now heads several leading tech companies. The next phase of growth requires that we encourage such talent to stay in India and convert their research into products and companies. Then only we will grow from a \$3 trillion to \$10 trillion economy,"

Soni added. To support startups and products incubated at labs, ARTPARK has set aside a \$100 million fund. "Once we convert the research that is happening into interesting products and companies, then we will support them with the \$100 million venture fund over a period of 10-12 years," said Soni. The fund will be backed by the government, private companies, and VCs.

Though the fund was announced last year, it is still pending clearance from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). "We are waiting for final approval from Sebi. Hopefully, it will be formally launched by the end of this month. We have already started shortlisting companies working on connectivity, healthcare, and education," he added. Founded in 2020 by IISc, ARTPARK has received ₹170 crore in funding from the Union government's Department of Science and Technology and ₹60 crore from the Karnataka government. One of the first products developed at the labs is an autonomous drone ambulance, a scale model for which was unveiled at the 1st ARTPARK Innovation Summit on Monday.

Welspun to invest ₹1,500 cr on warehousing parks in Haryana

Madhurima Nandy
madhurima.n@htlive.com
BENGALURU

Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP), part of the \$2.7 billion Welspun Group, on Monday said it will expand its footprint in north India, by exploring available government land parcels for building Grade A warehousing facilities across key micro-markets.

The company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Haryana government, with a development potential of around 5 million sq. ft to be built over a three-four year period which will help generate more than 4,500 jobs. It will invest around ₹1,500 crore.

The state government has assigned a dedicated relationship manager to ensure that all operations are time-bound and carried out seamlessly.

"...After collaborating with the Tamil Nadu government to



Welspun has signed an MoU with the Haryana government for the venture. **MINI**

invest ₹2,500 crore in the state, which is progressing well, we are now pleased to start strengthening our presence in the north. With Haryana experiencing an e-tailing boom, there exists an untapped potential for the growth of warehousing. Bearing this in mind, we drew a plan to develop a sustainable ecosystem of state-of-the-art Grade A warehousing services. This will drive efficiencies and unlock value in the supply chains of

businesses, all the while expanding the warehousing sector in the state," said Anshu Singhal, managing director Welspun One Logistics Parks.

WOLP recently forayed into north India with the acquisition of two land parcels in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Farukh Nagar in Haryana. The management that entails a cost of ₹188 crore will be executed under Welspun One's first alternative investment fund.

Vijayendra Kumar, principal secretary, industries and commerce, Haryana said, "Haryana is an emerging warehousing hub in NCR and a key consumption market due to its strategic location intersecting with economic corridors. Further, the state's logistics policy enables a conducive environment for logistics and warehousing Sector. We are pleased to welcome investment of Welspun One Logistics Parks in Haryana and assure all the necessary support for an early grounding of investment."

Mumbai becomes first South Asian city to detail net-zero roadmap

2050 target is two decades ahead of national goal

BLOOMBERG
March 14

Mumbai announced detailed plans to zero out carbon emissions by 2050, a target that puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline.

In the plan announced on Sunday, India's financial centre, home to South-Asia's biggest corporations, stock bourses and the central bank, has proposed exhaustive changes to the way it manages energy, water, air, waste, green spaces and transport for its 19 million residents.

"We don't have the luxury of time," said Aaditya Thackeray, Environment Minister of Maharashtra. Without intervention, the effects of climate

change could cost India \$35-trillion over the next 50 years.

Mumbai, the country's richest city, is also home to tremendous poverty, with slums and fishing villages along the southern coast that date to British rule. By 2050, rising sea levels are expected to flood those parts of the city. In total, unabated climate change could cost the city \$920 million.

Six domains

Drawing on inputs from officials, citizens, researchers and companies, Mumbai's plan lists changes across six domains. This includes investments in housing, electrifying public transport and more walkable roads; flood-resistant drainage and water conservation apart from adding open spaces, investing in clean water and sanitation, and rooftop solar capacities.

Mumbai may consider rais-

ing funds through green bonds announced by the central government, according to Saurabh Punamiya, Government Adviser. It will receive funding from the State government, which also plans to raise funds for climate mitigation projects through the federal government and global lenders, said Tanmay Takle, Policy Advisor to the State government. This access to investments, along with a \$6 billion annual Budget, give the city an advantage over peers to implement climate targets. "The policies are actually opening the doors for such investments to come in," Thackeray said.

Climate justice

Mumbai's plan can help India rethink current models of development that put economic growth ahead of environmental stewardship, said Nikhil Anand, who teaches an-



Mumbai may consider raising funds through green bonds announced by the Centre

thropology at the University of Pennsylvania. If Mumbai is successful, it could turn India's focus to other pressing issues, including access to clean water and services for the city's significant homeless population.

In the coming three decades the city aims to cut to zero its total greenhouse emission which in 2019 stood at 23.42 million tonnes or 1.8 tonnes per capita. The largest investments will have to come

into energy, which accounts for 72 per cent of total emissions, according to the plan documents. Vehicle emissions and waste comprise the rest.

Mumbai's short-term priorities include the purchase of 2,100 electric buses by 2023 at a cost of ₹13,000 crore (\$1.7 billion). The city will also spend on projects like retrofitting low-income homes with electricity-efficient equipment.

Plans for some crucial aspects of Mumbai's transition — switching its peak 3,400 MW electricity consumption to renewable power sources for instance — remain unclear. Private conglomerates including the Tata Group and billionaire Gautam Adani's companies, which supply power to the city mostly from coal plants, have said they will make investments in order to meet their own net-zero transition goals.

Thales plans to set up maintenance unit in India

Besides MRO, firm is eyeing contract from Tata Group to refurbish its in-flight entertainment

ARINDAM MAJUMDER
New Delhi, 13 March

French aerospace major Thales Group is eyeing major expansion in India. The group has started planning to set up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) organisation in India to support Indian airlines — many of which are its customers for avionics support.

"We are looking to set up an MRO, so that they don't have to travel to West Asia or Singapore. Final decision is yet to be taken, but this is a clear intent showing the growth potential in India that we are looking to set up a sub-centre here," said Yannick Assouad, executive vice-president, avionics at Thales, who was on her maiden visit to the group's India office at Bengaluru since taking charge.

Thales is the second French aerospace major to have evinced an interest in investing and setting up a major

infrastructure facility in the country.

Safran S.A., a French aircraft engine manufacturer, has shortlisted Jewar, Nagpur, and Hyderabad for a new aircraft engine MRO unit in India to cater to its airline customers. The investment for the total project is around \$150 million.

While Safran's commitment is for an engine MRO, Thales is planning to set up the repair unit for major avionics components like flight management software system or control panel of an aircraft.

Thales has extensive and recognised expertise in providing, maintaining, and upgrading avionics systems. Thales is a global provider of aircraft MRO solutions for commercial, business, and regional aviation, as well as for helicopter and military operators.

Thales supports a lot of components of the Airbus A320 — one of the most popular aircraft among Indian



Thales will pitch its counter-drone technologies to government organisations in India as the use of drones is increasing here

operators. The company counts major Indian operators like IndiGo and AirAsia India as its customers. The company sees opportunity in support services of avionics in those fleet as the number of aircraft will increase in India.

"Given the growth of the economy in this country, more and more people

will be travelling and consequently there will be an increase in fleet," said Assouad.

Besides MRO, Thales is eyeing a contract from Tata Group to refurbish in-flight entertainment (IFE) in Air India's fleet. The salt-to-steel conglomerate last year won the ownership of the airline through a competitive bid

and has since taken control. Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has said that the group will invest to upgrade the airline's fleet.

"We feel there is scope of growth in cabin refurbishing of Air India's wide-body aircraft. The IFE that Air India is currently running is of Panasonic, which is really old. So a new IFE contract is probably a must. Not only that, we see opportunity in IndiGo's Airbus A321 XLRs which will fly long-haul, for which it is sure it will be fitted IFE," said Assouad.

She said that Thales will pitch its counter-drone technologies to government organisations in India as the use of drones is increasing in India.

"The use of drones will only increase if the operation of drones is safe in the skies. We have the technology (tech) to identify rogue drones to ensure there is a safe drone operation. Thales has a solution in electromagnetic jammer which can be used for counter-drone tech," she said, adding that the company is likely to increase its footprint in drone business through partnership with a local player.

International News

55. Recently the **Australian Government** has approved _____ **billion amount for building a new base to house a Future Fleet of Nuclear Submarines.**

- A. **USD 7.4 Bn**
- B. **USD 5.6 Bn**
- C. **USD 2.9 Bn**
- D. **USD 6.9 Bn**

The Australian government will spend at least A\$10 billion (\$7.4 billion) building a new base to house a future fleet of nuclear submarines, as Prime Minister Scott Morrison warns the Ukraine war will “inevitably stretch” to the Asia-Pacific. Morrison announced the project, the first construction of a major new base in Australia since the 1990s, in a foreign policy speech in Sydney

The Defense Department has selected three possible east coast locations for the submarine facility -- Newcastle and Port Kembla in the state of New South Wales and the Queensland capital of Brisbane.

Australia is planning to build and begin operating a fleet of nuclear submarines in the coming decades with the assistance of the U.S. and the U.K., under the landmark Aukus agreement which was signed in September last year. The new defense capacity could allow Australia greater ability to project force throughout the Asia Pacific region Australia already has one submarine base on the country’s west coast, where its aging fleet of Collins-class submarines are based

{ **AUKUS PACT** } THREE LOCATIONS ON EAST COAST IDENTIFIED

Australia to build \$7.4bn base for nuclear subs

Bloomberg

letters@hindustantimes.com

CANBERRA: The Australian government will spend at least A\$10 billion (\$7.4 billion) building a new base to house a future fleet of nuclear submarines, as Prime Minister Scott Morrison warns the Ukraine war will “inevitably stretch” to the Asia-Pacific.

Morrison announced the project, the first construction of a major new base in Australia since the 1990s, in a foreign policy speech in Sydney on Monday. The defence department has selected three possible east coast locations for the submarine facility - Newcastle and Port Kembla in the state of New South Wales and the Queensland capital of Brisbane.

In his speech to the Lowy Institute, Morrison warned against rising militarisation and attacks on liberal democracies in the Asia Pacific region, saying “Australia faces its most difficult and dangerous security environment in 80 years”.

“A new arc of autocracy is instinctively aligning to chal-



A US nuclear submarine during an exercise off Cartagena, Colombia, on February 28, 2022.

AFP/FILE

lenge and reset the world order in their own image,” he added.

News of the base comes as Morrison seeks to burnish his national security credentials ahead of an election that must be held by the end of May, with the prime minister’s centre-right Liberal National coalition badly trailing the opposition Labor Party in opinion polls.

Australia is planning to build and begin operating a fleet of nuclear submarines in the com-

ing decades with the assistance of the US and the UK, under the landmark Aukus agreement which was signed in September last year. The new defence capacity could allow Australia greater ability to project force throughout the Asia Pacific region.

No decision has been conveyed yet on whether Australia will be using a UK or US design for its submarine fleet, or how it will train its navy in the new

technology. Speaking to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Sunday, defence minister Peter Dutton said there would be an announcement on the design “within the next couple of months”.

Morrison said on Monday he didn’t believe the decision would be made before an election due to be held by May 21. “It won’t be done in that time frame,” he said, noting there had been “a lot of progress” made on the design.

Australia already has one submarine base on the country’s west coast, where its aging fleet of Collins-class submarines are based. Morrison said the west coast base will continue to operate even after the new facility is completed.

The initial work on the new facility is expected to be finished by the end of 2023, according to the government.

“There will also be significant benefits for local and national industry in supporting the new base and the more complex and larger nuclear-powered submarine fleet,” Morrison said.

56. Which countries have signed a MoU for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)?

- A. Sri Lanka & Afghanistan , Pakistan
- B. Bangladesh & Afghanistan , Sri Lanka
- C. Nepal & Bangladesh , Bhutan**
- D. Bhutan & Pakistan , Nepal

MoU for the implementation of BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement has been finalized by India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

India, Bangladesh, and Nepal organized a meeting to discuss passenger and cargo protocols for the operation of the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA).

On March 8, the two-day meeting concluded in Delhi. Bhutan attended the meeting as an observer.

The last meeting occurred in February 2020 in New Delhi, and this is the first following the Covid-19 pandemic.

BBIN MVA was signed on June 15, 2015 for the regulation of passenger, personal, and cargo vehicle traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal.

The Asian Development Bank provided the meeting with technical and informational support.

57. Recently which of the following countries has successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2?

- A. Iran**
- B. Israel
- C. UAE
- D. Russia

Iran successfully launched Noor-2 satellite.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2.

Noor-2 will orbit around the earth at an altitude of 500 kilometers.

The three-stage Based or "Messenger" launcher has placed the Noor-2 satellite in the orbit.

The first military satellite, Noor-1, was launched by Iran in April 2020. It was placed at an orbit of 425 km above the earth's surface.

Iran has the biggest missile programs in the Middle East. The United States had imposed sanctions on Iran's civilian space agency and two research organizations in 2019.

58. Recently which of the following countries has signed a deal with the **Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)** to jointly set a Solar Power plant in Sampur?

- A. NTPC
- B. SJVN
- C. NHPC
- D. IOCL

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India on Friday signed an agreement with Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to jointly set up a solar power plant in Sampur, in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee District; a decade after a joint coal power project deal was signed and subsequently scrapped.

Confirming the pact, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a tweet Sri Lanka Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, among others, was present at the ceremony, "attesting to the strength of India-Sri Lanka economic partnership for mutual prosperity, including through cooperation in renewable energy."

The facility will produce 100 MW power, In June 2021, India offered a \$100-million Line of Credit through the Export Import Bank of India to support Sri Lanka's efforts to expand solar power coverage. Further, India's Adani Group in October visited the northern Mannar district to explore possible investments in wind energy projects in the area

59. Recently which of the following **Country's federal police** have announced to use the technique of **Yoga for stress management of its personnel**?

- A. Brazil
- B. Argentina
- C. Portugal
- D. France

Argentina federal police will now effectively use the technique of Yoga for stress management of its personnel, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Ayush.

"Though Yoga has been practiced in this part of the globe for the last several years, in the last couple of years, interest in yoga and awareness in Indian culture has increased rapidly. Earlier Yoga and meditation were also taught in some Latin American jails to calm down the convicts," The embassy of India in Argentina and the University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police (IUPFA) will be jointly conducting a workshop on Yoga

60. Recently **Pakistan** has formally inducted an unspecified number of _____ multi-role fighter jets into its air force at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) base in Kamra.
- A. P 12
 - B. S 400
 - C. J-10C
 - D. IC -10

Pakistan on Friday formally inducted an unspecified number of J-10C multi-role fighter jets, acquired from its all-weather ally China, into its air force to bolster the country's combat capabilities. Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed a ceremony held at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Base Minas Kamra in Attack district of Punjab province to induct the new fighter jets

Pakistan after about 40 years when F-16 provided by the US were inducted into the PAF. Nearly six years ago, India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to purchase 36 Rafale jets under a Rs 59,000-crore deal to boost the Indian Air Force's combat capabilities.

Adani group inks deal for power projects in Sri Lanka

† The renewable energy projects aim at generating combined capacity of 500 MW, at a cost of \$500 mn

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Adani Group has signed a deal for two large power projects in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, six months after it bagged a strategic port terminal project in Colombo that it is now executing with majority stakes.

There is no official announcement or statement yet on the agreement to jointly execute renewable power projects in Mannar, on Sri Lanka's north-western coast, and Pooneryn, located just south of Jaffna Peninsula, from the Sri Lankan side, the Adani Group, or Indian authorities, raising questions in some quarters on the apparent lack of transparency in an international

agreement. "While it was not announced, the CEB also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's Adani Green Energy Ltd," the Colombo-based *Sunday Times* reported.

Revealing the details of the MoU, Sri Lanka's *The Sunday Morning* said the two renewable energy projects, involving the Adani Group, were aimed at generating combined capacity of 500 MW, at a cost of \$500 million. Both projects are in the Northern Province, where New Delhi objected to a Chinese energy project last year, citing proximity to the Tamil Nadu coast.

The agreement was inked on Friday, the same day that the National Thermal Power

Corporation (NTPC) of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) agreed to set up a 100 MW solar power project in Sampur, in the eastern Trincomalee district.

The development comes months after Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani visited Sri Lanka and held talks with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, on possible investments in the island nation.

Peak demand

Sri Lanka has a daily peak demand of over 2000 MW, and is currently experiencing a severe fuel and power shortage, resulting in right hour-long power cuts across the country that citizens' groups have been protesting.

Sri Lanka is also in the

midst of its worst economic crisis in years, prompting the government to tap assistance from different sources.

FM to visit New Delhi

India has so far extended \$1.4 billion this year, and Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa is scheduled to visit New Delhi on Tuesday, his second visit in three months, to firm up a further \$1 billion support. "Keenly look forward to welcoming Hon'ble Finance Minister @RealBrajapaksa to #India next week. His visit will consolidate ongoing efforts to further strengthen Indo-Lanka economic partnership," the Indian High Commission said in a tweet on Saturday.

Meanwhile, India's assis-

tance is being viewed with scepticism in Sri Lanka by some. Echoing this sentiment in its editorial on Sunday, titled 'India's strategic calculations as Lankans suffer', the *Sunday Times* accused New Delhi of resorting to "diplomatic blackmail" by tying emergency financial support extended to Colombo, to strategic projects and "several maritime security arrangements", to counter China's "naval expansion".

"The RBI has \$631 billion in reserves. Sri Lanka is asking for \$1 billion. It was press-ganged to sign Sampur and other projects before Mr. Rajapaksa came to New Delhi. This is diplomatic blackmail...", the editorial said.

Pakistan inducts Chinese J-10C fighter jets into PAF

Pakistan on Friday formally inducted the multirole J-10C fighter jets, acquired from its all-weather ally China, into its air force to improve the country's combat capabilities. Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed a ceremony held at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Base Minhas Kamra in Attock district of Punjab to induct the new jets. "Unfortunately, efforts are being made to create an imbalance in the region and to address this, a big addition has been made today to our defence system," he said, apparently referring to India's acquisition of Rafale fighter jets from France. Khan described it as a big movement for Pakistan after about 40 years when F-16 provided by the US were inducted into the PAF. **PTI**

Dubai adopts first virtual asset law

Dubai: Dubai has adopted its first law governing virtual assets and established a regulator, its ruler Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid said on Wednesday.


The Dubai Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority will oversee the development of the business environment for virtual assets, he added. **REUTERS**

RIL makes debut in electronics manufacturing with US firm


Picks 50.1% stake; on road to becoming global 5G tech player

KIRAN RATHEE
New Delhi, March 3

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) ON Thursday entered the electronics manufacturing segment through a tie-up with US-based Sanmina Corporation and will invest ₹1,670 crore in the latter's Indian entity to take a 50.1% stake. The joint venture will manufacture high technology electronics hardware like 5G network products, aerospace items, healthcare systems, among others. The partnership will allow Reliance Jio to get home-made radio equipment for its 5G rollout. Last year, Bharti Enterprises had partnered with Dixon Technologies to make telecom equipment in the country. Both Sanmina and Dixon were last year selected by the government for the ₹12,195-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom gear manufacturing. While Sanmina has reportedly committed to invest ₹110 crore under the scheme, Dixon has committed an investment of ₹180 crore. With the entry of RIL and Bharti into manufacturing, the domestic telecom equipment market would undergo a change with the share of global manufacturers reducing. Chinese vendors like Huawei have




Reliance-Sanmina JV to make high-tech communication network products



Bharti-Dixon JV will also make telecom and networking products

Atma-nirbhar



- Sanmina and Dixon have been selected under telecom equipment PLI scheme
- In future, dependence on foreign vendors will reduce
- Share of Ericsson and Nokia may come under pressure

already lost out after restrictions were placed on them after the Indo-China border tensions. With players like RIL and Bharti entering this segment, market shares of European vendors like Ericsson and Nokia would also come under pressure. Although the domestic companies are not expected to meet the demand of 5G gear in the coming year, the development around manufacturing will give bargaining power to telecom firms to strike a better deal with vendors like Ericsson and Nokia, who have also been selected under the telecom PLI scheme. Nokia has committed to

invest ₹125 crore while Jabil, which is a contract manufacturer for Ericsson, has committed to put in ₹175.60 crore. Revenues of Sanmina SCI India (SIPL) were approximately ₹1,230 crore (or approximately \$165 million) for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021. All the manufacturing as part of the new joint venture will initially take place at Sanmina's 100-acre campus in Chennai, with the ability for site expansion to support future growth opportunities as well as to potentially expand to new manufacturing sites in India over time based on business needs.

Banking / Economy News

61. Recently which bank has launched a 'Co Branded Credit Card' with *Bharti Airtel* to offer financial services for telecom company services?

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

Airtel and Axis Bank partner for financial services; launch co-branded credit card

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 7

BHARTI AIRTEL AND Axis Bank on Monday announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with a co-branded credit card for subscribers of the telecom services company.

Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, 'buy now pay later' offerings, and other services.

The collaboration will provide Axis Bank support to penetrate deeper into tier-

II and -III markets, a statement said.

Bharti Airtel managing director and chief executive for India and South Asia, Gopal Vittal said Airtel is building a financial services portfolio as part of its endeavour to offer world-class digital services to its customers.

"We are delighted to join forces with Axis Bank in this exciting journey. Through this win-win telco-bank partnership, Airtel customers will get access to Axis Bank's world-class financial services portfolio and exclusive benefits, while Axis Bank will benefit from Airtel's strong

digital capabilities and deep distribution reach," he said.

The partnership has started with the launch of Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card that promises cashbacks and special discounts to the customers.

The credit card will be exclusively available for eligible Airtel customers through the Airtel Thanks app.

"Axis Bank will also use various cyber security services from Airtel. Going forward, the companies will further explore collaborating across Cloud and Data Center services," the statement added.

Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, and Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, announced a strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of India's digital ecosystem through a range of financial solutions.

In a bid to accelerate adoption of digital payments in the country, over the coming months, Airtel and Axis Bank will bring to market a range of innovative financial offerings and digital services exclusively for Airtel's 340 million plus customers

The partnership was kicked-off today with the launch of the first-of-its-kind 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card' that will offer a host of attractive benefits such as cash backs, special discounts, digital vouchers and complimentary services to Airtel customers.

Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD&CEO, Axis Bank Axis Bank is the third largest private sector bank in India

62. Recently _____ has announced two initiative to support empowerment of women namely "*She Champions Her*" And _____.

- A. Microsoft , Uday
- B. TCS , Nirmal
- C. Meta , Pragati**

D. Apple, Prajakta

Meta has announced two initiatives on the occasion of International Women's Day. This is part of the company's CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). These two initiatives of Facebook (Meta) have been brought keeping women in mind. These initiatives include 'She Champions Her' and 'Pragati'. Meta's 'She Champions Her' initiative has been launched on the company's photo-sharing platform Instagram. It will be celebrated on a community led by women.

At the same time, Pragati Initiative is part of the company's CSR activity, which is being run in India. This program will help the Women Entrepreneurs of India.

The 'She Champions Her' campaign has been launched by Meta in partnership with Yuva on Instagram. The main goal of this campaign is to protect women in free expression.

Meta's Pragati CSR Initiative was first launched in 2020. This time its second edition is being run. The main goal of this campaign is to help women in Women Entrepreneurship. The last edition of Pragati funded a non-profit organization run by 6 women. Rajiv Agarwal, Director and Head of Public Policy, Facebook India

64. Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred _____ from *onboarding new customers with immediate effect* under _____ of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

A. Airtel Payment Bank, Section 36A

B. HDFC Bank, Section 38A

C. Paytm Payment Bank, Section 35A

D. State Bank Of India, Section 42A

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd has been directed by RBI to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect.

RBI has also directed it to conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT System.

RBI has taken the action based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank.

RBI has given directions in the exercise of its powers under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 gives RBI power to give directions to banks.

Paytm Payments Bank obtained RBI approval in 2017. One97 Communications owns 49% equity interest in it, while the rest 51% is owned by Vijay Shekhar Sharma (Founder and CEO of Paytm).

65. Recently which of the following companies has introduced a new plan “Star Women Care Insurance Policy” for women between the ages of 18 to 75 Years?

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

Star Health Insurance launches Star Women Care Insurance plan “The Star Women Care Insurance Policy is available as both an individual policy and a floater policy to all females from 18 years up to 75 years of age. Women need not undergo any premedical tests to avail this policy. Customers can purchase the policy through premiums that can be paid in quarterly or half-yearly installments, and this policy can also be taken for 1 year, 2 year or 3-year terms.”

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd is an Indian multinational health insurance company headquartered in Tamil Nadu, Chennai.

66. Ahead of its IPO, Life Insurance Corporation’s (LIC) net profit surged to _____ in the September– December quarter (Q3 FY22).

- A. Rs 234.91 Cr
- B. Rs 538.42 Cr
- C. Rs 219.12 Cr
- D. Rs 200.49 Cr

LIC’s Q3 net profit surges to ₹235 cr

Total premiums collected during the quarter rose to ₹97,761 crore

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 11

Aided by an economic rebound, IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) recorded a net profit of ₹235 crore in third quarter this fiscal, far higher than the net profit of ₹0.9 crore in same December quarter in the previous fiscal.

In the first nine months of this fiscal, its net profit surged to ₹1,671 crore from ₹7 crore in the same period in the previous fiscal, sources said.

This latest Q3 bottomline performance is, however, not reflected in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) – filed on February 13 and now approved by SEBI – but would most likely get incorporated in the final red herring prospectus that the government is expected to file in the coming days, they added.

Total premiums collected

during the third quarter stood at ₹97,761 crore against ₹97,008 crore a year earlier. First year premiums during the quarter surged 10 per cent year-on-year to ₹8,748 crore (₹7,957 crore).

The insurance behemoth’s financial performance has also been bolstered by the change in its fund distribution policy that allowed shareholders to receive a higher share in surplus, sources added. LIC’s Q3 performance in 2020-21 was also weighed down by the pandemic-induced lockdown.

Total premiums collected during the quarter rise to ₹97,761 crore

Aided by an economic rebound, IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) recorded a net profit of ₹235 crore in third quarter this fiscal, far higher than the net profit of ₹0.9 crore in same December quarter in the previous fiscal.

In the first nine months this fiscal, its net profit surged to ₹1,671 crore from ₹7 crore in the same period in previous fiscal,

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

67. Recently _____ bank has signed an agreement for investing _____ to acquire _____ percent in the **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited**.
- A. State Bank Of India , Rs 250 Cr , 10%
 - B. Bank Of Baroda , Rs 235 Cr , 9.49%
 - C. ICICI Bank , Rs 137.5 Cr , 5%**
 - D. HDFC Bank , Rs 300 Cr , 8%

ICICI Bank will acquire 5% stake in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).

On 10 March 2022, the bank has signed an agreement for investment in NARCL.

The deal is for a total cash consideration of up to Rs. 137.5 crore, which will be paid out in installments.

The first tranche of equity investment of ₹70.45 crore will be completed by March 31, 2022.

ICICI Bank is a private sector bank. Girish Chandra Chaturvedi is the chairperson. Its MD & CEO is Sandeep Bakhshi.

68. Recently the **Punjab and Sind bank** has announced to acquire _____ percent stake in **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited for 55 Crore while IDIBI bank** to invest _____ Crore.
- A. 2 % , Rs 300 Cr
 - B. 3 % , Rs 250 Cr
 - C. 2 % , Rs 272 Cr**
 - D. 7 % , Rs 235 Cr

Punjab & Sind Bank has entered into an agreement to buy 2 percent stake in asset reconstruction company NARCL for Rs 55 crore.

"Punjab & Sind Bank has entered into an agreement with National Asset Reconstruction Company on March 10, 2022 regarding investment in NARCL,' NARCL was incorporated on July 7, 2021 with a total authorized share capital of Rs 2,750 crore to act as a bad bank for speedy resolution of bad assets of the banks.

In January, SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said that 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore were identified to be transferred to NARCL.

Transfer of these accounts will happen in a phased manner with banks agreeing to transfer 15 NPA accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore in the first phase by March end.

69. Recently which of the following company has received a contract of **building 65 electric vehicles (EVs) from Kerala State Electricity Board?**

- A. NHPC
- B. SJVN
- C. Tata Motors**
- D. Ather Energy

Tata Motors has bagged a contract for supplying 65 electric vehicles (EVs) to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).

The supply of 65 EVs includes 60 Tigor EVs and 5 Nexon EVs. "This order is part of a competitive pan India tender, floated by KSEB in line with the state's vision 'Go Green/Carbon Neutral' by 2030,

Tata Motors claims to have 85 per cent market share and over 15,000 Tata EVs on road in the country. Tata Motors Finance and Croma, to contribute to the faster adoption of EVs in India through its EV ecosystem called the "Tata uniEVerse"

Tata Motors bags order for 65 EVs from KSEB

HOME GROWN AUTO MAJOR Tata Motors on Monday said it has bagged a contract for 65 electric vehicles (EVs) from Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). The order includes 60 Tigor EVs and 5 Nexon EV SUVs. It is part of a competitive pan-India tender floated by KSEB in line with the state's 'Go Green/Carbon Neutral' vision by 2030, Tata Motors said.

70. Recently _____ has launched a **New Market B2B Platform**, _____ for its **integrated e-Commerce industrial products and services**.

- A. Meta , Hope
- B. TCS , Express
- C. L&T , SuFin**
- D. Reliance , Mirror

EPC major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced the launch of L&T SuFin, an integrated e-commerce platform for B2B industrial products and services.

"With the launch of L&T-SuFin, L&T-SuFin transforming the B2B marketplace for industrial products. Making it easily accessible, convenient, and transparent, even for the customers in and beyond Tier I and II cities, thereby enabling a level playing field and inclusive growth for all businesses," L&T-SuFin will host KYC-verified sellers and buyers vetted by L&T and guarantee a last-mile delivery to over 15,000 pin codes.

SN Subrahmanyam, CEO and MD of L&T, The platform will provide working capital to MSMEs from a large array of banks and other financial institutions at attractive interest rates.

71. Recently **Reliance** opened the **Jio World Centre** at _____, which covers an expanse of _____ acres land.

- A. Pune , 17.6 Acres
- B. Nashik , 20.5 Acres
- C. Mumbai , 18.5 Acres**
- D. Nagpur , 16.5 Acres

RIL opens Jio World Centre at Mumbai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. has announced the opening of the Jio World Centre at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai.

Envisioned by Nita Ambani, director, Reliance Industries and founder-chairperson of Reliance Foundation, the centre covers an expanse of 18.5 acres in BKC and is set to become an iconic business, commerce and culture destination, the company said.

The company has also announced the public opening of Dhirubhai Ambani Square and Jio World Convention Centre.

A first-of-its kind destination in India, the Jio World Centre includes a cultural centre, a musical fountain, an upscale retail experience, a curated selection of cafés and fine dining restaurants, serviced apartments and offices, and a state-of-the-art convention facility.

Set to be a new landmark in the city of Mumbai, the Dhirubhai Ambani Square is a dedication to the beloved founder of Reliance, Shri Dhirubhai Ambani, and the city of Mumbai. A free-entry, open public space, it promises to become a must-see destination for local citizens and tourists from around the world. The Dhirubhai Ambani Square is centered on the Fountain of Joy, a series of spectacular fountain shows of water, lights, and music. The fountain symbolizes India and its many colours, featuring eight fire shooters, 392 water jets, and over 600 LED lights, which create an unforgettable display of evolving lotus blossom patterns with petals dancing to the melody of the music. Reliance is India's largest private sector company, the company stands 55th in the Forbes Global 2000 rankings of "World's Largest Public Companies" for 2021 – top-most among Indian companies. It features among LinkedIn's 'The Best Companies to Work for In India' (2021).

72. Recently the **export of Agricultural and Processed food products** increased by more than 23% to _____ billion during **April - January FY22**, as per the Commerce Ministry.

- A. 16.5 Bn
- B. 19.7 Bn**
- C. 15.9 Bn
- D. 21.5 Bn

Exports of processed, agri foods rise 23%: govt.

Rice top forex earner in April-January

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose more than 23% to \$19.7 billion during April-January 2021-22 compared with the year-earlier period, the Commerce Ministry said.

The exports stood at \$15.97 billion in the year-earlier period. Export of rice was the top forex earner at \$7.7 billion during the period under review, it said. Similarly, wheat shipments rose to \$1.74 billion.

Meat, dairy and poultry products exports grew more than 13% to \$3.40 billion, it said adding fruits and veget-



ables outbound shipments were up 16% to \$1.20 billion.

"We continue to focus on creating infrastructure for boosting exports in collaboration with the State governments while taking into consideration the objective of Agriculture Export Policy, 2018," M. Angamuthu, chairman, APEDA, said.

Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose more than 23% to \$19.7 billion during April-January 2021-22 as compared with the year-earlier period, the Commerce Ministry said on Monday.

The exports stood at \$15.97 billion in the 10-month period a year ago.

Export of rice was the top forex earner at \$7.7 billion during the period under review, it said. Similarly, shipments of wheat increased to \$1.74 billion during the period.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) comes under Ministry of Commerce and Industry

73. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has launched a booklet, _____ on the common modus operandi used by Fraudsters and Precautions that is to be taken.

- A. RbiNESS
- B. BE(A)WARE
- C. Fraudsters
- D. RBI (A)WARE

It aims to enhance public awareness about financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers. Sharing of confidential information by customers, knowingly or unknowingly, is one of the major causes leading to financial frauds, according to a booklet, "BE (A) WARE", released by the Reserve Bank of India.

The booklet gives information on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. It aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions. "The booklet explains the general precautions and digital hygiene to be followed by the public.

Sharing confidential info major cause for frauds, says RBI

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said sharing confidential information by the customers, knowingly or unknowingly, is one of the major causes leading to the financial frauds.

"Fraudsters are finding new ways to defraud the gullible public through various ingenious methods," the RBI said in a booklet "BE(A)WARE" on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken.

Imposters pressurise or trick



The Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai. File

customers into sharing confidential details such as passwords by citing emergency. ENS

74. Recently Zeta has partnered with which of the following companies for five years to launch credit card services jointly?

- A. RuPay
- B. Paytm
- C. Mastercard
- D. Visa

Zeta in partnership with Mastercard to power credit processing, raises \$30 mn

Joseph Rai
joseph.rai@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Zeta, a banking tech unicorn, has sealed a five-year global partnership deal with Mastercard to power credit processing for banks and fintech companies.

Bhavin Turakhia, founder, Zeta, told VCCircle that the company received financial investment of \$30 million from Mastercard and an unidentified fund from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as part of this transaction.

The latest capital infusion comes after Zeta raised \$250 million in a round led by SoftBank Group Corp's Vision Fund 2 at a valuation of \$1.45 billion in May last year. That funding round turned the startup into a unicorn, or startups with a valuation of at least \$1 billion.

Turakhia added that the investment from Mastercard happened at the same valuation as the Softbank-led round.

Zeta said that as part of



Bhavin Turakhia, Founder, Zeta, told VCCircle that the firm got a financial investment of \$30 million from Mastercard. BLOOMBERG

five-year partnership with Mastercard, the two firms will go to market jointly to launch credit cards with issuers globally on Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and fully API-ready credit processing stack.

"By deploying Zeta's credit processing stack, issuers will have an opportunity to grow their user base, drive higher usage and enter new geographical markets, all while accelerating the cashless revolution around

the world," said Sandeep Malhotra, executive vice president, products and innovation, Asia-Pacific, Mastercard, in the statement.

For Turakhia, who founded Zeta in 2015 with Ramki Gaddipati, the investments from SoftBank last year and Sodexo earlier marked a departure from his preference for bootstrapping his business. Zeta was initially internally funded by Directi, founded by brothers Bhavin

and Divyank Turakhia. The Mumbai-born Turakhia brothers sold Directi's web presence business for a reported \$160 million in 2013 to Nasdaq-listed Endurance Group. Later, in 2016, Divyank Turakhia sold his adtech company Media.net to a consortium of Chinese firms for \$900 million.

Zeta started out as a meal voucher product for employees and later pivoted to a neo-banking and banking technology provider.

Zeta currently has more than 1,300 employees with over 70% in technology roles across locations in the US, UK, Middle East, and Asia. Globally, eight issuers and 30 fintech companies have issued more than 10 million cards on Zeta's platform.

Turakhia also said that Zeta sees most of its revenue coming from North America going forward even as it will continue to grow its India business. He also said that the company does not plan to make any acquisitions in the next two to three years.

Zeta, a banking tech unicorn and provider of next-gen credit card processing to banks and fintechs, and Mastercard today announced a 5-year global partnership. As part of the agreement, the firms will go-to-market jointly to launch credit cards with issuers worldwide on Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and fully API-ready credit processing stack. Mastercard has underscored the partnership by making a financial investment in Zeta, Mastercard is partnering with Zeta to provide issuing banks and fintech innovators with modern credit card processing capabilities at scale that will maximize the safety, security and convenience of e-commerce. The two companies' collaboration began in 2018 in Asia Pacific when Zeta joined Start Path, MasterCard's global startup engagement program, and continues to gain momentum with Zeta recently joining the Mastercard Developers Partner Network, Engage. Bhavin Turakhia, co-founder & CEO of Zeta

75. Recently _____ has announced to set up its _____ **Data Centre** in _____ with an investment of _____.

- A. Apple, 1st, Delhi, Rs 18000 Cr
- B. Google, 3rd, Gurugram, Rs 20000 Cr
- C. Microsoft, 4th, Hyderabad, Rs 15000 Cr
- D. SpaceX, 1st, Pune, Rs 16000 Cr

Tech giant Microsoft on Monday unveiled its fourth data centre in India. While the company did not disclose the investment or the exact size of the campus, Microsoft said that the fourth DC at Telangana, Hyderabad will be one of the largest data center in India and will be operational by 2025. The company is making an investment of over Rs 15,000 crore over a period of 15 years

The company is making an investment of over Rs 15,000 crore over a period of 15 years for the scaling up and development of the data centre in Telangana. This is the second largest FDI investment in the State said KT Rama Rao, Minister Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, and Information Technology, Government of Telangana

Microsoft started its data centre journey in India in 2015 and has data centers in Mumbai,

across all key sectors, the cost was comparatively lower. In both these cases, com

Microsoft to invest ₹15,000 cr in Hyderabad data centre

Facility will be the company's largest data centre in India

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, March 7

Microsoft has begun work on its largest and fourth data centre in India, in Hyderabad. The US-based company will invest about ₹15,000 crore over the next 15 years to build the data centre. The first phase of the data centre is expected to be ready in 24 months.

With the country putting in data location regulations and demand for cloud growing, Microsoft has increased its data centre presence in India from 2015 by setting up three data centre regions (Mumbai, Pune and Chennai). It has a network of 160 data centres — organised into 60 data centre regions — across the world.

"It will offer the entire Microsoft portfolio across cloud, data solutions, artificial intelligence (AI), productivity tools, customer relationship management (CRM) and other solutions," said Anant Maheshwari, President of Microsoft India.

Maheshwari was addressing a press conference after announcing the company's intent to set up the data centre. He, however, refused to divulge the exact location



Microsoft India President Anant Maheshwari at the event announcing the establishment of the data centre at the company's campus in Hyderabad on Monday NAGARA GOPAL

and number of employees that would be hired for the data centre.

Quoting a commissioned survey by IDC, he claimed that Microsoft's data centre regions in India contributed \$9.5 billion revenue and over 1.5 million jobs to the economy between 2016 and 2020.

Target for 700 days

Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao has said that the US firm would invest ₹15,000 crore in the data centre, making it the second largest foreign direct investment after Amazon Web Service, which an-

nounced an investment of ₹20,000 crore in the same business.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, said at the same event that the Narendra Modi government has set a few goals for itself in the next 700 days. These include connecting Indians with a secure technology backbone.

"As of now, 80 crore people are online. This is expected to be 120 crore in the next two years. This will be possible because of the roll out of the final phase of Bharat Net and 5G services," he said.

76. Recently the Central Board Of Trustees (CBT) of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has reduced the interest on EPF to what percent?

- A. 8.2 %
- B. 8.1 %**
- C. 7.4 %
- D. 7.9 %

INTEREST RATES (%)	
Savings Deposit	4.0
1-3 yr Time Deposit	5.5
5 yr RD	5.8
Monthly Income Account	6.6
5 yr Time Deposit	6.7
Natl Savings Certificate	6.8
Kisan Vikas Patra*	6.9
PPF	7.1
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	7.6
EPF	8.1

*(will mature in 124 months)

EPFO's CBT has recommended reduction in interest on provident fund deposits from 8.5% to 8.1% for 2021-22.

This is the lowest interest rate since 1977-78. In 1977-78, EPF interest rate was at 8%.

The lowest rate of 8.1% has been recommended by EPFO's Central Board of Trustees (CBT), chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav.

The rate must be ratified by the Finance Ministry before it is notified and credited to members' accounts.

The Minister said that EPFO Board will meet every three–four months and the next meeting will be in June or July in Bengaluru.

In March 2021, Central Board of Trustees (CBT) has decided 8.5% interest rate on EPF deposits for 2020-21.

It was approved by the Finance Ministry in October 2021. EPF accounts are mandatory for employees earning up to ₹15,000 a month in firms with over 20 workers.

Central Board of Trustees (CBT) is the apex decision-making body of EPFO. EPFO is India's largest retirement fund and the second largest non-banking financial institution

77. Recently _____ has launched **India first primary market investment platform**, _____ for investing in IPO, SGB and others.

- A. PhonePe , Trivore
- B. IIFL Securities , OneUp**
- C. Standard Chartered Banks , Mygrad
- D. DBS Bank , Upgrad

IIFL Securities on Friday launched 'OneUp', India's first primary markets investment platform for investing in initial public offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among others.

On the OneUp platform, the IPO applications are accepted 24x7 and up to three days before the IPO bidding opens. Another unique feature of the OneUp platform is that it allows investors to place bids for others as well,

Further, the online orders are not limited to ₹2 lakh only. Real-time online IPO bidding for an amount greater than ₹2 lakh can be executed. Users will get prefilled ASBA forms

78. Recently _____ government has *partnered with NABARD for the creation of fisheries infrastructure to boost fish production at an amount of _____.*

- A. Gujarat , 137.5 Cr
- B. Odisha , 119.8 Cr**
- C. West Bengal , 272 Cr
- D. Kerala , 819 Cr

The Odisha government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) have inked a pact for the creation of fisheries infrastructure to augment fish production in the state.

The memorandum of agreement was signed between Principal Secretary, Finance, Vishal Dev and Nabard chief general manager C Udayabhaskar on Friday, according to a release.

Udayabhaskar said the dedicated Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) would help in the creation of infrastructure facilities in marine and inland sectors.

It will augment the fish production of the state and Rs 119.8 crore has been initially approved. The FIDF aims to achieve a sustainable growth of 8-9 per cent to augment the country's fish production capacity to around 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.

79. Recently *JSW Energy has partnered with which of the following state governments to build 240 MW Kutehr Hydro Project?*

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

JSW Energy announced signing a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC) for the supply of 240-megawatt hydro power. The agreement is valid for 35 years (with further extension at mutually agreed terms), and signed at a levelised ceiling tariff of Rs 4.50 per kWh (kilowatt-hour),

JSW Energy through its wholly-owned step-down subsidiary JSW Energy Kutehr Ltd (JSWEKL) is currently constructing the 240 MW (3x80 MW) hydro-electric plant located in Kutehr, Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

JSW Energy signs PPA with Haryana for 240 MW Kutehr project in Himachal

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 7

JSW ENERGY SAID on Monday that it has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC) for its 240 MW Kutehr hydro project in Himachal Pradesh. The power supply agreement will be valid for 35 years.

The PPA has been signed at a levelised tariff of ₹4.50/kWh. However, the company did not provide details on when the PPA will be effective.

“The project construction is progressing well ahead of its schedule, with 65% tunnelling work completed by February 2022 and is expected to be commissioned by September 2024,” the company said in a statement.

Haryana Power Purchase Centre will purchase the power

The PPA capacity was selected through competitive bidding under expression of interest was invited by the HPPC on July 3, 2018

on behalf of Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) and Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN).

In September 2020, Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) had granted its approval for above procurement of power and had directed the parties to finalise the PPA. The power purchased under the PPA will be utilised to meet the hydro power purchase obligation (HPPO) of the state discom utilities, the company said.

The PPA capacity was selected through competitive

bidding under expression of interest was invited by the HPPC on July 3, 2018.

JSW Energy has set an ambitious target for 50% reduction in carbon footprint by 2030 and achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050 by transitioning towards renewable energy. The company has set a target to reach 20 GW capacity by 2030, with the share of renewable energy increasing to 85% of total.

JSW Energy's total capacity of the green business is 3.8 GW including 2.5 GW of under-construction projects, while the total Hydro assets are 1.6 GW including 240 MW of under-construction project (Kutehr). The company has now signed PPA's for the entire 2.5 GW under-construction renewable projects, and the 225 MW solar plant (under group captive) is nearing completion with commissioning scheduled shortly.

80. Which of the following has recently launched a women led financial empowerment initiative “

LaxmiForLaxmi” to connect women investors them through missed call service?

- A. State Bank of India
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. **HDFC Mutual Fund**
- D. Axis Bank

HDFC Mutual Fund, one of India's large mutual funds, has announced an exclusive end-to-end women-led financial empowerment initiative #LaxmiForLaxmi. HDFC Mutual Fund will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The woman financial expert will guide and address queries of the woman investor, for instance – why and how to invest in a mutual fund, benefits of SIPs, etc.

The #LaxmiForLaxmi initiative is a financial empowerment campaign for women, by women. Through this initiative, HDFC Mutual Fund aims to support women investors in their journey to become financially independent while making mutual fund investments accessible to them.

Navneet Munot, MD & CEO of HDFC AMC,



HDFC MF's initiative for women

Mumbai, March 7

HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The initiative is based on the fact that it is very easy for a person to understand a concept when it is taught by someone who understands them and is like-minded. Through this initiative, HDFC Mutual Fund aims to support women investors in their journey to become financially independent while making mutual fund investments accessible to them. OUR BUREAU

[Click Here For Grand Bundle PDF Course for All Upcoming Bank Exam](#)

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

81. Recently _____ has infused _____ for the completion of stalled **Amrapali Project**, a joint consortium of _____ banks.

- A. Axis Bank , Rs 500 Cr , 3 Banks
- B. **Bank of Baroda , Rs 300 Cr , 6 Banks**
- C. State Bank of India , Rs 500 Cr , 7 Banks
- D. Yes Bank , Rs 500 Cr , 5 Banks

In a boost to the construction of stalled projects of Amrapali, the Supreme Court was on Monday informed that Bank of Baroda which is leading a 6-bank consortium has infused Rs 300 crore. A bench of Justices U.U Lalit and Bela M. Trivedi directed the other banks of the consortium to release the balance amount of Rs 1,200 crore before the next date of hearing March 14

Bank of Baroda is an Indian nationalized banking and financial services company headquartered in the city of Vadodara, India.

82. Recently the Central Government has created _____, for fast track **channel of insurance claims under the Ayushman Bharat?**

- A. Yellow Channel Payment
- B. **Green Channel Payment**
- C. Purple Channel Payment
- D. Pink Channel Payment

The government has set up a fast-track channel for insurance claims under Ayushman Bharat, with the goal of reducing the delays that have been crippling the country's flagship health insurance scheme.

The National Health Authority's (NHA) Green Channel Payment (GCP) intends to speed up claim adjustments for empanelled hospitals treating Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) beneficiaries.

The largest health-assurance scheme in the world is AB PM-JAY.

"The purpose is to have fast and intelligent modifications of claims raised by hospitals, and it's the key to the AB PM-JAY scheme's effective implementation." Green Channel Payment would incentivize hospitals to provide more care to AB PM-JAY beneficiaries "The Green Channel Payment (GCP), which aims to expedite the payment of 50% of the claim amount to hospitals with strong credentials and a proven track record of participating in the system. On the NHA's IT platform, this feature will be enabled. According to a National Health Authority

Green channel set up for health scheme

Priyanka Sharma

priyanka.sharma@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The government has created a fast-track channel for insurance claims under Ayushman Bharat, aiming to reduce delays currently plaguing its flagship health insurance scheme.

Green Channel Payment (GCP), introduced by the National Health Authority (NHA), aims to expedite claim adjustments for empanelled hospitals treating Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) beneficiaries, a government official said.

AB PM-JAY is world's largest health assurance scheme.

Under GCP, a partial payment of 50% of the claim amount will be released automatically to hospitals through the system at the time of claim submission, while the balance will be released following the usual claim adjustment process. The NHA has written to the states and union territories informing them about the benefits of GCP and directed them to apply this protocol within their jurisdiction.

NHA is implementing the insurance scheme that offers



The NHA has written to the states and union territories informing them about the benefits of GCP. MINT

cashless and paperless annual healthcare services benefits of up to ₹5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 100

million poor and vulnerable families. According to the government, GCP's benefits include increased participation of hospitals under P M - J A Y , improvement in working capital

for empanelled hospitals and cross-subsidizing of treatments. The scheme is operational in all states and union

territories except West Bengal, Odisha, and Delhi. So far, a network of more than 25,000 public and private hospitals have been empanelled with AB PM-JAY.

Green Channel Payment aims to expedite claim adjustments for hospitals treating AB PM-JAY beneficiaries

"The idea is to have timely and judicious adjustments of claims raised by hospitals and it is the key to the effective implementation of the AB PM-JAY scheme.

Green Channel Payment will encourage greater participation of hospitals in providing treatment to AB PM-JAY ben-

eficiaries," Dr. J.L. Meena, joint director, NHA told *Mint*.

Currently, the empanelled hospital receives payment once its claim is approved and paid by the State Health Agency (SHA). The NHA guidelines for submission of claim by hospital prescribe a turn-around time limit of 7 days. For settlement and payment of non-portability claims, it is 15 days and for portability claims, it is 30 days. However, the actual time taken is far higher, and one of the key reasons behind the delay is time taken for final payment by SHA after approval by the claim processing doctor.

"The Green Channel Payment (GCP), which is aimed at swift release of 50% of the claim amount related to such hospitals which have sound credentials and impeccable record of participation under the scheme. This facility will be enabled on the NHA's IT platform. Such payments will be released after processing of claims by Claim Executive (CEX) subject to fulfilment of certain criteria by the hospitals," stated a National Health Authority' office memorandum issued to states reviewed by *Mint*.

83. Recently **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** has partnered with _____ to train over 12000 teachers on **Augmented Reality (AR)** in the next two years.

- A. Flipkart
- B. Snap Inc
- C. Amazon
- D. Vedanta

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Atal Innovation Mission joined hand with Snap Inc to encourage Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among youth.

Snap Inc will train more than 12000 teachers affiliated with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality (AR).

Snap Inc, a global camera company, will share its expertise in AR with the Atal Tinkering Lab's wide network of schools.

Snap Inc in association with Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) will provide support to the Indian start-up ecosystem with AR advertising boot camps, Ad credits, and other opportunities.

A nationwide Hackathon named 'Lensathon (AR making Hackathon)' will be organized throughout March.

Snap Inc will host special workshops to introduce AR and skills to young women of India. The workshops will be hosted by Women Lens Creators.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

It was launched in 2016. It is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

84. Recently _____ has become the *first PPI issuer to have achieved full interoperability in India.*

- A. Paytm**
- B. Click Pay**
- C. LivQuik**
- D. Tang-Tone**

LivQuik has achieved full Interoperability as required by RBI for Prepaid payments Instruments.

LivQuik is the first PPI issuer to have achieved full interoperability.

According to RBI guidelines, PPI issuers must enable full-KYC wallet interoperability by March 31, 2022.

With full interoperability, LivQuik customers can optimize their payments across wallets by linking a card on Visa and RuPay networks.

LivQuik is a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer. It is a Fintech company headquartered in Mumbai

85. According to the Reserve Bank of India, the **NaBFID will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under sections _____ of RBI Act 1934 while NaBFID will be the _____ body to be supervised By AIFI.**

- A. Sections 47 L & 47N , Third
- B. Sections 45 L & 45N , Fifth**
- C. Sections 46 L & 46 N , Sixth
- D. Sections 43 L & 43 N , Fourth

RBI will regulate and supervise NaBFID as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI).

RBI said that NaBFID will be regulated and supervised as an AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N of RBI Act 1934.

NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI after EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI.

On March 28, 2021, President gave assent to National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act, 2021. The act became effective from April 19, 2021.

Accordingly, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) was set up in the form of Development Financial Institution (DFI).

It was set up to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

In October 2021, K.V. Kamath was appointed as National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) chairperson for three years.

86. Recently the **Investment limit for retail investors applying in public issues of debt securities via UPI mechanism has been increased from Rs 2 lakh to Rs. _____ w.e.f. _____.**

- A. Rs 5 Lakh , December 1 , 2022
- B. Rs 3 Lakh , April 1 , 2022
- C. Rs 5 Lakh , May 1 , 2022**
- D. Rs 10 Lakh , March 31 , 2022

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.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

87. _____ is the initial authorized share capital while _____ is the paid up capital of National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC).
- A. Rs 1000 Cr , Rs 200 Cr
 - B. Rs 3000 Cr , Rs 500 Cr
 - C. Rs 5000 Cr , Rs 150 Cr**
 - D. Rs 2000 Cr , Rs 200 Cr

The establishment of National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) has been approved by Union Cabinet.

On March 9, the Union Cabinet has approved the formation of the NLMC to handle surplus land monetization.

It would be a 100% government-owned corporation with an initial authorized capital of Rs 5,000 crore and a paid-up capital of Rs 150 crore.

Surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other government agencies will be monetized by the NLMC.

The government will be able to generate revenue by monetizing unused and under-used assets.

Presently, CPSEs have substantial surplus, unused and under-used non-core assets in the nature of land and buildings.

88. Which of the following banks has recently partnered with **SELCO Solar Light** to provide financial support to purchase the solar energy products?
- A. State Bank of India
 - B. RBL Bank
 - C. Karnataka Bank**
 - D. Bank of Baroda

Karnataka Bank has signed MoU with SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd.

As part of MoU, Karnataka Bank will provide financial support to purchase the solar energy products of SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd.

Customers can take loans from bank for installing SELCO Solar energy products for both household and commercial use.

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

89. Consider the following statement regarding **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

1. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Debasish Panda**, as the Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for three years.
2. The IRDAI is a **10 members body with a Chairman**, five whole-time members while four part time members.
3. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Rakesh Joshi** as a **Whole-Time Member (Finance and Investment)** at IRDAI.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Debasish Panda has been appointed as IRDAI chairman.

His appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) initially for a period of three years from the assumption of charge.

He is a former financial services secretary. He retired as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in January 2022.

IRDAI Chairman Subhash Chandra Khuntia completed his term in May 2021. The post has been lying vacant since then.

ACC has also approved the appointment of Rakesh Joshi to the post of Whole-Time Member (Finance & Investment) at IRDAI.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a 10-member body with a Chairman, five whole-time members and four part-time members.

90. Consider the following statement regarding the report "**Grain: World Market and Trade**".

1. India's **wheat** exports this fiscal would be **10 MT against last fiscal's 3.58 MT**.
2. In the case of **rice**, exports would be **20.5 MT against 21.19 MT last calendar year**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

- C. Both 1 and 2**
D. None of the above

India will export a record 10 million tonnes (mt) of wheat during the current fiscal, but its rice shipments could be lower this calendar year and corn (maize) sales abroad might also dip during the season to September, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

India's wheat exports this fiscal would be 10 mt against last fiscal's 3.58 mt. In the case of rice, exports would be 20.5 mt against 21.19 mt last calendar year.

India's wheat exports to top 10 mt this fiscal: USDA

US agency raises rice, maize shipments estimate in view of record production

SUBRAMANIRAMANCOMBU

India will export a record 10 million tonnes (mt) of wheat during the current fiscal, but its rice shipments could be lower this calendar year and corn (maize) sales abroad might also dip during the season to September, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has said.

In the "Grain: World Markets and Trade" report brought out by its Foreign Agricultural Service, the USDA said India's wheat exports this fiscal would be 10 mt against last fiscal's 3.58 mt. In the

case of rice, exports would be 20.5 mt against 21.19 mt last calendar year.

Corn shipments would be lower for the current marketing season (October 2021-September 2022) at 2.8 mt against 3.67 mt last season. However, the USDA has raised the export estimates for rice and corn by 0.5 mt and 0.3 mt, respectively, in the current outlook compared with last month in view of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has stalled shipments from the Black Sea region.

'Demand accelerating'

The USDA said it had raised its wheat exports forecast for India by 3.0 mt in view of demand accelerating after the Russian troops entered Ukraine. "In the new marketing year 2022-23 beginning in April, fresh supplies will be available in addition to the



Data from APEDA showed that during April-December of the current fiscal, the volume of wheat shipments had increased to 5.04 mt against 1.07 mt in the year-ago period

exceptionally large stocks in the country," it said.

While New Delhi tended to supply wheat to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh besides West Asia, the country would find buyers across Africa and other parts of the Gulf region. The transit time to West Asia will be longer compared to Black Sea exporters "but India is well-positioned to step in as a low-cost

supplier," the USDA said. A Commerce Ministry statement on Monday said the value of wheat exports had grown 387 per cent during the April-January period of the current fiscal to \$1.74 billion against \$358 million in the year-ago period.

Data from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) showed that during April-December

of the current fiscal the volume of wheat shipments had increased to 5.04 mt against 1.07 mt in the year-ago period.

'Attractive pricing'

"Notwithstanding the conflict in Ukraine, tightening global supplies and high prices from major exporters have made Indian wheat competitive for the first time in several years. After five consecutive record crops and rising government wheat inventories, India has ample exportable supplies," it said. The US agency said Indian wheat export prices averaged an "attractive \$32/tonne" in January and enjoyed the advantage of low freight rates to markets in West and South Asia. Currently, while Indian wheat export prices are hovering around \$50, prices of the grain from the US, Argentina and Europe are all quoted above \$425.

91. Recently _____ has launched its "VoiceSe" UPI digital payments for feature phone users in association with _____ and NPCI.

- A. ToneTag , NSDL Payment Bank**
- B. LivQuik , AU Small Finance Bank**
- C. Tone Tag , Paytm Payment Bank**
- D. LivQuik , Airtel Payment Bank**

ToneTag has launched its VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users.

The launching has been done in association with NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI.

Users do not require internet connectivity or a smart phone for making payments through VoiceSe.

They can call a number and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) will guide users through the desired financial transactions.

ToneTag uses encrypted sound waves to make offline, proximity-based contactless payments.

92. Recently Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH has launched which programme to provide jobs to women?

- A. Laxmi For Laxmi**
- B. Home@Work**
- C. Women@Work**

D. Help@Women

Karnataka government launched Women @Work programme to provide jobs to women.

Under the Women @Work programme, the government is planning to give jobs to five lakh women with employable skills by 2026.

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH and Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has launched this initiative.

This programme has been launched by Dr. C N Aswath Narayan.

This initiative has been launched as part of the Karnataka digital economy mission programme.

93. Recently the Government e-Marketplace [GeM] has launched a new service vertical “Stitching and Tailoring Services” on its portal in partnership with _____ through its Silai School Programme.

A. State Bank Of India

B. USHA International Limited

C. Ujjwala LED

D. Bank Of Baroda

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, Usha International Ltd, one of India’s leading household consumer durables company, announced its strategic partnership with Government of India’s Government e-Marketplace (GeM), an online platform, for two years through its Silai School program.

Via this partnership, Usha will support the setting up of a new vertical – sewing as a service – on the GeM portal which will open newer opportunities for forward integration for hundreds of Usha Silai Women and enhance their livelihood. With the Government mandating that at least 3% of the Rs 15000 crores worth sewing orders placed by government department/agencies annually, be taken up by regional rural women groups, this is a big step forward and will enhance the earning potential of the Usha Silai School women.

94. Which bank has announced to set up a challenger digital bank to prepare for future with focus mainly on younger customers?

A. ICICI Bank

B. HDFC Bank

C. State Bank Of India

D. Bank Of Baroda

HDFC Bank is working on a plan to build a challenger digital bank in order to prepare for a future where licences for digital banks are issued. The challenger will be a purely digital bank focused on targeting a younger set of customers over their lives and careers,

The country's largest private bank by assets wants the digital bank to allow people to open accounts directly without visiting a branch. "The bank has that facility within the traditional bank, but it is working on this as a new business line. It will wait for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to clear and review it before going ahead," State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, is planning a separate digital entity and will revamp its current mobile application, rechristening it 'Only Yono' as part of its decision to be future-ready, showed documents. India's largest private lender HDFC Bank is also working on a similar plan,

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

95. Which of the following companies has partnered with Google Cloud to help fast track e-commerce company's innovation and cloud strategy?

- A. Paytm
- B. Sonata Software
- C. Flipkart
- D. Snapdeal

Flipkart and Google Cloud have entered into a multi-year strategic partnership.

The partnership aims to fast-track innovation and cloud strategy of Flipkart.

The partnership will help Flipkart advance its vision of onboarding India's 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers.

Google Cloud is a cloud computing service offered by Google.

Flipkart is Bangalore-based Indian e-commerce Company. Its parent organization is Walmart. Mvnta and PhonePe are its subsidiaries.

96. Recently _____ has announced its largest Greenfield Project at Steel Authority of India's Bokaro Plant, situated in _____ with an investment of _____.

- A. NHPC, Jharkhand, Rs 500 Cr
- B. SJVN, Jharkhand, Rs 300 Cr
- C. Inox Air, Jharkhand, Rs 750 Cr
- D. NTPC, Jharkhand, Rs 200 Cr

INOX Air Products (INOXAP), India's largest manufacturers of industrial and medical gases, announced it will build its second Cryogenic Air Separation Unit

With an estimated investment of Rs 750 crore, the project will be INOXAP's largest-ever investment in a Greenfield Oxygen Plant in India. The ASU will generate 2,150 tonnes per day (TPD) of Industrial Gases, including 2,000 TPD INOXAP's long-term gas

Inox Air launches ₹750-cr oxygen plant at Bokaro

INOXAIR PRODUCTS, a manufacturer of industrial and medical gases, has announced its largest greenfield project at Steel Authority of India's Bokaro plant with an investment of ₹750 crore. This is the company's second cryogenic air separation unit at the Bokaro plant in Jharkhand and the largest investment in a new oxygen plant.

97. Recently _____ has partnered with **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone** to augment crude oil volumes at _____ Port by expanding the oil tank firm capacity.

- A. BPCL, Deendayal Port
- B. IOCL, Mundra Port
- C. HPCL, Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- D. NTPC, Kolkata Port

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, will build nine more storage tanks to stock additional 10 million tonnes of crude oil at Adani group-operated Mundra port in Gujarat.

"Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has signed an agreement with IOC towards augmentation of IOC's crude oil volumes at Mundra,

IOC will expand its existing crude oil tank farm at APSEZ's Mundra Port, thus enabling it to handle and blend additional 10 million tonnes of crude oil at Mundra.

"This will support IOC's expansion of its Panipat refinery in Haryana,"

IOC to add 9 tanks at Mundra Port, enlarge Panipat pipeline at ₹9,000 crore

Mundra set to become the refiner's largest port-based crude oil storage facility

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, March 8
State-run refiner Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) will invest ₹9,000 crore to build nine crude oil storage tanks at Mundra port and boost the capacity of the Mundra-Panipat Pipeline (MPPL) to support the planned expansion of Panipat refinery to 25 million tonnes (mt) a year.

IOC signed an agreement with Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), which runs Mundra port, to augment the refiner's crude volumes at the port located in Gujarat, APSEZ said in a statement.

Currently, IOC operates a crude oil tank farm in an exclusive area in Adani's Mundra Special Economic Zone, consisting of 12 tanks with a capacity of 7.2 lakh kilo litres (KL).

The addition of nine tanks will augment the storage to 12.6 lakh KL, making Mundra port the largest port-based crude oil storage facility for IOC. This will be accompanied by an augmentation of the MPPL capacity to 17.5 mt a year.

The augmented storage will allow IOC to blend an additional 10 mt of crude oil a year at Mundra port.

Rising demand

In December, the board of IOC approved a capital expenditure of ₹9,000 crore for the additional crude oil tanks and MPPL augmentation. IOC is raising the capacity at its Panipat refinery by 66 per cent, to 25 mt a year, amid India's rapidly growing energy requirements.



The augmented storage will allow IOC to blend an additional 10 mt of crude oil a year at Mundra port. REUTERS

"Mundra Port is a major economic gateway that serves the northern hinterland of India by providing multimodal connectivity. As IOC's trusted long-term partner, APSEZ is well equipped to handle the additional 10 mt crude oil at our existing single-buoy mooring (SBM) at Mundra," said Karan Adani, CEO and whole-time director, APSEZ.

A part of IOC's crude oil requirement of 15 mt for its Panipat refinery is handled at the SBM at Mundra port. The Mundra SBM is located 3-4 km off the coast, where very large crude carriers (VLCCs) arrive to unload. An undersea pipeline then transports the crude oil to the tank farm and, thereafter, to the refinery at Panipat via the Mundra-Panipat pipeline.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

- 98. Recently which of the following companies has created its wholly owned subsidiaries company “HDC Bulk Terminal Limited (HDCBTL)”?**
- A. NTPC
 - B. HDFC Asset Management
 - C. Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone**
 - D. NHPC

Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd has informed that the Company has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary company “HDC Bulk Terminal Limited” on March 7, 2022.

As per regulatory filing, HDCBTL has been incorporated as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company for carrying out the project i.e. mechanization of Berth No. 2 on Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (“DBFOT”) basis at Haldia Dock Complex Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.

Further, HDCBTL belongs to Port industry and is yet to commence its business.

- 99. Consider the following statement regarding RBI 24*7 helpline for digital payments for feature phones.**
1. In order to boost digital payments RBI has launched ‘UPI123pay’ for feature phones.
 2. DigiSaathi, a 24*7 helpline number ‘14431’ for providing digital payments information and services in Hindi and English.
 3. UPI on feature phones can be accessed through NUUP (National Unifies USSD Platform) using the short code of *99#.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 3
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. All of the above**
- D. None of the above

RBI unveils two key digital initiatives

The Reserve Bank of India recently launched two key initiatives – UPI123Pay, the option to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for feature phone users – and DigiSaathi, a 24x7 helpline to address the queries of digital payment users across products. UPI123Pay includes four distinct options – app-based functionality, missed call, interactive voice response (IVR) and proximity sound-based payments. Under DigiSaathi, automated responses on information related to digital payment products and services are available in Hindi and English through multiple options such as toll-free number (1800-891-3333), a short code (14431), website (www.digisaathi.info) and chatbots.



RBI has launched UPI for feature phones (UPI123Pay) and 24x7 Helpline for Digital Payments (DigiSaathi).

UPI123Pay provides feature phone users an option to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments.

UPI123Pay will improve access of UPI to more than 40 crore (400 million) feature phone mobile subscribers in the country.

UPI123Pay includes four distinct options. They are app-based functionality, missed call, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and proximity sound-based payments.

At present, UPI can be accessed through NUUP (National Unified USSD Platform) using the short code of *99#.

RBI has also launched DigiSaathi, a 24x7 Helpline to address the queries of digital payment users.

DigiSaathi has been launched by RBI along with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).

As of now, DigiSaathi is available in English and Hindi. It is a 24-hour information hotline for digital payment goods and services.

Automated responses on information related to digital payment products and services available through multiple options like toll-free number, a short code, website and chat-bots.

According to RBI, DigiSaathi provides a channel to get help on entire gamut of digital payments.

100. Recently _____ has announced to buy *Cyber-security firm Mandiant* at _____ for its cloud business skyrockets.

- A. Amazon , USD 500 Million
- B. Space X , USD 7.9 Billion
- C. Google , USD 5.4 Billion
- D. NASA , USD 4.7 Billion

Alphabet Inc's Google said on Tuesday it would acquire cyber-security firm Mandiant Inc. in a deal valued at about \$5.4 billion, as demand for its cloud business skyrockets. This would be its second-biggest deal ever.

Google and Microsoft were both looking to bolster their cyber-security operations -- an increasingly vital part of the companies' cloud-computing businesses.

Google in \$5.4 billion-deal to buy cybersecurity firm

REUTERS
March 8

ALPHABET'S GOOGLE SAID on Tuesday it would buy cybersecurity firm Mandiant for \$5.4 billion in cash as its cloud business skyrockets.

Google's offer of \$23 per share is at a premium of about 53% to Mandiant's stock price before a report that said Microsoft was eyeing a deal to buy the company.

A deal could bolster Google's cloud computing business, which generates more than \$19 billion annually but has been losing billions of dollars a year, and help it compete with bigger rival Microsoft.

Mandiant focuses on cyber-incident response and cybersecurity testing.

In another development, South Korea approved detailed rules for a law banning dominant app store operators such as Alphabet's Google and Apple from forcing software developers to use their payments systems, the country's telecommunications regulator said on Tuesday.

South Korea passed the law, an amendment to the Telecommunication Business



Act, last year.

It was the first such curb by a major economy on Apple and Google, which face global criticism for requiring the use of proprietary payment systems that charge commissions of up to 30%.

The rules, called the enforcement ordinance, will be put into effect on March 15. They specify that the law bars "the act of forcing a specific payment method to a provider of mobile content" by unfairly utilising the app market operator's status, the Korea Communications Commission (KCC) said in a statement.

1. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has accepted bids worth _____ in a dollar rupee swap to soak the liquidity from the system.

- A. USD 7.41 Billion
- B. USD 5.13 Billion**
- C. USD 90.22 Billion
- D. USD 16.73 Billion

In a move aimed at soaking up liquidity from the system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday accepted bids worth \$5.135 billion in a dollar-rupee swap. The auction saw overwhelming response with bids of \$13.565 billion coming in against \$5 billion on offer.

The excess liquidity in the system is running at close to Rs 8 lakh crore and the central bank had been looking to mop up some of this ahead of the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

\$/₹ sell-buy swap: RBI accepts bids worth \$5.135 bn



IN A move aimed at soaking up liquidity from the system, RBI on Tuesday accepted bids worth \$5.135 billion in a dollar-rupee swap, reports **fe Bureau** in **Mumbai**. The auction got \$13.565-billion bids against \$5 billion on offer.

2. Which of the following companies has signed a MoU with SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optic interconnections in the aerospace domain?

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL**
- C. BEML
- D. HPCL

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a MoU with Bengaluru-based company SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fiber optics interconnections in the aerospace domain.

HAL's subsidiary Naini Aerospace Limited (NAeL) was also a signatory to the MoU, SASMOS' statement noted.

"The MoU is intended to explore business cooperation, especially in the northern India, through utilization of capacity and capabilities of NAeL to bring their expertise in fiber optics, electronics and electrical interconnected system in the aerospace domain through the support from HAL and SASMOS.

101. Which of the following banks has recently become first to launch a digital on-boarding for its micro banking customers?

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**
- C. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- D. Jana Small Finance Bank

In a first in the banking industry, over 60 lakh Ujjivan Small Finance Bank customers, including a significant majority of microfinance women borrowers will now be able to update their mobile number for their individual banking transactions, through a new paperless, real time and secured, OTP-based authentication followed by a biometric authentication process, instantly, via Ujjivan SFB Assisted app.

Ujjivan SFB Assisted app is designed to enable mobile number updation in real time basis. Customers can update their mobile number once every six months through the platform and at any point in time by visiting any branch of the small finance bank, or through a field staff of the bank.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited is an Indian small finance bank based in Bangalore, which commenced operations on 1 February 2017. Headquarters: Bengaluru

102. Which bank has announced a tie-up with Emirates Skywards to launch a co-branded credit card, "Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card"?

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Punjab National Bank

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has announced a tie-up with Emirates Skywards, a loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, to launch a range of co-branded credit cards. Named, 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card', the cards will enable customers to earn reward points, called Skywards Miles, on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends.

The bank is the first Indian bank to partner with Emirates Skywards, to offer an exclusive range of credit cards in the country.

The co-branded credit cards, powered by Visa as the network partner, are available in three variants: 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Emerald Credit Card', 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Sapphire Credit Card', and 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Ruby Credit Card'.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

103. Recently the Bank of Baroda has announced the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiary Baroda Asset Management India Limited (Baroda AMC) with which of the following companies?

- A. HDFC Ergo General Life Insurance
- B. Future General Life Insurance
- C. BNP Paribas**
- D. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Monday said that the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiary Baroda Asset Management India Limited (Baroda AMC) with BNP Paribas Asset Management India Private Limited (BNPP AMC) has been completed and the new entity has commenced its operations.

In October 2019, BoB had entered into binding agreement with BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia Limited (BNP AM) for merger of Baroda AMC with BNPP AMC (Surviving AMC) and that of BNP Paribas Trustee India Private Limited with Baroda Trustee India Private Limited (Surviving TC). The transaction was without any cash consideration. As per the agreement, BoB and BNP AM will respectively hold a stake of 50.1 per cent and 49.9 per cent in the Surviving AMC. Besides they will, respectively, hold 50.7 per cent and 49.3 per cent stake in the Surviving TC.

104. Recently which bank has received the “IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year” award for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space?

- A. Axis Bank**
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Union Bank of India

Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space. The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.

One Axis' philosophy has been a key area of distinctiveness to showcase our ability as a one-of-a-kind, full-service Wholesale Bank.

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

CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry (1 Jan 2019–) Headquarters: Mumbai

105. Recently which bank has launched the “HouseWorkIsWork” initiative for offering opportunities to those who want to join the professional space?

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

Axis Bank has announced a special hiring initiative for housewives called ‘HouseWorkIsWork’ encouraging women of all ages and sexualities to apply to jobs for their human resources function.

A minimum qualification of graduation from a recognised institute is a requisite for applying for the position. The company requires the candidates to possess good communication (verbal and written), ability to handle pressure and meet deadlines.

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

106. Recently NSE Academy has collaborated with which state’s higher education council to provide the financial education and investment awareness for College Students?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

NSE Academy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), intends to join hands with the Karnataka State Higher Education Council to provide awareness on financial education and investment for the holistic well-being of college students. Under the collaboration, Karnataka’s undergraduate students will gain the advantage of financial education developed by the NSE Academy experts and professors of universities in the state.

A centre of excellence will be set up at the BASE University with an action plan for up-skilling students for careers in BFSI while creating recruitment exposure by benchmarking the program with international standards. NSE Academy’s CEO is Abhilash Misra.

Axis Bank rolls out ‘HouseWorkIsWork’

URBAN EDUCATED WOMEN’S participation in the workforce still not at desired levels, Axis Bank has kicked off the ‘HouseWorkIsWork’ initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space. The intent behind this initiative is to give these women the confidence that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles in a bank and it is about getting these women back to work, Axis Bank president and head (HR) Rajkamal Vempati said.

NSE Academy to partner K’taka education body

NSE ACADEMY, A wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), on Tuesday said it intends to collaborate with the Karnataka State Higher Education Council to provide financial education and investment awareness for the holistic well-being of college students. Under the collaboration, all undergraduate students in Karnataka will gain the advantage of an enriched curriculum in financial education developed by experts from NSE Academy and professors of universities in the state, according to a statement.

107. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has extended *the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee credit for MSME exporters till?*

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

Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit has been extended up to March 31, 2024 or till further review, whichever is earlier.

The extension has come into effect from October 1, 2021. The extension ends on March 31, 2024.

MSME manufacturer exporters are to be provided 3% interest subsidy.

Non-MSME manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters of identified categories are to be provided subsidy 2% interest.

The scheme was last extended in July 2021 till September 2021. It has now been extended from October 2021 till March 2024. The extended Scheme will not be available to beneficiaries availing benefit under government's any Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

108. Recently the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of L&T Investment Management worth _____ by HSBC Asset Management (India).

- A. USD 235 Million
- B. USD 272 Million
- C. USD 425 Million**
- D. USD 300 Million

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said on Thursday that it has approved HSBC's acquisition of L&T Investment Management Ltd., the investment manager for L&T Mutual Fund

The \$425 million deal involves HSBC buying the entity from its parent L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (LTFH). The acquisition is being executed through HSBC Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc. It is the asset management entity for operating the day-to-day functioning of HSBC Mutual Fund schemes. The deal involves acquisition of 100% equity share capital of the asset management company from L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. and its nominees.

109. According to the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India on Credit card, total _____ cards with _____ banks being the highest number of cards issuer with 2.40 Lakh.

- A. 13.5 Million , State Bank of India
- B. 12.5 Million , ICICI Bank
- C. 14.5 Million , HDFC Bank
- D. 15.5 Million , ICICI bank

Credit card spends fell in Jan due to Omicron

RBI's latest data shows spends in January fell 6% m-o-m to ₹87.7 trillion

Gopika Gopakumar
gopika.g@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Credit card spending eased in January as consumer spending took a hit after states imposed restrictions to contain the spread of the Omicron strain of coronavirus.

Spending in January fell 6% on a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis to ₹87.7 trillion, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data. Credit card spending stood at ₹93.9 trillion in December last year.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis too, the growth in credit card spending slowed down to 35% against 47% in December. That said, the spending in January continues to be higher than last year when it stood at ₹64.7 trillion.

The slowdown in spending comes after the industry saw ₹1 trillion worth of spending in October because of the festive season. The spending momentum has dropped, but this is a temporary blip, analysts said.

"Credit card spends are higher than the pre-pandemic days. The January data shows a monthly decline, which happened because of Omicron. That said, consumer confidence is back on track, and the data will show an improvement from the second half of February when the restrictions eased," said an analyst with a foreign brokerage firm.

Among banks, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and SBI Cards saw a drop in credit card spending in January.

HDFC Bank saw a nearly 8% m-o-m fall in spending to ₹21.7 trillion, while ICICI Bank saw a 5% m-o-m fall to ₹18.8 trillion. Axis Bank was the outlier, with spending growing in January. It saw a 10% m-o-m rise to ₹7.6 trillion, while SBI Cards saw a 2% growth in spending to ₹19 trillion.



Axis Bank was an outlier with spends growing in January. The bank saw a 10% m-o-m rise to ₹7.6 trillion, while SBI Cards saw a 2% growth in spends.

In terms of cards issued, banks added 130,000 new credit cards on a net basis in January, led by issuers such as ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and SBI cards.

Bank's co-branded credit card with Amazon has been a huge success in the market, helping the bank gain market share to 17.9%.

TEMPORARY FALL

CREDIT card spends are higher than the pre-pandemic days, but January data shows Omicron's hit

CONSUMER confidence is back and data may show improvement from second half of Feb

AMONG banks, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and SBI Cards saw a drop in credit card spends in Jan

Among the top four banks, ICICI Bank was the most aggressive. It added 240,000 credit cards in January, taking the total credit card base to 12.5 million. ICICI

Axis Bank, too, gained market share to 11.9%, adding 219,000 new cards during the same period. Its co-branded credit card with Walmart backed e-commerce major Flipkart has also performed well.

HDFC Bank added 209,000 credit cards in January, but it lost market share for the second straight month to 22.8%. SBI Cards, too, added fewer credit cards, resulting in a drop in market share.

Credit card spending eased in January as consumer spending took a hit after states imposed restrictions to contain the spread of the Omicron strain of corona virus.

Spending in January fell 6% on a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis to ₹87.7 trillion, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data. Credit card spending stood at ₹93.9 trillion in December last year.

In terms of cards issued, banks added 130,000 new credit cards on a net basis in January, led by issuers such as ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and SBI cards.

Among the top four banks, ICICI Bank was the most aggressive. It added 240,000 credit cards in January, taking the total credit card base to 12.5 million. ICICI Bank's co-branded credit card with Amazon has been a huge success in the market, helping the bank gain market share to 17.9%.

110. Recently company ZF has renamed its WABCO India Ltd as ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India Limited. It's headquarter is in which country?

- A. France
- B. Germany**
- C. Russia
- D. Japan

WABCO India Limited will be known as ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India Limited and it will be part of ZF's new Commercial Vehicle Solutions (CVS) division. The name change follows ZF securing all required approvals for the integration of WABCO with it

Headquartered in Chennai and employing approximately 5,000 people across five manufacturing locations in India, ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India offers a 'one-stop-shop' for commercial vehicle industry.

Germany's ZF renames Wabco India unit

CHENNAI

German company ZF has renamed Wabco India Ltd. as ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India Ltd. Wabco India became part of the ZF Group in May 2020 following ZF's acquisition of Wabco. ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India is a market leader in advanced braking systems, conventional braking products and related air-assisted technologies and systems in India.

111. Recently which of the following companies has announced a five-year tenure extension of its managing director and CEO Tapan Singhel?

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

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance on Monday announced a five-year tenure extension of its managing director and CEO Tapan Singhel.

The new term will be effective from April 1, 2022,

Headquarters: Pune

Founded: 2001

Bajaj Allianz MD & CEO gets extension for five years

the FE BUREAU
Pune, March 14

and BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL Insurance Company on Monday announced that Tapan Singhel, managing director and CEO, has received a five-year tenure extension with effect from April 1, 2022.

ads in ast ws. ith ra- for d is tak by lay RG Singhel is an insurance industry veteran with more than 30 years of experience in the sector and 20 years with Bajaj Allianz. He has been heading Bajaj Allianz General Insurance as MD & CEO for the last

10 years. He is the first MD and CEO who has received two consecutive extensions.

Singhel has made the company one of the largest and most profitable private general insurers in the country, a company statement said.

The company had achieved a cumulative underwriting profit of more than ₹350 crore, revenue CAGR of 16%, net profit at a CAGR of more than 30% with a growth in solvency ratio from 156% to close to 350%, the company release added.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

- 112. RailTel has jumped 67 positions to reach _____ position in the recently announced 'Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022'.**
- A. 176TH**
 - B. 124th**
 - C. 151st**
 - D. 136th**

RailTel jumped 67 positions to rank 124th in the recently announced 'Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022'

It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India. RailTel is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services providers in the country.

Besides RailTel, there are five more private telecom players on the list. Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309.

Fortune India Next 500 is a ranking of the top 500 midsize corporations in India compiled, on the basis of the latest sales and gross revenue figures. The current list is based on the annual audited total income for the financial year 2020-21.

- 113. According to *International Labour Organization (ILO) report*, by investing in *universal childcare and long-term care services* the United Nations labour agency can generate up to _____ million jobs by 2035.**
- A. 299 Million**
 - B. 234 Million**
 - C. 243 Million**
 - D. 250 Million**

Investing in universal childcare and long-term care services can generate up to 299 million jobs by 2035. Of these, 234 million (78 per cent) will go to women, according to a new report by International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations labour agency.

According to the report, employment rates of women will rise by 10 percentage points overall, ranging from nine percentage points in Europe and lower-middle and low-income countries in Asia to 12 percentage points in the Arab states, far more than for men.

This job creation potential by 2035 will be driven by 96 million direct jobs in childcare, 136 million direct jobs in long-term care and 67 million indirect jobs in non-care sectors and for that, an annual investment of \$5.4 trillion will be required,

114. Recently **Walmart Global Tech** partnered with which of the following institutes to accelerate research in new areas of technology and collaborate on projects for Corporate Social Responsibility?

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Roorkee
- D. IIT Mumbai

IIT Madras has signed a MoU with Walmart Global Tech (WGT) to accelerate research in new areas of technology while focusing on training programs to upskill talents. This partnership will provide continuing education to Walmart associates and collaborate on corporate social responsibility projects for their India operations.

As a part of the collaboration, IITM students and WGT associates will work together on research projects, facilitated by the Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (IC&SR) at IITM.

Walmart, IIT-M sign MoU for technical research, CSR

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, March 10

Walmart Global Tech will partner with Indian Institute of Technology Madras to accelerate research in new areas of technology, provide Walmart associates with continuing education and collaborate on projects for Corporate Social Responsibility for their India operations. The MoU was signed at an event in Chennai on Wednesday.

Through this corporate partnership, IIT-M students and WGT associates will work together on research projects facilitated by the Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research at IIT-M.

A changing industry

In addition, WGT will use space in the IIT Madras Research Park to work with the start-up companies incubated by the IIT Madras Incubation Cell. WGT will also have access to several short and long-term

education and training programmes to upskill talent and fit the changing needs of the retail and e-Commerce industry.

Suresh Kumar, Global Chief Technology Officer and Chief Development Officer, Walmart Inc, (an alumnus of IIT-M), said "WGT develops and manages the foundational technologies on which our customer experiences around the world are built. We are a human-led, tech-empowered company, and our talented associates in India are critical to driving Walmart's global businesses and leading the next retail disruption."

Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean (Alumni and Corporate Relations), IIT-M, said, "WGT and IIT-M have many areas for collaborative growth such as sustainability, AI, and energy engineering. We are keen to grow this into an impactful partnership to benefit a broad cross-section of stakeholders."

115. Recently **MUFG Bank**, the banking subsidiary of Japan financial group Mitsubishi has announced _____ fund exclusively to Invest in Indian Start-ups?

- A. USD 200 Million
- B. USD 300 Million**
- C. USD 400 Million
- D. USD 500 Million

Japan-based Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group's banking subsidiary MUFG Bank has announced its plans to invest \$300 Mn in Indian startups through its fund named 'Ganesh'.

The move comes shortly after the financial services giant renewed its debt venture fund, Mars Growth Capital – its joint venture with Liquidity Capital. The second fund of the JV intends to deploy \$300 Mn in debt financing to late-stage pre-unicorn and unicorn, public listing-ready companies, with a special focus on Asian-Pacific startups.

MUFG to set up \$300-m fund to invest in Indian start-ups

JAPANESE FINANCIAL GROUP
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) is establishing a \$300-million fund to invest exclusively in Indian start-ups, a senior official said on Saturday.

"MUFG is establishing a 300 million US dollar fund named MUFG Ganesh Fund to invest exclusively in seeding Indian start-ups," MUFG's member of the board of direc-

tors and president and group CEO Hironori Kamezawa said while speaking at The Economic Times Global Business Summit. The fund intends not only to financially support Indian economic growth but to drive collaboration between MUFG and promising companies in the areas of technology and information and technology (IT), he said. —PTI

116. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has removed ban from which of the following banks business generating activities planned under Digital 2.0 programmes?

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Paytm Payment Bank
- C. HDFC Bank**
- D. ICICI Bank

RBI lifts curbs on HDFC Bank, allows new digital launches

Restrictions were imposed on lender after outages in its mobile, net banking services

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, March 12

In a major reprieve for HDFC Bank, the Reserve Bank of India has lifted restrictions on the business generating activities planned under the bank's Digital 2.0 programme.

This was communicated to the bank by the RBI on March 11.

The RBI had, in December 2020, barred the bank from launching new digital products or services and issuing new credit cards following outages in its mobile and internet banking services.

In February 2021, the RBI had appointed an external IT



firm for carrying out a special audit of the IT infrastructure of the private sector lender.

"We are fully committed to ensuring continued adherence to the highest standards of compliance with RBI recommendations," the bank said in a press statement.

The bank said it has utilised the time to draw up short-, medium- and long-term plans to meet the evolving digital requirements of its customers.

"We will roll out these initiatives in the days to come," it said.

To expand offerings

The RBI's decision will give a major boost to the lender, which is hoping to further expand its digital offerings to customers.

Amongst its digital initiatives, the bank is expected to launch PayZap 2.0 and Smart-Buy 2.0 in the second quarter of 2022-23, said a recent report by ICICI Securities.

In August last year, the RBI had lifted the restrictions on the bank for issuing of new credit cards,

RBI has removed ban on HDFC Bank's business generating activities planned under Digital 2.0 programme.

In December 2020, RBI has said HDFC Bank was not allowed to launch new digital products or services.

RBI has also banned HDFC Bank from issuing new credit cards after outages in its mobile and internet banking services.

Then, an external IT firm was appointed by RBI in February 2021 for carrying out a special audit of the IT infrastructure of HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank is headquartered in Mumbai. It is India's largest private sector bank. It was founded in 1994. CEO of HDFC Bank is Sashidhar Jagdishan.

117. Consider the following statements regarding RBI's harmonized framework for microfinance lenders.

- 1. As per the RBI statement "all collateral-free loans provided to households having an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh will be considered microfinance loans".**
- 2. Reserve Bank of India (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022, will come into effect from April 1, 2022.**
- 3. RBI has also raised the maximum limit on microfinance loans given by NBFCs that are not qualified as NBFC-MFIs from 10% earlier to 25%.**

Which of the following statement is/are Correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

C. Only 1 & 3

D. All of the above

RBI has released harmonized framework for microfinance lenders.

Reserve Bank of India (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022, will come into effect from April 1, 2022.

RBI said all collateral-free loans provided to households having an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh will be considered microfinance loans.

Previously, the income limits were set at 2.5 lakh in rural regions and 2 lakh in other areas.

As per RBI, margin caps will no longer be applied to non-banking finance company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) pricing.

In other words, RBI has removed caps on the pricing of small loans given by NBFC-MFIs.

All microfinance lenders must now implement a board-approved loan pricing policy.

RBI has also raised the maximum limit on microfinance loans given by NBFCs that are not qualified as NBFC-MFIs from 10% earlier to 25%.

For NBFC-MFIs, RBI has also reduced the minimum loan requirement of microfinance loans of total loan assets from 85% to 75%.

There would be no prepayment penalty on microfinance loans. Maximum repayment value has been limited to 50% of monthly household income.

'Microfinance firms can fix interest'

Central bank sets caveat that rates should not be usurious

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday allowed microfinance institutions to fix interest rates on loans, with a caveat that the rates should not be usurious.

In revised guidelines that will take effect on April 1, the RBI tweaked the definition of a microfinance loan to indicate a collateral-free loan given to a household with annual income of up to ₹3 lakh.

Earlier, the upper limits were ₹1.2 lakh for rural borrowers and ₹2 lakh for urban borrowers.



Interest rates will be subject to RBI's supervisory scrutiny.
• GETTY IMAGES

As per the revised norms, regulated entities (REs) should put in place a Board-approved policy regarding pricing of microfinance loans, a ceiling on interest

rate and all other charges applicable to microfinance loans.

"The revision of the income cap to ₹3 lakh will expand the market opportunity and interest rate cap removal will promote risk-based underwriting, said Udaya Kumar Hebbar, MD and CEO at CreditAccess Grameen Ltd.

"This reflects the confidence shown by the central bank in the ability of MFIs to responsibly cater to the bottom of the pyramid," he said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 9

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

118. As per the Union Government data, *India's goods export in February 2022 has increased by 25% to _____.*
- A. USD 39.85 Billion
 - B. USD 34.57 Billion**
 - C. USD 36.96 Billion
 - D. USD 32.56 Billion

India's goods exports in February 2022 have increased by 25% to \$34.57 billion.

In February 2022, good imports increased by 36.07% to \$55.45 billion.

As a result, the trade deficit for February 2022 increased to \$20.88 billion. This was 59% higher than in February 2021.

Petroleum imports increased 69 % to \$15.28 billion. Gold imports declined 9.65 % to \$4.8 billion.

Goods exports for April-February 2021-22 were 46.09% higher at \$374.81 billion.

Goods imports for April-February 2021-22 were 59.33% higher at \$550.56 billion. Trade deficit for same period doubled to \$175.75 billion.

119. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of April-June 2021, *what percent of Indian population in labour force is unemployed?*
- A. 8.51
 - B. 12.57**
 - C. 14.51
 - D. 9.66

As per the PLFS of April-June 2021, urban unemployment rate is rising in India.

12.7 persons out of 100 in labour force are unemployed according to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of April-June 2021.

Unemployment rate among women in the age group 15-29 years is 31 and among the men, it is 24. Unemployment rate among all ages is 12.7 during April-June 2021 period.

Unemployment rate among women of all ages is 14.3 and men of all ages are 12.2.

Urban unemployment rate for persons of all ages is highest in Kerala (24.4) followed by Chhattisgarh (19.2). Gujarat has the lowest (5.5).

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the percentage of persons in labour force (working or seeking or available for work).

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is the percentage of employed persons in the population of all ages

120. India's WPI inflation increased to _____ in February 2022 as per data from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry While India's retail inflation increased to _____ in February 2022 as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- A. 13.11 %, 6.07 %
- B. 12.57 %, 6.91 %
- C. 12.66 %, 5.85%
- D. 13.66 %, 6.01 %

India's WPI inflation increased to 13.11% in February 2022 as per data from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) increased to 12.96% during January 2022 and it increased to 14.27% in December 2021.

Since April 2021, WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the 11th month in a row.

India's retail inflation increased to 6.07% in February 2022 as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The retail inflation measured by CPI was 6.01% for January 2022.

This is the second consecutive time that CPI data has reached beyond RBI's upper limit of 6%.

Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) or the inflation in the food basket also increased in February 2022 to 5.85%, from 5.43% in January 2022.

Finance ministry said that despite the rise in global crude oil prices, retail prices of diesel and petrol have not been revised since November 2021.

121. Consider the following statements regarding annual report of Freedom House.

1. India's score in 2022 is 66 out of 100 while its score was 67 in 2021 and 71 in 2020. The score of 71 is classified as free.
2. According to this report, Norway, Denmark and Sweden are considered "Free". Many other countries are also considered as "Free".
3. Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Saudi Arabia are countries with lowest freedom points. Sudan scored one out of 100.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3

C. Only 1 & 2

D. All of the above

India has remained partly free for second consecutive year according to the annual report of Freedom House.

India's score this year is 66 out of 100. Its score was 67 in 2021 and 71 in 2020. The score of 71 is classified as free.

The report is titled as "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule".

The report says that government's discriminatory policies and the rise in persecution have affected the Muslim population of India.

According to this report, harassment of journalists, non-governmental organizations and other government critics has increased.

The scores of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are 37 and 55 points, respectively.

According to this report, Norway, Denmark and Sweden are considered "Free". Many other countries are also considered as "Free".

Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Saudi Arabia are countries with lowest freedom points. Sudan scored one out of 100.

Urban joblessness eased sharply after first Covid wave: Survey

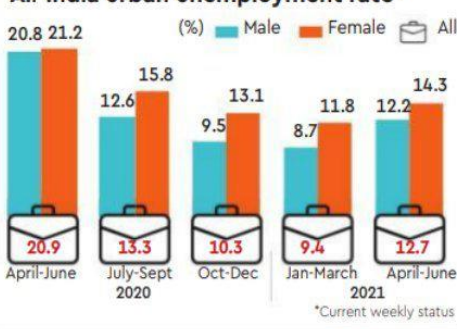
SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, March 14

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE in urban India was 12.4% in the first quarter of FY22, as against 9.4% recorded in the previous quarter, but far lower than 20.9% prevailing in the year-ago quarter when the first Covid wave hit the country. The latest available results of the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the ministry of statistics & programme implementation (MoSPI), also showed that 25.5% of urban youth in the 15-29 years age group remained unemployed in the January-March period of the current year, as against 34.7% in the year-ago quarter.

As per PLFS norms, the activity status of a person is determined on the basis of reference period of last seven days preceding the date of survey, as her current weekly status (CWS). Unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

However, since April-June 2021, the job scenario must have improved a bit. While the results of quarterly PLFS come with a lag, according to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), which provides more frequent insights into the

All-India urban unemployment rate*



employment-unemployment scenario, urban joblessness rate was 8.32% in July 2021, 9.78% in August and 8.64% in September compared with 9.78% in April, 14.72% in May and 10.08% in June of last year. The urban unemployment rate, according to CMIE, has been in excess of 7.37% for the five months ending February this year. Labour force participation rate, which is defined as the percentage of population in the labour force for all age groups, grew during the April-June 2021 period to 37.1%, compared with 35.9% in the corresponding period last year.

Former JNU professor Santosh Mehrotra said, "Those

with fresh secondary/higher secondary education or graduates always find it difficult to get jobs because of inadequate or no experience. Youth unemployment had tripled between 2012 and 2019. Unless these people are imparted with proper training right from the school level, India will not realise its demographic dividend. In addition, non-farm jobs must grow faster than they have between in the decade to 2022." Unemployment rate among the urban youth of the 15-29 years age group was at 24.9% and 22.9% respectively in the October-December 2020 and January-March 2021 period respectively.

Flipkart forms strategic tie-up with Google Cloud

GOOGLE CLOUD AND Flipkart have entered into a multi-year strategic alliance to help fast-track the e-commerce company's innovation and cloud strategy. The partnership will drive Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India's next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers.

RBI extends interest subsidy scheme for exporters till March 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, March 8

The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee credit for MSME exporters till March 2024 with the objective of boosting outbound shipments.

Exporters get subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit'.

In April last year, the scheme was first extended till June end and later till September 2021.

The interest equalisation rates under the scheme have been revised to 2 per cent and 3 per cent for specified categories of MSME manufacturer exporters, the RBI said.

Interest equalisation scheme

"The government has approved the extension of Interest Equalisation Scheme for Pre- and Post- Shipment Rupee Export Credit up to March 31, 2024 or till further review, whichever is earlier. The extension takes effect from October 1, 2021 and ends on March 31, 2024," the RBI said in a notification.

The scheme will not apply to telecom instruments and entities availing

benefits under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme of the government.

While issuing approval to the exporter, the bank will be required to furnish the prevailing interest rate, the interest subvention being provided, and the net rate being charged to each exporter, so as to ensure transparency and greater accountability in the operation of the scheme, the RBI said.

It further said from April 1, 2022, banks shall reduce the interest rate charged to the eligible exporters upfront as per the guidelines and submit the claims in original within 15 days from the end of the respective month in the prescribed format.

The RBI further said for the October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, period, banks shall identify the eligible exporters as per the scheme, credit their accounts with the eligible amount of interest equalisation and submit sector-wise consolidated reimbursement claim for the period to the Reserve Bank by April 30, 2022.

India's merchandise export in February 2022 was \$33.81 billion, an increase of 22.36 per cent over \$27.63 billion in the same month of 2021.

BBIN MV DEAL

India, Nepal and Bangladesh finalise MoU

New Delhi: India, Bangladesh and Nepal finalised an enabling MoU to be signed by them for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), pending ratification of the MVA by Bhutan.

The MoU was finalised at a meeting of the three nations on the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) MVA here on March 7-8, 2022. Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer.

The meeting was held to discuss the passenger and cargo protocols that are essential to operationalise the BBIN MVA for the regulation of passenger, personal and cargo vehicular traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, signed on June 15, 2015.

This is the first meeting of the group since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The last meeting was held in February 2020 in New Delhi. **PTI**

Nitin Chugh appointed head of SBI digital banking



Nitin Chugh

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 8

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI) on Tuesday said it has appointed Nitin Chugh as deputy managing director (DMD) & head of digital banking. Chugh has earlier served as MD & CEO at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and at HDFC Bank as head of digital banking.

At SBI, Chugh would be responsible for driving growth of customer acquisition through digital channels, along with defining and implementing digital strategies.

Apart from a postgraduate degree in management, Chugh holds a B.Tech degree in electrical and computer science from NIT, Kurukshetra.

NITI mission partners Snap

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

THE NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has partnered with Snap, the parent company of instant messaging platform Snapchat, to train over 12,000 teachers affiliated with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality (AR) in the next two years in a bid to drive AR adoption among the youth.

The company also announced its partnership with the Atal Incubation Centers to support the Indian start-up ecosystem with AR advertising bootcamps, ad credits, and other opportunities. "At AIM, we're committed to leveraging our network of state-of-the-art Atal Tinkering Labs to foster a culture of innovation," said Dr Chintan Vaishnav, mission director of Atal Tinkering Labs.

[Click Here For Grand Bundle](#)

If there are any sug

India pips China, ranks second for global investment in digital shopping

175%

Growth in digital shopping investment in India as per an official analysis in London. It rose to \$22 billion in 2021 from \$8 billion in 2020.

Last year, globally US was among the top investment place, followed by

India	\$51 bn
China	\$14 bn
UK	\$7 bn

In India, top places for venture capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021 were

Bengaluru	\$14bn
Gurugram	\$4bn
Mumbai	\$3 bn

Bengaluru almost tripled its investments from \$5 bn in 2020 to take the top spot, ahead of other leading cities in the world **New York City** (2nd), **San Francisco** (3rd), **London** (4th) and **Berlin** (5th)

Three of the 15 global cities with the highest count of current unicorns are in India **Bengaluru** at No. 6 with 19 unicorns in 2021

■ **Gurugram** at No. 7 with 13 unicorns (up from 3 in 2020)

■ **Mumbai** at No. 14 with

UCO Bank to acquire 3% in IDRCL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 10

UCO BANK HAS entered into an agreement to acquire a 3% stake in India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) for ₹1.50 crore, the bank said on Thursday. UCO Bank became one of the stakeholders of IDRCL on March 9, 2022. The bank's holding in the company will be 3%, therefore no approval is required, the lender said in a regulatory filing.

The lender said the acquisition will be completed within 10 working days from the date of agreement. The acquisition

CCI approves HSBC AMC's \$425 million buy of L&T MF

HSBC now stands at 12th position in terms of asset base

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 10

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100 per cent share capital of L&T Investment Management Limited (LTIM/Target) by HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Limited (HSBC AMC/Acquirer).

It may be recalled that HSBC AMC had last December announced the acquisition of LTIM in a \$425 million deal. LTIM is the investment manager of the mutual fund business of L&T.

The acquisition of L&T Mutual Fund (MF) – which had average assets under management (AAUM) of ₹78,273.80 crore in Q2 FY22 – has catapulted

HSBC AMC to the 12th position in industry rankings from the 21st as of November-end last year.

HSBC MF had AAUM of ₹11,314.32 crore in the same quarter.

Deal structure

The proposed transaction involves acquisition of 100 per cent equity share capital of L&T AMC by HSBC AMC from L&T Finance Holdings Limited (L&T Sponsor/Seller) and its nominees, an official release said.

HSBC AMC is the asset management entity for operating the day-to-day functioning of HSBC Mutual Fund scheme (HSBC MF). It is responsible for managing investments of money pooled-in through investments in HSBC MF.

HSBC AMC is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings PLC.

Titan's arm to buy 17.5% stake in Great Heights for \$20 mn

Press Trust of India

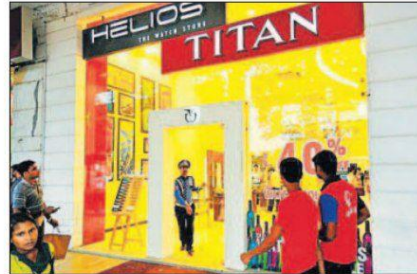
feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Tata group firm Titan Company on Friday said that its subsidiary has inked a pact to acquire 17.5% voting rights in US-based Great Heights Inc for \$20 million (around ₹152 crore).

TCL North America Inc (TCLNA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has signed a stock purchase agreement with Great Heights Inc for subscription of shares with voting preferred stock in the capital stock of Great Heights, the jewellery and watch maker said in a regulatory filing.

As per the pact, TCLNA would hold up to 17.5% voting rights in Great Heights, it added.

"This is a strategic investment that will provide Titan a



TCL North America Inc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Titan, has signed a stock purchase agreement with Great Heights Inc. MNT

ring-side view of the fast-growing Lab Grown Diamond (LGD) and Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) sectors," the company stated. Great Heights retails LGD

jewellery through its brand "Clean Origin".

The company's gross revenue for the year 2021 stood at \$25 million.

RBI bars Paytm unit from adding new customers

Seeks audit of payments bank's IT infra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The RBI on Friday ordered Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. to immediately stop onboarding new customers, citing "certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank".

The Reserve Bank of India said it was exercising its regulatory powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, to order the action on the payments bank.

System audit

"The bank has also been directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system," the RBI said in a statement on its website.

"Onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. will be subject to



specific permission to be granted by RBI after reviewing report of the IT auditors," the banking sector regulator added.

The banking unit of digital payments operator Paytm, which is backed by China's Ant Group and Japan's SoftBank, provides services to more than 300 million wallets and 60 million accounts, according to information on its website.

ICICI to acquire 5% stake in NARCL

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 11

Private sector lender ICICI Bank will acquire 5 per cent stake in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL). "ICICI Bank has signed an agreement on March 10, 2022, for investment in the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited," it said in a stock exchange filing on Friday.

The transaction is for a total cash consideration of up to ₹1,37.5 crore in tranches, it further said. Equity investment would be in tranches, with the first tranche of equity investment of ₹70.45 crore, expected



to be completed by March 31, 2022, said the bank.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had, in Budget 2021-22, announced that an Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company would be set up to consolidate and take over existing stressed debt.

IDBI Bank to invest over ₹272 cr in bad bank NARCL

IDBI BANK ON Friday said it has become one of the stakeholders in the government-promoted bad bank National Asset Reconstruction Company, and will invest over ₹272 crore to acquire equity stake and subscribe to its bonds. "IDBI Bank has become one of the stakeholders of NARCL on March 10, 2022, by executing an investment agreement to participate in the equity share capital and NCDs (non-convertible debentures) proposed to be issued by NARCL," IDBI Bank said.

Punjab & Sind Bank to buy 2% stake in NARCL

PUNJAB & SIND Bank on Friday said it has entered into an agreement to buy 2% stake in asset reconstruction company NARCL for ₹55 crore. The bank said the equity investment would be done in tranches, with the first investment of ₹28.18 crore expected to be completed by March 31, 2022.

{ BUSINESS } DESPITE OMICRON

IIP growth edges up to 1.3% in Jan from 0.7% in Dec



The third wave of Covid-19, driven by the Omicron variant, did not disrupt industrial activity in the Indian economy significantly, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data for January 2022 has shown. IIP grew by 1.32% on an annual basis in January 2022, an improvement from the 0.7% annual growth in December 2021 according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on March 11. January IIP numbers mark an

New Census rules notified, to allow self-enumeration online

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE GOVERNMENT has notified certain amendments to Census rules to allow online self-enumeration in the upcoming Census and National Population Register (NPR).

The announcement had been made in 2020 but has been notified through the rules now.

In a gazette notification issued on Friday, the Centre amended Census Rules, 1990, to include "electronic form" and "self-enumeration" in the schedule of questions to be asked during census enumeration. The amendment was inserted in clause C of Rule-2, which deals with definitions.

Clause C now reads: "Census Schedule means the schedule containing questions referred to in sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Act, in paper form or in an electronic form and can be canvassed in the said modes including through self-enumeration."

Section 8 of Census Act, 1948, gives powers to the enumerator to ask questions regarding the Census and makes it obligatory for respondents to answer, with

EXPLAINED
E Early signs

NOTIFYING RULES now for an announcement that was made back in 2020 could be an indication of the government gearing up for holding the Census exercise later this year. The Census has remained indefinitely postponed due to the pandemic.

certain exceptions.

An explanation accompanying the new insertions says, "For the purposes of this clause, 'electronic form' shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000)." Another insertion says, "self-enumeration' means filling-up, completion and submission of census schedule by respondents themselves".

The government has inserted an extra clause in Rule 6 as 6D, which says, "Without prejudice to any other provisions of these rules, a person may fill up, complete and

submit the census schedule through self-enumeration."

Amendments were also made in Rule 5, which deals with "Functions of Census Officers". In clause C of Rule 5, which says the Census commissioner will "devise the census schedules or questionnaires and provide to the State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for publication in their respective Gazette in order to canvass in the census", government inserted "and to be used for self-enumeration" after "in the census".

The Census, scheduled to begin in March 2020 with the house-listing phase and NPR enumeration, followed by population census, has been postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Centre recently extended the deadline for jurisdictional changes for all states up to June 30, 2022. December 31, 2021 was the deadline set earlier. According to sources in the Home Ministry, which oversees the functioning of Registrar General of India, this has been done on the request of states, as they have not been able to update jurisdictional changes for various reasons.

Merchandise exports rose 25%, imports surged 36% in February

Trade deficit widens to \$20.9 billion on sharper growth in non-gold imports

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

India exported merchandise worth \$34.57 billion in February, about 25% higher than a year earlier, while imports grew 36% to \$55.45 billion, as per fresh estimates released on Monday by the Commerce Ministry.

Trade deficit widened to \$20.9 billion in February from the five-month low of \$17.4 billion recorded in January and is expected to stay elevated in coming months in view of high commodity and oil prices. Total merchandise exports in the first 11 months of FY22 stood at \$374.81 billion, close to the \$400-billion target set by the



X factor: Oil imports will play a key role in determining the size of the trade deficit, says Ms. Nayar. *K.K. MUSTAFAH

government for the full year. This marks a 28.4% increase from pre-COVID exports. Imports for the full year have crossed \$550 billion in the same period, 24.2% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

While the uptick in exports was driven by petroleum and engineering products, a sharper growth in non-gold imports spurred merchandise trade deficit from the \$13.1 billion seen in

February 2021, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA. Gold worth \$4.77 billion was imported in February, 9.65% lower than a year earlier, but almost double the imports in January.

“While higher commodity prices will inflame imports in March, oil imports will play a key role in determining the size of the trade deficit. We expect the trade deficit to remain above \$20 billion in March,” Ms. Nayar said, adding exports should clock \$410 billion in FY22.

Engineering goods exporters are also concerned about the impact of high input costs and anticipated fuel price increases.

NSE, IBJA ally to set up bullion spot exchange

Shareholders to include refiners, banks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) has tied up with the India Bullion and Jewelers Association (IBJA) to start a domestic bullion spot exchange as per SEBI guidelines.

Apart from offering a platform to the industry players for conducting spot bullion transactions, the joint initiative will provide an opportunity to investors and consumers to directly participate on the exchange.

The shareholders will include NSE, IBJA and industry participants (refiners, bullion dealers, jewelers, banks and overseas suppliers), NSE said in a release.

IBJA and NSE said they were already in advanced

➤ This exchange shall bring in efficiency and transparency in price discovery

discussions with industry participants on closing the shareholding structure.

“This exchange shall bring in efficiency as well as transparency in the price discovery of bullion and at the same time offer confidence to the investors about the quality of metal being delivered through the exchange platform,” Vikram Limaye, MD & CEO, NSE, said in the press release.

“We are also happy to be working with IBJA... we will be able to aid the overall development of the bullion spot market,” he added.

Centre to spend ₹19k crore for rejuvenation of 13 rivers

**Vishwa Mohan
@timesgroup.com**

New Delhi: Looking beyond Ganga, the Centre on Monday released a detailed plan of action to rejuvenate 13 other rivers, spread over 24 states and two Union territories, through forestry interventions. Over Rs 19,000 crore will be spent in the next five years for various afforestation programmes and related activities in the catchment areas of these rivers.

The idea behind the move is to grow green cover along both sides of these rivers and their tributaries to increase ground water recharge, reduce erosion and recharge aquifers as forests absorb rainfall and discharge water slowly into the river stream.

The rivers identified for this rejuvenation model include Yamuna, Krishna, Cauvery, Mahanadi and Brahmaputra. “The projects will alleviate growing water stress and help achieve national goals related to climate change and sustainable development,” said environment minister Bhupender Yadav while jointly releasing “detailed project reports” (DPRs) of 13 rivers with Jal Shakti (water resource) minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Thirteen rivers collectively cover a total basin area of over 18.90 lakh sq km that represents 57.45% of the geographical area of the country. The length of 13 rivers, including 202 tributaries within

RIVER REJUVENATION BEYOND GANGA

13 rivers, spread over 24 states and 2 UTs, to be rejuvenated through forestry interventions

- Himalayan Rivers:** Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, Beas, Yamuna and Brahmaputra
- Peninsular Rivers:** Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Cauvery
- Inland Drained River:** Luni

BUDGET | Projected outlay for 5 years ₹19,338 crore

Top seven in terms of outlay



Why forestry interventions?

- Forests absorb rainfall
- Slow run off
- Regulate hydrological cycle
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve water infiltration
- Recharge aquifers
- Biological filters
- Bioremediation

Potential Benefits:

Projected increase in forest cover: 7417 sq km

Estimated additional carbon sequestration:

50.21 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (after 10 years)

74.76 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (after 20 years)

Ground water recharge: 1889 million cubic meter per year

the delineated riverscapes, is 42,830 km. Under the DPRs, the 13 rivers along with their tributaries will see forestry interventions in the catchment areas under different landscapes — natural, agricultural or urban.

The different models of forestry plantations, including timber species, medicinal plants, grasses, shrubs and fuel fodder and fruit trees are aimed to augment water,

groundwater recharge and contain erosion.

“Site-specific treatments in terms of soil and moisture conservation and plantations of grasses, herbs, forestry and horticultural trees have been proposed for treatment of prioritised sites in the riverscape, supported by GIS technique, based on consultations with stakeholders,” said a note from the environment ministry on the projects.

Appointment News

122. Recently the government has set up **a society** to be chaired by _____ **under the Ministry of Power** to assist states and businesses with research as well as help create solutions while _____ has been appointed as Director General.

- A. R.K Singh , A.K Suri
- B. R.K Singh , Sanjiv Nandan Sahai**
- C. Narendra Modi , R.K Singh
- D. Sanjiv Singh , R.K Singh

The government has set up a society under the Ministry of Power which will act as the top policy advocacy arm for the power and allied sectors and will assist states and businesses with cutting edge research as well as help create solutions and processes for India's energy transition journey.

The Power Foundation is registered under the Societies Act, under the Power Ministry, by CPSEs such as NTPC, Power grid, REC, PFC, NHPC, THDC, NEEPCO and SJVN. The Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh is the Chair of the society. Former Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai has been appointed as the Director General by a search-cum-selection committee.

123. Recently Games24x7, an online skill gaming company has appointed whom as its new brand ambassadors for its My11Circle fantasy gaming platform?

- A. Shubman Gill and Yash Dhull
- B. Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad**
- C. Rishabh Pant and Yash Dhull
- D. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli

Games24x7, an online skill gaming company, has appointed cricketers Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad as its new brand ambassadors for its My11Circle fantasy gaming platform. Both the cricketers will feature in multimedia campaigns by the company spanning across TV, digital and social media platforms.

Bhavin Pandya, co-founder and CEO of Games24x7

My11Circle is also the official title sponsor of the new IPL team Lucknow Super Giants. The three-year deal will see the fantasy platform's logo featuring on the newly introduced IPL team jersey.

124. Recently **Katalin Novak** has been elected as the **first female President** of _____, **country** while its capital _____.

- A. Ireland , Tokyo

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

- B. Iceland , Lisbon
- C. Hungry , Budapest**
- D. Sweden , Nusantara

. Hungary's parliament elected its first female President.

Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, has been elected as Hungary's first female President by the Parliament.

Novak will succeed Janos Der. She will assume the office on 10 May.

Novak began her political career in 2001 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she specialized in European issues.

Hungary: Its capital is Budapest its and its currency is the forint (HUF).

125. Recently who amongst the following has been appointed as chairman of Air India?

- A. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- B. N Chandrasekaran**
- C. A.K Sikri
- D. Debasish Pandey

Chandrasekaran takes pilot seat till Air India gets CEO

ARINDAM MAJUMDER
New Delhi, 14 March

As Tata Sons chairman, N Chandrasekaran chairs the board of several group companies. But his appointment as Air India chairman, which was made public on Monday, is somewhat different. As chairman, he will steer the operation of the recently acquired airline until a chief executive is found, according to people in the know.

In a rare development, Chandra, as he's popularly known, is likely to be named 'accountable manager' of Air India. Accountable manager has corporate authority for ensuring that all tasks of the airline are financed and carried out to the standard required by the stipulated law. Typically, an airline CEO is assigned that role. In that sense, Chandra



LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Airlines have top position holders as their accountable manager

INDIGO WOLFGANG PROCK SCAHER, President & COO	SPICEJET AJAY SINGH, Chairman & MD	GO FIRST KAUSHIK KHONA, CEO	AIR ASIA INDIA SUNIL BHASKARAN, CEO	VISTARA VINOD KANNAN, CEO
---	---	--	--	--

← **N Chandrasekaran is likely to become the accountable manager of Air India**

would be the hands-on interim head of the airline till a suitable CEO is hired, sources said.

This follows a failed attempt by the Tata Group last month to appoint a CEO of Air India—within a fortnight of the announcement that former Turkish airline chief Ilker Ayci would head the airline, he declined the offer in the midst

of a row over his links to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Sources said that the government and aviation regulator DGCA had asked the new owners of Air India to appoint a position holder as accountable manager. The airline is currently being operated by a five-member committee.

Turn to Page 3 ▶



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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Chandrasekaran has been appointed as chairman of Air India.

He is chairman of Tata Sons. The appointment of Alice Gee Varghese Vaidya as an independent director on Air India's board has also been approved.

Mehmet Ilker Ayci has earlier declined the offer to be CEO of Air India.

Air India was officially handed over to Tata Sons in January 2022.

It was sold for Rs 18,000 crore along with its low cost carrier Air India Express and 50% of AISATS, a ground handling company.

126. Recently _____ of _____ Country has been appointed as next President of FATF.

- A. Sumit Pandey , India
- B. T Raja Kumar , Singapore**
- C. A.K Sikri , Indian
- D. Marcus Pleyer , Germany

T. Raja Kumar has been appointed as next President of FATF.

He is the current head of Singapore's delegation to the FATF.

He will assume position as FATF's president on Jul 1, 2022 for a term of 2-years.

He will take over from Marcus Pleyer of Germany. He is the first Singaporean appointed as FATF's president.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): It is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Paris, France.

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.

127. Recently Yoon Suk Yeol has been elected as new President of South Korea. What is the capital of South Korea?

- A. Budapest
- B. Seoul**
- C. Jakarta
- D. Nusantara

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

Yoon Suk Yeol has been elected as new President of South Korea. Yoon Suk Yeol defeated his opponent Lee Jae-myung.

People Power Party candidate Yoon won 48.6% of the votes. His rival Lee Jae-myung of Democratic Party garnered 47.8% of the votes.

Yoon will assume office in May. He will serve a single five-year term as leader of the world's 10th largest economy.

South Korea: It is a country in East Asia. It shares its land border with North Korea. Yellow Sea forms its western border. Its capital is Seoul. Its Prime Minister is Kim Boo-kyum. Its current President is Moon Jae-in.

128. Recently _____ has been appointed as the brand ambassador of *Bharti AXA Life Insurance* while *USHA International* had roped in cricketer _____ as its brand ambassador.

- A. Vidya Balan , Mithali Raj**
- B. Vidya Balan , Richa Ghosh**
- C. Disha Patani , Shefali Verma**
- D. Samantha Prabhu , Harmanpreet Kaur**

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has appointed National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan as its Brand Ambassador. She as the brand ambassador will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture of Bharti, India's leading business group and AXA, one of the world's leading organizations in financial protection and wealth management.

Usha International has announced cricketer Mithali Raj as its brand ambassador across all product categories.

The company said that this association by the brand resonates perfectly with Usha's 'play' ethos, which is aimed at promoting an active and healthy lifestyle amongst audiences.

129. Who amongst the following has been appointed as the *chairperson* of the high powered Committee of the *Chardham project* on the entire Himalayan valley?

- A. A.K. Sikri**
- B. Amitabh Bhadoriya**
- C. Sumeet Pandey**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

D. Ravi Chopra

SC appointed AK Sikri as chairperson of the Committee on Char Dham project.

The Supreme Court had formed this Committee to look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Char Dham highway project.

He has been appointed after the resignation of environmentalist Ravi Chopra, who was the chairman of the High-Powered Committee.

The High-Powered Committee was established by the Supreme Court in August 2019 with the mandate to assess the environmental impact of the 899-kilometer project.

Citizens for Green Doon, an NGO, had previously petitioned the Supreme Court, raising environmental concerns about the Char Dham highway project.

Chardham Project:

It is a program initiated by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to improve connectivity for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.

It is being built by the Border Roads Organization.

130. Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the Chairman of the *National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)* for three years?

- A. *Debashish Pandey*
- B. *Ajay Bhushan Pandey***
- C. *A.K. Sikri*
- D. *Ravi Chopra*

Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been appointed by ACC as Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also appointed Praveen Kumar Tiwari and Smita Jhingran as full-time members of NFRA.

Ajay Bhushan Pandey is a former Revenue Secretary. His appointment as NFRA Chairperson is for a period of three years or till he turns 65, whichever is the earliest.

Praveen Kumar Tiwari is a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official.

Smita Jhingran is an Indian Revenue Service officer.

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA): The government formed NFRA on 01st October 2018.

131. Recently an online gaming platform, 'WINZO' has named whom as its new brand ambassador?

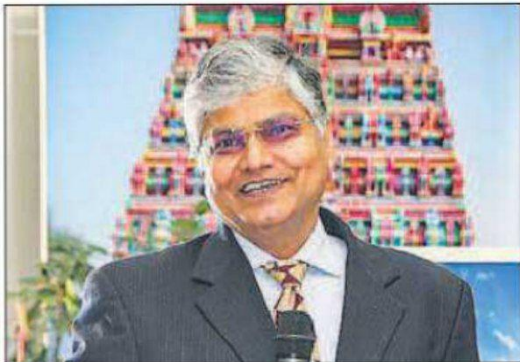
- A. KL Rahul
- B. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- C. Rishabh Pant
- D. Shreyas Iyer

Gaming Company, 'WINZO' has brought cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni on board as its new brand ambassador. The campaign for the gaming brand is in progress and will feature the cricketer as a part of a multi-channel and multi-modal marketing and branding campaigns.

Before announcing the signing of Dhoni, WINZO had announced bringing onboard YouTube influencers Carry Minati and Bhuvan Bam as the brand's digital brand ambassadors. In addition, the company also announced its association as the sports brand partner with the movie '83', bagging principal sponsorships with two Vivo Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) teams, Bengal Warriors and Gujarat Giants, and associate sponsorship for Patna Pirates.

{ MY INDIA } PRADEEP KUMAR

India's new envoy to China takes charge



Pradeep Kumar Rawat assumed charge as India's new ambassador to China on Monday, the Indian embassy in Beijing said. Rawat arrived in China on March 4 and underwent mandatory quarantine as per China's Covid-19 protocols. "HE Shri. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China assumed charge @EOIBeijing today," the Indian embassy tweeted. Rawat succeeds ambassador Vikram Misri, who was appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor. An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, Rawat was previously India's ambassador to the Netherlands. His appointment comes amid the lingering eastern Ladakh border standoff. He has earlier served in Hong Kong and Beijing, and served as India's ambassador to Indonesia and Timor-Leste from 2017-2020. PTI

[CLICK HERE FOR GRAND BUNDLE PDF COURSE !!](#)

If there are any suggestions/err

Piramal ropes in actor Ajay Devgn for Tetmosol

PIRAMAL PHARMA on Monday said has roped in actor Ajay Devgn for its flagship brand Tetmosol. It said it is now strengthening the brand offering by introducing Tetmosol Dusting Powder and increasing its media investments subsequently.

AB Pandey is NFRA chief

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 10

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the Chair of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), the country's sole independent audit regulator.

It has also appointed Praveen Kumar Tiwari, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official, and



SC names its former judge as Char Dham project panel head

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

THE SUPREME Court on Friday urged its former judge, Justice AK Sikri, to take over as the Chairman of the high-powered committee constituted by it to "consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project) on the entire Himalayan valley".

A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant requested Justice Sikri to accept the assignment as Ravi Chopra, current Chairman of the committee, had opted to quit.

In a letter on January 27, Chopra had "expressed the desire to be relinquished from the assignment". The court accepted it and discharged him Friday.

Meanwhile, Attorney General KK Venugopal, who appeared for the Centre in the matter, reminded the Bench that it had already appointed Justice Sikri to head the "Oversight Committee" constituted by it to oversee the implementation of the Char Dham project and to ensure there were no breaches, and that it would be better if Justice Sikri was also entrusted with the high-powered commit-

tee charge. The Bench said: "Since Justice Sikri has been appointed as the Chairperson of the committee in pursuance of the judgment of this court on December 14, 2021, we request the judge to also accept the assignment for chairing the high-powered committee constituted in terms of the order of this court dated August 8, 2019."

The project envisages construction of 900-km roads to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns - Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath - in Uttarakhand.

Chopra had earlier opposed the Centre's demand for a 10-metre carriage way and insisted that it be limited to 5.5 metres, keeping in mind environmental concerns.

Overruling the concerns, the SC had in December last year allowed widening of the three highways - Rishikesh to Mana, Rishikesh to Gangotri, and Tanakpur to Pithoragarh - forming part of the project - after the Defence Ministry highlighted security concerns and said wide roads were imperative in the region to move arms and heavy ammunition quickly to the border in view of the India-China tensions.

[Here to Subscribe CWJ Royale Pass](#)

support@crackwithjack.com

Days and Obituary News

132. Recently **Rafiq Tarar** passed away, he was the **former president** of which of the following countries?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Pakistan
- D. Nepal

Rafiq Tarar, a veteran Pakistani politician and former Supreme Court judge who served as the country's President from 1997 to 2001, passed away on Monday due to prolonged illness. He was 92. Tarar had served as Pakistan President between 1997 and 2001 after being nominated by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Prior to his foray into politics with the PML-N, Tarar had served as a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from March 6, 1989 to October 31, 1991. After Sharif's ouster by General Pervez Musharraf in 1999, Tarar was allowed to continue as president until 2001.

Former Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar dies at 92

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAHORE, MARCH 7

Rafiq Tarar, a former Pakistani judge who served as the country's President from 1997 to 2001, died on Monday in the eastern city of Lahore after a prolonged illness at the age of 92.

Tarar's grandson, Azam Tarar, announced on Twitter that his grandfather had died.

Pakistan's President Arif Ali, Prime Minister Imran Khan and prominent politicians expressed their grief, along with the country's military chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. Tarar was elected the country's president after the party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif backed him in the presidential election in 1997. Tarar was a close friend of Sharif, who won the parliamentary elections in 1997.

133. Recently the **International Day of Women Judges 2022** was observed on _____, to recognize the efforts and achievements of women judges.

- A. 10TH March
- B. 12th March
- C. 13th March
- D. 14th March

International Day of Women Judges 2022: 10 March

On March 10 this year, the International Day of Women Judges was commemorated for the first time. On April 28, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring the 10th of March as the "International Day of Women Judges."

The aim of the day is to recognize the efforts and achievements of women judges and also empower young women and girls who want to be judges or community leaders.

The Supreme Court observed the first-ever "International Day of Women Judges," which was organized by the Supreme Court Registry.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

134. Every year, on the second _____ of March the *World Kidney Day* is observed.

- A. Thursday**
- B. Friday**
- C. Saturday**
- D. Sunday**

Every year on the second Thursday in March, World Kidney Day is commemorated.

This year, World Kidney Day has been celebrated on March 10.

The theme of World Kidney Day 2022 is 'Kidney Health for all'. The Joint Steering Committee for World Kidney Day (WKD) declared the theme.

World Kidney Day is a global health awareness campaign that emphasizes on the importance of kidneys and the need to reduce the severity and frequency of kidney disease.

The International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations started to celebrate this day.

The first World Kidney Day was celebrated in 2006.

135. On which of the following dates the *International Day of Action of Rivers* is observed to raise awareness about the importance of rivers?

- A. 13th March**
- B. 14th March**
- C. 15th March**
- D. 16th March**

International Day of Action of Rivers: 14 March

It is observed every year on 14 March to raise awareness about the importance of rivers.

This day is dedicated for the conservation of rivers, river management, pollution, and equitable access to clean and flowing water.

The theme of this year's International Day of Action of Rivers is to highlight the importance of Rivers to Biodiversity.

This year is being observed as the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers. The International Day of Action for Rivers was started by the first meeting of people affected by major dams in Brazil in 1997.

World Rivers Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

136. Every year on the second _____ of March, **No Smoking Day** is observed.

- A. Monday
- B. Tuesday
- C. Wednesday**
- D. Sunday

Every year on the second Wednesday of March, No Smoking Day is observed. It falls on March 9 this year. Even though we all know that smoking is bad for our health, quitting the habit appears to be a difficult task.

The goal of No Smoking Day is to raise public awareness about the dangers and consequences of smoking, as well as to assist smokers in quitting. "Quitting smoking doesn't have to be stressful" is this year's theme

137. The **World Consumer Rights Day 2022** was observed on _____, to ensure consumer's rights to be honoured and protected from unfair market malpractices.

- A. 9TH March
- B. 12th March
- C. 15th March**
- D. 16th March

World Consumer Rights Day 2022: 15 March Every year on March 15, World Consumer Rights Day is commemorated.

The aim of this day is to ensure consumers' rights are honored and to protect them from unfair market malpractices. The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2022 is 'Fair Digital Finance'.

In 2019, the Government has constituted the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 by replacing the old 1986 act to protect the interest of consumers and timely settlement of disputes.

World Consumer Rights Day was first celebrated in 1983.

Every year on 24 December, India commemorates National Consumer Day.

Consumers International: It was founded on 1 April 1960. Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

138. Every year, the **World Glaucoma Day** is observed on which of the following dates to educate and raise public awareness about glaucoma?

- A. 13th March
- B. 14th March
- C. 12th March**
- D. 15th March

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

World Glaucoma Day is celebrated every year on 12 March.

It is commemorated to educate and raise public awareness about glaucoma and the harm it can do to our eyes.

Every year, between March 6 and 12, World Glaucoma Week (WGW) is also commemorated.

This day is a collaborative project between the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patients Association. Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damages the optic nerve making a person blind. Glaucoma is the second biggest cause of vision loss after cataracts, and it has become a global health issue.

139. Every year on which of the following dates the International Day of Mathematics is observed?

- A. 13th March**
- B. 14th March**
- C. 12th March**
- D. 15th March**

Every year on March 14, the world celebrates International Day of Mathematics.

The theme of the International Day of Mathematics 2022 is 'Mathematics Unites.'

Its aim is to raise awareness of the importance of mathematics in science and technology.

In 2019, UNESCO had adopted the International Day of Mathematics during its 40th General Conference.

Before 2019, it was celebrated as Pi Day. The mathematician Archimedes of Syracuse was the first to calculate value of Pi.

In India, National Mathematics Day is observed on December 22

Sports Award Books News

140. Recently **Armand Duplantis** from _____, Country broke his own record in men's pole vault by soaring _____ meters at the Belgrade World Indoor Championships.

- A. Spain , 6.20 m
- B. Sweden , 6.19 m**
- C. England , 6.16 m
- D. Kenya , 6.14 m

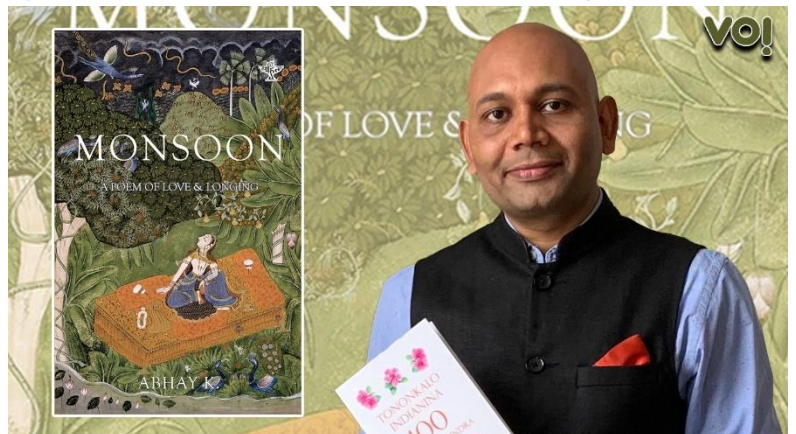
Sweden's Armand Duplantis broke his own men's pole vault world record on Monday, soaring 6.19 metres on his third attempt at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting in a performance he could only describe as "perfection".

The 22-year-old improved the previous record by one Centi-metre.

Duplantis had already secured the victory in Belgrade before he made the record-breaking leap, nudging the bar with his knee slightly but nevertheless clearing it before jumping off the mat and pumping his fists in celebration.

141. Recently **Sahitya Akademi** has published a **poem titled "Monsoon"**, authored by whom amongst the following?

- A. Amitava Kumar
- B. Richs Saxena
- C. Dinesh Dwivedi
- D. Abhay K's**



Abhay K's poem 'Monsoon' published by Sahitya Akademi.

On the occasion of its 68th anniversary, Sahitya Akademi has published a poem titled "Monsoon".

Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K has written this poem.

Monsoon is a poem of 150 verses of 4 lines that depicts journey of Monsoon.

Sahitya Akademi:

The Sahitya Akademi was founded on March 12, 1954. Satyajit Ray designed its logo, and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru served as the organization's first President. The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

142. Who amongst the following has not played six World cups of Cricket as of now?

- A. Mithali Raj**
- B. Sachin Tendulkar**
- C. Ricky Ponting**
- D. Javed Miandad**

Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to play in six World Cups.

She achieved this feat in the opening match of India against Pakistan in the ICC Women's World Cup at the Bay Oval.

Mithali Raj is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team. She became only the third cricketer to play six world cups after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.

She has played the world cup of 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, and now playing in 2022.

She is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket. She also holds the record of most half-centuries in ODIs. The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 is the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. It is being played in New Zealand.

143. Recently Rizwana Hasan of _____, Country has been honoured with the US International Women of Courage Award for 2022.

- A. Bhutan**
- B. Nepal**
- C. India**
- D. Bangladesh**

Rizwana Hasan honoured with US International Women of Courage Award for 2022.

Rizwana Hasan is an environmental lawyer in Bangladesh.

She is one of 12 women who will be honoured by US Department of State for her exceptional courage and leadership.

She will be awarded by US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken on 14 March in a virtual ceremony.

Rizwana Hasan is the Chief Executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association .

She has fought many cases against deforestation, pollution, unregulated ship breaking, and illegal land development.

She had received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012 for her work in the courtroom against environmental degradation and climate change.

International Women of Courage (IWOC) award: It was established by the US Department of State in 2007.

It is given to women who have shown exceptional courage, strength, and leadership to bring change in their communities.

144. Recently Indian pacer, *S. Sreesanth* has announced retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. He hails from which of the following states?

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Indian pacer S Sreesanth has announced retirement from all forms of domestic cricket.

He announced on Twitter that he is retiring from Indian domestic (first class and all formats) cricket.

He played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India and took 87 and 75 wickets respectively in them.

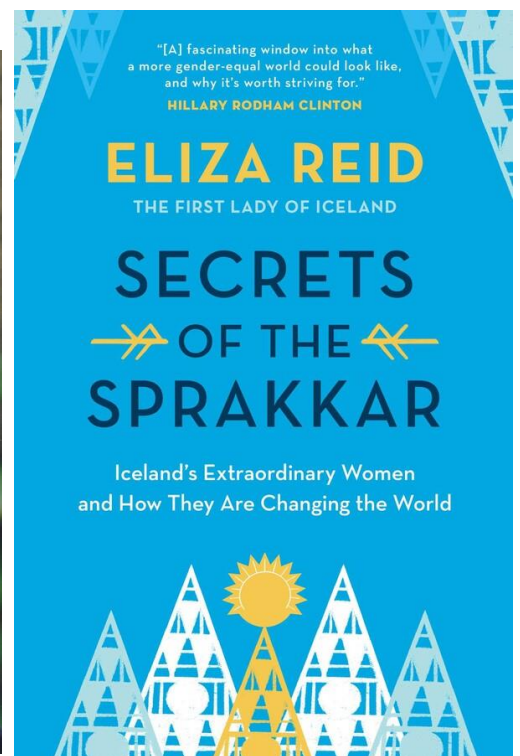
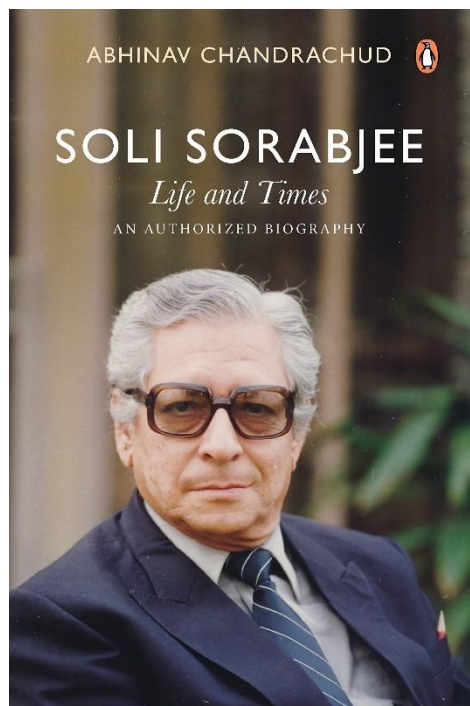
He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.

BCCI had banned him in August 2013. His life ban for alleged spot-fixing in the 2013 edition of the IPL was later reduced to seven years.

S. Sreesanth hails from Kerala. Sree and Gopu are his nicknames. He is first Kerala Ranji player to have played Twenty20 cricket for India.

145. Recently the book titled "*Secrets of the Sprakkar*" has been authored by _____. She was the first lady of _____.

- A. Sarah Ferguson, Germany
- B. Seth Ronnelly, France
- C. Victoria Azrenjka, Ireland
- D. Eliza Ried, Iceland



146. Recently the authorized biography titled “*Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times*” is chronicled by _____, the two times Attorney General of India whose second term was between _____.

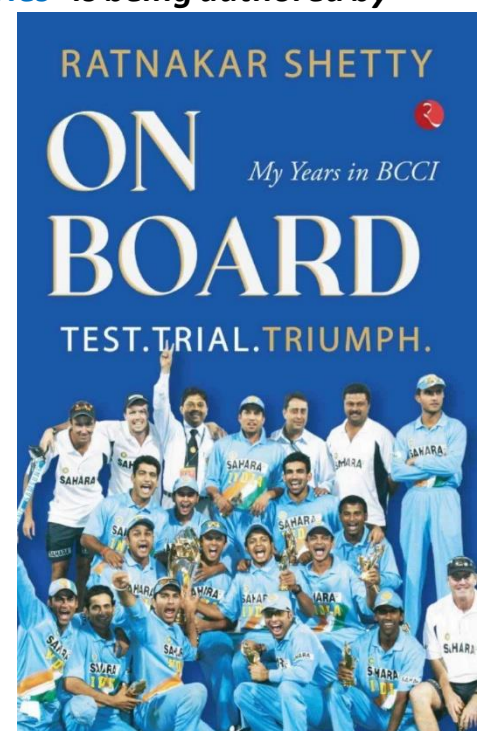
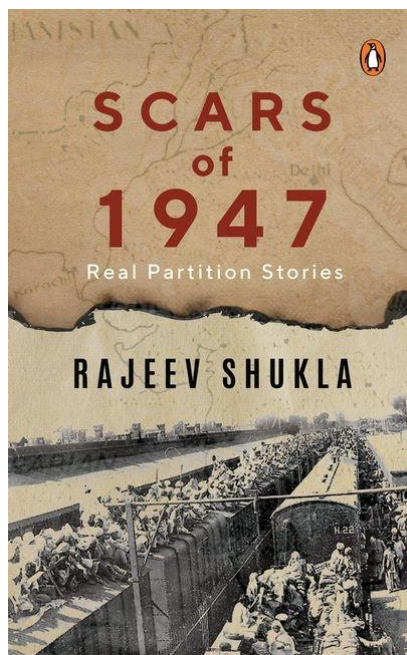
- A. Swapnil Pandey, 1995- 1997
- B. RAHUL Bose , 1997 - 1999
- C. **Abhinav Chandrachud, 1998 - 2004**
- D. Deepika Ghosh, 1999 – 2003

A new book on the life and times of Soli Sorabjee, the former Attorney General of India, will hit the stands next month, The authorized biography, titled “Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times”, is chronicled by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud. March 9 marks the 92nd birth anniversary of the legal luminary.

It claims to reveal personal details of Sorabjee’s life, his family background, his journey in becoming a practitioner of law to a UN human rights reporter and repeatedly defending the fundamental right to free speech and expression in the Supreme Court. Sorabjee, who died last year of corona virus-related complications, had served as the AG for India twice — first from 1989-90 and then from 1998-2004.

147. Recently the book titled “*On Board: My Years in BCCI*” is being authored by _____ while the other book titled “*Scars Of 1947: Real Partition Stories*” is being authored by _____.

- A. **Ratnakar Shetty, Rajeev Shukla**
- B. Sandeep Jha , Kirti Sures
- C. Vikas Jha , Rakes Pranjali
- D. Shristi Jha , Swapnil Pandey



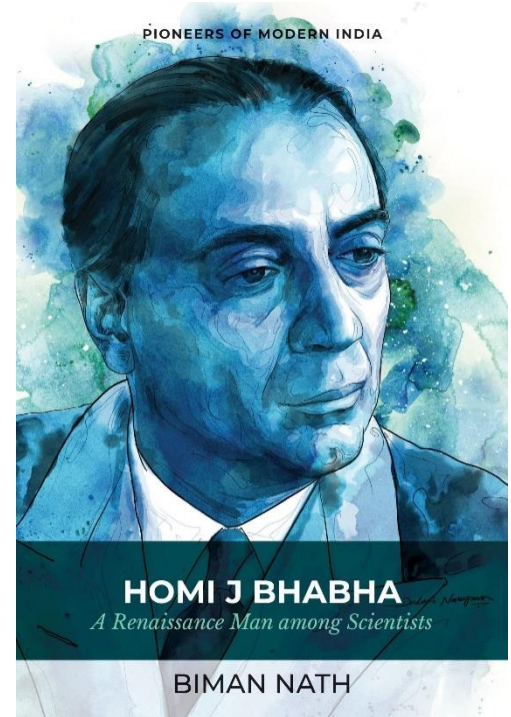
148. Recently published book titled "*Homi J. Bhabha: A Renaissance man among Scientists*" was authored by whom?

- A. Abhinav Kumar
- B. Swapnil Pandey
- C. **Biman Nath**
- D. Rahul Bose

A monograph traces the life and times of the father of India's nuclear power project Homi Jahangir Bhabha, his rich scientific legacy and vision besides talking about his passionate interest in art and architecture and his love for classical music.

In "Homi J Bhabha: A Renaissance Man among Scientists", astrophysicist Biman Nath describes how the rare combination of caliber and confidence in Bhabha made him the icon that he was.

Bhabha also served as the president of the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva in 1955 and as president of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics from 1960-1963.



149. Who is the author of the book "*Tomb of Sand*", the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it *International Booker Prize*?

- A. Shobha Shree
- B. Rajni Shree
- C. Raj Shree
- D. **Geetanjali Shree**

Shree's novel listed for Booker Prize

Author Geetanjali Shree's translated Hindi novel "Tomb of Sand" is among 13 books long listed for the International Booker Prize.

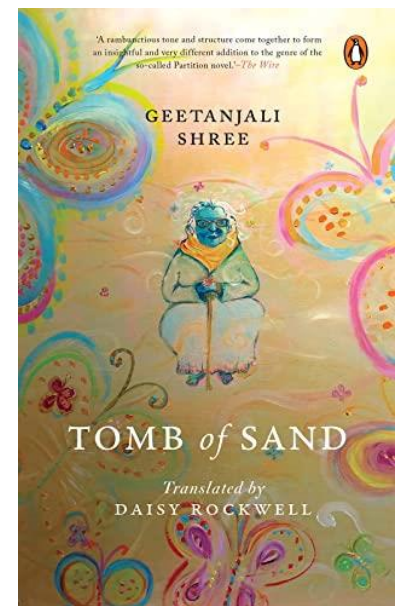
It is the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it to the long list of the prestigious literary prize unveiled in London on Thursday.

Shree's book, originally published as "Ret Samadhi" and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell, was described by the judges as "loud and irresistible".

"The 13 long listed novels have been announced. They are works of fiction translated into English from 11 languages and originate from 12 countries across four continents, including Hindi for the first time," stated the announcement on the Booker Prizes website."

"Tomb of Sand" narrates the story of an 80-year-old woman who is depressed after her husband's death.

PTI



150. Recently _____ has become the **highest wicket taker in Women's World Cup** by picking her _____ wicket, Surpassing **Lynette Fallston** of _____.

- A. Sneha Rana , 43rd , New Zealand
- B. Ellyese Perry , 50th , Australia
- C. **Jhulan Goswami , 40th , Australia**
- D. Meg Lenning , 30th , South Africa

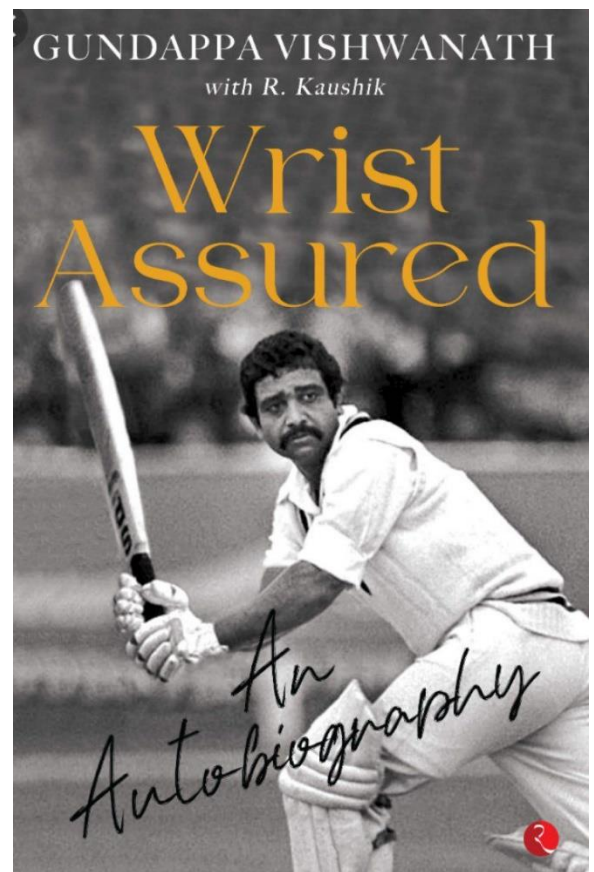
India's veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami on Saturday became the highest wicket-taker in the ICC Women's World Cup history.

Goswami surpassed the tally of 39 wickets taken by Lynette Ann Fallston of Australia from 1982 to 1988. The 39-year-old bagged the 40th wicket against West Indies in the ongoing ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2022 at Hamilton.

Goswami took the record wicket in the 36th over of the innings against the West Indies. She scalped the wicket of Anisa Mohammed who chipped the ball straight up and midwicket went back to catch it.

151. The Book titled "**Wrist assured**" is the autobiography of _____ recently co-authored by _____.

- A. Chetan Sharma , Shruti Jha
- B. Arun Dhumal , Nidhi Chopra
- C. **Gundapa Vishwanath , R Kaushik**
- D. Ajay Menon , Swapnil Pandey



Zadie Smith to receive PEN America literary service award

ASSOCIATED PRESS
New York, March 12

AUTHOR ZADIE SMITH is this year's winner of the PEN/Audible Literary Service Award, an honour previously given to Toni Morrison, Stephen Sondheim and Margaret Atwood among others. The PEN literary award is presented to "an important writer whose work has drawn a wide audience and who helps us understand the human condition in original and powerful ways." Smith, 46, the youngest ever recipient of the literary prize, is known for novels *White Teeth* and *NW* and such essay collections as *Changing My Mind* and *Intimations*. She recently contributed the



Author Zadie Smith

introduction to a stand-alone book edition of Morrison's short story *Recitatif*. "Zadie Smith's impact cannot be understated," PEN America President Ayad

Smith is the youngest ever recipient of the literary prize

Akhtar said in a statement. "She is not just one of contemporary fiction's most groundbreaking voices, but also amongst our most insightful critical minds. Her considerable influence only seems to grow ever more far-reaching with time." Smith will be among the guests May 23 at PEN America's annual literary gala, to be held in Manhattan at the Museum of Natural History. Others receiving awards will include Audible founder Donald Katz, cited by PEN as this year's Business Visionary Honoree.

Duplantis improves world record to 6.19 metres

REUTERS
BELGRADE, MARCH 8

SWEDEN'S ARMAND Duplantis broke his own men's pole vault world record on Monday, soaring 6.19 metres on his third attempt at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting in a performance he could only describe as "perfection".

The 22-year-old improved the previous record by one centimetre.

Duplantis had already secured the victory in Belgrade before he made the record-breaking leap, nudging the bar with his knees slightly but nevertheless clearing it before jumping off the mat and pumping his fists in celebration. "A height like 6.19 - it demands perfection," said Duplantis. "All the numbers have to be right. So I just figured it out on that last attempt and I was able to get over it finally." Duplantis now owns the three highest marks in the discipline. He broke Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie's 6.16m world mark with a clearance of 6.17m in February 2020 and then eclipsed that record just a week later by another centimetre.

The Olympic and 2018 European pole vault champion will now be eager to complete his set of gold medals at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon in July. He had made several attempts to clear 6.19m previously, including at the Tokyo Games in



Armand Duplantis broke his own men's pole vault world record. Reuters

August, and said he might have tried as many as 50 times. "It's been a long time coming. I've never had a height that has given me that much trouble, so it's a very good feeling. It was really hard fought over these past two years. I'm really happy," said Duplantis, who believes he could put on an even better performance when he returns to Belgrade later this month for the World Indoor Championships.

"I don't think this is the highest I'm ever going to jump. I think that there's going to be a lot more to come."

War-torn Ukraine ranks 2nd at Beijing Winter Paralympics

Beijing: War-torn Ukraine ranked second in the medal tally at the Beijing Paralympic Winter Games on Wednesday. The medals definitely serve as a golden brow raiser under a tense background of the Russia-Ukraine war that started on February 24.

The tally includes a total of 17 medals. With six golds, seven silvers and four bronzes, the total number of medals stand a little short of a round figure. China has been topping the medal count with a total of twenty-seven medals, including eight golds, eight silvers and eleven bronze medals. Canada ranked third with a total of fourteen medals (official



Ukraine won all three medals in women's para biathlon on Wednesday

Beijing Paralympic Winter Games website).

The multi-sports event will run between March 4 to March 13. Para-athletes from

all over the globe would be seen competing in 78 events across six Para sports - 39 for men, 35 for women and four mixed events. AGENCIES

Sreesanth hangs up his boots

Retires from all forms of domestic cricket

CRICKET

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

He could delight, and even excite, the fans with his supreme skills with a cricket ball. He could also make them despair, on and off the field.

S. Sreesanth, who announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket on Wednesday, was a talented pace bowler who won India Test matches overseas with some exceptional spells, and was part of two World Cup-winning teams (in 2007 and 2011). His career, however, remained an unfinished spell.

Memorable Test win

That career had begun brightly, though. He took six for 55 in an ODI against England in his first season (2005-06) in international



S. Sreesanth. FILE PHOTO

cricket. In his second, he took eight wickets at Johannesburg to bowl India to its first-ever Test win in South Africa.

Earlier that year, he had also starred in a memorable Test victory against the West Indies at Kingston.

Sreesanth had arrived. Much seemed to go for him - the swing, the pace, the aggression, the seam position. But, he also had a ten-

■ A few weeks ago, Sreesanth contributed to the side's Ranji Trophy win against Meghalaya at Rajkot

■ He took the last of his 213 First Class wickets in that match

dency to get into trouble. In 2013, he was arrested, along with two other Rajasthan Royals players, for alleged spot-fixing in the IPL.

He was banned for life by the BCCI, which was later reduced to seven years. That allowed him to get back into the Kerala team last year.

A few weeks ago, he contributed to the side's Ranji Trophy win against Meghalaya at Rajkot, where the 39-year-old took the last of his 213 First Class wickets.

He captured 87 wickets in Tests and 75 in ODIs. He could have had more.

Science Tech Environment Defence

152. _____ movie will be **India's first movie to be in Metaverse, in digital land of** _____.

- A. **Bacchan Pandey , Moviegores**
- B. **Bade Miyaan Chote Miyaan , Poojaverse**
- C. **Jhund , Oynx**
- D. **Attack , Decentraland**

Indian film producer Vashu Bhagnani's Pooja Entertainment has bought virtual land in the Metaverse, becoming the first Indian production house to have stepped into the virtual universe.

Named Poojaverse, this space will be used by the company to create first-of-its-kind immersive experiences for viewers, starting with its recently announced project 'Bade Miyan-Chote Miyan' which will be the first Indian film to be announced in the Metaverse.

Globally, Paris Hilton and Snoop Dogg have been among the few celebrities who have bought virtual space in the Metaverse.

"Metaverse is the new frontier of the internet. It's a new way to connect and engage with our audiences and fans,"

'Bade Miyan-Chote Miyan' will star Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff. The film is likely to be released on Christmas next year in five languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

153. Recently the **Ministry of Defence has signed its biggest helmet deal of 1.59 lakh helmets with** _____ **for Sikh soldiers; the helmet has been named as** _____.

- A. **BEL , Vida**
- B. **MKU , Veer**
- C. **DRDO , Balwan**
- D. **Aston Merriam , Vida**

For the first time in India, a Combat Helmet has been designed for and dedicated to the Sikh soldiers.

This newly designed helmet by Global Defense and Homeland Security Company MKU, based in Kanpur, will be easy for a Sikh soldier to wear without difficulty and comfortably over their under-turban cloth, if they wish to do so. According to MKU Ltd, like all other Kavro ballistic helmets of the company, 'Veer' helmet is compatible with MACS (Modular Accessory Connector System).

MACS is a first of its kind multi-accessory mounting system that enables the head-mounted sensors and modern combat equipment like night vision goggles, cameras on helmets, and communication systems.

154. Recently the Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari has announced that India's first green hydrogen car will be launched by which of the following companies?

- A. Hero MotoCorp
- B. Hyundai
- C. Toyota
- D. Ford

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday launched India's first green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV), Toyota Mirai, and said this is the first-of-its-kind project in India that aims to create an ecosystem for such vehicles in the country.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor claimed that Toyota Mirai is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell battery pack and capable of providing a range up to 650 km in a single charge, with a refueling time of five minutes.

In Japanese, the word 'Mirai' means 'future'.

155. Hastings Garden, declared as the monument of national importance is located in which of the following cities?

- A. Mysore
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune
- D. Delhi

Hastings' garden house in Kolkata blooms again

The fine specimen of colonial architecture has been undergoing a painstaking restoration for a year

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

A few majestic mango trees still remain in the compound of the garden house of Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of Bengal Presidency from 1772 to 1785. It's located in the heart of Barasat, about 30 km from Kolkata. With an imposing arched portico in the front and dozens of columns on the first floor, the impressive double storey house represents a fine specimen of colonial architecture prevalent in the 18th and 19th centuries. The front wall of the building has a stone tablet with the words: "In this house lived Lord Warren Hastings".

"The Warren Hastings House was declared a Monument of National Importance by the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) in June 2005. This is a very fine specimen of colonial architecture and we took it from



Salvaging history: Warren Hastings' house at Barasat that is being restored by the ASI. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the West Bengal Government, which was using it for administrative purposes," said Subha Majumder, Superintendent, Archaeologist, ASI Kolkata Circle.

Dr. Majumder said that while most British colonial structures are situated in Kolkata, the Warren Hastings House is among the few seen outside the State capital. "If you look at the house, you find large open windows,

several door porticos and a lot of open space, which was meant for air circulation. Therefore, this house was not built to be used for administrative purposes but for leisure," he said.

When the ASI took over the structure, the house was in a dilapidated state. The rooms inside the frontal opening at the ground floor were in a ruinous state as the wooden ceiling had almost

collapsed in many places. While the restoration has been taken up earlier, nearly two dozen workers have been trying to restore the house to its original glory for the past one year.

Restoration is being carried out by using lime, sand and other organic materials, a traditional approach used for the conservation of old heritage structures. There are no records, but the manner in which government warehouses and old unused government establishments have come up around the house clearly suggests that the garden area of the house has diminished over the past three centuries.

Warren Hastings built several houses and properties in Kolkata, including the most famous Belvedere House in Alipore, which later became the official residence of Lieutenant-Governors. Located inside the

campus of the National Library, Hastings House was recently restored and is now one of the city's important cultural centres that occasionally hosts art exhibitions. Not far from the Belvedere House on Judges Court Road is Hastings House, another property commissioned by Warren Hastings that serves as the Institute of Education for Women. Among the other structures that can be attributed to Warren Hastings are St. John's Cathedral, the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and the Calcutta Madrasah.

Dr. Majumder said that along with the structures in Kolkata, the ASI is trying to restore and highlight the colonial heritage along the banks of the Hooghly in towns like Chandannagar, Chinsurah and Serampore, which were French, Dutch and Danish colonial settlements.

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

Second Week of March (08th – 15th March 2022)

156. **India's equity market Capitalization stands at _____ while _____ country has topped the list.**

- A. USD 3.21 Trillion, USA
- B. USD 3.19 Trillion, China
- C. USD 3.18 Trillion, China
- D. USD 3.25 Trillion, USA



■ Capt Mayuri Deshmukh of Pawan Hans Ltd created history on Women's Day by becoming India's 1st Female Offshore Pilot in Command. Pawan Hans proudly congratulates her for making the nation proud.

Tata, Singapore Airlines infuse ₹500 cr into Vistara

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

TATA SONS and Singapore Airlines have together infused Rs 500 crore in airline Vistara, a regulatory filing accessed by *The Indian Express* showed. The two companies, that own Vistara in a 51:49 joint venture, infused the total amount in the same proportion.

The fund infusion happened through a rights issue, and the shares to the joint owners were allotted on February 14, less than a month after the Tata group took over 100 per cent of Air India from the Central government.

Responding to an e-mail query by *The Indian Express*, a Vistara spokesperson said: "As a matter of policy, we do not comment on the financial information of the company."

In addition to Air India, its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express and Vistara, the Tata group also has AirAsia India in its airlines portfolio.

The latest infusion is the sixth round of funding in Vistara since April 2020. While the Tata group infused Rs 255 crore in the loss-making airline, Singapore Airlines infused Rs 245 crore, the filing with Ministry of Corporate Affairs showed. The promoters were together allotted 50 crore shares against the fund infusion.

The full-service carrier, which had 75 per cent market share in the domestic air passenger market in January, last received an equity infusion from Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines in August 2021 worth Rs 750 crore.

Prior to that, it received Rs 465 crore from the joint owners in May last year.

As per a filing, Tata Sons infused ₹255 crore in Vistara, while Singapore Airlines infused ₹245 crore

Vistara has come under criticism for poor service quality over the last few quarters and its newly-appointed CEO Vinod Kannan on February 16 wrote a letter to customers admitting that the airline "fell short" and "did not live up" to the customers' expectations.

An employee of Singapore Airlines on deputation to Vistara, Kannan took charge as CEO on January 1.

For 2020-21 (April-March), Vistara reported a loss of Rs 1,611.57 crore, compared to Rs 1,813.39 crore a year ago. Its topline also significantly contracted to Rs 2,243.49 crore during FY21, from Rs 4,738.46 crore in FY20. The fall in revenues is in line with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the global aviation industry.

Currently, the airline industry is reeling under pressure from increasing jet fuel costs that have grown nearly 1.6 times in the last one year. Aviation turbine fuel comprises more than half the cost for airlines. The fund infusion from its promoters could help Vistara through the competitive summer vacations season.

In the Summer Schedule 2022, effective from March 27 till October 29, Vistara will operate 1,741 domestic departures every week in India. Market leader IndiGo will operate 11,130 departures per week. In the Winter Schedule 2021, Vistara was scheduled to operate 1,675 flights per week.