

National /State News

1. Consider the following statements regarding **World Happiness report**:

1. Finland has been named as the world's happiest country for the fifth year consecutively, followed by Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland at second, third and fourth ranks respectively.
2. India is ranked at 136, even below Pakistan, which is at 121 in the list.
3. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the World Happiness Report.
4. On the other hand, Afghanistan held the last position i.e 146th in the list.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1, 2, 4
- B. Only 2, 3, 4
- C. Only 1, 4
- D. All of the above

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released World Happiness Report 2022.

In the 10th edition of the World Happiness Report, Finland has topped the list for the fifth time. It is followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

The World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas – happiness or life evaluation.

In 2022, India has been ranked 136th among 146 countries. According to the UN World Happiness Report 2021, India was ranked 139th out of 149 countries.

Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and Botswana respectively.

Austria's rank has dropped out of the top 10 happiest countries in the world.

The World Happiness Report ranks countries based on several factors such as real GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy

Finland ranked happiest country for fifth year

Afghanistan, Lebanon come last on list

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HELSINKI

Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the fifth year running, in an annual UN-sponsored index that ranked Afghanistan as the unhappiest, closely followed by Lebanon.

The latest list was completed before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia recorded the biggest boosts in wellbeing.

The largest falls in the World Happiness table, released on Friday, came in Lebanon, Venezuela and Afghanistan.

Lebanon, which is facing economic meltdown, fell to second from last on the index of 146 countries, just below Zimbabwe.

War-scarred Afghanistan, already bottom of the table last year, saw its humanitarian crisis deepen since the Taliban returned to power last August following the pull-out of US-led troops.

"This (index) presents a stark reminder of the material and immaterial damage that war does to its many victims," co-author Jan-Emanuel De Neve said.

The World Happiness Report, now in its 10th year, is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data.

It assigns a happiness score on a scale of zero to 10, based on an average of data over a three-year period.

Other toppers

Northern Europeans once again dominated the top spots – with the Danes second to the Finns, followed by the Icelandic, the Swiss and the Dutch.

The United States rose three places to 16th, one ahead of Britain. France climbed to 20th, its highest ranking yet.

As well as a personal sense of wellbeing, based on Gallup polls in each country, the happiness score takes account of GDP, social support, personal freedom and levels of corruption.

This year the authors also used data from social media to compare people's emotions before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. They found "strong increases in anxiety and sadness" in 18 countries but a fall in feelings of anger.

"The lesson of the World Happiness Report over the years is that social support, generosity to one another and honesty in government are crucial for wellbeing," report co-author Jeffrey Sachs wrote.

"World leaders should take heed."

2. Recently **Samsung** has signed a MoU with _____ Government to set up its new plant with an investment of Rs. 1588 Crore.

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

Leading international consumer electronics and Smartphone maker Samsung on Tuesday said it is investing Rs 1,588 crore to establish a new compressor manufacturing plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai. The new facility, spread over 22 acres, will have a capacity to produce eight million compressor units per annum and they will be used in refrigerators that Samsung manufactures in India and be exported, Already has a manufacturing presence in Tamil Nadu, which it first entered to set up a facility at Sriperumbur in 2007

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. is a South Korean multinational electronics corporation headquartered in the Yeongtong District of Suwon

Samsung to invest ₹1,588 cr for compressor plant near Chennai...

MoU signed also involves expanding and strengthening the component ecosystem in State



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin with Ken Kang, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, at the event in Chennai BIJOY GHOSH

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 15

South Korean major Samsung on Tuesday announced an investment of ₹1,588 crore to set up a new plant in Sriperumbudur to manufacture compressors for refrigerators. An MoU was exchanged in this regard by Ken Kang, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, and Tamil Nadu's Industries Secretary S Krishnan in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin. The MoU also involves expanding and strengthening the component ecosystem in the State.

The new facility, in an area of 22 acres, will have capacity to annually produce 8 million compressor units, which will

be expanded in the future, said Kang at the function. Compressors produced at the plant will be used in refrigerators that the company manufactures in the country and also be exported, he said.

Long association with TN

Kang said that Samsung has a long association with India and especially Tamil Nadu, with the company in 2007 setting up a facility at Sriperumbudur.

Stalin, speaking at the func-

tion, said Samsung was a shining example in the State's industrial growth story, driving investment and creating jobs. The new investment is yet another step by the Korean major towards strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem in the country, he said.

Stalin requested Samsung to consider putting up a semiconductor unit in the State, and said that the government will provide all the necessary support.



3. Recently **USA** announced to establish SE Asia's largest consulate campus in _____ with an investment of _____.

- A. Pune , USD 112 Million
- B. Gurugram , USD 225 Million
- C. Hyderabad , USD 297 Million**
- D. Mumbai , USD 312 Million



[newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)

US to establish SE Asia's largest Consulate campus in Hyderabad
The centre being set up in Nanakramguda is likely to be completed by November, 2022 and will open shortly thereafter.

4:55 PM · Mar 19, 2022



The soon-to-open US Consulate office in Hyderabad will be the largest US consular processing post-South East Asia both in terms of the number of visa windows and in area. The centre being set up in Nanakramguda is likely to be completed by November 2022 and will open shortly thereafter.

The United States' investment in the new Consulate facility is \$297 million. The site consists of 12.2 acres and the chancery building alone is in 17,917 gross square metres," The centre is already one of the largest not just in the country but the world in terms of processing the second-highest number of applications,

The new Hyderabad US Consulate office will be certified by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) at the GOLD level.

4. Recently **Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor Corporation** has announced to set up electric vehicles and batteries plant in _____ with an investment of _____.
- A. Tamil Nadu , Rs 11,698 crore
 - B. Gujarat , Rs 10,445 crore
 - C. Delhi , Rs 12,090 crore
 - D. Andhra Pradesh , Rs 20,458 crore

Japanese automaker Suzuki Motor Corporation on Sunday said it will invest around 150 billion yen (about Rs 10,445 crore) by 2026, for local manufacturing of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and BEV batteries in Gujarat.

The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect with the Gujarat government.

Under the MoU, the company's wholly-owned arm Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt Ltd (SMG) will invest Rs 7,300 crore for the construction of a plant for BEV batteries at a land neighboring to SMG's existing plant by 2026.

Also, SMG will invest another Rs 3,100 crore for increasing production capacity for BEV manufacturing by 2025.

Moreover, another group firm Maruti Suzuki Toyotas India Pvt Ltd (MSTI) will make an investment of Rs 45 crore on construction of vehicle recycling plant by 2025.

● CARBON-NEUTRALITY MISSION

Japan's Suzuki to invest ₹10,445 cr in Gujarat for EVs, batteries

Indian unit Maruti currently does not have electric vehicles in its portfolio

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, March 20

JAPAN'S SUZUKI MOTOR Corporation, the parent company of Maruti Suzuki India, on Sunday said that it will invest ₹10,445 crore (150 billion yen) in Gujarat by 2026 to locally manufacture electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed to this effect with the Gujarat government on March 19 at the India-Japan Economic Forum, the company's wholly-owned arm Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG) said it will invest ₹7,300 crore for the construction of a plant for BEV batteries near SMG's existing plant by 2026.

SMG will invest another ₹3,100 crore for increasing the production capacity for BEV manufacturing by 2025.

Further, Maruti Suzuki Toyotas India, a 50:50 joint venture between Maruti Suzuki India and Toyota Tsusho Group, will also set up a vehicle recycling plant in Gujarat by 2025 with an investment of ₹45 crore.

"Suzuki's future mission is to achieve carbon-neutrality



- Suzuki Motor Gujarat to invest ₹7,300 cr in battery plant near existing plant by 2026
- It will invest another ₹3,100 cr to increase production capacity for BEV manufacturing by 2025
- Maruti Suzuki Toyotas India to set up vehicle recycling plant in Gujarat by 2025 with a ₹45-cr investment

with small cars," said Toshihiro Suzuki, representative director & president, Suzuki Motor Corporation. "We will continue active investment in India to realise

self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)," he added.

Currently, Maruti Suzuki does not have an electric vehicle in its portfolio, and has maintained that the Indian market is not ready for EVs on a mass scale. Other passenger vehicle manufacturers like Tata Motors, Hyundai Motor India and MG Motor India, offer EVs.

Suzuki Motor Gujarat's plant has installed annual production capacity of 750,000 units. Further, Maruti's Gurugram and Manesar plants (both located in Haryana), have an annual production capacity of 1.5 million units. Thus in total the Maruti and SMG plants have a capacity of 2.25 million units. All of this is for internal combustion engine plants.

Maruti Suzuki is setting up its third plant in Haryana, at Kharkhoda in Sonapat district.

5. Recently India has signed a MoU with _____, to launch Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) in areas of electric vehicle and energy security.

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

India and Japan have signed six agreements after 14th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi.

The six agreements are in the areas of cyber security, waste water management and clean energy. An agreement on promoting bamboo-based products from the northeast region has also been signed.

During 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, PM Modi and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida talked about ways to boost economic and cultural linkages between two countries.

India and Japan have set an investment target of five trillion yen (\$42 billion or Rs 3.2 trillion) in next five years. Japan will invest this amount in India

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE IN THE WORKS

Japan to invest \$42 bn to boost economic ties

● Six pacts inked in a range of areas, besides a clean energy partnership

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, March 19

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi said on Saturday Japan aims to invest \$42 billion (5 trillion yen) over the next five years in India, after a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida in the national capital to bolster bilateral cooperation.

Both the leaders held meetings as part of the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit. This is Kishida's first visit to India as Japan's Prime Minister. Boosting bilateral ties, Modi said at a joint press conference, will not only benefit the two countries but will also help initiatives for peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida in New Delhi on Saturday PHOTO: PTI

had in 2014 announced Moscow's investment and financing of 3.5 trillion yen in New Delhi in five years.

Both the sides signed six pacts in areas of cybersecurity, capacity building, information sharing and cooperation, and agreed to forge a clean energy partnership as well. Kishida and Modi are also expected to agree to convene a two-plus-two meeting between their

foreign and defence ministers at the earliest, an official said.

Sources said the two sides are working on a Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) — the trade and economy ministers of India, Japan and Australia launched the SCRI on April 27, 2021. The initiative seeks to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region and to develop dependable sources

THE PARTNERSHIP GROWS

5-trillion yen investment over 5 yrs



Agreement on cyber security signed



Hold a 2+2 meeting at the earliest

■ Deepen strategic ties in Indo-Pacific

■ Enhance supply chains in the region

of supply and to attract investment. As initial projects, sharing of best practices on supply chain resilience; and holding of a matching event have been completed.

Japan has been the fifth-largest investor in India, with foreign direct investments of \$36.4 billion between April 2000 and December 2021.

Continued on Page 2

■ IN THE NEWS

6. Recently _____ has become the first assembly of the Country to implement the National E-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.

- A. Kerala
- B. Nagaland
- C. Mizoram
- D. Manipur

Nagaland is the first State Assembly to become completely paperless by implementing the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme.

This initiative will promote paperless operations and show the government's commitment towards the development of the North East region. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) will help the Chair of the House in conducting legislative business. It has been deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj.

Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly makes the entire law-making process and tracking of decisions and documents automatic. It has been developed on the theme of 'One Nation – One Application'. Its implementation is funded by the Centre and the state government on a 90:10 sharing basis.

7. Recently _____ has started documenting crop diversification trends in the form of an index for the first time in the country.

- A. **Telangana**
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Madhya Pradesh

First Time in Country, Telangana has started documenting crop diversification trends in the form of an index for the first time in the country, following the paddy procurement row with the Centre and the state government asking farmers to opt for alternate crops.

According to the crop diversification index, the state grows 77 varieties, with roughly 10 crops, predominantly grains, favored for diversification. In the state, Nirmal, Vikarabad, and Sangareddy are more diverse.

The index has a starting value of one. It represents the proportion of total cultivated area devoted to a single crop

8. Recently the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)** launched a _____ metre-long orthotropic steel deck (OSD) on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) to connect South Mumbai to Navi Mumbai.

- A. 210 m
- B. **180 m**
- C. 270 m
- D. 195 m

2,500-TON STEEL DECK LAUNCHED FOR MTHL



The longest orthotropic steel deck (OSD) of 180 metres and weighing 2,500 metric tons was launched mid-sea for construction of the Mumbai Transharbour Link (MTHL) project. In MTHL, OSDs are being used for spans up to 180m without cable and suspensions. MMRDA has commissioned a special barge, whose size is approximately equivalent to a soccer field. It took almost 10 hours to launch

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) on Thursday night launched a 180-metre-long orthotropic steel deck (OSD) on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) – a 22 km-long sea link that will connect South Mumbai to Navi Mumbai.

This is the longest OSD launched on the MTHL, giving a navigation space of 180 metres to ships traversing under the bridge without obstruction. The OSD, a steel deck superstructure being used for the first time in the country, will carry the vehicular load more efficiently and improve the load carrying capacity of the bridge, as compared to a concrete superstructure.

MTHL, a 21.8-km-long six-lane sea link, will connect the Mumbai Bay from Sewri to Chirle in Navi Mumbai (Navi Mumbai airport), and is expected to be completed by 2023. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 18,000 crore

9. Recently Rajnath Singh led Defence Acquisition Council approved Military Modernization project including GSAT-7B Satellite, worth _____.

- A. Rs 8,763 Cr
- B. Rs 8,357 Cr**
- C. Rs 5,698 Cr
- D. Rs 5,189 Cr

Defence Ministry approved military acquisitions worth Rs 8,357 crore.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the procurement of military equipment including air defence fire control radar and GSAT-7B satellite.

The approved military acquisitions proposals also include the procurement of night sight (image intensifier), and light vehicles GS 4X4.

The procurement of these equipment and systems will enhance the operational preparedness of armed forces.

It will help provide better visibility, enhance mobility, improve communication, and enhance the capability to detect enemy aircraft.

DAC has also approved policy initiatives of the Defense Acquisition Process-2020. These

10. Recently Delhi Government newly opened Armed Forces Preparatory School (AFPS) will be named after who amongst the following?

- A. Subhash Chandra Bose
- B. Bhagat Singh**
- C. Chandrashekar Azad
- D. Mahatma Gandhi

Prep school for forces to be named after Bhagat Singh

18,000 have applied so far: Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that the Delhi government would honour Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh by naming its armed forces preparatory school after him.

The Shaheed Bhagat Singh Armed Forces Preparatory School, which will be located in south-west Delhi's Jharoda Kalan across 14 acres, will seek to prepare students for the NDA, Navy, and Air Force, the CM said.

The Delhi Cabinet, on December 20 last year, announced its plan to build a "new and different type of school" where students will be trained in their early



Arvind Kejriwal • FILE PHOTO

years for the armed forces. "Expert faculty will be employed for optimum training of these students, which will include retired veterans from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force," the CM said, adding that 18,000 applications have already been received for the 200 seats available – 100 each for Classes 9 and 11.

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Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced that the Delhi government's upcoming school to prepare students for the armed forces will be named after freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

The school will come up at a 14-acre campus in Jharoda Kalan with state-of-the-art facilities. The school will be named Shaheed Bhagat Singh Armed Forces Preparatory School.

11. Recently President Ramnath Kovind has inaugurated Heritage Park named after in Delhi endowed with a Mughal-style 'baradari' (pavilion) Flowers.

- A. Babar Heritage Park
- B. **Charti Lal Goel Heritage Park**
- C. Akbar Heritage Park
- D. Shahjhan Heritage Park

Heritage park opens in Walled City

HT Correspondent and PTI
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NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Charti Lal Goel Heritage Park near Jama Masjid in old Delhi on Sunday amid cultural performances, strains of classical music and a traditional dance by a troupe of artists in a Mughal-style baradari (a building or pavilion with 12 doors designed to allow free flow of air).

According to officials of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), the idea for the park was conceived in 2017. The first phase of the park is built over an area of about 1.75 acres at a cost of ₹7.65 crore, which was contributed by ministers of Parliament from various parties and former Union minister Vijay Goel.

"The park will be developed as a cultural hub of the Walled City where food synonymous with Old Delhi will be served, there will be displays of handicraft and the park will serve as



President Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Savita Kovind at the Charti Lal Goel Heritage Park near Jama Masjid in New Delhi on Sunday.

platform for cultural gatherings," said Goel.

Delhi's lieutenant governor Anil Bajaj, chief secretary Vijay Dev, mayors of the three municipal corporations – Raja Iqbal Singh (NDMC), Mukesh Suryan (SDMC) and Shyam Sunder Aggarwal (EDMC), senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Rajayant Pandey, and Rajya Sabha member Roopa Ganguly, who also contributed funds for the park, were among those present at the inauguration.

The park, located opposite the Parade Ground parking facility, was originally named Heritage Park. The name of Charti Lal Goel, former deputy mayor of the erstwhile unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi and first Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, was later prefixed to it, officials said.

A white marble bust of Charti Lal Goel, father of Vijay Goel, has also been installed near the baradari, forming the centrepiece of this garden. The garden comprises "rich stocks" of flowers and shrubberies, including petunias, dog flowers, marigold, carnation, poinsettia, ornamental cabbage, croton and farfara, a senior NDMC official said.

The park is also endowed with Mughal-style chhatris (umbrellas), stone railings and lamp posts, borrowing design elements from the Red Fort's ramparts, ornate gates and a sunken open-air theatre, all of which have been constructed using red sandstone, white marble, Dholpur stone, and Delhi quartzite stones.

The park is in close proximity to the 17th century Jama Masjid and faces Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on the other side.

Architect Kapil Aggarwal, who designed the park, said: "We wanted visitors to feel the park was part of both the sites and therefore, we chose heritage elements after careful research, so that new structures would complement the existing heritage fabric of the region."

In the second phase of this urban renewal project, the remaining 2.25 acres of area is to be developed at an estimated cost of ₹10.03 crore. For the first phase, the NDMC had arranged ₹4.70 crore from its own resources, officials said.

The second phase also envisages reviving the old water stream (referred to as "nahar" by locals) adjacent to the current boundary wall of the park, they said.

The area is slowly being barricaded, and civic officials said work on the next phase has begun.

Endowed with a Mughal-style 'baradari' (pavilion) and rich stocks of flowers, a new heritage-themed park near Jama Masjid in old Delhi was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. The park was opened amid colorful cultural performances, strains of classical music and traditional dance by a troupe of artists in the 'baradari'.

"President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'Charti Lal Goel Heritage Park' at Parade Ground Road, near Red Fort, Delhi. The park is developed by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation," at an estimated cost of Rs 7.65 crore,

12. Recently _____ has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of dynamic mapping of villages which will get updated every time land ownership changes hand.

- A. Punjab
- B. **Andhra Pradesh**

C. Bihar

D. Madhya Pradesh

Bihar has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of the dynamic map for villages.

The dynamic map will automatically get updated, each time land ownership changes hands.

The objective of the move is to reduce legal disputes.

Bihar land reforms: For 1st time, a dynamic map that captures change in ownership

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

BIHAR HAS become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of a dynamic map for villages which will get updated every time land ownership changes hands. The move is aimed at reducing legal disputes.

According to the Bihar government, in just about a year since February 2021, the state has seen almost 37,000 cases of some land dispute or the other. The move towards dynamic maps is part of a series of steps taken by the state government to implement long-pending land reforms.

The state Assembly has recently passed the Bihar Land Mutation Amendment Bill, 2021



Survey activity at a village in Bihar. Express

GOVERNANCE
AN EXPRESS SERIES
BIHAR

Additional Chief Secretary, the Department of Revenue & Land Reforms, Bihar. "Bihar is the first state to introduce the concept of a dynamic map whereby all mutations will also mean not only textual mutation but also the mutation of the survey map," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

As such, every time a mutation takes place now, it will entail three changes – first, a change in the text; second, a change in the land parcel; and third, a modification of the survey map.

"Earlier, only the textual

records were mutated. There has been a felt need for making maps digitally dynamic," he said.

Singh assures that thanks to the dynamic map, anyone can see the updated status of the village map and figure out whether a concerned plot belongs to person X or person Y.

While the system is in place, Singh informs that the official release will soon be done by the Chief Minister. "A special survey is in its final stage in 20 districts. Village by village, we are releasing the final publication and the record of right in maps," he said.

Explaining reasons for conducting a special survey, Singh said that the available Khersa maps (which have been digitized) were drawn over 100 years ago.

Although these Khersa maps

enjoyed legal sanctity, they didn't reflect the existing ground realities. In large tracts of Bihar, Cadastral or Revisional surveys couldn't be conducted for topographical or other reasons.

He said that the special survey has been done across 20 districts using aerial photography. "The image accuracy is very high in aerial photography and with a 10-cm accuracy, small plots/features can be identified on the image," he said. Singh said that about 4,869 persons were specially recruited for the special survey in 2020 and online training was given to them during the Covid period.

According to Singh, over 22,000 processed maps received from aerial agencies and 5,127 villages are in advanced stages of Special Survey.

With Dishaank app, land survey records at click of a button

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, MARCH 14

IN 2014, revenue authorities ordered the demolition of a portion of a high-end apartment complex in a rapidly developing residential zone in southeast Bengaluru. The apartment owners who bought flats in the complex a few years earlier had not been informed by the property developers that some parts of the Bellandur lake had been encroached to build the apartments.

The apartment owners association had to move the court to stop the demolition. Thanks to such encroachments of lakes,

forests, and other state properties, the legal status of property deals is often in doubt.

The Survey Settlement and Land Records unit of the revenue department in the Karnataka government has now attempted to remedy this. It is making original land records available at a click on a smartphone screen through a mobile application called *Dishaank*.

The *Dishaank* app leverages Karnataka's decision to digitize all land records (under the Bhoomi project) since 1990. The mobile application has been developed under the Karnataka Geographical Information System program of the Karnataka State

Remote Sensing Applications Center (KRSRAC). The KRSRAC sources satellite data and provides it to agencies such as the SSLR department for innovative use.

"The objective of this app is to enable citizens to avail the information about the land and its ownership as recorded in the Bhoomi database. This is expected to bring in transparency and enable citizens to identify the actual owner, location of land etc. thereby reducing land-related disputes," states a KRSRAC note on the *Dishaank* app.

"The app has had millions of downloads. People are using it now and it is a part of the regular work of every surveyor. It is a

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AN EXPRESS SERIES
KARNATAKA

very well used application," said Munish Moudgil, an IAS officer and commissioner of the SSLR department who conceived the tech solution for the land records problem.

"We have been able to build the app because we digitized, scanned and geo-referenced land maps. When we realized that this data was available, we made it accessible to everybody in the pub-

lic domain so that they can see their information and benefit from it," Moudgil said.

The *Dishaank* app is built on digitized versions of maps for 70 to 80 lakh old parcels of land from a land survey dating back to 1965. The app is currently in the process of being updated with data for nearly 2.5 crore subdivisions – around half the subdivisions in the state.

"The work is still going on and will take 1 - 1.5 years to digitize," said Moudgil. "We are trying to allow people to access their subdivisions (podi) in the app in the next few months. That will be the next step, 'Podi on *Dishaank*'. This work is in progress," Moudgil said.

SSLR officials state that the *Dishaank* app is only meant to provide clarity on the original status of a piece of land-- it should not be used for legal purposes in land disputes.

"You cannot draw a boundary between two people based on this," Moudgil said. The *Dishaank* app is currently available for Android phones on the Google play store.

"It can be implemented in other states too if they scan and geo-reference their maps. It is easily replicable," Moudgil said.

In the initial part of the project, the KRSRAC digitized 30,854 village maps for Karnataka. The agency later geo-referenced all the

village maps and "created a seamless mosaic on the CartoSAT (2.5 m spatial resolution) satellite image and later spatially geo-referenced the same on 50 cm satellite data". The geo-referenced village map data was linked to the SSLR so that citizens do not have to approach the revenue department for knowing the land details.

The land ownership data provided by the app includes the name of the landowner, the extent of land as per records, ownership type, land type, restriction/litigations on the land, category of land and any other active transactions being done on the land, according to the KRSRAC document.

13. Recently Dr. Jitendra Singh released India's Arctic Policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development'. India had signed the 'Svalbard Treaty' in Paris in

- A. 1955
- B. 1920
- C. 1970
- D. 1990

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releases India's Arctic Policy. India's Arctic policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' has been released. India's Arctic Policy will be implemented through the action plan, and an effective governance and review mechanism.

India's Arctic policy will play a key role in dealing with the challenge of climate change. It lays down six pillars to strengthen India's scientific research and cooperation. India's Arctic policy will help in defining timelines, prioritizing activities, and allocating resources.

India had signed the 'Svalbard Treaty' in Paris in 1920 and has undertaken several scientific studies and research in Arctic regions. India is one of thirteen nations holding Observer status in the Arctic Council. India has also been actively involved in studies related to oceanography, atmosphere, pollution, and microbiology of the Arctic. India has successfully conducted thirteen expeditions to the Arctic until 2022.

14. Recently **Defence Minister inaugurated flight control system (FCS) integration facility** in _____, constructed by DRDO in _____ days.

- A. Hyderabad , 60 Days
- B. Bengaluru , 45 Days**
- C. Pune , 30 Days
- D. Gurugram , 40 Days

Defense Minister inaugurated Flight Control System Integration complex in Bengaluru.

Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) has been constructed by DRDO in 45 days.

It has been built by in-house hybrid technology developed by DRDO and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

The technical support has been provided by the teams of IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee.

It will support Research & Development (R&D) activities for developing Avionics for Fighter Aircraft and FCS for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft being undertaken by ADE, Bengaluru.



Rajnath Singh

Rajnath unveils facility built by DRDO in B'luru

NEW DELHI: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday inaugurated a seven-storey facility built by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in record 45 days in Bengaluru. "There was a time when the minister who lay the foundation of a building could never inaugurate it because it was not possible," he said. The Flight Control System Integration complex would be used as the research and development facility for the indigenous development of fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

15. Consider the following statements regarding **the solid booster stage for SSLV.**

1. ISRO has successfully conducted the ground testing of the newly developed solid booster stage (SS1) for its **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre.**
2. **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is small, cheaper, and can be quickly assembled for the commercial satellite launch, cost around Rs 30 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

ISRO successfully carried out ground testing of solid booster stage for SSLV.

On 14 March 2022, ISRO has successfully conducted the ground testing of the newly developed solid booster stage (SS1) for its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

The newly developed solid booster stage motor is a three-stage solid propulsion stage. It provides the initial thrust to the spacecraft.

The new launch vehicle is now ready for its first development flight, which is scheduled for May this year.

The ground tests of remaining stages of SSLV have been successfully undergone.

16. Recently Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the first of its kind project in India for Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) named as _____.

- A. Toyota Mirai
- B. Toyota Sudan
- C. Toyota Duster
- D. Toyota Kirloskar

Nitin Gadkari inaugurated pilot project for Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV).

It is the first of its kind project in India for Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV). It will create awareness about FCEV technology, and benefits of Hydrogen-based transport systems.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting this pilot project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions.

The Indian government is committed towards



Toyota and ICAT are conducting a pilot project to study the world's most advanced FCEV, Toyota Mirai on Indian roads. MINT

Gadkari launches India's first green hydrogen fuel EV

Swati Luthra
 NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, launched the world's most advanced technology — developed green hydrogen fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), Toyota Mirai in New Delhi on Wednesday. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions. This is a first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country by creating awareness about the unique utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology. It is an important initiative which will promote clean energy and environmental pro-

THE FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (FCEV), POWERED BY HYDROGEN, IS HAILED AS ONE OF THE BEST ZERO EMISSION FIX
 tion by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby make India Energy Self-reliant by 2047. Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), powered by Hydrogen, is one of the best Zero Emission solutions. It is completely environmentally friendly with no tailpipe emissions other than water. Green Hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass. Introduction and adoption of technology to tap into the green hydrogen's potential will play a key role in securing a clean and affordable energy future for India.

17. Recently _____ has becomes the **largest coal producing company in India by crossing 157 million tonnes of coal production.**

- A. Coal India Limited
- B. South Eastern Coalfields Limited
- C. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited**
- D. Bharat Coking Coal Limited

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited becomes largest coal producing company in India.

In the financial year of 2021-22, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has crossed 157 million tonnes of coal production.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has produced 7.62 lakh tonnes of dry fuel on 12 March 2022, highest in a day in the current financial year.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited's coal production has increased by 16% as compared to last financial year.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has surpassed its all previous records by dispatching 166 MT dry

18. Consider the following statements regarding **India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).**

1. The Regional Rapid Transit System's (RRTS) train will run on the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and covers a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes.**
2. India's first rapid rail for the Delhi to Meerut corridor **was unveiled by the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC).**
3. The train has an average speed of **100 km/hr and a maximum speed of 160 km/hr.**

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's first rapid rail for the Delhi to Meerut corridor was unveiled by the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and cover a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes. It will also be the first in the country to have a business or 'premium' coach on a regional corridor.

The six coaches of the train will have 407 seats in total. The train is capable of accommodating 1500 passengers at once.

It is capable of achieving three times the speed of a metro. Looking into the numbers, the train

19. Recently NITI Aayog organized the _____ edition of the **Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)** to honour _____ Women achievers aimed at **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, an initiative by the NITI Aayog in partnership with United Nations.

- A. 4th , 29
- B. 5th , 75**
- C. 6th , 44
- D. 7th , 80

The 5th edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards has been organized by NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on 21 March 2022.

WTI Awards have been conferred to 75 women achievers to celebrate their contributions towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'.

The awards have been given by Kiran Bedi, Lakshmi Puri, Arunadhathi Bhattacharya and many more women. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and singer Kailash Kher were present at the event.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform is an aggregator portal. It aims to catalyze the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women.

20. Recently Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) released **Disaster Management Plan (DMP)** to establish a framework to align disaster management measures in rural areas. Who is the current Minister of Panchayati Raj?

- A. Giriraj Singh**
- B. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- C. Narendra Tomar
- D. Piyush Goyal

Union Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Giriraj Singh has released Disaster Management Plan (DMP) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).

The Minister said that DMP has been developed by MoPR with an aim to develop disaster resilience at the grassroots level among the Panchayats. He further said that MoPR has developed DMP with an aim to establish a framework to align disaster management measures in rural areas to that of NDMA.

Under Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (DMP-MoPR), every Indian village would have "Village Disaster Management Plan". Similarly, every Panchayat would have its own Disaster Management Plan under DMP-MoPR.

DMP-MoPR is in compliance with Disaster Management Act 2005, National Disaster Management Policy 2009, and guidelines issued by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). NDMA had issued the first National Disaster Management Plan in 2016 and it was revised after review in 2019.

21. Consider the following statements regarding **New Investment Policy-2012**.

1. The government has approved the extension of applicability of the 'New Investment Policy-2012' for three upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.
2. HURL, incorporated in June 2016, a joint venture of Coal India Ltd, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation.
3. HURL-Gorakhpur unit has India's first air-operated bullet-proof rubber dam of 65 metres length and 2 metres height.

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

The government has approved the extension of applicability of the 'New Investment Policy -2012' for three upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni. The government had announced the New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 in January, 2013 and its amendment in October, 2014 to facilitate fresh investment in the urea sector and to make India self-sufficient.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given approval for the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for extension of applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012"

HURL, incorporated in June, 2016, is a joint venture of Coal India Ltd, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation. It is reviving the erstwhile Gorakhpur and Sindri Units of FCIL and Barauni Unit of GFCL by setting up new gas based urea plants with an installed capacity of 12.7 lakh tonnes per annum each. The cost of the three HURL urea projects is Rs 25,120 crore. GAIL is supplying natural gas to these three units.

. HURL-Gorakhpur unit has India's first air-operated bullet-proof rubber dam of 65 metres length and 2 metres height.

22. Recently India's **first green Hydrogen-based energy storage project to be set up at _____**, developed by _____, a standalone fuel cell-based 50 kW microgrid pilot project with green hydrogen production using electrolyzer.

- A. Hyderabad, HPCL
- B. Vizag, NTPC

- C. Pune , IOCL
- D. Gurugram , BHEL

The NTPC-Simhadri plant in Vizag region will develop a project of standalone fuel cell based 50 kW microgrid pilot project with green hydrogen production using electrolyzer. The project will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project.

NTPC has awarded the Standalone Fuel-Cell based 50kW micro-grid pilot project with hydrogen production using electrolyzer to Bloom Energy India Private Limited-Bengaluru at NTPC Simhadri.

NTPC's Rail Neer bottling Plant project, Diwakar Kaushik said that the first-of-its-kind project, a

23. Recently the *world's largest Hindu temple-Virat Ramayan Mandir* to be built at _____
a _____ high and width of 540 feet.
- A. Ayodhya , 215 Ft
 - B. Champaran , 270 Ft**
 - C. Mathura , 104 Ft
 - D. Gorakhpur , 215 Ft

A Muslim family in Bihar has donated land worth Rs 2.5 crore for the construction of the world's largest and tallest 'Virat Ramayan Mandir' in the Kaithwalia area of East Champaran district.

Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan, a businessman, has donated the land for the 'Virat Ramayana Temple'.

Ramayana Temple will be built on a total of 125 acres of land, one of the tallest and largest temples in the world.

The height of the 'Virat Ramayana Temple' will be 270 feet, which is the highest in the world while its length is 1080 feet and width is 540 feet. "There will be a road on three sides of the 'Virat Ramayana Temple' complex. The Ram-Janaki road being built from Ayodhya to Janakpur will pass through the area.

24. Currently, Union Government levies _____ GST on service provided by crypto exchanges while in Budget 2022-23, _____ TDS was proposed on payments towards virtual currencies beyond _____ in a year.
- A. 5 % , 1 % , Rs 5,000
 - B. 12 % , 2 % , Rs 1,000
 - C. 18 % , 1 % , Rs 10,000**
 - D. 28 % , 5% , Rs 5,000

Government is attempting to classify crypto currencies as either a good or a service under the GST law. Currently, government levies 18% GST only on service provided by crypto exchanges.

GST law does not specify how crypto currencies should be classified.

As per the tax officers, crypto are similar in nature to lottery, casinos, betting, gambling and horse racing. Lottery, casinos, betting, gambling and horse racing have 28% of GST on the entire value. From April 1, a 30% Income Tax plus cess and surcharges will be levied on crypto currency transactions.

In Budget 2022-23, 1% TDS was proposed on payments towards virtual currencies beyond Rs 10,000 in a year. This provision will come into effect from July 1, 2022.

25. Recently Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has exempted small sized M&A deals from CCI merger control norms for _____ more years. In small sized M&A deals, target has an asset size of less than _____ crore or turnover of less than ₹1,000 crore.

- A. 5 Years , Rs 350 Cr**
- B. 6 Years , Rs 250 Cr**
- C. 8 Years , Rs 1000 Cr**
- D. 7 Years , Rs 500 Cr**

Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has exempted small sized M&A deals from CCI merger control norms for 5 more years.

MCA has said that small sized M&A deals need not be reported or notified to Competition Commission of India till March 2027.

In small sized M&A deals, target has an asset size of less than ₹350 crore or turnover of less than ₹1,000 crore.

The exemption was granted for five years by the government in March 2017.

With the notification of Sections 5 and 6 of the Competition Act, 2002, the Indian merger control regime took effect on June 1, 2011.

26. Consider the following statements regarding BSNL - BBNL Merger.

1. Bharat Broadband Nigam Ltd (BBNL) was formed in February 2012 to lay optical fibre network across 2.5 lakh village Panchayats across the country using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

2. *Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was founded in 2000. With the merger, BSNL will get 5.67 lakh km of optical fibre network however it already have 6.8 lakh km of optical fibre cable network.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

The government has decided to merge BBNL with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) by the end of this fiscal year.

With the merger, BSNL will get 5.67 lakh kilometers of the optical fiber network. BSNL already has 6.8 lakh kilometers of optical fiber cable network.

BSNL will gain access to Rs 60000 crore worth of universal service obligation fund (USOF) with this merger.

Bharat Broadband Nigam Ltd (BBNL) it was formed in February 2012. It was handed over the task of implementing the Bharat Net project.

It has to set up optical fiber network across 2.5 lakh village Panchayats across the country using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL): It was founded in 2000. It is a Public Sector Undertaking wholly owned by the Government of India.

It provides telecom services all over India except Delhi and Mumbai.

27. Recently the Indian Army has instituted a *Chair of Excellence in memory of _____*, at the *United Service Institution of India (USI)*.

- A. General Bipin Rawat
- B. Manoj Mukund Narwane
- C. R Hari
- D. Manoj Pandey

On the eve of General Bipin Rawat's 65th birthday, the Indian Army established a Chair of Excellence in his honor at the United Service Institution of India (USI).

Major Gen BK Sharma (retd), Director of USI, was presented with a cheque for Rs 5 lakhs, which will be paid as an honorarium to the nominated Chair of Excellence.

The chair will be open to ex-servicemen of the three services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security. General Bipin Rawat, India's first CDS and the former Chief of the Indian Army, led one of the most drastic reforms in the Indian military's history.

The General Bipin Rawat Memorial Chair of Excellence will focus on the area of integration.

United Service Institution of India (USI): It is a think tank situated in New Delhi, India, that focuses on national security and defence services. Major General Sir Charles Mac Gregory founded the United Service Institution in Shimla in 1870.

28. *Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram, a traditional wind instrument of _____ has got registration certificate from the GI registry on the basis of the application filed in January 2014.*

- A. *Telangana*
- B. *Tamil Nadu*
- C. *Andhra Pradesh*
- D. *Odisha*

Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram has been given GI tag.

It is a traditional wind instrument of Tamil Nadu made by village artisans of Kumbakonam. The registration certificate has been issued by the GI registry on the basis of the application filed in January 2014.

Artisans based in Narasinghapettai village make this instrument.

Nagaswaram used by artists now is called parinaggaswaram. It is longer than Thimiri.

Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram major portion is made from traditional wood "acha" or Hardwickiabinata.

Wood from parts of old houses is used to make the instrument.

Hardwickiabinata is a tree locally known as Anjan, Kamara and Aacha. It is also known as Indian Black wood.

29. Recently Union Cabinet has given approval to continuation of **National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP, Phase-V)** with an outlay of Rs _____.

- A. Rs 2,358 Cr
- B. Rs 1,358 Cr
- C. Rs 15,472 Cr**
- D. Rs 26,538 Cr

Cabinet approves extension of National AIDS programme to '26

New Delhi: The Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of National AIDS and STD Control Programme from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 with a budget of ₹15,471.94 crore, the health ministry said on Monday. The programme is fully funded by the government of India and is at present in its fifth phase. **PTI**

Union Cabinet has given approval to continuation of National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP, Phase-V).

The programme will continue for five years from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2026 with an outlay of Rs 15471.94 crore. In the five years of NACP Phase-V, over 27 crore HIV tests would be performed, including around 14 crore tests among pregnant women. Twenty-one lakh HIV infected people will be on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) by end of the NACP Phase-V. Initiatives like HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act (2017), Mission Sampark, transition to Dolutegravir-based Treatment Regimen have contributed to success of NACP. National AIDS and STD Control Programme:

It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.

Government of India had launched first phase of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme in 1992. Since then, four phases of NACP have been successfully completed. The Phase-IV

30. Recently _____ will become first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations and allocated _____ in the 2022-23 Annual Budgets.

- A. Tamil Nadu, Rs 8 Cr
- B. Andhra Pradesh, Rs 7 Cr
- C. Kerala, Rs 6 Cr**
- D. Maharashtra, Rs 5 Cr

Kerala will become first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations.

For this purpose, the Kerala government has kept aside ₹6 crores in the 2022-23 Budget.

While carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms in the first phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be established in all 140 Assembly Constituencies in the second phase.

Steps are being taken to change the State Seed Farm at Aluva into a carbon-neutral farm.

31. Consider the following statements regarding **World Air Quality Report**.

Which of the following statement is in-correct?

- A. New Delhi is world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year with the PM 2.5 level at 85.1 in 2021.
- B. Dhaka was second most polluted capital city in the world with a PM 2.5 level of 78.1.
- C. Delhi was ranked at 4th place in terms of air pollution. World's most polluted place is Rajasthan's Bhiwadi.
- D. India was most polluted country in the world with an average PM 2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021.

Swiss-based air quality technology company IQAir's has released its latest World Air Quality Report on 22 March 2022.

As per the report, **New Delhi was world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year.** New Delhi's PM 2.5 level was 85.1 in 2021.

Dhaka was second most polluted capital city in the world with a PM 2.5 level of 78.1.

The report says that India's air pollution worsened in 2021. Its average air pollution stood at PM 2.5 levels of 58.1 micrograms per cubic metre. Globally, Delhi was ranked at 4th place in terms of air pollution. **World's most polluted place is Rajasthan's Bhiwadi. Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad is second most polluted city.**

Ten of the top 15 most polluted cities are in India. Out of the 100 most polluted cities, 63 are Indian cities. All six metro cities except Chennai recorded increase in air pollution (PM 2.5) levels last year. **Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu has the cleanest air.**

As per the report, smoke from crop burning is responsible for up to 45% of pollution in Delhi.

As per the report, Bangladesh was most polluted country in the world with an average PM2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021. **Chad; Pakistan, Tajikistan and India are also among the top five most polluted countries in the world.** Bangladesh was also most polluted country in the world in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

As per the report, no country managed to meet WHO's air quality standard (PM 2.5 level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre) in 2021. **Bangladesh was also most polluted country in the world in 2018, 2019 and 2020.**

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS DELHI STILL MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL IN WORLD IN 2021

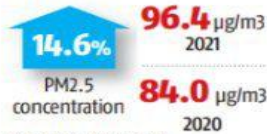


Delhi was found to be the most polluted capital in the world for the fourth consecutive year in 2021, according to a new report. In 2021, none of the cities in India met the prescribed World Health Organization air quality standards of 5 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), stated the World Air Quality Report 2021, prepared by Swiss firm IQAir and released globally on Tuesday. The report, presenting an overview of the state of global air quality in 2021, is based on PM2.5 air quality data from 6,475 cities across 117 countries.

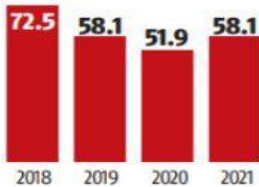
MOST POLLUTED CAPITALS

#	Capital city	Country
1	New Delhi	India
2	Dhaka	Bangladesh
3	N'Djamena	Chad
4	Dushanbe	Tajikistan
5	Muscat	Oman

NEW DELHI



INDIA'S ANNUAL AVERAGE PM2.5 LEVELS (in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



35 of the 50 cities with the worst air quality were in India

48% of Indian cities exceeded 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ air quality level

- This is over 10 times the WHO guidelines
- India's overall pollution levels worsened last year
- 3-year trend of improving air quality ended
- 0 Indian cities met the prescribed WHO standards of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

GLOBAL SHOWING

3% cities globally met PM2.5 annual air quality guidelines

93 cities globally saw levels at 10 times the recommended level

0 countries met the norms

GLOBAL RANKINGS

Most polluted countries

#	Name
1	Bangladesh
2	Chad
3	Pakistan
4	Tajikistan
5	India
6	Oman
7	Kyrgyzstan
8	Bahrain
9	Iraq
10	Nepal
22	China
58	Sri Lanka
91	US
95	UK

Source: IQAir

DELHI SEES 14.6% RISE IN PM2.5 CONCENTRATION IN 2021

PM2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in Delhi



November the most polluted month with average PM2.5 at 224.1 units, followed by December and January



Delhi is the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman)

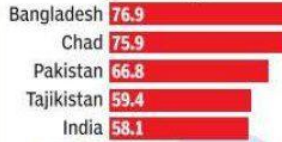
Bhiwadi in Rajasthan remained the most polluted city in world, followed by Ghaziabad, Xinjiang in China, Delhi and Jaunpur

HOW INDIA COMPARES WITH THE WORLD

India is fifth most polluted country in the world with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 58.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Most polluted countries

Annual average PM2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

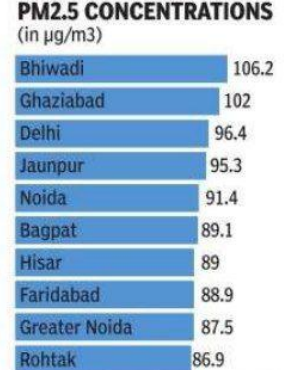


35 of the top 50 most polluted cities are in India

48% of India's cities exceeded 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or more than 10 times the WHO guidelines

No Indian city met the prescribed World Health Organisation (WHO) standard of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM2.5

TOP POLLUTED INDIAN CITIES WITH ANNUAL PM2.5 CONCENTRATIONS (in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



Source: World Air Quality Report-2021, IQAir

Govt hikes jute MSP by 5.6% to ₹4,750/quintal

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 22

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Tuesday approved a 5.6 per cent increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute to ₹4,750 per quintal for the 2022-23 season.

"The MSP of raw jute (TDN3 equivalent to TD5 grade) has been fixed at ₹4,750 per quintal for 2022-23 season with an increase of ₹250 over the previous year. This would ensure a return of 60.53 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production," the government said in a statement. The new MSP is in line with the principle of fixing the benchmark prices at least 1.5 times over cost of production, which was decided in 2018-19.

CACP recommendations

The revised MSP for next season is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the statement said.

"It is one of the important and progressive steps towards ensuring better remunerative returns to the jute growers and to



incentivise quality jute fibre. The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as Centre's nodal agency to undertake Price Support Operations in case market rates fall below MSP and the losses incurred, if any, will be fully reimbursed by the government," the statement read.

The increase is realistic as the government uses 100 per cent jute bags in the procurement of paddy and wheat for the central pool stock, said an official. While the expense on gunny bags was ₹7,157 crore in 2020-21, it is expected to be around ₹10,500 crore in the current fiscal. The share of gunny bags in the economic cost of wheat was around 3 per cent in 2020-21 and is seen to be around 5 per cent in 2021-22, due to both increase in jute MSP and higher volume of procurement.

32. Recently Indian Constitution has been translated into _____ script for the first time to make the constitution more accessible for people knowing the Santali language.

- A. OlChiki script
- B. Sarda Script
- C. Kalina Script

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

D. Brahma Script

Indian Constitution translated into OlChiki script for the first time.

Professor Sripati Tudu has translated the Constitution of India into OlChiki script for the first time. Sripati Tudu is an assistant professor of the Santhali language at the Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University in Purulia, West Bengal.

According to the 2011 Census of India, around 70 lakh people speak Santhali across India. Santhal tribe is the third largest tribe of India and they mainly reside in Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, etc. Santhali has been added to Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 2003.

A Kolkata-based publisher Taurean Publications has published the translation of the Constitution in OlChiki script.

The OlChiki script is also known as OlCiki, Ol, and Santali alphabet.

33. Recently the Ministry of Civil Aviation organize ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’, the largest event on Civil Aviation in Asia in _____.

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

Ministry of Civil Aviation organized ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’ from 24th- 27th March 2022 in Hyderabad. ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’ is the largest event on Civil Aviation in Asia. Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is organizing this event in association with FICCI.

The theme of the event is “India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry”.

It will focus on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity. During this event, the “WINGS INDIA AWARDS 2022” will be presented to Aviation-related Companies/ Institutions/ Organizations.

It will be formally inaugurated by the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M Scindia.

Exhibition, discussions, and Flying Display by SARANG Team will be part of this event.

34. Recently the Rubber Board of India has set up an electronic procurement system for different commodities named as _____.

- A. E-Rube
- B. **M-Rube**
- C. C-Rube
- D. T-Rube

Kenya has plans to replicate the e-market concept of the Rubber Board of India and set up an electronic procurement system for different commodities.

Rubber Board is in the final phase of rolling out the electronic market “mRube” for natural rubber by next month. The software development is almost completed and the security audit is being done.

According to Board officials, the e-market has been conceptualized after a detailed study of the system and consultations with stakeholder groups.

The Kenyan delegation was highly impressed with the proposed trade system in ‘mRube’ and its transparency features. The delegation made an assessment that the Board’s e-market could help rubber growers in realizing better price discovery and can minimize their trading risk.

Kenya evinces interest in Rubber Board’s e-market concept

Board set to launch its e-market mRube by next month



OUR BUREAU

Kochi, March 22

Kenya has plans to replicate the e-market concept of the Rubber Board of India and set up an electronic procurement system for different commodities.

Rubber Board is in the final phase of rolling out the electronic market “mRube” for natural rubber by next month. The software development is almost completed and the security audit is being done.

According to Board officials, the e-market has been conceptualised after a detailed study of the system and consultations with stakeholder groups. The online trade system is perfectly aligned to match the prevailing physical trade system and eliminates vulnerabilities. It is envis-

aged that electronic trading would enhance the market visibility and bargaining capacity of buyers and sellers.

Market promotion

To get a first-hand experience of the Board’s e-market concept, a team of the National Treasury of Government of Kenya, comprising 10 senior officers led by Lynne Ngina Nyongesa, Director, ICT, visited the Rubber Board and held discussions with the Market Promotion Division on the theoretical framework and

functional aspects of ‘mRube’, the brand name of e-market.

The Kenyan delegation was highly impressed with the proposed trade system in ‘mRube’ and its transparency features. The delegation made an assessment that the Board’s e-market could help rubber growers in realising better price discovery and can minimise their trading risk. The Kenyan delegation also sought Board’s technical assistance and support in developing a similar e-trade system for their commodity procurement.

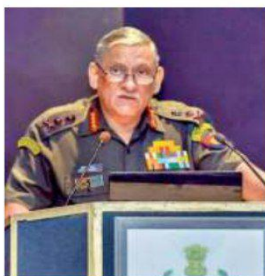
Chair of excellence in memory of Bipin Rawat

It is open to veterans and civilians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the 65th birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, the Indian Army has instituted a Chair of Excellence in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI). The formal announcement was made by Gen. Manoj Naravane, Chief of Army Staff and Officiating Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, at a ceremony organised at South Block on Tuesday.

“The aim of the proposed Chair of Excellence will be to conduct research on strategic issues of significance pertaining to the armed forces,” the Army said in a statement. The Chair will be open to veterans of the three Services and civilians



Gen. Rawat during a seminar at United Service Institution of India. ■ FILE PHOTO

having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs, it stated.

Gen. Naravane also handed over a cheque for ₹5 lakh to Maj. Gen. B.K. Sharma (retd), Director, USI, which will be paid as honorarium to the nominated Chair of Excellence.

Unemployment rate dips to 9.8% in Jul-Sept 2021: NSO

Unemployment rate for persons of age 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 9.8 per cent in July–September 2021 from 13.2 per cent in the same quarter of the previous year, showed a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force. The joblessness was high in July–September in 2020 mainly due to the staggered impact of lockdown restrictions in the country which were imposed to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus. **PTI**

FITCH SLASHES FY23 INDIA GROWTH FORECAST TO 8.5%

Fitch Ratings downgraded its growth forecast for India by 180 basis points to 8.5 per cent for 2022-23, citing sharply higher energy prices. The extent of the downward revision in growth forecast for India is second only to Germany among major economies. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the economic sanctions on Russia have led to high energy prices, supply-chain disruptions, raw material shortages, and record inflation rates. The resultant deterioration of growth momentum led Fitch to cut its world GDP growth forecast for CY22 to 3.5 per cent. **4**

Start-ups get up to 10 yrs to convert debt into equity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 20

The government has extended the timeline up to ten years for start-ups to convert debt investments into equity shares, a decision which is likely to give a relief to budding entrepreneurs to deal with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, according to a statement of the DPIIT.

Earlier the option of changing convertible notes into equity shares was allowed for up to five years from the day when initial convertible note was issued. Now that timeline has been extended to ten years.

Sumit Singhania, Partner, Deloitte India said, "Extending such optionality to 10 years will help ease the burden on start-ups to prove the concept to early stage investors without triggering mandatory premature exits. This move ought to enable a new generation of start-ups in raising seed capital/loan with better promise of retaining investments."

Maternal mortality ratio declines by 10 points: Registrar General

India is on verge of achieving National Health Policy target

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of India has declined by 10 points, says a special bulletin released by the Registrar-General of India. It has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, an 8.8% decline.

The country has been witnessing a progressive reduction in the MMR from 130 in 2014-16, 122 in 2015-17 and 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, said the release issued on Monday.

With this persistent decline, India is on the verge of achieving the National Health Policy (NHP) target of 100 per lakh live births by 2020 and certainly on the track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) target of 70 per lakh live births by 2030, the release noted.

The number of States that have achieved the Sustainable Development Goal target has now risen from five to seven – Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).

There are now nine States that have achieved the MMR target set by the National Health Policy, which includes the above seven States and Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).

Uttarakhand (101), West Bengal (109), Punjab (114), Bihar (130), Odisha (136) and Rajasthan (141) have MMR between 100 and 150, while Chhattisgarh (160),

Madhya Pradesh (163), Uttar Pradesh (167) and Assam (205) have the ratio above 150.

U.P.'s achievement

Encouraging achievement has been reported by Uttar Pradesh, which has shown the highest decline of 30 points, Rajasthan (23), Bihar (19), Punjab (15) and Odisha (14), the release stated.

Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have shown more than 15% decline in the MMR, while Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have shown a decline between 10% and 15% and Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha and Karnataka witnessed a decline between 5% and 10%.

Maharashtra to launch own crop insurance

HESHYAM JADHAV

March 18

Maharashtra government is set to launch its own crop insurance scheme, alleging that insurance companies participating in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are reaping financial benefits while farmers paying crop insurance premiums. However, the union government has stated that the major reason for pending claims is the non-receipt of the State government share in premium subsidy.

During the ongoing Maharashtra Assembly Session, Agriculture Minister Ajit Pawar, while presenting the annual budget, referred to the crop insurance scheme and comments raised by farmers. While referring to budget discussions, Pawar said farmers have



repeatedly complained about the majority of companies involved in PMFBY. He said Maharashtra Chief Minister, State Agriculture Minister and Chief Secretary have already discussed the issue with the union government. The minister said Gujarat has started its own crop insurance scheme and Maharashtra wants to take a similar step. It needs the Centre's approval.

According to Pawar, if a farmer pays an installment of

₹1,000 for crop insurance, he receives about ₹400-450 as insurance claim after crop loss.

According to the Centre's data, since the inception of the scheme in Maharashtra to 2020-21, the total premium received by the companies operating in Maharashtra is ₹27,698.07 crore while claims reported are of ₹19,906.42 crore. Of the ₹19,838.65 crore claims approved, claims of ₹19,633.47 crore have been paid.

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar told the Lok Sabha last month that the major reason for pending claims is the non-receipt of State government share in premium subsidy.

Delayed payments

The Union government claims that admissible claims under the PMFBY are generally paid by

the concerned insurance companies within two months of completion of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)/harvesting period and one month of notification for invoking the risks/perils of prevented sowing, mid-season adversity and post-harvest losses. This is subject to receipt of the total share of premium subsidy from the concerned government within time.

"However, settlement of few claims in some States, including Maharashtra, got delayed due to reasons like delayed transmission of yield data, late release of their share in premium subsidy, yield-related disputes between insurance companies and States, non-receipt of account details of some farmers for transfer of claims to the bank account of eligible farmers and NEFT-related issues," the Minister said.

Eyeing ‘turnaround’, BBNL to merge with BSNL by month-end

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE MERGER of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will be completed this month, the latter’s Chairman and Managing Director, P K Purwar, has said.

Speaking at an event earlier this month, Purwar said the government had already taken the “policy decision” to merge BBNL and BSNL and that the process was scheduled to be completed before March 31.

“BBNL is going to be merged in BSNL. This means that all of BharatNet work being done on an India basis will come to BSNL. The government has taken this policy decision,” Purwar said at an event organised by All India Graduate Engineers and Telecom officers Association (AIGETOA).

The *Indian Express* had on January 9 reported that the government had decided to merge BBNL and BSNL by the end of this fiscal and that the latter was likely to finish BharatNet work, started by BBNL.

BBNL, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) of the Ministry of Communications, was incorporated in 2012 as a public sector unit. It was handed over the task of implementing the BharatNet project, which was till then known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN). The SPV is funded from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is raised from a Universal Access Levy (UAL) applicable to all telecom licence holders. It came into effect from April 1, 2002 and mandated that all tele-



BSNL towers, Jammu. File

com service providers must pay a percentage of their revenue into the USOF. During the event organised by AIGETOA, Purwar said telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had called him up to discuss the details of the merger and asked him to “take over” BBNL before March 31.

“The Minister told me that we have a free hand to shape the turnaround. In the Budget, provision of around Rs 45,000 crore has been made for BSNL. It was earlier Rs 24,000 crore. Earlier provision was only for spectrum. Now, it is spectrum, capex and others. So the government wants to give you a free hand. Can you perform?,” Purwar said, adding that BSNL was in the final stages of 4G testing and may soon started ground-level network testing and deployment.

“The government is going against its stated policies (for BSNL) and wants to give a chance to become a strategic asset. We have to prove ourselves,” he said while addressing the gathering.

EXPLAINED **E** What does BBNL do?

BBNL, A special purpose vehicle of the Ministry of Communications, was incorporated in 2012 as a public sector unit. It was handed over the task of implementing the BharatNet project. The SPV is funded from the Universal Service Obligation Fund, which is raised from a Universal Access Levy applicable to all telecom licence holders.

Some officials from BBNL have, however, expressed their reservations against the proposed merger, saying the merger of the company with BSNL will give the latter direct access to the USOF, which is likely to “create controversy and impropriety issues”.

“All telecom operators contribute to the USOF. So if the government goes ahead with this merger, it will seem like only BSNL will get to use the fund. That could create problems for us,” a senior DoT official said, asking not to be named.

As per telecom licence agreements, telecom service providers have to pay 8 per cent licence fee on their revenue from sale of telecom service, of which 5 per cent goes towards the USOF.

With the merger of BBNL and BSNL, this fund – which currently stands at close to Rs 60,000 crore – is likely to go to BSNL and help the state-run telco come out of its crunch.

29 stolen antiquities brought back to India from Australia

They will be sent to the States from where they were stolen

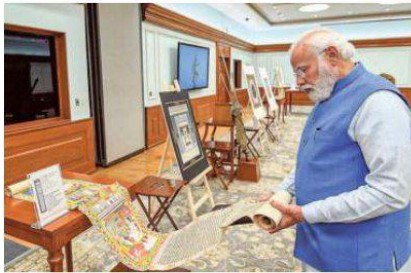
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inspected 29 stolen antiquities dating as far back as 9th century that were brought back to India from Australia about a week ago.

Mr. Modi thanked his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison for the return of the antiquities, while speaking at the second India-Australia virtual summit on Monday.

He said the antiquities had been taken illegally from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and other States.

Divided into 6 categories
According to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials, the antiquities would be sent back to the States where they were stolen from, in case FIRs were filed.



Lost and found: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspecting the antiquities in New Delhi on Monday. •PTI

In a tweet, the Culture Ministry said the antiquities were divided into six broad categories: Shiva and his disciples; worshipping Shakti; Lord Vishnu and his forms; Jain tradition; and portraits and decorative objects.

An official from Archaeological Survey of India said with these antiquities from

Australia, the number of retrieved antiquities in India had reached 228.

Three more antiquities – one each from Italy, the United Kingdom and Australia – would soon be brought back to India as they had been handed over to Indian High Commissions in those countries.

PROSPECTIVE MERGER

30-day notification rule waiver extended till 2027

Move will reduce compliance burden: Experts

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 17

In a pro business move, the Centre has extended by five more years the validity of an existing exemption available to companies as regards notification of prospective mergers to the competition authorities.

This would mean that companies entering into combinations need not, for five more years, notify the Competition Commission of India (CCI) of proposed combinations within 30 days.

The law requires combinations to be notified within 30 days before they are implemented. However, keeping in mind the practical challenges that were faced by the companies to notify the CCI within 30 days, the Centre had in June 2017, granted companies an exemption from this norm for five years. The Cor-



porate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has now again extended this exemption by five more years till June 2027.

The 30-day time limit provided under the Act was proving to be a challenge since it required parties to provide comprehensive information within a short timeline failing which, they ran the risk of non-compliance or even a delay in receiving an approval in cases where the CCI found shortcomings in their submissions.

Industry reacts

In most jurisdictions, businesses can notify competition authorities of prospective mergers at any time before the merger becomes effective. Sonam Chandwani,

Managing Partner, KS Legal & Associates, said the move seeks to make doing business in India easier and will certainly favour more combinations covered by the Competition Act, 2002.

While Pritika Kumar, Founder - Cornelia Chambers, said this would reduce compliance burden and help the enterprise proposing to enter into a "combination", Anu Monga, Partner, AnantLaw, said the move can clearly be considered pro-business investment.

Ravishkar Nair, Partner, Economic Laws Practice, termed it a continuity measure. This essentially recognises the commercial reality that parties who need to secure the mandatory approval from the CCI for their transaction will in any event act in a prudent, compliant and time bound manner, he added.

As per the Act, when there is an acquisition of one or more enterprises or merger or amalgamation, it shall be termed as a combination of such enterprises and persons.

Deep ocean mission to study origins of life: MoES

The ₹4,077-crore project will help India map the ocean bed, pave the way for commercial exploitation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India will soon scour the ocean bed to unravel the mysteries of the origins of life as scientists are set to travel up to 6,000 m below the sea surface under a deep ocean mission (DOM).

Initially, the ₹4,077-crore mission will entail scientists travelling to a depth of 500 m to test various technologies being developed for the purpose before taking a

deeper dive into the unknown.

"There are theories that life originated in hydro-thermal vents which exist at a depth of four to five kilometres in the ocean," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told PTI.

"It is completely dark at the depth of four to five kilometres, but there are living organisms. How is life born at that depth? The mission

will also help us understand this," he said.

The DOM will also help India map the ocean bed, which is a rich source for metals and minerals, Mr. Ravichandran said, adding that the mission will help scientists identify and demarcate resource-rich areas which could be exploited later when suitable technology is available for deep sea mining.

The exploration studies of

minerals will pave the way for commercial exploitation in the near future as and when such a code is evolved by the International Seabed Authority, he said.

Future possibilities

The DOM could also lead to the development of various technologies such as acoustic phones, components that withstand a high-pressure environment, research vessels and related infrastruc-

ture, he said. The technologies required are not commercially available, N. Ravichandran said, adding that attempts will be made to indigenise technologies by collaborating with leading institutes and private industries, the official said.

Mr. Ravichandran said this mission is also directed towards development in marine biology which will provide job opportunities in Indian industries.

Six airbags mandatory even for small cars, no two tolls within 60 km: Gadkari

Air bags rule shocks auto industry; sales will be dented further, says Maruti Suzuki

SIRONENDRASINGH
New Delhi, March 22

Transport Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari's assertion on Tuesday about making it mandatory even for small cars to have six airbags sent the auto industry into a tailspin.

Gadkari also made another announcement that there should be a minimum distance of 60 km between any two toll gates on the national highways, giving freight movers the much-sought relief. However, this is an existing stipulation under the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008.

"There is a rule that no two

tolls should be there within 60 km, but it is there in some places. Today, I promise to this House that this is illegal, and within three months, there will be only one toll within a distance of 60 km. If there is another one, it will be shut."

Safety concerns

Flagging safety concerns, Gadkari told Parliament that India has one of the highest road accidents in the world with five lakh accidents in a year; 1.5 lakh people die and around three-lakh become handicapped. Hence, it was time India adopted better safety norms – both for pedestrians and vehicles. The six



Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari speaks in Lok Sabha •PI

airbags should mandatorily be part of the enhanced safety regime, said the Minister.

The auto industry, already reeling under stress due to semiconductor chip shortage and rise in commodity prices, was stunned by the Minister's six airbags announcement.

"This will reduce sales of small cars. We are still below our peak which was in 2018-19...the peak sales was three years earlier. Two

of these years were Covid years and one was not even the Covid year (2019-20), but sales fell 18 per cent. We haven't even reached there yet...so it really means three years are lost," RC Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL), told BusinessLine.

"And, prices have gone up due to materials cost/ship shortages, and now we have the airbags cost. So, the recovery will get pushed back," he added.

According to industry experts, costs could go up by ₹18,000-22,000 (excluding GST) per car, if six airbags are made mandatory. Gadkari had issued a draft notification earlier making six airbags compulsory in motor vehicles carrying up to eight passengers. But his statement on Tuesday included even smaller cars.

+ Union Cabinet approves MCD reunification Bill

It is expected to be introduced in Parliament this week

VIJAITA SINGH
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday cleared a Bill that proposes to unify the three civic bodies in Delhi. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, is expected to be tabled in Parliament this week.

The amendment proposes a unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi by subsum-

ing the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the East Delhi Municipal Corporation. The corporation was trifurcated in 2012.

“The division of the corporation was uneven in terms of territorial divisions and revenue generation. As a result, there is a huge gap in the resources available to the three corporations, vis-à-vis their obligation,” a government source said.

‘Widening gap’

The source said the gap has widened over time, increas-

ing the financial difficulties of the civic bodies. “The corporations are not able to make timely payment of salaries and retirement benefits to employees, thereby creating serious impediments in maintaining civic services,” the source said.

At the core of the reunification, sources in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) told *The Hindu*, is the creation of a “parallel and more efficient Delhi Model” to be built from the ground up by bureaucrats handpicked by the Centre in time for the Delhi election in 2025.

According to sources, Un-

ion Home Minister Amit Shah met senior Delhi BJP leaders last week. He is understood to have indicated that the Bill could be tabled to coincide with the Delhi government’s five-day budget session scheduled to commence on Wednesday.

With a unified municipal corporation, the BJP, sources said, will now be able to pit itself directly against the AAP government in an attempt to erode its presence in Delhi in the run-up to the Assembly election.

CIVIC BODIES ONE STEP CLOSER TO UNIFICATION ▶ PAGE 2

International News

35. Recently to Commemorate India’s 75TH Independence Day “Green Triangle” named after Mahatma Gandhi has been inaugurated in _____.

- A. South Africa
- B. Mauritius
- C. Madagascar
- D. Belarus

‘Green Triangle’ named after Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated in Antananarivo.

India’s Ambassador inaugurated the ‘Green Triangle’ in Madagascar’s capital Antananarivo.

It has been inaugurated as part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’. It will inspire the local government to create maximum green space in Madagascar’s capital Antananarivo.

It will help in raising awareness among the people about Gandhi’s values of peace and non-violence

Last week, the Embassy of India in Antananarivo had unveiled the plaque of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’. Andry Rajoelina is the current President.

36. Recently **Nowruz Festival** is observed by _____ on March 20th for marking the **beginning of spring season in the Northern Hemisphere**.

- A. Germany
- B. Iran**
- C. France
- D. China

Nowruz 2022: Nowruz or Navroz, the Iranian New Year that marks the beginning of the spring season, is celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm among various Parsi communities across the world including India. The word 'now' means new and 'ruz' means day, which translates to 'a new day'. Nowruz marks the beginning of Farvardin, the first month of the Solar Hijri calendar and is usually celebrated on March 20 or 21 globally.

In India, the festival is observed around August 16-17 by Parsi community following the Shahenshahi calendar which does not account for leap years,

37. Consider the following statement regarding **Boeing Eagle -II fighter**.

1. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is acquiring **114 multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA)** from the global market to relish the option of buying the highly capable **F-15EX Eagle-II, developed and built by the Boeing Company**.
2. The **Eagle-II is the world's fastest (Mach 2.5, or 3,100 kilometres per hour) and most heavily-armed (payload of 13.6 tonnes, or 30,000 pounds) fighter, with the longest strike range (1,200 nautical miles or 2,222 kilometres)**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is acquiring 114 multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) from the global market, will relish the option of buying the highly capable F-15EX Eagle-II, developed and built by The Boeing Company.

The Eagle-II is the world's fastest (Mach 2.5, or 3,100 kilometres per hour) and most heavily-armed (payload of 13.6 tonnes, or 30,000 pounds) fighter, with the longest strike range (1,200 nautical miles or 2,222 kilometres).

Boeing has obtained a mandatory licence from the US government for discussing an F-15 sale with India. The Eagle-II will be competing in the Indian MRCA tender against seven other types of combat aircraft. Of these, six were offered to the IAF by six original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in response to a 2007 tender for 126 fighters (six squadrons).

Boeing's Eagle-II fighter may join race for IAF contract

Move may result in the US aircraft manufacturer pulling out Super Hornet from MRCA contest; tender value could be \$15-20 billion

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 18 March

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is acquiring 114 multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) from the global market, will relish the option of buying the highly capable F-15EX Eagle-II, developed and built by The Boeing Company.

The Eagle-II is the world's fastest (Mach 2.5, or 3,100 kilometres per hour) and most heavily-armed (payload of 13.6 tonnes, or 30,000 pounds) fighter, with the longest strike range (1,200 nautical miles or 2,222 kilometres). It has scored 104 kills in air-to-air combat without suffering a single loss.

Boeing has obtained a mandatory licence from the US government for discussing an F-15 sale with India.

Pratyush Kumar, until recently Boeing's chief in India, now heads the F-15 Eagle-II programme in the US. During his tenure in New Delhi, Kumar was associated with the induction of multiple Boeing platforms into India's military, including the P-8I Poseidon maritime aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster III heavy-lift transporter, the Apache AH-64E attack helicopter and the Chinook CH-47F heavy-lift chopper.

When Kumar was transferred to Boeing's F-15 programme in Saint Louis, USA, his golden touch logged up the United States Air Force's (USAF's) purchase of 144 F-15EX Eagle-IIs. These will replace the venerable F-15C, which has, for decades, been the USAF's primary air dominance fighter.

Last year, the USAF took delivery of its first game-changing Eagle-IIs,

while Qatar received its first F-15QA Ababil fighters. Boeing also contracted with Japan to upgrade the Japan Air Self-Defence Force's legacy F-15J fighters to the F-15 Japan Super Interceptor (F-15JSI).

The club of existing F-15EX operators includes the US, Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and, most recently, Qatar.

Kumar describes the F-15 Eagle-II as "the ideal high-end fighter for the high-end fight".

This latest avatar of the F-15 is designed to deal with the world's most



'FIGHTER FOR HIGH-END FIGHT'

■ The F-15EX Eagle II is the world's fastest (Mach 2.5, or 3,100 kmph) and most heavily-armed (13.6 tonnes) fighter, with the longest strike range (2,222 km)

■ Boeing has obtained a mandatory licence from the

US government for discussing an F-15 sale with India

■ Pratyush Kumar, head of the F-15 Eagle II programme in the US, describes it as "the ideal high-end fighter for the high-end fight"

■ The club of existing F-15EX operators includes the US, Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and, most recently, Qatar

potent air threats that are emerging from China. These threats include hypersonic, re-targetable, long-range missiles; and advanced "early warning and control" (AW&C) aircraft that can observe low-flying fighters at longer

ranges. To deal with these threats, Boeing is equipping the Eagle-II with faster missiles that have longer ranges, faster processors for radars, better data-link capabilities and that can take more weapons into the fight. Turn to Page 3▶

38. Recently _____ has partnered with International Civil Aviation Organization to leverage off their complementary efforts for global aviation and labour to achieve the UN agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- International Labour Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- United Nations Children's Fund
- World Health Organization

Data collection and the promotion of the sustainable development benefits provided by aviation professions, particularly for women, are the focus of a new agreement signed by ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Under the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), ICAO and the ILO will work to leverage off their complementary efforts and policy coherence within their respective mandates for global aviation and labour, with the ultimate objective being more effective support to States now seeking to achieve the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Civil Aviation Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards. Founded in October 1919 Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

39. Recently _____ researchers have developed a **microwave machine called the "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)"; capable of jamming or destroying space satellites has an ability to produce a _____ - megawatt wave burst in the Ka-band.**

- A. Russia, 5 MW
- B. China, 5 MW**
- C. Ukraine, 2 MW
- D. France, 10 MW

Chinese researchers have developed a microwave machine called the "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)" that is capable of jamming or destroying space satellites.

The RKA has the ability to produce a 5-megawatt wave burst in the Ka-band.

The Ka-band is a part of the electromagnetic spectrum that can be used for both civilian and military purposes. The RKA's development has heightened fears that future fights could take place in space. RKA cannot shoot targets from the ground to the sky but it may be placed on satellites and used to strike enemy space locations. Although China denies that the RKA is a directed energy weapon (DEW).

Directed energy weapons (DEWs) use concentrated electromagnetic energy rather than kinetic energy to damage or destroy enemy equipment and/or personnel.

40. Recently **Prasar Bharati has signed a MoU with public service broadcaster of which of the following countries for co-operation in the field of broadcasting?**

- A. Australia
- B. Japan
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan

Prasar Bharati has signed a MoU with Australia's public service broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).

MoU has been signed to boost cooperation in the field of broadcasting.

The MoU will expand the reach of DD News, DD India and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia.

Through this MoU, Prasar Bharati and SBS will explore opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes.

They will also exchange professionals and organize training to share knowledge on programme production.

Prasar Bharati was formed in November 1997. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its CEO is Shashi Shekhar Vempati.

41. Consider the following statements regarding *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report on Arms*.

1. *India was world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21 with 11% of all international imports of weapons and military equipment during 2017-21.*
2. *World's three biggest exporters were US, Russia and France with their share in world's export of weapons and military equipment stood at 39%, 19% and 11%, respectively.*
3. *The report is titled as "Trends in international arms transfers-2021" based on report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Sweden-based think tank.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

India was world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21.

India accounted for 11% of all international imports of weapons and military equipment during 2017-21.

The next four largest importers were Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia, and China.

World's three biggest exporters were US, Russia and France. Their share in world's export of weapons and military equipment stood at 39%, 19% and 11%, respectively.

These data are based on report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Sweden-based think tank.

The report is titled as "Trends in international arms transfers-2021".

The report says Indian arms imports declined by 21%. Russia was the largest supplier of major arms to India in 2012-16 and 2017-21.

India's imports from Russia declined by 47% between the two periods (2012-16 and 2017-21). India's arm imports from Russia fell from 69% to 46%. France was the second largest supplier to India in 2017-21 with 27% of imports.

US were the third largest supplier in 2017-21 with 12% of the imports.

US and China account for half of military spending globally

10 countries with highest military expenditure - 2021 (\$ billion)



India is the biggest arms importer

10 countries with highest imports 2021(TIV)



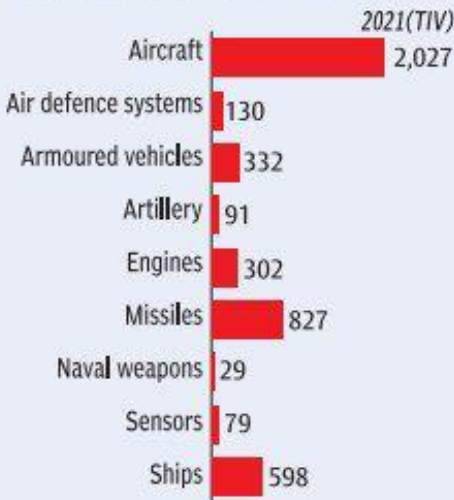
Most of India imports are from France and Russia

Top 5 countries from whom India imports arms 2021(TIV)



Aircraft are the top items of imports

Arms imports to India by weapons category 2021(TIV)



US companies dominate the list of top arms producers

Top 10 companies that manufacture arms, provide military services globally - 2020

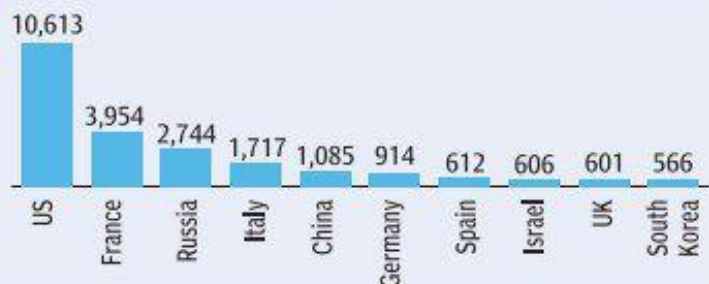
Rank	Companies	Arms sales (\$ billion)	Country
1	Lockheed Martin Corp.	58.21	US
2	Raytheon Technologies	36.78	US
3	Boeing	32.13	US
4	Northrop Grumman Corp.	30.42	US
5	General Dynamics Corp.	25.84	US
6	BAE Systems	24.02	UK
7	NORINCO	17.93	China
8	AVIC	16.98	China
9	CETC	14.61	China
10	L3Harris Technologies	14.19	US

India's arms producing and military services companies lack scale

Rank	Companies	Arms sales \$ billion	Country
42	Hindustan Aeronautics	2.97	India
60	Indian Ordnance Factories	1.9	India
66	Bharat Electronics	1.63	India

US, followed by France, leads in exports

10 countries with highest exports 2021(TIV)



Note: The SIPRI trend-indicator value (TIV) is used to measure trends in the flow of arms between particular countries and regions over time.

Banking / Economy News

42. Recently Dhan Laxmi Bank has approved the plan to augment the **Paid-up capital** for an aggregate amount of _____ to its eligible share-holders.

- A. Rs 150 Cr
- B. Rs 130 Cr**
- C. Rs 200 Cr
- D. Rs 250 Cr

The board of Kerala-based private lender Dhan Laxmi Bank on March 17 approved a rights issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 130 crore, aimed to augment its paid up capital.

"It is hereby informed that the Board of Directors at its meeting held on March 17, 2022, the total income of the third quarter came in at Rs 269.16 crore, which was 6.77 percent lower than the same period in the preceding fiscal year.

Dhan Laxmi Bank Ltd is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala.

Dhanlaxmi board clears raising of paid-up capital

KERALA-BASED DHANLAXMI BANK said in a regulatory filing on Thursday that the board has approved the plan to augment the paid-up capital issuing equity shares on a rights basis for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹130 crore (including premium) to eligible shareholders. Further details of the rights issue will be informed in due course, the bank said in the filing.

43. Recently _____ has **partnered with Ultra cash and NPCI** to launch first-of-its-kind voice based digital payment facility to book LPG cylinders.

- A. IOCL
- B. BPCL**
- C. HPCL
- D. ONGC

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has partnered with Ultra Cash Technologies Pvt Ltd to offer voice-based digital payment facility for BharatGas consumers for booking their LPG cylinders.

"Through this feature, the consumers who do not have smart phones or internet can book their cylinders and make the payment through 'UPI 123PAY' BPCL is the first company in India to offer its service to consumers after the RBI Governor announced the launch of UPI 123PAY last week. Ultra Cash is a mobile payment application developed by Ultra Cash Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and authorized by National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).

44. Recently **One Moto India** has partnered with _____ to provide motor insurance to its customers for three electric scooters - **Byka, Electa, and Commuta**.

- A. Edelweiss General Life Insurance
- B. Reliance General Insurance**
- C. HDFC ERGO General Life Insurance
- D. Kotak Mahindra Bank

Electric two-wheeler maker One Moto India on Thursday said it has partnered with Reliance General Insurance to provide motor insurance to its customers.

The company, which has launched three electric scooters -- Byka, Electa, and Commuta, Earlier this year, the company had announced plans to invest Rs 250 crore to set up a manufacturing unit in Telangana

Reliance General Insurance Company Limited is an Indian private insurance company and a part of Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, wholly owned through Reliance Capital.

45. Consider the following statements regarding **India's solar open access installations according to Mercom India**.

1. **India's solar open access installations witnessed a sharp growth during 2021 with the addition of 1.2 Giga-Watts (GW) of open access solar capacity during the year.**
2. **The country had installed 383 megawatt (MW) of open access solar capacity in 2020.**
3. **Uttar Pradesh topped in the installation of open access solar capacities in 202 followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India added 1.2 GW of new solar open access capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2021, marking a growth of 222% year-over-year (YoY), making it the second-best year for open access in the country, according to Mercom India Research's newly released report 'Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q4 & Annual 2021.'

As of December 2021, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market crossed 5 GW.

During CY 2021, Uttar Pradesh was the top state, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The top five states accounted for 80% of total installations during the year.

The country added 298 MW of new solar open access capacity in the fourth quarter (Q4) of CY 2021, a 75% increase compared to the same period in 2020.

46. As per the finance ministry, _____ will provide USD 1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. EXIM Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Reserve Bank of India

The finance ministry said the State Bank of India (SBI) will provide USD 1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items.

The ministry in a tweet said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa here. The ministers discussed wide-ranging issues, "Agreement was signed between SBI and Government of Sri Lanka for USD 1 billion credit facilities for procurement of food, medicine and other essential items to Sri Lanka

Earlier, the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) had extended a line of credit of USD 500 million for financing the purchase of petroleum products to Sri Lanka which is facing a financial crisis

IN BRIEF

SBI to provide \$1-bn credit line to Lanka to buy food



(Top) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (right) and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (left) met Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa in New Delhi on Thursday. (Below) Agreement signing between SBI and the Sri Lanka government for \$1-billion credit facility for procuring food, medicine and other essential items to Sri Lanka. The ministers discussed wide-ranging issues, a tweet from the finance ministry said. Earlier, the Export-Import Bank of India had extended a line of credit of \$500 million for financing the purchase of petroleum products to Sri Lanka. PTI

47. Consider the following statements regarding SEBI Rules on Alternative Investment Funds.

1. Category III AIFs can invest not more than 10 percent of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.
2. The large value funds for accredited investors of Category III AIFs can invest up to 20 per cent of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

SEBI has amended rules governing alternative investment funds.

The amended regulations concerning Category III AIFs came into effect from 16 March 2022.

Category III AIFs can invest not more than 10% of investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

Funds such as hedge funds, Private investment in public equity (PIPE) Funds, etc. are registered as Category III AIFs.

Large value funds for accredited investors of Category III AIFs can invest up to 20% of investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

Category III AIFs may compute an investment limit of 10% of either the investable funds or the scheme's net asset value for investment in the listed stock of an investee firm.

Large value funds for accredited investors of Category III AIFs may calculate investment limit of 20% of either the investable funds or the net asset value of the scheme.

48. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has partnered with _____ to build an ecosystem for the development of fintech companies to achieve India stated social objective of financial inclusion.

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

IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in establishing the ecosystem needed to support and expand fintech businesses in India. The two organizations will collaborate to give early-stage entrepreneurs with unique and disruptive ideas with incubation support and speed their scale-up journey.

Rajesh Bansal, CEO of RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)

49. According to the latest report Of M3M Hurun Global Rich List, with the addition of _____, Gautam Adani has ranked first in highest amount addition to his wealth over the last one year.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

- A. USD 49 Billion**
- B. USD 55 Billion**
- C. USD 60 Billion**
- D. USD 75 Billion**

Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in India and Asia: 2022 Hurun Global Rich List.

Hurun India has released the 2022's Global Rich List in association with realty firm M3M.

According to this report, Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in Asia and India. His wealth has increased by 24 percent.

Ambani is the only Indian to find a place in the Top 10 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List. He has also got the 'Richest Telecom Entrepreneur' title.

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is on 12th position. He got the 'Richest Energy Entrepreneur' title.

Shiv Nadar has got the 46th position in the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List. He is the third richest software and services billionaire in the world. Serum Institute of India founder Cyrus S Poonawalla has got the 'Richest Healthcare Billionaire' title in the world. His wealth has increased by 41 percent as compared to the previous year.

Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar with a net worth of \$7.6 billion found a new place in the billionaire's list. According to the Hurun India report, a total of 153 new billionaires have been added to the list this year. The 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List ranked 3,381 billionaires from 69 countries.

Last year, 2,071 billionaire's wealth has increased while 942 billionaire's wealth has decreased.

50. Recently **Formula 1** and _____ has partnered for multi-year strategic collaboration for end-to-end management of **Network Service for video contribution globally**.

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Tata Communications**
- C. Bharti Airtel
- D. VI

Formula 1 and Tata Communications have jointly announced a multi-year strategic collaboration for end-to-end managed network services for video contribution globally. With this deal, Tata Communications will return to sports as the official broadcast connectivity provider for Formula 1.

Under the deal, Tata Communications will facilitate the transfer of over 100 video feeds and over 250 audio channels to be transmitted between the Grand Prix venue and F1's Media and Technology Centre in the UK every race weekend in under 200 milliseconds.

Formula 1, Tata Comm in strategic collaboration

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Formula 1 and Tata Communications on Wednesday jointly announced a multi-year strategic collaboration for end-to-end managed network services for video contribution globally.

With this deal, Tata Communications will return to sports as the official broadcast connectivity provider for Formula 1. "We are delighted to welcome Tata Communications back as a partner following previous successes in our partnerships.

"They have been an integral part of our growth journey over the last decade, and we completely trust their expertise and abilities to deliver what we need for our fans," Formula 1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali said in a statement.

Under the deal, Tata Communications will facilitate the transfer of over 100 video feeds and over 250 audio channels to be transmitted between the Grand Prix venue and F1's Media and Technology Centre in the UK every race weekend in under 200 milliseconds. This will enable F1 to broadcast to over 500 million fans in over 180 territories globally.

"As businesses evolve to a digital-first model, I believe the sporting world also has a great opportunity to leverage technology for delivering innovative and exhilarating experiences to motorsports enthusiasts.

"And, Formula 1 is at the core of all things speed, action and thrill. We are delighted to renew our relationship," Tata Communications MD and CEO Anurag Lakshminarayanan said.

51. Recently **Direct tax collections** surged by **48.4** percent year-on-year to _____ crore in FY22 (till March 16) showing strong economic recovery and rebound in job markets.

- A. Rs 13.63 Lakh Crore**
- B. Rs 13.56 Lakh Crore
- C. Rs 14.81 Lakh Crore
- D. Rs 1585 Lakh Crore

Direct tax mop-up beats estimate at ₹13.6 trillion

Up more than ₹1 trn over RE for FY22, to help govt rein in fiscal deficit at 6.9%

INDIVIAL DHASMANA
New Delhi, 17 March

The government has collected from direct taxes over ₹1 trillion more than what had been projected in the Revised Estimates for 2021-22 even as about a fortnight is left for the fiscal year to be over.

This collection, a sign of economic recovery and better tax administration, will give the government some buffer in the face of rising expenditure due to the Russia-Ukraine war and an expected shortfall in disinvestment receipts.

The government collected about ₹13.6 trillion from direct taxes after paying refunds till March 16 against ₹12.50 trillion projected in the RE. It paid ₹1.87 trillion as refund.

Direct tax receipts were 48.41 per cent higher than the ₹9.18 trillion mopped up in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. These grew by 42.50 per cent over the ₹9.56 trillion collected during the corresponding period of 2019-20, which was before the pandemic.

However, if one compares these figures with ₹10.09 trillion during the corresponding period of 2018-19, growth would be 34.96 per cent.

From advance tax came ₹6.63 trillion, which represented a growth rate of about 40.75 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Collection comprised ₹7.19 trillion from corporation tax and ₹6.40 trillion from personal income tax. This means the government has collected about ₹84,000 crore more from corporation tax than the ₹6.35 trillion pegged in the RE for 2021-22.

TAX BOOST



- 48.41%**
Increase in direct tax collection YoY
- 42.5%**
Jump over corresponding pre-Covid period
- 40.75%**
Rise in advance tax collection, which stood at ₹6.63 trillion as of March 16, 2022

It mopped up around ₹25,000 crore more from personal income tax than the ₹6.15 trillion projected in the RE.

It should be noted that much of the collection from personal income tax comes by late March. As such, the direct tax kitty may get a further boost, which would help the government rein in its deficit at 6.9 per cent of GDP despite dwindling disinvestment receipts due to putting off the initial public offering of the Life Insurance Corporation to the next fiscal year and rising expenditure.

Of the ₹78,000 crore budgeted from disinvestment in the RE, only ₹12,424

crore has been realised. The RE itself was lowered from the BE of ₹1.75 trillion. Also the government will spend a bit more than ₹1 trillion over the RE due to a bigger fertiliser subsidy bill.

"We had expected direct tax collection to exceed the RE by about ₹50,000 crore. The numbers released on Thursday are higher than that. This will help absorb the third supplementary demand in terms of higher expenditure," ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said.

It should be noted here that 41 per cent of this revenue (excluding cess) will go to the state's exchequer. Turn to Page 3 ▶

52. Recently which of the following banks has signed a **MoU with Business France** to support companies in the Indo French Corridor?

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Bank of Baroda

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) today announced that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Business France, the French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor and promote business and the start-up ecosystem in India and France.

First bank in India to tie-up with Business France for promoting business & start-up ecosystem in India & France

Kotak Mahindra Bank will be amongst Business France's privileged Indian banking partner for French companies.

Business France will accompany Kotak Mahindra Bank's Indian clients in their entry in France.

53. Recently **Abhi Bus** has entered a master service agreement with which of the following state's road transport corporation to set-up, design, configure and maintain a '**Unified Ticketing Solution**' (UTS) on the Cloud Platform?

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

Ixigo, through its Abhi Bus brand, has entered a master service agreement with Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) to set-up, design, configure and maintain a 'Unified Ticketing Solution' (UTS) on the Cloud Platform of APSRTC. The comprehensive ticket booking system will aid APSRTC to bring all aspects of ticketing, reservation, tracking, and complaints about its intra-city and inter-city buses under one umbrella for greater commuter convenience.

The new 'Unified Ticketing Solution' (UTS) will include unified cashless payments, advance online ticket booking, online bus passes, online courier and parcel booking, Mr. Alope Bajpai, Group CEO & Co-Founder of Ixigo,,

54. Recently Amazon has closed its deal to buy the film studio Metro Goldwyn Mayer with an amount of _____, the Company's biggest takeover in last five years.

- A. USD 9.5 Bn
- B. USD 8.5 Bn**
- C. USD 12.5 Bn
- D. USD 11.6 Bn

Amazon.com Inc. said it closed the \$8.5 billion acquisition of film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer after regulators declined to challenge the deal, cementing the company's biggest takeover in five years

European Union regulators signed off on the MGM deal Tuesday after finding it posed no competition problems.

The takeover is Amazon's biggest acquisition since it agreed to buy Whole Foods in 2017 for \$13.7 billion. In 2020 and 2021, alone, Amazon spent a combined \$24 billion on video and music for its streaming services.

55. Recently which of the following banks has launch an application "Auto-first" to offer fully automated auto loans and through its pilot phase "Smart hub Vyapar" programmes?

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

'Small' is big business for India's most valuable bank. After the regulator eased all curbs, HDFC Bank has decided to create a dedicated app for mom-and-pop stores to push merchant loans.

The bank now clocks at least ₹1,000 crore in merchant loans every month and is looking to triple the run rate. HDFC Bank will also launch an application 'Auto first' that will offer fully automated auto loans.

Already in its pilot phase, the Smart Hub Vyapar programme for merchants will be launched soon. It is an app that bundles all payment platforms - cards, UPI, QR

AFTER CREDIT CARD BAN LIFTED...

HDFC Bank to Give a Digital Push to Small Business Loans

To launch app for merchant loans; looks to triple monthly run-rate of ₹1,000 cr

Satoni.Shukla@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: 'Small' is big business for India's most valuable bank. After the regulator eased all curbs, HDFC Bank has decided to create a dedicated app for mom-and-pop stores to push merchant loans.

The bank now clocks at least ₹1,000 crore in merchant loans every month and is looking to triple the run rate. HDFC Bank will also launch an application 'AutoFirst' that will offer fully automated auto loans. "We don't want to wait for the most perfect product to launch, we will put together a minimum viable product and upgrade the offerings," said Parag Rao, country head payments, HDFC Bank, in an interview with ET.

Already in its pilot phase, the SmartHub Vyapar programme for merchants will be launched soon. It is an app that bundles all payment platforms — cards, UPI, QR code, tap pay and SMS-based payments.

"We are doing fund flow-based underwriting so that inside the app itself, merchants will have access to the quantum of loan eligibility," Rao said. "The merchant can avail of working capital or short-term loans, a business card

or loan on the business card." The bank has onboarded over 2.7 million merchants and is acquiring 100 thousand merchants every month. HDFC Bank has plans to onboard 20 million merchants in three years. More than half of the newly onboarded merchants only operate through the app platform.

The bank also will launch a dedicated platform for vehicle loan customers. "We have done a forward and backward integration to influence the thought process of buying an automobile, giving a larger array of choices," Rao said.

The bank has also set up a digital customer hub that aims to give an omnichannel experience. This hub would offer customised services and responses to customer queries and complaints.

ET had recently reported that the bank will enhance its mobile and other apps, such as Payzapp and Smartbuy platforms, and soon launch a digital credit card.

The banking regulator recently lifted all the restrictions on HDFC Bank's digital business generating activities 15 months after the curbs were imposed. HDFC Bank, which issues more than 200,000 credit cards a month, was directed by the RBI in December 2020 to stop issuing fresh cards until it had sorted out its tech problems. The bank also couldn't launch any new digital initiatives. In August, the RBI had partially lifted restrictions, allowing it to resume issuing credit cards.

56. Recently State Bank of India has lined up _____ Non Performing Assets (NPA) account on sale to recover loan dues of over _____ Crore.

- A. 12, Rs 820 Cr**

- B. 15, Rs 50,000 Cr
- C. 13, Rs 82,495 Cr
- D. 14, Rs 1,000 Cr

The country's largest lender SBI has lined up a dozen non-performing assets (NPAs) on sale to recover loan dues of over Rs 820 crore, as per the bank's notifications.

SBI said the NPA account will be sold on a cash/cash-cum-SR ratio of 50:50.

SBI lines up 12 NPAs for sale to ARCs

India's largest lender SBI has lined up a dozen non-performing assets (NPAs) on sale to recover loan dues of over ₹820 crore, as per the bank's notifications.

In terms of the bank's policy on sale of financial assets, in line with the regulatory guidelines, SBI said that it has placed these accounts for sale to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)/banks/non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)/financial institutions (FIs), on the terms and conditions indicated there against. In various notices on its website, State Bank of India (SBI) has put up a total of 12 bad assets for sale during this month to 13 April. NPA account Topworth Urja & Metals Ltd, with a loan outstanding of ₹396.74 crore is to be sold in an e-auction to be held on 29 March. With reserve price fixed at ₹85 crore, SBI said that the NPA account will be sold on a cash/cash-cum-SR ratio of 50:50. PTI

57. Recently _____ announced its *partnership with Cisco*, to enable infrastructure Modernisation of optical transport networks offerings?

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. **Tech Mahindra**
- C. Bharti Airtel
- D. BSNL

Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting, and business re-engineering services and solutions, has announced today that it has collaborated with Cisco; the worldwide leader in technology that powers the Internet, to drive the infrastructure modernization of optical transport networks with the introduction of Cisco routed optical networking.

Tech Mahindra offers innovative and customer-centric digital experiences, enabling enterprises, associates, and society to rise

Tech Mahindra pact with Cisco for optical networking

TECH MAHINDRA HAS joined hands with American tech firm Cisco to drive the infrastructure modernisation of optical transport networks with the introduction of Cisco routed optical networking. Tech Mahindra's vast experience in building IP based, end-to-end 5G networks combined with Cisco's Routed Optical Networking solution, will enable an end-to-end value proposition for service providers, reducing the complexity in their networks. Manish Mangal, Global Head of Business and 5G and Network Services, Tech Mahindra, said, "5G connectivity, network intelligence, and edge computing are unleashing a whole new world of opportunities such as the delivery of immersive experience using Metaverse, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), among others. Through this collaboration with Cisco, Tech Mahindra will make Routed Optical Networking solutions smarter, simpler, and easy to deploy and operate for service providers."

58. Recently **Tata Group** announced a super app called _____, a one-stop portal, offers hotel bookings, electronics and grocery shopping and e-pharmacy, among others set to launch in early 2022.

- A. **Tatasup**
- B. **TataNeu**
- C. **TataCop**
- D. **Teashop**

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd., has given senior employees a sneak peek at the Tata super app ahead of its pilot run among 7 lakh employees of India's largest conglomerate,

Called TataNeu, the Tata super app will upon launch become a one-stop destination for all online services of the salt-to-software group

Tata super app loyalty play awaits Apr launch

TataNeu will offer multi-category loyalty programme

SHIVANI SHINDE
Mumbai, 20 March

TataNeu, the super app from the Tata group, is to be launched on April 7, said sources in the know, although it will be invitation-only to begin with.

"A few weeks back, the super app was opened to non-Tata employees for the first time. Every Tata employee was allowed to invite five people they know to access the app and the response has been phenomenal," said one source in the know.

The biggest novelty for consumers is that they will enjoy, for the first time, a multi-category loyalty programme that will work across the categories that TataNeu has on its platform.

The rewards, called 'NeuCoins', allow users to shop for different products and services so, for example, if they buy an electronic item and win points, they can redeem them to buy anything from a stay at any of the group's hotels to medicines from IMG and groceries from BigBasket.

"So far, no other e-commerce players allow such a multi-category loyalty programme," said another source. "Moreover, these reward points will have almost perpetual validity.

IT'S REWARDING

- Loyalty rewards, called NeuCoins, will allow users to shop for products and services from different categories
- TataNeu will also provide a platform for all utility payments
- It will provide financial services like EMIs and personal loans
- IPL will be the biggest platform ever used for a super app launch



Turn to Page 6 ▶

Torrent Power buys 51% equity in Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu power discom

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 16

AS PART OF the central government's drive to privatise Union Territory discoms, Torrent Power on Wednesday said it has signed a share purchase agreement and shareholders' agreement to buy a 51% equity stake in the power discom of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The power discom is incorporated as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under the holding company Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The SPV will hold the distribution license for the retail

supply of electricity in the Union Territory (UT), Torrent said in a statement.

The central government's decision to privatise the UT discoms for higher efficiency in operations and reduction in the financial losses has invited many legal challenges and public interest litigations.

In November 2021, the Union cabinet approved the formation of an SPV to privatise the distribution business of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and the sale of equity of the new company to the highest bidder.

Torrent Power on February 8, said, it got the letter of

intent to acquire a 51% equity stake in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu power discom.

The company expects the acquisition to significantly strengthen its position as the leading electricity distribution company in the country.

Torrent Power has its presence in 12 cities spread across three states and one UT.

With the addition of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the company will distribute nearly 24 billion units of electricity per annum to over 3.85 million customers and cater for a peak demand of over 5,000 MW, it said.

59. Recently **Torrent Power Limited** has entered into a **Share Purchase Agreement (SPA)** with _____ for purchase of _____ percent equity share capital of the SPV from the Holding Entity.

- A. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited , 49 %**
- B. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited , 100 %**
- C. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited , 74 %**
- D. **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited , 51 %**

Torrent Power Limited has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and Shareholders Agreement (SHA) with Hon'ble Administrator of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Holding Entity) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (the SPV) for purchase of 51% Equity Share Capital of the SPV from the Holding Entity.

The SPV will be responsible for distribution and retail supply of electricity and holds distribution license in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNH & DD). This

60. Recently _____ has been selected by Singapore Exchange (SGX) to power the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect (Gift Connect) and to connect with NSE IFSC for trade execution and clearing of Nifty products on beh

- A. Snap Inc
- B. TCS BaNCS
- C. Reliance Jio
- D. Bharti Airtel

TCS to power NSE IFSC-SGX Connect

BS REPORTER
Mumbai, 16 March

The NSE IFSC-SGX Connect at GIFT City IFSC will be powered by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). The first phase of the proposed initiative between the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Singapore Exchange (SGX) will go live in April, while it will become fully operational in another 3-4 months.

"TCS BaNCS has been selected by SGX to power the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect, its program to connect to NSE IFSC for trade execution and clearing of Nifty products on behalf of its members in

Singapore and globally," TCS said in a release. Nifty derivatives contracts are one of the most-traded at SGX.

Once the GIFT Connect gets operational, SGX investors dealing in Nifty contracts will have to carry out their investment at the NSE IFSC. "SGX will be pioneering the creation of a new trading infrastructure in GIFT City, that paves the way for trading of globally popular products, such as the Nifty Futures through the NSE IFSC platform. This innovative link will bring Singapore and India's capital markets together by providing seamless and efficient access for international

participants seeking to trade in NSE IFSC," said Tinku Gupta, senior MD and chief technology officer, SGX.

More than 40 per cent of trades in India run through the TCS BaNCS Trading solution. "We are pleased to partner with SGX in its strategic Gift Connect programme and bring our unique combination of Indian market knowhow, global practices, agility and our high-performance solution to support its growth plans in India, while bringing in new capital flows from across the world," said R Vivekanand, global head, BFSI Platforms and Products, TCS.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced that TCS BaNCS™ has been selected by Singapore Exchange (SGX) to power the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect (Gift Connect), its program to connect to NSE IFSC, a fully owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), for trade execution and clearing of Nifty products on behalf of its members in Singapore and globally.

SGX has set up SGX India Connect IFSC Private Limited, a special purpose vehicle at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City), a special economic zone in Gandhinagar, India.

Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses in their transformation journeys for over 50 years.

61. Recently the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and _____ have partnered to foster digital empowerment of women in India through an initiative called 'Project Kirana'.

- A. Visa
- B. Mastercard**
- C. RuPay
- D. NIRA

US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard have partnered to foster digital empowerment of women in India through an initiative called 'Project Kirana'.

Project Kirana is a business development and digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs that aims to increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion, and enable the adoption of digital payments and other digital tools by women-owned-and-operated Kirana shops.

The two-year programme, implemented by DAI and ACCESS Development Services, is working in select cities of Uttar Pradesh; The United States Agency for International Development is an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

62. Recently _____ has bagged the "Best MSME Bank of the year – Winner" award among private sector Banks at the 8th MSMEs Excellence Awards by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi.

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. Axis Bank
- C. Karnataka Bank**
- D. Bank of Baroda

Karnataka Bank has received ASSOCHAM award at the 8th 'MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit' in New Delhi.

The bank has received the 'Best MSME Bank of the year - Winner' award among the private banks.

Gopala Krishna Samaga B, DGM (Credit Marketing Department) of Karnataka Bank, has received the award on behalf of the bank from Narayan T Rane, Union MSME Minister.

Karnataka Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangalore, Karnataka. It is a private sector bank.

63. Recently **Reliance Retail** has acquired a stake of _____ in **direct-to-consumer brand Clovia** for _____ **Crore** as the largest Indian retail chain looks to expand its footprints in the apparel and innerwear categories.

- A. 73 % , 660 Cr
- B. 75 % , 780 Cr
- C. 89 % , 950 Cr
- D. 94 % , 815 Cr

In a major acquisition, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd has bought a majority stake in women's intimate wear brand Clovia for an amount of Rs 950 crore

Through this partnership, we will benefit from Reliance's scale and retail expertise, extending the presence of the brand and bring together stronger value proposition through world-class quality

Reliance Retail is listed among the fastest growing retailers in the world by Deloitte's Global Powers of Retailing 2021 index. It is ranked 53rd in the list of top global retailers and is the only Indian retailer to

feature in the top 100

Reliance Retail buys 89% stake in Clovia for ₹950 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

RELIANCE RETAIL Ventures Limited (RRVL) has acquired 89 per cent equity stake in Purple Panda Fashions Pvt Ltd, which owns and operates the Clovia business, with an investment of Rs 950 crore through a combination of secondary stake purchase and primary investment.

The founding team and management will own the balance stake in the company, RRVL said. With this acquisition, RRVL will further strengthen its portfolio in the innerwear segment, having already acquired Zivame and Amante brands, RRVL said.

"Launched in 2013 by Pankaj Vermani, Neha Kant & Suman Choudhary, Clovia is India's leading bridge-to-premium D2C brand democratizing aspirational innerwear and loungewear for millennial

FOUNDING TEAM, MANAGEMENT

■ The founding team and management will own the balance stake in the company, RRVL said. With this acquisition, RRVL will further strengthen its portfolio in the innerwear segment, having already acquired Zivame and Amante brands, RRVL said

women," RRVL said.

It commands a strong customer following in the intimate wear space and is known for its design led fresh styles and sharply-priced offerings to customers. Clovia's offerings include over 3,500 product styles, RRVL said.

64. Recently _____ has entered into a tripartite MoU with Eker Group of Norway and Vaanmoto to explore opportunities in the field of manufacturing speed boats.

- A. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- B. Goa Shipyard Limited
- C. GRSE
- D. Cochin Shipyard Limited

Hindustan Shipyard Restricted (HSL) has entered right into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eker Group of Norway and Vaanmoto to discover alternatives within the subject of producing velocity boats.

Eker is a reputed Norwegian firm which designs, constructs and sells ferries, leisure boats {and professional} boats, particularly appropriate for defence and regulation enforcement.

Vaanmoto is an Indian non-public restricted startup concerned within the manufacture of components and equipment for motor automobiles that features engines, brakes, gearboxes, axles, wheels and suspension.

65. Recently _____ has set up a **shared service centre (SSC)**, a digital initiative which synergizes invoice processing for vendor invoice management in collaboration with **IBM Consulting**.

- A. IOCL
- B. NTPC
- C. HPCL
- D. BPCL

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Indian Oil) has launched its shared service centre (SSC) for vendor invoice management in collaboration with IBM Consulting.

Indian Oil shared service centre is a digital initiative which synergizes invoice processing from a centralized office based in Noida (Delhi NCR). The centre will be staffed by employees from both Indian Oil Corporation and IBM Consulting's Business Process Operations and is equipped to process over 1.5 million invoices annually.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, chairman, Indian Oil John Granger, senior vice president, IBM C

66. Recently which of the following **partnered with Nature's Basket** to launch the first-of-its-kind credit card, '**Nature's Basket Card**'?

- A. SBI Card
- B. Bank of Baroda
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Bank of India

SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has inked partnership with Nature's Basket, India's leading premium grocery store brand, to launch 'Nature's Basket SBI Card'.

Thoughtfully crafted to cater to the fast-evolving gourmet taste of premium consumers, the first-of-its-kind 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' will address their unique lifestyle related spend needs, including grocery and gourmet.

The card will be introduced in two variants – 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' and 'Nature's Basket SBI Card Elite' to enable cardholders to derive maximum value from their spends at Nature's Basket stores along with other key spend categories such as international travel, dining, and entertainment.

Rama Mohan Rao Amara, MD & CEO, SBI Card

67. Recently **Arcelor Mittal** has announced its partnership with **Greenko Group**, wherein **Arcelor Mittal** will invest _____ to own and fund round-the-clock 975 megawatt (MW) renewable energy project in _____.

- A. USD 500 Million , Jharkhand
- B. USD 600 Million , Andhra Pradesh**
- C. USD 700 Million , Odisha
- D. USD 800 Million , Tamil Nadu

Global steel major Arcelor Mittal on Tuesday announced that it has entered a strategic tie-up with Greenko Group for developing a round-the-clock renewable energy project.

The renewable energy project will have a nominal capacity of 975 Mw. The project, which worth \$600 million, will combine solar and wind power and be supported by Greenko's hydro pumped storage project. This will help to overcome the challenges due to intermittent nature of wind and solar power generation Arcelor Mittal will own the project and will fund it, while Greenko will design, construct, and operate the renewable energy facilities in Andhra Pradesh. The project is expected to be commissioned by mid-2024.

Aditya Mittal, CEO, Arcelor Mittal,

68. Consider the following statements regarding the **Global House Price Index Q4 2021**, 'Knight Frank'.

1. **India ranks 51st in annual appreciation of housing prices with a 2.1 percent rise in rates during the October-December quarter of 2021.**
2. **Turkey witnessed the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 percent in the year to Q4 2021, followed by New Zealand (22.6 percent), Czech Republic (22.1 percent), Slovakia (22.1 percent) and Australia (21.8 percent).**

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

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

India home prices rise 2.1% in Oct-Dec 2021: Knight Frank

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 22

INDIA CLIMBED UP five spots in the global home price index to rank 51 in the October-December 2021 quarter, against rank 56 in the same period a year ago. The price increase of 2.1% year-on-year in the fourth quarter makes it the best quarter in the year 2021. The findings are part of Knight Frank's latest research report, Global House Price Index – Q4 2021.

With respect to quarterly changes, January-March 2021 and April-June 2021 witnessed a decline of 1.6% and 0.5%, respectively. The third and fourth quarters of the last calendar year have been positive towards the residential price change, witnessing a growth of 0.1% and 2.1% respectively.

The Global House Price Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide using official statistics. The index tracks nominal and real price growth in local currencies.

Change in residential price across top 8 Indian markets

YoY% change	Mumbai	Delhi	Bengaluru	Pune	Chennai	Hyderabad	Kolkata	Ahmedabad
Q1 2021	-3.1	0.9	-1.2	-3.1	-1.7	1.3	-3.8	-1.8
Q2 2021	-2.0	0.5	-1.2	-1.5	-2.0	1.0	3.5	0.3
Q3 2021	-1.8	-0.7	-0.2	-1.5	2.2	2.5	1.5	0.4
Q4 2021	1.4	-1.3	4.4	-0.4	6.7	4.7	0.1	-0.2

Source: Knight Frank Research



The rankings on the price movement have been accounted basis the nominal price growth change. The average annual price change across 56 countries and territories was recorded at 10.3%. Turkey

witnessed the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6% in the year to Q4 2021 to nominal terms, whereas Malaysia, Malta and Morocco markets recorded a decline in prices by 0.7%,

3.1% and 6.3%, respectively, in the year 2021.

According to the report, the 10 markets that have witnessed the strongest increase in house prices since the start of the pandemic are largely developed markets where governments stepped in to support economies, and in some cases, housing markets via mortgage holidays or subsidy programmes

Commenting on the findings, Shishir Baijal, chairman & MD, Knight Frank India, said, "Influenced positively by the pandemic, the recovery in house price is a global phenomenon, which was supported by government policy measures and cost inflation in many overseas markets. In the case of India, nominal prices have registered a marginal growth, bucking the negative trend experienced in previous quarters, indicating a similar trend of growth in demand. With renewed enthusiasm of consumers towards home ownership, competitive house prices and low home loan interest rate, we expect the market momentum to continue."

India ranked 51st in annual appreciation in housing prices with a 2.1 percent rise in rates during the October-December quarter of the last year.

In its latest research report titled 'Global House Price Index - Q4 2021,' Knight Frank said that India has climbed up five spots to the 51st rank in Q4 of 2021 against the 56th rank in Q4 of 2020.

Turkey witnessed the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 per cent in the year to Q4 2021, followed by New Zealand (22.6 per cent), Czech Republic (22.1 per cent), Slovakia (22.1 per cent) and Australia (21.8 per cent)

69. Recently _____ bank has announced its *sponsorship with Procam International and its four global distance running events, the associate sponsor of "Tata Mumbai Marathon", Tata Consultancy Services TCS World 10K Bengaluru?*

- a. ICICI Bank
- b. IDFC First Bank**
- c. State Bank of India
- d. Bank of Baroda

IDFC FIRST Bank today announced its inaugural sponsorship of participative sports with Procam International and its four global distance running events as the Associate Sponsor – Tata Mumbai Marathon, Tata Consultancy Services TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Delhi Half Marathon, Tata Steel Kolkata 25K and a partner to Sun feast India Move as One.

For the next five years, the technology-led bank will cement its association with the races that have ushered in a running revolution and helped redefine the health, fitness, and giving paradigm of our country.

V Vaidyanathan, MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST Bank IDFC FIRST Bank was the first universal bank to introduce monthly interest credits to customers on savings accounts, low dynamic APR and lifetime free credit cards.

70. Recently Bank of India has invested _____ crore in *National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), which is around _____ stake.*

- A. Rs 272 Cr, 5 %
- B. Rs 137.5 Cr, 7 %
- C. Rs 109 Cr, 9 %**
- D. Rs 234.91 Cr, 11 %

Bank of India (BoI) on Monday said it has invested nearly Rs 109 crore in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL). "Bank has invested Rs 108.81 crore in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), under preferential share issue,"

The bank's shareholding in NARCL will come to 9 percent as on March 21, 2022.

Bank of India invests nearly ₹109 cr in NARCL

BANK OF INDIA (BoI) on Monday said it has invested nearly ₹109 crore in the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). The bank's shareholding in NARCL will come to 9% as on March 21, 2022. Shares of BoI closed at ₹47.50 apiece on BSE, down by 1.14% from previous close.

71. Recently **Bharti Enterprise backed OneWeb** has signed MoU with _____ to resume Satellite launches across the world by the end of 2022.

- A. Hughes Network
- B. Reliance Broadband
- C. Blue Origin
- D. SpaceX

Bharti Group-backed OneWeb has entered into a global agreement with Elon Musk's aerospace company, SpaceX, to resume launching its low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites.

The first launch with SpaceX is anticipated in 2022 and will add to One Web's total in-orbit constellation that now stands at 428 satellites, or 66% of the (targeted 648-strong) fleet

OneWeb -- co-owned by India's Bharti Group and the UK government -- had recently suspended LEO satellite launches from a key cosmodrome in Kazakhstan

72. Recently _____ has launched "Payment Analytics", a data analysis feature for online and offline Merchants to provide them data driven payment insights?

- A. PhonePe
- B. Paytm
- C. State Bank of India

D. Bank of Maharashtra

Digital payments and financial services company One97 Communications Limited, which owns the brand Paytm, has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Payments Services Limited, is enabling merchants with data-driven payment insights to help them understand their customers and their payment preferences, according to a release.

Paytm Payment Gateway has launched a first-of-its-kind service called 'Payment Analytics', a data analysis feature for online and offline merchants. This is available to all Paytm merchants at no extra cost

Praveen Sharma, CEO, Paytm Payments Services Limited

Paytm launches 'Payment Analytics'

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 21

Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications, has launched 'Payment Analytics', a data analysis feature for online and offline merchants.

The service, which is available to all Paytm merchants at no extra cost, will provide them with data-driven payment insights to help understand customers and payment preferences.

'Industry-first move'

Praveen Sharma, CEO, PPSL, said: "The launch of Payment Analytics is yet another industry-first move, aligned with our vision of helping merchant partners and entrepreneurs simplify their businesses, and understand their target audience to offer them the best of services. This will help business owners to devise improved marketing strategies to scale up faster."

73. Recently _____ has launched a **Gaming app portal in partnership with Nazara Technologies Limited?**

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Vodafone Idea
- D. BSNL

Telecom major Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), on Monday, announced the launch of 'Vi Games' on the Vi App, in partnership with the homegrown gaming and sports media company Nazara Technologies Limited, for gaming enthusiasts in India.

Gaming is among one of the biggest segments in the entertainment category and is estimated to cross 500 million users within 2022 in the country. The gaming segment is also the most popular choice for fun and relaxation by Indian consumers and is expected to garner even higher share and money spent by users over the next few years.

Voda Idea ties up with Nazara Tech for gaming portal

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 14

Vodafone Idea has launched a gaming portal Vi Games on Vi App in partnership with Nazara Technologies Limited, a diversified gaming and sports media company.

Vi Games offers 1,200+ android and HTML5-based mobile games across 10 popular genres such as action, adventure, arcade, casual, education, fun, puzzle, racing, sports and strategy.

"Through this deep-integrated association, Vi customers will get access to a wide range of gaming content, including popular game titles from various franchises in India, on its gaming platform - Vi Games," said a press note.

74. Recently _____ has built and commissioned India's Largest Wastewater Treatment plant with an A20 technology in _____.

- A. IOCL, Andhra Pradesh
- B. SPIC, Tamil Nadu
- C. L&T, Delhi
- D. Saint Govind, Maharashtra

Larsen and Toubro, the technology, manufacturing, engineering and construction conglomerate has successfully built and commissioned the country's largest Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with A20 technology at Coronation Pillar in Delhi by collaborating with the government of India and government of Delhi. This defining infrastructure reaffirms the company's capability to design, develop and maintain wastewater infrastructure.

Financed by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, the government of India, and the Delhi Jal Board, the 318 MLD, state-of-the-art plant, constructed in a joint venture with Passavant Energy and Environment GmbH, will treat 10 percent of Delhi's sewage and is a significant step towards cleaning the Yamuna.

75. Recently _____ has reported the fraud to RBI in the non-performing asset (NPA) account of IL&FSTNPL after examination of forensic audit report by Grant Thornton India of 2060 Cr.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Indian Overseas Bank

₹2,060-cr borrowal fraud has been reported by PNB in NPA account of IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company Ltd (IL&FSTNPL).

PNB has reported the fraud to RBI in the non-performing asset (NPA) account of IL&FSTNPL after examination of forensic audit report by Grant Thornton India.

As per RBI's prudential norms, PNB has already made a provision of ₹824 crore.

State Bank of India, Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank has also taken fraud declaration action on the account of the company.

IL&FSTNPL was set up by IL&FS Energy Development Company, which is a subsidiary of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS).

76. Recently _____ has announced to establish an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Indian Overseas Bank

SBI will establish an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad.

IIAC will build in-house capability to bolster State Bank of India's current performance.

It will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.

IIAC will act as a central body to govern and drive fin-tech partnerships and implement change across the bank.

State Bank of India: It is a nationalized public sector bank and the largest lender of India.

It is headquartered in Mumbai. Its tagline is The Banker to Every Indian. Its chairman is Dinesh Kumar Khara

77. Recently _____ bank has won the National Award for outstanding performance for the FY21 in Self Help Group Bank Linkage.

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

J&K Bank won National award for outstanding performance for the financial year 2020-21.

The bank has won the award for its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage.

Union Minister for Rural development Giriraj Singh gave the award to the Delhi Zonal Head of the bank during an event held to celebrate International Women's Day (8 March 2022).

J&K Bank is a scheduled commercial bank with headquarters in Srinagar.

It is one of the oldest private sector banks in India. It was started in 1938.

78. Consider the following statements regarding the top-250 global retailer's list, according to global consulting firm Deloitte.

1. Reliance Retail is the second fastest-growing retailer in the world while South Korean e-commerce brand Coupang topped the list.

2. **Ranked at 56 overall, Reliance Retail posted a five-year CAGR growth in retail revenue of 49.4% from FY15-20.**

3. **American retail giant Walmart has retained its position as the world's top retailer with Amazon and Costco placed at the number second and third spots.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

A. Only 1 & 3

B. Only 2 & 3

C. Only 2

D. All of the above

Reliance Retail has secured the second position in the list of Fastest 50 retailers, according to the latest Deloitte report Global Powers of Retailing 2022. This is the company's win 5th time in a row.

The Top 250 global retailers generated an aggregated revenue of US\$5.11 trillion in FY2020, *representing a composite growth of 5.2 percent.

Despite the pandemic-induced lockdowns, Reliance Retail was the second-fastest growing retailer, posting a five-year CAGR growth in retail revenue of 49.4 percent from FY2015-20. The firm ranked 56th on the Top 250 list, despite the restrictions/lockdown of store operations, which led to a 5.3 percent fall in retail revenue in FY2020. Walmart, continues to lead the list, while Amazon becomes the number two global retailer. For More Read the Article e

For More Read the Article

Reliance Retail is world's second fastest-growing retailer: Deloitte report

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 16

MUKESH AMBANI'S RELIANCE Retail is the second fastest-growing retailer in the world, according to the 2022 Deloitte report, Global Powers of Retailing. South Korean e-commerce brand Coupang topped the list.

Reliance Retail is also the only Indian company to be featured for the fifth year in a row among the top 250 global retailers listed in the report, on the basis of its retail revenue growth in FY20.

Ranked at 56 overall, three spots below its 2021 rank, Reliance Retail posted a five-year CAGR growth in retail revenue of 49.4% from FY15-20.

The company, however, did see a 5.3% fall in retail revenue in FY20, on account of the pandemic-induced lockdowns and market restrictions.

The report notes that the company's efforts to broaden its digital capabilities through expansion of its e-commerce platform, JioMart, and several key acquisitions of e-commerce businesses may have led to its growth.

Last year was an eventful one for Reliance Retail. The company entered into a franchise agreement with 7-Eleven Inc to launch 7-Eleven convenience stores in India. Furthermore, it acquired lingerie brand 'amanté' from MAS Holdings, and also bought a 52% stake in designer Ritu Kumar's firm Ritika, as well

The report says that the company's efforts to broaden its digital capabilities through expansion of its e-commerce platform JioMart, and several key acquisitions of e-commerce businesses may have led to its growth

as a 41% stake in Just Dial.

Additionally, it ventured into the ultra-premium grocery space with Freshpik.

American retail giant Walmart has retained its position as the world's top retailer on the Deloitte list, with Amazon and Costco placed at the number two and three spots, respectively.

Seven of the top 10 retailers are American, including The Home Depot, The Kroger Co and Target Corporation.

Germany's Schwarz Group and Aldi Einkauf GmbH & Co oHG and Aldi International Services GmbH & Co oHG are placed at the fourth and eighth positions, respectively.

Globally, Europe accounts for the highest number of top 250 retailers, with 90 companies based in the region, whereas North America has the highest share of top 250 retail revenue, at 48.4%.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

79. Recently Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed _____ as a CRA to broad-base the services for NPS subscribers and the ecosystem.

- A. CAMS**
- B. PhonePe**
- C. Intellect Design**
- D. Paytm**

NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM

‘PFRDA looking to allow mobile-based onboarding’

CAMS becomes 3rd central record keeping agency to go live

KRSRIVATS
New Delhi, March 17

You may soon get to enrol as a National Pension System (NPS) subscriber out of your mobile phone. Pension regulator PFRDA is looking to allow mobile onboarding for NPS subscribers, its Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay has said.

“Onboarding through mobile app has been pending for sometime. That we will be definitely doing,” Bandyopadhyay said when asked as to what one can expect on the NPS front from PFRDA over next 12 months.

He was speaking at a virtual event to mark the launch of Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS) as third



Supratim Bandyopadhyay

Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) for NPS. CAMS had received the certification of registration on March 30 last year to act as CRA.

A CRA plays an important role in the NPS architecture. CRAs are responsible to build, maintain and operate the NPS infrastructure. They act as operational interface for intermediaries by setting up the IT infrastructure.

Other CRAs

The other two existing CRAs in the country are Protean eGov

Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure) and KFin Technologies Private Limited.

Bandyopadhyay said that PFRDA expects 1 million new NPS subscribers this fiscal. On Atal Pension Yojana, he said that PFRDA was aiming at 10 million customers this year and was close to achieving it.

“Despite two years of pandemic, we see 45 per cent increase in onboarding in corporate and retail sector. The numbers of customers joining in last four years has gone up three times. If all goes well, we will this year see 1 million new customers joining NPS,” he said.

Bandyopadhyay also said that PFRDA is in talks with SEBI to ensure that NPS details are also included as part of the Consolidated account statement “so that at one place you can get data of all your financial investment”.

Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS), India’s largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds (a SEBI regulated entity) has announced the go-live and launch of Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) under the National Pension System (NPS).

NPS, a voluntary retirement scheme, designed and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), was launched on 1st January 2004 by the Central Government to help build a retirement corpus.

As one of the three CRAs, CAMS NPS platform will provide subscriber services leveraging robust technology and deep experience in serving customers for pension account opening, record keeping and maintenance services.

80. Recently the Reserve Bank has assigned the lead bank responsibility to _____ for the newly created district of Meghalaya Eastern West Khasi Hills.

- A. State Bank of India**
- B. Punjab National Bank**
- C. Bank of Baroda**
- D. ICICI Bank**

Punjab National Bank is assigned the responsibility of lead bank for the newly created district of Eastern West Khasi hills in Meghalaya.

Eastern West Khasi Hills West Khasi Hills is carved out it was erstwhile West Khasi hills districts. There is no change in the lead bank responsibilities of the erstwhile district and of other districts in the State of Meghalaya

The allotted district working code for Eastern West Khasi Hills is 00U.

A bank having a relatively large network of branches in rural areas of a district with adequate financial and manpower resources is generally given the lead bank responsibility for that district

81. Recently _____ has launched *a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful cricket teams in India.*

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Punjab National Bank

MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings partner with ICICI Bank- ICICI Bank announced that it has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful cricket teams in India. Called 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card', the card has been specially designed with a range of exclusive privileges for millions of cricket fans of the iconic team.

The new card is another addition to an exclusive set of co-branded credit cards offered by the Bank to enable sports enthusiasts to connect with their favourite teams as well as avail benefits of a credit card. Four years ago, ICICI Bank launched a co-branded credit card with Manchester United, a professional football club of England.

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

Moody's cuts India's 2022 growth to 9.1% on lower capex

Dilasha Seth
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NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday cut India's growth forecast for 2022 to 9.1% from the earlier estimated 9.5%, cautioning that high global fuel and commodity prices on account of the Russia-Ukraine war could weigh on the government's capital spending ability.

It also lowered the growth forecast for 2023 to 5.4% from the 5.5% estimated earlier.

"India is particularly vulnerable to high oil prices given that it is a large importer of crude oil... High fuel and potentially fertilizer costs would weigh on government finances down the road, potentially limiting planned capital spending. For all of these reasons, we have lowered our 2022 growth forecasts for India by 0.4 percentage point," Moody's said in its latest Global Macro Outlook report.

Last month, the rating company raised India's growth outlook for 2022 and 2023, citing stronger-than-expected post-pandemic recovery, supportive monetary policy, and a growth-oriented budget. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the end of the

TURN TO PAGE 6

Infosys to acquire digital marketing firm for ₹419 cr

Infosys announced the acquisition of oddity, a Germany-based digital marketing, experience, and commerce agency for a consideration of ₹419 crore, including earn-outs, management incentives and bonuses. The move strengthens Infosys' creative, branding and experience design capabilities, and demonstrates its continued commitment to co-create with clients and help them navigate their digital transformation journey.

SHIVANI SHINDE

PhonePe Pvt Ltd acquires GigIndia

Walmart Inc.-owned payments company PhonePe Pvt Ltd has acquired Explorium Innovative Technologies Pvt Ltd, which owns and operates GigIndia, a network for freelance micro-entrepreneurs for an undisclosed amount, the company said in a statement on Monday. GigIndia claims to have 1.5 million entrepreneurs and over 100 enterprises as customers. As a part of the acquisition, GigIndia will integrate with PhonePe, the company said. PhonePe said it will leverage GigIndia's network of freelance micro-entrepreneurs to help corporates and enterprises acquire more customers and scale up their distribution channels. This acquisition is expected to strengthen PhonePe's offerings and value proposition to its enterprise partners and result in the creation of more opportunities for individual freelance micro-entrepreneurs in India, PhonePe said.

NIKHIL PATWARDHAN



India adds 1.2GW open access solar capacity. AFP

India's open access solar capacity rises

India's open access solar installations witnessed a sharp growth during 2021 with the country adding 1.2 gigawatts (GW) of open access solar capacity during the year, according to Mercom India. The country had installed 383 megawatt (MW) of open access solar capacity in 2020, the research firm said.

Solar power through open access is an arrangement where a power producer establishes a solar power plant and signs a medium/long-term power purchase agreement with a consumer.

As of December 2021, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market was over 5GW, the report titled 'Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Annual 2021' said. According to the report, Uttar Pradesh topped in installation of open access solar capacities in 2021, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The top five states made up for 80% of the total installations during the year.

Mercom Communications India is a clean energy research and communications firm with expertise in cleantech markets.

PTI

India, Oz Sign Pact on Critical Minerals

DipanjanRoy.Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India and Australia on Monday signed a pact enabling India to source critical minerals from the resource rich country down under.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (Kabil) and Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office will establish a framework for joint investments in Australian projects to mine critical minerals.

"This is an important area for both our countries and this agreement will give us the opportunities to both invest in Australia's critical minerals sector and get Australian expertise in this area," foreign secretary Harsh V Shringla said. India, as a manufacturing hub, requires access to critical minerals



Australia unveiled investments of ₹1,560 cr to drive collaboration in areas such as clean tech, space and innovation

and Australia is a repository of these commodities, he said. "Our investments together in this area would strengthen the resilience of supply chains when it comes to critical minerals."

Australia has some of the largest reserves of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and vanadium that are crucial for the manufacture of mobile phones, electric cars, solar panels and other hi-tech applications.

The Australian side unveiled investments of Australian \$280 million, or about ₹1,560 crore, to drive collaboration in areas such as clean technologies, space and innovation.

■ CREDIT CARDS

ICICI Bank-Emirates Skywards co-branded credit cards

ICICI BANK HAS partnered with Emirates Skywards, the loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, to launch three co-branded credit cards. Named 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card', the bouquet of cards, powered with Visa, will enable customers to earn reward points on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends. These cards are a perfect fit for customers who regularly travel abroad. The cards award up to 2.5 reward points per ₹100 spend.



PepsiCo will help farmers in India increase water efficiency. BLOOMBERG

PepsiCo partners N-Drip for farmers

Food and beverages major PepsiCo India on Thursday announced a partnership with N-Drip, a manufacturer of gravity-powered micro-irrigation system, to help farmers in India increase water efficiency. This is part of a global partnership between PepsiCo and N-Drip, aimed at increasing water efficiency across 10,000 hectares around the world by 2025, the company said in a statement.

N-Drip's technology has already been introduced in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan to improve water efficiency levels across thousands of hectares in the country by 2025, PepsiCo India added. These states have begun to see evident results in the form of improved crop yields, reduced fertiliser usage, and an average reduction of 39% water consumption compared to flood irrigation.

"The initial response to the pilot project has been quite encouraging. We are already seeing improved crop yields, reduced fertiliser usage, and an average reduction of 39% water consumption compared to flood irrigation in states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan," PepsiCo India agro director, supply chain, Pratap Bose said.

RBI cancels licence of Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank

THE RESERVE BANK of India on Monday cancelled the licence of Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Uttar Pradesh, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the lender, RBI said in a statement.

On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim of up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

According to the data submitted by the bank, more than 99% of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from the DICGC, the central bank said.

RBI said People's Co-operative Bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects, and it has failed to comply with the requirements the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

"The bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full," RBI said, adding that continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors.

Consequent to the cancellation of its licence, People's Co-operative Bank is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking', which includes acceptance and repayment of deposits, with immediate effect, it said.

As on February 14, 2022, DICGC has sanctioned ₹6.97 crore of the total insured deposits based on the willingness received from the depositors of the bank. —PTI

Rules governing alternative investment funds amended

SEBI's regulations came into effect on Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 17

Capital markets regulator SEBI has amended the rules pertaining to investment aspects of certain category of alternative investment funds (AIFs).

Under the rules, category III AIFs can invest not more than 10 per cent of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs, SEBI said on Wednesday.

of category III AIFs can invest up to 20 per cent of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

This is provided that for investment in listed equity of an investee company, category III AIFs may calculate the investment limit of 10 per cent of either the investable funds or the net asset value of the scheme, while large value funds for accredited investors of category III AIFs may calculate the investment limit of 20 per cent of either the investable funds or the net asset value of the scheme.

In November 2021, SEBI allowed category III AIFs to calculate the concentration norm based on net asset value of the fund. AIFs refers to a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds for investing in India. Broadly, the rules govern venture capital funds, PE funds, SME funds and hedge funds, among others.



Funds registered

The new norms – SEBI's AIF Regulations, 2022 – became effective from Wednesday. Various types of funds such as hedge funds, PIPE funds, etc. are registered as category III AIFs.

Further, the large value funds for accredited investors

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DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF DELHI.



BPCL launches voice-based LPG booking, payment facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 17

BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION Ltd (BPCL) on Thursday launched a voice-based digital payment facility for its cooking gas (LPG) consumers, who do not have smartphones or internet.

BPCL said it has partnered UltraCash Technologies Pvt Ltd to offer a voice-based digital payment facility that allows its BharatGas consumers, who do not have smartphones or internet, to book their LPG cylinders and make the payment through 'UPI 123PAY'.

"With the introduction of this facility, around 4 crore consumers of BharatGas in rural India will stand to benefit," the company said in a statement.

BPCL is the first company in India to offer its service to consumers after the RBI Governor announced the launch of UPI 123PAY last week.

UltraCash is a mobile payment application developed by UltraCash Technologies and authorised by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).

NPCI's UPI Lite to allow small value transactions offline

To be launched initially as a pilot with banks, app providers; upper transaction limit will be ₹200

SURABHI

Mumbai, March 17

In what could further boost digital payments, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is set to launch UPI Lite, which will enable small value transactions in offline mode.

"At present, it will be near offline but will require a smartphone. It is set to go live with pilots in a week or 10 days," said an official source, noting that nearly half the UPI transactions are low ticket payments. "NPCI has designed UPI Lite - on-device wallet functionality," it said in a circular to all member banks.

In the first phase, UPI Lite will process transactions in near offline mode, that is debit offline and credit online, and at



In the first phase, UPI Lite will process transactions in near offline mode, that is debit will be offline and credit online

a later point, it will process both debit and credit transactions in offline mode, the circular added.

Balance limit ₹2,000

The upper limit of an UPI Lite payment transaction will be ₹200 while the total limit of UPI Lite balance for an on-device wallet will be ₹2,000 at any point of time, the NPCI said. Initially, UPI Lite will be

launched as a pilot with multiple banks and app providers. After due comfort is achieved, the full-scale commercial launch with compliance timelines for on-boarding for the issuers and app providers will be declared, NPCI said.

The move is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's framework for facilitating small value digital payments in offline mode, which does not re-

quire internet or telecom connectivity.

"Various studies on payment systems have observed that about 75 per cent of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below ₹100," the NPCI said, adding that about 50 per cent of the total UPI transactions have a transaction value of up to ₹200.

Replenishment of funds

A user of UPI App will have the option to enable UPI Lite on their UPI app. Replenishment of funds in UPI Lite will however, be allowed only in online mode with additional factor authentication (AFA) or using UPI AutoPay. However, UPI Lite transactions will be offered without AFA or a UPI PIN.

Since its launch in 2016, UPI has seen huge popularity and user adoption. In February 2022, 452.74 crore payments valued at ₹8.26-lakh crore were made through UPI. NPCI has set a target of 1 billion UPI transactions daily in the next three to five years.

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Appointment News

82. Recently the Central Government has extended the tenure of **India's envoy to United Nations T.S**

Tirumurti by _____.

- A. 12 Months
- B. 3 Months**
- C. 6 Months
- D. 8 Months

Amid the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the government has decided to extend the tenure of India's envoy to the United Nations T.S. Tirumurti for three months. S. Tirumurti (born 1962) is an Indian civil servant who belongs to the Indian Foreign Service cadre.

He is currently the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. On 19 May 2020, he took over as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations succeeding Syed Akbaruddin.

While he was Permanent Representative to the United Nations, India was elected to the UN Security Council in July 2020. India entered the UN Security Council for a two-year term on 1 January 2021.

India was also elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for 2021-2025 and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the term 2021-2023.

83. Recently the Central Government has extended the extension of **three months to Rajeev Ahuja** as the MD & CEO of _____.

- A. Axis Bank
- B. DBS Bank
- C. Karnataka Bank
- D. RBL Bank**

RBI has extended Rajeev Ahuja's term as interim MD and CEO of RBL Bank by three months. Rajeev Ahuja's extended term will be effective from March 25, 2022 or till the appointment of a regular MD and CEO, whichever is earlier.

RBI had earlier approved Ahuja's appointment as interim MD and CEO for a period of three months with effect from December 25, 2021.

RBL Bank is a Mumbai based Indian private sector bank. It was earlier known as Ratnakar Bank

84. Recently the Central Government has appointed _____ as the *acting chairman and managing director (CMD) of New India Assurance?*

- A. Ritu Ghosh
- B. Jyoti Ghosh
- C. Madhulika Bhaskar**
- D. Anupriya Ghosh

New India Assurance Company Limited informed investors and exchanges that the company has appointed Ms. Madhulika Bhaskar, General Manager from General Insurance Corporation of India as the General Manager of the New India Assurance.

The position of CMD of New India was vacant since the company's former chairman Atul Sahai retired on February 28, 2022.

Madhulika will be acting as the chairman and managing director of the company.

Madhulika is currently associated as general manager and financial advisor with General Insurance.

85. Recently *India Cements Ltd* has roped in whom as its *Brand Endorser* for its two new brands "Concrete Super King" And "Halo Super King"?

- A. Ravindra Jadeja
- B. M.S. Dhoni**
- C. Rishabh Pant
- D. K.L Rahul

The India Cements Ltd. has roped in Chennai Super Kings Captain M.S. Dhoni to endorse its two new brands — Concrete Super King and Halo Super King. It is for the first time that the brand introduction saw the integration of Indian Premier League (IPL) brand CSK with a cement brand.

Concrete Super King is cement that resonates with the features that are highly inspired by Mr. Dhoni's phenomenal strength, speed and on field demeanor

Halo Super King cement is exclusively designed for pre-cast hollow blocks, enabling quick setting, enhanced structural strength and stability.

86. Recently _____ has been appointed as the new head of the ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)?

- A. Ranjith Rath
- B. Rajarshi Gupta**
- C. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- D. Swapnil Pandey

Rajarshi Gupta was on Tuesday picked to head ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of India's top oil and gas producer.

Government head hunter Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) chooses Gupta, who is currently executive director at Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), after interviewing six candidates, according to a PESB notification.

He will succeed Alok Kumar Gupta, the current Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd, who is slated to superannuate on June 30. OVL is the nation's flagship overseas oil and gas exploration and production company.

87. Recently BCCI secretary Jay Shah's tenure as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was unanimously extended by _____.

- A. 3 Months
- B. 6 Months
- C. 9 Months
- D. 12 Months**

BCCI's Honorary Secretary Jay Shah's term as President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was unanimously extended by a year at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo

Jay Shah had taken over the reins of the ACC last year in January 2021 from Bangladesh Cricket Board's President Nazmul Hassan making him the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC President.

SL to host Asia Cup T20 from August 27

Colombo: Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27 to September 11, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced on Saturday after its annual general meeting here. All five Test teams of the continent -- India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka -- will feature in the tournament, along with one more Asian side that will be decided after a qualifier tournament which will be held from August 20. "The Asia Cup 2022 (T20 Format) will be held in

Sri Lanka from 27 August - 11 September later this year. The Qualifiers for the same will be played 20 August 2022 onwards," the ACC tweeted after its AGM.

Jay Shah's term as ACC prez extended by one year

BCCI secretary Jay Shah's tenure as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was on Saturday unanimously extended by a year at its annual general meeting here. Shah had taken over the reins of the ACC in January last year. PTI

88. Recently Serdar Berdy mukhamedov has been appointed as the President of which of the following Countries?

- a. **Turkmenistan**
- b. **Uzbekistan**
- c. **Kazakhstan**
- d. **Afghanistan**

Turkmenistan leader's son SerdarBerdymukhamedov has got nearly 73 percent of the votes. He will succeed his father GurbangulyBerdymukhamedov.

His nearest rival is KhyrdyrNunnayev, who got 11 percent of the total votes.

SerdarBerdymukhamedov had earlier served as Deputy Prime Minister.

Presidential elections were held in Turkmenistan on March 12. SerdarBerdymukhamedov was the candidate from the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan. Its capital is Ashgabat. Its currency is Turkmenistan Manat.

89. Recently who amongst the following has become the **12th Chief Minister of Manipur**?

- A. **Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- B. **N Biren Singh**
- C. **Neiphiu Rio**
- D. **Conrad Sangma**

N Biren Singh takes oath as Chief Minister of Manipur for second consecutive term.

N Biren Singh will be the 12th Chief Minister of Manipur.

The newly-elected MLAs have unanimously elected N. Biren Singh as their legislature party leader.

Governor La Ganeshan administered the oath of office and secrecy at Raj Bhawan, Imphal.

BJP has won 32 out of 60 Assembly seats in the recent election. Naga People's Front bagged five and the Kuki People's Alliance got two seats. Its capital is Imphal.

The Governor of Manipur is La Ganesan.

90. Recently _____ has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a **12 Member new high level advisory board on effective Multilateralism, Co-Chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister Steven Lofven.**

- A. **Jayati Ghosh**
- B. **Gita Gopinath**
- C. **Kamala Khan**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

D. Ritu Ghosh

Jayati Ghosh becomes a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on multilateralism. Indian economist Jayati Ghosh has been appointed by General Antonio Guterres as a member of a newly formed high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism. She will be a member of the 12-member board, which will get support from the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. Last week, the UN has announced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. It will be co-chaired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Stefan Lofven. This high-level advisory board will give recommendations to the UN Secretary-General for resolving current and future socio-economic challenges.

91. Recently the Government has appointed _____, as a **whole time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India** for a period of _____ years.
- A. Debasish Panda , 2 Years
 - B. **Ashwini Bhatia , 3 Years**
 - C. Ajay Bhushan Pandey , 3 Years
 - D. Debashish Mitra , 5 Years

The government has appointed veteran banker Ashwini Bhatia as the whole time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Bhatia, who is currently the managing director — stressed assets and information technology at State Bank of India, has been appointed for a period of three years. Prior to his elevation as MD of SBI, Bhatia was the chief executive of SBI Mutual Fund. Bhatia, who started his career with SBI in 1985 as a probationary officer, will retire on May 31, 2022.

92. Recently **Bhagwant Mann takes oath as 17th Chief Minister of Punjab**. In the Punjab Assembly election, Aam Aadmi Party has won _____ seats out of 117 seats.
- A. 91 Seats
 - B. 95 Seats
 - C. **92 Seats**
 - D. 89 Seats

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

Bhagwant Mann takes oath as Chief Minister of Punjab.

Aam Aadmi Party's leader Bhagwant Mann sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Punjab. He has taken oath at Khatkar Kalan village in Nawanshahr district, which is the birthplace of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

In the Punjab Assembly election, Aam Aadmi Party has won 92 seats out of 117 seats.

Bhagwant Mann has won the election from Dhuri seat in the Sangrur district.

Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to Bhagwant Mann.

93. Recently the Government Head hunter Public Enterprise Selection Board has announced, _____ will be the next head of India's second largest state oil gas producer oil India.

- A. Alka Menon
- B. Ranjith Rath**
- C. Swapnil Pandey
- D. Srikanth Madhav Vaidya

Dr. Ranjit Rath appointed as CMD of India's second largest state oil and gas producer, Oil India Ltd.

Rath is presently chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL). Sushil Chandra Mishra, the current chairman and managing director of Oil India will retire on June 30, 2022. Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Dr. Rath for the post.

His name will be sent to Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister.

MECL is a mini Ratna central public sector enterprise under Ministry of Mines. Oil India Limited is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

94. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

- 1. Pushkar Singh Dhami is the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He takes oath as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for a second consecutive term.**
- 2. In the recently held Assembly election, the BJP won 47 out of 70 seats.**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Pushkar Singh Dhami is the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He takes oath as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for a second consecutive term.

In the recently held Assembly election, the BJP won 47 out of 70 seats. Congress won 19 seats.

The BJP became the first ruling party to be voted back to power in the state.

Congress candidate Bhuwan Chandra Kapri defeated Pushkar Singh Dhami at the Khatima seat by a margin of 6,579 votes.

95. Consider the following statements and match the following in Regard of MD and CEO of three banks.

1. A Manimekhalai - MD & CEO of Union Bank of India.
2. Ajay Kumar Shrivastava - MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank
3. Swaroop Kumar Saha - Punjab & Sind Bank

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Banks Board Bureau has recommended the names for positions of MD & CEO in three banks.

These three banks are Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank.

The name of A Manimekhalai has been recommended for the post of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India.

A Manimekhalai is currently executive director at Canara Bank.

The name of Ajay Kumar Shrivastava has been recommended for the post of MD and CEO in Indian Overseas Bank. Swaroop Kumar Saha has been recommended for position of MD and CEO at the Punjab & Sind Bank.

BBB recommends Alok Choudhary for SBI MD post

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 16

THE BANKS BOARD Bureau (BBB) on Wednesday recommended State Bank of India (SBI) deputy managing director Alok Kumar Choudhary for the position of managing director at the bank. The bureau has also proposed names of candidates for the position of chief executive at three other public sector banks (PSBs).

"After interfacing with 21 candidates on March 5-6; March 11-12 & March 15-16, 2022, the Bureau recommends Shri Alok Kumar Choudhary for the position of MD in SBI and Shri Vinay M. Tonse as candidate on reserve list," BBB said in a tweet. Tonse is MD & CEO of SBI Mutual Fund.

The BBB recommended Canara Bank executive director A Manimekhalai for the post of MD & CEO at Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) executive director Ajay Kumar Srivastava for the top job at his own bank and Punjab National Bank (PNB) executive director Swaroop Kumar Saha for the role of MD & CEO at Punjab & Sind Bank.

KSatyanarayana Raju, Nitesh Ranjan and Debadatta Chand, executive directors at Canara Bank, Union Bank and Bank of Baroda, respectively, have been named on the reserve list for the same roles.

Union Bank is currently headed by Rajkiran Rai G, IOB by Partha Pratim Sengupta and Punjab & Sind Bank by S Krishnan. Rai's term is set to end in May 2022 and Sengupta's in December 2022.

BBB recommends names to head Union Bank, IOB, PSB

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 16

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended the names for the positions of Managing Director & CEO in Union Bank of India (UBI), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB).

While A Manimekhalai, the current executive director at Canara Bank, has been recommended as the MD & CEO of UBI, Ajay Kumar Srivastava, executive director at IOB, has been recommended for the post in the same bank.

Swaroop Kumar Saha has been recommended for the position at the Punjab & Sind Bank.

Candidates interviewed

The BBB had interfaced with 15 candidates from various public sector banks between March 5 and 16 for the forth-

coming positions at the three banks.

The appointments come as Rajkiran Rai G (Union Bank of India), S Krishnan (Punjab & Sind Bank) and Partha Pratim (Indian Overseas Bank) will be completing their terms at the banks on May 31 and December-end this year, respectively.

Interestingly, last December, the BBB had cancelled its advertisement for the position of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India.

BL on YouTube

Can crude oil buyers take on OPEC?



Oil shocks and its possible effects on the the Indian economy amidst the Russia-Ukraine crisis

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N. Biren Singh takes oath as Manipur CM for second time

PTI



Imphal: BJP legislature party leader N. Biren Singh was sworn-in as the chief minister of Manipur for a second time at the Raj Bhavan here on Monday, while his rival for the top job Thongam Biswajit Singh was accommodated as a cabinet minister in his ministry. Singh, along with Biswajit and four other cabinet ministers, were administered the oath by Governor La Ganesan.

PTI

Indian economist Jayati Ghosh on UN advisory panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
United Nations, March 21

INDIAN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST Jayati Ghosh, 66, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism. She is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.

UN chief Guterres on Friday announced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism to be co-chaired by former Liberian president and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish prime minister Stefan Lofven. Ghosh has been named to the 12-member board, which will be supported in its work by the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University in close coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Rajarshi Gupta to be new OVL head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 15

Rajarshi Gupta was on Tuesday picked to head ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of India's top oil and gas producer. Gupta is currently the executive director at Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

He will succeed Alok Kumar Gupta, the current Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd, who is slated to superannuate on June 30.

The recommendation by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) will now be sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister, after obtaining clearance of anti-corruption bodies like CVC and CBI. Gupta will be appointed MD, OVL once the ACC approves his candidature.

OVL has stakes in 35 oil and gas assets in 15 countries and produced about 30.3 per cent of oil and 23.7 per cent of oil and natural gas of India's domestic production in 2019-20.

Tirumurti gets extension, govt. seeks 'continuity' amid conflict

Centre wants to keep a 'steady hand' at the UNSC during a crucial period

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the government has decided to extend the tenure of India's envoy to the United Nations T.S. Tirumurti for three months. According to an announcement by the appointments committee of the Cabinet, Mr. Tirumurti, who was due to retire on March 31, will now remain in the position at the rank of Secretary to the government from April 1 to June 30, 2022. The extension has also fuelled speculation about a possible extension for Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, who is due to retire in May.

At least two officials aware of the decision said the extension was granted due to the government's desire to keep a "steady hand" and "ensure continuity" in In-



T. S. Tirumurti speaks at the United Nations Security Council, in New York, on March 4. •REUTERS

dia's presence at the UN Security Council during a crucial period with the Russian war in Ukraine, where India is completing its two-year tenure this year.

However, it is unclear why Mr. Tirumurti's tenure has not been extended till December, when India's current term at the UNSC will end. An official said the extension appeared to have

been made in a "phased manner" and that a further extension could not be ruled out, if required.

Mr. Tirumurti, a 1985-batch IFS officer, assumed the UN Permanent Representative post in May 2020 and has been a prominent voice on issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, Russian war in Ukraine,

and more recently, for a strong speech criticising a UN resolution adopting an "International day to combat Islamophobia", which, he said, "elevated phobia against one religion" while ignoring other "non-Abrahamic" religions. In the past month, he has articulated India's position on the Ukraine conflict, where despite considerable pressure from the U.S. and European allies, the government has refused to vote for any resolution criticising Russia's actions and abstained from three votes at the UNSC and two at the UN General Assembly.

With the UN PR's extension being announced, all eyes are now on whether Foreign Secretary Mr. Shringla will also be given an extension, given his role in handling India's response to the Ukraine crisis.

RBL Bank: Ahuja gets extension for three months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 17

PRIVATE SECTOR RBL Bank on Thursday said the Reserve Bank of India has granted an extension for three months to its interim MD and CEO Rajeev Ahuja.

"We wish to further inform that on request of the bank, the RBI, vide its letter dated March 17, 2022, has approved the extension of term of Rajeev Ahuja, interim managing director & CEO of the bank, for a further period of three months with effect from March 25, 2022 or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO, whichever is earlier," RBL Bank said in a regulatory filing.

On December 30, 2021, the lender had said the RBI had approved the appointment of Ahuja as interim managing director (MD) and CEO for a period of three months with effect from December 25, 2021 or till the appointment of a regular MD and CEO.

In December, the board had sent then MD and CEO Vishwavir Ahuja on leave and elevated Rajeev Ahuja as the interim chief to take care of the day-to-day operations.

Vishwavir's sudden departure was seen as a result of an RBI communication to the bank on December 24, 2021, appointing its chief general manager Yogesh K Dayal to the board of the private sector lender in an unusual move.

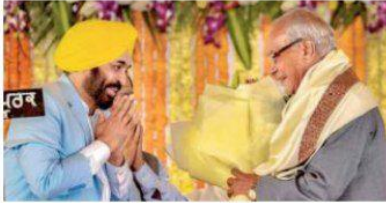
Mann sworn in as 17th Punjab CM

We should not waste even a day, says AAP leader

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Breaking established traditions, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Bhagwant Singh Mann was sworn in as the 17th Chief Minister of Punjab on Wednesday by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, instead of the Raj Bhavan. Hundreds of men in yellow turbans and women wearing yellow *dupattas* came from different parts of the State to witness the event.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy



New innings: AAP leader Bhagwant Mann with Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Khatkar Kalan on Wednesday. •PTI

Manish Sisodia, Cabinet colleague Satyendra Jain and Punjab in-charge for AAP Raghav Chadha also attended the ceremony, all wearing yellow turbans. Yellow, a colour associated with Bhagat Singh, was used by the AAP during the campaign.

After taking oath in Punja-

bi, the 48-year-old Mr. Mann also delivered a brief address. He started his speech on a note of humility, cautioning the AAP workers not to get arrogant or go around boasting of their win. "The public can put a person on *arsh* (sky) or throw him on *farsh* (floor)," he said.

Pramod Sawant meets PM Modi

Amid suspense over who is going to be Goa's next Chief Minister, BJP leaders from the coastal State, including caretaker Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other party leaders. ▶ PAGE 11

This government, he said, would represent, even those who did not vote for the AAP. "The work will start from today itself. We shall not waste even a single day; after all, we are already late by 70 years," Mr. Mann said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

'SBI MD Bhatia appointed as SEBI member'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government has appointed State Bank of India (SBI) managing director Ashwani Bhatia as a whole time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Mr. Bhatia as a member initially for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge, sources said.

With Mr. Bhatia getting appointed as WTM, there is now only one post of WTM left to be filled in SEBI, sources said.

Mr. Bhatia, who is due to retire in May this year, was elevated as the managing director of SBI in August 2020. Prior to that, he was working as the MD and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund.

Govt. restores e-tourist visa for 156 countries

Regular paper visa to nationals of all countries also restored, says Home Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Days after it announced that international flights to and from India will resume fully from March 27, the Centre restored the electronic tourist visa (e-TV) facility for 156 countries, the Union Home Ministry said in an order.

However, all land and riverine borders, including the Attari-Wagah post along Pakistan, will continue to remain shut, except for those with special permission.

The Ministry said that the "instructions will not be ap-

plicable to Afghanistan nationals" who will continue to be governed by e-Emergency X-Miscellaneous Visa.

"Order for opening of Land ICPs (Integrated Check Posts) and riverine routes will be communicated separately," the order said.

It said that in continuation with the October 20 order, and keeping in view the improvement in the COVID-19 situation in India, the government has considered the need for further relaxation of visa and travel restrictions. "Currently valid e-tou-

rist visa issued for five years, which was suspended since March 2020, shall stand restored to nationals of 156 eligible countries with immediate effect. Nationals of these 156 countries will also be eligible for issuance of fresh e-tourist visa," it said.

The order said valid regular (paper) tourist visa with validity of five years, issued to foreign nationals of all countries, shall be restored.

"Fresh Regular (Paper) Tourist visa up to 5 years validity may also be issued to the nationals of the eligible

countries subject to the restrictions imposed from time to time," it said.

The long duration (10 years) regular tourist visa for the citizens of the U.S. and Japan, issued before March 2020, has also been restored. "Fresh Long duration (10 years) tourist visa can be issued to the nationals of the U.S. and Japan," it said.

The Ministry said foreign nationals who have tourist/e-tourist visas may enter India only through designated sea immigration check posts or international airports.

IN BRIEF

Govt picks Ranjit Rath to be next CMD of Oil India



Government headhunter PESB has picked a non-upstream executive, Ranjit Rath to head India's second largest state oil and gas producer, Oil India.

Rath, 50, who is currently chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), was selected after interviews of five applicants on March 9, a notification from the Public Enterprises Selection Board

(PESB) said. He was selected for the post of chairman and managing director ahead of two directors on the Oil India board and another executive director of the company. Oil India's current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra will superannuate on June 30 this year.

PTI

Days and Obituary News

101. Recently the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim which of the following days as the “*International Day to Combat Islam phobia*”?

- A. 14th March
- B. 15th March**
- C. 16th March
- D. 17th March

UN General Assembly has unanimously declared March 15 as International Day to Combat Islam phobia.

Pakistan introduced the resolution on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on March 15.

57 OIC members and eight other nations, including China and Russia, have sponsored the resolution.

It marks the day in Christchurch, New Zealand, when in a terror attack 51 worshippers were killed by a gunman in two mosques. Expressions of Islam phobic - hate speech, discrimination, and violence against Muslims are spreading in many parts of the world.

102. Every year, in March on which of the following dates” *Martyrdom Day*” is observed to honour the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev?

- A. 21st March
- B. 22nd March
- C. 23rd March**
- D. 24th March

Every year on March 23, Martyrdom Day is commemorated to honour the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.

On March 23, 1931, the British rulers hanged them for their revolutionary activities against British rule. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru were executed for the assassination of British officer John Saunders. In protest of the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs into the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929.

On the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.

The aim of this new gallery is to present a holistic view of the events leading up to 1947, highlighting the Revolutionary role of the freedom fighters. During Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's tenure, he has declared

103. In March **World Meteorological Day** is observed every year on _____ to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

- A. 21st march
- B. 22nd March
- C. 23rd March
- D. 24th March

World Meteorological Day is observed every year on 23 March.

The theme of World Meteorological Day 2022 is 'Early Warning and Early Action'.

It is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was established on March 23, 1950.

It is also observed to make people aware about their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere.

World Meteorological Organization: It is an intergovernmental organization with 193 members. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

104. The **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated every year on _____ to make people realise the importance of happiness within their lives.

- A. 17th March
- B. 20th March
- C. 18TH March
- D. 19th March

The International Day of Happiness is observed every year on 20 March.

The first International Day of Happiness was observed in 2013.

The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is 'Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind'.

The General Assembly of the United Nations in its Resolution 66/281 on 12 July 2012 declared March 20 as the International Day of Happiness.

It is observed to increase awareness about the importance of happiness for humanity. It also promotes happiness as a universal human right.

105. The **International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination** is celebrated on _____ with the theme "VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM".

- A. 19TH march
- B. 20th March
- C. 21st March
- D. 18th March

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960. Theme 2022: “VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM”.

The UN General Assembly adopted on 26 October 1966, proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to be commemorated annually.

- **THE 2022 #INTERNATIONALDAYOFHAPPINESS OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN THEME: #HAPPINESSFORALLUKRAINE**



106. The *International Adolescent Health Week* will be celebrated between _____, under the theme ‘*Transition*’ with an aim to spread awareness related to the health issues of adolescents.

- A. 19th-26th March
- B. 19th-25th March
- C. 20th-26th March
- D. 21st-26th March

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

Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

International Adolescent Health Week: 20-26 March

International Adolescent Health Week will be celebrated from 20th-26th March.

It inspires health care providers, policymakers, administrators, media, and adolescents to advocate for a successful transition into adulthood.

It will be celebrated under the theme 'Transition'. The main objective is to spread awareness related to the health issues of adolescents.

It also encourages the involvement of adolescents in their own health decisions.

'Indian Academy of Pediatrics' will coordinate the celebration of International Adolescent Health Week in India. Adolescence is a period of transition in which physical and mental health drastic changes occur.

107. The **World Oral Health Day** is observed every year on _____ with the theme '**Be Proud of Your Mouth**' for three-year to raise global awareness about oral health and the importance of oral hygiene.

A. 19th March

B. 20th March

C. 21st March

D. 22nd March

World Oral Health Day is observed every year on 20 March.

It is observed to raise global awareness about oral health and the importance of oral hygiene.

'Be Proud of Your Mouth' is the three-year theme (2021 – 2023) for World Oral Health Day (WOHD).

World Oral Health Day was launched on 20 March 2013 by FDI World Dental Federation.

108. _____ was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the **International Day of Forests in 2012**.

A. 20th March

B. 21st March

C. 22nd March

D. 23rd March

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

Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

21 March was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly as the International Day of Forests in 2012.

International Day of Forests aims to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

UN Forum on Forests and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organize the day in collaboration with Governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other organizations.

'Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption' is the theme for 2022 International Day of Forests.

UN Forum on Forests is an intergovernmental policy forum headquartered in New York, USA. It was formed in 2000.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests is a voluntary inter-agency partnership of 15 international organizations, institutions and secretariats. It was set up in April 2001.

109. The *World Sparrow Day* is observed annually on _____ to increase public awareness about sparrows with the theme "*I Love Sparrows*".

A. 20th March

B. 21st March

C. 22nd March

D. 23rd March

World Sparrow Day is commemorated annually on March 20 to increase public awareness about sparrows.

The goal of the day is to raise awareness about the protection of Sparrow.

The theme of World Sparrow Day 2022 is "I Love Sparrows".

World Sparrow Day was first celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world.

World Sparrow Day was initiated by the India-based Nature Forever Society and the France-based Eco-Sys Action Foundation.

110. Every year on _____ the *World Down syndrome Day* is observed to raise awareness about Down syndrome diseases.

A. March 20

B. March 21

C. March 22

D. March 23

Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed to raise awareness about Down syndrome disease.

Every year around 3,000 and 5,000 infants are born with this chromosomal disorder.

The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006.

The UN General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day in December 2011 but it came into effect in 2012.

World Down Syndrome Day 2022 theme is “Inclusion Means”.

111. Every year on _____ **World Water Day** is observed to raise awareness of the value of fresh water and the need to conserve it.

A. March 20

B. March 21

C. **March 22**

D. March 23

Every year on March 22, World Water Day is commemorated.

It is observed to raise awareness of the value of fresh water and the need to conserve it.

The theme of World Water Day 2022 is “Groundwater: Making the invisible visible”.

The day is being celebrated every year since 1993.

The main goal of the day is to support the idea of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030 and help achieve the goal.

112. Every year on _____ **Bihar Diwas** is observed to commemorate the foundation of Bihar and this year marks the _____ anniversary of Bihar's foundation.

A. 20th March 108th

B. 21st March, 109th

C. **22nd March, 110th**

D. 23rd March, 111th

Every year on March 22, Bihar Diwas is celebrated to commemorate the foundation of Bihar.

This year marks the 110th anniversary of Bihar's foundation.

On March 22, 1912, the state of Bihar was carved out from Bengal's presidency.

The theme of Bihar Diwas 2022 is 'Jal Jeevan Haryali'.

On this occasion, a three-day event is being organized in which 18 state departments, as well as several organizations, will participate.

Phagu Chauhan is the Governor and Nitish Kumar is the Chief Minister of Bihar.

113. Every year **World Poetry Day** is observed on _____ to encourage young poets and appreciate the role of poetry in the development and enlightenment of the world.

- A. 21st March
- B. 20th March
- C. 22nd March
- D. 23rd March

Every year World Poetry Day is observed on 21 March.

Its main aim is to encourage young poets and appreciate the role of poetry in the development and enlightenment of the world.

Poetry is an art form that can transform even the most basic of lines into a powerful catalyst.

It is observed to honour poets and aware the new generation about the tradition of Poetry. UNESCO announced 21 March as World Poetry Day at its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999.

114. In March every year on _____ **National Immunization Day** is observed in India to raise awareness about the importance of immunisation and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

- A. 15th March
- B. 16th March
- C. 17th March
- D. 18th March

Every year on March 16, National Immunization Day is observed in India.

The aim of this year's Vaccination Day is to raise awareness about the importance of immunization and how it can prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The theme of National Vaccination Day 2022 is "Vaccines work for all". The day was first commemorated in 1995, the year India launched its Pulse Polio Program.

World Immunization Week is celebrated every year in the last week of April.

Sports Award Books News

115. Recently **Pankaj Advani** has won his _____ Asian billiards title beating compatriot _____ in the final of _____ Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 in _____.

- A. 7th , Dheeraj Kumar , 18th , Madagascar
- B. 8th , Dhruv Sitwala , 19th , Doha**
- C. 9th , Rahul Bose , 20th , Delhi
- D. 6th , Kumar Krishna , 21st , Dubai

Pankaj Advani has won his eighth Asian Billiards title at the 19th Asian Billiards Championship 2022.

This is Pankaj Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian title. He defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala in Doha, Qatar on 20 March 2022.

Earlier, Advani had defeated Myanmar's Pauk SA to earn a position in the final.

Pankaj Advani:

He is an Indian cueist. A cueist is a player who plays pool, snooker or billiards.

He is nicknamed as the Prince of India, the Golden Boy, and the Prince of Pune.

116. Recently _____ has extended its **partnership with professional golf in India for three more years** of developing and nurturing sporting talent in the country.

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Tata Steel**
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. State Bank of India

Tata Steel has announced that it will extend its support to the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) as an umbrella partner for three more years starting from the 2022 season.

The sponsorship commitment is pegged at a higher value, compared to the previous occasion. The steelmaker, known for its long-cherished commitment to building sports in India, also said that it will be doubling the prize money of the season-ending Tata Steel Tour Championship to Rs 3 crore, from this year onwards. Tata Steel first came onboard as umbrella partner of PGTI in 2019 by signing a three-year contract with the controlling body for professional golf in India.

Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI

117. India will host FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 for the first time in _____ earlier, it was scheduled to be held in _____.

- B. Indore , Russia
- C. Hyderabad , Ukraine
- D. Kochi , Russia
- E. Chennai , Russia

India will host FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai. Earlier, it was scheduled to be held in Russia.

Tamil Nadu government and All India Chess Federation made a joint bid to host it. India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad for the first time since the tournament began in 1927.

Tentative dates for FIDE Chess Olympiad are from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022. FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 will be 44th Chess Olympiad, organized by International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation.

International Chess Federation is commonly referred as FIDE. It is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. 43rd Chess Olympiad was held in Batumi, Georgia, from 23 September to 6 October 2018. It is also called Batumi Chess Olympiad.

118. Recently _____ got Best Film award at the 2022 British Academy Film Awards.

- A. King Richard
- B. Belfast
- C. The Power Of Dog
- D. After Love

"The Power of the Dog" got Best Film award at the 2022 British Academy Film Awards.

The winners of the 75th edition of the British Academy Film Awards are announced at London's Royal Albert Hall.

BAFTA Film Awards are given by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts to honor British and international contributions to the films.

Jane Campion won the Best Director award for his film "The Power of the Dog".

"Drive My Car" won the best film award in the "Film Not in the English Language" category.

Kenneth Branagh won the award for outstanding British film for "Belfast".

Will Smith has been awarded with the Leading Actor award for the film named "King Richard".

The Leading Actress award went to Joanna Scanlan for his film "After Love".

119. Recently World Number one **Ashleigh Barty** has announced an early retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years. She has won a total of how many Grand Slam Title?

- A. 2
- B. 3**
- C. 4
- D. 5

Australian tennis player Ash Barty announced her retirement.

Ashleigh Barty, the current World No. 1 tennis player, has announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 25.

She announced her retirement in less than two months after winning her third Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open.

She has won 15 titles including Roland-Garros in 2019, the Championships in 2021, and the Australian Open in 2022.

She has won three grand slam titles - Wimbledon, Australian Open, and the French Open.

{ **WORLD** } BAFTA AWARDS HELD LIVE

The Power of the Dog, Dune scoop top honours



Dark Western *The Power of the Dog* scooped the top two honours at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, winning best film and director for Jane Campion, while sci-fi epic *Dune* picked up the most awards. Based on the 1967 novel by Thomas Savage, the movie set on a 1920s Montana ranch marks the return of Oscar winner Campion to feature films since 2009's *Bright Star*. *Dune*, a mammoth adaptation of Frank Herbert's 1965 novel, had lead nominations with 11 nods, mainly in the creative and technical categories. It won five awards. Hosted by Australian actress and comedian Rebel Wilson, this year's ceremony, known as the BAFTAs (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) returned as a glitzy red carpet event at London's Royal Albert Hall, following a virtual event last year due to the pandemic. There were references to the war in Ukraine, with some nominees wearing ribbons and badges in the blue and yellow colours of the Ukrainian flag or speaking about the crisis on the red carpet and on stage.

→PBS

WORLD NO. 1 BARTY QUILTS TENNIS AT 25

Ashleigh Barty stunned the sporting world by retiring at the peak of her game and just weeks after becoming the first homegrown Australian Open champion in 44 years, citing the fulfilment of her tennis goals and fatigue with the hectic life on the Tour

➤ Barty finished her career with \$24m in prize money and 15 career singles titles, including the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon (2021) & Australian Open this January

➤ Her current reign as No. 1 for 114 consecutive weeks is the fourth-longest streak in WTA history behind Steffi Graf and Serena Williams (both 186 weeks) and Martina Navratilova (156)



In 2015, Barty quit tennis for a yr to play T20 cricket for Big Bash team Brisbane Heat

“ To be able to win Wimbledon – the one true dream I wanted in tennis – changed my perspective. I'm fulfilled. I'm happy... I don't have the physical drive, emotional want to challenge myself at the very top anymore. I am spent – ASHLEIGH BARTY

P 20

STARS WHO RETIRED EARLY*

Andrea Jaeger at 19 | Tracy Austin (21) | Martina Hingis (22)
Kim Clijsters (23) | Justine Henin (25) | Bjorn Borg (26)

*some of them staged brief comebacks

- A. Lakshya Sen , PV Sindhu
- B. Neeraj Chopra , Mirabai Chanu
- C. Neeraj Chopra , Mithali Raj
- D. Ravi Dahiya , Lovlina Borgohain

India's historic Road to 1000 released

The 520-page special collection with 1000 pictures is a tribute to the journey

SPORTS REPORTER
MUMBAI

Sportstar and The Hindu group released a Coffee Table Book, 'Road to 1000', at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel here on Saturday.

The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket's journey.

"Road to 1000" was released by former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Syed Kirmani, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Chandrakant Pandit and Nishlesh Kulkarni here.

First to the milestone

On February 6, India played its 1,000th ODI against the West Indies in Ahmedabad, becoming the first team to record the feat.

India's World Cup triumphs in 1983 and 2011, under Kapil Dev and M. S. Dhoni



Extra special: A galaxy of India cricketers at the launch of Road To 1000 with Sportstar Editor Ayon Sengupta. *K.R. DEEPAK

respectively, remain the major highlights in Indian ODI history.

"Releasing this book has been an incredible journey. We started work on it four months back. We dug deep

into our archives, and our photographers worked day and night to pick the best photos. Our Sportstar reporters and photographers travelled the world to cover the Indian cricket team in the

1980s and 1990s.

"This is the best tribute to Indian cricket," Ayon Sengupta, Editor, Sportstar, said.

You can pre-book your copy by visiting publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/.

Sportstar Aces Awards 2022 winners' list

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Sportstar of the Year (Male): Neeraj Chopra | ■ Young Athlete of the Year (Female): Esha Singh |
| ■ Sportstar of the Year (Female): Mirabai Chanu | ■ Parathlete of the Year (Male): Sumit Antil |
| ■ Sportsman of the Year (Cricket): R. Ashwin | ■ Parathlete of the Year (Female): Avani Lekhara |
| ■ Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket): Mithali Raj | ■ Best University for the promotion of sports: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology |
| ■ Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports): Rupinder Pal Singh/Harmanpreet Singh | ■ Best PSU for Promotion of Sports: IndianOil Corporation Ltd |
| ■ Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports): Savita | ■ Best Corporate for Promotion of Sports: JSW Group |
| ■ Sportsman of the Year (Individual Sports): Ravi Dahiya | ■ Best State for the Promotion of Sports: Haryana |
| ■ Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports): Mirabai Chanu and Lovlina Borgohain | ■ Best Grassroots Coach/Talent Mentor: Uday Pawar |
| ■ Sportsman of the Year (Racquet Sports): Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty | ■ Sports for Social Good (Chairperson's choice): Reliance Foundation |
| ■ Sportswoman of the Year (Racquet Sports): P.V. Sindhu | ■ Moment of the Year: Indian men's hockey team winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics |
| ■ Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field): Neeraj Chopra | ■ Club of the Year: Mumbai City FC |
| ■ Sportswoman of the Year [Track and Field]: Kamalpreet Kaur | ■ National team of the year: Indian men's hockey team |
| ■ Lifetime Achievement Award: Ajit Pal Singh | ■ Special Recognition Award: Arif Mohd Khan |
| ■ Breakthrough Performance of the Year: Indian Women's Hockey Team/Aditi Ashok | ■ Special Recognition Award: Pramod Bhagat |
| ■ Young Athlete of the Year (Male): Nihal Sarin | ■ Coach of the Year: Vijay Sharma (Mirabai Chanu's coach) |



Neeraj Chopra received the Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field) award from tennis player Leander Paes. He also won the Sport star of the Year (Male) award.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu received the 'Sport star of the Year (Female)' award.

Lovlina Borgohain has been awarded the 'Sportswoman of the Year' award in the individual Sports category.

Savita received the 'Sportswoman of the Year' award in the Team Sports category.

Avani Lekhara awarded the 'Par athlete of the Year' award in Females while Pramod Bhagat received the 'Special recognition award'.

Women's hockey team wins the 'Breakthrough Performance of the Year' award.

THE PARTNERS

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- Energy Partner: Bharat Petroleum; Airline Partner: Air Asia
- Lifestyle Partner: G-SHOCK; Broadcast Partner: WION
- Outdoor Partner: LAQSHYA

121. Recently _____ has been selected for the _____ **G.D Birla Award by K.K Birla Foundation for Scientific Research Fort for his outstanding tribute in the field of science.**

- A. Swapnil Pandey, 29th
- B. **Narayan Pradhan, 31st**
- C. Debanjali Shree, 35th
- D. Indrani Ghosh, 35th

Narayan Pradhan selected for GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences, the KK Birla foundation said in an official statement on Monday.

Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

Pradhan, a member of the faculty at the School of Material Sciences, Indian Association for the



Narayan Pradhan

Cultivation of Science, Jadavpur, graduated from Odisha's Fakir Mohan College and did his master's in chemistry from the Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. He went on to get a PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, in 2001. He did his post-doctoral research at Israel's Ben Gurion University and the University of Arkansas in the US. In 2007, he joined the Indian Association for the

vation of Science as an assistant professor. Pradhan's research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light-emitting semiconductor nanocrystals. His research group has significantly contributed to the surface construction of the newly emerged light-emitting halide perovskite nanocrystals, which are expected to be the next-generation lighting materials for photovoltaics and making LEDs. He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.

A fellow at the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, Pradhan has been a recipient of the LNJ Bhilwara Nanoscience award, the DST Swarnajayanti Fellowship award, the DST Nanoscience Young Career award, and the Oxford Nanoscientist award.

Indian archers win nine medals

SPORTS BUREAU

Indian archers bagged nine medals, including two gold, in the Asia Cup Stage-1 archery world-ranking tournament in Phuket on Saturday. The recurve archers got one gold and two silver medals, while the compound archers gathered one gold, four silver and a bronze.

The recurve men's team comprising B. Dhiraj, Rahul Nagarwal and Parth Salunkhe beat Kazakhstan, consisting of Ilfat Abdullin, Sanzhar Mussayev and Dautkeldi Zhangbyrbay, 6-2 in the final.

India lost to Bangladesh in mixed team (Parth and Ridhi) and women's team (Tisha Punia, Ridhi and Tanisha Verma) by 5-3 and 5-4 margins respectively to get silver.

Sakshi Chaudhary pipped compatriot Parneet Kaur 140-140 (10*-10, Sakshi closer to the centre) to claim the individual compound women's gold.

India collected silvers through Rishabh Yadav (individual men), men's team (Rishabh, Priyansh and Prathmesh Jawkar) and women's team (Sakshi, Pragati and Aditi) and a bronze through Prathmesh (individual men) in compound.

122. Recently Indian archers **clinched two gold and six silver medals to finish second behind _____ in the overall standings of the Asia Cup World Ranking Stage 1 tournament.**

- A. South Korea
- B. **Bangladesh**
- C. Nepal
- D. Japan

Indian archers clinched two gold and six silver medals to finish second behind Bangladesh in the overall standings of the Asia Cup World Ranking Stage 1 tournament on Saturday. In a depleted field without South Korea, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan, India had stormed into seven out of 10 finals. But they fell short on expectations and choked under pressure losing five finals, either in tie-breakers or by slender margins under overcast conditions. The two golds came in recurve men's team and compound women's individual section where it was an all-Indian affair. Second seed Sakshi Chaudhary got the better of her 13th seeded teammate Parneet Kaur in a tight shoot-off finish after they were tied 140-all. Both hit in the inner 10-ring but Sakshi edged out Parneet by shooting closer to the centre.

123. Recently _____ Government has published the book “Sarhul: Creative Expression of the Prisoners”, a Compilation of Articles Poems penned by more than two dozen prisoners lodged in Jail.

- A. Bihar
- B. Jharkhand**
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Kerala

The booklet titled, “Sarhul: Creative Expression of Prisoners of Jharkhand”, is a compilation of articles, sketches and poems penned by more than two dozen prisoners lodged in 30 jails across the state.

These are snippets from pieces penned by these inmates from various Jharkhand jails, which are part of a booklet published, for the first time, by the state government.

Prisoners pen notes, poems on hope & despair, Jharkhand govt is publisher

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, MARCH 14

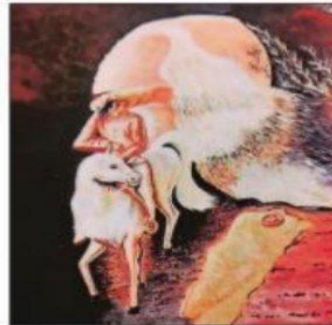
A DALIT prisoner vents his anguish over politicians “using” his community for votes. An under-trial inmate writes that the jail “transformed” him in such a way that no educational institute could ever do. A prisoner implicated in a chit fund scam urges people to introspect on their greed too.

epaper indianexpress.com

These are snippets from pieces penned by these inmates from various Jharkhand jails, which are part of a booklet published, for the first time, by the state government.

The booklet titled, “Sarhul: Creative Expression of Prisoners of Jharkhand”, is a compilation of articles, sketches and poems penned by more than two dozen prisoners lodged in 30 jails across the state.

The booklet opens with a poem by a Dumka Jail prisoner Asha Mishra, expressing a pessimistic view of the country’s criminal justice system. She



The booklet has poems and paintings by inmates

writes, “Kanoon ke pinjre mein lachar parinda hai. Kya raah dikhayega...kanoon to andha hai. Lachar jahan jaaye...har aur andhera hai...Nirdosh ke gardan par faansi ka fanda hai (There is a powerless bird in the cage of law, what road will it show...the law is blind. Wherever the powerless goes...there is darkness all around...a noose is dangling over the heads of innocents.”

A Dalit inmate serving life imprisonment, Subhash Chandr Bauri, in his poem, “Dalit se Karne Parichit (An acquaintance with Dalits)”, highlights how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

124. For February _____ has been awarded ICC Men’s player of the month while Amelia Kerr of _____ won in the Women’s Category.

- A. Rishabh Pant , Australia
- B. Shreyas Iyer , New Zealand**
- C. Rohit Sharma , England
- D. KL Rahul , South Africa

Shreyas Iyer awarded ICC's 'Player of the Month' award for February 2022.

Indian Batsman Shreyas Iyer has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February. Amelia Kerr, a New Zealand all-rounder, has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February. Iyer won the trophy for his outstanding white-ball performances during the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka last month.

ICC has introduced the ICC Player of the Month awards in January 2021. It recognizes the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket. It was established in 1909 by the representatives of Australia, England, and South Africa as the Imperial Cricket Conference. It is headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Its chairman is Greg Barclay. Its CEO is Geoff Allardice.

125. Recently **India fast bowler Jhulan Goswami** has become the **second player in women's cricket history to play 200 One-Day International (ODI) matches**. Who holds the most appearances in women's ODI matches with 230 ODI's?

- A. **Blinda Clarke**
- B. **Mithali Raj**
- C. **Charlotte Edwards**
- D. **Sophie Divine**

39-year-old Jhulan Goswami, playing her 5th World Cup tournament is a legend who needs no introduction. She has been the opening bowler for India since decades and continues to provide early breakthroughs with her pace bowling. In the must-win encounter earlier today against Australia, Jhulan Goswami added another feather to her illustrious cap.

After adding milestones like 40 Women's ODI World Cup Wickets, 250 One Day International wickets, and 350 career wickets, Jhulan became just the second player to play 200 one-day Internationals in women's cricket after Mithali Raj who was playing her 230th ODI match today.

Jhulan Set to Appear in 200th ODI

AUCKLAND Veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami is all set to make her 200th appearance in the ODI format when she takes the field against Australia in a crucial ICC Women's Cricket World Cup match at Eden Park on Saturday. If Goswami enters the field, she will become the first bowler and second overall in the history of women's ODI cricket to feature in 200 matches. IANS

126. Recently **Karolina Bielawska** from _____ has won the _____ edition of the **Miss World pageant that took place in Puerto Rico**.

- A. **Poland, 70th**
- B. **USA, 68th**
- C. **France, 78th**
- D. **Germany, 71st**

Karolina Bielawska of Poland wins Miss World 2021 title.

Karolina Bielawska has won the Miss World crown. She received the title at the Coca-Cola Hall in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

She is the 70th Miss world. Indian-American Shree Saini bagged the first runner-up title.

Olivia Yace from Cote d'Ivoire won the second runner-up title.

Manasa Varanasi represented India at the Miss World 2021.

She made it to the top 13 contestants. She Was At 11

Manushi Chhillar had won the Miss World crown in 2017.

Harnaz Sandhu of India had won the Miss Universe 2021 title.

AROUND THE WORLD



AND THE MISS WORLD 2021 IS... Poland's Karolina Bielawska (C) was crowned Miss World on Wednesday in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the year 2021, besting contestants from 96 other countries, including Miss India Manasa Varanasi, who stood 11th. Miss USA Shree Saini (L), an Indian-American, emerged the first runner-up, followed by Côte D'Ivoire's Olivia Yace (R). Bielawska was crowned by her predecessor Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica. The pageant was originally scheduled to be held in December, but was delayed due to Covid-19 among contestants

Indian-American Miss World runner-up lives with a pacemaker and survived facial burns

The story of Shree Saini, the 26-year-old Indian-American who was named the first runner-up in the Miss World 2021 pageant on Wednesday, is one of resilience. Ludhiana-born Saini, who grew up in Washington, has been living with a pacemaker since the age of 12. With a heartbeat rate of 20 per minute, doctors ruled her out

for her first love — ballet. But, literally dancing against all odds, Saini became a trained ballerina. Before she left for Miss World earlier this month, Saini urged people to “never lose sight of hope” and recalled how she survived a “major car accident that left my face with bleeding wounds” while she was still in university.

127. Recently _____ has become the first Architect from Africa to win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022.

- A. Damon Galgut
- B. Sarah Ferguson
- C. Izzey Reiedt
- D. Diebedo Francis Kere**

Architect, educator and social activist Francis Kere has been announced as the 2022 laureate of the Pritzker architecture prize 2022, the award often referred to as architecture's highest honour. He was born in the small village of gando in Burkina Faso; Kere is the first black architect to win the coveted award

Established by the Hyatt Foundation in 1979, the Pritzker architecture prize is bestowed on architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of talent, vision, and commitment.

128. Recently _____ has defeated Kerala by 3-1 in the shoot-out to win its Maiden Indian Super League title while _____ was awarded Golden Boot for scoring 19 goals in 23 Games.

- A. Hyderabad FC, Bartholomew Ogbeche
- B. Jamshedpur FC, Prabhsukhan Gill
- C. North East United FC, Greg Stewart
- D. Goa fc, Roshan Singh

Goalkeeper Laxmi Kant Kattimani made three stunning saves as Hyderabad FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters in the penalty shootout in the summit clash. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shootout after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra-time.

Given to the ISL top scorer of each season, the ISL Golden Boot award is the Holy Grail every striker or attacker playing in India's premier football league aspires to win. Bartholomew Ogbeche left nothing to chance in the ISL 2021-22 Golden Boot race. The Nigerian striker, in fact, scored almost twice the number of goals his nearest competitors managed.

Playing for Hyderabad FC, Bartholomew Ogbeche scored 18 goals in 20 matches to drive the Nizams to the final and eventually the ISL title.

Final result

Hyderabad FC (Tavora 88)	3 (1)
Kerala Blasters (Rahul 68)	1 (1)

Roll of honour

GOLDEN BOOT

Bartholomew Ogbeche (HFC)

GOLDEN GLOVE

Prabhsukhan Gill (KBFC)

HERO OF THE LEAGUE

Greg Stewart (JFC)

EMERGING PLAYER

Roshan Singh (BFC)

129. Recently _____ has won the Men's single title at All England Championship by defeating Lakshya Sen in Birmingham.

- A. Viktor Axelsen
- B. Akane Yamaguchi
- C. An Seyoung
- D. Lian Yung

Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen lost in the final from the world number one player Viktor Axelsen.

Viktor Axelsen defeated Lakshya Sen by 21-10, 21-15 in the men's singles final of the All England Open Badminton Championship in Birmingham.

Lakshya Sen is the first Indian to reach in men's singles final at the All England Championships in the last 21 years.

He is only the fifth Indian to reach the final of the All England Championships.

Recently, Lakshya Sen has become 1st Indian to win the Silver medal at the Badminton World Federation Super Series 300 German Open 2022.

All England Open Badminton Championship is a badminton

130. Recently _____ from _____ Country has won a blockbuster 2022 Bahrain Grand Prix.

- A. Charles LECLERC, Monaco
- B. Carlos SAINZ, Spain
- C. Lewis HAMILTON, UK
- D. George RUSSELL, France

Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 at the Bahrain International Circuit, a motor racing circuit in the west of Bahrain.

Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain) came second while Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came third. This was the first Formula One race of 2022.

Ferrari's Leclerc wins opening GP in Bahrain

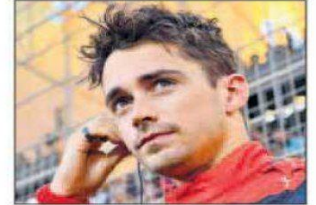
Agence France-Presse

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

SAKHIR: Charles Leclerc of Ferrari won the Formula One season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday after reigning champion Max Verstappen was forced out with engine trouble with just two laps remaining.

Carlos Sainz made it a Ferrari one-two while Lewis Hamilton snatched third place for Mercedes after Sergio Perez added to Red Bull's disastrous day by spinning out of the race on the last lap.

George Russell, in his first race since replacing Valtteri Bottas at Mercedes, took fourth place to give Mercedes a double



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. AFP

points score they could not have dreamed of in the middle of the race. There was also a remarkable outcome for the Haas team, which got no points last season but Kevin Magnussen, who replaced Russian driver Nikita Mazepin as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, finished fifth in his first race since 2020.

131. Recently Yulimar Rojas of _____ has created history by leaping 15.74 meters women's triple jump to close the world indoor track and field championships.

- a. Sweden
- b. Venezuela
- c. Russia
- d. Germany

Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas bettered her own women's triple jump world record with a leap of 15.74 metres to win gold at the World Indoor Championships on Sunday.

The Olympic champion beat her previous outright best of 15.67 metres set at the Tokyo Games last year, as well as her indoor record of 15.43 metres, set in 2020.

Rojas jumped over 15 metres four times in the final in Belgrade, landing the record on her sixth and final attempt.

MarynaBekh-Romanchuk of Ukraine won silver with 14.74 metres, a personal best. The bronze went to Jamaica's Kimberly Williams with 14.62 metres.

132. The book titled **Modi@20: A book about Prime Minister's 20-year political career will be released soon. The Book has been edited and compiled by whom?**

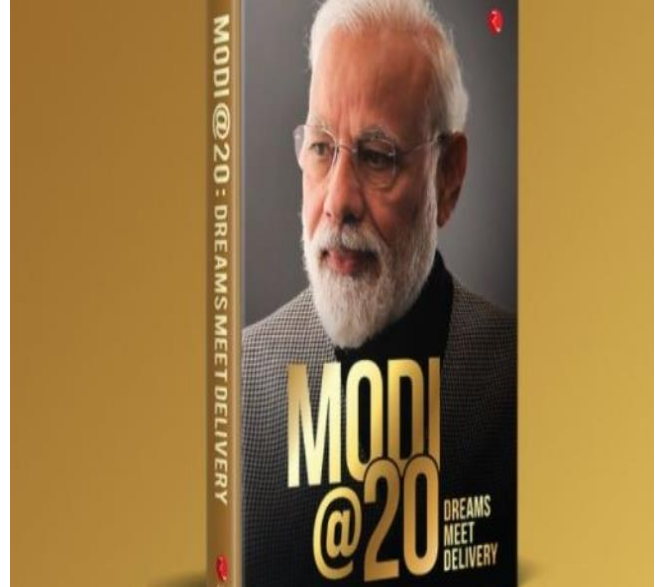
- A. Penguin India
- B. HarperCollins
- C. Blue Kraft Digital
- D. Rupa Publications

Modi@20: A book about Prime Minister's 20-year political career will be released soon.

The book exclusively depicts the last 20 years of PM Modi's political career, from his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Prime Minister of India.

The last 20 years have been very important for Narendra Modi, as he took over the reins of Gujarat in 2002 and is leading the country for almost 8 years since 2014.

Blue Kraft Digital Foundation edited and compiled the book.



Kohli Invests in Rage Coffee

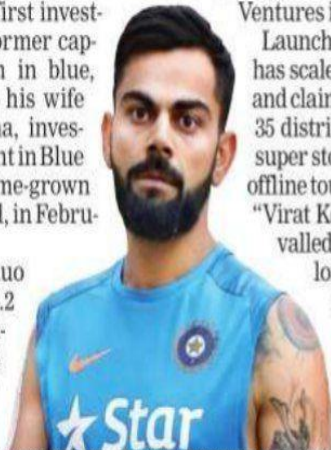
Gaurav.Laghate@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Cricketer Virat Kohli has invested an undisclosed amount in Rage Coffee, the Delhi-based FMCG company that manufactures, markets and distributes packaged coffee products

As part of the deal, Kohli will also become the brand ambassador of the company.

This is not the first investment from the former captain of the men in blue, who, along with his wife Anushka Sharma, invested a small amount in Blue Tribe Food, a home-grown plant-meat brand, in February this year.

Earlier, the duo had invested Rs 2.2 crore in Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa-backed insu-



rance startup Digit Insurance in February 2020, while he also owns a stake in wellness startup Hyperice.

Rage Coffee expects the association with the cricketer to boost the brand as a fan favourite in the market and create a pathway for customer acquisition.

Prior to this round, Rage Coffee had raised \$5 million of growth capital as part of its Series A funding round that was led by Sixth Sense Ventures in August 2021.

Launched in 2018, Rage Coffee has scaled up to new territories and claims an offline network of 35 distributors, four CFAs, five super stockists, covering 2,500+ offline touchpoints across India.

“Virat Kohli has set some unrivalled records in the top echelon of world cricket and is rightly known as the best batsman in the world,” said Bharat Sethi, founder and CEO, Rage Coffee.

Duplantis sets 'dream' World record

Holloway equals 60m hurdles world mark

WORLD INDOORS

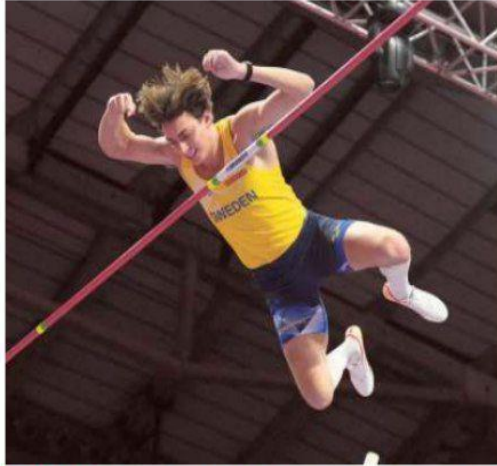
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 BELGRADE

Sweden's Armand Duplantis bettered his own pole vault World record as he soared to gold at the World Indoor Championships on Sunday, but Norwegian Jakob Ingebrigtsen's bid to further underline his 1500m dominance came a cropper.

US-born Duplantis cleared 6.20m on his third attempt, 1cm better than his previous best set in the same Stark Arena just two weeks ago.

As soon as main rivals Chris Nilsen and Thiago Braz had fallen by the wayside, Duplantis had no hesitation about raising the bar to a record height.

Also, American Grant Hol-

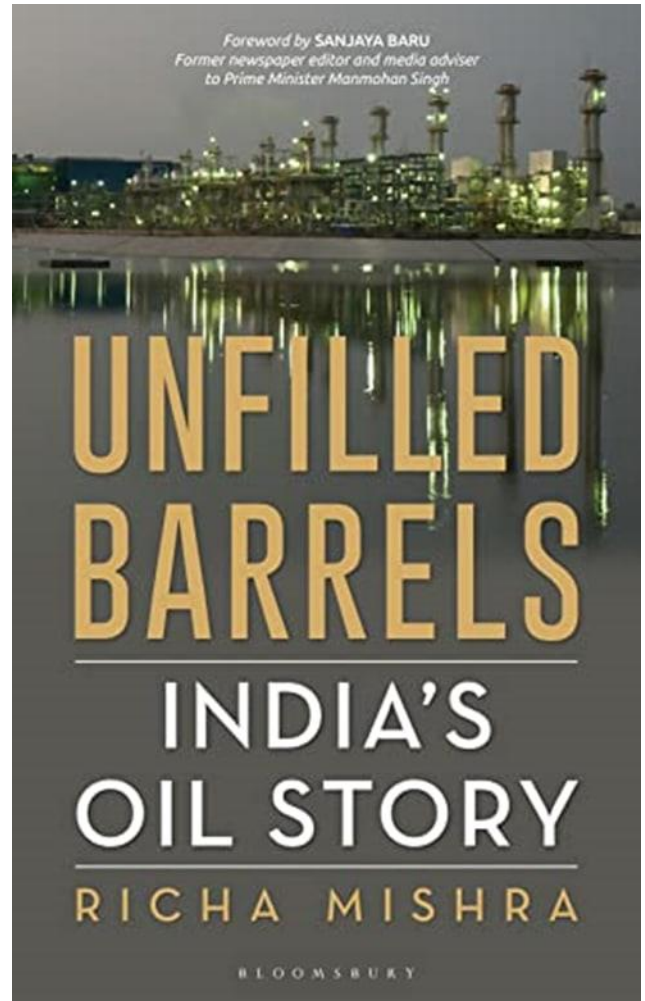


Sky's the limit: Duplantis sets the pole vault record. •REUTERS

loway provided further fireworks when he equalled his own world indoor record of 7.29s in the semifinals of the 60m hurdles before adding that gold to his outdoor 110m

world title.

Other winners: Men:
4x400m: Belgium. **Women:**
Long jump: Ivana Vuleta (Srb).
800m: Ajee Wilson (USA);
4x400m: Jamaica.



Science Tech Environment Defence

133. Recently _____ became the first station in the East-Coast Railway to implement the Concept of "One Nation, One Product".

- A. Mumbai Station
- B. Visakhapatnam Station**
- C. Bhopal Station
- D. Rani Kamlapati Station

In a first, Visakhapatnam railway station will be implementing the 'One Nation, One Product' concept, the Railway Board informed. It will become the first station in the East Coast railway to implement the concept. It would be running on a pilot basis for 15 days.

According to Walt air Divisional manager, Etikoppaka toys and handicraft products from the village will be showcased and sold at the Visakhapatnam Station. The railway station will allot a stall where the local product, distinct to the particular area will be sold. The Railway Board has advised identifying one station on each zonal railway for the implementation of the concept.

Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railway has been identified as the first station in the zone for implementation of the 'One station One Product,' said Anup Kumar Sethupathi, Walt air Divisional Manager.

134. Recently **NMDC, the country's largest Iron Ore producer** has inked pact with _____ for Drone based Mineral Exploration.

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

NMDC and IIT Kharagpur inked a MoU for drone-based mineral exploration.

National Mineral Development Corporation limited company has been involved in exploring minerals. NMDC and IIT Kharagpur would develop spectral products, methods, and algorithms for exploration using the Drone (UAV) for mining.

This collaboration will also help in the development of software spectral tools for mineral excavation. Both organizations will also work on developing capacity-building programs on mining technology.

National Mineral Development Corporation Limited will be the first central public enterprise to conduct Drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration.

135. Recently What is the name given to **this Year's first Cyclone** emerged in the **Bay of Bengal** and the name was given by which of the following countries?

- A. Sumami, Nepal
- B. Asani, Sri Lanka**
- C. Rose, Pakistan
- D. Rajsri, Bhutan

Cyclone Asani, which is expected to form over the north Andaman Sea on Monday evening, is the year's first cyclone and the first to form in the month of March in nearly two decades. Expected to bring heavy rainfall in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the cyclone has been named 'Asani' by Sri Lanka. In Sinhala, which is one of the official Language and the most widely-spoken in the country, 'Asani' translates to 'wrath.'

Cyclone Asani to develop in Bay of Bengal

Pune: The year's first cyclone is set to develop in the Bay of Bengal around March 21, said IMD on Thursday. Once intensified, the cyclone will be called Asani, a name given by Sri Lanka. As on date, the Met department said the cyclone would not affect mainland India as its likely track is headed towards Bangladesh – north Myanmar – and will move past the Andaman and Nicobar islands, bringing heavy rainfall on March 20 and 21. **ENS**

136. Recently the **Indian Army's Military Engineering Services (MES)** has constructed two houses Using the **3D printing technology** in collaboration with _____ in _____.

- A. Art park, Anji
- B. Tavasta, Gandhinagar**
- C. L&T, Ahmadabad
- D. C-DAC, Surat

The Indian Army's Military Engineering Services (MES) has constructed two houses using the 3D printing technology.

The houses were created using 3D Rapid Construction Technology, an official release confirmed. These digitally constructed houses are a first of its kind structure in India created by the South-Western Air Command in Gandhinagar.

These houses have been constructed in collaboration with Chennai based startup Tvasta. Each house built area of around 700 square feet. The disaster-resilient structures are in compliance with Zone-3 earthquake specifications.

Earlier the MES had constructed India's first 3D Printed sanitary blocks with a total built area of about 600 sqft at Jaisalmer, marking a new beginning for the possibilities of Construction 3D printing in Defense applications.

India's armed forces turn to 3D printing for military construction

Abhijit Ahaskar
abhijit.ahaskar@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

India's defence infrastructure development agency MES (military engineering services), has built two houses in South-Western Air Command, Gandhinagar and Jaisalmer, tapping 3D rapid construction technology from the private sector. The use of 3D printers by the Indian military is, however, not confined to houses alone.

"They are asking us to make bunkers and parking facilities for military vehicles in border areas where traditional construction is challenging due to harsh weather conditions and short supply of labour

due to the threat from hostile neighbours," Vidyashankar C, co-founder and chief operating officer, Tvasta Construction, the Chennai-based firm which built the 3D printed structures, said in an interview.

Incubated at the Institute of Technology-Madras, Tvasta, which had raised ₹3 crore from non-profit organization Habitat for Humanity in October, was one of the first to successfully develop a one-storey 3D printed house that met protocols for traditional houses.

The startup has been working with state-owned Central Building Research Institute

and Structural Engineering Research Centre for approvals to ensure that the 3D printed structures are safe to live in.

The 3D printed houses for the Indian Air Force (IAF) were deployed within 35 days, while traditional construction would have taken six months, Vidyashankar said.

The quick turnaround time is a key driver for increasing interest in 3D printing technology, he added.

"Government organizations have shown a lot of interest in the use of 3D printing for the defence and railways sectors," said Swapnil Sansare, founder and chief executive of Mumbai-based



The use of 3D printers by the Indian military is, however, not confined to houses alone.

3D printer manufacturer Divide by Zero.

Discussions are on at many levels to ensure the feasibility

and sustainability of the technology to build houses, bunkers and emergency structures, he said.

The company is working with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO) on some projects, Sansare said, without disclosing details.

Such 3D printed structures allow greater flexibility in designing.

For instance, the houses built for the IAF by Tvasta are different from the 600-sq-ft one-bedroom residential unit it had built in IIT Madras campus using 3D printers in April 2021. It was constructed in five days

for affordable housing. However, structures for the armed forces are designed specifically for areas where conditions are hostile. "For the Air Force, we have used a new composite mix and a new design to make it more adaptable to local conditions. The units in Jaisalmer, on the other hand, have a lot of curves to ensure sand deposits are avoided and it does not corrode the material. The material also has anti ultra violet (UV) properties," Vidyashankar said.

Emailed queries to a defence ministry spokesperson on the future deployment of 3D printed houses by armed forces did not elicit any response till press time.

The Indian armed forces are not the only defence organization to explore the use of 3D printed structures.

Last August, the US Army unveiled a 3D-printed 3,800 sqft barrack in Texas that can accommodate 72 people.

TURNING TO TECH

THE 3D printed houses for the Indian Air Force (IAF) were deployed within 35 days

THE quick turnaround time is key driver for increasing interest in 3D printing

137. Recently the **Cochin Shipyard limited** has built India's first high capacity dredger with Dutch **Technology** and signed MoU with **Dredging Corporation** worth _____ and named it as _____.

- A. USD 100 Million , DCI Dredge Ganga
- B. USD 105 Million , DCI Dredge Brahmaputra
- C. USD 110 Million , DCI Dredge Godavari
- D. USD 115 Million , DCI Dredge Yamuna

. A historic shipbuilding agreement signed by Dredging Corporation of India for the first Make in India project.

The agreement has been signed at Cochin Shipyard Limited for the construction of the **first Beagle Series 12 Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger of 12000 Cubic Meter capacity.**

Keeping in view the importance of dredging for port operations, the Ministry has issued Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports.

The **Shipbuilding Agreement will also get benefit from the Shipbuilding Financial Support Policy (SFAP) (2016) for Indian Shipyards.**

This policy provides financial assistance to Indian shipyards equal to 17% of the "Contract Price," "Fair Price," or "actual payments received".

A provision of **Rs. 4,000 crores** has been made for a period of ten years, viz. 2016-2026.

The Ministry will be able to meet the objectives of Maritime India Vision 2030 by reducing the logistic cost of cargo.

Firms in pact to build India's largest indigenous dredger

Dredging Corporation, Cochin Shipyard join hands for ₹920-crore project

DHRUVAKSH SAHA
New Delhi, 17 March

In a major push towards the Centre's Make in India initiative, Dredging Corporation of India and Cochin Shipyard on Thursday signed an agreement to build India's first domestically-manufactured high-capacity dredger.

The 12,000-cubic metre trailing suction hopper dredger (TSHD), which is being built at a cost of ₹920 crore, will be delivered in 34 months.

The DCI Dredge Brahma Putra vessel, which is to be used for desilting water bodies at a large scale, will be instrumental in facilitating the smooth mobility of both freight and passenger vessels, Union Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said at the signing ceremony.

Dredging Corporation, an erstwhile central government-owned company, was disinvested to four state-owned major ports in 2019.

"Till now, we had to import these dredgers from a Dutch firm — IHC Holland — which has a monopoly in this market. With the making of this dredger, we are foraying into building a full-scale dredger manufacturing ecosystem. The long-term aim is to be self-reliant in manufacturing," a senior ministry official said, adding that production opportunities can open up for several private players in the future.

With the embassies of India and the Netherlands involved in the negotiations, IHC Holland will be providing the basic design and technical know-how for the project.

"As the economy grows, we need to incorporate more dredgers in the maritime ecosystem," Sonowal said.

He said this project is also a beneficiary of the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy, which subsidises manufacturing for shipyards by up to 17 per cent of the contract value, actual payments received, or fair price, whichever is the lowest.

Sonowal said the move would significantly help in achieving the Maritime India Vision 2030, which envisages investments upwards of ₹3 trillion in Indian ports and a potential unlocking of more than ₹20,000 crore of revenue.

Over the past 40 years, Dredging

MAKE IN INDIA PUSH



- Cochin Shipyard will build 12,000-cubic metre trailing suction hopper dredger
- Firm to deliver the vessel in 34 months
- This is seen as a major push towards the Centre's Make in India initiative
- Dutch firm IHC Holland to provide basic

- design and technical know-how
- Aim to reduce imports of trailing suction hopper dredgers by 2030
- As production increases, manufacturing cost of dredger comes down
- At present, 70 per cent of dredging requirement is for maintenance

Corporation has imported its entire fleet of 10 TSHDs and two cutter suction dredgers. The cost of an imported TSHD comes around ₹1,000 crore.

"While the cost of importing vis-à-vis manufacturing is largely similar, we save valuable foreign exchange and generate growth opportunities for the micro small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector by making it in India," the official said.

Cochin Shipyard Chairman & Managing Director Madhu Nair said the lack of price differential is on account of the novelty of the project. He said that as the scale of production increases, the manufacturing cost of the dredger is likely to come down.

Dredging is the process of desilting river bodies, or removal of soil, mud, and dirt at the shores or the bottom. In the absence of dredging, vessels could be stuck at shore or face mobility issues,

causing significant delays in movement.

"Currently, 70 per cent of our dredging requirement is for maintenance dredging (maintaining water bodies previously dredged), while the rest accounts for capital dredging (desilting for new projects)," Inland Waterways Authority of India Chairman Sanjay Bandopadhyaya said, adding that it is expected to double by 2030.

It is the first of the two vessels that the central government envisages in the next four years.

"We'll do an evaluation after the first two are built, and we'll take our next steps based on the demand and supply," said another senior government official, adding that there are no other immediate or medium-term targets for domestic production of dredgers.

Dredging Corporation, an erstwhile central government-owned company, disinvested to four state-run major ports in 2019

138. Recently the World's longest Suspension Bridge "1915Canakale Bridge" has been built in _____ that connects European (Aegana Sea) and Asian Shores (Sea of Marmara) having _____ meter of span built with a Cost Of USD 2.8 Billion.

- A. Singapore , 1789 meters
- B. Turkey , 2023 meters
- C. Malaysia , 1896 meters
- D. Mauritius , 2346 meters

The 1915 Çanakkale Bridge has reached completion in Turkey with a span of **2,023 metres**, becoming the **longest suspension bridge in the world**.

Open to traffic over the Dardanelles waterway, the massive structure was created by consulting group COWI for contractor DLSY to connect Turkey's European and Asian shores.

The 1915 Çanakkale Bridge is located south of the Sea of Marmara. It is expected to carry up to **45,000 vehicles** across its six lanes each day and support both tourism and commercial activity in the region.

Other recent suspension bridges featured on Dezeen include the **world's longest glass bridge in China** and a **516-metre-long pedestrian suspension bridge in Portugal**.

{ **INFRASTRUCTURE** } BUILT AT A COST \$2.8BN

Turkey's new massive bridge links Europe, Asia

Agencies

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ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday opened the world's longest suspension bridge over the Dardanelles strait in northwestern Turkey - which cuts travel time between Asia and Europe to six minutes.

It connects the town of Gelibolu, located in the European side of Turkey's northwestern province of Çanakkale, with the town of Lapseki on the Asian side.

The bridge allows travellers to cross the Dardanelles - which connects the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara - in just six minutes compared to the previous 1 1/2 hours by ferry, the president said.

The \$2.8-billion "1915 Çanakkale Bridge" built by a consortium of Turkish and South Korean companies has a main span of 2.023km between its towers painted in the red and white colours of the Turkish flag, making it longer than the previous record-holder, the Akashi Kaikyō Bridge in Japan.

Erdogan has often boasted of mega infrastructure projects, including a third bridge over the Bosphorus, throughout his two-decade rule first as prime minister and then president.

The Turkish leader uses them as a means to drive economic growth as he eyes a re-win in presidential elections in 2023.

The inauguration coincides with the 107th anniversary of Ottoman forces' naval victory against British and French



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan poses in front of the "1915 Çanakkale Bridge", in Çanakkale, western Turkey. AP

troops in the Gallipoli campaign during World War I. In his speech, Erdogan said the bridge would "keep alive the memory

of Dardanelle martyrs".

Erdogan is also planning to build a canal in Istanbul - an alternative to the Bosphorus.

139. Consider the following statements regarding the ICGS 'Saksham'.

1. It is the fifth Coast Guard Ship in the series of 105 M-Class offshore patrol vessels.
2. Indian Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS 'Saksham' in Goa.

3. It is the last Offshore Patrol Vessel designed and developed by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for Coast Guard.

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

Indian Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS 'Saksham' in Goa.

It is the fifth Coast Guard Ship in the series of 105 M-Class offshore patrol vessels.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar commissioned the offshore patrol vessel in Goa.

It is the last Offshore Patrol Vessel designed and developed by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for Coast Guard.

In 2020, ICGS 'Saksham' was launched as part of the indigenous project.

The Gearbox part of ICGS 'Saksham' has been indigenously built by Walchand nagar Industries Limited (WIL), Pune.

Geeta Engg Works Pvt. Ltd. and the Ministry of Defence had signed the deal on 26th August 2016. The Indian Coast Guard vessels will be equipped with modern and advanced machinery and computerized controls systems.

140. The Indian Army will participate in a Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2022 with _____ to share the experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment.

- A. UAE
- B. Singapore
- C. Seychelles
- D. Malaysia

Indian Army will participate in Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2022 along with Seychelles Defence Forces.

The Joint Military exercise will be conducted at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) from March 22 to 31.

Its main objective is to share the experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment.

Troops from the 2/3 Gorkha Rifles group (Prikanthi Battalion) will participate in this exercise.

Training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations will be part of this 10-day-long joint exercise. Lamitiye, which means friendship, is a biennial military exercise being conducted in Seychelles since 2001.

141. Recently _____ and *Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited* has signed a MoU For the construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas.
- A. DRDO
 - B. BRO**
 - C. NTPC
 - D. NHAI

Border Roads Organization and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited have signed a MoU on March 15, 2022.

The MoU is for construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas.

MoU includes supply, construction and launching of 27 double-lane bridges of carriageway in the Northern and North Eastern Border States.

BRO had successfully trial evaluated an “Indigenous 140 feet Double Lane Modular Bridge” of Indian Road Congress (IRC) Load Class 70 last year. It was supplied by GRSE Ltd.

This bridge was constructed on “Flag Hill-Dokala” Road in Sikkim at an altitude of 11,000 feet by Karam yogis of Project Swastik in February 2021. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited is a Mini Ratna Category-1 Company.

Border Roads Organization (BRO): It was formed on 7 May 1960. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Rajeev Chaudhary is the current Director-General of BRO.

142. In March A First-of-its-kind, _____ has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in the field of Marine Engineering by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- A. INS Vishakhapatnam
 - B. INS Shivaji**
 - C. INS Tabar
 - D. INS Mukti

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has recognised INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the field of Marine Engineering.

MSDE’s designation of INS Shivaji as a Centre of Excellence is the first of its kind for any military organization, and it reflects the INS Shivaji continued commitment to skill and technology development.

INS Shivaji is an Indian Naval Station in Maharashtra. The naval Station was commissioned as HMIS (His Majesty’s Indian Ship) Shivaji in February, 1945. CoE is a body that provides leadership, best practices, research, support, training of trainers and skill training for a specific sector/s.

143. Consider the following statement regarding the *MV Ram Prasad Bismil*, the longest vessel to sail on Brahmaputra River.

1. *MV Ram Prasad Bismil* started its journey from *Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia* and reached *Pandu port in Guwahati*.
2. This vessel is 90 meters long and 26 meters wide with a draft of 2.1 meters.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

MV Ram Prasad Bismil becomes longest vessel to sail on Brahmaputra River.

MV Ram Prasad Bismil started its journey from Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia and reached Pandu port in Guwahati.

This vessel is 90 meters long and 26 meters wide with a draft of 2.1 meters.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had flagged off the vessel along with two barges - DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam on 16 February.

This trial run has paved the path of cargo transport from Kolkata to Guwahati via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBRP).

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) are working for the smooth cargo movement between both countries.

144. _____ Expressway will be India's 1st Expressway with 9 Green Bridges, 7 Underpasses for Animals.

- A. Yamuna Expressway
- B. Ganga Expressway
- C. Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway
- D. Mumbai Pune Expressway

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Third Week of March (16th – 23rd March 2022)

The Balasaheb Thackeray Samruddhi Mahamarg (expressway) between Nagpur and Mumbai will be the first highway in the country where nine green bridges (overpasses) and 17 underpasses for wild animal movement are being constructed as part of mitigation measures.

Also, all along the highway, leopard-proof fences will also be constructed so that the animal doesn't jump over on to **the 701 km expressway which will see vehicles plying at speed up to 150kmph. The 120-metre wide road runs through 10 districts of Maharashtra and will cut the travel time from 16 to 8 hours.**

Of this 701km, 117km passes through wildlife habitats, tiger corridors, and eco-sensitive zone (ESZ)

145. Recently _____ and **Suzuki Motor Corporation** has jointly announced a partnership for the commercialization of **e-VTOL flying cars**.

- A. Sagar Defence
- B. SkyDrive**
- C. New India Research
- D. BEML

SkyDrive Inc. (hereinafter "SkyDrive") and Suzuki Motor Corporation (hereinafter "Suzuki") jointly announced on March 22 a partnership for the commercialization of flying cars (*).

SkyDrive is a leading manufacturer of flying cars in Japan and is currently engaged in the development of a compact, two-seater electric-powered flying car with plans for full-scale production.

Suzuki is one of Japan's leading automakers with expertise that includes manufacturing and selling compact cars in international markets.

Flying cars are formally known as eVTOL (electric vertical takeoff and landing) aircraft. EVTOL is a fully autonomous autopilot and vertical takeoff and landing.



An attendee checks out a SkyDrive flying car during CES 2022 in Las Vegas REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Suzuki MotorCorp, SkyDrive sign agreement to develop ‘flying cars’

REUTERS

Tokyo, March 22

Japanese automaker Suzuki MotorCorp and flying car firm SkyDrive said on Tuesday they have signed a deal to team up in research, development and marketing of electric, vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

In a joint statement, the two companies said they will also work to open up new markets with an initial focus on India, where Suzuki has a roughly half share of the auto market.

Suzuki announced on Sunday it plans to invest \$1.37

billion in its India factory to produce electric vehicles and batteries.

Details of investment

The companies didn't disclose details of investments in their partnership, nor outline any production timetable or target.

Founded in 2018, Tokyo-headquartered SkyDrive counts big Japan businesses such as trading house Itochu Corp, techfirm NEC Corp and a unit of energy company EneosHoldings, among its main shareholders. In 2020 it

raised ¥5.1 billion (\$42 million) in total in Series B funds, according to its website.

SkyDrive is currently engaged in the development of a compact, two-seating electric-powered flying car with plans for full-scale production. The statement did not say whether Suzuki would be working on this specific vehicle.

The company, which is also developing cargo drones, aims to launch a flying car service in Osaka in 2025 when the Japanese city hosts the World Expo.

{ WORLD } BLAST OFF THIS SUMMER NASA rolls out its mega Moon rocket



NASA's massive new rocket began its first journey to a launchpad on Thursday ahead of a battery of tests that will clear it to blast off to the Moon this summer. It left the Kennedy Space Center's Vehicle Assembly Building around 5:47 pm Eastern Time (2147 GMT) and began an 11-hour journey on a crawler-transporter to the hallowed Launch Complex 39B, four miles (6.5 kilometers) away. Around 10,000 people had gathered to watch the event. With the Orion crew capsule fixed on top, the Space Launch System (SLS) Block 1 stands 322 feet (98 meters) high -- taller than the Statue of Liberty, but a little smaller than the 363 feet Saturn V rockets that powered the Apollo missions to the Moon. Despite this, it will produce 8.8 million pounds of maximum thrust (39.1 Meganewtons), 15 percent more than the Saturn V, meaning it's expected to be the world's most powerful rocket at the time it begins operating. **AFP**

Longest ever vessel to sail on Brahmaputra completes pilot run

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

THE LONGEST ever vessel to sail on the Brahmaputra river, the MV Ram Prasad Bismil, completed a pilot delivery of heavy cargo to the Pandu Port, Guwahati on Tuesday.

The delivery marks the beginning of barging operations from Kolkata to Guwahati via the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR), made possible by dredging of key stretches of Brahmaputra by India and Bangladesh governments to enable seamless navigation.

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said the success of the pilot projects allowed "the long-awaited connect for the business of Northeast through the marine network with the rest of the world." He had flagged off the vessel, which was loaded with 1,793



The vessel MV Ram Prasad Bismil. *PIB*

metric tonnes of steel rods and two barges DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam, from Haldia on February 16.

A government release said the pilot run was made possible by combined efforts at dredging key stretches of the IBPR including the Sirajganj-Daikowa stretch. "The government of India along with government of People's Republic of Bangladesh funded the dredging of this stretch — with 80:20 ra-

tio respectively," it read. The minimum navigational draft or depth required to sail for the MV Ram Prasad Bismil was 2.0 metres.

The vessel has previously carried a consignment of 200 metric tonnes of foodgrains for Food Corporation of India from Patna to Pandu, and successfully completed the pilot movement of cargo between Ganga, the National Waterway 1 and Brahmaputra, the National Waterway 2.

Centre sanctions ₹1,000 crore to set up 1,576 EV charging stations

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 22

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) on Tuesday said it has sanctioned 1,576 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across 16 highways and nine expressways under phase II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme with a budget of ₹1,000 crore.

It had already sanctioned 2,877 charging stations in 68 cities across 25 States/Union Territories (UTs) under the second phase of the scheme.

As per the guidelines, there will be at least one station every 25 km on both sides of the highway and also at least one charging station for long-range/heavy-duty EVs every 100 km on both sides of the highway. "For the city, at least one charging station will be set up in a grid of 3 km x 3 km," it added.

Some of the expressways include Mumbai-Pune and Ahmedabad-Vadodara (10 stations each by EESL), Delhi-Agra Yamuna (20 by EESL), Bengaluru-Chennai (30 by BEL), Agra-Lucknow (40 by REIL), Delhi-Srinagar (80 by EESL) and Delhi-Kolkata (160 by EESL).