

National /State News

1. Recently the government has approved an amendment in the **Mega Power Policy 2009** to give more time limits for _____ power projects for furnishing the final mega certificates to the tax authorities.

- A. 9
- B. 10**
- C. 11
- D. 12

CCEA has approved an amendment in the Mega Power Policy 2009 to give more time to these power projects. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday extended the time limit for 10 power projects by 36 months to furnish documents required to become certified 'mega' projects so as to avail tax benefits and bid for tenders or supply of electricity.

The extension of time period will enable developers to competitively bid for future PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) and get tax exemptions as per policy terms,

During this extended period, bids for firm power (combination of intermittent renewable energy, storage and conventional power) will be invited in coordination with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI),

10 mega power projects get 3 more years to submit papers

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 30

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), on Wednesday, approved a time extension of 36 months to 10 provisional mega power projects for furnishing the final mega certificates to the tax authorities.

“Extension of time period for furnishing the final mega certificate will enable developers to competitively bid for future PPAs and get tax exemptions as per policy terms.

“The increased liquidity will boost the overall growth of the country and also ensure the revival of various stressed power assets,” said the government in a statement.

Time period

The time period for the 10 provisional mega power projects, which are com-

missioned or partly-commissioned for furnishing the final mega certificates to the tax authorities, has been extended to 156 months instead of 120 months from the date of import, it added.

“During this extended period, bids for firm power (combination of intermittent renewable energy, storage and conventional power) will be invited in coordination with Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), and these mega projects will be expected to participate in such bids to secure PPAs,” it said.

The Ministry of Power will also develop an alternative in this period, based on the present electricity markets, while ensuring that benefits are passed onto consumers in a competitive manner.

2. Recently the Union Cabinet has approved _____ percent DA hike for all central government employees and pensioners, w.e.f April 1, 2022. With this, the dearness allowance will become _____ percent of the basic salary of the central government employees.

- A. 4 % , 31 %
- B. 3 % , 34 %**
- C. 2 % , 31 %
- D. 3 % , 30 %

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Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

The government has hiked the dearness allowance (DA) component for central government employees by 3% to 34% effective from January 1, 2022. The hike in DA will benefit central government employees, central government pensioners and family pensioners getting pension from the central government

Dearness allowance percentage is reviewed and re-fixed/ increased by the government twice every year on January 1 and July 1.

Dearness allowance is usually received by government employees to compensate for rising inflation. The decision announced today will put more money in the hands of government employees and pensioners.

DA, DR hiked for all central govt employees, pensioners

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised the dearness allowance (DA) by 3% to 34% of basic pay for 4.77 million central government employees and a similar increase in the dearness relief (DR) was announced for 6.86 million pensioners to provide them respite from price rise.

"The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be ₹9,544.50 crore per annum," an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting said.

Both employees and pensioners will get the raised amount retrospectively from January 1, 2022, it said. "This increase is in accordance with

Three other approvals

Other than the approval for release of an additional instalment of DA, two more major decisions were cleared on Wednesday

MSMEs

\$808mn

stands approved for the World Bank-assisted

programme on 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance', or RAMP.

This is a new scheme that will commence in 2022-23, the government has said

POWER PROJECTS

3 years

extension given to identified 10

provisional mega certified projects for furnishing the final Mega Certificates to the tax authorities

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

15 Light Combat Helicopters

procurement approved by Cabinet Committee on Security at the cost of ₹3,887 crore

the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission," it said.

The announcement of the

latest hike came in under five months after the government raised the two components by 3% to 31% in October 2021.

→ Full report on P19

3. Recently Prime Minister of India has announced to provide _____ to the BIMSTEC secretariat for *increasing its operational budget during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit.*

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Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

- A. USD 2 Billion
- B. USD 1 Billion**
- C. USD 5 Billion
- D. USD 3 Billion

PM Modi to virtually attend 5th BIMSTEC Summit on 30 March 2022.

Sri Lanka is hosting the summit meeting. Sri Lanka holds current chairmanship of BIMSTEC.

The summit meeting is being held in virtual mode. The meetings of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers were held on 29 March 2022. It was held under the theme “BIMSTEC – Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, and Healthy Peoples”. The Summit was chaired by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka

4th BIMSTEC Summit was held in August 2018. It was hosted by Nepal. 1st BIMSTEC Summit was held in 2004. BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation): It is an international organization of seven countries for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation. It was founded on 6 June 1997 and is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

4. Recently *India and Sri Lanka* have signed how many agreements to boost bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors like technology, fisheries and hybrid power projects during the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Colombo?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6**
- D. 7

India and Sri Lanka have signed six agreements to boost bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors like technology, fisheries and hybrid power projects

The MOUs include implementation of Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with India's grant assistance and for providing Maritime Rescue Coordination Center.

There is an MOU on implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three Islands off Jaffna and also on cooperation in development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka,

The two sides signed MoU for the establishment of modern computer labs and smart boards with customized curriculum software in 200 schools in Galle District and a separate MOU between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute.

India, Lanka ink 6 pacts, PM to address Bimstec

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar held bilateral talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart GL Peiris late on Monday night on the sidelines of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) ministerial meeting, and the two sides signed six agreements in areas ranging from energy to fisheries. One of the agreements was for implementing the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI)

programme based on India's Aadhar card.

The meeting of the foreign ministers, part of preparations for the virtual Bimstec Summit on Wednesday, focused on cooperation in areas such as connectivity, energy and maritime security.

The summit, which will be virtually attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will adopt the Bimstec charter and a 10-year master plan for transport connectivity. →P11

India to build power plants on 3 Sri Lankan islands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, March 29

India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement on implementing hybrid power projects on three Sri Lankan islands off northern Jaffna, replacing a Chinese venture, according to a statement from the Indian Embassy.

In January 2021, Chinese firm Sinosar-Etechwin was awarded the contract to install a hybrid renewable energy system in Nainativu, Delft or Neduntheevu and Analaitivu, but India objected to the plan. The three islets are located close to Tamil Nadu.

India also signed agreements to provide a maritime rescue coordination centre and building fisheries harbours in Sri Lanka, implement Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity programme; establish computer labs and smart boards in 200 schools in Galle district and an MoU between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute.

5. The *First-of-its-kind inter-state migrant welfare office of India* will be set up in _____, to take all matters related to migrant workers.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Pune
- C. Kochi**
- D. Lucknow

First-of-its-kind inter-state migrant welfare office in the country will come up in Kochi soon. The single window service will take up all matters related to migrant workers, said district labour officer P M Feroz. Industries Minister P Rajeev and Revenue Minister K Rajan will inaugurate the facility

The facility, 'Atithi Devo Bhava', will be a nodal office for migrant welfare activities. The office was set up with the support of LNG Petro net as part of their CSR activities.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

6. Consider the following Statements related to the merger of all film bodies under **National Film Development Corporation**.

1. All the branches of the films division, **Directorate of film festivals (DFF)**, **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** and **Children’s Film Society of India (CFSI)** will be merged with the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.
2. As per the Ministry the Production Vertical for production of documentaries in the **NFDC** will be named as **“Films Division”**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has transferred the mandate of four film media units to NFDC.

The mandate of production of documentaries and short films, organization of film festivals and preservation of films has been transferred to NFDC.

The mandate of four film media units (Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India and Children’s Film Society, India) have been transferred to NFDC.

The decision to merge these four film media units was taken by union cabinet in December 2020. The mandate of production of documentaries and organization of film festivals was being carried out by Films Division and Directorate of Films Festivals, respectively.

NFDC will now organize major upcoming film festivals like Mumbai International Film Festival, International Film Festival of India at Goa, and Children’s Film Festival. National Film Development Corporation (NFDC):

It is a Public Sector Undertaking working under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It was founded in 1975.

NFDC is already carrying out the mandate of the production of feature films. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

to be declared in a transparent manner. However, the target beneficiaries are already covered," she noted. "This time we are discussing on States such as a continuous process of revisiting the health benefits received following the usual claim adjustment process.

Four govt.-run film units merged with NFDC

It will reduce overlap of various activities and ensure better utilisation of public resources: Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through three different orders on Wednesday, transferred the mandate of production of documentaries and short films; organisation of film festivals; and preservation of films to the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), which functions under the Ministry.

Stating that the mandate of the Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India and Children's Film Society, India had been transferred to the NFDC, the Ministry said: "Bringing all these activities under a single management will reduce the



The Tagore Film Centre of the National Film Development Corporation in Chennai. • FILE PHOTO

overlap of various activities and ensure better utilisation of public resources. The mandate of production of feature films is already being carried out by NFDC."

The ownership of the as-

sets available with these units will remain with the Central government. According to the orders, the mandate of production of documentaries that was earlier done by the Films Division has been

completely transferred to the NFDC with effect from April 1. The legacy and brand name of Films Division will be taken further and the production vertical of the NFDC will be named as the Films Division.

Similarly, the organisation of film festivals that was the Directorate of Films Festivals' mandate has been transferred to the NFDC.

Some of the major upcoming film festivals to be organised by the NFDC are the Mumbai International Film Festival, the International Film Festival of India at Goa, and the Children's Film Festival.

The preservation-related activities carried out earlier by the National Film Ar-

chives of India have also been transferred to the NFDC.

The Ministry said: "Financial incentives for audio-visual co-productions with foreign countries and for promotion of shooting of foreign films in India have also been approved by the government to further stimulate the Audio-Visual service sector of the economy and promote creative and technical services. This will also be spearheaded by the NFDC through its Film Facilitation Office."

The government has made a budgetary allocation of ₹1,304.52 crore up to 2026 for all these activities, to be implemented through the NFDC.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022.

1. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022 proposes the "Darlong" community as a sub-tribe of "Kuki" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tripura.
2. The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for the inclusion of the Darlong community in the list of Tripura Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the following statement is/are 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
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Lok Sabha passed a bill to include Tripura's Darlong community in Scheduled Tribes list. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 has been passed by Lok Sabha. It will amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

The bill has a provision to include the Darlong community as a sub-tribe of the Kuki tribal community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. 19 tribal communities of Tripura live under Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council formed on January 18, 1982.

Around 8.6% of India's population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes community. As per the 2011 Census, Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population in India. Meghalaya has the lowest Scheduled Tribe population.

8. Recently the Government of _____ and Meghalaya have signed an agreement to resolve their border disputes of around 884-km boundary.

- A. Manipur**
- B. Assam**
- C. Mizoram**
- D. Nagaland**

The government of Assam and Meghalaya signed an agreement to resolve border disputes. Both state governments have drafted a resolution to resolve their border disputes along the 884-km boundary.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma signed the agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Assam and Meghalaya have already resolved 6 out of 12 points of the dispute. The remaining 6 points will be also resolved soon.

The land dispute has emerged in 1972 when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam to form a new state.

The border dispute has emerged due to different readings of the demarcation of boundaries in the initial agreement.

9. Recently the “*Sariska Tiger Reserve*” was seen in news. The tiger reserve is located in which of the following states?

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

A massive fire has broken out at Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Alwar district. The fire erupted in the Akbarpur range has spread over an area of around 8-10 sq km.

Air Force Helicopters have been deployed for sprinkling water in affected areas. Sariska Tiger Reserve has a total of 27 tigers and nine tigers are living in the area affected by the fire. Due to lightning and thunderstorm, forest fire incidents occur. It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.

It attained the status of a national park in 1979. It is well known for its large population of Rhesus Monkeys.

Massive fire in Sariska Tiger Reserve, IAF choppers deployed

DEEP MUKHERJEE
 JAIPUR, MARCH 29

A MASSIVE fire has broken out in the Sariska Tiger Reserve and Air Force helicopters equipped with water sprays are battling to bring it under control, said Rajasthan Forest Department officials Tuesday.

“An 8-10 sq km area in the Akbarpur range has been affected,” said Roop Narayan Meena, Field Director, Sariska Tiger Project, Alwar.

The fire was first noticed on Sunday. The next day, officials tried to get it under control, without much success; strong winds ensured that the blaze reached the hills, Meena said in a statement. Authorities then called in the Disaster Management Department.

On Tuesday, Air Force Helicopters sprinkled water on affected areas and the fire in the hills was partially extinguished, said Meena. The helicopter operations will continue, said the statement.

At least nine tigers, including cubs, are known to move around in the area which has been affected by fire, forest officials said.

“Sariska has a total of 27 tigers. Around nine tigers including four adult tigers and tigress and five cubs/sub-adults are known to move around in the area in Akbarpur where the fire



An IAF chopper Tuesday sprays water on a fire that broke out in Sariska Tiger Reserve. PTI

has broken out. Some of the tigers that move around in the area include tigers ST-14, ST-17

and ST-23,” said a senior forest official who didn’t wish to be named.

The official added that the place affected by the fire is a thick forest area.

Around 200 forest officials, drivers, nature guides and residents of nearby villages have been called in to help, said the statement.

Meena said fire’s cause is yet to be ascertained.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Head of Forest Force), Deep Naryan Pandey said that more than 100 forest staff have been sent to the fire affected area.

“Tropical dry forests are fire prone because they contain high fuel. This time the fire has spread from the top of the hill. Our main concern is in a 3-4 square kilometre area was for a mother and her two cubs. The fire was proceeding towards that direction but the helicopters managed to extinguish the fire. The peripheral fire could be controlled. The government is taking all prompt measures to control the fire. One advantage in the context of tigers is that in tropical dry forest fires, bigger animals can run away and escape the flames and the main casualties are smaller animals such as reptiles. There are no villages in the area. We have sent hundred people from three divisions today to Sariska. The IAF helicopters will continue their operations. We are hoping that the fire will be controlled by tomorrow,” said Pandey.

10. Recently the Union Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that the government is planning to build _____ new airports by 2025.

- A. 80**
- B. 140
- C. 150
- D. 250

With 80 new ones, govt aims to have 220 airports by 2025

Air Traffic Likely To Grow 3X By FY24, LS Told

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025, civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, as he expected that the revival of the sector, scarred by the Covid-19 pandemic, may lead to a substantial jump in passenger traffic.

Replying to a discussion on the demands for grants for his ministry, which was passed by the House, Scindia said as many as 3.8 lakh passengers flew daily in the past



Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said there were 74 airports in the country till 2014 and 66 were added in the past seven years

seven days and the ministry has set a target of nearly tripling air traffic to 40 crore annually by 2023-24. He said that at a time when the global airline industry is facing difficulties, two new airlines, Jet and Akasa, will soon launch their services. Scindia told the House

that there were 74 airports in the country till 2014 while 66 new ones were added in the past seven years. "We have nearly doubled the capacity (in seven years). Our resolve is now to take this number up to 220 by 2025," he said.

As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) data, 8.4 crore people travelled on domestic flights in 2021, as compared to 6.3 crore in 2020—the year of Covid outbreak and long lockdowns. The number of passengers increased from 6.7 crore in 2013-14 to 14.5 crore in 2018-19. The number of planes too increased from 400 from 2013-14 to 710 by 2018-19.

Scindia said that the government has planned to create 33 new domestic cargo terminals, set up 15 new flight training schools for pilots, create more jobs, and increase focus on the drone sector. He said steps will be taken to simplify the process of granting pilot licenses using advanced technologies, while flagging off that over 15% of pilots in India are females against the global average of 5%.

11. Recently _____ has partnered with Boeing and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) on sustainable aviation fuel at the ongoing Wings India 2022.

- A. SpiceJet
- B. Air India
- C. IndiGo
- D. Vistara

SpiceJet, Boeing and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) have partnered on sustainable aviation fuel.

The partnership was announced at the ongoing Wings India 2022, Asia's largest civil aviation conference.

The partnership aims to explore use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Indian aviation industry.

The companies will jointly work to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel supply from CSIR-IIP and its partners to help SpiceJet de-carbonized its operations.

While speaking at Wings India 2022, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Minister said that number of air passengers in India will be more than 410 million per annum by 2024-25.

Wings India 2022 has been jointly organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI from March 24-27 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. Telangana is the host state for the conference.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that the government is planning to build 80 new airports to set a target of having 220 by 2025.

The government is planning to create 33 new domestic cargo terminals and 15 new flight training schools for pilots. The Government is aiming to increase the number of air passengers from 34.5 crores in 2018-19 to 40 crores in 2023-24.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

12. Recently the Government has given in-principle approval for setting up of how many Greenfield Airports across India under the UDAN Scheme?

- A. 17
- B. 18
- C. 21
- D. 15

Government has given in-principle approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across India. Out of these, 8 Greenfield airports have been operationalized. These eight airports are Sindhudurg, Shirdi, Kalaburagi, Kushinagar, Orvakal (Kurnool), Durgapur, Pakyong and Kannur. Under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik), 154 Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) airports have been identified for the operation of RCS flights. Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in October 2016.

13. On the occasion of Shree Shree Harichand Thakur's 211th birth anniversary, PM Modi has addressed the Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 of which of the following States?

- A. Delhi
- B. West Bengal
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

PM Modi will address 'Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022' on 29th March.

On the occasion of Shree Shree Harichand Thakur's 211th birth anniversary, PM Modi will address Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 at Thakurbari in West Bengal.

During the pre-independence era, Shree Shree Harichand Thakur Ji dedicated his life to the oppressed, downtrodden, and deprived people of undivided Bengal.

In 1860, he began a social and religious movement in Orakandi, Bangladesh, which led to the formation of the Matua Dharma.

All India Matua Mahasangha is hosting Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 from March 29 to April 5, 2022.

14. Recently the first phase of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 concluded in which of the following cities on 27 March 2022?

- A. Warangal
- B. Hyderabad

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

C. Rajamahendravaram

D. Chennai

First phase of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 concluded in Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh on 27 March 2022. Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan and Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER G. K. Reddy had inaugurated the festival on 26 March 2022.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) is being organized for the first time in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. The 2nd and 3rd phases of RSM will be held at Warangal and Hyderabad on March 29-30 and April 1-3, respectively. It is the flagship festival of the Ministry of Culture.

15. Recently who amongst the following has received the *lifetime achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award at the 12th edition of Sansad Ratna Awards?*

A. M Veerappa Moily

B. H V Hande

C. Shrirang Appa Barne

D. Both M Veerappa Moily & H V Hande

E. Both H V Hande & Shrirang Appa Barne

M Veerappa Moily and H V Hande received Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award at the 12th edition of Sansad Ratna Awards.

At the 12th edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards, 11 MPs have been honoured in various categories. Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra presented the awards at the Maharashtra Sadan. The awardees have been selected on the basis of their performance from the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha till the end of the winter session.

Arjun Ram Meghwal and T S Krishnamurthy chaired the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee. It was started on the suggestion of APJ Abdul Kalam. It was first given by APJ Abdul Kalam in 2010.

16. Consider the following statements regarding "*Param Shakti*".

1. "*Param Shakti*" is a Peta-scale Supercomputer and was *inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).*

2. The system was *designed and implemented by HPC Technologies team, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).*

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

A. Only 1

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

Param Shakti", a Peta-scale Supercomputer, inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

The system was designed and implemented by HPC Technologies team, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

NSM is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the supercomputer on March 27, 2022. The supercomputing facility aims to speed up research and development in the computational and data sciences in multidisciplinary domains.

In March 2019, IIT Kharagpur and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (CDAC) signed a MoU to develop this state-of-the-art Supercomputing Facility with 17680 CPU cores and 44 GPUs. Additionally, IIT Kharagpur established the Centre for Computational and Data Science, whose mission is to train researchers in supercomputer-accelerated research and development.

17. Which of the following states has recently announced the "Vinaya Samarasya Yojana", an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state?

A. Karnataka

B. Tamil Nadu

C. Chattisgarh

D. Uttar Pradesh

Karnataka government will launch the "Vinaya Samarasya Yojana," a public awareness campaign aimed at ending untouchability in rural areas.

The scheme is named after Vinay, a three-year-old Dalit kid whose family was fined when he tried to enter a temple in Koppal, Karnataka.

On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti (14 April), Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will launch the "Vinaya Samarasya Yojana". The campaign would be implemented in all gram panchayats of Karnataka. The scheme was announced in the Karnataka budget for 2022-23 to promote awareness about untouchability in the state. Chief Minister is Sri Basavaraj Bommai and Governor is Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

18. Recently _____ has becomes India's 1st FMCG factory to be recognised as an 'Advanced 4th Industrial Revolution Lighthouse' by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

- A. HUL Dapada Unit
- B. NTPC Barauni Unit
- C. IOCL Naurara Unit
- D. HPCL Ladakh Unit

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) announced that its Dapada factory, manufacturing home care products including Surf excel, Rin, and Vim, has joined the Lighthouse Network. This is the first FMCG manufacturing site in India that has been accorded this status.

The Global Lighthouse Network is a community of manufacturing sites recognised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for applying advanced technologies, innovations, and sustainable practices to modernize business operations.

Established in 2001, the Dapada site produces three million units per day for brands such as Surf excel Vim, Rin and Wheel. This site started its digital journey in 2018 and is known to be the first Unilever dedicated home care site globally to be recognised as an E2E lighthouse factory, paving the way for rapid digital transformation in South Asia.

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

HUL's Dapada unit joins WEF's Global Lighthouse Network

HUL on Wednesday said its plant at Dapada in Dadra Nagar Haveli has become the first consumer goods factory in India to be recognised as an 'Advanced 4th Industrial Revolution Lighthouse'. This is a community of production sites recognised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for applying advanced tech, innovations, and sustainable practices to modernise business operations. PTI

19. Recently the BRICS Vaccine R&D centre has been launched by the Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to speed up development and treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. It was established in which city?

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

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

BRICS Vaccine R & D Centre has been launched by Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre was proposed to be established in 2018 Johannesburg Declaration. In 2018, South Africa was the first to propose the establishment of a BRICS vaccine R&D centre.

Dr. Mandaviya proposed that BRICS countries should work together to support initiatives like ACT-A, COVAX, CEPI, etc., to achieve WHO's target of vaccinating 70% of world's population with COVID-19 vaccines by mid-2022. He said that India has so far approved 9 vaccines for Covid-19 emergency use, of which 5 are indigenous.

Wang Zhigang, China's Minister of Science and Technology, chaired the launch ceremony.

Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is a global collaboration to speed up development, production and equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. It was launched in April 2020.

20. Recently the Union **Cabinet gave nod to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022**. This bill aims to merge _____ municipal corporations into one.

- A. 2
- B. 3**
- C. 4
- D. 5

Union Cabinet approved a bill to merge Delhi's municipal corporations. The Union Cabinet gave nod to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. It is likely to be tabled in the Parliament in the ongoing budget session.

This bill aims to merge three municipal corporations — South Delhi, North Delhi, and East Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi was trifurcated in 2012 to decentralize governance. The unequal division of resources between the civic bodies has increased the disparity. Under this bill, some more amendments have also been approved in the original Act of 1957 to improve governance and increase transparency. Before division, MCD was the second-largest civic body in the world

21. Recently **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched "Sujlam 2.0 Campaign"** for _____ management at an event hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

- A. White-water Management
- B. Grey-water Management**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

C. Silver-water Management

D. Blue-water Management

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched “Sujlam 2.0 Campaign”.

On the occasion of World Water Day, “Sujlam 2.0 Campaign” has been launched for grey-water management at an event hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The main objective of the campaign is to involve people in the management of grey -water.

Under this campaign, the government is planning to mobilize communities and institutions like panchayats, schools, Anganwadi to undertake grey-water management. In this campaign people will collectively assess the situation, plan and implement grey-water management activities.

Sujlam 2.0 campaign will focus on the creation of institutional-level grey-water management assets. Sujlam 1.0 campaign was launched in August 2021. Greywater is clean water generated from bathroom sinks, showers, tubs, and washing machines.

22. Consider the following statements regarding 3rd National Water Awards winners list.

- 1. Uttar Pradesh has secured a first position in the ‘Best State Category’ followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.**
- 2. During the ceremony of the 3rd National Water Awards, the President of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyaan: Catch the Rain Campaign 2022.**
- 3. The Jal Shakti Ministry had launched the first ‘National Water Award’ in 2018.**

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**

President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the 'Best State' award to Uttar Pradesh followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, at the third National Water Awards event. The National Water Awards are given for exemplary work in the field of water management.

Amity International School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh won the award in the Best School category.

President Kovind also launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign, 2022'. “In order to make water everyone’s business and to make the Jal Andolan - a mass movement, the government launched the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan’ in 2019. I

In the same year ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ was also launched. Last year on the ‘World Water Day’, the ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain’ campaign was launched by the Prime Minister which was taken up in all districts in rural as well as urban areas of the country during the pre-monsoon and monsoon period.”

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

23. Recently _____ has been conferred with Aviation Sustainability & Environment Award by Wings India Award 2022 for its efficient Green Practices.

- A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- B. Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C. Chennai International Airport
- D. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport), has won two major awards at the Wings India Awards 2022 for its customer-centric approach, smart innovations, and adoption of cutting-edge technology.

BLR Airport has been named the 'Best Airport' in the General Category, as well as the winner of the 'Aviation Innovation' Award. This award is one of the most prestigious in the industry. Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has been conferred the 'Aviation Sustainability & Environment' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices, T

The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

24. Consider the following statements regarding Goa state.

- 1. Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister for the second consecutive term and he is 13th Chief Minister of the State.
- 2. The BJP has won 20 seats in the assembly elections 2022.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Pramod Sawant took oath as Chief Minister of Goa for second term on 28th March.

Dr. Sawant is a member of the Goa Legislative Assembly representing Sanquelim in North Goa. He sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Goa for the first time in March 2019.

The BJP won 20 seats in the recent assembly elections, falling one seat short of a majority in the 40-member House. The BJP has received backing from three independent MLAs and two members from the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP).

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

25. Recently the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has inaugurated the De-centralised Waste Management Technology Park in which of the following cities?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Delhi**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Pune

On March 29, 2022, the Waste to Wealth Mission of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India will inaugurate the De-centralized Waste Management Technology Park in New Jaffrabad, East Delhi.

It is inaugurated in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), for onsite processing of fresh municipal solid waste.

It aims to create a scalable onsite Processing Technology Park that can be replicated, with the aim of zero waste and zero energy.

26. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

1. India has created history by achieving an export target of USD 400 billion nine days ahead of the intended deadline. India's the exports in the financial year 2020-21 were USD 292 billion.
- 2. According to the commerce ministry, India has exported goods worth \$37 billion in January 2022, highest ever in a month.**
3. The top exports of India are Refined Petroleum, Diamonds, Packaged Medicaments, Jewellery, and Rice.
4. The top imports of India are Crude Petroleum, Gold, Coal Briquettes, and Petroleum Gas.

India's largest exports

TOP 5 PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES		TOP 5 COUNTRIES		
1	Petroleum products	\$55,423 mn	1 United States	\$68,775 mn
2	Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	\$24,815 mn	2 UAE	\$24,669 mn
3	Iron and steel	\$20,870 mn	3 China	\$19,687 mn
4	Drugs formulations, biologicals	\$17,263 mn	4 Bangladesh	\$14,883 mn
5	Gold and other precious metal jewellery	\$9,323 mn	5 Netherlands	\$10,434 mn

Source: Commerce min; up to April-Jan 2021-22

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

India has achieved export target of USD 400 billion nine days ahead of deadline.

India has achieved highest ever goods export target of USD 400 billion set for fiscal year 2021-22. India's export has increased by 37% compared to last year. The exports in the financial year 2020-21 were USD 292 billion. On average, India exported USD 46 million goods every hour and USD 33 billion every month.

According to the commerce ministry, India has exported goods worth \$37 billion in December 2021, which is the highest ever in a month.

India's export of agriculture and processed food products has increased by 23% as compared to last year. Indian exports reached peak of \$330 billion in 2018-19 and surpassed the 2013-14 export figures of \$314 billion.

Top Exports and Imports of India: The top exports of India are Refined Petroleum, Diamonds, Packaged Medicaments, Jewellery, and Rice. The top imports of India are Crude Petroleum, Gold, Coal Briquettes, and Petroleum Gas.

LS clears Bill to amend chartered accountancy, cost accountancy, company secy laws

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

INDIA WILL have an accounting firm that is equivalent to the world's top firms, and the proposed amendments in laws governing chartered accountancy, cost accountancy and company secretary will "facilitate" that, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Replying to the debate on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said, "We are hopeful that India will certainly have a Big Four equivalent company, and these kinds of amendments that we are bringing, are going to facilitate that."

The four major global accounting firms — Deloitte LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young and KPMG — are known as the Big Four.

The Bill seeks to amend the existing Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act 1980. The Bill is aimed at providing mechanism for dealing with cases of misconduct in the three professional institutions — the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

The Bill was passed by a voice vote in the House.

27. Recently the Central Government has set a target of _____ for wheat exports for FY23.

- A. 12 Million tonnes**
- B. 10 Million tonnes**
- C. 16 Million tonnes**
- D. 20 Million tonnes**

Government has fixed goal of exporting at least a million tonnes of wheat per month in coming fiscal year.

In other words, government's goal is to export 12 million tonnes of wheat in coming fiscal year. Exports of food grain are expected to reach a record of around 7.5 million tonnes (mt) this fiscal. Government may reduce its procurement target under minimum support price (MSP) scheme by 10 mt. For the Rabi marketing season starting from April 1, Food Ministry's procurement target is 44 mt. During April-January of current fiscal, wheat exports increased to 60.2 lt. They were valued at \$1.7 billion. Sudan and Thailand have recently joined list of importers buying Indian wheat. In the starting of March 2022, global wheat prices have increased to a 14-year-high level of more than \$11 a bushel (over \$400 a tonne).

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

28. Recently the Government has introduced *Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021* in Lok Sabha to amend which of the following Acts?

- A. Chartered Accountants Act 1949
- B. Cost and Works Accountants Act 1959
- C. Company Secretaries Act 1980
- D. All of the above**

The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been passed in Lok Sabha. The bill will amend the Chartered Accountants Act 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act 1959, and the Company Secretaries Act 1980. The bill has provisions to strengthen the disciplinary mechanism under these Acts and the timely disposal of cases against members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Currently, the disciplinary committee of ICAI has five members - three ICAI central council members and two government nominees. The bill has proposed to include two CAs and three non-CAs in the disciplinary committee of ICAI and it will be headed by a non-CA.

29. Recently the population of the *Indian Rhinoceros* in the *Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam* has increased by 200 in four years to _____.

- A. 2413
- B. 2613**
- C. 1569
- D. 2669

Rhino population up by 200 in Kaziranga

Last census conducted in 2018 put number of one-horned herbivore at 2,413

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The population of the greater one-horned or Indian rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has increased by 200 in four years, the latest census of the World Heritage Site's flagship animal has revealed.

The last rhino census conducted in 2018 had put the number at 2,413.

Though the tiger reserve measures 1,355 sq. km, the census was confined to a rhino-bearing area of 864 sq. km. It was conducted from March 25 to 28 but the counting was done on the two days in between.



Jumbo task: Fifty elephants, 125 enumerators and 250 frontline staff were involved in the census exercise. ■ AFP

Fifty elephants were deployed to cover all the 84 compartments of the park, its addition areas and civil areas. Apart from 125 enumerators and independent ob-

servers, 252 frontline staff were involved in the exercise. "We estimated 2,613 rhinos, which indicates an annual increase of 50 rhinos since 2018. During this pe-

riod, Kaziranga lost 400 rhinos due to natural causes while poachers killed three," Jatindra Sarma, Kaziranga's director, told *The Hindu*.

This year's census had a first – the use of drones for the recheck of 26 park compartments where the sample survey was done.

Of the rhinos estimated, 1,823 were adults, 365 were sub-adults, 279 juveniles and 146 calves. The females outnumbered the males by 183. The gender of 273 adults and sub-adults could not be specified.

A similar census was conducted in two more of Assam's rhino habitats earlier in March.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

The population of one-horned rhinoceros increased by 200 over the last four years in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, The rhino counts at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve stood at 2613 comprising 866 males, 1049 females, 273 unsexed, 279 juveniles and 146 calves.

“2613 rhinoceros were counted, which an increase of 200 rhinos is over the last count of 2413 conducted in 2018,” informed Jitendra Sarma, Director of Kaziranga National Park.

A total of 50 elephants were deployed to cover all 84 compartments spread over the Kaziranga National Park The three-day census of the one-horned rhinoceros in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve began on March 26. The periodic count continued till March 28.

30. Recently '*Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes*' of _____ has now placed on the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

- A. Manipur
- B. Meghalaya**
- C. Mizoram
- D. Nagaland



These bridges facilitate connectivity and disaster resilience in more than 75 remote villages in and near the wettest region on the planet. (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

Meghalaya's living root bridges, found in over 70 villages in the state, have now found a place on the tentative list of **UNESCO's World Heritage Sites**.

Taking to Twitter, Meghalaya's Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma wrote, "I am thrilled to announce that our '*Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes of Meghalaya*' has been included in the @UNESCO World Heritage Site tentative

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Meghalaya's living root bridges have been made part of UNESCO World Heritage Site tentative list.

On 21 January 2022 (50th anniversary of creation of Meghalaya), CM Sangma had proposed that these bridges should be given UNESCO recognition.

The tentative list includes properties that State Parties consider suitable for inscription on World Heritage List.

In May 2021, six Indian places were added to UNESCO World Heritage Site tentative list. The living root bridges are locally known as JingkiengJri. They can last for over 150 years.

They are grown by Khasi and Jaintia tribes by weaving and manipulating roots of ficuselastica (Indian Rubber) tree over 10 to 15 years. Rangthylliang Bridge is one of the longest known living root bridges in Meghalaya. The living roots bridge of Nongriat is most famous double-decker living root bridge. It is located in East Khasi Hills.

31. Recently the *Indian Air Force* has collaboration with _____ to introduce a '*Fleet Card - Fuel on Move*' for its varied fleet of vehicles.

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

The Indian Air Force launched the 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' initiative in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

This initiative has been launched to speed up the refueling of convoys of the Indian Air Force.

As of now, the IAF procures fuel from various agencies and distributes it within the Air Force establishments. IAF convoys are refueled at the Air Force stations. With the help of the Fleet

Cards, the IAF can refuel its convoys at any IOCL fuel station. It will increase the pace of movement of Convoys. This initiative has been launched by Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

Indian Oil Corporation:

It is the largest government-owned oil corporation in India. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

32. Consider the following statements regarding the *2nd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI)* released by NITI Aayog.

1. EPI 2021 was released by NITI Aayog in association with the Institute of Competitiveness.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

2. Gujarat has topped EPI 2021 while Maharashtra and Karnataka are on the second and third position respectively.

3. Export Preparedness Index is based on four pillars- Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.

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**

2nd edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) released by NITI Aayog. EPI 2021 has been released by NITI Aayog in association with the Institute of Competitiveness.

The index was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr Rajiv Kumar, in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

Gujarat has topped EPI 2021. Maharashtra and Karnataka are on the second and third position respectively.

Tamil Nadu and Haryana are on the fourth and fifth position. Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the top performers among UTs.

This edition has shown that most of the ‘Coastal States’ are the best performers.

Export Preparedness Index is based on four pillars- Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance and 11 sub pillars.

This index will be very useful for the government and policymakers to promote competitive federalism and to increase India’s share in global export.

TOP FIVE

- 1** Gujarat
- 2** Maharashtra
- 3** Karnataka
- 4** Tamil Nadu
- 5** Haryana

BOTTOM FIVE

- 1** Lakshadweep
- 2** Arunachal Pradesh
- 3** Mizoram
- 4** Ladakh
- 5** Meghalaya



Gujarat top, Maharashtra second in NITI’s Export Preparedness Index

For the second straight year, Gujarat topped the Export Preparedness Index 2021 prepared by NITI Aayog

TOP 10 STATES:

- 1.** Gujarat
- 2.** Maharashtra
- 3.** Karnataka
- 4.** Tamil Nadu
- 5.** Haryana
- 6.** Uttar Pradesh
- 7.** Madhya Pradesh
- 8.** Punjab
- 9.** Andhra Pradesh
- 10.** Telangana



THE INDEX was prepared in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness
 Source: NITI Aayog/PTI

33. Consider the following statements regarding vegetable and Fruit producing state.

- 1. Uttar Pradesh has regained position as top vegetable producing state after two years in 2021-22 while West Bengal has come at the second place.**
- 2. Andhra Pradesh is top fruit producing State.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Uttar Pradesh has regained position as top vegetable producing state after two years in 2021 -22.

West Bengal has come at the second place in the list of top vegetable producing states.

Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra are other top vegetable producers. Andhra Pradesh is top fruit producer. Other top fruit producer states are Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare from 2014-15. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for growth of the horticulture sector. India's horticulture production may drop slightly by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021-22 from previous year.

UP tops in vegetables output, Bengal second

Andhra Pradesh continues to lead in fruits production

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 29

Uttar Pradesh has reclaimed its position as the top producing State in vegetables relegating West Bengal to the second position after two years, but this time the difference between the two is more than a million tonnes. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh remains the top fruit producer.

According to data placed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, vegetables production in Uttar Pradesh is estimated to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) against 29.16 mt in the previous year, while West Bengal output is seen to drop to 28.23 mt from 30.33 mt. When Uttar Pradesh was ahead of West Bengal in ve-

getables production in 2018-19, the gap between the two was around 0.7 mt. Other top producers of vegetables in the current year include Madhya Pradesh at 2.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt, data show.

Andhra Pradesh is likely to see 18.01 mt of fruits production in 2021-22 against 17.7 mt last year, while Maharashtra may produce 12.3 mt, up from 11.74 mt last year. Other top producers of fruits are Uttar Pradesh at 11.26 mt, Karnataka at 8.55 mt and Gujarat at 8.24 mt. Incidentally, Gujarat production has remained unchanged from last year.

Apples in warm regions

Tomar also said the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken a number of steps to promote the production of apples in warm areas. The Srinagar-

	Fruits production (mt)		Vegetables production (mt)		
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	
Andhra Pradesh	17.70	18.01	Uttar Pradesh	29.16	29.58
Maharashtra	11.74	12.30	West Bengal	30.33	28.23
Uttar Pradesh	11.23	11.26	Madhya Pradesh	21.33	20.59
Karnataka	7.99	8.55	Bihar	17.84	17.77
Gujarat	8.24	8.24	Maharashtra	14.21	16.78
All India	102.48	102.92	All India	200.45	199.88

based Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) has identified the low-chill apple varieties like Anna, Dorsett Golden, Mayan and Michael for this purpose and has been multiplying these varieties. Planting material of low-chill varieties was supplied to Jammu region this year, he said.

The minister also said CITH has conducted DUS testing for the protection of low-chill apple cultivar HRM-99, which is being promoted on

large scale by the farmers in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana.

The country's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4 per cent to 333.25mt in 2021-22 from the previous year as production of vegetables, spices, and plantation crops are set to decline.

However, among the key essential items, while potato and tomato production may drop, that of onion is pegged higher.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

34. Consider the following statements regarding the UNEP Annual Frontier Report 2022 titled 'Noise, Blazes, and Mismatches'.

- 1. As per the report, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is second-most noise polluted city globally.**
- 2. Thirteen cities in the list are from South Asia including five from India.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has published 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022'. As per the report, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is second-most noise polluted city globally. In 2021, noise pollution of 114 decibels was recorded in Moradabad. Dhaka is the most noise polluted city globally. It recorded noise pollution of 119 decibels (dB).

Islamabad is the third most noise polluted city globally. Thirteen cities in the list are from South Asia. Out of these 13 cities, five are from India.

The names of the other four Indian cities are Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi (83 dB). Irbid (60 dB) of Jordan, Lyon (69 dB) of France, Madrid (69 dB) of Spain, Stockholm (70 dB) of Sweden, and Belgrade (70 dB) of Serbia are the quietest cities in the world.

In its 1999 guidelines, WHO had recommended sound frequency of 55 dB as standard for residential areas and 70dB as standard for traffic and business sectors. UNEP Annual Frontier Report, 2022 is titled 'Noise, Blazes, and Mismatches'. Noise pollution is the presence of excessive or unwanted sounds. Noise pollution may cause hypertension, lack of sleep, anxiety, and damage to hearing.

Moradabad 2nd in world in noise pollution: UN report

Moradabad: UP's Moradabad is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The area recorded noise pollution of an ear-splitting 114 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021, the report said, reports Akhlat Khan.

The report ranks 61 cities around the world, of which Dhaka tops the list with a noise pollution of 119 dB. Islamabad is third, with maximum noise pollution of 105 dB. Thirteen cities from South Asia feature in the list. Five of

NOISIEST CITIES

Dhaka (Bangladesh)	119 dB
Moradabad (UP, India)	114 dB
Islamabad (Pakistan)	105 dB
Rajshahi (Bangladesh)	103 dB
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	103dB

them are from India. The other four are Kolkata at 89 dB, Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi at 83 dB.

►14k+ complaints in UP, P 13

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

35. Recently a tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise has been signed amongst the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and _____.

- A. **Nepal Dairy Private Limited**
- B. Bhutan Dairy Private Limited
- C. Bangladesh Dairy Private Limited
- D. Sri Lanka Dairy Private Limited

A tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise that can sustain the age-old yak herding culture in the highlands of the eastern Nepal has been signed here.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and the Nepal Dairy Private Limited (NDPL) signed the pact. The Kanchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) under the ICIMOD took initiative for the project keeping in mind the mission to save yaks and yak farming culture from extinction and showcase their economic viability.

36. Recently the first pour of concrete for a 700 MW atomic power plant in Karnataka's Kaiga scheduled in 2023 however India is set to construct _____ 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years.

- A. 9
- B. **10**
- C. 12
- D. 13

With the first pour of concrete for a 700 MW atomic power plant in Karnataka's Kaiga scheduled in 2023, India is set to put in motion construction activities for 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years.

The first pour of concrete (FPC) signals the beginning of construction of nuclear power reactors from the pre-project stage which includes excavation activities at the project site. The Centre had approved construction of 10 indigenously developed pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWR) of 700 MW each in June 2017. The ten PHWRs will be built at a cost of ₹ 1.05 lakh crore.

It was for the first time that the government had approved building 10 nuclear power reactors in one go with an aim to reduce costs and speed up construction time. Currently, India operates 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation. One 700 MW reactor at Kakrapar in Gujarat was connected to the grid on January 10 last year, but it is yet to start commercial operations. India's first pair of PHWRs of 220 MW each was set up at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan in the 1960s with Canadian support.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

37. Recently _____ under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural?

- A. Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship
- B. Indian Institute of Tropical Metrology
- C. Indian institute of corporate affairs
- D. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

In line with the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural youth.

Under the agreement, the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub scheme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), with the core objective of promoting employment opportunities in rural India, particularly developing self-employment avenues for unemployed rural people. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Assam, will act as a National Resource Organization (NRO) for the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) and will provide support to the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) for the scheme's successful implementation. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Assam, established in 1993, is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

38. Recently India's first SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross will be set up in _____.

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

India's first SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross will be set up in Shimla.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh will set up India's first SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla. It will provide world-class facilities to Indian cyclists so that they could do better in the international competition. A High-Performance Center for Sports Science will be also set up at this center.

This center will be set up at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level with world-class infrastructure. It will have the capacity to train around 200 cyclists for Olympic-level preparations

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

39. Recently India and _____ have signed Programme of Cooperation (POC) to enhance cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology.

- A. Australia
- B. Oman**
- C. Denmark
- D. Russia

India and Oman have signed Programme of Cooperation (POC) in the field of Science and Technology for the period 2022 – 2025.

Medicinal Plants and processing, Real-time Air Quality monitoring, and Development of an electronic platform for knowledge sharing in the field of Genetic Resources are the main identified areas of cooperation. Both countries will also enhance cooperation in the field of Bio-diesel Research, Training programs – Big-data, coding & testing, Blockchain, and FinTech solutions, etc. Both countries agreed to support joint scientific projects based on mutual interest. They will also encourage the exchange of scientists, researchers, experts, and specialists.

The POC document has been signed during the bilateral meeting between Dr. S Jaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India, and Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman.

This Programme of Cooperation (POC) has been signed in pursuance of the Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology signed between India and Oman in 1996.

India is one of the top trading partners of Oman with a trade value of almost 7.5 billion US dollars. Oman is home to approximately six lakh 20 thousand Indian nationals.

40. Recently _____ has been honoured with two green energy awards at the 2nd Green Urja Energy Efficiency Awards.

- A. Southern Power Distribution Company**
- B. IREDA
- C. SECI
- D. POWERGRID

Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd has been honoured with two green energy awards at the 2nd Green Urja Energy Efficiency Awards. It has been awarded Gold in the "Top Discom-Renewable Energy" category, and it has also won the award in the "Innovative Projects and Jury Choice (decentralized solar generation)" category. G Raghuma Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of TSSPDCL, received the prizes virtually at the web-based event. The Discom has been chosen by the jury for its exceptional performance to meet agricultural demand by using distributed solar energy. Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd (SPDCL): The Telangana State Electricity Distribution Company, or TSSPDCL, is a state-owned electricity distribution companies that serves Telangana's five southern districts. On June 2, 2014, it was incorporated as a public limited company

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

41. Consider the following statements regarding **Yogi Adityanath As CM Of Uttar Pradesh** :
1. **Yogi Adityanath took oath as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for second term and has won the election from the Gorakhpur Urban assembly seat.**
 2. **In the recently held election, the BJP-led alliance has won 273 seats of 403 seats.**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Yogi Adityanath took oath as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for second term.

Keshav Maurya and Brajesh Pathak will serve as the Deputy Chief Ministers in the new government. Besides Adityanath, 52 ministers, including 16 Cabinet ministers also took the oath.

Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy at the Lucknow's Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium. In the recently held election, the BJP-led alliance has won 273 seats of 403 seats. After 37 years, it is the first time in Uttar Pradesh that a party has returned to power in successive polls. Yogi Adityanath has won the election from the Gorakhpur Urban assembly seat.

Deputy Chief Minister post is not mentioned in the constitution of India. It is only a ceremonial

42. Recently **Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB-** _____ **by Department of Biotechnology.**

- A. Beat The TB
- B. Dare2eraD TB
- C. Erase The TB
- D. Finish TB

Dr. Jitendra Singh announced launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- "Dare2eraD TB" by Department of Bio-technology. On the occasion of World TB Day, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that 'Dare2eraD TB' will be the umbrella TB program of the Department of Biotechnology.

It will comprise key initiatives like Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium, Indian TB Knowledge Hub- Webinar Series and Host Directed therapies against TB and developing an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis. Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) is important for analyzing the biological characteristics of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) will help in the identification of the origin and drug resistance (DR) profile of the TB strains in the patients. Indian TB Knowledge Hub will be a Webinar series beginning from World TB Day.

Adityanath takes oath as UP CM for a second term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 25

Yogi Adityanath on Friday took oath as the Uttar Pradesh chief minister for a second term along with a 52-member team, in the presence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Keshav Prasad Maurya, who failed to win his seat in the assembly polls, is deputy CM again along with Brajesh Pathak too as a deputy chief minister, replacing Dinesh Sharma in the outgoing cabinet.

A festive atmosphere prevailed at the 50,000-seat Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana stadium. Enthusiastic BJP supporters chanted "Modi, Modi" during event.

Apart from the chief minister, 18 cabinet ministers – including the two deputy CMs – 14 ministers of State (inde-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UP CM Yogi Adityanath, at the swearing-in ceremony, in Lucknow, on Friday

pendent charge) and 20 other ministers of state were administered the oath by Governor Anandiben Patel.

Strong turnout

As the event progressed, the oath was administered to two and even four ministers of state at a time.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP national president JP Nadda were also present along with CMs of BJP-run states, and Bihar chief minister and JDU leader Nitish Kumar attended the ceremony as an NDA partner.

Former Uttarakhnad Gov-

ernor Baby Rani Maurya, who too was counted among the frontrunners for the deputy CMs post, got a cabinet berth. So did BJP state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh and former IAS officer AK Sharma.

Finance minister Suresh Khanna is back.

Jitin Prasada, who had quit the Congress to join the BJP ahead of the polls, made it to the state cabinet.

PM congratulates

On Twitter, PM Modi congratulated Adityanath and expressed confidence that his government in its fresh term will write another chapter of progress in Uttar Pradesh while fulfilling the people's aspirations.

The BJP-led alliance had won 273 of 403 seats in the UP Assembly polls. While the BJP got 255 seats, its allies Nishad

Party and the Apna Dal (S) bagged 18.

This is the first time in over three decades that a party has won the assembly elections twice in a row in the crucial state, a feat that BJP leaders feel brightens the chances of its return to power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well.

There can be a maximum of 60 ministers including the chief minister in Uttar Pradesh under the constitutional provisions.

BJP ally Ashish Patel of Apna Dal (Sonelal) and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad also took the oath as cabinet ministers.

In the earlier government, Apna Dal (S) had one member with the MoS rank.

Danish Azad Ansari has been made a minister of state. He is the lone Muslim face in the Adityanath government.

India to be TB-free by 2025: Mansukh

19% increase in patients in 2021 as compared to previous year, says latest report

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

A 19% increase was witnessed in 2021 from the previous year in TB patients' notifications. The number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) notified during 2021 was 19,33,381 against the 16,28,161 in 2020, noted India TB Report 2022 released on Thursday.

On World Tuberculosis Day on Thursday, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

reaffirmed the government's commitment to making India tuberculosis-free by 2025 and said this will be achieved by ensuring access to quality healthcare and advanced treatment.

The report said despite the decline in TB notifications observed around the months corresponding to the two major COVID-19 waves, the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) reclaimed

these numbers.

It said 18 States have committed to ending TB by 2025 by implementing State-specific strategic plans and have devised a district-specific strategic plan, which shall serve as a guiding tool for the programme managers.

The government also released the National TB Prevalence Survey Report which was conducted from 2019 to 2021 to know the actual disease burden of TB.

The reports said there has been an increase in the mortality rate due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 by 11%.

The survey report said prevalence of microbiologically confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) among 15 years and above in India was 316/lakh population with the highest PTB prevalence of 534/lakh in Delhi and the lowest PTB prevalence of 115/lakh in Kerala.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

43. Recently Telangana Governor *Dr has launched 'Jeevan-Lite', a smart, portable, cost-effective, and IoT enabled developed by _____.*

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Hyderabad**
- D. IIT Ropar

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed smart ventilator named 'Jeevan Lite'.

Jeevan Lite is a portable, cost-effective, and Internet-of-Things (IoT)-enabled ventilator powered by lithium-ion batteries. Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan launched the Jeevan Lite recently. Jeevan Lite is available for commercial use. It can be controlled with the help of a smart-phone app.

It operates uninterrupted in various modes of ventilation for five hours. It is both invasive and non-invasive. Ventilator is a machine that helps pump oxygen into body. It provides mechanical ventilation. It moves breathable air into and out of lungs.

44. Recently _____ government has signed a MoU with NIPER for setting up a Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district.

- A. Himachal Pradesh**
- B. Punjab
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Delhi

Himachal Pradesh government has signed MoU with NIPER, Mohali.

MoU makes National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali knowledge partner for Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district.

Rs 74.95 crore has been sanctioned for development of Park and Rs 30 crores will be soon released by Department of Pharmaceuticals of Government of India. Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation is the State Implementing Agency for development and execution of medical devices park.

HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that a delegation from South Korea will be visiting Himachal Pradesh in May.

45. Consider the following statements regarding India's first ever steel slag road.

1. *Surat has become India's first city to get a road made of steel waste.*

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

2. The road has been built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR, Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) and NITI Aayog.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Gujarat's Surat has become India's first city to get a road made of steel waste.

The road has been built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR and Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) and NITI Aayog. This road, built in Hazira Industrial Area, consists of 100% processed steel slag.

It is a 6-lane one kilometer long road. It is India's first ever steel slag road. 100% processed steel slag has been used in all its layers. Steel slag is often considered as a waste material.

Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) is located in New Delhi. It is a constituent laboratory of CSIR.

46. Consider the following statement regarding National TB Prevalence Survey 2019-2021, released on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day.

- 1. Delhi has recorded the maximum incidents of pulmonary tuberculosis cases in the Country while Kerala logged the lowest cases.**
- 2. The total number of new and relapsed TB patients notified in India during 2021 were 19, 33,381 as against 16, 28,161 in 2020, the report showed.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The National TB Prevalence Survey 2019-2021 was released on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, which showed that Delhi has recorded the maximum incidents of pulmonary tuberculosis cases in India, whereas Kerala logged the lowest cases.

As per the reports, the prevalence of pulmonary TB in the 15 and above population was 316 per lakh in the country from 2019 to 2021, with the highest prevalence of 534 per lakh population recorded in Delhi. Kerala reported the least cases at 115 per lakh population. The survey, which was conducted after six decades, revealed that the burden of TB in India is much higher than previously estimated.

According to this year's survey, the prevalence of all forms of TB for all ages in India was 312 per lakh population for the year 2021. The total number of new and relapsed TB patients notified in

Govt sets highway construction pace at 38 km/day over next 25 months

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, March 24

THE MINISTRY OF road transport and highways has drawn up a plan to construct around 28,391 km of highways in 25 months at a daily average of around 38 km, starting from March.

Replying to a written question in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari said the ministry had envisaged to construct about 60,000 km of national highways from 2019-20 to 2023-24. Of the target, 31,609 km has been constructed up to February this year at a daily average of a little over 30 km.

“The balance length of about 28,391 km is planned to be constructed in the remaining period from March 2022 to the end of the financial year 2023-24,” he said.

In 2019-20, all executing agencies, including the NHAI constructed 10,237 km of highways, which went up to a record high of 13,327 km in the next fiscal. During April-February this fiscal, the pace has slowed down due to protracted rains and pandemic-induced restrictions.

To a separate question, Gadkari replied 553 national highways projects with a total length of 10,964 km have been awarded in 2020-21.



India TB cases up 19%, Delhi tops prevalence

Cases In Country More Than 2x Of Global Average

New Delhi: India saw a sharp 19% rise in tuberculosis cases in 2021 over the previous year, even as 64% of the surveyed symptomatic population did not seek healthcare services between 2019 and 2021, the India TB Report 2022 and National TB Prevalence Survey shows, reports Sushmi Dey.

Over 19.3 lakh new and relapsed TB patients were notified in 2021 against 16.3 lakh in 2020, the report released by health minister Mansukh Mandaviya shows.

Deaths from TB increased to 4.93 lakh, excluding HIV patients, in 2020, up 13% from a year ago. The mortality rate

64% OF PATIENTS DIDN'T SEEK CARE

National TB Prevalence Survey (2019-21)	
New & relapsed TB patients in India (lakh)	
2020	2021
16.3	19.3 (+19%)
> 64% of surveyed symptomatic persons didn't seek treatment (between 2019 & 2021)	
Among above group, reasons for not seeking care Ignored: 68% Not recognised symptom: 18% Self-treated: 12% Couldn't afford care: 2%	
States With Highest TB Prevalence (cases/lakh popn)	
Delhi	534
Rajasthan	484
Uttar Pradesh	481
Haryana	454
Lowest Kerala	115

► LOCKDOWN FUELLED RISE AMONG MUMBAI GIRLS, P 15

due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 rose by 11%.

The TB prevalence survey – conducted 60 years after the first National Survey 1955-58 – shows that prevalence of TB

among Indians was 312 cases per 1 lakh population, more than double the global average of 127 cases per lakh people.

► Raj, UP & Haryana, P 15

QUEENAT'S SUPER KING GIVES UP CROWN

47. Recently _____ has become **India's first educational institution to be fully gender-neutral after** introducing a policy of inclusive education for gender and sexual minorities.

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar)
- C. JIPMER
- D. IIT Bombay

The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar) is set to become India's first educational institution to be fully gender-neutral. It has introduced a policy of inclusive education for gender and sexual minorities. As part of its policy, the law school would have gender-neutral hostels, leading the way for inclusive campuses for the LGBTQ+ community, of which there is a handful on campus. It also has a Nalsar Queer Collective.

First gender-neutral institute in India soon

Nalsar Leads Way, Plans Inclusive Edu

Preeti.Biswas@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (Nalsar) is set to become India's first fully gender-neutral educational institution. It has introduced a policy of inclusive education for gender and sexual minorities.

Nalsar officials said most Indian universities don't have gender-neutral spaces such as hostels and washrooms. As part of its policy, the law school would have gender-neutral hostels, leading the way for inclusive campuses for the LGBTQ+ community, of which there are a handful on campus. It also has a "Nalsar Queer Collective".

"We encourage self-identification wherein students can identify themselves without being recognised through the assigned genders. We would acknowledge the declaration by the students to respect their privacy and autonomy and would also keep it secure from their parents and guardians if need be," Nalsar vice-chancellor Faizan Mustafa said.



The law school plans to set up gender-neutral hostels and is in the process of finalising a draft policy to promote inclusive education

He added that the institution already has an interim policy in place and is in the process of finalising a draft policy to promote inclusive education on campus. The policy will be implemented once it is approved by all the academic bodies within the institution.

The institution has also done away with gender salutations such as "Miss" and "Mr" on their degree certificates.

It will no longer have male/female hostels but gender-neutral ones. "We have already earmarked the ground floor of the girls' hostel-6 as a gender-neutral space with rooms allotted to students self-identifying as members of the LGBTQ+ community. The washroom on the ground

floor of the academic block has also been designated as a gender-neutral washroom," said Mustafa.

The institution will have a no-discrimination policy in place wherein students will not be discriminated based on their dressing choices, hairstyles, etc. Students scholarships would reasonably accommodate those from the LGBTQ+ community. Apart from this, special courses would be introduced on gender and sexual minorities to enhance sensitisation among students.

"We would also sensitise our teaching and non-teaching staff, watchmen and other service providers to make it a fully inclusive campus," said Mustafa.

- 48. Recently researchers from the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) arrived at a figure of _____ for India's space economy in FY21.**
- A. ₹36,794**
 - B. ₹38,894**
 - C. ₹26,756**
 - D. ₹24,654**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

In a first-of-its-kind attempt at measuring the size of India's space economy, researchers from the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) arrived at a figure of ₹36,794 crore (approximately \$5 billion) for the 2020-21 fiscal. The estimated size of India's space economy, as a percentage of the GDP, has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% in 2020-21

The findings, outlined in a paper 'The Space Economy of India: Its Size and Structure' "India's space economy has evolved considerably and now accounts, on an average, for about 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21). In relation to GDP, India's spending is more than that of China, Germany, Italy and Japan, but less than the U.S. and Russia.

49. Recently _____ has launched its 24×7 Whatsapp chatbot 'Maya' to enable tourists to access all information and updates about the tourism ecosystem in the state?
- A. Tamil Nadu
 - B. Odisha
 - C. Kerala
 - D. Punjab

Kerala Tourism on Wednesday launched its 24×7 Whatsapp chatbot 'Maya' to enable tourists to access all information and updates about the tourism ecosystem in the state by just sending a 'Hi' to the Whatsapp no 7510512345, or by scanning the QR code to access the service. "The chatbot service, which leverages the potential of the technology for tourism development, will help attract more tourists to Kerala. The tourists can easily access a whole lot of information regarding the prime attractions in each place, our cultural diversity.

50. Recently the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the government of India have signed an agreement to establish a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at _____.
- A. Ahmadabad
 - B. Jama-nagar
 - C. Surat
 - D. Gandhinagar

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the government of India signed an agreement on 25 March, 2022, to establish a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Gujarat. The centre, supported by a \$250 million investment from the Indian government, aims to build a solid evidence base for policies and standards on traditional medical practices and products.

This would be the first and only global out-posted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe. Traditional medicine is believed to be used by approximately 80 percent of the world's population.

WHO establishes traditional medicine centre in India

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, March 26

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indian government have signed an agreement to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of \$250 million from the central government, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine globally through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet, the WHO said in a note.

'Strengthen evidence'

Around 80 per cent of the world is estimated to use traditional medicine. But today, national health systems and strategies do not yet fully integrate the millions of traditional medicine workers, accredited courses, health facilities, and health expenditures, the note said.

"This new centre will help harness the power of science to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

About 40 per cent of approved pharmaceutical products in use today derive from natural substances. For example, the discovery of aspirin drew on traditional medicine formulations using the bark of the willow tree, the note added.

The centre is being located at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

BusinessLine

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12/12

Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated ten-day 'Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' at Red Fort. This ten-day festival will be organized from 25th March to 3rd April 2022.

"Mathrubhumi" –Projection Mapping Show, Cultural Parade, Khao Galli, Live performances at Rang Manch, will be part of this festival. Bharat Bhagya Vidhata festival is being organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Ministry of Culture.

It is being organized to highlight the heritage and culture of every part of the country.

The Ministry of Culture along with Red Fort's "Monument Mitra", Dalmia Bharat Ltd have conceptualized this mega event.

Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata aims to promote heritage conservation and tourism.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched TEJAS at Dubai Expo.

Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, has launched TEJAS- Training for Emirates Jobs and Skills at Dubai Expo.

The aim of this project is to provide skill, certificates and overseas employment to Indians.

It also aims to create a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial stage. World Expo 2020 Dubai is being organized by the Bureau International des Expositions with the theme “Connecting Minds, Creating future”. It is being held from 1 October 2021-31 March 2022.

Govt targets 12 mt wheat export in FY23

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, March 24

The Centre has set a target to export at least a million tonnes (mt) of wheat every month in 2022-23 as it wants the country to emerge a reliable source of the grain both in “quantity and quality”.

It wants to tap to the optimum the current opportunities provided by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

This sets a target of 12 mt for wheat exports next fiscal. This fiscal, the cereal’s exports are heading for a record of over 7.5 mt. The US Department of Agriculture has projected India’s wheat exports this fiscal at 10 mt.

A meeting of exporters and officials of various ministries such as the Railways, Shipping, Commerce and Agriculture was chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday to remove all impediments to speeding up shipments.

A task force, headed by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has also been constituted for this purpose.

Simultaneously, the Centre is preparing to prune its wheat procurement target under the minimum support price (MSP) scheme by 10 mt. For the rabi marketing season starting April 1, the Food Ministry had set a procurement target of 44 mt.

Traders say the Centre could find it difficult in meeting the target given that open market prices are ruling higher than the MSP of ₹2,015 a quintal.

Details p10

Thakur launches skilling project at Dubai Expo

It is aimed at certification, overseas employment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Sunday launched the “Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills (Tejas)” project at the Dubai Expo.

The project is expected to create a 10,000-strong Indian workforce in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during its initial phase. It is aimed at skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians. A press release from the government said: “Tejas is aimed at creating pathways to enable Indian workforce to get equipped for skill and market requirements in UAE.”

Addressing the audience at the launch, Mr. Thakur said the Indian government’s focus was to skill the young population and provide the world with a large skilled workforce. He presented the advantage that India can offer because of its youthful population and said the world will have a large, skilled manpower if Indian youth are provided training in skills.

On the second day of his visit to Dubai, Mr. Thakur also held a series of discussions with industry leaders from the film and entertainment sector in India and the UAE.

The day started with a meeting with Olivier Bramley, the chief executive officer (CEO), E-Vision. The other CEOs present at the meeting included Neeraj Roy, founder of Hungama Digital Media, and Harit Nagpal of Tata Play.

The Minister met Indian film personalities like Kabir Khan and Priya-



Indian government’s focus is to skill the young population and provide the world with a large skilled workforce. The world will have a large, skilled manpower if Indian youth are provided training in skills.

ANURAG THAKUR
Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting

darshan at a discussion, also attended by the Film Commissioner of the Abu Dhabi Film Commission, Hans Fraikin. He visited the India Pavilion at the Dubai Expo, where he held a discussion with Minister of State for International Cooperation in the UAE government, Reem Al Hashimi.

The working condition of Indian workers in the Gulf countries has been a matter of concern for the government, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on March 24 at a speech at the St. Stephen’s College here. Delivering the St. Stephen’s MRF Distinguished Alumni Annual Lecture, Dr. Jaishankar had said that the government considers the welfare of Indian nationals in the Gulf as a matter of “utmost importance”.

AT NEWLY FORMED BEACH IN ODISHA



The turtles at Rushikulya beach. Courtesy: Berhampur forest division

Endangered Olive Ridleys find a new home for nesting

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 28

A RECORD 1,14,305 endangered Olive Ridley turtles arrived for their annual mass nesting at the mouth of river Rushikulya in Odisha's Ganjam district on Sunday night, said officials. The Rushikulya beach witnessed record mass nesting this year despite concerns of sea erosion in coastal areas due to high tide.

The rookery or the breeding ground is the second largest in India only after Gahimatha beach in Kendrapara district of Odisha. Until mid-April last year, only a little above 4,000 turtles had laid eggs on the entire coast till April 21 at the 56 kms-long beach at the river mouth, even though thousands of Olive Ridley turtles had been spotted in the sea.

The phenomenon of sea erosion has been going on since 2017 and Rushikulya river has now pierced through the beach dividing it into two halves. While one half continues to be the main beach, the other half has turned into an island spread over a stretch of 5 kms formed in front of Gokharkuda and Podampeta points. The newly formed island is the fresh nesting destination for the turtles.

Wildlife enthusiasts have been raising concern over the sea erosion and changing course of the river triggered by changing climatic conditions, stating that it may create problems for the turtles as climbing up the beach for nesting will be tough for them.

"The island emerged last year but there was no nesting there. This year we prepared the beach with the cleaning and fencing, clearing all the debris. We also

EXPLAINED
E How sea turtles hatch

A FEMALE turtle digs a pit in the sand with her front flippers and lays eggs on the sandy beach. The mother turtle then covers the pit before going back into the sea. Each female turtle lays around 100 to 150 eggs. They cover every hole before sunrise as they return to the sea. The mother turtle does not wait to see the hatchlings emerge about 45 to 50 days after nesting.

prepared the island because we were not sure where they will nest this time," said Behrampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Amlan Nayak.

Forest officials take a 10-minute boat ride to reach the island, which remains inaccessible for the common people.

The annual nesting was also delayed by a fortnight, which too had caused concerns. The turtles generally arrive from the third week of February to the first week of March. "They nest only under heat wave conditions. The ideal time is 1st week of March, but the heat wave was delayed here this time and so the turtles arrived late," Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ashok Behera said.

Over 150 people, including forest personnel, wildlife activists and villagers, have been engaged for round the clock protection of the turtles and the eggs. This will go on for next 50 days till the hatching, said Nayak.

ICRA cuts FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7.2%

Says higher prices, supply disruption due to war may limit demand revival

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 29 March

Rating agency ICRA has slashed India's GDP forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 to 7.2 per cent from 8 per cent predicted earlier, on the back of elevated commodity prices and supply chain disruptions due to an ongoing war in Ukraine and lockdowns in China.

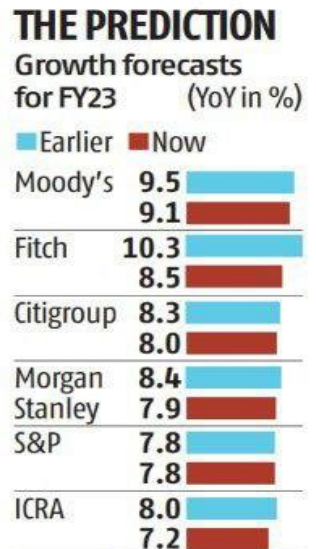
For the fiscal year ending March 31, the agency has lowered its GDP growth projection to 8.5 per cent, moderately lower than the National Statistical Office's (NSO's) second Advance Estimate of 8.9 per cent, it said in a statement.

"Higher prices of fuels and edible oil are likely to compress disposable incomes in the mid to lower income segments, constraining the demand revival in the next fiscal year starting April 1," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

However, the extension of free foodgrains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana until September 2022 may continue to offer some respite to the food budgets of vulnerable households, it said.

In the mid-to-upper income segments, normalisation of behaviour after the third wave of Covid-19 will result in pivoting consumption towards the contact-intensive services that were avoided during the pandemic, constraining the growth in demand for goods in FY23, Nayar said.

The agency said there could be a delay in broad-basing of capacity expansion by the private sector even as exports of some items from India will rise to meet global demand amidst supply crunch. ICRA expects a gradual rise in capacity utilisation to 74-75 per cent in the December quarter of FY23 from 71-72 per cent in the March quarter of FY22. At present, capacity expansion is being undertaken in select sectors such as cement, steel, as well as sectors that are covered under the production-linked incentive schemes.



INDIA PLANS TO PHASE OUT TUBE LIGHTS BY 2030

Jayashree Nandi

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NEW DELHI: India has sought time till 2030 to phase out linear fluorescent lamps or tube lights to reduce adverse effects of mercury, senior environment ministry officials said at the ongoing Minamata Convention in Bali. It is being held from March 21 to 25.

According to the officials, though other countries including the EU, the US have pushed for a 2025 deadline for the phaseout of tube lights, India has responded to the proposal by stating that "Not completely agreed. However, since the consumption of this item is insignificant in the country, the complete phase-out will be done by 2030 but this aspect will be reviewed in 2025 for its early phasing out," a note shared by officials said.

"Tube lights contain mercury, and downstream there is no proper collection system or disposal system for tube lights. Our fear is that tube lights are broken and disposed of in an unsafe manner," said Piyush Mohapatra, senior programme coordinator, Toxics Link.

"Africa risks becoming a dumping ground for these obsolete products," said David Kapindula, an official at Zambia's Environmental Management Agency.

{ SELF-RELIANCE PUSH } RUSSIA FOCUS?

107 defence items on phased import ban list

Rahul Singh

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NEW DELHI: Several Russian weapon sub-systems were part of a fresh list of 107 defence items released by India on Thursday that will attract a phased import ban between December 2022 and December 2028, with the indigenisation drive covering warships, helicopters, tanks, infantry combat vehicles, missiles, ammunition, and radars.

The list, part of the push for

"atmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in defence, was put out by the Union defence ministry at a time when global backlash against Russia over its Ukraine invasion has raised questions about the fate of new projects with that country, procurement of spares for existing Russian-origin weapons, and maintenance and servicing of legacy equipment operated by the three services.

To be sure, it came on the back of an indigenisation list of 2,851 sub-systems, assemblies,

continued on → 18

A push for self-reliance

Several Russian weapon sub-systems were part of a new list of 107 defence items released by India on Thursday that will attract import ban soon

When does the ban take place?

Between December 2022 and December 2028

WHAT IS IT LIKELY TO COVER?

- Warships
- Missiles
- Helicopters
- Ammunition
- Tanks
- Radars
- Infantry combat vehicles



TIMING CRUCIAL: The list comes at a time when global backlash against Russia for its Ukraine invasion has raised questions about trade and defence deals with Moscow

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)



Top honour: Ram Nath Kovind receiving the Guard of Honour at the presentation of the President's Colour. •PTI

INS Valsura awarded President's Colour

Special postal cover released

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday presented the President's Colour to INS Valsura, the Navy's premier technological training establishment.

The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.

'Nishan Adhikari' Lt. Arun Singh Sambyal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit in an impressive parade, the Navy said. A special postal cover was also released to commemorate the occasion. "The award ceremony commenced with insertion of Drum Toli for Pile-of-Drums ceremony. It traces its history back to a time when soldiers on field used to arrange their drums in a pile to form an altar," the defence spokesperson said on social media.

INS Valsura trains officers and men on operation and maintenance of sophisticated and technologically advanced equipment on board warships.

The Navy was the first Indian armed force to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr Raiendra Prasad

on May 27, 1951. INS Valsura, started on 30 acres of land as a torpedo school in 1942 under the British, has today grown into one of the foremost technological training institutions of the country spread over 600 acres.

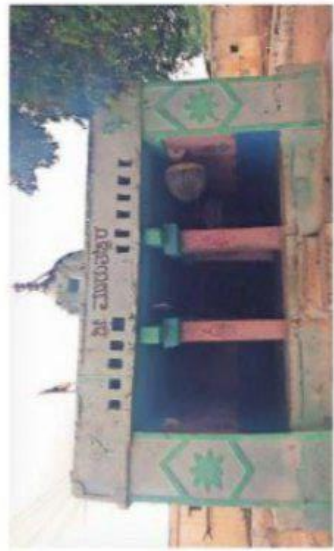
In line with the Navy's futuristic road map to power its warships, including the proposed Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-II with electric propulsion, in 2018 a medium voltage laboratory was set up by Siemens, Germany, at INS Valsura to familiarise and train naval engineers in the nuances of medium voltage power generation, protection and distribution.

Contemporary training
The Navy stated that INS Valsura imparted quality training on contemporary and niche technologies through progressive augmentation of training infrastructure.

"Setting up of Artificial Intelligence, big data and medium voltage labs in the recent years exemplify its quest for technological excellence in contemporary technology also in training officers and sailors."

Overall, the establishment conducts more than 262 courses a year.

Karnataka names anti-untouchability scheme after Dalit boy



KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 29

THE KARNATAKA government has announced Vinaya Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state.

The scheme has been named after a three-year-old Dalit Vinay, whose family, residents of Miyapur village in Koppal district, was slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 by the village leaders in September last year for the boy's "offence" of straying into a local temple.

Karnataka social welfare minister Kota Shrinivasa Poojary told the state Assembly Monday that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will launch Vinaya Samarasya Yojana on April 14 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, and that they were also checking the avail-

made headlines, the village leaders, belonging to the locally dominant Ganiga community, stepped up "social boycott" of the victim Dalit family. Reeling under it, the family was forced to escape from the village in November, leaving behind their house and agricultural land.

Miyapur has a population of 1,500 people, mostly Ganigas, belonging to the Dalit community.

"Naming a government programme after my son will not change anything but this evil practice (untouchability) must be eradicated," said Vinay's father Chandrashekar Shivappa Dasara while speaking to *The Indian Express*.

"...Even if some emergency help was required, we would not get it. I then made the decision to shift to Yelburga (in Koppal district), which is my wife's home-

town," Chandrashekar said. "If law was properly implemented, the situation would have been different. The annual festivals in the village have also been cancelled fearing Dalits would enter the temple," he said.

Chandrashekar was fined Rs 25,000 after Vinay strayed into the village temple, located behind his house, while it was raining. After the incident came under spotlight, the social welfare department of Koppal district registered a complaint. Local police then intervened, filed an FIR, and arrested several accused who, however, were out on bail soon.

And then the villagers' alleged wrath against the Chandrashekar family of three intensified, forcing them to leave their home and land in Miyapur.

He got Rs one lakh subsidy from the state government and is planning to set up a car washing

centre in Yelburga. "I pooled more money to set up the car washing centre, which I will do. I made several rounds to government offices, hoping to protect my Miyapur land or to get an alternative land in my wife's place. But there was little help. I will not go and beg again before government officials as I am tired of it now."

Naveen Shintre, deputy director of the social welfare department of Koppal district, told *The Indian Express* that he was not aware of annual temple festivals being cancelled in Miyapur village.

"We have provided Rs 75,000 compensation and Rs one lakh subsidy from Dr BR Ambedkar Development Corporation to the Chandrashekar family. There have been efforts to provide them land and help them in house construction (in Yelburga)," he said.

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[Bank Exams](#)

Bend and aim: DRDO's corner-shot weapon gives police a critical eye

It bends to capture video feed, saving security forces from surprise attacks

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

A corner-shot weapon system (CSWS), designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is at an advanced stage of being inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police.

The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the Armament Research

(CAPF). Procurement by CRPF and J&K police is under advanced stage," a defence official said.

The development began about a decade ago. In July 2020, the DRDO transferred the technology to Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune and Zen Technologies Limited, Hyderabad, for production.

A few systems were used in the recent India-Japan bilateral Army exercise Dharma Guardian-2022 which

concluded on March 10 at Belagavi in Karnataka. Indian troops briefed the Japanese side on the system and both used it while practising room intervention to neutralise hostile elements.

The CSWS is said. The body is made from high-grade aluminium alloy to make it lighter and durable. Features like day-night firing capability, colour display, digital zoom, zeroing facility, hot keys, high power battery along with status



A corner shot weapon system. •••••

display and compliance with ISS 5855 makes it a very potent system for security forces engaged in Counter Insurgency and Counter Terror (CI/CT) operations, the official said.

SPECIAL

This indigenously developed system has many superior features compared to its contemporary international systems and available for 9 mm GLOCK 17/19 and IAI Auto Pistol variant, the official said.

The industry has been

part of the development phase which enabled them to absorb the technology better, one of the officials said, emphasising on the effort to involve the domestic industry as part of the 'Atmanirbhar' initiative.

The official said the prototypes during development and for the trials were produced by the two industries based on design given to them to ensure there are no gaps in manufacturing later. "The technical trials are done and the system is ready. It is also a good option for export," the official said.

Jaffrabad to get waste management tech park

Paras Singh

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NEW DELHI: The East Delhi Municipal Corporation's new technology park in Jaffrabad, which features several pilot projects for decentralised processing of municipal waste, will be inaugurated by K Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific advisor to the Central government, on Tuesday.

Officials said the technology park, spread over a 1,000 square metre area, is a trial project to see the viability of incorporating waste processing technologies at a local level and reduce the pressure on landfills. "The trials of various pilot units are now complete and the park will be fully operational to treat 10 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day. The technology is being touted as a 'decentralised solution' for processing of waste at local level so that minimal waste is sent to landfill sites which will also help municipal waste cut down on transportation cost," said a senior EDMC official.

The work on the project started in 2018 under the "waste to wealth" mission. The project features semi-automated segregation of municipal solid waste



Such smaller waste processing plants can decentralise waste processing and reduce waste transportation cost.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

into various components for utilisation separately. "The project has been carried out by the office of principal scientific advisor and we have just provided land. We will assess the performance of these pilot technologies to see if they can be replicated at other sites if funds are available to us," a senior EDMC sanitation department official said.

EDMC areas have 469 colonies spread across 64 wards which support about 23.5% of Delhi's population. The sanitation department estimates that the Jaffrabad dhalao, which receives 10 tonnes of fresh waste each day, caters to a population of 22,000. "Such smaller waste processing plants can decentralise waste processing and reduce

waste transportation cost. This can be the first step in moving towards zero landfill," the office of principal scientific advisor has stated in a statement.

Under the technology park, a 1,000sqm area, which was earlier used for open dumping and waste collection, has been turned into mini-decentralised waste processing facility. "The park will be able to process 10 tonnes of municipal waste which will be segregated and treated. We will be able to recover a tonne of compostable elements that can be turned into manure, two tonnes of combustible waste that can be used for energy generation and 1.5 tonnes of recyclable material. The combustible waste will then be processed on site using various pilot technologies, leaving only 5-10% of inert material reaching landfills," said a sanitation department official.

Delhi generates around 11,119 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day.

Atin Biswas, a waste management expert and programme director of municipal solid waste sector in Centre for Science and Environment, said, "We can have all the state-of-the-art technologies but segregation of waste at household level is the first step."

Free foodgrain scheme extended by 6 months

80 crore people to benefit

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 26

The Union Cabinet extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) for another six months from April 1.

Earlier, state governments such as the Uttar Pradesh Government had decided to extend the politically important scheme.



More than 1,000 LMT of free foodgrains will be provided

Sixth phase

The Centre said the decision will help the poor and vulnerable as nearly ₹3.4-lakh crore is earmarked for the scheme and more than 1,000 LMT of free foodgrains will be provided. This is the sixth phase of the scheme. The fifth phase was to end on March 31. Started in April 2020, the scheme is vouched as the largest food security programme in the world.

A release issued after the Cabinet meeting said the Centre spent approximately ₹2.60-lakh crore so far and another ₹80,000 crore will be spent over the next six months, taking total ex-

penditure to nearly ₹3.40-lakh crore.

"This will cover nearly 80 crore beneficiaries across India and, like before, would be fully funded by the Government of India," the release added.

States have lifted almost 95 per cent of allocated foodgrains in the five phases of the scheme so far. The Centre said that even though the pandemic has significantly abated and economic activities are gathering momentum, "extension of the scheme will ensure that no poor household goes to bed without food during this time of recovery." 12/12

International News

- 51. Recently India has committed to jointly invest _____ with the Australian government to explore lithium and cobalt mines in Australia over the next six months.**
- A. USD 1 Million**
 - B. USD 6 Million**
 - C. USD 7 Million**
 - D. USD 10 Million**

India, Australia to invest in Li, Co mines

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 29

India has committed to invest \$6 million jointly with the Australian government in lithium and cobalt mines in Australia in the next six months. The move comes as India looks to secure supplies of key minerals for its electric vehicle plans.

The Khanij Bidesh India Ltd or KABIL - a mining joint venture between the state-run National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd - has signed a preliminary agreement with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), a government statement said, on Tuesday. Engagements are also underway with other source countries (primarily LATAM nations) such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, the gov-



ernment statement added. Lithium is a key component used in Electric Vehicle batteries. And India, through its ₹ 18,100-crore PLI scheme is offering incentives for companies to build battery cells locally. China and Hong Kong are the biggest lithium battery suppliers to India.

"Under the aegis of the G2G MoU, now a detailed MoU with a collaborative framework has been signed between KABIL and CMFO for carrying out joint due diligence of select greenfield and brownfield projects to

identify lithium and cobalt mineral assets for the final joint investment decisions and acquisition of the assets in Australia," it read.

Investment partner

The MoU has also outlined inclusion of any other Central Public Sector Enterprise as investment partner in the asset acquisition process.

It also includes a collaborative framework for building an Australia-India partnership in critical mineral eco-system; development of a robust and commercially-viable critical mineral supply chain to support sustainable production; and ensure reliable supplies of the materials needed to fuel sectors such as transport, energy, telecommunications, medicine, aviation and defence.

India has committed to jointly invest \$6 million with the Australian government to explore lithium and cobalt mines in Australia over the next six months, in a bid to firm up supplies of key minerals needed to further its electric vehicle plans.

India's KABIL, a mining joint venture between state-run firms National Aluminium Co (NALU.NS), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCPR.NS) and Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd, has signed a preliminary agreement with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) India has also shortlisted Latin American countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile for exploring mines of strategic minerals abroad,

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Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

52. Recently the Army of the United States has conducted its biggest Military Exercise in past seven years with _____ named as _____ military exercise in the South China Sea.

- A. Bangladesh , Cobra
- B. Philippines , Balikatan
- C. UAE , Black Pearl
- D. NATO , Cold Response

USA and Philippines begin their biggest military exercise in the last seven years.

Armies of the United States and the Philippines are conducting "Balikatan" (shoulder-to-shoulder) military exercise in the South China Sea.

Around 9000 Filipino and American soldiers will take part in this 12-day military exercise. It is the largest military exercise between both countries since 2015. The exercise has been designed to improve defensive capabilities and readiness to respond.

This exercise will help in strengthening defense ties and reflect the "deepening alliance" between the two countries.

53. Recently _____ has launched the first type of March-6 carrier rocket with solid strap-on boosters made its maiden flight sending two satellites into planned orbit.

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. Singapore

CHINA

New carrier rocket makes maiden flight

A modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket blasts off on March 29 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province. The rocket, on its maiden flight, sent two satellites, Pujiang 2 and Tiankun 2, into planned orbits. It was the 412th mission of the Long March rocket series. The modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket is about 50 meters in length.

As the first hybrid carrier rocket, the modified version of the Long March-6 gives full play to the advantages of liquid-fueled boosters - high performance and long working hours, as well as those of solid-fueled boosters, including high thrust, high reliability and easy maintenance.

Beijing: A modified version of China's Long March-6 carrier rocket with solid strap-on boosters made its maiden flight on Tuesday, sending two satellites into the planned orbit. The rocket blasted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The modified rocket is China's first type of carrier rocket equipped with solid strap-on boosters. It uses non-toxic and non-polluting propellants and can send satellites to the sun-synchronous orbit. **PTI**

54. Recently UK's development finance institution (DFI), the British International Investment has announced a total commitment of _____ to scale clean energy capacity in India.

- A. USD 50 Million
- B. USD 89 Million
- C. USD 75 Million
- D. USD 69 Million

British International Investment, formerly CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution (DFI) and impact investor, today announced a total commitment of \$89 million to scale renewable energy capacity in India.

The DFI's investment is comprised of a Rs 350 crore (US \$47 million) follow-on commitment to Fourth Partner Energy, and a Rs 315 crore (US \$42 million) project finance debt investment to Thar Surya 1 Private Limited – an Indian subsidiary of EnelS.p.A, Italy Under its new five-year strategy, BII has set a target for 30 per cent of its new investments to be in climate finance, with a strong emphasis on investing in clean and renewable infrastructure.

BII bets \$89 mn on India's green energy

Anuj Suvarna
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BENGALURU

British International Investment (BII), the development finance institution of the UK government, on Thursday said it has committed \$89 million (about ₹676 crore) towards expansion of renewable energy capacity in India. The investment by BII, formerly known as CDC Group, will comprise of a \$47 million follow-on commitment to Fourth Partner Energy and a \$42 million project finance debt investment to Thar Surya 1 Pvt. Ltd, an Indian unit of Italy's Enel SpA.

The debt investment in Thar Surya 1 is part of a \$200 million project to fund the development, building, and operation of a 300 MW solar project in India. The project is expected to replace thermal power, reduce greenhouse gas emis-



Srini Nagarajan, Asia head, BII.

sions by 697,000 tonnes per year, and meet the needs of 151,000 consumers.

The addition of clean energy to the grid aims to help meet India's heightened energy demand, boost access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, while also increasing productivity for businesses and consumers across the country, BII said.

BII's \$47 million follow-on commitment to renewable

energy company Fourth Partner Energy will fund around 294 MW of greenfield renewable generation capacity across India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The additional capacity will increase electricity supply to the company's C&I (commercial and industrial) customers and avoid nearly 400,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This latest funding brings BII's total commitment to Fourth Partner Energy to \$80 million.

BII has set a goal of investing 30% of its new investments in climate finance in its new five-year plan, with a major focus on clean and renewable infrastructure. The new approach is motivated by its purpose to assist in addressing some of the most pressing climate change concerns such as decarbonizing the energy mix and increasing green energy capacity, it

said. "As such, these two investments demonstrate our commitment to leverage our partnerships and expertise in the energy sector, to help deploy clean renewable energy at scale and support India's green growth. We are pleased to put into action BII's pledge to commit \$1 billion in climate finance to India over the next five years," said Srini Nagarajan, managing director and head of Asia at BII.

VCCIRCLE

jan, managing director and head of Asia at BII.

In India, BII has an existing portfolio of about \$2 billion and globally, it has invested nearly ₹69,500 crore.

BII had invested \$30 million in Tata Cleantech Capital as directed green lending facility to enhance water and energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emission; in addition to a \$10 million investment in Roserve to support wastewater treatment and increase water efficiency.

55. In a major boost to export, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** facilitated Season's first consignment of fresh mangoes export from Mumbai to _____.

- A. Dubai
- B. Japan**
- C. USA
- D. Singapore

In a boost to export, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the season's first consignment of mango export from Mumbai to Japan on March 26.

Alphonso and Kesar varieties of mangoes were exported by a registered exporter of APEDA to Japan,

A mango festival is being organized in Tokyo, Japan as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Japan & Invest India today. APEDA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal agency for promoting Indian agro and processed food exports and is responsible for facilitating and promoting export.

56. Recently **North Korea test-fired its biggest-yet intercontinental ballistic missile** _____ aimed at forcing its rivals to accept it as a nuclear power and remove crippling sanctions.

- A. Hwasong – 17**
- B. Hwasong – 12
- C. Hwasong – 15
- D. Hwasong – 16

N. Korea fires new ICBM in largest test since 2017

REUTERS
SEOUL

North Korea fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday, Tokyo and Seoul said as they voiced outrage at Pyongyang's most powerful launch since 2017.

South Korea's military said it had fired missiles from ground, sea and air in response.

Pyongyang has launched nearly a dozen weapon tests this year in an unprecedented spree in defiance of UN sanctions.

But long-range and nuclear tests such as the one conducted on Thursday

have been paused since leader Kim Jong-un met then-U.S. President Donald Trump for a bout of doomed diplomacy, which collapsed in 2019.

Thursday's launch was a "breach of the suspension of intercontinental ballistic missile launches promised by Chairman Kim Jong-un to the international community," South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said.

"It poses a serious threat to the Korean peninsula, the region and the international community," Moon said, adding that it was a "clear violation" of UN Security Council resolutions.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

57. Recently a floating dock valued at approximately _____ will be built by the _____, as a grant by India to the Sri Lanka navy.

- A. USD 10 Million, GRSE
- B. USD 20 Million, Goa Shipyard Ltd
- C. USD 50 Million, Kolkata Shipyard Ltd
- D. USD 35 Million, Cochin Shipyard Ltd

In a significant development for Goa Shipyard Ltd and India's bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, a floating dock valued at approximately \$20 million will be built by the Vasco-based shipyard and given as a grant by India to the Sri Lanka navy. The floating dock will be established at the Trincomalee Naval Dockyard within the next 30 months, said sources.

The Sri Lankan navy and GSL inked an agreement for the construction of the floating dock, a much-needed requirement for the neighbouring country.

{ CLIMATE CRISIS | LIGHTNING STRIKES KILLED 787 IN INDIA 2021

The \$1.5 bn goal: UN body to set up Early Warning System covering the entire world

Jayashree Nandi
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NEW DELHI: The number of recorded disasters increased by a factor of five over the 50-year period between 1970 and 2019, driven by the climate crisis and improved reporting, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Wednesday.

To deal with the increasing threat of the climate crisis, WMO announced a new United Nations goal - an early warning system that covers every person in the world in the next five years. The agency has estimated that the cost of covering everyone with an early warning system will be around \$1.5 billion.

The 2019 Global Commission on Adaptation flagship report "Adapt Now" found that Early Warning Systems provide more than a tenfold return on investment - the greatest of any adaptation measure included in the report.

The report also found that just 24 hours warning of a coming storm or heatwave can cut the ensuing damage by 30% and spending \$800 million on such systems in developing countries would avoid losses of \$3-16 billion a year.

India Meteorological Department is aligned to the WMO target, said M Mohapatra, director general of the Indian weather office, adding that the country is seeing a similar rise in extreme weather events. The number of severe cyclones over the Arabian Sea has risen by 1 per decade and maximum temperature has increased by 0.99 degree C since 1901 in India - small numbers that are big when it comes to weather.

"There is a significant rise in heavy rainfall events also over India. In order to address this crisis we have a goal of ensuring every household gets weather information," said Mohapatra ahead of WMO's announcement on Wednesday on the occasion

of World Meteorological Day. To meet the goal, IMD, apart from issuing early warning on traditional media like TV and radio, has developed three apps: Mausam for general weather information; Meghdoot for farmers; and Damani for lightning alerts. The last may surprise some but lightning strikes killed 787 in India in 2021.

Now, IMD is developing an app solely for fishermen which is already being piloted among them in Tamil Nadu.

"All populations are not covered by smart phones. So, now we are also developing a common alert protocol so that those not using smart phones get SMS. These alerts will be in local languages. We are collaborating with state governments to reach our information through their networks and apps. WhatsApp messages have become very popular with farmer groups so we try to reach them through stakeholder groups. We hope to cover

some where in the world - taking the lives of 105 people and causing \$202 million in losses daily, according to a 2021 WMO report on disaster statistics.

While announcing the new target, Antonio Guterres, UN secretary-general said, "Keeping 1.5 degree C target alive requires a 45% reduction in global emissions by 2030 to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century. But, according to current national commitments, global emissions are set to rise by almost 14% this decade. The world must end its addiction to fossil fuels, especially coal."

Around one-third of the world's population, mainly in least developed countries and small island developing states, are still not covered by early warning systems.

"The growing number of disasters due to climate change is endangering implementation of a large number of Sustainable Development Goals. Besides very critical mitigation it is

growingly important to invest in climate adaptation. One of the highest returns of investments is reached by improving the weather, water and climate early warning services and related observing infrastructures. There is a need to invest \$1.5 billion during the coming five years to improve the quality of the services and related infrastructures especially in the least developed countries and small island countries," said WMO secretary-general Petteri Taalas.

"It will not be easy. It will be challenging, but when one looks at the potential costs of mobilising the resources to make this a reality, it's a mere fraction, a mere rounding error of the \$14 trillion mobilised by G20 countries over the last two years to recover their economies from Covid 19," said a senior UN official during an informal briefing on Tuesday. WMO is expected to present the plan to cover each person with early warning at COP-27 in Egypt.



High tide hits the Digha beach on the Bay of Bengal coast as Cyclone Yaas intensifies in West Bengal state, India.

farmers in all 7,000 blocks in the country soon," added Mohapatra.

Over the past 50 years (1970-2019), a weather, climate or water-related disaster has occurred on average every day

Banking / Economy News

58. Recently **ICICI Lombard** has tied up with _____ to offer smart-phone Insurance with a monthly premium starting at Rs. 1299.

- A. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- B. Airtel Payment Bank**
- C. Jio Payment Bank
- D. NSDL Payment Bank



ICICI Lombard, Airtel bank offer mobile cover
 MUMBAI
 Airtel Payments Bank has tied up with ICICI Lombard to offer Smartphone Insurance in India. "With a monthly premium starting at ₹1,299, customers can get an insurance sum that is equivalent to the purchase price of their smartphone," the bank and insurer said.

AU Small Finance Bank to finance Tata cars, UVs
 MUMBAI
 AU Small Finance Bank said it has signed an agreement with Tata Motors offering finance options for its new Forever range of passenger cars and UVs. "This scheme will offer maximum financing on the vehicle as per each individual's requirements. Customers can also enjoy the benefit of EMI options with a repayment tenor of up to seven years," the bank said.

In a bid to bolster the Indian mobile insurance industry, Airtel Payments Bank announced its partnership with ICICI General Insurance Company to provide smart-phone insurance that offers device financial protection from damages caused by accidents, liquid spillage, or more.

The customers can get insured for a sum equal to the purchase price of their smart-phone which can be priced anywhere between the range of Rs 10,000 to Rs 1, 00,000. By paying a monthly premium of Rs 1,299

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited is a

59. Recently _____ has collaborated with **Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd and SBI General Insurance** to offer third party and comprehensive Two-wheelers insurance plans on its platform.

- A. Paytm
- B. Mobikwik**
- C. Zeta
- D. Flipkart

Mobikwik, mobile wallets and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) FinTech Company in India, has collaborated with insurance giants like Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd and SBI General Insurance to offer third party and comprehensive two-wheeler insurance plans on its platform.

With this partnership, the customers will now be able to insure their two-wheelers seamlessly on the Mobikwik app in just a few simple steps which are quick and easy to understand Bipin Preet Singh, Co-founder, MD and CEO, Mobikwik Surya Narayanan V, Managing Director, Chola MS General Insurance

60. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has allowed SBI Mutual Fund and other entities of SBI group to hold up together _____ percent stake in ICICI Bank.

- A. 5.47 %
- B. 9.45 %
- C. 9.99 %
- D. 8.4 %

RBI has given SBI Group of entities permission to acquire up to 9.99% stake in ICICI Bank. The approval will remain valid for one year (till March 22, 2023). The approval has been given to SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML) and other group entities of SBI group. RBI said that SBI Group entities' stake in the bank should always be less than 10% of the paid-up equity capital of the bank at all times. SBI Mutual Fund (5.72% stake) and LIC (7.77% stake) were among the largest individual shareholders in ICICI Bank as of December 31, 2021.

RBI allows SBI group to hold up to 9.9% in ICICI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI has allowed SBI Mutual Fund and other entities in the SBI group to together hold up to 9.99% stake in ICICI Bank.

The relaxation comes in the wake of revised ownership norms for private banks announced by the RBI last year. Before the new norms came into place, the RBI did not grant approval for individual entities to hold more than 5% in a private bank.

Before new norms, RBI did not allow entities to hold over 5% in a private bank

Earlier, Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank had said that they had received permission from the central bank to allow LIC to hold up to 9.99% stake in the respective banks. This approval is valid for one year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked ICICI Bank to ensure that the SBI group's shareholding remains below 10% at all times.

INVESTMENT COMMITMENT OF AROUND ₹ 600 CR IndoSpace Sets up 2 Logistics Parks over 90 Acres in Gujarat

Kailash.Babar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Industrial real estate and logistics parks developer IndoSpace is expanding its presence in western India with two industrial warehousing and logistics parks in Gujarat spread over 90 acres with an investment commitment of around ₹600 crore.

The company's logistics parks in Becharaji and Bavla with over two million sq ft Grade A warehousing near Ahmedabad aim to cater to the rising manufacturing demand in Gujarat. IndoSpace park in Becharaji is located on the outskirts of the Mandal Becharaji Special Investment Region (MBSIR), adjacent to state highway SH-19, and accessible to both industrial and transit hubs.

The logistics park in Bavla is in proximity to the Changodar-Bagodara industrial belts, on the Ahmedabad-Rajkot National Highway (NH) 47, offering Grade A infrastructure to many large and medium industrial and warehousing developments.

"After establishing a strong presence in Chakan, Pune in the western region, we are excited to further strengthen our presence in the state of Gujarat," said Rajesh Jaggi, vice chairman-real estate at Everstone Group. "The state is today one of India's important in-



ISTOCK

dustrial hubs, and we aim at serving companies in the automotive sector including battery electric vehicle (BEV) and BEV batteries manufacturing, ecommerce and retail industries." According to Jaggi, the company plans to leverage on the manufacturing growth in Gujarat and provide Grade A logistics infrastructure to customers across industries.

Both the parks, according to the company, are well-suited for industrial, logistical, and storage operations and are ideally situated to allow quick access to Gujarat's major cities.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

61. Recently _____ has announced to setup two Industrial Warehousing and Logistics parks in Gujarat with an Investment of around Rs 600 Cr.

- A. Arcelor Mittal
- B. Indospace**
- C. NTPC
- D. Adani Green

Industrial real estate and logistics park developer Indo-Space is expanding its presence in western India with two industrial warehousing and logistics parks in Gujarat; spread over 90 acres with an investment commitment of around Rs 600 crores.

The company's logistics parks at Becharaji and Bavla near Ahmadabad are aimed at meeting the growing manufacturing demand in Gujarat. Indo-Space Park in Becharaji, located on the outskirts of Mandal Becharaji Special Investment Zone (MBSIR), which is adjacent to state highway SH-19, and is accessible to both industrial and transit hubs.

62. Recently Reserve Bank of India has inaugurated its Innovation hub in _____ setup under the _____ of Companies Act 2013, with an Initial capital of _____ to encourage Innovation.

- A. Bangalore , Section 8, Rs 100 Cr**
- B. Bangalore , Section 7 , Rs 200 Cr
- C. Bangalore , Section 6, Rs 500 Cr
- D. Bangalore , Section 5 , Rs 150 Cr

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, set up with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore to encourage and nurture financial innovation. The Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopala Krishnan as the Chairman and other eminent persons from industry and academia as members, The RBI has set up the RBIH as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up.

This is in line with the objective behind establishment of RBIH i.e., to bring world class innovation to the financial sector in India, coupled with the underlying theme of financial inclusion

Kris Gopalakrishnan as chairman

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, March 24

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Thursday inaugurated its innovation hub in Bengaluru with former Infosys chief Kris Gopalakrishnan as its chairman. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has been set up as a Section 8 company under the Companies Act with an initial capital contribution of ₹100 crore to encourage financial innovation through an institutional set-up.

Speaking at the launch, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the RBIH puts India's central bank in an exclusive group of select global central banks that are enterprising enough to change the mode of engagement while dealing with innovation.

"It also reflects a genuine commitment to have continuous engagement with industry, innovators, academia and related stakeholders to nurture and leverage beneficial innovation in the financial sector, which can deliver customised products particularly relevant for those at the bottom of the pyra-



Kris Gopalakrishnan

mid," he said.

The Hub is expected to build an ecosystem for development of prototypes, patents and proofs of concept and promote cross-thinking spanning regulatory domains and national boundaries. With its own independent board comprising members from industry and academia, the RBIH will facilitate convergence of ideas among various stakeholders, Das said.

"While fostering innovation, however, the underlying focus of RBIH should always be to promote access to financial services

Federal Bank, RBIH enter into financial inclusion pact

FEDERAL BANK has joined hands with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India as scale up partner for phase 2 of Swanari Tech-Sprint Programme. The programme is aimed at advancing digital financial inclusion for women in India and to create digital solutions for bridging the gender gap.

and products for the low-income population in the country. It should be our duty to promote such innovation that not only improves process efficiencies but also transforms the society," the governor said, adding that the overall focus should be on innovation with a purpose.

63. Recently _____ has partnered with the Reserve Bank Innovation hub for Phase 2 of its "Swanari Tech Sprint Programme" aimed at Digital Financial Inclusion for women in India.

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

Private sector lender Federal Bank has teamed up with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, a subsidiary of the central bank, as scale up partner for the second phase of Swanari Tech Sprint programme. The programme is aimed at advancing digital financial inclusion for women in India and to create digital solutions for bridging the gender gap.

Public sector lender Bank of Baroda on Wednesday announced it has partnered with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) wholly-owned subsidiary Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote financial inclusion of women through technology

Bank of Baroda is an Indian nationalized banking and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

64. Recently the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed a Penalty of Rs _____ on _____ for Violating Merchant Banking Regulations.

- A. Rs 1 Lakh , Bank of Baroda
- B. Rs 2 Lakh , Punjab National bank
- C. Rs 5 Lakh , Axis Bank**
- D. Rs 10 Lakh , State Bank of India

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has imposed a penalty of 5 lakh on Axis Bank for violating merchant banking regulations. The market regulator examined the Debt Capital Market operations of the bank between August 2016 and August 2019. The bank has been asked to pay the penalty in 45 days of the receipt of the order

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

Sebi slaps ₹5-lakh fine on Axis Bank over rules violation



SEBI HAS imposed a penalty of ₹5 lakh on Axis Bank for violating merchant banking regulations, reports **fe Bureau in Mumbai**. The market regulator examined the Debt Capital Market operations of the bank between August 2016 and August 2019. The bank has been asked to pay the penalty in 45 days of the receipt of the order.

65. Recently the **United Nation has Lowered India's GDP growth rate for 2022** to _____ from previously 6.7 % amid ongoing war in Ukraine while it has downgraded its global growth projection to _____.

- A. 4.6 % , 2.6 %**
- B. 5.1 % , 2.9%
- C. 5.6 % , 3.6 %
- D. 4.7 % , 4.5 %

India's projected economic growth for 2022 has been downgraded by over 2% to 4.6% by the United Nations, a decrease attributed to the ongoing war in Ukraine, with New Delhi expected to face restraints on energy access and prices, reflexes from trade sanctions, food inflation,

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report downgraded its global economic growth projection for 2022 to 2.6% from 3.6% due to shocks from the Ukraine war and changes in macroeconomic policies. India was forecast to grow at 6.7% in 2022 and this projection has been downgraded to 4.6% by UNCTAD.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established in 1964 as an intergovernmental organization intended to promote the interests of developing states in world trade. Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland Head: Secretary-General; Rebecca Grynspan

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

66. Recently RBI Governor, *Shaktikanta Das* has inaugurated the *Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)* in which city?

- A. Salboni
- B. Dewas
- C. Mysore
- D. Nashik

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL in Mysore. Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit will also manufacture Colour Shift Intaglio Ink (CSII).

It fulfills complete requirement of banknote printing presses in India. It will help in reducing the cost of printing banknotes and ensure self-sufficiency in banknote ink production.

The foundation stone for setting up of Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of BRBNMPL in Mysore has also been laid by RBI Governor.

LDC is being set up with collaboration from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL), and Bank Note Paper Mill India private Limited (BNPMIPL).

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL): It is a RBI owned subsidiary. It was established in 1995. It has two presses in Salboni, West Bengal and Mysore, Karnataka.

67. Recently _____ has teamed up with Pine Labs to launch 'Tap to Pay' feature for UPI allowing users to make payments seamlessly via UPI without using their cards.

- A. Paytm
- B. Google Pay
- C. PhonePe
- D. Flipkart

Google Pay has announced launch of Tap to Pay for UPI users in India. Google Pay, online payment system developed by Google, has announced the launch in collaboration with Pine Labs.

Users can now tap their phones on POS terminal and make payments after authentication through their UPI PIN.

All UPI users desirous of using their Near Field Communication (NFC) enables Android smart-phone can access the facility.

They will be able to carry out transaction through any Pine Labs Android POS terminal across the country. Pine Labs is an Indian merchant platform company.

Google Pay unveils 'Tap to Pay' for UPI payments

NEW DELHI

Google Pay on Wednesday announced collaboration with Pine Labs to unveil 'Tap to Pay' for UPI payments, a feature earlier available only for card payments.

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)**

68. Recently _____ has launched 'Manthan', an ideathon in association with BSE, NSE, NSDL, CDSL, KFinTech, CAMS and MCX.

- A. SEBI
- B. SIDBI
- C. RBI
- D. NABARD

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced the launch of 'Manthan', an Ideathon for supporting new ideas and innovations in the securities market. The initiative was launched by Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, SEBI, SEBI has tied up with other market infrastructure institutions and QRTAs to launch Manthan which aims to highlight that adoption of Financial Technology (FinTech) in the securities market presents significant opportunities for stakeholders.

The latest Ideathon by SEBI will be a 6-week long program in association with BSE, NSE, NSDL, CDSL, KFinTech, CAMS, Link Intime and MCX to promote innovation in the securities market.

Sebi 'Manthan'

New Delhi: Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch launched 6-week ideathon 'Manthan' to promote innovation in securities markets. PTI

The government on Wednesday approved issuance of the 20th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale from April 1 to 10. "State Bank of India (SBI), in the 20th phase of sale, has been authorized to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorized branches with effect from April 1 to April 10, 2022,"

SBI is the only authorized bank to issue such bonds. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issue.

The 19th tranche of bond sale took place from January 1 to January 10, 2022. The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds took place from March 1-10, 2018.

69. Recently _____ has selected India-based digital KYC platform Kwik.ID to implement its solution for the bank's network across the country.

- A. Union Bank of India

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

- B. Central Bank of India**
- C. Punjab National Bank**
- D. State Bank of India**

Central Bank of India has selected Kwik.ID to implement digital KYC, video KYC and e-KYC for its network across India with an aim to bring better onboarding and digitization practices. This partnership will support the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the Government of India, With Kwik.ID-AI-based fully compliant Video KYC solution, the bank aims to digitize 10 million customers' onboarding annually and streamline their end-to-end processes.

Central Bank of India is an Indian nationalized bank it is based in Mumbai, the financial capital of India and capital city of state of Maharashtra.

70. Recently In Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited sold its headquarters at BKC to _____ and has resolved Rs 55,000 crore of debt overall by March 31, 2022 and also appointed _____ as the new Chairman.

- A. Brookfield Asset Management , CS Rajan**
- B. Oak tree Capital Management , Sanjay kumar**
- C. Pirmal Capital And Housing Finance ,Puneet Goenka**
- D. Adani Group , Sanjeev Singh**

Global alternative investment major Brookfield Asset Management has emerged as the successful bidder and is set to acquire infrastructure lender IL&FS' headquarters, a 10-storey iconic property in Mumbai's business district Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) for over Rs 1,080 crore.

As part of periodic update on the ongoing IL&FS resolution, the new board and management of IL&FS shared that it has addressed debt of Rs 55,000 crore till date, up from Rs 52,200 crore as of November 2021.

With this, Kotak Mahindra Bank managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) Uday Kotak, who has been serving as non-executive chairman of IL&FS, will step down on 2 April, and Rajan will take charge on 3 April as chairman & MD for six months.

IL&FS sells headquarters to Brookfield for ₹1,080 cr.

Uday Kotak's tenure to end on April 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The iconic IL&FS headquarters has been sold to Brookfield Asset Management for ₹1,080 crore, the board of the scam-hit conglomerate said on Tuesday.

"Letter of Intent has been signed and NCLT filing has taken place," C.S. Rajan, MD, IL&FS, disclosed at a press conference. The building, completed in the '90s, is owned by group company TIFC. It will change hands during the course of FY23, he said.

"For me, in many ways, IL&FS is symbolised by this outstanding construction which is among the first buildings in the Bandra Kurla Complex," said non-executive chairman Uday Kotak.



The property had been "sold at ₹29,000 per sq. ft".

For a while, IL&FS will use some space in this 4.5 lakh sq. ft building to help continue with the debt resolution process. Mr. Kotak said his term as non-executive chairman would end on April 2. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs named current MD Mr. Rajan as chairman and managing director for six months from April 3.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

71. Recently the Board of Directors of IDBI Bank has approved the sale of the Bank's entire _____ stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (AFLI) to Ageas Insurance International NV (Ageas).

- A. 15 %
- B. 25 %**
- C. 20 %
- D. 5 %

t p i n d e f i d r y d e t f r

IDBI Bank to sell entire stake in life insurance arm to JV partner

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 29

The board of directors of IDBI Bank on Tuesday approved sale of the lender's entire 25 per cent stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (AFLI) to Ageas Insurance International NV (Ageas).

The board also granted in-principle approval for divestment of the bank's stake up to 11.10 per cent of paid-up share capital of National Securities

Depository Ltd (NSDL). IDBI Bank has 26.10 per cent stake in NSDL.

Meanwhile, the bank's board has approved Rupee bond borrowing limit of ₹8,000 crore for FY 2022-23. The resources, which will be borrowed in one or more tranches, comprise Additional Tier I (AT-1) Bonds up to ₹3,000 crore and Senior/ Infrastructure Bonds up to ₹1,000 crore by way of private placement.

72. Recently IDBI Bank has sold its stake of _____ as paid up share capital in National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).

- A. 5 %
- B. 9.9 %
- C. 11.10 %**
- D. 12.16 %

IDBI Bank will sell certain percentage of its stake in NSDL.

The Bank's Board of Directors has given in-principle approval for sell of certain percentage of Bank's stake in NSDL.

The Board has allowed Bank to sell its stake up to 11.10% of paid up share capital of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).

Currently, IDBI Bank is having 26.10% stake in NSDL.

The board has also approved sale of Bank's entire 25% stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited to Ageas Insurance International NV (Ageas). National Securities Depository Ltd:

It is an Indian central securities depository. Padmaja Chunduru is its MD & CEO. It is headquartered in Mumbai. It was set up in August 1996.

73. Recently _____ has announced to acquire Citibank's India consumer business at _____, in all cash deal.

- A. Kotak Mahindra Bank, \$2.1 billion
- B. Axis Bank, \$1.6 billion**
- C. HDFC Bank, \$2.6 billion
- D. ICICI Bank, \$3.6 billion

Axis to buy Citi's retail biz for ₹12,325 crore

To gain big in credit cards; regulatory approvals likely in 9–12 months

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai, 30 March

Axis Bank, the third-largest private sector lender in the country, will buy the retail business of Citibank India in an all-cash deal for ₹12,325 crore. This is the biggest deal in the banking space since the acquisition of ING Vysya Bank by Kotak Mahindra Bank in 2014, which was valued at ₹15,000 crore.

The deal includes Citi's credit cards, retail banking, wealth management, and consumer loan businesses,

PAGE 11, 1
CITI DEAL, A PROFITABLE BUY FOR AXIS BANK

besides the consumer business of its non-banking financial company, Citicorp Finance (India) Limited. This, however, excludes Citi's institutional client businesses in India, Citi said in a statement, adding that Axis Bank was selected following an extensive and competitive auction process. Citi said it remained committed to serving institutional clients in India and globally.

Axis Bank will offer 3,600 employees of Citi's consumer banking business a remuneration that is at par or higher than their current packages.

For Citi, the sale is part of Chief Executive Jane Fraser's plan to overhaul its business by exiting retail banking operations in 13 countries

DEAL DYNAMICS

What Axis is getting from the Citi deal

- ▶ 3 mn customers of Citibank India
- ▶ 2.5 mn credit card holders (credit card customer base to rise by 31%)
- ▶ ₹1.11 trn AUM from Citi Wealth and Private banking
- ▶ Deposits of ₹50,200 cr; 81% are low-cost current & savings account deposits
- ▶ Salary accounts of 1,600 corporates with over 1 million customers and average salary of ₹70,000/month
- ▶ 7 offices, 21 branches, and 499 ATMs across 18 cities
- ▶ 3,600 employees of Citi's consumer bank
- ▶ Post acquisition, Axis Bank's deposit base will increase by 7%; CASA by 12%, and loan 4%



"THE ACQUISITION STRENGTHENS OUR MARKET POSITION, REDUCES THE GAP IN KEY SEGMENTS WITH PEERS, AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCELERATE RETAIL BUSINESS GROWTH"
Amitabh Chaudhry,
MD & CEO, Axis Bank

Major credit card players

Cards issued as of February 2022 (in million)

HDFC Bank	16.27
SBI Card	13.52
ICICI Bank	12.77
Axis Bank	8.6
Citi India	2.55

Source: RBI

PAGE 4 WHEN LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE WITH CITI DEAL

where it does not have the necessary scale to compete.

"As we move forward with this transaction, India remains a key institutional market for Citi," said Peter Babej, Citi Asia Pacific CEO. "In line

with our broader strategic repositioning, we will continue to support our institutional clients in this core market and across APAC, delivering the full power of our global network to enable their growth," he added. Turn to Page 6 ▶

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Private sector lender Axis Bank has acquired Citigroup's retail banking business in India for Rs 12,325 crore. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of regulatory approvals, the bank said in a regulatory filing. The transaction comprises sale of consumer business of Citibank India, which includes credit cards, retail banking, wealth management and consumer loans,

Citigroup had entered India in 1902 and started the consumer banking business in 1985.

74. Recently the Union Cabinet has approved a *World Bank-assisted programme called 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' - or RAMP* worth _____ to improve the performance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME).

- A. USD 500 Million
- B. USD 808 Million**
- C. USD 308 Million
- D. USD 250 Million

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 6,062.45 crore program to improve the performance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), with assistance from the World Bank.

The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program is a World Bank-supported central sector scheme that will support the COVID-19 pandemic-related Ministry of MSMEs' resilience and recovery interventions.

A total of Rs 6,062.45 crore will be spent on this scheme, of which Rs 3,750 crore will come from the World Bank loan and the remaining Rs 2,312.45 crore will be from the Government of India.

The program aims to improve market and credit access, strengthen institutions and governance at the Centre and state levels, improve center-state linkages and cooperation, and handle late payment difficulties.

The Apex National MSME Council headed by MSME Minister will monitor and look after the policy overview of RAMP.

75. Recently the *Wildlife Conservation Bond issued by World Bank for raising _____, partly used for the conservation of black rhinos in _____.*

- A. USD 200 Million, India
- B. USD 150 Million, South Africa**
- C. USD 250 Million, Nepal
- D. USD 300 Million, India

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

World Bank issued first wildlife bond to save black rhino of Africa. The World Bank issued first of its kind Wildlife Conservation Bond to increase the population of black rhino in Africa. The World Bank will raise \$150 million to help in the efforts of conservation of black rhinos. The five-year 'rhino bond' will give returns based on the rate of growth of black rhino populations at South Africa's Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR). Investor will get no return if the population of black rhino doesn't change. The buyers of the bond will receive a payment from the Global Environment Facility. Black rhinos are found only in Africa.

Rhino bond sold by World Bank in first issuance of its kind

The world's first wildlife bond will be a five-year bond that will pay returns determined by the rate of growth in populations of black rhinos in two South African reserves.

BLOOMBERG | MARCH 25, 2022 / 04:29 PM IST



Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Cricketer Virat Kohli has retained his position as India's most valuable celebrity brand in 2021; Kohli's value was pegged at USD 185.7 million According To The report by consultancy firm Duff & Phelps.

Actor Ranveer Singh has piped older peer Akshay Kumar to become the second most valuable celebrity in India with USD 158.3 million worth. Kumar is now ranked third with the brand value of USD 139.6 million.

Actor Alia Bhatt at fourth rank overall is top among females with a brand value of USD 68.1 million, and is followed by Deepika Padukone with USD 51.6 million of worth.

76. Recently _____ has won the **best bank award from State Forum of Bankers Clubs Kerala** at national level under the public sector category.

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

Bank of Maharashtra has won best bank award from State Forum of Bankers' Clubs Kerala.

The bank has won the award for 2020-21 at national level under the public sector category.

Kerala's Industries and Commerce Minister gave the award to Bank of Maharashtra Managing Director: A.S. Rajeev.

The bank's MD said that it has entered into the mid-sized bank category after declaring its Q3 FY22 results.

Bank of Maharashtra is a scheduled public sector bank headquartered in Pune. It has recently partnered with Mahagram to launch Bank Sakhi project in Odisha.

77. Recently the **Reserve Bank of India** has given perpetual licence to _____ to set-up its own and operates **White Label ATMs (WLAs)** in India under the brand name _____.

- A. Paytm Payments , Pay1India
- B. India1 Payments , India1ATMs**
- C. PhonePe Payments , Ph1ATMs
- D. Jio Payments , Jio1India

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

RBI has given perpetual licence to India1 Payments to set-up, own and operates White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India.

The licence is however subject to company's compliance with regulatory guidelines and terms of original Certificate of Authorization (CoA).

India1 Payments (formerly BTI Payments Private Ltd) operates ATMs under the brand name India1ATMs.

White Label ATMs (WLAs) are ATMs that are established, opened and operated by non-banks.

78. Recently the government has announced to sell _____ percent of its stake in the country's top oil and gas producer ONGC to raise about Rs 3,000 crore.

- A. 2.5 %
- B. 5 %
- C. 1.5 %
- D. 2.9 %

The government is selling up to 1.5 per cent of its stake in the country's top oil and gas producer ONGC to rise about Rs 3,000 crore. The "Offer for Sale" (OFS) of the government's equity has so far been subscribed 3.57 times the base size by institutional buyers.

The government owns a 60.41 per cent stake in ONGC which produces half of India's oil and gas.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is an Indian government-owned crude oil and natural gas corporation. Its registered office is in New Delhi. The operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Centre to sell 1.5 % in ONGC; OFS opens today

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, March 29

The Centre on Tuesday said that it will sell up to 1.5 per cent in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) through an Offer For Sale. The OFS is expected to fetch around ₹3,000 crore. The issue opens on Wednesday.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), tweeted that "Offer for Sale' for 1.5 per cent equity stake sale in ONGC, including 0.75 per cent Green Shoe option opens on Wednesday. Retail in-

vestors can bid on Thursday." In a regulatory filing with stock exchanges, ONGC said, "Notice of the proposed offer for sale of equity shares of face value ₹5 each of ONGC by its promoter, the President of India, acting through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), through the stock exchange mechanism."

The government proposes to sell up to 94,352,094 equity shares of ONGC on Wednesday to non-retail investors and on Thursday to retail investors with an option to additionally

sell 94,352,094 equity shares in case of over-subscription, it added.

Floor price

The floor price for the OFS has been set at ₹159 per share. The government owns 60.41 per cent in ONGC, which produces half of India's oil and gas.

In the OFS, a minimum of 25 per cent shares has been reserved for mutual funds and insurance companies while 10 per cent is earmarked for retail investors, defined as individuals bidding for not more than 2

lakh shares. ONGC employees too can apply for shares of up to ₹5 lakh each; 0.075 per cent of equity shares sold via the OFS will be offered to eligible employees at the cut-off price.

ONGC's OFS comes at a time when the Centre is likely to close FY22 with disinvestment receipts far short of the targeted ₹78,000 crore. The much anticipated LIC IPO is now only slated for the next financial year. So far, the government has been able to mop up around ₹12,000 crore though disinvestment.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

79. Recently ICICI Bank has announced to acquire _____ in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) at Rs 10 crore.

- A. 6.9%
- B. 5.97%**
- C. 15%
- D. 9.9%

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has accepted to acquire 10 lakh equity shares in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for Rs 10 crore. After the acquisition of shares, the bank will hold a 5.97 per cent stake in ONDC.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) was incorporated on December 30, 2021 which is engaged in creating an open public digital infrastructure to develop and transform the Indian digital commerce ecosystem for goods and services. It aims to expand alternatives for buyers and sellers to engage in digital commerce space.

SIDBI acquires 7.84% stake in ONDC for ₹10 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), on Friday, said it has acquired 7.84 per cent stake in open public digital infrastructure platform, ONDC, for ₹10 crore.

“SIDBI, the apex financial institution for financing and development of MSMEs in the country, has acquired 7.84 per cent stake in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity named Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) through an investment of ₹10 crore,” it said in a release.

Hoping that its investment in ONDC will help develop digital infrastructure to democratise digital commerce in the country, S Ramann, CMD,

SIDBI, said the infrastructure created will serve as a public good by augmenting market access for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

It will help micro enterprises and retailers by lowering cost and effort for them to onboard the e-commerce marketplaces, said Rao.

“SIDBI, along with its network of institutions, shall actively engage with ONDC to make this ambitious national project a success,” he said.

ONDC was formed in December 2021, with an objective to create a first-of-its-kind open public digital infrastructure, to develop and transform the Indian digital commerce ecosystem for both goods and services.

HDFC Bank, Kotak and Axis acquire 8% each in ONDC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 23 March

Private sector lenders HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank have acquired 7.84 per cent stake each in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity ONDC.

All the three banks have invested ₹10 crore each.

Post investment, HDFC Bank holds 7.84 per cent of the equity share capital of ONDC by way of allotment of 10 lakh equity shares for ₹10 crore, it said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday.

“Kotak Mahindra Bank has subscribed to 10,00,000 equity shares of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for a consideration of ₹10 crore, translating into an equity shareholding of 7.84

per cent in ONDC as on March 22, 2022,” the lender said in another filing.

In a separate filing, Axis Bank said ONDC on March 22 allotted Axis Bank 10,00,000 equity shares of face value of ₹100 each for a consideration of ₹10 crore. Post allotment, the shareholding of the bank in ONDC is 7.84 per cent.

ONDC was incorporated in India on December 30, 2021 and is into creating an open public digital infrastructure to develop and transform the Indian digital commerce ecosystem for both goods and services.

The lenders said the purpose of the investment in ONDC is to help create an infrastructure to develop and transform Indian digital commerce ecosystem.

ONDC was incorporated in India on Dec 30 and is into creating an open public digital infrastructure

PNB buys 6% stake in public digital e-commerce platform

PUBLIC SECTOR LENDER Punjab National Bank on Thursday said it has acquired nearly 6% stake in public digital e-commerce platform ONDC for ₹10 crore. ONDC is an initiative of the ministry of commerce and industry to promote open

networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital networks.

It is based on open-source methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols, independent of any specific platform. —PTI

80. Recently _____ has launched a digital customer engagement and rewards programme named VAULT.
- Star Health Allied Insurance
 - HDFC ERGO General Insurance**
 - Kotak General Insurance
 - Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. has launched a digital customer engagement and rewards programme - VAULT. Under this programme, the insurer will incentivize its Optima Restore Health insurance customers by way of reward points for performing certain activities like staying insured under the policy for more than two years; HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd. and ERGO International AG, the primary insurance entity of Germany's Munich RE Group. HDFC ERGO is a private sector non-life insurance company.

81. Recently _____ has announced the launch of *Fin-Plan - a holistic financial planning and wealth-building platform powered by Fin-bingo to get an in-depth analysis of all financial instruments.*
- Axis Direct**
 - State Bank of India
 - ICICI Bank
 - HDFC Bank

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Axis Direct, the online brand of India's leading broking firm Axis Securities, on March 29 announced the launch of Fin-Plan - a holistic financial planning and wealth-building platform powered by Fin-bingo (a SEBI registered Investment Advisor). Fin-Plan simplifies financial planning to make informed investment decisions best suited to one's short and long-term goals.

Axis Direct is the flagship brand under Axis Securities Limited, a subsidiary of Axis Bank in India. Its main offices are in Mumbai. CEO; Anand Shaha, Executive Director Founded: 2011

82. Recently _____ has partnered with EaseMyTrip to launch an environment-friendly international debit card, "Digi Bank EaseMyTrip Green Debit Card" made using 99% recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.

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

DBS Bank India has partnered with EaseMyTrip to launch an environment-friendly international debit card made using 99% recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material. The digi bank Ease My Trip Green Debit Card provides exclusive travel-related offers to customers and rewards them for adopting eco-friendly practices while encouraging them to reduce their carbon footprint.

The "Digi Bank Ease My Trip Green Debit Card" offers exclusive best-in-class deals on bookings made through the EaseMyTrip website and mobile app,

Nishant Pitti, CEO and Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip

DBS Bank Limited, often known as DBS, is a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation headquartered at the Marina Bay Financial Centre in the Marina Bay district of Singapore.

83. Consider the following statements regarding as per the RBI's Working Group on digital lending.

1. As per RBI, "Sachet", a portal established by RBI under State Level Coordination Committee mechanism for registering complaints by the public against unregistered entities has received approximately 2,562 complaints against digital lending apps.
2. Around 572 complaints against illegal lending apps, Maharashtra tops the list, followed by Karnataka (394) and Delhi (352).

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st 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

Maharashtra saw highest number of complaints against digital loan apps

FRAUD ALERT

State-wise number of complaints received since January 2020 to March 2021



State	No. of complaints
Maharashtra	572
Karnataka	394
UT of Delhi	352
Haryana	314
Telangana	185
Andra Pradesh	144
Uttar Pradesh	142
West Bengal	138
Tamil Nadu	57
Gujarat	56
Other states, UTs	208
Total	2,562

Source: Lok Sabha reply/RBI

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai 28 March

More than 2,500 complaints were made by customers to the Reserve Bank of India against digital loan applications (apps) between January 2020 and March 2021, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

A total of 2,652 complaints against digital loan apps (DLA) were received by 'Sachet' — a portal established by the RBI under the State Level Coordination Committee

mechanism to register complaints by the public against unregistered entities. Highest number of complaints were received by Maharashtra, followed by Karnataka and Delhi.

"The Department of Supervision at the RBI has been designated as the nodal department for dealing with complaints against unauthorised digital lending platforms/mobile apps and a mechanism to handle specific references on unauthorised digital lending platforms has been laid down," the minister said in a written reply.

With 572 complaints against illegal lending apps, Maharashtra tops the list, followed by Karnataka (394) and Delhi (352). The finance ministry on Monday said a total of 2,562 complaints have been received against digital lending apps between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. This was the period during which digital lending apps gained popularity amid job losses due to Covid-19.

As per RBI, "Sachet", a portal established by RBI under State Level Coordination Committee mechanism for registering complaints by the public against unregistered entities has received approximately 2,562 complaints against digital lending apps," the ministry told Lok Sabha. BI has been designated as the nodal department for dealing with complaints against unauthorised digital lending platforms/Mobile Apps and a mechanism to handle specific references on unauthorised digital lending platforms/ Mobile Apps has been laid down.

84. Recently HDFC Bank has acquired _____ stake In India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) with the total cash consideration amount to _____.

- A. 15 % , Rs 7.5 Cr**
- B. 20 % , Rs 7 Cr**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

- C. 9 % , Rs 8 Cr
- D. 6 % , Rs 3.5 Cr

HDFC Bank will acquire 15% stake in IDRCL for ₹7.5 crore. The Bank will acquire the stake in tranches and it expects to complete first tranche of ₹3 crore by March 31, 2022.

ICICI Bank has also announced that it will acquire 15% stake in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL).

On March 10, ICICI Bank has signed an agreement for acquiring 5% stake in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited. India Debt Resolution Company Limited: It is an asset management company. It was established by the government with an authorized capital of Rs 50 crore. IDRCL was incorporated on September 3, 2021 for the purpose of debt management.

ICICI Bank to acquire up to 15% stake in IDRCL

Investment involves cash consideration of up to ₹7.5 crore in tranches

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 28

ICICI Bank will acquire up to 15 per cent stake in India Debt Resolution Company, which has been set up to manage stressed assets.

"We wish to inform you that ICICI Bank has signed an agreement on March 28, 2022, for investment in India Debt Resolution Company

Ltd," the private sector lender said in a stock exchange filing on Monday.

The investment would consist of a total cash consideration of up to ₹7.5 crore in multiple tranches to acquire up to 15 per cent equity holding in the company, it added.

The first tranche of equity investment of ₹3 crore by the bank is expected to be completed by March 31, 2022.

The bank had on March 10 signed an agreement to acquire 5 per cent stake in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited.

9/14

HDFC Bank to acquire 15% stake in IDRCL

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 29

HDFC Bank has signed an agreement to acquire 15 per cent stake in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) for ₹7.5 crore.

According to a stock exchange filing by the bank on Tuesday, the stake will be acquired through subscription to equity securities.

It further said that equity investment will be done in tranches and the first tranche (₹3 crore) is expected to be completed by March 31.

The subsequent tranches of

equity investment will be made as and when determined by the board of directors of IDRCL, it said. The bank has already received approval for the deal from the RBI and Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry.

IDRCL has been incorporated to carry on the business as a debt management company and to do all kinds of debt management, operational management and consultancy services in relation to debt resolution for an asset reconstruction company or investment trust or any other portfolio of securities.

85. Recently State Bank of India has buy-out the entire stake of _____ held by three other banking partners in SBI Global Factors Ltd (SBIGFL).

- A. 14.82 %
- B. 13.82 %
- C. 15 %
- D. 9.99 %

SBI will buy-out the entire stake of over 13 percent held by three other banking partners in SBI Global Factors Ltd (SBIGFL). The other three banking partners are SIDBI, Bank of Maharashtra and Union Bank of India. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Executive Committee of Central Board (ECCB) of SBI held on March 29, 2022.

ECCB has accorded the approval "for acquiring the entire stake, i.e., 13.82 per cent of existing shareholders of SBI Global Factors Ltd (SBIGFL) namely SIDBI, Bank of Maharashtra and Union Bank of India subject to receipt of all regulatory approvals, 'SBIGFL, a subsidiary of State Bank of India, is a non-banking financial company. It provides domestic and export factoring services under one roof.

[Click Here For G](#)

If there are

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

SBI to buy out SBIGFL stakeholders

New Delhi, March 29

SBI will buy out the entire stake of over 13 per cent held by three other banking partners in SBI Global Factors Ltd (SBIGFL). The other three are SIDBI, Bank of Maharashtra and Union Bank of India. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Executive Committee of Central Board (ECCB) of SBI held on March 29, 2022. ECCB has accorded approval "for acquiring the entire stake, i.e., 13.82 per cent of existing shareholders of SBI Global Factors Ltd (SBIGFL) namely SIDBI, Bank of Maharashtra and Union Bank of India subject to receipt of all regulatory approvals," SBI said in a regulatory filing. SBIGFL is an NBFC. PTI

Equitas SFB launches limited edition CSK Card

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, March 28

Equitas Small Finance Bank on Monday announced the launch of a limited edition Chennai Super Kings (CSK) branded debit card that can be availed along with an experience at 'Equiviverse' virtual world.

"The bank launched this special edition debit card for CSK fans, who shared space with the team's players' avatars in this virtual experience," the bank said in a press release.

86. Recently _____ has announced the launch of "Chennai Super Kings branded Debit Card" with an experience in virtual world of bank named as _____.
- A. Jana Small Finance Bank, Janaverse
 - B. Equitas Small Finance Bank, Equiverse**
 - C. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, UTIVERSE
 - D. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, Ujiverse

Equitas Small Finance Bank on Wednesday said it has launched Equitas Bank CSK Debit Card in association with the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings in the Equiverse platform. Any new account applicant can open an account online and choose the CSK Debit Card to extend their support to the IPL team owned by cement manufacturer The India Cements Ltd. The limited edition card allows fans of the Chennai Super Kings to offer their support and has planned a series of events including a virtual meet and greet with the players.

Equitas has partnered with CSK and the bank's logo is imprinted on the back of the helmet worn by the CSK players.

87. Recently ICICI Bank has acquired _____ stake in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) with the total cash consideration amount to _____.
- A. 15 %, Rs 7.5 Cr**
 - B. 20 %, Rs 7 Cr
 - C. 9 %, Rs 8 Cr
 - D. 6 %, Rs 3.5 Cr

ICICI Bank Ltd (ICICI Bank) has signed an agreement on March 28, 2022, for investment in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL).

The equity investment will be in tranches, with the first tranche of equity investment of ₹3 crore expected to be completed by March 31, 2022, The total cash consideration amounts to ₹7.5 crore in multiple tranches to acquire up to 15 per cent equity holding in IDRCL

ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara. CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

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If there are any suggestions

88. Recently UAE-based retail major Lulu group has signed a MoU to invest Rs 3,500 crore in _____ for setting up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food-logistic park.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

LuLu Group to invest ₹3,500 cr. in 3 T.N. projects

Two malls to come up at ₹2,500 crore, a food processing project at ₹1,000 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Tamil Nadu government and LuLu Group in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Abu Dhabi to implement three major projects in the State at a total investment of ₹3,500 crore.

While two malls are to come up at a total investment of ₹2,500 crore, a food processing project is to be implemented at an investment of ₹1,000 crore, an official release from the Tamil Nadu government said. About 5,000 people are expected to get employment in these projects. The MoU was signed in LuLu Group Chairman and

Managing Director Yusuff Ali's residence in Abu Dhabi.

Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu and senior officials of the State government were also present on the occasion. Earlier in the day, Mr. Stalin and his officials held discussions with senior officials of leading companies in Emirates Palace in Mubadala Tower in Abu Dhabi.

During his meeting with Mubadala's Head of Infrastructure Saed Arar, the Chief Minister invited him to invest in infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister further invited Mubadala for constituting a working committee with Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Cor-

poration for coming up with proposals towards implementing green energy, road infrastructure, industrial parks and data centres, among others.

During his meeting with the Chairman of the Federation of the UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Mohammed Al Mazroei, Mr. Stalin invited companies in the UAE to invest in food processing, food parks, cold-storage facilities, cargo and related services and other sectors in Tamil Nadu, the release said.

Mr. Stalin also suggested that goods from Tamil Nadu could be exported to UAE and west African countries. "The Chief Minister also invited

companies that are into real estate projects like residential tenements, commercial complexes, business zones, go-downs to invest in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Hosur, where demands are high for these infrastructure."

Mr. Stalin also held talks with ADO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mohammed Alsuwaidi over investment proposals in health and food processing sectors in Tamil Nadu.

In a social media post, he said many MoUs were signed and investment proposals were received. The reception and affection he received in the UAE were a matter of pride for the people of Tamil Nadu, he said.

UAE-based retail major Lulu group on Monday announced an investment of Rs 3,500 crore in Tamil Nadu to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food-logistic park.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin; Industry Minister Thangam Thennarasu; Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group;

As per the MoU, the first shopping mall will come up in Chennai by 2024, while the first hypermarket is expected to open by this year-end itself at the Laxmi Mills compound in Coimbatore.

Lulu Group has announced an investment of Rs 2,000 crore near Ahmadabad to set up a modern shopping mall.

It has committed an investment of Rs 500 crore to set up a food processing plant in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

89. Recently In March _____ and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) have partnered to launch a new Ed-tech business and R&D centre in Doha, Qatar.

- A. Unacademy
- B. BYJU's
- C. Reliance
- D. Adani Green

Byju's and Qatar Investment Authority have partnered to launch a new Ed-tech business and research and development centre in Doha, The new entity in Doha will drive research and innovation to create learning solutions customized for students in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Byju's said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary of Byju's in Doha. As per the pact, QIA and Byju's will initially work together to set the stage for the MENA-focused online education business. The new entity, which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Byju's in Qatar, would introduce the Ed-tech major's personalized learning offerings to the region.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

90. Recently *Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)* has sanctioned _____ to support _____ for developing 18 MSME Infrastructure Projects.

- A. Rs 445 Crore , Odisha
- B. Rs 819 Crore , Tamil Nadu
- C. Rs 837 Crore , Odisha**
- D. Rs 525 Crore , Andhra Pradesh

Principal financial institution for MSMEs, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on Sunday said it has sanctioned Rs 837 crore under its SIDBI Cluster Development Fund Scheme (SCDF) to the Government of Odisha to support the development of 18 MSME infrastructure projects in the state. The projects, which would be implemented by Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), included five new MSME parks, construction of 11 workers' hostels and two projects for supporting infrastructure to MSMEs.

Various initiatives by SIDBI in the state including the recent sanction of financial assistance of Rs 200 crores by SIDBI's wholly-owned subsidiary MUDRA to Odisha-based non-banking financial company-microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI) Annapurna Microfinance. SIDBI had announced a MoU with the Odisha government as well for the setting up of a PMU.

91. Recently *India's first aluminium metro train was manufactured by _____ for Pune Metro rail project.*

- A. Medha Group
- B. Aston Francis
- C. Titagarh Wagons**
- D. Indian Coach Factory Chennai

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) secretary Manoj Joshi on Saturday flagged off country's first lightweight train made of aluminium-body for Maharashtra Metro's Pune Project at an event held in Kolkata's Uttarpara.

The first aluminium metro train manufactured by Titagarh in its newly set up state of the art plant in West Bengal was today flagged off by Manoj Joshi, IAS, Chairman – Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited

Titagarh was awarded the prestigious order for design, manufacture and supply of 102 Metro Coaches for the Pune Metro project in 2019. The contract was signed jointly with its subsidiary- Titagarh Firema S.P.A., Italy (TFA). Titagarh will supply 3 Trains from its plant in Italy and the remaining 31 Trains from its Indian facilities. The total contract for 34 trains is valued at an approximate cost of Rs. 1100 crores is scheduled for execution by the end of the financial year 2022-23.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

92. Recently _____ has been conferred with the ‘CEO with HR Orientation’ award by the World HRD Congress during the 30th edition of the World HRD Congress held in Mumbai.
- A. Naleen Singhel
 - B. SD Pradhan
 - C. Sandeep Bakshi
 - D. Raj Kiran Rai

Dr. Naleen Singhel, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has been conferred with the ‘CEO with HR Orientation’ award by the World HRD Congress. Under his leadership, BHEL has focused on revamp of HR processes and policies, including those related to Performance Management, Learning & Development, Career Progression, Succession Planning, etc., Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is an Indian government owned engineering and manufacturing enterprise based in New Delhi, India. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India. Established in 1956, BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer. 30th Edition of the World HRD Congress & Awards scheduled on 21st to 24th March 2022.

93. Recently the Adani Group has announced a multi-year partnership with _____, as the company aims to move more than 250 business-critical applications to Cloud.
- A. Space X
 - B. Amazon
 - C. Google Cloud
 - D. TCS

IN BRIEF

Adani Group picks Google Cloud to modernise IT operations



Ports-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group on Monday announced a multi-year partnership with Google Cloud, as the duo teamed up to modernise Adani's IT operations for future scale and group-wide innovation. The strategic collaboration will tap each organisation's expertise across infrastructure, technology, and industry solutions to modernise Adani Group's IT operations, the companies said in

a joint statement. "The Adani Group today announced a multi-year, cloud-first partnership with Google Cloud to power the next phase of innovation across India's fastest-growing diversified business portfolio," the statement said but did not divulge the size of the deal. The first phase of the partnership is underway, with the Adani Group making swift progress migrating its extensive IT footprint from its existing on-premises data centre and colocation facilities to Google Cloud. PTI

Govt's total liabilities rise 2% to ₹128.41-lakh cr in Dec quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 28

The government's total liabilities rose to ₹128.41-lakh crore in December quarter from ₹125.71-lakh crore in the three months ended September 2021, according to the latest public debt management report.

The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15 per cent in October-December 2021-22.

In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to ₹1,28,41,996 crore at the end of December 2021. As of September 30, the total liabilities stood at ₹1,25,71,747 crore.

The report, released by the Finance Ministry on Monday, said public debt accounted for 91.60 per cent of the total outstanding liabilities in December quarter compared to 91.15 per cent at the end of September. Nearly 25 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.

The ownership pattern of the Central government securities indicates that the share of commercial banks stood at 35.40 per cent at end-December 2021, lower than 37.82 per cent at end-September 2021.

The Adani Group on Monday announced a multi-year partnership with Google Cloud, as the company aims to move more than 250 business-critical applications to Cloud.

The strategic collaboration will tap each organization's expertise across best-in-class infrastructure, technology, and industry solutions to modernize the Adani Group's IT operations at scale.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

94. The government's total liabilities rose to _____ in December quarter from ₹125.71 lakh crore in the September quarter 2021, according to the latest public debt management report.

- A. ₹131.41 lakh crore
- B. ₹128.41 lakh crore**
- C. ₹139.41 lakh crore
- D. ₹132.41 lakh crore

The government's total liabilities rose to Rs. 128.41 lakh crore in December quarter from Rs. 125.71 lakh crore in the three months ended September 2021, according to the latest public debt management report. The increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15 per cent in October-December 2021-22.

Public debt accounted for 91.60 per cent of the total outstanding liabilities in December quarter compared to 91.15 per cent at the end of September. Nearly 25 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years

95. As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, recovery made by public sector banks (PSBs) during the financial year as a percentage of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) has improved from 13.52% in FY2018-19 to _____ in FY2019-20.

- A. 13.59 %
- B. 14.69 %**
- C. 15.66 %
- D. 16.63 %

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, recovery made by public sector banks (PSBs) during the financial year as a percentage of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) as on beginning of the financial year (FY) has improved from 11.33% in FY2017-18, to 13.52% in FY2018-19, to 14.69% in FY2019-20.

On the steps taken by the Government for loan recovery from the willful defaulters, the Minister stated that as per the inputs received from the Enforcement Directorate, it has attached assets worth Rs. 19,111 crore, up to 23.3.2022, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in certain cases of loan fugitives, which is 84.61% of the defrauded amount of Rs. 22,586 crore.

96. Consider the following statements regarding the Issuance of Credit Card in February month as per the Reserve Bank of India.

1. Credit cards continue to see strong traction in February with outstanding credit cards at 7.17 crore, an addition of 14.5 lakh new cards from 7.02 crore credit cards in January.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

2. **Axis Bank was the largest issuer of credit cards last month, adding 2.47 lakh new credit cards.**
3. **HDFC Bank continued to retain its position as the market leader with 1.62 crore outstanding credit cards in February, adding 2.27 lakh new cards in the month.**

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

Credit cards issued at 21-month high

Number of cards added grow 16.3% in February; spends up 43 per cent

SURABHI

Mumbai, March 28

Credit cards continue to see strong traction in February with outstanding credit cards at 7.17 crore, an addition of 14.5 lakh new cards from 7.02 crore credit cards in January.

It also translates into a 16.3 per cent growth in the number of credit cards on a year-on-year basis from 6.16 crore cards in February 2021, the highest in 21 months.

Axis Bank was the largest issuer of credit cards last month, adding 2.47 lakh new credit cards to take its total count to a little over 86 lakh cards. HDFC Bank continued to retain its position as the market leader with 1.62 crore outstanding credit cards in February, adding 2.27 lakh new cards in the month.

Other private sector lenders – including Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and RBL Bank – also saw good growth in credit card issuances.

Growth expectations

Most banks have been upbeat about their credit card portfolios and have been working on adding more customers.

Credit card spends also grew by 43 per cent year-on-year in February to ₹86,304.76 crore. However, it registered a modest 2 per cent decline compared to ₹88,037.91 crore in January.

“Spends witnessed a modest traction led by constant moderation in new infections and rising share of e-commerce transactions, which will keep growth in spends buoyant,” said



As many as 14.5 lakh credit cards were added in February, bringing the total to 7.17 crore from 7.02 crore in January ISTOCKPHOTO

Motilal Oswal in a recent note.

“The banking system reported net additions of about 1.5 million credit cards in February 2022. This has taken its total credit card base to 71.7 million (16.3 per cent growth year-on-year; the highest in the past 21 months),” it said. It added that monthly spends per

card for the industry declined by four per cent month-on-month to about ₹12,000, closer to the one-year average of about ₹11,900 (higher than pre-Covid levels).

Ticket size rose to about ₹4,600, while the number of transactions per card fell by six per cent month-on-month to 2.6, it said.

97. Recently Punjab National Bank has acquired _____ stake in ONDC in first tranche from the previously approved 9.5% equity participation in ONDC.

- A. 6.5 %
- B. 5.97 %
- C. 8.99 %
- D. 9.91 %

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

PNB will acquire 5.97% stake in ONDC in first tranche. PNB Board had previously approved up to 9.5% equity participation in ONDC.

PNB has now put in ₹10 crore in first tranche to get 5.97% stake. It may announce acquisition of its remaining stake at a later date. Axis Bank has acquired 7.84% shareholding in ONDC. SBI has also acquired 7.84% stake in ONDC. HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank have also acquired 7.84% stake in

ONDC. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC): It is an initiative of Ministry of Commerce's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). It was launched on 30 December 2021.

It was launched with an early investment from the Quality Council of India (QCI) and protean e-Gov Technologies Limited.

98. Recently _____ has entered into co-lending partnership with 5 housing finance companies (HFCs) PNB Housing Finance, IIFL Home Finance, Shriram Housing Finance, Edelweiss Housing Finance and Capri Global Housing Finance.

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

SBI, 5 HFCs ink co-lending pact for home loans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) said it had entered into a co-lending agreement with five housing finance companies (HFCs) for advancing home loans.

The arrangement with PNB Housing Finance, IIFL Home Finance, Shriram Housing Finance, Edelweiss Housing Finance, and Capri Global Housing Finance would help sanction home loans to the unserved and underserved sector in line with RBI guidelines, SBI said. The RBI's guidelines aimed to make funds available to borrowers at an affordable cost.

SBI has entered into co-lending partnership with 5 housing finance companies (HFCs).

The names of five HFCs are PNB Housing Finance, IIFL Home Finance, Shriram Housing Finance, Edelweiss Housing Finance and Capri Global Housing Finance.

The partnership is in line with SBI's commitment to increase credit to small home buyers in India.

In November 2020, RBI had issued circular to scheduled commercial banks on Co-Lending Model (CLM). The circular was issued with the goal of leveraging banks' and NBFCs' comparative advantages in a collaborative effort in all categories of priority sector lending.

Under CLM, HFCs/NBFCs should keep a minimum of 20% of the individual loans on their books, with the remainder retained by banks.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

101. Recently _____ has released the framework to monitor and ensure the availability of payment infrastructure for all payment touch-points captured and maintained by banks and non-bank payment system operators.

- A. SEBI
- B. SIDBI
- C. RBI
- D. NABARD

Framework for geo-tagging payment system touch-points has been released by RBI.

RBI has released the framework to help monitor and ensure the availability of payment infrastructure.

Under the framework, geographical coordinates for all payment touch-points will be captured and maintained by banks and non-bank payment system operators.

Banks and non-bank payment system operators will also keep a registry with accurate location of all payment touch-points across India.

Geo-tagging information would be submitted to the RBI. RBI has not provided the date from which this information would be reported to RBI.

In Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 on 8 October 2021, it was announced that RBI would provide a framework for geo-tagging of physical payment acceptance infrastructure.

RBI sets geo-tagging rules for payment touch points

‘Will help deepen digital payments’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday released a framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points, issuing instructions to bank and non bank payment system operators to maintain and submit to it the geographical locations of their touch points on a regular basis.

Stressing that it was focused on deepening digital payments, the RBI said it was committed to helping ensure inclusive access to all citizens at a time when the payments ecosystem in India had witnessed rapid developments with a bouquet of payment systems, plat-

forms, products and services available for consumers.

‘Robust infrastructure’

“To achieve this objective, it is imperative that robust payment acceptance infrastructure is available and accessible across the length and breadth of the country. Geo-tagging of payment system touch points will enable proper monitoring of availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes.

“In turn, such measures will support policy implementation to optimise distribution of payment infrastructure,” the RBI said.

14/18

102. Recently _____ has won the ‘Governor of the year’ award is also the Governor of _____ Central Bank.

- A. Mario Marcel, Chile
- B. Christopher Jeffery, Kenya
- C. Daniel Hinge, Barbados
- D. Ben Margulies, Ghana

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Mario Marcel (Mario Marcel), the Governor of Banco Central de Chile (BCCh – Central Bank of Chile) has won the Governor of the year Award 2022 at the 9th edition of the Central Banking Awards 2022. The award recognizes all-around achievements in the job. He resigned his post as governor in January 2022, and become finance minister under the new administration of Gabriel Boric, President of Chile.

Central Banking Awards: The inaugural Central Banking Awards were presented in 2014.

103. Consider the following statements regarding PVR-Inox merger.

- 1. After the merger, PVR promoters will have 10.62 percent stake while INOX promoters will have 16.66 percent stake in the combined entity.**
- 2. Ajay Bijli would be appointed the managing director and Sanjeev Kumar the executive director. Pawan Kumar Jain would be named the non-executive chairman of the Board.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Multiplex chains PVR Ltd and INOX Leisure Ltd have decided to merge to form the largest entertainment company in the country. The boards of the two companies on Sunday approved the amalgamation and the share exchange ratios.

Accordingly, INOX shareholders will receive three shares in PVR for 10 shares of INOX. After the merger, PVR promoters will have 10.62 per cent stake while INOX promoters will have 16.66 per cent stake in the combined entity. Post merger, the promoters of INOX will become co-promoters in the merged entity along with the existing promoters of PVR With PVR currently operating 871 screens across 181 properties in 73 cities and INOX operating 675 screens across 160 properties in 72 cities, the combined entity will become the largest film exhibition company in India operating 1,546 screens across 341 properties spread over 109 cities Ajay Bijli would be appointed the managing director and Sanjeev Kumar the executive director. Pawan Kumar Jain would be named the non-executive chairman of the Board. Siddhartha Jain would be appointed as non-executive non-independent director in the combined entity. "The combined entity will be named as PVR INOX Limited with branding of existing screens to continue as PVR and INOX respectively,

PVR: It was founded in June 1997. Its headquarters is in Gurugram It's Chairman and MD is Ajay Bijli.

INOX Leisure: Its headquarters is in Mumbai. It was founded in 1999. Its CEO is Alok Tandon.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

- 104. Recently the *Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)* has been extended till _____ while its *guarantee cover* expanded by Rs 50,000 crore to _____.**
- A. December 2022 , Rs 2 Lakh Cr**
 - B. March 2023 , Rs 5 Lakh Cr**
 - C. July 2022 , Rs 1 Lakh Cr**
 - D. December 2023 , Rs 7 Lakh Cr**

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) that helped micro, small and medium enterprises get access to additional credit during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended till March 2023 and its guarantee cover expanded by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget for 2022-23 had announced the extension of the ECLGS till March 2023 and had also said that the additional amount will be exclusively earmarked for the hospitality and related segments to help them recover from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has set January 31, 2022, as the reference date for companies to avail of credit as part of the extended ECLGS scheme.

However, the cap on maximum borrowing by a single MSME from the hospitality, travel and tourism industry still stands at Rs 200 crore.

- 105. The *United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA)* annual flagship report “*State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen*” shows, _____ people are nearly half of all pregnancies Worldwide are unintended.**
- A. 216 Million**
 - B. 121 Million**
 - C. 176 Million**
 - D. 196 Million**

The United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) annual flagship report “State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen” shows that nearly half of all pregnancies

Worldwide (around 121 million annually) are unintended.

The neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy is the subject of the UNFPA’s State of World Population 2022 report. According to the report, the number of unintended pregnancies that occur every year is around 121 million or 331,000 per day on average.

The recent data shows that the rate of unintended pregnancy has decreased between 1990 and 2019, from 79 to 64 for every 1000 women (aged 15 to 49).

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

106. Recently which bank has teamed up with Shoppers Stop to launch co-branded credit cards?

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

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, and Shoppers Stop, India's leading fashion and beauty destination, have teamed up to launch co-branded credit cards. The alliance takes advantage of HDFC Bank's status as India's leading credit card issuer and Shoppers' Stop's reputation as a reputable retail brand. The credit cards will be available in two categories, Shoppers Stop HDFC Bank Credit Card and Shoppers Stop BLACK HDFC Bank Credit Card. The first category is the Shoppers Stop HDFC Bank Credit Card which offers 6 Shoppers Stop points (SSP) on private label brands Shoppers Stop BLACK HDFC Bank Credit Card members will get complimentary Shoppers Stop Black Membership that will earn them 20 SSP on Private Brands on Shoppers Stop, capped at 2000 SSP per month

About HDFC Bank: Managing Director & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra.

107. Recently Morris Garage (MG) Motor India has launched _____, Industry's 1st end-to-end Online Auto Finance Platform to offer transparent and convenient online car purchase solutions.

- A. MG Easy Pay
- B. MG e-Pay**
- C. MG m-Pay
- D. MG Cash Pay

Morris Garage (MG) Motor India launched MG e-Pay, Industry's 1st End-to-End Online Auto Finance Platform. The platform aims to offer transparent and convenient online car purchase solutions.

MG has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime & Axis Bank to offer customized and instant financing options under MG e-Pay. This will enable the customers with flexible, seamless, transparent, and quick loan approvals from their homes.

Rajnish Kumar joins D&B's advisory board

FORMER STATE Bank of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet, a release said on Thursday.

New car finance platform from MG Motor India

AUTOMAKER MG Motor India on Thursday introduced its one-stop digital car finance platform, MG ePay.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

108. Recently _____ has received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

- A. Fin-Fin
- B. FinMapp**
- C. Intellect Design
- D. Pi Phi

Financial services company FinMapp has received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS). It has also acquired a registration certificate from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recognizing it as a corporate agent.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India and tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. Founded: 1999 Headquarters: Hyderabad

109. Recently _____ has announced a **strategic agreement with Axis Securities to Offer Integrated 3-in-1 Savings, Demat and Trading Account Services to its Customers.**

- A. FinMapp
- B. EbixCash**
- C. HDFC Mutual
- D. Aix Direct

EbixCash Limited, a technology enabled provider of digital products and services in the B2C, B2B and financial technology arena, through an integrated business model, today announced a strategic agreement with Axis Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, to provide end-to-end trading services to customers of EbixCash. The association offers a 3-in-1 account to the customers of EbixCash, allowing them to integrate savings, Demat and trading accounts. EbixCash is a subsidiary of Ebix, Inc. (NASDAQ: EBIX), with a leadership position in key businesses that it operates in, with a “physical” strategy.

110. Recently _____ has filed a **scheme information document (SID) with SEBI to come up with India’s first Defence Fund.**

- A. SBI General Insurance
- B. SBI Mutual Fund
- C. HDFC Mutual Fund**
- D. Bharti AXA Life Insurance

Country’s first defence-focussed fund



HDFC Mutual Fund has filed the draft scheme information document for HDFC Defence Fund, the first such offering in the country. This will be an open-ended equity scheme investing in defence and allied sector companies such as those involved in aerospace, explosives, ship building, etc. The scheme being sectoral in nature, the upper ceiling on investments made will be in accordance with their weightage in the benchmark i.e. Nifty India Defence Index or 10 per cent of the NAV of the scheme, whichever is higher.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

HDFC Mutual Fund has filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI to come up with India's first Defence Fund. Called the HDFC Defence Fund, it will be an open-ended equity scheme that will be investing in defence & allied sector companies. The Scheme offered being an open-ended scheme will offer Units for Sale / Switch-in and Redemption / Switch-out on every Business Day. The Minimum Application Amount during NFO Period Purchase will be Rs 5,000

111. Recently *Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd* has announced the Partnership with _____ for the launch of *Max Life Smart Secure plus Plan* to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.

A. Paytm

B. PhonePe

C. Google Pay

D. Zomato

Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has announced the launch of Max Life Smart Secure plus Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.

Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a life insurance company in India with a joint venture between Max India Ltd and Axis Bank the Company is a subsidiary of the publicly listed Max Financial Services and is the largest non-bank private-sector life insurer in India

112. Recently *Tata Group firm NELCO* and _____ have partnered to enable and distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN) to expand the reach of 5G using satellite communication throughout India and South Asia.

A. Omni-Space

B. SpaceX

C. Blue Origin

D. Virgin Galactic

Tata Group firm NELCO and US-based Omni-space have partnered to enable and distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services. The collaborative effort will expand the reach of 5G using satellite communication throughout India and South Asia. NELCO provides satellite communication (SATCOM) services to enterprise customers across many industry segments, including aero IFC and maritime communication. Omni-Space is establishing the world's first truly global hybrid, mobile network. The Omni--Space global network will be based on 3GPP 5G NTN standards, offering seamless interoperability across cellular and satellite networks, delivering the power of 5G to any compatible device.

Nelco signs pact with Omnispace, now fifth player in satellite broadband race

American firm promises service outside terrestrial coverage with hybrid network

AYUSHI KAR

Mumbai, March 23

Tata-owned satellite communications company Nelco has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Omnispace, an American company that aims at combining terrestrial mobile networks with global satellite constellations.

Expanding 5G reach

"The strategic cooperation aims to enable and distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services," said a statement on Wednesday, adding that the collaborative effort will expand the reach of 5G using satellite communication throughout India and South Asia, using the world's first

global 5G NTN network. The network will deliver IoT-based solutions and a seamless mobile connectivity experience beyond the boundaries of existing mobile networks.

Pact with Telesat

Nelco already has an agreement with Canadian satellite operator Telesat, and aims to bring their low-earth orbit global satellite network to India for end consumer and enterprise applications.

A major hurdle, however, in using satellites for mobile connectivity is that normally, mobile handsets do not have the ability to be compatible with both, terrestrial and mobile networks, at the same time.



Pj Nath, MD and CEO, Nelco

Omnispace, however, promises consumers a hybrid network, wherein the customers' devices can be connected with the terrestrial network as well as their satellite network in areas that are outside terrestrial coverage.

"We believe that 5G NTN satellite network can bring transformational capability for our customers by en-

Nelco provides satcom services to enterprise customers for business-critical applications. This strategic agreement with Omnispace will focus on enabling the use of 5G direct-to-device communications using the global NGSO satellite network

abling 3GPP compliant connectivity solutions across all regions & terrains," said Pj Nath, MD and CEO, Nelco.

With this agreement, Omnispace becomes the fifth satcom operator to eye the India market. The other players include Elon Musk's Star Link, Canadian Telesat, Bharti-backed OneWeb and Jio's partnership with SES.

Excise sends to Spine unpa

FORUM GAN

Mumbai, March

The Excise c a notice to ₹62 crore d partment a YES Bank, w operating freeze the a strapped c time the pa by the c SpiceJet wa: 7 to pay its c

Multiple that SpiceJ from the Ex manding taxes for at years.

The sour department YES Bank, w bank, to fre letter was s YES Bank u the CGST an

113. Consider the following statements regarding the National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

- 1. The Government has set a target of Rs 1 Trillion for the National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for approving loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year.**
- 2. The Government has invested Rs 20,000 Crores as equity in the DFI, and an extra Rs 5,000 Crores has been granted to NaBFID.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The government has set a target of Rs 1 Trillion for the National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for approving loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year. The Development Finance Institution (DFI) will start operations in the first quarter of the next financial year. The DFI is planning to invest in infrastructure projects in India to prioritize systemic risk mitigation and credit improvement.

The government has invested Rs 20,000 Crores as equity in the DFI, and an extra Rs 5,000 Crores has been granted to NaBFID. The Centre had asked for an additional outlay of Rs 13,050 Crores for

Govt sets ₹1-trn infra lending target for DFI

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 23 March

The Centre has set a target of about ₹1 trillion for government-backed National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year.

The government-backed Development Finance Institution (DFI) will start operations in the first quarter of the next financial year, finance ministry officials have informed lawmakers. To catalyse investment in the fund-starved infrastructure sector, the DFI plans to invest in infrastructure projects in India and outside with a focus towards prioritising systemic risk mitigation and credit enhancement.

An action plan is being prepared on making the newly set up DFI functional and operationalising the ₹1-trillion target, officials from Department of Financial Services (DFS) told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

The government has infused ₹20,000 crore as equi-



SNAPSHOT

- NaBFID to start sanctioning loans in April-June quarter
- Action plan being prepared on making the DFI functional; operationalising the ₹1-trillion target
- DFI plans to invest in infrastructure projects in India and outside the country
- Centre has infused ₹20,000 crore as equity in DFI, provided additional ₹5,000 crore as grants

ty in the DFI, and an additional ₹5,000 crore has been given as grants to NaBFID. The Centre had sought an additional outgo of ₹13,050 crore for transferring ₹20,000 crore to the DFI in the supplementary demand for grants last week. Most of this demand was met through savings or allocation of unspent funds of other departments.

In October last year, the government had appointed KV Kamath as the chairman of NaBFID. Recently, Kamath said the DFI, with a capital

base of ₹20,000 crore, will provide funding to projects in public as well as private sectors. NaBFID will start operations by approving the first loan for the project in the first quarter of the next financial year.

The government expects the DFI to plug the gap in infrastructure financing as banks have been wary of investing in long-gestation projects. The DFI will get 10-year tax concession so that it can provide long-term funds at an affordable cost to the

infrastructure sector.

The institution is also touted to be a market maker for broadening the bond market. It will lend or invest in infrastructure projects, issue debt securities and promote securitisation of loan portfolio of companies engaged in development and financing of infrastructure to create and develop a secondary market for securitisation receivables. It will get government guarantees at a concessional rate of up to 0.1 per cent for borrowing from multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds, and other such foreign institutions.

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) is looking for candidates to head the DFI, and is offering hefty pay packages. It has relaxed certain eligibility criteria for the position of managing director of DFI, and has extended the last day for applying for the post to March 25. It is also seeking applications for three positions of deputy managing directors for its lending and project finance vertical and a chief risk officer, and chief financial officer.

Last November, the Centre nominated Pankaj Jain and Sumita Dawra as directors on the NaBFID board.

Asteria Aerospace launches end-to-end drone platform

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 23

Drone manufacturer Asteria Aerospace, a subsidiary of Jio Platforms, has launched an end-to-end drone operations platform – SkyDeck.

SkyDeck is a cloud-based software platform to deliver a DaaS (drone as a service) solution for multiple industry verticals such as agriculture, surveying, industrial inspections, and surveillance and security. It provides a unified dashboard and services for drone fleet management, scheduling and executing drone flights, data pro-

cessing, and visualisation and AI-based analysis of aerial data captured using drones.

'Integrated solution'

Neel Mehta, Co-founder & Director, Asteria Aerospace, said, "The recent liberalisation of regulations for drone operations and the promotion of DaaS by the government has increased the demand for drones across industry sectors. SkyDeck simplifies the use of drones to generate aerial data and turns that digital data into business insights to power drone applications at scale."

Airtel to acquire Voda's 4.7% stake in Indus Towers for ₹2,388 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 25



Bharti Airtel will acquire a 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group

for about ₹2,388 crore, according to a company filing.

The transaction will be executed at a price of ₹187.88 per share.

This will be upon fulfilment of all conditions precedent as agreed by the parties under the agreement, it added.

On February 25, Bharti Airtel said it has signed an agreement to buy Vodafone's 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers on the condition that the proceeds will be used for investment in Vodafone Idea and clearing its dues towards the tower company.

HDFC sells 2% stake in oil explorer HOEC during July-March for ₹61 crore

COUNTRY'S LARGEST MORTGAGE lender HDFC has sold over 28.89 lakh shares held in Hindustan Oil Exploration (HOEC) during July 2021 to March 2022 for ₹61 crore.

Out of 1,15,72,786 equity shares of ₹10 each held in HOEC, HDFC has sold 28,89,638 shares representing 2.19% of the paid-up share capital of HOEC, according to a regulatory filing on Friday.

HDFC said the shares were sold on the secondary market through stock exchanges. The company added that the shares have been sold between July 9, 2021 and March 24, 2022 (including these dates). The sale crossed the 2% threshold on a cumulative basis, on March 24, 2022.

"The sale transactions were carried out through stock exchanges at the prevailing market price. The total consideration for the sale of 28,89,638 equity shares is ₹61.04 crore," HDFC said.

HOEC, which is engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas in India, both onshore and offshore, was incorporated in September 1983. The company participates in various oil and gas blocks which are in the nature of joint operation through production sharing contracts between the company and government along with other entities.

In 2020-21, the company had stand-alone income of ₹111.26 crore. In FY20, its income was ₹201.41 crore, while in FY19, it was ₹246.96 crore. **- PTI**



UN cuts India growth forecast to 4.6% in 2022

India's projected economic growth for 2022 has been downgraded by over 2% to 4.6% by the United Nations.

The downgrade is attributed to the war in Ukraine, with New Delhi expected to face restraints on energy access and prices, reflexes from trade sanctions, food inflation, tightening policies and financial instability, according to a UN report released on Thursday. The UN Conference on Trade and Development report downgraded its global economic growth projection for 2022 to 2.6% from 3.6% due to shocks from the Ukraine war and changes in macroeconomic policies that put developing countries particularly at risk.

The report said while Russia will experience a deep recession this year, significant slowdowns in growth are expected in parts of Western Europe and Central, South and South-East Asia. India was forecast to grow at 6.7% in 2022 and this projection has been downgraded to 4.6% by UNCTAD. **PTI**

PVR, Inox Leisure set to merge operations

Combined entity to create largest multiplex chain

MEENAKSHI VERMA AMBWANI

New Delhi, March 27

In a move that will create the largest multiplex chain in the country, PVR Ltd and Inox Leisure have announced a deal to merge their operations.

The boards of the two companies on Sunday approved an all-stock amalgamation of Inox with PVR to form a new combined entity called PVR Inox Ltd that will operate 1,546 screens across 341 properties.

Share swap

As per the agreement, Inox will merge with PVR in a share swap ratio of 3 shares of PVR for 10 shares of Inox. The merger is subject to approval of the shareholders, stock exchanges, SEBI and other regulators.

Post the merger, Inox's promoters will own 16.66 per cent stake, while PVR Promoters will hold 10.62 per cent stake in the combined entity. Promoters of Inox will become co-promoters in the merged entity along with the existing promoters of PVR. "Upon effectiveness of the scheme, the board of directors of the merged company would be re-constituted with total board strength of 10 members and both the promoter families having equal representation on the Board with 2 board seats each," the companies added.

PVR's Ajay Bijli would be appointed as the Managing Director and Sanjeev Kumar would be appointed as the Executive Director. Inox's Pavan Kumar Jain would be appointed as the Non-Executive Chair-

The screen gets bigger

- New entity will be called PVR Inox
- PVR currently operates 871 screens across 181 properties in 73 cities
- Inox operates 675 screens across 160 properties in 72 cities

man of the Board. Siddharth Jain would be appointed as Non-Executive Non-Independent Director in the combined entity.

Ajay Bijli, Chairman and Managing Director of PVR, told *BusinessLine* that the partnership will create an even more stronger entity that will leverage significant complementary strengths and efficiencies to fight the onslaught of the OTT platforms.

"Post the second wave, consumers have flocked back to the cinemas and so we think by coming together we will ensure that the exhibition industry continues to propel forward and grow," he said.

"This decisive partnership would bring in enhanced productivity through scale, a deeper reach in newer markets and numerous cost optimisation opportunities kickstarting the reinvestment cycle," said Siddharth Jain, Director - Inox Leisure Ltd. The merger is likely to take 6-9 months for completion, he added.

PVR Inox brand

The companies said that branding of existing screens will continue as PVR and Inox, respectively, while new cinemas post the merger will be branded as PVR Inox.

Appointment News

114. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of _____ as the new MD and CEO Of CSB Bank after an early retirement by CVR Rajendran.

- A. Soma Shankar
- B. Pralay Mondal**
- C. Sudeep Tyagi
- D. Mahesh Sudhakar

Hisashi Takeuchi is Maruti Suzuki India's new MD & CEO

S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, March 24

In a leadership change, country's largest passenger vehicles maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) on Thursday said its Board has approved the appointment of Hisashi Takeuchi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of three years



with effect from April 1 till March 31, 2025.

The previous MD and CEO, Kenichi Ayukawa has been appointed as a Whole-time Director designated as Executive Vice-Chairman for a period of six months – from April 1 till September 30, MSIL said in filing to stock exchanges.

"The Board has fixed Friday, the April 1, as the cut-off date to determine the eligibility of the members to cast their votes through remote e-voting facility," the company said.

RBI approves CSB Bank's DMD Mondal as interim CEO

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI on Wednesday approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal, deputy managing director CSB Bank, as interim MD and CEO for three months. The RBI has also asked the bank to submit an application for the appointment of a regular MD & CEO comprising a panel of at least two names at the earliest.



The approval comes a week ahead of the early retirement of CVR Rajendran, who decided to step down on health grounds. His term was originally to end in December. His request was accepted by the bank board in January 2022 which then decided to set up a search committee to identify and evaluate candidates. The RBI in its approval letter said that Mondal would be interim CEO for three months or until the appointment of a full-time CEO whichever is earlier. Mondal is a veteran banker with 30 years of experience with Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank. He joined CSB Bank as president of retail in September 2020.

Appointment of Pralay Mondal as interim MD & CEO of CSB Bank has been approved by RBI.

His appointment will be effective from April 1 for a period of three months or till selection of regular MD & CEO.

In January 2022, CSB Bank has announced that its MD & CEO, CVR Rajendran will take early retirement.

Rajendran will continue in the office till March 31, 2022.

CSB Bank is an Indian private sector bank. It is headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

115. Recently _____ has been appointed as the *New MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India till April 1, 2025.*

- A. Yumi OGCHA
- B. Hisashi Takeuchi**
- C. Kenichi Ayukawa
- D. Yumo Tastsuba

The Board of Directors of Maruti Suzuki India Limited has appointed Hisashi Takeuchi as the MD and CEO. His appointment will come into effect from 1 April 2022.

He will take place of Kenichi Ayukawa, who will complete his term on 31st March 2022. Kenichi Ayukawa will continue to work as a full-time Director.

Hisashi Takeuchi has good understanding of the Indian as well as international automobile markets. Hisashi Takeuchi joined the Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) in 1986. He is one of the Board members of Maruti Suzuki since July 2019.

Recently, the Maruti Suzuki group has announced an investment of ₹10,400 crores in a new EV unit and battery-making facility in its Gujarat unit.

116. Recently _____ has been appointed as the *new Chairman of BARC India, formed in _____ by various stakeholders bodies such as Indian Broadcasting Federation, Advertising Agencies Association of India etc.*

- A. Nitin Chugh , 2009
- B. Nakul Chopra , 2008
- C. Sashidhar Sinha , 2010**
- D. Pundit Goenka, 2012

Sashidhar Sinha has been unanimously elected as new Chairman of BARC India.

Sashidhar Sinha has replaced Punit Goenka, who was the Chairman for previous two terms (three years).

Sinha is also on Advertising Agencies Association of India's board.

BARC India: It was formed in 2010 by various stakeholders' bodies such as Indian Broadcasting Federation, Advertising Agencies Association of India etc. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Nakul Chopra is its CEO.

Shashi Sinha appointed as new BARC India chairman



New Delhi: Shashi Sinha, chief executive officer at IPG Mediabrands India, has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC India) by the board following its meeting held on Friday. Sinha also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India. He takes over from Punit Goenka, MD & CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises who successfully served as the chairman for the last three years.

VARUNI KHOSLA

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

117. Recently **Tata Steel** has appointed _____ as its **additional director and designated him as the vice-chairman of the company.**

- A. G Gopinathan
- B. Noel Naval Tata**
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Dorabji Tata

Tata Steel has appointed Noel Naval Tata, a trustee on the boards of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, its additional director and designated him as the vice-chairman.

Noel Naval Tata serves as a trustee on the boards of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

He is currently the Chairman of Tata International Limited, Voltas Limited, Tata Investment Corporation Limited and is the Vice Chairman of Titan Company Limited. Besides, he is also on the Board of Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited and Smiths Plc.

Tata Steel names Noel Tata as V-C

ISHITA AYAN DUTT
Kolkata, 28 March

The Tata Steel board on Monday approved the appointment of Noel Naval Tata as an additional director and designated him as vice-chairman.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the board of directors at its meeting held on Monday, considered and unanimously approved the appointment of Noel Naval Tata as an additional director (non-executive, non-independent) effective March 28, 2022.

Further, the board designated Noel Naval Tata as the vice-chairman of the board of directors, the company filing said.

Many Tata group insiders believe that Tata Steel defines the heritage of the group and consider

it a flagship. Tata Steel was established in 1907 and is Asia's first integrated private steel company.

Noel Tata is also the chairman of Tata International Limited, Voltas Limited, Tata Investment Corporation Limited and the vice-



Noel Naval Tata

chairman of Titan Company. He is also on the board of Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited and Smiths.

In Trent, he has overseen its growth from a one-store operation in 1998 to over 330 across formats in 2020. He was managing director of Trent for more than 11 years.

He was appointed the vice-chairman of Trent Limited in 2012 and later as chairman in 2014, a position he continues to hold.

Noel Tata also serves as a trustee on the board of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. He joined Sir Dorabji Tata Trust earlier in this year and Sir Ratan Tata Trust in 2019.



118. Recently **Robert Abela** sworn in as **Prime Minister of** _____.

- A. Lebanon
- B. Malta**
- C. Burkina Faso
- D. Uzbekistan

Labour party candidate Robert Abela wins the election with a huge margin.

The Labour party has won the election with a margin of around 40000 votes.

It is the third successive victory for the Labour Party. It receives 55.11 percent of the total vote. Malta: It is located in the central Mediterranean Sea.

Valletta is the capital of Malta Euro Is Currency.

Malta's PM sworn in after landslide election victory

VALLETTA: Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela was sworn in on Monday following a landslide victory in weekend elections that delivered his Labour party a third term in government. Labour won 55.11% of the vote, final results showed. **AFP**

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

119. Recently the Central Government has approved the appointment of _____ as the managing director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for five years.

- A. Sanjay Kumar
- B. Vikas Kumar**
- C. Rahul Bose
- D. Rajshree Kumari

Vikas Kumar, who was the director for operations in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), will take-over as the new managing director with effect from 1 April, Kumar will take over charge from Mangu Singh, who was the Managing Director of DMRC since 1 January, 2012. Singh's tenure came to an end today.

The Delhi Metro is a mass rapid transit system serving Delhi and its satellite cities of Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Noida, Bahadurgarh and Ballabhgarh, in the National Capital Region of India. It is by far the largest and busiest metro rail system in India, and the second oldest after the Kolkata Metro.

Vikas Kumar new MD of Delhi Metro

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government on Wednesday appointed Vikas Kumar as the managing director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), according to an official order.

Mr. Kumar, who is Director (Operations) in the corporation, will hold the post for a term of five years, said the order issued by Transport Department of the Delhi government.

"The Government of NCT of Delhi is pleased to appoint Vikas Kumar as managing director (MD) of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. in accordance with terms of Article 130 of the Memorandum and Article of Association of DMRC Ltd. for the period of five years with effect from April 1," said the order.

120. Recently Northern Arc Capital Ltd has appointed _____ as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company w.e.f 1 April 2022.

- A. Sanjay Kumar
- B. Ashish Malhotra**
- C. Rahul Bose
- D. Ajay Kumar

Northern Arc Capital Ltd, a diversified non-banking financial company and a digital debt platform, has appointed Ashish Malhotra as managing director and chief executive officer of the company, effective 1 April 2022.

Northern Arc Capital (formerly known as IFMR Capital) is a platform in the financial services sector that addresses the diverse credit requirements of under-served households and businesses by providing efficient and reliable access to debt finance.

Headquarters location: Chennai Founded: 1989

Ashish is new CEO of Northern Arc

Northern Arc Capital Ltd, a diversified NBFC and a digital debt platform, on Monday announced the appointment of Ashish Mehrotra as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the company, effective 1 April.

Mehrotra will also serve as the non-executive chairperson of Pragati Finserv, the microfinance subsidiary of Northern Arc Group and is the member of the board for Northern Arc Investment Managers, that houses the group's Alternate Investment Fund and Portfolio Management Service.

Mehrotra has over 25 years of experience across retail and commercial banking, wealth management and insurance. In his last role, he was the MD & CEO of Niva Bupa Health Insurance (previously known as Max Bupa Health Insurance). Before that he spent over 20 years at Citibank. He was previously a managing director and also the retail bank head for Citibank India.

LIVEMINT

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)**

121. Recently _____ was named as the new Chief Executive Officer of FedEx after succeeding FedEx founder and current Chairman and CEO Frederick W Smith.

- A. Sanjay Kumar**
- B. Raj Subramanian**
- C. Vinay Tripathi**
- D. Ritesh Shukla**

Subramaniam named FedEx CEO

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES, MARCH 29

FEDEX CORP on Monday named its operating chief, Raj Subramaniam, as the new CEO effective June 1, succeeding company founder Fred Smith, who started the global delivery conglomerate with more than a dozen plans in the 1970s.

Subramaniam, 54, joined FedEx in 1991 and is also a company director. He moves into the



Raj Subramaniam Company

role as the company faces mounting competition from historical rival United Parcel Service and former customer Amazon.com.

Smith, 77, will transition to the role of executive chairman, overseeing sustainability, innovation, public policy and other global issues, FedEx said. Smith, who served as an officer in the US Marine Corps in Vietnam, officially launched Federal Express in 1973 with 389 team members and 14 small planes.

Raj Subramaniam will take place of Frederick W Smith as the new Chief Executive Officer of FedEx.

He will be responsible for providing strategic direction for all FedEx operating companies.

Frederick W Smith, founder of FedEx, will step down from the post of CEO in June 2022. He has also served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of FedEx Express. It is an American courier delivery services company. Its headquarters is located in Memphis.

122. Recently _____ has announced that Gilbert Hougbo of _____ will be its next Director General.

- A. International Labour Organization, Togo**
- B. International Court Of Justice, Zambia**
- C. International Monetary Fund, Maldives**
- D. International Maritime Organization, Singapore**

ILO has announced that Gilbert Hougbo will be its next Director General. Gilbert F. Hougbo is the former Prime Minister of Togo. He will assume office in October 2022.

He will be the 11th Director-General of ILO. He will be the first African to hold the post. His term will be five-year-long starting from 1 October 2022. Gym Ryder is the current Director-General of ILO. Ryder has held office since 2012. Ryder is from the United Kingdom.

International Labour Organization (ILO): It was formed in 1919 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

123. Recently _____ has taken over as **Managing Director (MD) of CNG distribution major Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL).**

- A. **Sanjay Kumar**
- B. Praveen Rai
- C. Sahadishar Sinha
- D. Sumant Sinha

Sanjay Kumar has today taken over as Managing Director (MD) of CNG distribution major Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL). Before joining as the MD of IGL, Kumar was responsible for overseeing GAIL's gas marketing and transmission business. He has taken over the reins of IGL from A.K. Jana, who gone back to GAIL (India) before his superannuation. IGL is a joint venture of GAIL and BPCL, with the government of Delhi holding a 5% equity stake.

Indraprastha Gas Limited is an Indian natural gas distribution company that supplies natural gas as cooking and vehicular fuel. Established in 1998, the company operates primarily in Delhi. It is a Joint-Venture of GAIL, Bharat Petroleum, and the Government of Delhi to implement the City Gas Distribution Network

124. Recently **Kalyan Jewellers India** has appointed whom as the **Chairman and Independent Non Executive Director on the board?**

- A. T.S. Kalyanaraman
- B. TS Gopinathan
- C. **Vinod Rai**
- D. Ajit Tyagi

Leading jewellery house Kalyan Jewellers is set to appoint former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai as the chairman and independent non-executive director of the board, the company announced on Monday, March 28. The company, which is among India's largest jewellery firms, has announced board approval for the appointment of Rai on the day. Kalyan Jewellers also said that TS Kalyanaraman will continue as managing director on the company's board,

The former CAG will replace Kalyanaraman to become the chairman of the jewellery company.

Kalyan Jewellers appoints former CAG Vinod Rai as Chairman

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, March 28

Kalyan Jewellers India, one of India's largest jewellery companies, has announced board approval for the appointment of Vinod Rai as Chairman and Independent Non-executive Director on the board.

The appointment will be subject to obtaining requisite regulatory and shareholders' approvals. TS Kalyanaraman will continue as Managing Director on the board.

Vinod Rai is a former Comptroller and Auditor General of India and a former Chair of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors.

Rai said in a statement, "It is a privilege for me to be associated with Kalyan Jewellers, a company which has built the highest levels of trust amongst its stakeholders, conducts its business in an ethical and transparent manner, and upholds the standards of good corporate governance. I eagerly look forward to my association with Kalyan."

Kalyanaraman said, "Rai brings a tremendous breadth and depth of experience and we look forward to him adding to the diverse experience we already have on our board today."

Rai's appointment would make him the eighth non-executive director on the board.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

125. Recently _____ has taken charge as the *President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)*.

- A. Vineet Agarwal
- B. Sumant Sinha**
- C. Shiv Shankar Baliya
- D. Ajay Tyagi

Sumant Sinha takes over as Assocham president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 28

ReNew Power's founder chairman and CEO Sumant Sinha has taken over as the president of Assocham, the industry body said on Monday. SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh has become the new senior vice-president of Assocham.

"During my presidency, my Assocham colleagues and I will work closely with the government on fulfilling the visionary goal of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India to become Aatmanirbhar over the Amrit Kaal of the next 25 years, culminating in the centenary year of our Independence," Sinha said.

Sumant Sinha, Founder, Chairman and CEO of ReNew Power, a clean energy company, has taken over as President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Sinha replaces Vineet Agarwal.

Ajay Singh, Chairman & Managing Director of SpiceJet, India's second-largest airline by fleet size, is the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM. Sinha founded ReNew Power in January 2011, with a vision to transform the way energy is produced and consumed in India. Under his leadership, ReNew Power has grown into India's premier renewable Energy Company with an aggregate portfolio of more than 10 GW spread over more than 100 sites. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India.

126. Recently _____ has been *elected unopposed as Uttarakhand Assembly's first woman speaker*.

- A. Rajshree Verma
- B. Ritu Khanduri**
- C. Rekha Sharma
- D. Nithya Menon

Ritu Khanduri has been elected unopposed as Uttarakhand Assembly's first woman speaker. Pro-tem speaker Banshidhar Bhagat made announcement about her election. Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami congratulated her.

She is a BJP MLA. She won from Kotdwar. She is daughter of BC Khanduri, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Members of the legislative assembly of a state elect the speaker of the legislative assembly of their state from among themselves.

Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly is the unicameral legislature of Uttarakhand. The total number of MLA seats in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly is 70.

127. Recently _____ has been re-elected as the *Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for the second time in 2022.*

- A. Vikas Kumar
- B. Vishwas Patel**
- C. Sanjay Singh
- D. Rahul Bose

Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for the second time in 2022, previously he was elected as a Chairman of PCI in the year 2018. In 2013, he served as Co-Chairman of PCI. PCI is a payments ecosystem industry body, and is a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). PCI aims to promote cashless transaction society and visions to grow digital payment in India.

128. Recently _____ was re-elected as the *President of the Badminton Association of India(BAI) for a period of four years.*

- A. Pullela Gopichand
- B. Himanta Biswa Sarma,**
- C. Narendra Batra
- D. Sanjay Singh

Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as the president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for another four years term from 2022 to 2026 at the general body meeting held in Guwahati on Friday.

Sarma, who took over the reins of BAI in 2017, is also the Badminton Asia vice president and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council member.

Former junior national coach Sanjay Mishra would be the new general secretary with incumbent Ajay Kumar Singhania becoming vice-president in the new executive council. Maharashtra Badminton Association president Arun Lakhani will be the new treasurer. Chief national coach Pullela Gopichand will make a foray into BAI administration after being elected as vice-president along with Anbumani

PCI re-elects Vishwas Patel of Infibeam Avenues as chief

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 25

Payments Council of India (PCI), a payments ecosystem industry body and part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), on Friday, announced that it has re-elected Vishwas Patel as the Chairman of PCI for another term.

Praveena Rai, COO, National Payments Corporation of India, and MN Srinivasu, Co-founder and Director at BillDesk, have been appointed as co-chairs of its seven committees.

Patel is the executive director of Infibeam Avenues, which operates the e-billing payment gateway, CCAvenue.

Himanta re-elected BAI chief; Gopi is VP

SPORTS BUREAU

Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as the president of Badminton Association of India for another four years from 2022 to 2026 at the AGM on Friday. Chief national coach P. Gopi Chand was elected as vice-president along with Anbumani Ramadoss and nine others.

The office-bearers: **president:** Himanta Biswa Sarma; **vice-presidents:** Abdul Bari Siddiqui, Ajay Kumar, Anbumani Ramadoss, Narhar Thakur, Oma Datt Sharma, P. Gopi Chand,

Ratu Tech, Sekhar Chanda Biswas, S. Muralidharan, Viraj Sagar Das and Watzulu Suzumeren Jamir.

Hon. general secretary: Sanjay Mishra; **hon. treasurer:** Arun Hanumandas Lakhani; **joint secretaries:** Anil Krishna Rao Choughule, Konda Prabhaker Rao, K.K. Sharma, Mayur V. Parikh, N. Shyamkumar Singh, Omar Rashid, P. Choudary and Surinder Mahajan

Executive members: B.S. Man-koti, Bamang Tago, H. Lalnunsiam, Krishnanand Jaiswal, Nileen Kumar, Pradeep Srikrishna Gandhe, Pynbianglang Laloo, Sukanta Das, Sanjib Kumar and Ve Arunachalam.

Guleria will stay as AIIMS head for now

New Delhi: Dr Randeep Guleria will continue as the director of AIIMS for another three months or until a new director is appointed, whichever is earlier. Dr Guleria, who took charge on March 28, 2017, has completed his five-year tenure.

Sources said the process to choose the next director was on and the selection committee chaired by the Union health secretary would send a list of potential candidates to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. More than 30 top doctors from across the country, including 17 from AIIMS, have applied.

The new director will have a term of five years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or till he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier. TNN



Ritu Khanduri

Ritu Khanduri is U'khand's first woman Speaker

DEHRADUN: Ritu Khanduri, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Kotdwar, was elected as the first woman speaker of the Uttarakhand legislative assembly on Saturday.

Khanduri (57), the daughter of former CM Major Gen (retd) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri, said: "I will try my best to discharge my duty in line with the highest parliamentary ideals and traditions." She was administered oath by protem speaker Banshidhar Bhagat.

Days and Obituary News

129. Every year, **World TB Day** is observed every year on _____ to mark the date when in 1882 Dr. **Robert Koch** discovered **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

- A. 20th March
- B. 21st March
- C. 22nd March
- D. 24th March

World TB Day is observed every year on 24 March.

It is observed to mark the date when in 1882 Dr. Robert Koch discovered Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

The theme of World TB Day 2022 is 'Invest to End TB Save Lives'.

It is commemorated annually to raise awareness about the health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis. SDG target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

India has set the target to eradicate Tuberculosis by 2025.

130. Recently the **Assam Rifles** in 2022 marks its _____ rising day on _____, the oldest paramilitary force of India.

- a. 91st, 24th March
- b. 187th, 24th March
- c. 197th, 23rd March
- d. 200th, 22ND March

Assam Rifles Raising Day is observed every year on March 24 in India to celebrate and honour the Assam rifles who served the country in a number of conflicts including both the World Wars.

Assam Rifles Raising Day 2022 marks the 187th raising day of Assam Rifles which are also the oldest paramilitary force of India. It dates back to 1835 under the British Raj.

131. Recently former **Chief Justice of India, Ramesh Chandra Lahol** passed away. He was appointed as the **Chief Justice of Supreme Court** in which of the following years?

- A. 2005

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

- B. 2004**
- C. 2003
- D. 1999

Former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti passed away at the age of 81.

Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th Chief Justice of India on 1 June 2004. He also served as an independent director on the board of directors of the Press Trust of India.

He was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on December 9; 1998. He was arbitrator in the Rs 20,000 crore high-profile tax dispute cases between Government and Vodafone.

{ MY INDIA } WAS CJI FOR 17 MONTHS
Former CJI Lahoti passes away aged 82



Former chief justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, who retired from the Supreme Court in 2005, passed away on Wednesday, aged 82. Days prior to his retirement, as head of a constitution bench, he had given a landmark decision upholding a Gujarat law banning cow slaughter. Born in 1940, the former CJI hailed from Guna in Madhya Pradesh. In April 1977 he was recruited to the State Higher Judicial Service and was appointed as a district and sessions judge. A year later, he resigned to return to the Bar and established a legal practice at the Madhya Pradesh high court. In May 1988, he was elevated as an additional judge of the high court, and was later made permanent. In 1994, he was transferred to the Delhi high court and went on to become a Supreme Court justice in December 1998. On June 1, 2004 he was appointed CJI and retired on October 31, 2005 after serving 17 months at the helm of the judiciary. **HTC**

132. Recently the *World Piano Day 2022* was observed on _____.

- A. 30th March
- B. 31st March
- C. 29th March**
- D. 28th March

World Piano Day 2022: 29 March, It is celebrated on 88th day of the year. It generally falls on 28th or 29th March.

It was celebrated for the first time on March 29, 2015.

It is celebrated on the 88th day of the year and the number of keys on a standard piano is also 88. Piano was invented in Italy by Bartolommeo Cristofori.

133. Every year the *International Day of Drug Checking* takes place on _____, since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects.

- A. 30TH March
- B. 29TH March
- C. 31st March**
- D. 28th March

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects. The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks. Along with it, it also marks promoting harm reduction actions of drugs and reduces drug-related risks. Their goal on the 31st of March is to raise public awareness of the availability of drug checking services and companies from across the planet.

134. Recently Rajasthan observed its *73rd Foundation Day* on _____ to commemorate the formation of the state.

- A. 29TH March
- B. 30th March**
- C. 31st March
- D. 28th March

Rajasthan Foundation Day is celebrated every year on 30 March to mark the formation of Rajasthan.

On 30 March 1949, the kingdoms of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer were merged to form a new state.

A state-level function has been organized at the historical Albert Hall in Jaipur. It has been celebrated as the 'Rajasthan festival' across the state. This year, the people of Rajasthan celebrated the 73rd foundation day.

135. Every year the *World Bipolar Day* is observed on _____ to spread awareness about the mental disorder that affects people all over the world.

- A. 29th March
- B. 30th March**
- C. 31st March
- D. 28th March

World Bipolar Day is observed on March 30 to spread awareness about the mental disorder that affects people all over the world.

World Bipolar Day 2022 is observed on the birth anniversary of world-renowned Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh. He is one of the most influential artists in the history of western art. As the theme of World Bipolar Disorder 2022 is not known, the theme of World Bipolar Day 2021 was 'Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow'. The theme sent a message of taking care of this mental health disorder carefully and seeking professional help.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

136. In its 67th meeting, Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has taken decision to observe _____ as *National Dolphin Day* every year.

- A. 5th October
- B. 26th December
- C. 26th July
- D. 29th November

October 5 will be celebrated as National Dolphin Day from this year.

In its 67th meeting, Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has taken decision of celebration of October 5 as National Dolphin Day. October 5 will be celebrated as National Dolphin Day every year to create awareness for conservation of Dolphins.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav chaired 67th meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life in New Delhi on 25 March 2022.

In its meeting, Standing Committee also considered 46 proposals for wildlife clearances.

It recommended four proposals for construction of earthen dams in Haryana for improving irrigation facilities.

Dolphins are ecological indicators of healthy aquatic ecosystem. They are mammals. Some species of Dolphins exhibit sexual dimorphism (larger males than females). National Board for Wildlife: It is a statutory body under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

137. Every year *Earth Hour* is observed on the last _____ of March to raise awareness about the climate change and nature loss.

- A. Friday
- B. Saturday
- C. Sunday
- D. Monday

Every year Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March.

The theme for this year's Earth Hour event is "Shape our Future", which highlight the collective responsibility of people towards environment.

It is observed every year in more than 180 countries to raise awareness about the climate change and nature loss.

It encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour. Earth Hour was started in Sydney in 2007 as a symbolic lights-out event organized by World Wide Fund for Nature.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

138. Every year on which date the **World Theatre Day** is observed with the aim of recognizing and celebrating the value and significance of-the-art form theatre.

- A. March 26
- B. March 27**
- C. March 28
- D. March 29

Every year on March 27, World Theatre Day is celebrated. It is observed with the aim of recognizing and celebrating the value and significance of-the-art form "theatre."

The theme of World Theatre Day has been the same over the years which is 'Theatre and a Culture of Peace'. In 1961, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) established World Theatre Day.

Since 1962, ITI Centres and the international theatrical community have been commemorating World Theatre Day.

On World Theatre Day, French playwright Jean Cocteau wrote the first message. The first ITI

Sports Award Books News

139. Recently _____ has been honoured *with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022* for his various achievements throughout his career.

- A. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. Suresh Raina
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

Suresh Raina has been honoured with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022. He was awarded for his various achievements throughout his career.

He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons including cricketer Sanath Jayasurya, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, etc.

Suresh Raina was part of the Indian Cricket team which has won the World Cup in 2011. He played for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) franchise for many years in the IPL.

Maldives Sports Awards 2022 ceremony was held on 17 March at Synthetic Running Track in Male. The event was chaired by the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

140. Recently _____ has won the *Abel prize for 2022* for his contributions to topology and its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.

- A. Thomas Ellegar
- B. Dennis P. Sullivan
- C. Neena Gupta
- D. Dotmus Tormound

American mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan has won Abel prize for 2022. Sullivan has been given award for his contributions to topology and its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.

Dennis Parnell Sullivan's contributions include developing new way of understanding rational homotopy theory, which is a subfield of algebraic topology. He and his wife had discovered a new invariant for a manifold based on loops, thereby creating the field of string topology.

He has also won Steele Prize, the 2010 Wolf Prize in Mathematics and the 2014 Balzan Prize for Mathematics. Abel prize is awarded by Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

It is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel. It was started in 2002. The first Abel Prize was awarded in 2003 to Jean-Pierre Serre.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

141. Recently _____ of _____ has become world's youngest and fastest female swimmer to swim across Palk Strait.

- A. Siya Singh , Uttar Pradesh
- B. Sonal Sharma , Uttar Pradesh
- C. Shruti Sharma , Odisha
- D. Jiya Rai , Maharashtra

Jiya Rai becomes world's youngest and fastest female swimmer to swim across Palk Strait. She swam from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu.

She covered a distance of 29 km in 13 hours and 10 minutes. She is a 13 year old Maharashtra girl. She is suffering from Autistic spectrum disorder.

Para-Swimming Federation of India conducted the event. Goa Shipyard Ltd provided financial support for it.

The previous record was held with Bhula Choudhary. In 2004, Bhula Choudhary covered the distance in 13 hours and 52 minutes. Jiya Rai was earlier given Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya BAL Puraskar (PMRBP) – 2022. She is the first and youngest autistic girl to swim from Worli to the Gateway of India.

142. Recently _____ has won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at Jeddah, the second round of the 2022 Formula 1 World Championship.

- A. Charles Lecrec
- B. Lewis Hamilton
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. Sergio Perez

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won an epic battle over Charles Leclerc in Saudi Arabia with Carlos Sainz completing the podium behind his Ferrari team mate – as pole-sitter Sergio Perez had to settle for fourth after pitting just before a pivotal Safety Car.

Verstappen wins Saudi Arabian GP

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

JEDDAH: World champion Max Verstappen bounced back from his Bahrain disappointment to steer his Red Bull to a thrilling victory ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in Sunday's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman, who failed to finish due to a fuel problem in the opening race, won by just half a second after the pair swapped positions in a tense battle through the final laps. It was the closest race finish since the 2020 Italian Grand Prix. Leclerc's Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz finished third ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red

Bull, the top four proving to be in a class of their own.

Mercedes new boy George Russell came home fifth ahead of Alpine's Esteban Ocon and McLaren's Lando Norris with Pierre Gasly taking eighth for AlphaTauri.

Kevin Magnussen finished ninth for Haas and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton 10th, rescuing some pride after starting 15th on a difficult weekend in the second Mercedes.

It was the 21st win of his career for Verstappen and, like Leclerc, he welcomed the success of the new era cars that have permitted closer racing and allowed drivers to recover and regain positions after being

passed. Leclerc congratulated his rival on his victory on their slow-down laps, but after two races remains the embryonic championship's early season leader by 12 points.

Daruvala claims second podium of F2 season

India's Jehan Daruvala claimed his second podium of the season by finishing third in the Formula 2 Feature race, held on the sidelines of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix here. Jehan raced brilliantly after starting from the 14th position on the grid on Sunday. The 23-year-old began his weekend on the back foot after a mechanical issue hampered his qualifying round.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

143. Recently _____ has become the first Indian firm as an official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

- A. Unacademy
- B. BYJU'S**
- C. Tata
- D. Reliance Jio

BYJU'S is official sponsor of FIFA World Cup 2022

OUR BUREAU
Bengaluru, March 24

Edtech major, BYJU'S has been announced as an official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2022 to be held in Qatar.

Through this partnership, BYJU'S will leverage its rights to the FIFA World Cup 2022 marks, emblem, and assets, and run promotions to connect with football fans around the world. It will also create content with educational messages as part of a multifaceted activation plan. The World Cup will take place from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

"FIFA is dedicated to harnessing the power of football towards the goal of enacting positive societal change. We're delighted to be partnered with a company like BYJU'S, which is also engaging communities and empowering young people wherever they may be in the world," said Kay Madati, FIFA's Chief Commercial Officer.

Byju Raveendran, BYJU'S founder, and CEO, said: "We are excited to be sponsoring the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the biggest single-sport event in the world. It is a matter of pride for us to represent India on such a prestigious global stage and champion the integration of education and sport. Sport is a big part of life and brings together people across the world. Just as football inspires billions, we at BYJU'S hope to inspire the love of learning in every child's life through this partnership."

BYJU'S product offerings include K-12, competitive exam preparation, early learning, coding and professional upskilling courses. Some of the products under Byju's umbrella include Osmo, Tynker, Epic, Great Learning, Aakash, and Toppr.



Byju Raveendran, BYJU'S founder and CEO

India Ed-Tech major BYJU'S on Thursday has been announced as one of the official sponsors for the Qatar FIFA World Cup 2022. With this, BYJU'S has officially become the first ed-tech brand in India and in the world to be associated with this prestigious global football event. This would make BYJU'S the first EdTech brand to sponsor this prestigious event globally. The deal comes after FIFA said on Tuesday it had entered into a sponsorship agreement with Singapore-based Crypto.com for the World Cup, which will be held from 21 November to 18 December.

144. Recently _____ has won the Stockholm Water Prize 2022 for his work to quantify evaporation and its contribution to energy balance of the Earth.

- A. Wilfried Brutsaert**
- B. John Muir
- C. Rachel Hynes
- D. Beth Mooney

Wilfried Brutsaert won Stockholm Water Prize 2022. Brutsaert has won the award for his work to quantify environmental evaporation. Brutsaert has devised ways to quantify evaporation and its contribution to energy balance of the Earth.

The award will be presented to Brutsaert on 31 August 2022, during World Water Week. He is a renowned hydrologist of Belgian origin. He is called Mr Evaporation. He is an expert on terrestrial evaporation. Stockholm International Water Institute awards it in cooperation with Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. It is often called Nobel Prize of water. It is given for extraordinary water-related achievements. Its winner is announced every year generally in March.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

145. Recently _____ won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup, which was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- A. Army Green
- B. Punjab Police
- C. Indian Railways**
- D. Army XI

Railway won the Obaidullah Khan Hockey Cup. The men's hockey team of Indian Railways won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup, which was held in Bhopal (MP) from March 21 to March 27, 2022. The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) team defeated Army XI by 2-1 in the final match. On the 21st of March, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the famous hockey tournament at Major Dhyhan Chand Stadium in Bhopal. It has been organized this year after a six-year gap. The competition was last won by BPCL in 2016, where the Railways team was runner-up.

146. Recently _____ becomes the first Polish player to hold No. 1 spot on the world list.

- A. Amm Readanucou
- B. Iga Swiatek**
- C. Viktorija Golubic
- D. Coco Gauff

IN BRIEF



Swiatek is new World No. 1

MIAMI
 Poland's Iga Swiatek became the new World No. 1 in women's tennis by defeating Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic 6-2, 6-0 in the WTA Miami Open on Friday. Swiatek, 20, will move into the top spot vacated by Australian Ashleigh Barty after the three-time Grand Slam champion announced her retirement. AFP

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

147. Recently _____ has won the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year award** while _____ was presented the **BBC Lifetime Achievement**.

- A. **Mirabai Chanu , Mithali Raj**
- B. **PV Sindhu , Mithali Raj**
- C. **Mirabai Chanu , Karnam Malleswari**
- D. **PV Sindhu , Karnam Malleswari**

Mirabai Chanu has been selected as the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2021.

To win the prize, Chanu defeated the other four nominees, who were badminton player PV Sindhu, golfer Aditi Ashok, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, and Para-shooter Avani Lekhara.

Mirabai Chanu created history by winning the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Shefali Verma, an 18-year-old women's cricketer, has been awarded the BBC Emerging Player of the Year.

She became the youngest Indian cricketer to represent the national team in international cricket in all formats in 2021.

Karnam Malleswari, the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in 2000, has been awarded the BBC Lifetime Achievement award.

148. Recently **Indian team has won 2022 SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand** by defeating _____.

- A. **Bangladesh**
- B. **Nepal**
- C. **Sri Lanka**
- D. **Bhutan**

Indian team has won 2022 SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.

Though India lost the last league match to Bangladesh, it became champion of the tournament due to better goal difference. Lynda Kom was valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer of the tournament.

Lynda Kom scored five goal goals in the tournament. Lynda Kom is an Indian football player from Manipur. 2022 SAFF U-18 Women's Championship was the 3rd edition of SAFF U-18 Women's Championship. It was held from 15–25 March 2022 in Jamshedpur.

India clinch SAFF U-18 C'ship title

JAMSHEDPUR: India lost 0-1 to Bangladesh but still emerged champions of the SAFF U-18 Women's Championships on account of a better goal difference here on Friday. India enjoyed a better goal difference of +11 in comparison to +3 of Bangladesh.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

149. Recently PV Sindhu won her second women's singles title in the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament by defeating Busanan Ongbamrunghan of _____

- A. China
- B. Thailand**
- C. Denmark
- D. Spain

P V Sindhu won her second women's singles title in the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament by defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan. Sindhu defeated Thai player 21-16, 21-8 at St. Jakob Shalle in Basel. HS Prannoy lost 10-21, 18-21 in the men's singles final against Jonatan Christie.

In the previous edition, Sindhu was defeated in the final by the Rio Olympic gold medalist Carolina Marin of Spain. In January 2022, Sindhu won the Syed Modi International Super 300 in Lucknow.



Victory cry! Sindhu needed just 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth-seeded Busanan. •TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

Sindhu drubs Busanan for title

Prannoy finishes runner-up

SWISS OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 BASEL

P.V. Sindhu clinched her second women's title of the season with a 21-16, 21-8 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan, but H.S. Prannoy lost in the men's singles final at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

Familiar venue

Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth-seeded Busanan. Sindhu had lost to Rio Olympics gold medallist Carolina Marin of Spain in the final of the last edition.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad also claimed the World Championships gold here in 2019.

However, Prannoy suf-

fered a 12-21, 18-21 defeat to Asian Games gold medallist and fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in a 48-minute summit clash.

On Sunday, Sindhu registered her 16th win over Busanan in 17 meetings, having lost to the Thai only once – at the 2019 Hong Kong Open.

The Thai tried to keep Sindhu away from the net relying on cross-court drives. Sindhu sealed the first game on the first of four game-points.

In the second game, Busanan struggled throughout and conceded 16 match-points.

Erratic Prannoy

On Sunday, Prannoy couldn't match Christie's accuracy and power. Prannoy was erratic while Christie looked rock solid in defence.

150. Recently Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya' authored by whom?

- A. Iftiyaar Menon
- B. K. Syam Prasad**
- C. Jeet Tahiyal
- D. Omkar Sahu

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya'.

This book is based on the life of Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a noted social worker from Andhra Pradesh. It is authored by K. Shyam Prasad. This book is a compilation of the work done by Shri Somepalli Somaiah during his life.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu mentioned that Shri Somayya is one of his foremost 'gurus'.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

151. Recently NITI Aayog and _____ have released a book titled “Indian Agriculture Towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security, and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems”.

- A. UNEP
- B. FAO**
- C. ADB
- D. IRDA

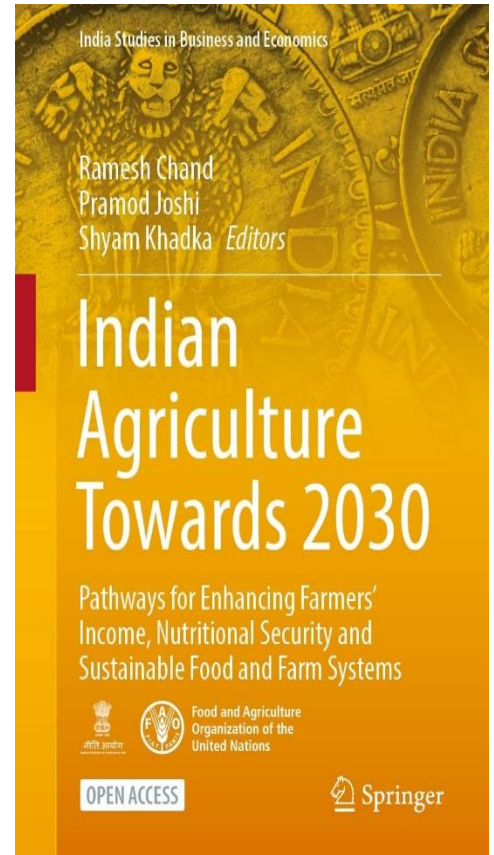
NITI Aayog and FAO released a book titled ‘Indian Agriculture towards 2030’.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar unveiled the book titled “Indian Agriculture Towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security, and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems”.

NITI Aayog, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations had organized the launch event.

The book is published by Springer.

The book mentions the deliberation process of national dialogue by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the results of the facility provided by FAO since



152. Who amongst the following has recently authored the book Title “The Little Book of Joy”?

- A. Dortmund Todus
- B. Dalai Lama**
- C. Ruskin Bond
- D. Stephen King

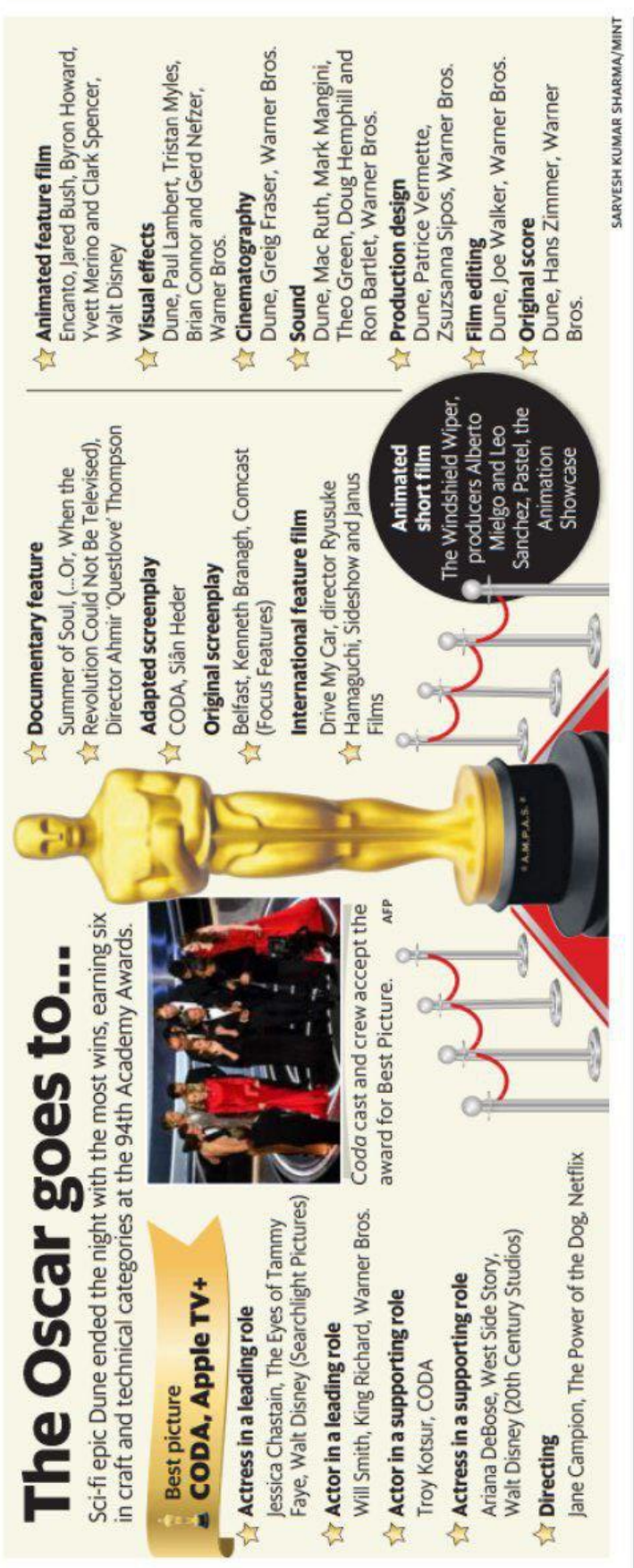
A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, titled “The Little Book of Joy” will be released in September 2022.

In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World”, which became a bestseller & sold more than 1 million copies and translated into more than 40 languages.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)



[All Upcoming Bank Exams](#)



The Oscar goes to...
Sci-fi epic Dune ended the night with the most wins, earning six in craft and technical categories at the 94th Academy Awards.

Best picture
CODA, Apple TV+

Actress in a leading role
Jessica Chastain, The Eyes of Tammy Faye, Walt Disney (Searchlight Pictures)

Actor in a leading role
Will Smith, King Richard, Warner Bros.

Actor in a supporting role
Troy Kotsur, CODA

Actress in a supporting role
Ariana DeBose, West Side Story, Walt Disney (20th Century Studios)

Directing
Jane Campion, The Power of the Dog, Netflix

Documentary feature
Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Director Amir 'Questlove' Thompson

Adapted screenplay
CODA, Siân Heder

Original screenplay
Belfast, Kenneth Branagh, Comcast (Focus Features)

International feature film
Drive My Car, director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Sideshow and Janus Films

Animated short film
The Windshield Wiper, producers Alberto Mielgo and Leo Sanchez, Pastel, the Animation Showcase

Animated feature film
Encanto, Jared Bush, Byron Howard, Yvett Merino and Clark Spencer, Walt Disney

Visual effects
Dune, Paul Lambert, Tristan Myles, Brian Connor and Gerd Nefer, Warner Bros.

Cinematography
Dune, Greig Fraser, Warner Bros.

Sound
Dune, Mac Ruth, Mark Mangini, Theo Green, Doug Hemphill and Ron Bartlett, Warner Bros.

Production design
Dune, Patrice Vermette, Zsuzsanna Sipos, Warner Bros.

Film editing
Dune, Joe Walker, Warner Bros.

Original score
Dune, Hans Zimmer, Warner Bros.

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

Oscar awards:

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) presented the 94th Academy Awards, which honored the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021. The ceremony takes place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, and is hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer, and Wanda Sykes.

The first Academy Awards was presented in 1929.

The Oscars winners are given a copy of the golden statuette (The Academy Award of Merit).

Science Tech Environment Defence

153. Recently a joint **Exercise “Suraksha Kavach II”** between Indian Army and _____ was organized at **Lullanagar, Pune**.

- A. Delhi Police
- B. Odisha Police
- C. **Maharashtra Police**
- D. Uttar Pradesh Police

A joint exercise between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police has been organized by Indian Army’s Agnibaaz Division.

Exercise Suraksha Kavach II was organized at Lullanagar, Pune on 22 March 2022. The exercise aimed to harmonize drills and procedures of Army and Police to counter any likely terrorist actions in Pune. Indian Army’s Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) and Maharashtra Police’s Anti-Terrorism Squad took part in the exercise.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies also participated in the exercise. Agnibaaz Division (41 Artillery Division) is part of Indian Army’s Southern Command headquartered at Pune.

154. Recently India and _____ Armies participated in the _____ edition of a joint exercise **“DUSTLIK”** recently conducted at _____.

- A. Seychelles, 4TH, Ranikhet
- B. Mauritius, 3RD, Pithoragarh
- C. France, 2ND, Jaisalmer
- D. **Uzbekistan, 3RD, Yangiarik**

India and Uzbekistan armies participating in 3rd edition of a joint exercise “DUSTLIK”.

The joint training exercise “DUSTLIK” is being conducted at Yangiarik from 22 to 31 March 2022. The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.

Troops of Grenadiers Regiment from the Indian side and troops of the North-Western Military District of Uzbekistan are participating in this exercise. The joint exercise will focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain. The exercise will focus mainly on sharing tactical-level drills and learning best practices from each other. The main aim of the exercise is to enhance understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between both armies. Grenadier’s battalion is one of the highly decorated battalions of the Indian Army.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

155. Recently the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has approved procurement of _____ **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)** manufactured by the _____ for the army and the air force at the cost of _____.
- A. 11, National Aerospace Laboratories, Rs 512 Crore
 - B. 14, Bharat Electricals Limited, Rs 387 Crore
 - C. 15, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Rs 3,887 Crore**
 - D. 16, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, Rs 889 Crore

Purchase of 15 indigenous LCH approved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Security, which met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on Wednesday, approved procurement of 15 indigenous Light Combat Helicopters Limited Series Production at the cost of ₹3,887 crore along with infrastructure sanctions worth ₹377 crore. 14/18

In a significant move towards inducting indigenously manufactured combat platforms in the Armed Forces, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday approved procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) Limited Series Production (LSP) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). These helicopters will be for the Indian Army and Air Force.

“The CCS has approved procurement of 15 LCH Limited Series Production at the cost of Rs 3,887 crore and sanctioned infrastructure worth Rs 377 crore.” Ten LCH will be for the IAF and five for the Army. LCH-LSP is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state of the art modern combat helicopter containing approximately 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55% for SP Version These are India’s first pure attack helicopters being made in India.

156. Recently the _____ edition of **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was conducted in _____ harbour phase and in _____ Sea phase from 26 to 30 Mar 22.
- A. 1ST, Mormugao Port, Arabian Sea
 - B. 5TH, Mumbai, Arabian Sea
 - C. 6TH, Kochi, Indian Ocean
 - D. 9TH, Pune, Bay Of Bengal

IN BRIEF



IONS holds maiden maritime exercise at Goa

NEW DELHI

The regional grouping Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) conducted its maiden edition of maritime exercise, IMEX-22, at Goa and in the Arabian Sea from March 26 to 30. The exercise witnessed participation of 16 of the 25 member nations. The exercise is seen as a significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation, according to a Navy official.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Member nations of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) have successfully conducted the first edition of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22).

The IMEX 22 maiden edition was held at Goa and in Arabian Sea between 26 and 30 March. A total of 15 out of 25 IONS members participated in the exercise.

The participating member nations were France, Australia, the UAE, the UK, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Oman, Mauritius, Mozambique, Qatar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Singapore.

The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability among the participating navies, focusing on the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) missions. The five-day maritime drill witnessed two phases including the harbour phase and the sea phase.

The harbour phase was held at Marmugao port in Goa on 26 and 27 March, while the second phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March. Established in 2007, the IONS are a forum for discussing maritime issues, promoting maritime security and enhancing cooperation, among the navies of 25 nations in the Indian Ocean region.

157. Recently the defence ministry sealed a contract with _____ for the development of an electronic warfare equipment And Instrumented Electronic Warfare Range (IEWR) for the Indian Air Force at a cost of _____.

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited , Rs 3102 Cr**
- B. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited , Rs 519 Cr**
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited , Rs 387 Cr**
- D. Bharat Dynamics Ltd , Rs 3387 Cr**

In a move aimed at bolstering the reconnaissance capabilities of the Indian Air Force, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and state-owned aerospace and defence electronics company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) inked a deal to supply Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force. The overall cost of the contract is estimated to be Rs 1,993 crore.

In another development, the defence Ministry and BEL, Hyderabad, signed a Contract for Instrumented for the procurement of Electronic Warfare Range (IEWR) for the Indian Air Force. The Rs 1,109 crore contracts is a significant step towards enhancing the capabilities of IAF to prepare for future warfare. In total, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Bengaluru and BEL Hyderabad units have signed two contracts worth Rs. 3,102 crore with the Ministry of Defence.

158. Recently the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under _____ project.

- A. NETRA**
- B. NISAR**
- C. VIGIL**
- D. IHSP**

With space junk posing increasing threat to Indian assets in space, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project. A space debris tracking radar with a range of 1,500 km and an optical telescope will be inducted as part of establishing an effective surveillance and tracking network under NETRA.

The government has given the go-ahead for the deployment of the radar, which will be capable of detecting and tracking objects 10 cm and above in size, he said. It will be indigenously designed and built. Hurling at an average speed of 27,000 kmph in LEO, these objects pose a very real threat as collisions involving even centimeter-sized fragments can be lethal to satellites.

For protecting its space assets, ISRO was forced to perform 19 collision avoidance manoeuvres (CAM) in 2021, of which 14 were in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and five in the geostationary orbit. The number of CAMs jumped from just three in 2015 to 12 in 2020 and 19 in 2021.

ISRO to step up tracking of space debris

New radars and optical telescopes under NETRA project being deployed

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With space junk posing increasing threat to Indian assets in space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project.

A space debris tracking radar with a range of 1,500 km and an optical telescope will be inducted as part of establishing an effective surveillance and tracking network under NETRA, ISRO chairman S. Somanath told *The Hindu*. The government has given the go-ahead for the deployment of the radar, which will be capable of detecting and tracking objects 10 cm and above in size, he said. It will be indigenously

designed and built.

Radars and optical telescopes are vital ground-based facilities for keeping an eye on space objects, including orbital junk. "We plan to have two such radars deployed 1,000 km apart for spatial diversity. At present, we have a Multi Object Tracking Radar at Sriharikota range, but it has a limited range. To protect our space assets, we need to augment our capabilities," Mr. Somanath said.

Data released by ISRO last week also point to an increasingly grim scenario. For protecting its space assets, ISRO was forced to perform 19 collision avoidance manoeuvres (CAM) in 2021, of which 14 were in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and five in the geostationary orbit, according to ISRO's Space Situational Assessment for the year.



A computer-generated image released by the European Space Agency showing trackable objects around Earth. • FILE PHOTO

The number of CAMs jumped from just three in 2015 to 12 in 2020 and 19 in 2021.

Last year, the space agency monitored 4,382 events in LEO and 3,148 events in the geostationary orbit where space objects closely approached Indian assets. Fragments from the Fengyun-1C satellite (part of the anti-satellite test (ASAT) by Chi-

sulting from ASAT. Hurling at an average speed of 27,000 kmph in LEO, these objects pose a very real threat as collisions involving even centimetre-sized fragments can be lethal to satellites. ISRO's efforts towards space situational awareness (SSA) is coordinated by the SSA Control Centre in Bengaluru and managed by the Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management at the ISRO headquarters.

ISRO officials say the volume of debris is likely to go up in the coming years with the increase in space missions globally. Globally, 2021 saw the highest space object-to-launch ratio, the ISRO report noted.

"In other words, more space objects are placed in orbit per launch. In 2020, 522 objects were placed in space with 102 launches compared to 1,860 objects in 135 launches in 2021," the report said.

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

159. Consider the following statement regarding **Indian Army's version of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)**.

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army's version of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
2. It is developed jointly by DRDO and the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the use of Indian Army, the MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system, and other vehicles.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India successfully conducted test-fire of medium-range Surface-to-Air Missiles system at Chandipur. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted two back-to-back tests of the Army version of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).

On 27th March, flight tests were carried out to test the accuracy of the weapon system against high-speed aerial targets.

The second trials have been conducted to check the accuracy and reliability of the weapon system in sea-skimming and high-altitude modes.

This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile, which has been jointly developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the Indian Army. The MRSAM Army weapon system is equipped with multi-function radar, a mobile launcher system, and other vehicles.

160. Recently the **Ministry of Defence** has signed a contract with _____ for the construction of _____ **Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard** at a total project cost of _____.

- A. Cochin Shipyard Limited, 6, Rs 422 Cr
- B. Goa Shipyard Limited, 8, Rs 473 Cr
- C. Kolkata Shipyard Limited, 7, Rs 499 Cr

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

D. GRSE, 9, Rs 450 Cr

Ministry of Defence has signed a contract for building eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard.

The contract has been signed with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), an Indian Government-owned shipbuilding company.

As per the contract, eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard will be constructed at a total project cost of 473 crore rupees.

The vessels will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by GSL.

161. Recently _____, the world's largest electric cruise ship has been built with an investment of \$23.5 million made its maiden voyage in Yichang, Hubei.

- A. Yangtze River Three Gorges 1**
- B. Yichang River George 1**
- C. XinhouA River George 1**
- D. Hubei River George 1**

World's largest electric cruise ship sets sail in China

The world's largest electric cruise ship has made its maiden voyage, settling back into port in Yichang in China's central Hubei province after cruising up and down the Yangtze River. Powered by a massive 7,500kWh marine battery from the world's top battery manufacturer for electric cars, Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd., the ship will go into commercial operations from next month, being used mainly for sightseeing trips.

At 100m long and around 16m wide, the Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 can carry up to 1,300 passengers. It can travel for around 100 kilometers on a single charge, saving around 530 metric tons of fuel. Developer China Yangtze Power Co., a subsidiary of Three Gorges Corporation and Hubei Three Gorges Tourism Group, plans to use the ship as a starting point to expand China's marine electric vehicle market, including building a network of charging points along the river.

"It felt almost like sliding on flat ground," Cheng Lu, one passenger on board the ship, said.

BLOOMBERG



The electric cruise ship can carry 1,300 passengers.

AFF

China's Yangtze Power Co., a subsidiary of Three Gorges Corp. and Hubei Three Gorges Tourism Group has developed an electric luxury cruise ship called Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 for sightseeing trips in Yichang. The ship will go into commercial operations in April 2022 and can run 100 km on a single charge. This is the world's first all-electric heavy-load cruise ship that can carry up to 1,300 passengers and is 100 metres long and 16 metres wide. The ship saves around 530 metric tons of fuel and has been built with an investment of \$23.5 million.

162. Recently IAF Oldest Helicopter _____ has completed its 60 Years in Service and Chopper.

- A. MIG 21
- B. Chetak
- C. Tejas
- D. Turbo

Commemorating 60 Glorious years of service by Chetak Helicopter in IAF, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Conclave hosted by Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Hakim pet on 02 April 2022. On the occasion, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri released a Special Cover, a Coffee Table Book and a Commemorative Movie on Chetak Helicopters. HAL, which has been the flag-bearer for 'Aatma nirbharta' by manufacturing this machine under licence since 1965. He brought out how HAL built up cutting edge helicopters design, development and production capabilities based on this experience. Chetak Was Inducted in 1962.

163. Recently the Indian Navy commissioned the second Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316 into service at _____, Comprises Boeing P-8I multi-role long-range maritime reconnaissance also known as _____.

- A. INS Prerna Mumbai , Chetak
- B. INS Hansa Dabolim , Condors
- C. INS Dewa Bangalore , Drgaon
- D. INS Shivaji Mumbai , Pegasus

Navy commissions second P-8I Squadron

NEW DELHI

The Navy on Tuesday formally commissioned its second squadron of P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, 'Condors', at INS Hansa in Goa. The Indian Naval Air Squadron 316, will operate 4 P-8I aircraft procured as part of the optional clause in 2016 in a deal worth over \$1 bn, deliveries of which were completed recently. A proposal for procurement of six more P-8Is was approved but that is now under review as part of an overall review of all imports.

{ DIAMOND JUBILEE }

IAF's oldest helicopter Chetak to mark 60 yrs in action next month

Rahul Singh

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NEW DELHI: The workhorse of the Indian Air Force and its oldest helicopter, Chetak, is set to complete 60 years in service next month, and the IAF will celebrate the chopper's diamond jubilee at Hakimpet Air Force Station near Secunderabad on April 2 and 3, officials familiar with matter said on Monday on condition of anonymity.

IAF inducted the French-origin helicopters, called Alouette III, in 1962. State-run plane maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) delivered the first licence-produced Chetak (Alouette III) to IAF in 1965.

The event will also mark the 60th anniversary of the IAF's Helicopter Training School (HTS), which was set up on April 2, 1962, at Air Force Station, Palam, and relocated to Hakimpet in 1973, said one of the officials cited above. In between, HTS was also based at Allahabad and Jodhpur.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will attend the function being held at Hakimpet, a second official said.

The last Chetak helicopter was delivered to the air force by HAL in March 2021, said a third official. The Chetak, a two-tonne



The Chetak has a special place in India's aviation history.

helicopter, has a maximum speed of 185kmph and a range of 500km. The single-engine helicopter can carry seven people, including two pilots.

The Chetak is operated by each of the three services and the coast guard as well, and has been military's workhorse for decades, but the ageing helicopter's safety record has come under scrutiny after a spate of recent crashes. It is now due for replacement along with the Cheetah helicopter fleet operated by the air force and the army.

Around 15 Chetak and Cheetah helicopters have crashed in the past 10 to 12 years, killing several pilots.

The Chetak has a special place in India's aviation history. It has been used for training pilots at HTS and has been the backbone of the rotary wing fleets of the ser-

vices as well as in civil aviation, said Air Vice Marshal Mamohan Bahadur (ret'd), former additional director general, Centre for Air Power Studies. "The Chetak has been used for VIP flying, military operations, casualty evacuation, and relief missions. Easy to fly and maintain, it is versatility personified and every pilot's favourite. Having done 60 years, it is time to retire it gracefully and induct a more modern machine like the light utility helicopter (LUH)," Bahadur added.

The Chetak's design and compactness have made it the platform of choice for landing in restricted areas in diverse terrains and on warships as well, said the first official.

"It has also been a reliable basic trainer for novice helicopter pilots of the services," the official said.

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Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

The Indian Navy formally commissioned Indian Naval Air Squadron 316 at INS Hansa in Goa. INAS 316 is also known as 'Condors' which are one of the largest flying land birds with a massive wingspan.

The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316 will operate four P-8I aircraft. The Navy had procured eight P-8Is under a deal signed in 2009.

P-8Is aircraft are used for Maritime Surveillance, Electronic warfare missions, Search and Rescue operations, etc.

INAS 316 is commanded by Commander Amit Mohapatra. He has also served as the Executive Officer of INS Tarkash.

164. Recently the Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro for the acquisition of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) for Indian Navy at an overall cost of _____.

- A. Rs 55 Cr
- B. Rs 887 Cr**
- C. Rs 838 Cr
- D. Rs 920 Cr

The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro for acquisition of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) for Indian Navy at an overall cost of Rs 887 crore. These vessels, to be built by L&T shipyard at Kattupally near Chennai, will perform multi-role support functions such as maritime surveillance and patrol, launching, recovery of torpedoes and operation of various types of aerial, surface and underwater targets for gunnery anti-submarine warfare exercise

165. Consider the following statement regarding Exo-planets in Solar System.

1. NASA's **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is likely to be launched in 2027 to discover new Exoplanet.**
2. The **European Space Agency will launch the ARIEL mission in 2029 to observe the Exoplanet atmosphere.**

Which of the following statement is/are 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
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

NASA discovered 65 new planets outside our solar system. With the discovery of 65 new planets, NASA has confirmed that more than 5,000 Exoplanet exist beyond our solar system.

Some planets might have the presence of water, microbes, gases on the surface, or even life.

Many of these Exoplanet have composition and characteristics like planets of our solar system. The discovery of Exoplanet had begun in 1992. The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is likely to be launched in 2027 to discover new Exoplanet.

The European Space Agency will launch the ARIEL mission in 2029 to observe the Exoplanet atmosphere. 5,000 Exoplanet discovered so far includes “super-Earths”, “mini-Neptunes” and planets orbiting two stars.

Scientists have categorized Exoplanet into the following types: Gas giant, Neptunian, super-Earth, and terrestrial.

166. Recently the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** introduced _____ - a 19-seater aircraft that can be operated in semi-prepared and unpaved airstrips.

- A. **Hindustan 228**
- B. Hindustan 115
- C. Hindustan 120
- D. Hindustan 100

In the first major attempt in India to develop small civil transport aircraft, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) introduced Hindustan 228, a 19-seater aircraft that can be operated even in semi-prepared and unpaved airstrips

Hindustan 228, the design has been transferred to us from Dornier GmbH. This particular aircraft is under type certification and will have it in the name of Hindustan 228. All the testing parameters have been completed.

167. Under the aegis of **Western Naval Command Headquarters**, an offshore security exercise called ' _____ ' was held in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai on March 23, 2022.

- A. Dustlik
- B. Samanvyay
- C. **Prasthan**
- D. Varun

Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)

Western Naval Command organized Offshore Security Exercise 'Prasthan'. Under the aegis of Western Naval Command Headquarters, an offshore security exercise called 'Prasthan' was held in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai on March 23, 2022. This exercise, which takes place every six months, is a vital element of ensuring offshore security.

It aims to bring together the efforts of all maritime stakeholders participating in the offshore defence. The exercise took place on ONGC's B-193 platform, which is located about 38 nautical miles west of Mumbai. Terrorist intrusion, bomb blast, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, oil spill, and mass evacuation were all scenarios that were exercised.

Previously, on 17 March 22, losing control of an Offshore Support Vessel (OSV) was also exercised.

168. Recently the “*Cold Response 2022*” a long-planned and regular exercise hosted by which country?

- A. Norway
- B. UK
- C. Germany
- D. France



Cold Response 2022 is a long-planned and regular exercise, which Norway hosts biannually. This year's exercise was announced over eight months ago. Every year, NATO organizes dozens of military exercises. NATO members also organize national exercises that include other Allies.

Cold Response 2022 is organized by the Norwegian Armed Forces

Norway has hosted exercises with NATO Allies and partners since the early 1950s.

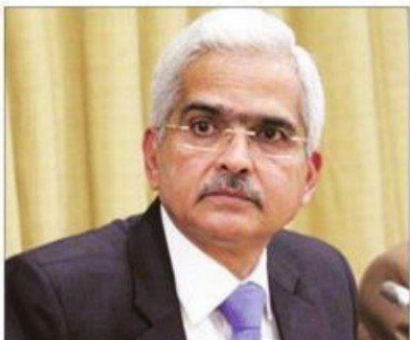
RBI's MPC to meet six times next fiscal year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, March 30

THE RESERVE BANK of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet six times during the next financial year. The panel, headed by the RBI governor, will be holding its first meeting of the next fiscal from April 6-8. The MPC announces the bi-monthly monetary policy after deliberations on the prevailing domestic and economic situations.

According to the schedule released by the RBI on Wednesday, the first bi-monthly monetary policy meeting of 2022-23 is scheduled for April 6-8, and the next will be held during June 6-8. The third, fourth and fifth meetings have been scheduled for August 2-4, September 28-30 and December 5-7. The sixth bi-monthly meeting of the MPC is scheduled to be held on February 6-8, 2023. Headed by the governor, the committee has two representatives from the central bank and three external members.

The central government has tasked the RBI to ensure that inflation remains at 4% with a margin of 2% on the either side.



Kozhikode to vie for UNESCO 'City of Literature' distinction

Proposal being prepared with the help of Prague University

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Very few cities in Kerala can perhaps boast the legacy of writers such as Vaikom Mohammed Basheer, Sanjayan, S.K. Pottekkatt, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, N.N. Kakkad, and U.A. Khader. Adding to this is the presence of literary publications such as the *Mathrubhumi* weekly, a vast network of libraries, and annual literary events such as Kerala Literature Festival.

So it was quite natural that Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a 'City of Literature' with the help of UNESCO. It is among the six places that the KILA plans to develop as 'Creative Cities'. Thiruvananthapuram is vying for the title 'City of Peace', Kollam 'City of

Biodiversity', Kochi 'City of Design', Thrissur 'City of Learning', and Kannur 'City of Craft and Folk Arts'.

Joy Elamon, Director General, KILA, told *The Hindu* that the branding would help Kozhikode get a global reach. Innovative literary events could be organised here showcasing writers from foreign countries. "The credentials for this are being readied now so that the proposal can be submitted in 2023," he said.

The Kozhikode Corporation has already started preliminary steps for the purpose. The civic body is preparing the proposal with the help of the University of Prague in the Czech Republic. Prague got the tag in 2014. Mayor Beena Philip and Deputy Mayor C.P. Mulsafar Ahammed recently

had an online interaction with some officials there.

Ludmila Kolouchova, a research student from the university, is now in town to collect information about the literary traditions of Kozhikode. She attended one of the sessions of the corporation council last week and met the corporation authorities. Ms. Kolouchova said she would visit schools and colleges in the city. "A comparative study between Kozhikode and Prague is being done to help this city get the tag of City of Literature. My efforts will serve as an inspiration," she said. Ms. Kolouchova will be here till May.

According to an official website on Prague, a city designated as 'Creative City of Literature' must have a sufficient number of institutions taking care of its literary life.

TataNeu super app to be launched in first half of April

RAJESH KURUP
Mumbai, March 28

TATA GROUP IS gearing up to launch its digital loyalty platform TataNeu during this Indian Premier League (IPL) season, which started on Saturday, even as Tata Digital has debuted as an advertiser for the Twenty20 cricket league.

Tata Digital's debut as an advertiser for IPL is a clear indication of the impending launch of TataNeu app, with the group ready with various products and services of group companies and loyalty programmes, sources close to development told *FE*.

TataNeu, which the group is terming a digital loyalty platform, would be unveiled by the first half of April, the source added, but did not reveal the exact date of the launch.

Tata Group, which replaced Chinese mobile phone maker Vivo as the title sponsor for IPL T20 for this year and next, has also begun airing teaser advertisements for the platform during the IPL matches.

TataNeu is a mobile app (which in turn would house many other apps) providing multiple services across many brands, and eliminates the need of downloading numerous apps for different services. At



present, a customer uses a minimum of five apps (movies, travel, groceries, online food ordering and fashion among others), which would be replaced by a simple app.

In September 2021, Tata Group chairman N Chandrasekaran had provided a sneak peek of TataNeu to its top management and later offered it to the group's employees for review.

TataNeu would offer loyalty programmes across brands that enable customers to earn points and redeem them later.

All the consumer-facing services of the Tata Group can be accessed through TataNeu app. These include the services of the group's brands such as Taj Hotels, Cromia, BigBasket, Tata Play, Westside and Qmin (online food delivery service launched by the Taj group of hotels during the pan-

demia) among others, a user who previewed the app, said.

It would also enable users to buy tickets for the group's airline services (AirAsia India, Vistara and Air India), while that of Starbucks, Titan, Tanishq and Cliq would be added at a later stage, another source said.

TataNeu would also enable users to foot bills for services such as internet, direct-to-home TV services, electricity and secure loans among others.

Other business conglomerates such as Adani Group and Reliance Industries are also believed to be working on similar platforms, which they term 'super app'.

Los star chis due nour dnes has erier heal and ly be sed impa lities sign: a re muc is ste reer to hi Will Hen mer re, a Scoy Evel ys, we p er a and mun abili unde

**Weekly Optimum CA Q&A PDF -Based on Recent Exam Trend
Fourth Week of March (24th – 31st March 2022)**

Exercise to check readiness if terror strikes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To check the operational preparedness and response of various agencies during real-time contingency, a multi-agency mega mock exercise (Operation Samanvay) was conducted by CISF at Dilli Haat-INA metro station on the scenario of CBRN attack, IED blast and armed attack involving hostage situation. The exercise was conducted on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Teams of CISF, DMRP, NDRF, Delhi Police SWAT, NSG, DMRC, DDMA, Delhi Fire Service, Medical Services, Civil Defence, Delhi Traffic Police and Delhi Police participated in the exercise.

Officials said terrorist organisations are adapting to different modus operandi to fulfil their nefarious goals and Delhi Metro, known as the 'lifeline of NCR' and 'a symbol of progressive India' is a sensitive installation and its security is a formidable challenge.

The drill commenced at 12.30am on multiple threats to Metro security at Dilli Haat-INA Metro station (Yellow Line), wherein a situation of IED blast in Metro premises, indiscriminate firing on passengers/Metro staff/CISF personnel and hostage by terrorists was created. The exercise went on till the early hours of the morning, followed by de-briefing and a feedback session by senior officers.

{ **WORLD** } SPAWNED A MILLION MEMES

GIF inventor dies after two-week Covid battle



6/24

The man who spawned millions of memes via his invention in 1987 of the humble GIF has died. Steve Wilhite, whose Graphics Interchange Format helped personalise the internet, lost a two-week battle with Covid-19 earlier this month, his wife told NPR. He was 74. The computer scientist's team at CompuServe developed the GIF in 1987, years before the format became a signature feature of the early web and later the go-to means for exchanging jokes, memes and reactions on social media. He was awarded a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013, using the occasion to settle a long-running humorous debate about the proper pronunciation of the acronym. It's pronounced 'jif,' he communicated — via the use of a GIF. Thirty-five years after its invention, and several generations of graphics and animation formats later, the GIF endures as a popular and beloved mainstay of the web.

BLOOMBERG

Albright, 1st female US secretary of state, dies

AP

feedback@livemint.com

WASHINGTON

Madeleine Albright, a child refugee from Nazi- and then Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe who rose to become the first female secretary of state and a mentor to many current and former American statesmen and women, died Wednesday of cancer, her family said. She was 84.

A lifelong Democrat who nonetheless worked to bring Republicans into her orbit, Albright was chosen in 1996 by President Bill Clinton to be America's top diplomat, ele-

vating her from US ambassador to the United Nations, where she had been only the second woman to hold that job.

As secretary of state, Albright was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US government.

She was not in the line of succession to the presidency, however, because she was born in what was then Czechoslovakia. Still, she was universally admired for breaking a glass ceiling, even by her political detractors.

"We have lost a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend," her family said in a statement.