

National / State News

1. Recently In March The central government has **decided to reduce disturbed areas under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in _____ after decades .**

- A. Nagaland
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur
- D. All of the above

- The full form of AFSPA is **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.**
- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".**
- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was initially promulgated by the British to suppress the Quit India movement in 1942.**
- **AFSPA is currently in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, some areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.**

Centre lifts AFSPA from parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur

The armed forces act has been in force for decades in the 3 states to tackle insurgency

PTI

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In a major outreach to the Northeast, Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced a reduction of the disturbed areas under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, Assam, and Manipur from 1 April, after decades.

A home ministry spokesperson, however, said the decision does not imply that the AFSPA has been completely withdrawn from the three insurgency-hit states but will continue to be in force in some areas of the three states.

The move came three months after the Central government constituted a high-level committee to examine the possibility of lifting the AFSPA in Nagaland where 14 civilians were killed by the army in December 2021 in a case of "mistaken identity".

In a series of tweets, Shah said: "In a significant

step, Government of India under the decisive leadership of PM Narendra Modi Ji has decided to reduce disturbed areas under AFSPA in the states of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur after decades." The home minister said the reduction in areas under AFSPA is the result of the improved security situation and fast-tracked development due to the consistent efforts and several agreements to end insurgency and bring lasting peace to the Northeast by the Modi government.

"Thanks to PM Narendra Modi Ji's unwavering commitment, our Northeastern region, which was neglected for decades is now witnessing a new era of peace, prosperity, and unprecedented development. I congratulate the people of Northeast on

this momentous occasion," he said.

The AFSPA has been in force for decades in the three Northeastern states to assist the armed forces operating there to tackle insurgency.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any

prior warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if they shoot someone dead.

There have been protests and

demands for the complete withdrawal of the law from the Northeast as well as Jammu and Kashmir for its alleged "draconian" provisions. Manipuri activist Irom Chanu Sharmila fought against the law by remaining on hunger strike for 16 years, before ending it on 9 August 2016.

The move came three months after the Centre constituted a high-level committee to examine the possibility of lifting AFSPA

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First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

2. Recently In March _____ has been **launched on Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)** portal so that researchers can access the software suite at no cost through the I-STEM portal for the first time in the country .

- A. NETRA
- B. NIHAR
- C. MATLAB**
- D. NISAR

- **MATLAB software suite is hosted on I-STEM's cloud servers to provide user-friendly access from anywhere in India. MATLAB has been developed by MathWorks. It is a numeric computing and programming language platform.**
- **I-STEM portal was launched by PM Modi in January 2020 during the Indian Science Congress of 2020.**
- **I-STEM (www.istem.gov.in) is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA, GoI) under the aegis of Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).**
- **MATLAB is a proprietary multi-paradigm programming language and numeric computing environment developed by the MathWorks. MATLAB, used by more than 4 million users globally, allows matrix manipulations, plotting of functions and data**

3. Recently In April, The **Geological Survey of India identified two geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan region named _____ & _____ .**

- A. **Siriska National Park & Buxa National Park**
- B. **Siwalik Fossil Park & Buxa National Park**
- C. Siwalik Fossil Park and Stromatolite of Buxa**
- D. **Siriska National Park & Stromatolite of Buxa**

- **Geological Survey of India identified two geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan Region. Siwalik Fossil Park and Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of Buxa Formation have been identified as geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan Region.**
- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo-heritage sites/ national geological monuments for the better protection and maintenance.**
- **Geological Heritage Sites are the places where geologic features or landscapes has played a significant role in cultural or historical events. There are a total 34 Geological Heritage Sites in India.**
- **Siwalik Fossil Park: It is located in the Sirmur district of Himachal Pradesh. It is the biggest fossil park of Asia.**
- **Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of Buxa Formation: This site is situated near to Mamley in the South Sikkim district. This site has one of the rare examples of early life in Sikkim Himalaya.**

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4. Recently In April _____ festival is celebrated by Maharashtra and Konkanis on 2nd April as Marathi new year.
- A. Ugadi
 - B. Gudi Padwa**
 - C. Chaitra Navratri
 - D. Makarsakranti

- Telugu, Kannada New Year's Day Ugadi and Marathi New Year's Gudi Padwa celebrated on 2nd April
- .Telugu-speaking people across the world celebrated Telugu New Year's Day, "Ugadi", on 2nd April. To mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar, this festival is celebrated across Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
 - Ugadi is celebrated on the first day of Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu calendar.
- Gudi Padwa, also known as Samvatsar Padvo, is a Marathi new year celebrated by Maharashtra and Konkanis people all over India. It was celebrated on April 2 in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, Gudi Padwa has a special significance.

5. Recently In April _____ government launched a scheme to give personal loans to prisoners up to Rs 50,000 at an interest rate of 7% .
- A. Karnataka
 - B. Maharashtra**
 - C. Uttar Pradesh
 - D. Madhya Pradesh

Maharashtra home minister Dilip Walse Patil said that the Maharashtra government has decided to offer personal loans of up to ₹50,000 to prisoners against their earnings from work done in jail

The state government launched a scheme to provide personal loans for prisoners with the aim to improve the living standard of the families of the inmates.

The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank will give loans under the scheme up to ₹50,000 at an interest rate of 7 per cent.

The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis at Yerawada Central Jail,

6. Recently In April Exide Industries will make an investment of _____ to set up a country largest lithium-ion cell manufacturing giga factory in _____ .
- A. Rs 1000 Cr , Telanagana
 - B. Rs 6500 Cr , Tamil Nadu
 - C. Rs 6000 Cr , Karnataka**
 - D. Rs 5000 Cr , Maharashtra

Battery maker Exide Industries will invest Rs 6,000 crore to set up a Lithium-ion cell manufacturing factory in Karnataka,

This will be one of India's largest giga factories for Advanced Cell Chemistry Technology that is expected to generate 1,200-1,400 jobs.

Exide has requested 80 acres of land at the Haralur Industrial Area near the Kempegowda International Airport, about 40 km from Bengaluru

Exide Industries Limited is India's largest selling battery company.

Exide Industries to invest ₹6,000 cr to set up giga factory in Karnataka

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, March 31

The country's largest automotive battery maker, Exide Industries, has announced plans to invest ₹6,000 crore in Karnataka for setting up one of India's largest giga factories for advanced cell chemistry technology. The announcement came after Exide MD and CEO Subir Chakraborty met with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday.

The company has sought land in the Haralur Industrial area for setting up the factory, according to a tweet by the Industries and Commerce department of Karnataka government.

Pact with SVOLT

"This will be one of #India's largest Giga factories for Advanced Cell Chemistry Technology and land has been requested in the #Haralur Industrial Area,"



the tweet said. Exide had recently announced that it has entered into a multi-year technical collaboration agreement with SVOLT Energy Technology (SVOLT) for technology and the necessary know-how for manufacturing Lithium-ion cell in India.

As part of the agreement, SVOLT will grant Exide an irrevocable right and licence to use, exploit and commercialise necessary technology and know-how owned by them for lithium-ion cell manufacturing in India. Additionally, it will also provide the support required for setting up of

a green field manufacturing plant on a turnkey basis, the company had said. Exide, which had recently received board approval for setting up a multi-gigawatt lithium-ion cell manufacturing plant, is in the process of forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by way of a wholly owned subsidiary for carrying out the manufacturing business.

The company has participated in the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage, issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The company has already set up a factory in JV with Leclanche SA, Switzerland, which is equipped with fully automated lithium-ion assembly lines for battery packs and modules. The factory has started production and will offer energy solutions that are scalable and eco-friendly.

7. Recently In April The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) (2015-20) till _____ to ensure policy continuity in external trade .

- A. 31st December 2022
- B. 30th Septmber 2022
- C. 31st July 2022
- D. 31st March 2023

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) (2015-20) till 30 September 2022. This step has been taken after disruptions emerged in global trade due to Russia and Ukraine war.

Foreign trade policy is a set of guidelines for enhancing exports and promoting economic growth.

The "New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26" has focused on District Export Hubs initiative. It will play a vital role in achieving the goal of becoming a \$ 5 trillion economy

Centre extends foreign trade policy to Sept 30

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 31 March

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) yet again extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) (2015-20) by another six months till September 30 to ensure policy continuity in external trade.

The development comes amid disruptions in global trade due to month-long tension between Russia and Ukraine. The FTP is an elaborate policy guideline and a strategy to promote export of goods and services. The existing policy came into force on April 1, 2015, and was valid for five years.

However, a new FTP was deferred and the existing policy was extended till March 31, 2021, as businesses were



grappling with the disruption caused by the Covid-19. The policy was once again extended till September 30 2021, and thereafter till March 31, 2022 as the government did not have anything substantial to roll out in the new policy.

Government officials said the Centre may take more time to come with any fresh scheme for exporters.

Over the last few years, the government has phased out several

incentive-driven schemes for exporters. For instance, merchandise exports from India scheme (MEIS) was phased out after a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling stated that certain export incentive schemes violated the provisions of the trade body by giving export subsidies for a wide range of goods. Thereafter, a WTO-compliant export boosting scheme was already notified and rolled out last year, even before the announcement of a fresh road map for trade.

Currently, exporters get support from schemes such as interest equalisation scheme, transport subsidy scheme, Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) and Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP).

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8. Recently In April _____ government Has launched the portal of 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana' with an initial corpus of _____ crore for the scheme .
- A. Karanakta , Rs 25 Cr
 - B. Maharashtra , Rs 20 Cr
 - C. Haryana , Rs 10 Cr
 - D. Himachal Pradesh , Rs 15 Cr

Haryana Agriculture Minister J P Dalal on Thursday launched the portal of 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana

Under this scheme, farmers will be compensated for the damage caused to their crops due to adverse weather and natural calamities,

Haryana Government will promote organic farming in a big way to enhance the income of farmers.

Yojana will be optional for all those farmers who will get registered under 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora'.

Under the scheme, the sum assured will be Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetables and spices and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits.

9. Recently In April The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become the first party since 1988 to touch the 100-seat mark in the Rajya Sabha with the results of biennial elections to the Upper House. The potential seating capacity of the Rajya Sabha is _____ according to article 80 of the Indian Constitution .

- A. 245
- B. 248
- C. 250
- D. 249

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become the first party since 1988 to touch the 100-seat mark in the Rajya Sabha with the results of biennial elections to the Upper House

The BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha went up from 97 to 100. The Congress slipped down from 33 to 32. With 13 Congress MPs from the upper house retiring by July this year and the party not in a position to win most of these seats,

With 123 being the majority mark in the 245-member House, BJP-led NDA is in a position to get all ordinary bills passed in both Houses without much difficulty

BJP Rajya Sabha Strength Reaches 100 for the First Time

HISTORIC WIPEOUT It is also for the first time that the Congress does not have any representation from the Northeast in the Upper House

Rakesh Mohan, Chaturvedi
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New Delhi: After winning three Rajya Sabha seats in the Northeast on Thursday, the BJP touched the 100-member mark in the upper house. It is for the first time since 1988, when the Congress had more than 100 members, that a party has reached this mark in the 245-member House.

It is also for the first time that the Congress does not have any representation from the Northeast in the Rajya Sabha. While 13 of the 14 seats are with the BJP and its allies, one seat in Assam is held by an independent, Ajit Kumar Bhuyan.

The BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha went up from 97 to 100. The Congress slipped down from 33 to 32. With 13 Congress MPs from the upper house retiring by July this year and the party not in a position to win most of these seats, there will be virtually no party which can take on the BJP single-handedly. In the opposition benches, the second biggest party after the Congress had more than 100 members, followed by DMK (10) and BJD (9) members in the Rajya Sabha.

THREE DECADES AGO
It was in 1988 under Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership that Congress had more than 100 members in Rajya Sabha

In the Opposition benches, after Congress the second biggest party is Trinamool with 13 members, followed by DMK (10) and BJD (9)

Big Win
BJP and allies bag four Rajya Sabha seats in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland

BJP's strength in Upper House has gone up from 97 to 100

Congress strength has come down from 33 to 32

It was in 1988 under Rajiv Gandhi's prime ministership that Congress had more than 100 members in Rajya Sabha

THREE DECADES AGO
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Opposition parties will be able to put up a fight against the BJP only by joining hands. They will also have to adopt the strategy of cornering the government through strong debates since numbers are not their strength.

Opposition parties will be able to put up a fight against the BJP only by joining hands. They will also have to adopt the strategy of cornering the government through strong debates since numbers are not their strength.

BJP's strength in Parliament then was just two members in the Lok Sabha. With 123 being the majority mark in the 245-member House, BJP-led NDA is in a position to get all ordinary bills passed in both Houses without much difficulty.

THE ELECTORAL FITTERS, NEW DELHI / GURBANI, DELHI/UDU, 4 APRIL 2022

FOLLOWING PROBES BY CENTRAL AGENCIES

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10. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Dolphins In Chilika Lake And Gahirmatha* :

- 1. The population of dolphins in Odisha has increased from 544 in 2021 to 726 this year, revealed the annual dolphin census carried out recently**
- 2. As per the 2022 dolphin census, *Gahirmatha* Marine Sanctuary and nearby areas in Bhitarkanika saw dolphin count skyrocket to 540 from 342 last year**
- 3. the count of dolphins in *Chilika* Wildlife Division saw a dip from 188 in 2021 to 167 in 2022.**

Which of the following dtatement is/are correct ?

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

line agitation that has the State in its grip.

posed the policy in wednes-day's Cabinet.

Dip in Chilika lake's dolphin population


However, the overall number of dolphins in Odisha increases from 544 to 726 in a year

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The dolphin population along Odisha's coast and in its waterbodies has increased but the number of Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika lake has fallen.

Months after undertaking a census in different waterbodies and off the coast of Odisha, the Principal Chief Conservator Forest (Wildlife) has provided data, recorded across the State's Wildlife Divisions, on the number of dolphins, which have overall gone up from 544 in 2021 to 726 in 2022.

High sighting
The increase in the State's dolphin population is largely due to high sighting in the Mangrove Wildlife Division



The Chilika lake is a major tourist attraction due to its Irrawaddy dolphins.

nose dolphins at Chilika, from 26 in 2021 to 16 in 2022.

In the remaining four Wildlife Divisions – Puri, Bherhampur, Bhadrak and Balasore – dolphin sighting was negligible. The State has a total of 208 Irrawaddy dolphins.

The census for dolphins and other cetacean species included almost the entire coast of Odisha, where estimation was carried out within a width of one kilometre from the sea beach using the line transect census method at a distance of 500 metres from the beach. Subsequently, recording of dolphins sighted on either side of the line transect was completed. In all, 48 census units were established all along the coastline.

of the Rajnagar jurisdiction, where 540 dolphins were enumerated in 2022 compared with 342 in 2021. In Rajnagar, the number of bottlenose dolphins rose from 22 to 135 and humpback dolphins from 281 to 332 in one year.

A total of six species of dolphins – Irrawaddy, bottlenose, humpback, striped, finless and spinner dolphins – have been recorded.

The lake, which is a major tourist attraction known for its Irrawaddy dolphins, saw the numbers of its flagship aquatic animal drop sharply from 162 in 2021 to 151 this year. There has also been a fall in the number of bottle-

The population of dolphins in Odisha has increased from 544 in 2021 to 726 this year, revealed the annual dolphin census carried out recently.

As per the 2022 dolphin census, *Gahirmatha* Marine Sanctuary and nearby areas in Bhitarkanika saw dolphin count skyrocket to 540 from 342 last year.

However, the count of dolphins in *Chilika* Wildlife Division saw a dip from 188 in 2021 to 167 in 2022.

A total of six species of dolphins — Irrawaddy, bottlenose, humpback, striped, finless and spinner dolphins — have been recorded.

Chilika is Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon. Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

11. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Antarctic Bill in Lok Sabha* :

1. After 40 years of India signing the Antarctic Treaty In 1982, the government has introduced the draft of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2020.
2. This draft bill is India's first domestic legislation related to Antarctica. Around 27 countries have domestic legislations on Antarctica.

Which of the following statement is/are Correct ?

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

The Bill has a comprehensive list of regulations related to Antarctica including rules for scientific expeditions, individuals, companies and tourist.

It extends Indian court jurisdiction to Antarctica for crimes committed by Indian Citizens or foreign citizens who are part of the Indian expedition. The bill introduces a permit system for any expedition or individual who wishes to visit the Antarctica continent. The permit will be given by a committee set up by the government. The Bill now enables Indian tour operators to operate in Antarctica, and set standards for environmental protection as well as waste management. It prohibits drilling, dredging, excavation or collection of mineral resources in the Antarctica region.

Antarctic Treaty: It was signed by countries in 1959 and it came into force in 1961. Currently, it has 54 signatories but only 29 have the right to vote at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings.

Centre introduces Antarctica Bill

It envisages regulating visits and activities to the continent without a permit

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday introduced the 'Antarctica Bill' in the Lok Sabha that envisages regulating visits and activities to Antarctica as well potential disputes that may arise among those present on the continent. The Bill also prescribes penal provisions for certain serious violations.

The text of the Bill, which was introduced by Science Minister, Jitendra Singh, on Friday says that it seeks to "... prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica or carrying of certain activities in Antarctica without a permit or the written authorisation of another party to the protocol...provide for inspection in India by an officer designated by the Central government as an Inspector and to constitute an inspection team to carry out inspections in Antarctica."

Mr. Singh remarked in



Expanse of white: The base established by the first Indian expedition in Antarctica, in 1982. *FILE PHOTO

Parliament that India had been a signatory to the Antarctica Treaty since 1983 and that encumbered India to specify a set of laws governing portions of the continent where it had its research bases.

"Antarctica is a no man's land... It isn't that India is making a law for a territory that doesn't belong to it... the question is if in the territory involving India's research stations, some unlaw-

ful activity happens, how to check it? The Treaty made it mandatory for the 54 signatory countries to specify laws governing territories on which their stations are located," said Mr. Singh.

India is also signatory to treaties such as the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, both of which enjoin India to

help preserve the pristine nature of the continent. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of the Congress demanded to know how India had the right to make laws with penal provisions in territory that didn't belong to it and Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress also wanted to know whether there would be a bureaucratic set up in place to govern matters concerning Antarctica. They both demanded that the Bill be passed to a Select or Standing Committee of Parliament for a deeper analysis.

M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences told *The Hindu* that not only was India obliged to have such under obligations but it would also clearly establish that any illegal act or "crime" in Indian territory at Antarctica would mean that a person – even if they were a foreigner – would be subject to Indian laws.

12. Recently In April _____ State Government Launched A new App, known as 'Kaaval Uthavi', for the public to access the help of the Police Department in case of any emergencies .

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

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday launched 'Kaaval Uthavi' app containing 60 features that will help seek police assistance during any emergency.

The app is used to send 'emergency' alert to the police control room, so as to obtain immediate assistance during any distress or emergency by the members of the public.

'Kaaval Uthavi' app, launched at the Secretariat by the Chief Minister, is meant to help the people, particularly women, in seeking police assistance in case of emergency.

13. Recently In April Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a pan India drive _____, against activities of touts throughout the country in the Month of March 2022 .

- A. Operation Samanvyay
- B. Operation Upalabdh**
- C. Operation Matlab
- D. Operation Chakravuyh

Recently, Railway Protection Force (RPF) conducted a Pan India Drive against the alleged black marketeers under Operation Upalabdh.

The month-long drive under Operation Upalabdh has been able to curb the activities of touts substantially and make railway tickets available to the common man.

Earlier in February 2022, the RPF had launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking named Operation AAHT.

14. Recently In April _____ Signed MOU With Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India Pvt Ltd. (RNTBCI) to reduce road accidents fatalities in Chennai and neighbouring districts through two projects as this initiative is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) .

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Madras**

IIT Madras, Renault-Nissan form partnership

Shouvik Das

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NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) is collaborating with carmaker Renault-Nissan to generate data-driven road safety solutions.

Under the partnership, IIT-M has signed an initial agreement with Renault-Nissan Technology and Business Center, India (RNTBCI), and will organize a year-long hackathon programme designed to find new solutions for improving road safety.

Called Hackidents, the programme will facilitate development of low-cost technologies to prevent fatalities caused by public buses. The focus will be to use sensors and

TECHCIRCLE data collection techniques for better understanding the root causes of accidents and find solutions.

Under the hackathon programme, IIT-M's Connected Intelligent Urban Transportation laboratory will build data-driven technologies to make public transport facilities in Tamil Nadu safer. The first project under it will equip public buses in select districts of Tamil Nadu with sensors, to collect data on why fatal accidents occur.

The second project will seek to use this data in developing "low-cost technologies", which will then be used in public buses in areas such as Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu, according to a joint statement issued on Saturday.

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- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Bombay

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is collaborating with Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India Pvt Ltd. (RNTBCI) to reduce road accident fatalities in Chennai and neighbouring districts through two projects.

The initiative is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

The first project aims to improve public safety with focus on reducing fatal accidents involving public transit buses in Chennai

15. Recently In April _____ government **launched ‘School Chalo Abhiyan’** to ensure 100% enrolment in primary and upper primary schools .

- A. Karnataka
- B. Uttar Pradesh**
- C. Haryanan
- D. Punjab

Uttar Pradesh government launched ‘School Chalo Abhiyan’ to ensure 100% enrolment in primary and upper primary schools. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the campaign from Shravasti district. It is one of the most illiterate districts of the state.

Under the campaign, students will be provided uniforms, shoes and socks. Public representatives will also be associated with the ‘School Chalo Abhiyan’. Chief Minister urged each MLA to adopt a school.

He said the government has revamped schools under Operation Kayakalp. According to the latest statistics, the Male Literacy Rate % in Uttar Pradesh is 79.24 percent and the Female Literacy rate is 59.26 percent.

16. Recently In April Union Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the _____ in New Delhi that will add a new chapter in **Ease of Doing Business** in the Broadcasting sector .

- A. Sports Management Portal
- B. Broadcast Seva Portal**
- C. Bhartiya Janata Portal
- D. National Window Portal

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Broadcast Seva Portal in New Delhi. The Broadcast Seva Portal will add a new chapter in Ease of Doing Business in the Broadcasting sector.

Broadcast Seva Portal is an online portal solution, under which applications for various types of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc. can be filed by broadcasters expeditiously and scrutiny of these applications can also be completed faster. The Broadcast Seva Portal will help applicants in tracking the progress and reduce the turnaround time of applications. This portal will provide its services under the Digital India initiative to private satellite TV channels, teleport operators, MSOs, community and private radio channels etc.

It will benefit more than 900 Satellite TV Channels, 70 Teleport operators, 1700 Multi-service operators, and 350 Community Radio Stations (CRS).

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17. Recently In April *Gangaur festival* was Celebrated across _____ with traditional reverence and gaiety praying Isar-Gaur i.e. Lord Shiva and Parvati for happiness and prosperity .

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

The five-day Gangaur Mahotsav has also started in Udaipur.

Gangaur festival celebrated across Rajasthan with traditional reverence and gaiety. Women celebrated the Gangaur festival by praying Isar-Gaur i.e. Lord Shiva and Parvati for happiness and prosperity.

On this occasion, the royal procession of Gangaur was also taken out from the City Palace of Jaipur. The five-day Gangaur Mahotsav has also started in Udaipur.

Gangaur festival is also celebrated in some parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Chandrapur in Maharashtra recorded as third hottest place in the world. The first forest fire was recorded in Chandrapur district on 29 March 2022.

Irai Dam is located on Irai River near Chandrapur and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is the oldest and largest national park of Maharashtra.

Centre unveils new broadcast seva portal

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The government on Monday launched a new portal to ensure speedy filing and processing of applications for various broadcast licenses, permissions and registrations.

"The government harnessed technology to bring transparency in the system and make it more accountable," information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur said at the launch. "The Broadcast Seva Portal will reduce the turnaround time of applications and, at the same time, will help applicants track the progress."

A "360 degree digital solution will facilitate stakeholders in seeking permissions, applying for registration, tracking applications, calculating fees and executing payments", Thakur said.

The portal is likely to help 900 satellite TV channels, 70 teleport operators, 1,700 MSOs, 350 community radio stations (CRS) and 380 private FM channels, among others, the ministry said in a statement.

The portal will act as a single point facility for various stakeholders across the broadcasting

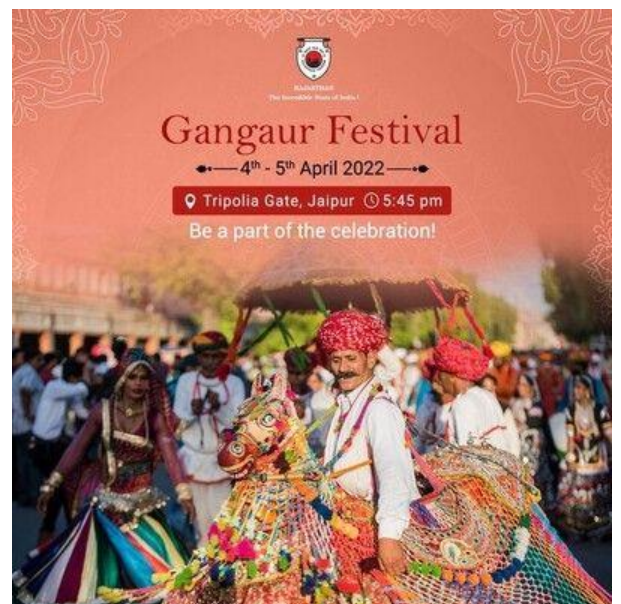


Anurag Thakur

sector. It has been revamped by the ministry to provide an "enhanced user experience, incorporate new features and allow a seamless interface" for broadcasters, Thakur said.

The portal had incorporated suggestions from several stakeholders after a month-long trial, information and broadcasting secretary Apurva Chandra said. It will provide end-to-end processing services. It is also integrated with the Bharat Kosh payment system and e-office to facilitate coordination with other ministries, Chandra said.

"Improving India's business climate is one of the key focus areas of the Government of India and the Broadcast Seva Portal exemplifies the government's commitment to ease of doing business and empowering the broadcasting sector," the ministry said.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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National Commission for Women launched an Anti-human trafficking cell to raise awareness among women and girls, and to give training to anti-trafficking units.

NCW will also increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies and improve efficiency in tackling human trafficking cases.

Anti-human trafficking cell will organize training and workshops for police officers and prosecutors at the regional, state and district levels.

National Women Commission: It was formed in 1992. It is the statutory body which advises the government on all policy matters affecting women. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson of the National Commission for Women.

18. Recently In April Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has launched _____ new and rare chemical Reference Materials (rms) developed by NDTL .

- A. 5
- B. 6**
- C. 7
- D. 8

Six new and rare chemical Reference Materials (RMs) have been developed by NDTL.

These RMs have been developed indigenously in association with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.

These RMs are the purest form of the chemical required for anti-doping analysis in all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratories worldwide.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has launched these RMs during 15th Governing Body Meeting of NDTL.

National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) comes under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It is located in New Delhi. It was registered in 2008.

19. Recently In April Leh Administration to sign a tripartite agreement to develop _____ as Dark Sky Sanctuary and Leh Hill Council, wildlife and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astrotourism .

- A. Saboo
- B. Phiang
- C. Hanley**
- D. Fhaye

Leh Administration will sign a tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as Dark Sky Sanctuary and Leh Hill Council, WildLife and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astro tourism.

The State WildLife Development board has increased the frequency of meetings for early clearances of various projects and compensation fee is increased and the wildlife agencies are instructed to release compensation within 15 days, in case wild animals cause injuries to domesticated cattle.

20. Consider The Following Statement Regarding

India's merchandise exports In 2021 - 22:

1. India's merchandise exports spurt to a record high of USD 417.8 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal

2. India's goods trade (exports and imports) crossed USD 1 trillion during 2021-22 as the country's imports too have touched an all-time high of USD 610 billion.

3. Outbound shipments touched an all-time monthly high of USD 40.38 billion in March 2022, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters here. Exports stood at USD 35.26 billion in March 2021.

Which Of The following statement is/are Correct ?

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

Leh to sign tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as Dark Sky Sanctuary

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Leh Administration will sign a tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as Dark Sky Sanctuary and Leh Hill Council, WildLife and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astro tourism.

The State WildLife Development board has increased the frequency of meetings for early clearances of various projects and compensation fee is increased and the wildlife agencies are instructed to release compensation within 15 days, in case wild animals cause injuries to domesticated cattle.

DRIVEN BY RECORD RISE IN IMPORTS IN FY22 Trade deficit at new high

New Delhi: The country's imports rose to a record high of \$610.2 billion in FY22, driven by a sharp rise in the value of crude oil, coal, gold and electronics imports, according to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday.

High imports led to India posting a record-high trade deficit of \$192.4 billion, despite achieving record high exports of \$417.8 billion in the fiscal. March also saw

India export merchandise worth over \$40 billion for the first time.

Merchandise exports grew by 43.2 per cent compared to the year ago period but imports rose by 54.7 per cent year-on-year.

Imports of crude oil hit \$160.7 billion in the fiscal, rising 94.3 per cent compared to the year ago period, due to significantly higher crude oil prices. Coal imports saw a similar jump of 93.7 per cent due to higher coal prices. **ENS**

India's trade deficit has increased by 87% to \$192.41 billion in FY22

In FY 2021-22, goods imports increased at a faster rate than exports.

Goods imports increased by 54.71% (year on year) to \$610.22 billion.

Faster increase in imports is mainly driven (caused) by petroleum, electronics, gold, coal and machinery sectors.

India's exports in FY22 (fiscal year 2021-22) reached to a record level of \$417.81 billion.

This was 43% higher than exports in previous fiscal.

Goods Exports Touch Record High of \$418 billion in FY22

Outbound shipments touch all-time high of \$40.38 billion in March: Commerce minister

Our Bureau
New Delhi: Buoyed by petroleum products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery and chemicals, India's merchandise exports rose to a record \$418 billion in FY22, data released by the commerce and industry on Sunday showed.

In 2020-21, India's goods exports were \$291.8 billion and in FY20, they were \$313.36 billion.

Outbound shipments touched an all-time high of \$40.38 billion in March, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said as he assured that India will step up wheat supplies to countries hit by the Russia-Ukraine War.

March goods exports were up 14.53% on-year and 87.89% higher than \$21.49 billion in March 2020. A significant jump in exports to developed countries like the US, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, Belgium and Germany.

"The growth has occurred in sectors that has smaller enterprises

Exports Soar

Year	Exports	Import
2017-18	303.52	465.6
2018-19	330.07	514.1
2019-20	313.36	474.7
2020-21	291.8	394.4
2021-22	417.8	610*

(\$billion)

EXPORTS GAINS

Sector	FY22 growth (y-o-y %)
Petroleum Products	152.1
Cotton Yarn, Handloom	55.1
Gems & Jewellery	49.6
Engineering Goods	45.5
Electronic Goods	40.5
Leather	32.2

TOP 5 COMMODITIES, COUNTRIES

Engineering exports, USA	Gems & Jewellery, China	Drugs & Pharma, The Netherlands
Petroleum Products, UAE	Chemicals, Bangladesh	

and involves the agriculture sector... Even a pandemic like Covid-19 and the war like situation has not deterred our export target for the year," Goyal said.

Wheat exports are likely to exceed 10 million tonnes in 2022-23, Goyal said. Technical specifications of Indian wheat have also been shared with Turkey one of the largest importer along side Egypt for

possible wheat exports.

Goyal said that India will step up wheat exports to countries hit by Russia-Ukraine conflict. "We will continue to export wheat in a big way to meet needs in countries who are not getting supplies from conflict areas. We are likely to exceed our wheat exports over 10 million tonnes in 2022-23," he said.

Engineering goods exports hit a

record \$111 billion, of which about \$16 billion worth goods were shipped to the US alone. Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said that 3.5 million tonnes of wheat has been exported to Bangladesh largely through the Petrapole land border. "Many of them (sectors) were labour-intensive sectors contributing majorly to the exports basket, which itself is a good sign, further helping job creation in the country," said FIEO President, A Sakthivel.

Sources said that the import bill too is likely to have touched a record high of \$600 billion in the fiscal. India's merchandise import in April-February FY22 was \$550.12 billion, up 59.21% over \$345.54 billion in the year ago period and 24.11% higher than in April 2019-February 2020. The trade deficit during the period was \$176.07 billion.

Did for New Delhi: Mumbai Stations Beyond Scope

FICCI's latest Economic Outlook Survey estimated the growth of Indian economy at 7.4% in 2022-23.

The FICCI's survey has kept medium forecast for exports at \$434.4 billion and for imports at \$669.4 billion in 2022-23.

It has kept median fiscal deficit to GDP ratio at 6.4% for the fiscal year 2022-23.

S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) has declined from 54.9 in February to 54 in March. It has declined to lowest level in last six months.

PMI is compiled by S&P Global. In February 2022, S&P Global and IHS Markit have completed their merger. HS Markit has now become part of S&P Global.

Services PMI at three-month high in March

Jumps to 53.6 against 51.8 in February; job creation declines marginally

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, April 6

The services sector recorded an improved performance in March, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rising to 53.6 from 51.8 in February. This is the strongest expansion since December 2021. However, there has not been much improvement in terms of job creation.

The performance is in contrast to the manufacturing PMI, which declined to 54 in March from 54.9 in February.

A report by S&P Global, accompanying the PMI number, said the services sector growth in India continued to recover in March as contain-

ment measures were lifted. Firms have recorded the fastest expansion in sales and activity in the current year so far, while business confidence has remained subdued due to inflation concerns.

Input costs increased at the sharpest pace in 11 years at the end of FY22, but companies mostly absorbed additional cost burdens and raised their charges only moderately.

Inflation re-accelerated

Pollyanna de Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global, said the war in Ukraine had exacerbated lingering supply chain issues, triggering a re-acceleration in



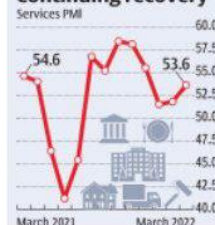
Inflation risks continued to curb business optimism regarding growth prospects, says S&P Global

inflation across the Indian services economy. The March results showed the sharpest upturn in input costs for 11 years, but this did not put a brake on the recovery. "Buoyed by the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, consumers were eager to go out and spend," she said.

Although the latest data pointed to a further decline in service sector jobs, the report said the rate of contraction had slowed down.

The latest fall was only marginal as the vast majority of survey members chose to leave staffing unchanged from February's levels.

Continuing recovery



Source: Nikkei, Markit

Finance and insurance were the best-performing categories last month with the best sales and output trends. Real estate and business services were the weakest links, posting marked and accelerated declines in new business as well as activity. Consumer services recorded the

strongest increase in input costs, while transport, information and communication registered the sharpest rate of charge inflation.

Soaring prices

According to de Lima, overall sales were supported by mild adjustments to output charges. Consumers are likely to face soaring prices in the coming months as rising cost burdens feed through to services charges.

"Inflation risks continued to curb business optimism regarding growth prospects, with sentiment among services companies remaining subdued by historical standards. This lack of confidence in the outlook also meant that employment continued to fall in March," she said.

21. Recently As per the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), _____ had an unemployment rate of 0.6% in March 2022 .

- A. Haryana
- B. **Chhattisgarh**
- C. Punjab
- D. Kerala

Unemployment rate decreasing in India; at 7.6% in March: CMIE

Unemployment rate in the country is decreasing with the economy slowly returning to normal, according to CMIE data. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's monthly time series data revealed that the overall unemployment rate in India was 8.10 per cent in February 2022, which fell to 7.6 per cent in March. On April 2, the ratio further dropped to 7.5 per cent, with urban unemployment rate at 8.5 per cent and rural at 7.1 per cent. Retired professor of economics at Indian Statistical Institute Abhirup Sarkar said that though the overall unemployment rate is falling, it is still high for a "poor" country like India. PTI

As per the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Chhattisgarh had an unemployment rate of 0.6% in March 2022.

In March 2022, India's overall unemployment was 7.6 per cent. The unemployment rate in the country was 8.10 percent in February.

According to data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate (26.7 percent), followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Chhattisgarh government has launched various schemes like Suraji Gaon Yojana, Narva-Garva-Ghurva-Bari programme, Godhan Nyay Yojana, etc. for strengthening rural economy.

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First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

22. Recently In April On the occasion of **Nav Varsha at IGNCA, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the _____** website under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav .

- A. **Temple 360**
- B. Mandir Griha
- C. Devasthyalam
- D. Croadcast Seva Portal

On the occasion of Nav Varsha at IGNCA, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the 'Temple 360' website under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

With the help of this website, people can digitally see the grandeur of some of the most sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites.

With the help of the 'Temple 360' website, people can do darshan of 12 Jyotirlinga and Char Dham from any location.

People can see and participate in e-Darshan, e-Prashad, and e-Aarti through this website.

Anyone can now watch live streaming of rituals from four major temples: Somnath (Gujarat), Kashi Vishwanath (Uttar Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), and Ghrishneshwar (Maharashtra).

23. Consider The Following Statement Regarding "standup India scheme" :

1. Since the inception of the scheme in 2016, total loans worth Rs 30,160 crore have been sanctioned to 1,33,995 beneficiaries up to March 21 this year
2. The standup India scheme was launched on April 5, 2016, to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.
3. Its objective is to facilitate bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrowers and at least one woman borrower per bank branch to set up an enterprise.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

OVER ₹30K CR SANCTIONED UNDER STAND-UP INDIA

The government has sanctioned over ₹30,610 crore under the Stand-Up India scheme to 133,995 accounts in six years, since the initiative's inception. The scheme was launched in April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and women entrepreneurs, focusing on economic empowerment and job creation. As on March 21, 2022, about 133,995 accounts have received advances under the scheme, of which 19,310 were held by SCs; 6,435 by STs and 108,250 by women.

WHO GOT WHAT

	Amount sanctioned (in ₹ crore)	Number of accounts
SC	3,976.84	19,310
ST	1,373.71	6,435
Women	24,809.89	108,250
Total	30,160.45	133,995

Source: Finance Ministry

NIKUNJ OHRI

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Recognizing the challenges faced by Aspiring SC, ST and women entrepreneurs, Stand up India Scheme was launched on 5th April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.

In 2019-20, the Stand Up India scheme was extended for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.

The objective of Stand-Up India is to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories, to help them in starting a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing,

The extent of margin money to be brought by the borrower has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%' of the project cost. Government of India has set up the Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand Up India (CGFSI). Apart from providing credit facility, Stand Up India Scheme also envisages extending handholding support to the potential borrowers.

Rs. 30160 crore has been sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme to 133,995 accounts upto 21.03.2022 since inception of the Scheme.

24. Recently In April _____ launched 'single-use plastic' (SUP) — a green app for people to report manufacturing, stocking, or distribution of single-use plastic .

- A. Central Pollution Control Board**
- B. Quality Council Of India**
- C. Federation Of Indian Chambers And Commerce**
- D. Confederation Of Indian Industry**

25. Recently In April Shri Bhupender Yadav launched _____ , a mascot to spread greater awareness among masses about small changes for a better environment and various green initiatives taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) .

- A. Prakriti**
- B. Pratiksha**
- C. Roshni**
- D. Kiran**

increases in particulate con- tion is also required." level of PM2.5 in April and ars with no severe heatwaves. same twice last year.

Green app to let you report single-use plastic cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Tuesday launched an app for people to report manufacturing, stocking, or distribution of single-use plastic. Union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav launched the green app — 'single-use plastic' (SUP) — to raise complaints regarding banned items and also those, which will be banned from July 1. These bans are being implemented under the new Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rule-2021, which seeks a pan-India ban

on single-use plastic at the manufacturing and supply levels. The rules, however, had already banned single-use plastic below thickness of 75 microns since September 2021. The items to be banned are earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration, plastic-made plates, cups, glasses, cutleries, straw, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic, or PVC banners less than 100 microns. The new rules will also ban plastic bags below 120 mi-

UNION MINISTER SAYS
India is generating about 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has doubled in last 5 years

crs from December 31, 2022. "Landfills are overflowing in cities and water is being contaminated, plastic has become one of the most pressing environmental issues that we are facing today. India is generating about 3.5 mil-

lion tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years. Plastic Pollution adversely affects our ecosystems and is also linked to air pollution," said Yadav. "I had myself seen an animal eating plastic in Sariska, which shows the extent to which this menace has spread. On seashores, plastic is harming marine wildlife. We will have to monitor it to curb it effectively," the minister stated at an event held by CPCB. Minister of state, environment, Ashwini Kumar Choubey stated that the e-Govern-

nance portals of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) and CPCB such as the EPR portal and the mobile app for SUP grievance redressed launched would go a long way in ensuring complete phase-out of the single-use plastic. Apart from the app, a dashboard was launched to bring all stakeholders including, central and state ministries at one place and track the elimination of SUP. The minister also unveiled a portal for plastic packaging by CPCB for ease of reporting compliance to the new rules by the producers, importers and owners.

'Submit concrete plan to clear Chazipur landfill'

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Shri Narendra Modi announced India's pledge to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022. India is generating about 3.5 Million Tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched an awareness mascot 'Prakriti' and Green Initiatives for plastic management.

India generates 3.5 million Tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has doubled in the last five years

The awareness mascot 'Prakriti' will spread awareness among the masses about small changes adopted in our lifestyle for a better environment.

The government has announced to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022.

On this occasion, various green initiatives for plastic waste management have been also launched. These are given below:

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging has been launched to improve accountability, traceability, and transparency and facilitate ease of reporting compliance to EPR Obligations by Producers, Importers and Brand-owners.

National Dashboard on Elimination of Single-Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management has been launched for tracking the progress made on the effective management of plastic waste. It will bring all stakeholders at one place.

26. Recently In April In A first of it's kind of museum in India Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh Chairman Tashi Gyaltsen inaugurated the **Community Museum in _____ villages of Leh district to preserving rich cultural heritage for future generation .**

- A. Hanley
- B. Fiang
- C. Ghourang
- D. Gya Sasoma**

A Community Museum has been inaugurated in Gya - Sasoma villages of Leh district. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh Chairman Tashi Gyaltsen has inaugurated the Community Museum.

It will help in preserving rich cultural heritage for the future generation. It is the first of its kind of museum in India.

The museum has been established by the Department of Museology National Museum Institute in association with LAHDC, Leh. Traditional utility items, textiles, dresses and the antiquities of the day-to-day life of Gya-Sasoma are the main attractions of this museum.

LAHDC and National Museum Institute signed MoU for technical assistance and further development of the museum. Gya is the first village and oldest inhabitation in Upper Ladakh. It is situated on the Leh-Manali National Highway.

27. Recently In April The Report Titled '*Pandemic, Poverty, and Inequality: Evidence from India*' was released By _____ which shows that *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKAY)*, played a key role in keeping extreme poverty in India at the lowest level of _____ per cent during the pandemic-hit 2020

- A. ADB, 2.1 %
- B. WB, 0.9 %
- C. IMF, 0.8 %
- D. UNCTAD, 0.5 %

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which provides free foodgrains to poor people, played a key role in keeping extreme poverty in India at the lowest level of 0.8 per cent during the pandemic-hit 2020, according to a working paper of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Under PMGKAY, which was launched in March 2020, the central government provides 5 kilograms of foodgrains per month for free.

The additional free grain is over and above the normal quota provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2-3 per kilogram. The food support (rations) was increased during the pandemic - the food grain ration was doubled for each recipient from 5 kg of wheat (or rice) per month to 10 kilograms in 2020, PMGKAY has been extended till September 2022

● IMF PAPER FINDINGS

India kept extreme poverty below 1% despite pandemic

The paper presents estimates of poverty & consumption inequality in India for each of the years from 2004-05 through 2020-21

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 6

EXTREME POVERTY IN India was as low as 0.8% in 2019 and the country managed to keep it at that level in 2020 despite the unprecedented Covid-19 outbreak, by resorting to food transfers through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), according to a working paper by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The paper, titled *Pandemic, Poverty & Inequality: Evidence from India* observed that "post-food subsidy inequality at 0.294 is now very close to its lowest level 0.284 observed in 1993/94". It's authored by economists Surjit Bhalla, Karan Bhasin and Arvind Virmani.

The paper presents estimates of poverty and consumption inequality in India



IN A NUTSHELL

■ As many as 89.1% of rural eligible households and 77.3% of urban households, with an all-India average of 84.6%, received food transfers during the pandemic through the public distribution system

■ The share of food in the average Indian consumption basket, according to the consumption expenditure survey of 2011-12, stands at 46%

for each of the years from 2004-05 through 2020-21. "These estimates include, for the first time, the effect of in-kind food subsidies on poverty and inequality."

As many as 89.1% of rural eligible households and 77.3% of urban households, with an

all-India average of 84.6%, received food transfers during the pandemic through the public distribution system.

Such effective targeting of food seems to have been the most appropriate policy response to pandemic-induced poverty. The share of

food in the average Indian consumption basket, according to the consumption expenditure survey of 2011-12, stands at 46%. However, for the poor, it's upwards of 60%, according to the paper.

"The expansion of India's food subsidy program rather than increasing cash transfers enabled the government to provide free food as per the average monthly requirement to all those who were entitled to purchase the same from the PDS system. The Food Security Act (2013) and the increased use of Aadhar accelerated the declining proportion of leakage(s) in the programme."

The supply of free grains as part of the PMGKY scheme was initially launched for the April-June period of FY21; it was later extended till November-end, 2020. In the wake of the second wave of the pandemic, it was re-introduced in May 2021 and then got extended till FY22-end. Recently, it has been extended up to September 2022. Under the scheme, more than 81.35 crore people are eligible for 5 kg free wheat/rice per person per month, along with 1 kg free whole chana to each family per month. The latest extension would cost the government ₹80,000 crore.

28. Recently In April *Chithirai Festival*, also known as *Chithirai Thiruvizha*, was celebrated in which of the following state .

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- A. Odisha
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Kerala
- D. Telanagana

The annual Chithirai Festival in Madurai has been sustaining its reputation as the 'Festival of Festivals'. Chithirai Festival, also known as Chithirai Thiruvizha, Meenakshi Kalyanam or Meenakshi Thirukalyanam, is an annual Tamil Hindu celebration in the city of Madurai during the month of April. The festival, celebrated during the Tamil month of Chithirai, is associated with the Meenakshi Temple, dedicated to the goddess Meenakshi, a form of Parvati and her consort Sundareshwar, a form of Shiva.

29. Recently In April A Christian group of _____ state has claimed that it will build the *world's largest church 'Zofate Pathian Biakinpui' building in Serchhip district of the North-eastern state.*

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



Zoram Thar Zofate Lairelna Inpui, a religious group in Mizoram is all set to build world's largest church. The church is planned to be built at Thenzawl town in central Mizoram's Serchhip district, about 87 km from Aizawl via World Bank Road.

Zoram Thar Zofate Lairelna Inpui (formerly Zoram Thar) is a non-denominational church founded by former Presbyterian missionary Rev Dr Zaichhawna Hlawndo in February 2016.

The group claimed that they belong to Israel and are descendants of Joseph, one of Jacob's 12 sons found in the Old Testament.

The length and breadth of the church will be 270 feet and its height will be 177 feet

30. Recently In April The *biggest tribal festival of Sarhul*, in which sal trees are worshipped, was celebrated with traditional gaiety and fervor across _____ .

- A. Jammu & Kashmir
- B. Punjab**

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- C. Haryana
- D. Jharkhand**

Sarhul, also called the spring festival, started with rituals in the morning, followed by a forecast of rains by 'pahans' (priests) based on traditional practices.

Sarhul, which is a three-day festival, begins on the third day of Chaitra. People of various tribes such as Oraon, Munda and Ho pay obeisance to the sal tree and thank nature for providing shelter, livelihood and food.

Sarhul celebrated across Jharkhand with traditional gaiety and fervour. It is one of the biggest tribal festivals in Jharkhand. It is also called the spring festival.

This three-day festival is celebrated mainly by Oraon, Munda and Ho tribes.

In this festival, Sal trees are worshipped and people pray for good rainfall. As per the tradition, two earthen pitchers filled with water are placed under a sal tree overnight.

31. Recently In April *The first ever open Kayaking and Canoeing Marathon Race* started On _____ River organized by J&K Sports Council was flagged off by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta .
- A. Chenab
 - B. Jhelum**
 - C. Sutlej
 - D. Beas

In Jammu and Kashmir, the first-ever Open Kayaking and Canoeing Marathon Race in river Jhelum organized by J&K Sports Council was flagged off by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta

Around 100 participants including 10 female athletes, took part in the Marathon which started from the Zero Bridge to the Ganpatyar area of Srinagar city. The race had 4 categories which included Senior, Junior, K1, and K2.

32. Recently In April _____ launched the '*Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (dgcs) Performance Monitoring System*' to instill a sense of ownership and duty in the people to make Ganga Aviral and Nirmal And will help the dgcs in enhancing people-river connect .
- A. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**
 - B. Ashwini Vaishnav
 - C. Giriraj Singh
 - D. Piyush Goyal

Digital Dashboard launched today will help the DGCs in enhancing people-river connect. Pointing out that some DGCs are not conducting regular meeting, he urged the District Magistrates to make sure that Ganga cleaning becomes a priority and under the chairmanship of District Magistrates cleanliness in River Ganga is ensured.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It acted as the implementation arm of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) , G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

33. Recently In April _____ Has **Built And Commissioned India's Largest Wastewater Treatment Plant With A20 Technology In _____** .

- A. IOCL , Andhra Pradesh
- B. SPIC . Tamilnadu
- C. **L&T , Delhi**
- D. Saint Gobin , Maharashtra

Under the Namami Gange Programme, a total of 11 projects for treatment of 1268 MLD sewage have been taken up in Delhi at a cost of ₹2,009 crore by the National Mission for Clean Ganga

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

The funds are being provided by the central government. As per the cost-sharing arrangement, 85% of the cost is being borne by the central government under the Namami Gange Programme and 15% by the state government.

The total sanction cost of the Okhla STP project is ₹665.78 crores.

34. Recently In April the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India has initiated the launch of a pilot project in the state of _____ to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit .**

- A. Haryana
- B. **Uttarakhand**
- C. Punjab
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched 'One Health' pilot project in Uttarakhand.

This pilot project has been launched to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.

Its main aim is to develop a national One Health roadmap based on the outcomes of the pilot project.

An Inter-ministerial One Health committee has been also formed under the chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Adviser for the implementation of the One Health Support Unit.

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary (AHD), a Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been also formed.

Its main objective is to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance.

35. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **India's first underwater metro tunnel :**

1. **Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRCL) is building the corridor to establish India's first underwater metro tunnel For better connectivity between Howrah and Kolkata expected to be functional by 2023.**
2. **The tunnel will stretch up to 16.6-km, of which 520 metres will be 33 meters below the riverbed**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

The construction of India's first underwater tunnel in Kolkata under the Hooghly river for establishing metro connectivity between Howrah and Kolkata is underway and will be made fully functional by 2023.

Of the 16.6-km-long east-west stretch, 520 metres will be under the river bed. The tunnel corridor is built 33 meters below the riverbed and will connect Kolkata to Howrah.

The Kolkata East-West Metro line is being constructed by Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRCL) and is the underwater tunnel that will go beneath the Hooghly river.

The East-West corridor was cleared by UPA government in 2006-07. At that time, the project cost was Rs 4,874 crore and it was expected to be operational by August 2022. By then the expenditure was projected to reach Rs 8,575 crore. Work, however, got delayed because of the pandemic.

According to National Herald, Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) had to be imported from Switzerland by Shapoorji Pallonji for the construction of this corridor.

36. Recently In April Highway construction fell by a fifth on year in 2021-22 at _____ km per day From The 40 km/day target set at the beginning of last fiscal .

- A. 33 Km Per Day
- B. 36 Km Per Day
- C. 29Km Per Day
- D. 23 Km Per Day

The achievement was also lower than the revised target of 33 km/day for the fiscal and 36.5 km a day achieved in 2020-21.

The initial higher target of constructing 14,600 km highways in 2021-22 was based on the assumption that the pace of construction in 2020-21 could be prevailed.

Highway construction falls 20% y-o-y in FY22



SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, April 6

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION FELL by a fifth on year in 2021-22 at 29 km per day. The construction was far less than 40 km/day target set at the beginning of last fiscal. The achievement was also lower than the revised target of 33 km/day for the fiscal and 36.5 km a day achieved in 2020-21.

While highways have been one segment that has consistently been weathering the broader economy's travails and even the pandemic shock in 2020-21, the fall in the pace of average daily construction in 2021-22 is mainly due to protracted rains and multiple cyclones that affected construction work in several southern states, analysts said. The second wave of the pandemic also hit construction.

Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, director, Crisil, said, "Given the backdrop of Covid and an extended monsoon, this is certainly good achievement and also this goes to show the depth of the sector in terms of execution capability. Few relaxations in terms of reduced earnest money deposit (EMD) helped developers in maintaining a healthy cash flow which aided in maintaining a healthy momentum."

Vinayak Chatterjee, chairman, national infrastructure committee, CII, said despite various odds such as prolonged rains, cyclones and Covid-induced restrictions, the FY22 achievement was really a commendable one.

Rajeshwar Burla, Group Head, Corporate Ratings, Icria, said, "The pace of execution has taken a beating due to unseasonal rains and cyclones in multiple geographies which also coincided with peak working season. While February and March were expected to be much better but the steep rise in input prices limited the ability of players to ramp up significantly; therefore, the productivity loss in Q3 could not be made up."

In 2020-21, a total of 13,327 km national highway stretch was developed by all executing agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The initial higher target of constructing 14,600 km highways in 2021-22 was based on the assumption that the pace of construction in 2020-21 could be prevailed.

However, towards November-December last year, the ministry lowered the target to 33 km a day or 12,000 km for the entire 2021-22 fiscal as construction hit roadblocks, first by the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and then prolonged rains and cyclones.

Though the construction target for the current fiscal is not immediately known, minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari, in a reply to a Parliament question, said that the ministry plans to construct around 28,391 km highways in 25 months, at a daily average of around 38 km, starting from March this year.

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2	Rangoolee Bansal (New Name - Rangoolee Navdeep Goyal)	01-Nov-08	31
3	Devyani N Parekh	01-Nov-07	31

Place : Mumbai
Date : 07/04/2022
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37. Recently In April *Karaga festival, known as a symbol of harmony and integrity between Hindus and Muslims since over 200 years is To Be Clebrated In _____ .*

- A. **Karnataka**
- B. Odisha
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Jharkhand

Karaga festival is held at Shri Dharmarayaswamy temple in Bengaluru for nine days. Just after the dusk on Karaga day, a priest dressed in female attire leads a colourful procession.

Karaga festival is celebrated each year to mark the return of Draupadi in the form of Adishakthi.

Last two years, the Karaga festivities were kept as a low-key affair due to Corona pandemic. However, this year, amid hijab, halal rows and series of disturbing developments in the state

38. Recently In April _____ government *launched a scheme to set up ‘Hobby Hubs’ in government schools to teach dance, music, arts and crafts after school hours .*

- A. Karantaka
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. **Delhi**
- D. Telangana

Delhi government is planning to set up ‘Hobby Hubs’ in government schools for extra-curricular activities.

For the 2022-2023 academic session, the project of setting up ‘Hobby Hubs’ will be implemented in single shift government schools.

The main aim of the project is to teach dance, music, arts and crafts after school hours.

Schools have been allowed to choose the activities to be started in their schools based on the needs and interests of their students.

The main focus of this project is on five activities: Dance, music, literary, technical, and Indian languages.

39. Recently In April *Kashmir’s first e-museum Has Been Opened In _____ That will showcase the lifetime collection of a female Kashmiri educationist, Atiqa Bano, who managed to create a huge repository of artefact through door-to-door collections .*

- A. Angtang
- B. Hamley
- C. Gai Samosa
- D. **Sopore**

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Finally, a rare virtual museum from Sopore, 40 km from Srinagar, will showcase the lifetime collection of a female Kashmiri educationist, Atiqa Bano, who managed to create a huge repository of artefact through door-to-door collections. She died at the age of 77 in 2017, leaving behind a collection that throws light on the life and customs of 18th and 19th Century rural Kashmir. The e-museum would be rare in the country for it's not a typical private museum set up by any heiress or someone from an elite gharana.

The virtual museum is likely to be online by May this year and is likely to be the stepping stone to set up Kashmir's first community museum in Sopore..

40. Recently In April _____ Has Partnered With Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) For A Joint Innovation Centre (JIC) to boost the development and adoption of digital solutions in aviation .

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

This is the only JIC established by Amazon outside China and the first to be dedicated to the aviation industry. The JIC will enable startups to accelerate innovation in aviation, smart infrastructure, utilities, and mobility by providing comprehensive programme offerings and a technical platform that helps customers innovate quickly utilizing AWS technology. It is expected to open in 2022. Hari Marar, MD & CEO, BIAL,

41. Recently In April Civil Aviation Ministry launched International Air Connectivity Scheme (IACS) scheme To enhance air connectivity between some selected states of India and International destinations . Who Is The Current Civil Aviation Ministry.

- A. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
- B. Piyush Goyal
- C. Ravishankar Prashad
- D. Nitin Gadkari

Kashmir gets its first virtual e-museum

The lifetime dedication of a woman educationist is beginning to bear fruit

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SOPORE (BARAMULLA)

A rare virtual museum in Sopore, 40 km from Srinagar, will showcase the lifetime collection of a woman Kashmiri educationist, Atiqa Bano, who has created a huge repository of artefacts through door-to-door collections. She died at the age of 77 in 2017, leaving behind a collection that throws light on the life and customs of 18th and 19th century rural Kashmir.

The Aliph Foundation, an international organisation involved in protecting cultural heritage, has approved a grant for the e-museum as part of its post-COVID rehabilitation programme.

"We are hopeful that our efforts will create a comprehensive and interactive virtual museum of the artefacts, which will make Bano's collections accessible to people across the world," said Saima Iqbal, principal conservation architect at the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

Bano served at various teaching posts across several districts of Kashmir and dedicated her life to collecting artefacts from locals across the length and breadth of the Valley. However, her death due to cancer almost brought the curtains down on her dream project – Meeras Mahal – where she wanted to set up Kashmir's first community museum in High-



Jewellery, handicraft items from the collection.
PEERZADA ASHIQ

land Colony at Sopore in a multi-storey building on the land donated by her.

Ms. Iqbal and her team, mainly women professionals, have come together to preserve the artefacts from oblivion. The task is daunting though.

Bano has collected a whopping 8,000 artefacts – ranging from kitchen utensils to agricultural tools, clothing, earthenware and manuscripts.

The collection includes donations from Kashmiri Pandit families of old-style earthen puja thalis and wooden palanquins on which are seated various gods and goddesses.

Among other things, the collection has terracotta items from the 4th Century Kushan period, coins from pre-Islamic era, and from the time of 10th century ruler Didda, also known as the Catherine of Kashmir.

The collection also includes artefacts from the

Buddhist period, which are likely to open new gateways to understanding the life and times of Kashmir.

"It's an ethnographic collection and highlights the day-to-day life of rural Kashmir, including its farmers as well as those belonging to its elite classes. The collection reflects a syncretic culture of Kashmir. Her artefact are inclusive and give representation to the culture of Muslims, Pandits, Sikhs, and Gujjars," Ms. Iqbal said.

"Bano would spend from her pocket to ferry these artefacts. She would tie up with truck drivers to shift them. This only shows her resolve towards the cause," Ms. Iqbal said.

Moved by Bano's life and dedication, Basita Shah, an architect, is working on compiling a digital repository by taking pictures of the artefacts and drawing sketches to narrate the story being worked out by Ms. Iqbal's team.

"We used to be neighbours. But I never knew about her collection till she died. After her death, the artefacts were in a dire state. She had no resources to store them properly. But their grandeur and beauty could not be taken away. This project will be a beginning to realise her dream," Ms. Shah, who is working on a dynamic and interactive website, said.

The e-museum would be rare in the country for it is not a typical private museum set up by an heiress or someone from an elite gharana.

It reflects the dedication of a lifetime of an ordinary woman living in a far-off rural hamlet in north Kashmir. In fact, Bano is buried in front of the museum as per her last wish.

"Bano was not married. She was focused on culture and traditions. She must have collected these things one by one over four decades. She would convince people about the importance of these artefacts. The museum throws light on the vernacular life, which would have been otherwise unknown to us. She was preserving a layer of culture," Saleem Beg, head of the INTACH's Kashmir chapter, said.

The virtual museum is likely to be online by May this year and is likely to be the stepping stone to set up Kashmir's first community museum in Sopore.

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International Air Connectivity Scheme (IACS) scheme has been launched to enhance air connectivity between some selected states of India and International destinations.

The scheme is supported by the State Governments. The state governments of Assam, Manipur and Tripura have identified some air routes.

Under this scheme, Guwahati, Imphal and Agartala will be connected with Bangkok, Dhaka, Kathmandu, Yangon, Hanoi, Mandalay, Kunming & Chittagong.

Currently, there are two international airports in the northeast region which are located at Guwahati and Imphal.

The Airports Authority of India or AAI is a statutory body, under the ownership of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. Founded: 1 April 1995 , Sanjeev Kumar (Chairman);

42. Recently In April The *Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has contributed an amount of _____ towards the UNESCO Fund for elimination of doping in sport 2022.*

- A. USD 58480
- B. USD 72,124**
- C. USD 64890
- D. USD 34081

As per the resolution of 7COP held in Paris, 29-31 September 2019, the State Parties had agreed to 1% of the contribution of the regular budget of the respective nation to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.

the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has released an enhanced contribution of India to UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport to twice the assessed value i.e. USD 72,124 in 2022.

First time in 2021, the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made a contribution of USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund on the basis of the request received from UNESCO. Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport was agreed to by the Government of India in March 2003,

International News

43. Recently In April Russia's membership to the Human Rights Council (HRC) was suspended after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted, 93 to 24 with 58 abstentions, including India to adopt a resolution suspending Moscow from the UN body. Where Is The HQ Of UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) ?

- A. Geneva
- B. Wasingtomn
- C. New York
- D. Bern

The Human Rights Council is an inter- governmental body within the United Nations system, which is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.

The Human Rights Council replaced the former UN Commission on Human Rights. It was created by the UNGA on March 15, 2006, and the body met in its first session from June 19-30, 2006.

The Council, which meets at the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland, is made up of 47 UN Member States who are elected by majority vote through a direct and secret ballot at the UNGA.

The members serve for three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

Russia was elected to Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2020. Libya is the only member state to be suspended from the UNHRC. It was suspended in 2011.

Federico Villegas is the current president of UNHRC.

44. Recently In March _____ has become the East Africa Community's (EAC) seventh member .

- A. Kenya
- B. Rwanda
- C. Democratic Republic of Congo
- D. Tanzania

Russia suspended from rights council

India abstains from vote at UNGA

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Russia's membership to the Human Rights Council (HRC), to which it was elected in 2020, was suspended on Thursday after the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted, 93 to 24, with 58 abstentions, including India, to adopt a resolution suspending Moscow from the UN body.

The resolution, 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council', was proposed by a group of countries that included Ukraine, the U.S., the EU, several Latin American countries and required a two-thirds majority of those present and voting for adoption. Abstentions do not count in the tally of those 'present and voting'. India abstained for reasons of "substance and process", its Permanent Representative to the UN (UNPR), T.S. Tirumurti, said.

India's stand

"We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process as all our democratic polity



The Russian delegation reacts to the vote at the General Assembly. ■ REUTERS

and structures enjoin us to do so. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," Mr. Tirumurti said during his 'Explanation of Vote' speech at the UNGA.

The U.S., which has had an uneven relationship with the HRC itself (having quit it under the Trump administration only to rejoin it last year) had been a driving force behind the resolution.

"If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace. And it is for an immediate end to violence," Mr. Tirumurti said, calling for diplomacy.

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UKRAINE SEEKS ARMS ► PAGE 13

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The other members of the community are Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The DRC is the EAC's largest and most populous member. Its capital is Kinshasa. Its currency is the Congolese franc.

East African Community (EAC): It is an intergovernmental organization made up of seven countries in East Africa's Great Lakes region. Its headquarters is in Arusha, Tanzania.

It was first established in 1967 and re-established on 7 July 2000.

45. Recently In April Economic Zones Authority of which of the following neighboring nations of India has signed an agreement with Adani Ports and SEZ Limited for setting up of Indian Economic Zone ?

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

Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Adani Ports and SEZ Limited have signed an agreement.

The agreement is for setting up of an Indian Economic Zone at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Mirsarai of Chattogram, Bangladesh.

The two entities have signed the agreement in Mumbai. Indian Economic Zone will provide facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh.

It is being constructed on 857 acres of land with an estimated cost of Taka 964 crore. It is supported by an Indian line of credit of USD 115 million. In June 2015, Bangladesh and India had signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up an Indian economic zone.

Indian Economic Zone will be the second-largest economic zone among economic zones being built in Bangladesh with intergovernmental cooperation. Japanese Economic Zone will be the largest one

46. Recently In April India and _____ have recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the public-sector Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a state of the art Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) .

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

MRCCs are part of an international network under the UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes with the objective of swift response to emergencies, such as vessels in distress, rescue and evacuation of people, and prevention of and containing environmental disasters such as oil spills.

The work of MRCCs is co-ordinated by the Navy or Coast Guard in each country. In India, the Coast Guard is the co-ordinating agency. In Sri Lanka, it is the Navy

47. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **MOU Between India - Australia** :

1. India and Australia have signed the bilateral 'Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
2. Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India while India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner.
3. There will be a special review mechanism for compulsory review after 15 years for certain aspects of the agreement in a time-bound manner.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

IndAus ECTA will help increasing bilateral trade between India and Australia from current \$27 billion to \$45-50 billion in the next five years.

IndAus ECTA excludes agriculture and dairy items, gold, silver, platinum, jewellery, iron ore, and most medical devices. The agreement has a provision that both countries will work towards concluding an enhanced agricultural Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment said that Government of Australia's goal is to include India into top three markets of Australia by 2035.

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) covers trade in both goods and services between India and Australia. Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia signed IndAus ECTA in a virtual ceremony on 02 April 2022. India is Australia's fifth-largest trading partner. In February 2022, Indo- UAE CEPA was signed. It is a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

India-Australia FTA to double trade to \$50 billion in 5 years +

Australian wine, meat, wool, coal to get cheaper; Indian pharma, labour-intensive sectors to gain

AMITI SEN
New Delhi, April 2

India and Australia have today signed an ambitious free trade agreement (FTA) in goods and services slashing import duties on a wide variety of items including wines, coal, meat, macadamia nuts and wool from Australia and pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, leather, and gems & jewellery from India.

Concessions have also been provided in the services sector with both countries willing to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications, licensing, and registration procedures between professional bodies. Australia has agreed to provide access for young Indians to participate in working holidays in the country.

"The agreement will help in taking bilateral trade from \$27 billion to \$45-50 billion in the next five years. India expects one million jobs will be

created in the country in the next five years," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at a press conference after signing the agreement with Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan in a virtual event.

Modi, Morrison take part
The free trade pact, officially called the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. It was signed in just a little over six months after the re-launch of negotiations in September 2021. The countries are now expected to work towards a wider Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to include more elements such as agriculture trade, digital trade and government procurement.

Tariffs will be eliminated on more than 85 per cent of



PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison at the virtual signing ceremony of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement on Saturday.

Australian goods exported to India, rising to almost 91 per cent over 10 years, while 96 per cent of Indian goods will enter Australia duty-free, per a statement by the Australian government.

Excluded items

Importantly, many of India's sensitive agriculture and dairy items, such as milk, chickpeas, walnut, pistachio nut, wheat, rice, bajra, apple, sunflower seed oil, sugar, and oil cake have been excluded from the free trade pact.

30 per cent tariffs on sheep meat and a 2.5 per cent tariff on wool, according to Australia's statement. Tariffs on wine with a minimum import price of \$5 per bottle will be reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent on entry into force and subsequently to 50 per cent over 10 years.

Tariffs up to 30 per cent on avocados, onions, broad, kidney and adzuki beans, cherries, shelled pistachios, macadamias, cashews in-shell, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants will be eliminated over seven years.

"The resources sector will benefit from the elimination of tariffs on entry into force for coal, alumina, metallic ores, including manganese, copper and nickel; and critical minerals including titanium and zirconium. LNG tariffs will be bound at 0 per cent at entry into force," the release said.

More reports on p12

48. Consider The Following Statement Regarding MOU Signed Between India - Turkmenistan :

1. India and Turkmenistan signed four agreements, including financial intelligence and disaster management, as President Ram Nath Kovind met his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov
2. Cooperation in energy was one of the key Mou On the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

India and Turkmenistan signed four agreements, including in financial intelligence and disaster management, as President Ram Nath Kovind met his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov

This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov

The two leaders highlighted the significance of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor

President Kovind pointed out that the Chabahar port built by India in Iran could be used to improve trade between India and Central Asia.

“Cooperation in energy was one of the key areas of our discussions today. On the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline

India signs 4 MoUs with Turkmenistan for cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Ashgabat, April 2

INDIA AND TURKMENISTAN signed four agreements, including in financial intelligence and disaster management, as President Ram Nath Kovind met his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov here on Saturday and agreed to expand bilateral trade and energy cooperation to further strengthen the multifaceted partnership.

This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov.

During his meeting today with the President of Turkmenistan Berdimuhamedov, President Kovind held a detailed discussion on the state and prospects of bilateral relations and also exchanged views on various regional and international issues of importance.

“We have agreed to intensify efforts to further strengthen our multifaceted partnership. Economic relations strengthen bilateral ties. We agreed to do more to expand bilateral trade which has remained modest. Our business communities must deepen their engagement, understand each other’s regulations and identify new areas of trade and investment,” the president said in a statement issued by the MEA.

The two leaders highlighted the significance of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor.

The meeting

■ During his meeting, President Kovind held detailed discussions on the state and prospects of bilateral relations and also exchanged views on various regional and international issues of importance

■ The two leaders highlighted the significance of the International North South Transport Corridor and the Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor

■ President Kovind pointed out the Chabahar port built by India in Iran could be used to improve trade between India and Central Asia

bat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor.

Kovind pointed out that the Chabahar port built by India in Iran could be used to improve trade between India and Central Asia. “Cooperation in energy was one of the key areas of our discussions today. On the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline, I suggested that issues related to the security of the pipeline and key business principles may be addressed in Technical and Expert level meetings,” he said.

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49. Recently In April **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement** has set up a target of _____ for greater engagement in science and technology, research, and education .

- A. USD 40 Million
- B. Usd 80 Billion
- C. **USD 100 Billion**
- D. Usd 90 Billion

India, Australia target \$100bn trade by 2030

Rajeev Jayaswal

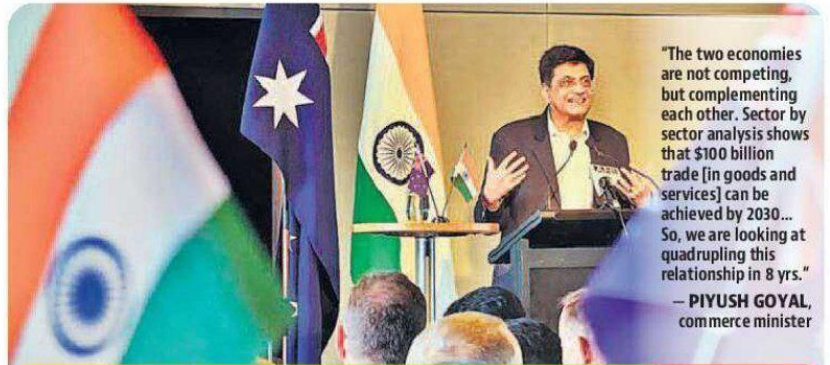
letters@hindustantimes.com

MELBOURNE: India and Australia can potentially take their bilateral trade from \$27.5 billion to \$100 billion in eight years, the trade ministers of the two countries said on Wednesday, days after the two sides struck an interim trade deal that has significant implications for the economies of both countries as well as geopolitical alignments, particularly in the context of checking China.

The interim free trade agreement, among eight such big ticket partnerships India is working on with countries such as the UK, the European Union nations, Israel and Canada, will pave the way for both sides to boost exports and ease rules for tourists and working professionals.

Addressing Australian businesses in Melbourne, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said: "The two economies are not competing, but complementing each other. Sector by sector analysis show that \$100 billion trade [in goods and services] can be achieved by 2030."

"Let's be ambitious, let's look at \$100 billion engagement by 2030... So we are looking at quadrupling this relationship in eight years," he said, asking industry



TRADE TARGET
FROM \$27.5bn
NOW TO \$100bn
BY 2030

BUILDING ON GROUNDWORK OF FTA
 On April 2, India and Australia signed an interim free-trade agreement that offers zero duty exports to 100% tariff lines from India to Australian market

OTHER AREAS OF EXPANSION: The two partners are negotiating a more comprehensive agreement in various areas, including sports and dual degrees programmes for students pursuing special courses in streams such as science and technology

A GLOBAL PUSH
 The Aus FTA is among eight such big-ticket partnerships India is working on with countries such as the UK, the European Union nations, Israel and Canada

to make efforts in this direction as the two governments are willing to provide policy support.

Australian trade minister Dan Tehan said that the target is achievable since the two partners are negotiating a more comprehensive agreement in various areas, including sports and dual degrees programmes for students pursuing special courses in streams such as sci-

ence and technology.

"The arrangement, which is expected soon, will help thousands of students from both countries. India will provide educational opportunities in subjects such as maths and science and Australia offers education and research opportunities in specialised subjects. This will not only provide best of learning in the two countries, but also

halve the cost of education," Goyal added.

Tehan attributed the growing relationship between India and Australia to the Quad's values. "Keeping the Indo-Pacific free and open as a place where liberal democracies can flourish is just so, so important," he said.

Friction between Australia's government and Beijing has

continued on → 13

50. Consider The Following Statement Regarding MOU Signed Between India and Nepal :

1. Both Countries jointly inaugurated the **Solu Corridor 132 KV Power Transmission Line and Substation in Nepal**. It has been built with the assistance of India.
2. They also flagged off cross-border passenger train services between **Jaynagar (India) and Kurtha (Nepal)**.
3. Nepal has officially become **105th member of the International Solar Alliance**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 2

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D. All of the above



PM Modi with his Nepal counterpart in Delhi on Saturday 11/24

Agreements signed

- > MOU for Enhancing Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector
- > Agreement for Supply of Petroleum Products between Nepal Oil Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- > Agreement for
- Sharing Technical Expertise between Nepal Oil Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- > Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA). Nepal 105th country to join ISA

● **VOW TO FURTHER BILATERAL TIES**

India, Nepal ink four pacts in railways, energy sectors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 2

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba on Saturday inaugurated a cross-border railway network, a power transmission line and launched India's RuPay payment card in Nepal after they vowed to significantly expand the bilateral ties in wide-ranging talks.

The two sides also inked four pacts to expand cooperation in areas of railways and energy.

In his statement to the media, Deuba said the boundary issue between the two countries was discussed and he urged Modi to resolve it through the establishment of a bilateral mechanism.

Modi said the friendly ties between India and Nepal are unique and such a relationship is not seen anywhere else in the world. He said India has been and will continue to remain a firm companion in Nepal's journey for peace, prosperity and development.

Modi said the joint vision statement between the two sides on power cooperation will prove to be a blueprint for future cooperation in the sector. He said it was agreed on the greater participation of Indian companies in Nepal's hydropower development plans.

Following the talks, the two prime ministers flagged off the inaugural run of the first broad-gauge passenger train



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Saturday
EXPRESS PHOTO: PRAVEEN KHANNA

between Jaynagar in Bihar and Nepal's Kurtha.

The Nepalese prime minister said Nepal's relationship with India is "highly important". Deuba, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in New Delhi on Friday on a three-day visit. It is Deuba's first bilateral visit abroad after becoming prime minister in July last year for a fifth time following a spell of political turmoil in Kathmandu. Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

Deuba: Politicisation of Indo-Nepal boundary issue should be avoided

NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER Sher Bahadur Deuba on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to establish a bilateral mechanism to resolve the boundary issue while India said the general understanding between the two sides was to address it in a responsible manner and that its "politicisation" should be avoided.

In his statement to the media in presence of Modi, Deuba said the boundary

issue was discussed in the talks between the two sides and he urged the Indian prime minister to resolve it through the establishment of a bilateral mechanism.

Hours later at a media briefing, foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said there was a general understanding that the issue needed to be addressed in a responsible manner through dialogue and its "politicisation" should be avoided. — PTI

After talks between PM Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba, India and Nepal signed four pacts for cooperation in the field of railways, energy, etc.

Both leaders jointly inaugurated the Solu Corridor 132 KV Power Transmission Line and Substation in Nepal. It has been built with the assistance of India.

They also flagged off cross-border passenger train services between Jaynagar (India) and Kurtha (Nepal).

On this occasion, both countries' Prime Ministers launched RuPay Card in Nepal. Both countries also agreed upon further strengthening the cooperation between the defense and security institutions.

Projects like Nepal Police Academy, Integrated Check Post in Nepalganj and Ramayana Circuit will strengthen ties between both countries.

Nepal has officially become 105th member of the International Solar Alliance.

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The Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov had arrived in India after concluding a two-day visit to China. Russian foreign minister held talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.

Russian foreign minister offered steep discounts on the direct sale of oil and both sides also discussed the Rupee-rouble trade arrangement for bilateral trade. Rupee-rouble trade mechanism:

It is a payment mechanism that will allow Indian exporters to pay in Indian rupees for their exports to Russia.

Under this arrangement, a Russian bank will have to open an account in an Indian bank.

Earlier, India and Russia have used a rupee-rouble payment mechanism for the trade of few items like tea.

Madhya Pradesh CM has launched the Mukhyamantri Udyami Kranti Yojana.

Mukhyamantri Udyami Kranti Yojna has been launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who stated that employment generation is the state government's top goal.

The scheme would give loans ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 50 lakh to young people in the manufacturing, business, and service sectors.

The state-level event was hosted at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center.

It was presided over by Omprakash Sakhlecha, the minister of small, micro, and medium enterprises (MSME) and Science and Technology. The state government would deposit Rs 140 crore in banks for this purpose.

Banking / Economy News

51. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Digital banking unit norms Released By RBI :

1. Commercial banks (other than rrbs, payment banks and labs) with past digital banking experience are permitted to open dbus in tier 1 to tier 6 centres,
2. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech for fiscal 2022-2023, had announced setting up of 75 dbus in 75 districts to commemorate 75 years of independence of the country.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit or hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time, all year round,

As per the RBI, each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services. Such products should be on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment. Digital services include cash withdrawal and cash deposit only through ATM and cash deposit machines respectively without physical cash acceptance

Digital banking unit norms: 24x7 ops, in tier 1-6 centres



The Reserve Bank said each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services. File

RBI to allow SCBs open digital banking units

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 7
To expand digital financial services and financial inclusion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) with past digital banking experience to open Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres.

Guidelines released

The central bank, on Thursday, released guidelines for SCBs (other than Regional Rural Banks, Payment Banks and Local Area Banks) on the establishment of DBUs.

This is pursuant to an announcement made in the Union Budget FY23 for the setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. A DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit/hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services, as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally, in both self-service and assisted mode, all



year round, according to the RBI.

The banking regulator emphasised that establishment of DBUs should be part of the digital banking strategy of the bank

The central bank said DBUs of banks will be treated as Banking Outlets (BOs). Each DBU has to be housed distinctly, with the separate entry and exit provisions. They will be separate from an existing BO with formats and designs most appropriate for digital banking users.

Each DBU is required to offer certain minimum digital bank-

ing products and services, per the guidelines.

Such products should be on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment. Digitally value-added services to conventional products would also qualify as such.

DBUs have to offer liability products and services such as account opening, digital kit for customers (mobile and Internet banking, debit and credit cards, and mass transit system cards) and digital kit for merchants (UPI QR code, BHIM Aadhaar, POS, among others).

On the assets side, DBU have to enable making applications for and onboarding of customer for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans; and identified government-sponsored schemes that are covered under the National Portal.

On the digital services front, DBUs have to allow cash withdrawal and cash deposit only through ATM and Cash Deposit Machines, respectively; pass-

book printing / statement generation; Internet banking kiosk; transfer of funds; and updation of KYC / other personal details.

The RBI said any product or service that can be provided digitally through Internet banking or mobile banking can be provided in the DBU.

Any product or service, which a bank is not permitted to offer as per the provisions of Banking Regulation Act 1949, as amended from time to time, cannot be offered by the DBU.

Smart equipment

For the distribution layer of digital banking, each bank can choose suitable smart equipment, such as Interactive Teller Machines, Interactive Bankers, Service Terminals, Teller and Cash Recyclers, Interactive Digital Walls, Document uploading, self-service card issuance devices, Video KYC Apparatus, secured and connected environment for use of own device for digital banking, Video Call / Conferencing facilities, to set up an DBU.

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released the guidelines on establishment of digital banking units (DBUs) after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech for fiscal 2022-23, had announced setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate 75 years of independence of the country.

DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit or hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time, all year round, the RBI said. Commercial banks (other than RRBs, payment banks and LABs) with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in tier 1 to tier 6 centres, unless otherwise specifically restricted, without having the need to take permission from the RBI in each case, it added. **ENS**

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52. Recently In April _____ and HSBC India (HSBC) have partnered to establish a _____ million partial guarantee program to support over 400,000 micro-borrowers and mostly women-owned microenterprises across India .
- A. ADB , \$ 100 Million
 - B. WB , \$ 200 Million
 - C. AIIB , \$ 300 Million
 - D. NDB , \$ 500 Million

ADB and HSBC India (HSBC) have partnered to establish a \$100 million partial guarantee program for MFIs in India.

The partnership aims to support over 400,000 micro-borrowers and mostly women-owned microenterprises across India.

Under the deal, total \$30 million will be initially distributed to three microfinance institutions (MFIs) in India by April 2022.

This is the first collaboration between ADB and HSBC. Through the partnership, HSBC will give loans to microfinance institutions (MFIs) and non-bank finance companies, with ADB partially guaranteeing loans.

Asian Development Bank (ADB): It is a regional development bank established in 1966. Its members are 68 countries. Its headquarters is in Mandaluyong, Philippines. Its President is Masatsugu Asakawa.

HSBC Bank India is a subsidiary of British bank, HSBC. Its headquarters is in Mumbai. Its CEO is Hitendra Dave

53. Recently In April _____ Signed An MOU With International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) for the strengthening of inter-regulatory exchange of information, technical cooperation, and supervisory collaboration as well as provides opportunities for developing innovative insurance solutions for the evolving global trends.
- A. State Bank of India
 - B. Reserve Bank Of India
 - C. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
 - D. Security Exchange Board Of India

54. Recently In April International Financial Services Centres Authority has signed mou with _____ for the purpose of policy research in emerging financial areas.
- A. Institute of Management Kolkata
 - B. Institute of Management Bangalore
 - C. Institute of Management Ahmedabad
 - D. Institute of Management Indore

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Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson of IFSCA and Debasish Panda, Chairperson of IRDAI have signed a MoU at IRDAI's head office in Hyderabad.

This MoU focuses on the strengthening of inter-regulatory exchange of information, technical cooperation, and supervisory collaboration.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is responsible for the overall development and regulation of the insurance sector in India.

IFSCA has also signed MoU with Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). This MoU has been signed for the purpose of policy research in the financial areas that are emerging.

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA): It was established to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). It was established on April 27, 2020. It is headquartered at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

55. Recently In April In view of improvement in the pandemic situation, the Reserve Bank on Friday decided to reduce the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and Union Territories to Rs _____ from Rs 51,560 crore .

- A. Rs 48100 Cr
- B. Rs 47010 Cr**
- C. Rs 45910 Cr
- D. Rs 49500 Cr

Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit was earlier increased by RBI to Rs 51,560 crore due to COVID-19 related uncertainties.

The increased WMA limit was in effect until March 31, 2022. The reduced WMA limit has come into effect from April 1, 2022.

RBI's decision to return to earlier WMA limits and timelines for Over Draft (OD) for state governments/Union Territories (UTs) is as per recommendations by Advisory Committee on WMA to State Governments.

Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments (Chairman: Sudhir Shrivastava) was set up by RBI in August 2019. Government of India's WMA limit for the first half of financial year 2022-23 has been kept at Rs 1,50,000 crore.

RBI lowers WMA for States to ₹47,010 crore

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday reduced the Ways and Means Advances limit for States and Union Territories to ₹47,010 crore from ₹51,560 crore.

The ways and means advances are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments. Given the uncertainties related to COVID-19, the RBI had raised the WMA limit to ₹51,560 crore till March 31, 2022. PTI

14/18

56. Recently In March Central government has kept its borrowing target for first half (H1) of FY23 at

- A. ₹14.95-lakh crore
- B. ₹8.45-lakh crore
- C. ₹1.5 lakh crore
- D. ₹ 12.5 lakh crore

- An increase of \$11.5 billion has been recorded in India's external debt during October-December 2021. This debt increased to \$614.9 billion
- Central government has kept its borrowing target for first half (H1) of FY23 at ₹8.45-lakh crore.
- This target is about 60% of overall market borrowing target of ₹14.95-lakh crore for FY23 announced by government in the budget.
- Ways and Mean Advances (WMA) limit for H1 of FY 2022-23 has been fixed by RBI at ₹1.5 lakh crore.
- An increase of \$11.5 billion has been recorded in India's external debt during October-December

Govt to borrow ₹8.45-lakh cr in FY23 first half

Economists say front-loading will assuage market; interest rate will depend on inflation

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 31

The Centre, on Thursday, finalised its borrowing programme for the first half of FY23, pegging the target at ₹8.45-lakh crore for this period.

The borrowing plan, which was finalised in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is in line with expectations and is market-friendly.

With the borrowing plan for the first half of FY23 coming in at about 60 per cent of the overall borrowing target of ₹14.95-lakh crore for FY23, economists said this front-loading was in line with last fiscal when the same level of borrowing (60 per cent) was planned for the first half.

It may be recalled that

government had, in this year's Budget, announced gross market borrowings of ₹14.95-lakh crore.

Switch operations

Taking into account the switch operations conducted on January 28, the gross market borrowing through dated securities for FY23 is expected at ₹14.31-lakh crore.

"This borrowing plan, including the front-loading of 60 per cent in the first half, is on expected lines, and the interest rate movement will depend on how inflation pans out from here," Devendra Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings, told BusinessLine.

The first-half borrowing will be spread under 2, 5, 7, 10, 14, 30 and 40 year securities



ies and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) of various tenors.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said the front-loading will assuage the market, and this comes when there is surplus liquidity in the system.

"This is a market-friendly announcement and will not distort the market, given the ample liquidity. It is in line with the expectation of front-loading. Given the geopolitical uncertainty caused by the Ukraine-Russia war,

the demand for credit might be low in the first half, and this seems to have been factored in the borrowing programme," said Sabnavis.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said the issuance calendar for H1 FY23 is slightly more front-loaded than what ICRA had anticipated. "We had expected the Govt's market borrowing calendar to target raising of ₹7.9 trillion gross G-Sec in H1 FY23, 55 per cent of the adjusted budgeted total for FY23. Nevertheless, the announced amount is slightly less front-loaded than H1 FY22, when 62 per cent of the total FY22 borrowing was raised, even though the amount is higher in absolute terms than H1 FY22," she said.

G-sec yields

Once the borrowing for FY23 kicks off, ICRA expect G-sec

yields to start hardening, in line with the global trends, even though the repo rate may not be hiked till August 2022. "We expect the 10-year G-sec yield to cross 7 per cent over the next few weeks, and rise to as much as 7.4 per cent over the course of H1 FY23," said Nayar.

"Overall, we expect a status quo policy in April 2022. However, with the CPI inflation printing above the MPC's upper threshold of 6.0 per cent in January and February, we expect the tone to be less dovish, preparing the ground for an imminent stance change. We expect the monetary policy stance to change to neutral in June, accompanied by a hike in the reverse repo rate, narrowing the corridor.

"Subsequently, we expect a shallow rate hike cycle, with two repo hikes of 25 bps each in August-October."

External debt rose \$11.5 b to \$614.9 b in Oct-Dec

Debt situation is being prudently managed, says Finance Ministry

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 31

India's external debt increased by \$11.5 billion sequentially in October-December 2021 to \$614.9 billion, compared to the second quarter, official data released on Thursday showed. It rose by \$46.6 billion on a year-on-year basis for the quarter under review.

However, as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the external debt declined slightly to 20 per cent as of December-end 2021 from 20.3 per cent as of September-end 2021.

India's external debt continues to be sustainable and is being prudently

managed, said the Finance Ministry in the quarterly external debt report for the quarter ended December 31, 2021.

It highlighted that the short-term debt, on a residual maturity basis, accounted for 43.1 per cent of the foreign exchange reserves as on December 31.

Appreciation of dollar

The appreciation of the US dollar against other major currencies such as the euro and yen helped limit the rise in external debt. Valuation gain due to appreciation of the US dollar vis-a-vis major currencies such as euro and yen, and special drawing rights was placed

at \$1.7 billion. "Excluding the valuation effect, the increase in external debt would have been \$13.2 billion, instead of an increase of \$11.5 billion at December-end 2021 over September-end 2021," said the Finance Ministry.

As much as 52.0 per cent of the external debt was denominated in US dollars at the end of December 2021. Rupee debt constituted 32 per cent, while debt in yen and euro made up 5.3 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively.

Commenting on the external debt report, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said that the external debt of India has increased by \$46.6 billion on a y-o-y basis. "However, the sustainability ratios have been maintained

with the debt/GDP ratio at 20 per cent. While the forex reserves cover ratio is 103 per cent, this would have slipped in the last month with forex reserves dipping. However, a cover ratio of 90 per cent-plus is still comfortable. The ratio of short-term debt has increased to 18.1 per cent from September, but is still lower than the pre-pandemic times," he said.

The majority of the external debt is private. General government external debt stood at \$131.4 billion as on December 31 and was down from \$132.0 billion as of September-end 2021. Non-government external debt, meanwhile, rose to \$483.6 billion from \$471.4 billion.

Commercial borrowings remained the largest chunk

of the external debt, with a share of 36.8 per cent. Non-resident deposits follow with 23.1 per cent, and short-term trade credit is the third-largest component at 18.0 per cent.

Short-term debt

In terms of maturity, debt with an original maturity of up to one year rose to 18.6 per cent of the total external debt from 17.4 per cent as on September 30. While this is a small number, short-term debt on a residual maturity basis - debt that must be repaid in the next 12 months, irrespective of original maturity - rose to 44.4 per cent of the total from 43.2 per cent at the end of September 2021.

In absolute terms, the external debt due in 2022 stood at \$273.0 billion.

2021. This debt increased to \$ 614.9 billion.

- India's external debt as a percentage of GDP decreased from 20.3% as of September-end 2021 to 20% as of December-end 2021.
- As on 31 December 2021, short-term debt (residual maturity) accounted for 43.1% of foreign exchange reserves.

57. As on 28 February 2022, central government's fiscal deficit has increased to _____ of target for FY22 .

- A. 63.5%
- B. 71.4%
- C. 76.5%
- D. 82.7%

April-Feb fiscal deficit of Centre surges to 82.7% of full-year target

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, March 31

Aided by a strong show on both tax and non-tax revenues, the Centre's fiscal deficit for the first eleven months (up to February 28) came in at ₹13.17-lakh crore, which is 82.7 per cent of the Revised Estimate of ₹15.91-lakh crore for 2021-22.

At the same time last fiscal, the Centre's fiscal deficit – as a percentage of Revised Estimate – was 76 per cent, according to the latest data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Given the buoyancy in the Centre's tax and non-tax revenues in 2021-22 and the likely undershooting of capital expenditure (which may absorb the shortfall in disinvestment receipts), the overall fiscal deficit for the current fiscal is expected to be maintained below the RE of ₹15.91-lakh crore or

only see a modest overshoot, said economy watchers.

Impact of war

Till February-end this fiscal, the Centre has achieved only 80 per cent of the budgeted capex, and the target of ₹6-lakh-crore may not be attained as March has been impacted by the Ukraine war, said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda.

The fiscal deficit at 83 per cent of the budgeted amount leaves scope for expansion in March without any additional borrowing even if it is exceeded, Sabnavis noted.

Tax revenues at 84 per cent of the Budget target is lower than that of last year. However, post March 15, there would have been a pick-up in tax collections and, hence, the target will be achieved, according to Sabnavis. "On the whole the fiscal

deficit target will not be breached and there could be an upside of savings, lower fiscal deficit, albeit marginal, if capex is cut.

"The shortfall in disinvestment will be made up by higher tax revenues and probably savings on expenditure," he said.

In April-January 2021, the Centre's fiscal deficit stood at ₹9.37-lakh crore, which was 58.9 per cent of the budgeted fiscal deficit of ₹15.91-lakh crore.

The widening in the Centre's fiscal deficit between January and February could be explained by the release of a massive ₹2.4-lakh crore as Central tax devolution to the States in February, by far the largest monthly release.

This has led to the decline in the GoI's cash balance, said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at rating agency ICRA.

The fiscal deficit up to 28 February stood at ₹13.17-lakh crore. This is 82.7% of revised estimate fiscal deficit of ₹15.91-lakh crore for FY22.

Central government's fiscal deficit has increased to 82.7% of target for FY22.

The fiscal deficit up to 28 February stood at ₹13.17-lakh crore.

This is 82.7% of revised estimate fiscal deficit of ₹15.91-lakh crore for FY22.

Last year, the fiscal deficit stood at 76% as a percentage of revised estimate.

58. Recently In April India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to _____ in the third quarter ended December 2021 (Q3FY22), forming 2.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and reflecting a rise in overseas trade .

- A. \$ 25 Billion
- B. \$23 Billion
- C. \$20 Billion
- D. \$ 29 Billion

The current account deficit was \$9.9 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP) in the second quarter ended September 2021(Q2FY22)

India's current account deficit has increased to \$23 billion in October-December quarter (Q3) of 2021-22.

It stood at \$9.9 billion in Q2 of 2021-22. It was \$2.2 billion in previous year.

Current account deficit has mainly increased on account of higher trade deficit. As a percentage of GDP, current account deficit stood at 2.7% in Q3 of 2021-22.

The data is based on RBI's statement on "Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Third Quarter (October-December) of 2021-22".

Current account deficit widens to 9-year high of \$23 billion in Q3

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 1

The country's current account deficit (CAD) widened steeply to \$23 billion in Q3 (October-December) of 2021-22 against \$9.9 billion in the preceding quarter, mainly on account of higher trade deficit. The CAD was at \$2.2 billion in the year-ago period.

As a percentage of GDP, the CAD, which arises when a country's total import of goods, services and transfers is greater than exports, at 2.7 per cent in the reporting quarter.

In the preceding quarter and the year-ago quarter, the CAD was at 1.3 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, of GDP.

At \$23 billion, the current account deficit for the last quarter of 2021 is the highest in nine years.

Net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of robust performance of net exports of com-

puter (\$28.356 billion) and business services (\$1.590 billion).

Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to \$23.4 billion, an increase of 13.1 per cent from their level a year ago, according to RBI's statement on 'Developments in India's balance of payments during the third quarter (October-December) of 2021-22'.

According to the statement, net outflow from the primary income account, mainly reflecting net overseas investment income payments, increased sequentially and on a y-o-y basis.

FDI inflow

In the financial account, net foreign direct investment recorded an inflow of \$5.1 billion, lower than \$17.4 billion a year ago. Portfolio investment recorded net outflow of \$5.8 billion as against an inflow of \$21.2 billion in Q3 FY21.

Net external commercial borrowings to India recorded outflow of \$0.2 billion in Q3 FY22 as compared with \$1.6 billion a year ago. Non-resident deposits recorded net inflow of \$1.3 billion as compared with \$3.0 billion in Q3 FY21.

According to RBI, there was an accretion of \$0.5 billion to the foreign exchange reserves (on a Balance of Payments/BoP basis) as compared with \$32.5 billion in Q3 FY21

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said the capital account just about covered the CAD leading to marginal increase in forex reserves. Referring to forex sales by RBI in Q4 (January-March 2022), he said there would be a sharp drop in forex reserves with BOP turning negative further in the last quarter.

For the full year (FY22), CAD would be in the region of 1.5-2 per cent with sharp increase in Q4 to 3.5 per cent, opined Sabnavis.

59. Recently In April Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages signed a strategic partnership with the _____ government and announced a fresh investment of Rs 1,000 crore for setting up their second factory in the state .

- A. Telangana
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharastra

The announcement marks the commemoration of 25 years of the company's bottling unit at Ameenpur in Hyderabad.

Coca-Cola will initially invest Rs 600 crore in the new facility and add another Rs 400 crore over the next five years.

The state government has already allocated 49 acres of land at the Food Processing Park and the company hopes to start operations by the end of 2023.

60. Recently In April _____ has reported maximum value of frauds in April-December 2021 as per RBI data amounted to Rs 4,820 crore .

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

The frauds reported by PNB amounted to Rs 4,820 crore. It reported third highest number (10) of frauds.

Highest number (13) of frauds have been reported by Bank of India Bank of India reported second maximum value of frauds (Rs 3,925 crore). . Yes Bank reported second-highest number (11) of frauds.

Total frauds of Rs 34,097 crore have been reported by 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institution in April-December 2021.

Highest number (13) of frauds have been reported by Bank of India. Yes Bank reported second-highest number (11) of frauds.

Bank of India reported second maximum value of frauds (Rs 3,925 crore). State Bank of India reported third highest value of frauds (Rs 3,902 crore).

Total frauds of Rs 34,097 crore have been reported by 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institution in April-December 2021.

PSBs can take certified copies of passport of promoters or directors of companies taking loan of more than Rs 50 crore. The properties of fugitive economic offenders can be attached under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

61. Recently In April RBI for the second time extended the deadline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks till _____ ?.

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

Coca-Cola to invest ₹600 cr in factory near Hyderabad

Signs 3 MoUs with Telangana for water management

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, April 7

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) will set up a factory with an initial investment of ₹600 crore at the Bandathimmapur Food Processing Park in Siddipet district. In the second phase, the company would invest another ₹400 crore.

The 'digitally enabled and automated' factory would manufacture juices, enhanced water, packaged water and sparkling beverages. The factory is expected to be ready for commercial production at the end of 2023.

At a press conference here on Thursday, HCCB Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Neeraj Garg said the company replenishes 15 per cent more water to the system than it consumes. "Our ambition is to build an engineering marvel that can have equal representation of genders at the shopfloor," he said.

The factory, the company's second in Telangana and 16th in the country, would tap wa-

ter from the Kaleshwaram Project. "About 70 per cent of the water we use is surface water and [we] tap the groundwater for the remaining 30 per cent," he said.

Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said the company plans to invest ₹400 crore in the second phase. He asked the company to source the mangoes and sweet lime produced by farmers in the State.

MoUs with Telangana

HCCB has signed three memoranda of understanding (MoU) with the Telangana Government to conduct a capacity building exercise for existing and upcoming intensive water-use industries in the State.

The two entities would collaborate to equip over 10,000 youth with skills to make them employable in the next two years. "We would also facilitate support to establish local vendors for the manufacturing unit through development of MSME units and through linkages with farmer producer organisations," Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary (IT and Industries), said.

31 March 2023 is new deadline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks.

RBI has for the second time extended the deadline by one year.

The banks were advised by RBI in July 2021 that they should use lockable cassettes in their ATMs. 31 March 2021 was the original deadline for all ATMs to get cassette swap. It was extended by one year.

RBI had advised the banks on the basis of recommendations of the Committee on Currency Movement. Committee on Currency Movement was constituted by RBI under chairmanship of D.K. Mohanty.

62. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **FASTER** system to transmit court orders swiftly :

1. Chief Justice of India **N V Ramana** launched **FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records)** software for fast and secure transmission of court orders.
2. The **FASTER** system has been developed by the **Registry in association with the National Informatics Centre.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

SC goes 'FASTER' on delivery of orders

CJI launches new digital platform

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Days of endless waiting to get a hard copy of a Supreme Court order is over. Now, all it takes for the court to do is a soft tap of the 'send' button and, maybe, a couple of blinks of the eye after, with 'FASTER', an abbreviation of 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records', a digital platform formally launched by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Thursday.

The platform would be used by the court officials to instantly to send e-copies of the orders through a secured electronic communication channel to intended parties. The CJI said FASTER would aid the cause of quick

and effortless justice.

The idea stemmed from a case reported in *The Hindu* in July last about several prisoners in the Agra Jail forced to remain behind bars for three days after the court granted them bail because the hard copies of the order had not reached the prison officials.

Shocked by the brazen violation of the fundamental rights of personal liberty, life and dignity of the prisoners, the Chief Justice had *suo motu* taken cognisance of the issue of delay in delivery of court orders and asked whether the court was "still looking at the skies for pigeons to deliver our orders in this era of modern technology?"

Cassette swap in ATMs: RBI extends deadline by another year

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, March 31

The Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks by one year till March 31, 2023.

This is the second extension of timeline that the central bank has given to banks.

The extension of the deadline for implementation of cassette swap in ATMs follows representations the RBI received from various banks and the Indian Banks' Association expressing difficulties in meeting the timeline.

In July 2021, the RBI had advised banks to consider using lockable cassettes in their ATMs which can be swapped at the time of cash replenishment.

The same was advised to be implemented in a phased manner covering at least one third ATMs operated by the banks every year, such that all ATMs achieve cassette swap by March 31, 2021. The RBI later extended the deadline to March 31, 2022.

Various constraints

Banks have cited various constraints, including availability of adequate number of cassettes, readiness of cash replenishment agencies to deal with cassette swap and costs, for the slow progress in implementing cassette swap in ATMs.

At a meeting with banks about two months back, regulatory officials raised the issue of lacklustre progress in implementing cassette swap, despite being given a one-year breather.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana launched FASTER system to transmit court orders swiftly. FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) software has been launched for fast and secure transmission of court orders.

Supreme Court and High Court now can communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders, etc. to authorities with the help of the FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) system.

The FASTER system has been developed by the Registry in association with the National Informatics Centre. All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN).

A FASTER cell has also been established in the Registry of the Supreme Court. The FASTER cell will transmit the digitally signed record of proceedings or orders related to bail to the nodal officers.

63. Recently In April _____ Has Launched Startups Founders Hub in India will give startups free access to the technology, tools, and resources needed will run their business .

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

Microsoft launched Startups Founders Hub to support early-stage startup founders.

Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India will give startups free access to the technology, tools, and resources needed to run their business.

It will be available to all startups in India, including those without third-party validation or funding. Microsoft announced that this platform will offer benefits and credits worth over USD 300,000. It will act as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and innovation in India.

India has the third largest ecosystem of startups after the US and China.

Microsoft launches Startups Founders Hub to boost support



New Delhi: Microsoft on Thursday launched its 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub', a platform that will support founders in India at every stage of their startup journey, with access to over \$300,000 in benefits including technology and tools from the tech giant and its partners. 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub' is a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India, the company said.

PTI

64. Recently In April The Centre for Digital Transformation at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat has set up a Retail Tech Consortium and plans to collaborate with several retail and technology firms in India while _____ has joined as a principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium .

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Flipkart**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

- C. Amazon
- D. Microsoft

The Centre for Digital Transformation in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad has set up a retail tech consortium with Flipkart as the principal partner for the inaugural year.

The consortium is expected to bring to the fore unbiased voices of customers on the digitalization of retail in India and help retailers understand consumers better

The Centre for Digital Transformation at IIMA was inaugurated last September and focuses on activities that enhance an understanding of the digital ecosystem and catalyze leadership.

65. With Regard To **Interest rates on small savings schemes**

For first quarter of FY23 which of the following is

Not matched correctly :

- A. Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.1 %
- B. National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 6.8 %
- C. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana - 7.6 %
- D. EPF deposits - 8.1 %
- E. All of the above are correct

The government has decided to maintain the status quo on interest rates of small savings instruments for the April-June quarter. Interest rates on small saving schemes are reset on a quarterly basis, in line with the movement in benchmark government bonds of similar maturity.

Public Provident Fund (PPF), which is among the most popular fixed income products, fetches 7.1 per cent. National Savings Certificate (NSC) yields 6.8 per cent. The rate on the girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is 7.6 per cent.

The interest rate on savings deposits will continue to be 4 per cent per annum. Term deposits of one to five years will fetch an interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7 per cent,

INTEREST RATES (%)	
Savings Deposit	4.0
1-3 yr Time Deposit	5.5
5 yr RD	5.8
Monthly Income Account	6.6
5 yr Time Deposit	6.7
Natl Savings Certificate	6.8
Kisan Vikas Patra*	6.9
PPF	7.1
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	7.6
EPF	8.1

* (will mature in 124 months)

66. Recently In April _____ has acquired Union Bank's _____ % stake In indiafirst Life Insurance

Company (ifllc) for more than _____ .

- A. Bank Of India , 17 % , Rs 566 Cr
- B. Bank Of Baroda, 21 % , Rs 766 Cr
- C. State Bank Of India , 18 % , Rs 250 Cr
- D. Punjab National Bank , 15 % , Rs 100 Cr

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday said its board has approved acquisition of a 21% stake of Union Bank of India in IndiaFirst Life Insurance, subject to regulatory approvals

On completion of the transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the remaining 26% stake.

At present, according to the insurer's website, Bank of Baroda's stake stands at 44%, Union Bank holds 30% and Carmel Point Investments India has 26% stake in the company.

BoB buys 21% in IFLIC from Union Bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Bank of Baroda has acquired 21% stake in India-First Life Insurance Company (IFLIC) from Union Bank for over ₹766 crore.

The divestment, involving transfer of more than 13.93 crore shares at ₹55 each, was in line with regulator IRDAI's directives to bring down stake in IFLIC to below 10%, Union Bank said on Friday.

Consequent to the transaction completed on Thursday, BoB's stake in IFLIC has increased to 65%, while Union Bank of India's share has fallen to 9%. The remaining 26% is held by Carmel Point Investments India. BoB said IndiaFirst will continue to have a long-term agency distribution agreement with both lenders.

67. Recently In April US Based Private equity major Bain Capital has agreed to acquire a _____ per cent equity stake in IIFL Wealth Management, India's largest non-bank wealth manager at _____.

- A. 24.98 % , Rs 3700 Cr**
- B. 27.52 % , Rs 3600 Cr**
- C. 29.62 % , Rs 5800 Cr**
- D. 35.68 % , Rs 7500 Cr**

Bain Capital has agreed to acquire a 24.98% equity stake in IIFL Wealth Management from General Atlantic and Prem Watsa's Fairfax Holdings for around 3,679.95 crore, the Indian wealth management firm said in a regulatory filing.

General Atlantic had acquired a 21.6% stake in IIFL Wealth in October 2015 for 1,122 crore. Fairfax first invested in IIFL in 2011 when it acquired a 9% stake through Hamblin Watsa Investment Counsel Fund. The fund currently holds around 13.6% in IIFL Wealth.

Bain Capital to buy 25% in IIFL Wealth for ₹3,700 cr

SAMIE MODAK
Mumbai, 31 March

US-based private equity (PE) major Bain Capital has agreed to acquire a 24.98 per cent equity stake in IIFL Wealth Management, India's largest non-bank wealth management player, with assets worth \$44 billion (₹3.3 trillion).

The PE giant will acquire 22.15 million shares at ₹1,666 per share, for nearly ₹3,700 crore. Shares of IIFL Wealth closed at ₹1,671, valuing the company at ₹14,826 crore.

The stake will be acquired from another PE firm General Atlantic and Prem Watsa-owned Fairfax India Holding Mauritius. The transaction won't trigger an open offer as it is just below the 25 per cent threshold.

Bain Capital said the transaction is subject to regulatory and other customary approvals. Sources said the transaction could take a few weeks to complete.

General Atlantic, which had acquired 21 per cent stake in October 2015 for ₹1,122 crore, stands to make a threefold gain on its investment. Meanwhile, Fairfax India Holdings had invested in parent firm IIFL Finance. IIFL Wealth got listed in September 2019 following a demerger scheme. Fairfax said it stands to make a profit of \$65 million (₹492.7 crore) in the deal.

As of December 2021, General Atlantic Singapore held 21 per cent and FIH Mauritius held a 13.64 per cent stake in IIFL Wealth. Fairfax will divest 9.98 per cent stake, while GA will divest 15.18 per cent, as per a disclosure made by the former.

This is the second-largest deal in the country's private wealth management space in recent months.

In August, PE major Blackstone acquired a 74 per cent stake in ASK Group—also among the top five non-bank wealth managers—for \$1 billion. Other PE investors and wealth management players were also eyeing the stake in IIFL



STAKE SALE

- ▶ **General Atlantic, Prem Watsa's Fairfax** to divest their holdings
- ▶ **GA stands to make over 3x gains** on its investment
- ▶ **In August, Blackstone bought 74%** in ASK for \$1 bn
- ▶ **PE firms showing interest** in Indian wealth managers
- ▶ **IIFL Wealth is the largest non-bank wealth manager**

SHARE PRICE MOVEMENT



Wealth, indicating the interest in India's wealth management growth story. IIFL Wealth operates one of the country's largest alternative investment funds (AIF) and has invested in several Indian start-ups such as Byju's and Ola.

The investable assets of the rich in the country have increased significantly over the last few years due to the boom in the stock market and the start-up ecosystem. This has led to an increase in demand for wealth solution providers like IIFL Wealth, which offer tailored-solutions ranging across wealth management, asset management, and estate planning. As per an estimate, the individual wealth in India is projected to grow

at an annualised rate of nearly 12 per cent, doubling to ₹811 trillion by FY25.

"The company is well poised to benefit from secular tailwinds of wealth creation in the economy, better financing, and increasing penetration of formal wealth management. We look forward to working with the team on the next phase of IIFL Wealth's growth journey," said Pawan Singh, Managing Director (MD), Bain Capital.

"Bain Capital's investment is a testament to our strong leadership franchise in the financial services space, and in our team's ability to continue to execute and grow the business to scale," added Karan Bhagat, MD & CEO, IIFL Wealth.

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68. Recently In April *Global investment firm Brookfield* has agreed to buy _____ per cent stake in *Bharti Enterprises'* four commercial properties, including worldmark at aerocity in the national capital, at an enterprise value of _____ .

- A. 49 % , Rs 3500 Cr
- B. 51 % , Rs 5000 Cr
- C. 35 % , Rs 3000 Cr
- D. 42 % , Rs 2000 Cr

A real estate fund of Canada's Brookfield Asset Management will buy 51% stake in Bharti Enterprises's four commercial properties - Worldmark Aerocity (Delhi), Worldmark 65 and Airtel Center (Gurugram) and Pavillion Mall (Ludhiana) – for an enterprise value of ₹5000 crore.

As part of the joint venture agreement, Bharti Enterprises, which operates in the telecom, insurance, hospitality and food space, will continue to retain 49% economic interest in these properties.

Brookfield's real estate operating arm, Brookfield Properties will manage the four properties, across 3.3 million sq ft, going forward. The transaction will be consummated upon receipt of requisite regulatory approvals.

Bharti sells 4 realty assets to Brookfield in ₹5,000-crore deal

3/18

DEEPEKHAR CHOUDHURY
Bengaluru, 1 April

Sunil Mittal-owned Bharti Enterprises and a private real estate fund of Canada's Brookfield Asset Management have entered a joint venture (JV) agreement for the former's four commercial properties for an enterprise value of ₹5,000 crore.

As part of the deal, a private real estate fund will purchase a 51 per cent stake from Bharti Enterprises, which will continue with a 49 per cent economic interest in the properties.

The properties — totalling 3.3 million square feet - include Worldmark Aerocity in Delhi, two properties-Worldmark 65 and Airtel Center — in Gurugram, and Pavillion Mall in Ludhiana.

Brookfield's real estate operating arm, Brookfield Properties, will manage the properties in the future. Worldmark Aerocity is a mixed-use property of 1.43 million sq. ft. in Delhi-NCR, comprising marquee financial services firms, global conglomerates and reputed government undertakings. The transaction will be completed upon receipt of requisite regulatory approvals.

Airtel Center is a 700,000 sq. ft. corporate facility located in North Gurugram, and Worldmark 65 is another 700,000+ sq. ft. mixed-use asset in South Gurgaon.

Harjeet Kohli, Group Director, Bharti Enterprises, said, "We are pleased to have entered into a JV with Brookfield for our four marquee assets in North India. We remain confident on the commercial realty segment as

THE DEAL

▶ **The properties include Worldmark Aerocity (Delhi), Worldmark 65, and Airtel Center (Gurugram) and Pavillion Mall (Ludhiana)**

▶ **A Brookfield private real estate fund will purchase a 51% stake from Bharti Enterprises, which will continue with a 49% economic interest in the properties**

▶ **Brookfield's real estate operating arm, Brookfield Properties,**

will manage the properties in the future

▶ **In India, Brookfield owns and operates 47 msq. ft. of commercial real estate assets in six gateway markets**

▶ **Bharti Realty will continue to own and operate its remaining commercial assets which includes approximately 10 million sq. ft. of upcoming development in Delhi Aerocity**



India's economy offers exciting growth opportunities ahead, and will continue to invest meaningfully to scale up our assets."

Ankur Gupta, Managing Partner, Head of Real Estate — India and Middle East and Country Head —India, Brookfield, said, "We are very pleased with this partnership and look forward to strengthening the positioning of these premium assets. Today, tenants have a heightened appreciation of the positive impact workspaces can have on employee well-being and we see tremendous opportunities for well managed commercial

real estate due to this transformation."

In India, Brookfield owns and operates 47 million sq. ft. of commercial real estate assets in six gateway markets, including a large presence in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune and Kolkata.

Bharti Realty will continue to own and operate its remaining commercial assets, which includes approximately 10 million sq. ft. of upcoming development in Delhi Aerocity and will remain focused on developing premium quality commercial real estate development in key locations.

69. IRDAI Is thinking of reducing the capital limit of opening new insurers. According to the government for starting an insurance venture what is the initial capital limit requirement ?

- A. Rs 50 Cr
- B. Rs 100 Cr
- C. Rs 200 Cr
- D. Rs 500 Cr

Irdai to urge govt to remove ₹100-cr entry cap for setting up businesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, April 7

THE INSURANCE REGULATORY and Development Authority of India (Irdai) is likely to urge the government to remove the ₹100-crore entry cap for setting up an insurance company, its chairman Debasish Panda said on Thursday.

The lower entry barrier will facilitate the entry of more niche players in the space, he added.

“As per statute, there is an entry cap where you have to invest ₹100 crore to start an insurance business in India. After recent deliberations, we are of the firm view that now we should allow multiple players and differentiated kinds of players such as standalone micro insurers, niche players, and regional players to enter into the insurance space. This ₹100 crore may be a barrier rather than a facilitator.

“So, we propose to request the government to amend the Act and remove this so-called minimum requirement and leave it to the regulator to decide what will be the entry-level requirement,” Panda told reporters.

He said the idea behind removing the entry cap is to open the sector’s door for small micro players.

IRDAI seeks business plans from 3 PSU general insurers

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 7

The insurance regulator IRDAI has sought revised business plans from the three loss-making public sector general insurers – National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United Insurance Company.

Fund infusion into the three companies will be based on their meeting certain regulatory milestones.

“For these three public sector general insurance companies, we have asked for revised business plans. The fund infusion would depend on their compliance with certain milestones we have laid

rated way of coming out of this situation,” said TM Alamelu, Member (non-life), IRDAI, on Thursday.

The Centre has sought ₹5,000 crore for recapitalisation of the PSU general insurers, and is expected to announce a plan on this soon.

Alamelu, along with IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda, met with the heads of insurance companies.

“The government is aware of the present financials of insurance companies. The regulator has given some forbearance with the advice also that may be they have to infuse more capital in order to perform better,” said Panda, while declining to give more

IRDAI may reduce Rs 100 crore initial capital limit for starting an insurance venture.

IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda said that it will request the government for this purpose.

He also said that IRDAI will also focus on proposals such as Bima Mitras and lowering the compliance burden for insurance companies.

IRDAI has also asked three loss-making public sector general insurers to provide business plans.

The names of these insurers are National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Founded: 1999 , Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

70. On 31st March 2022, *Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed Japanese ODA (Official development assistance) loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of _____ Yen for 7 projects.*

- A. 412.258 billion
- B. 312.258 billion**
- C. 512.258 billion
- D. 612.258 billion

On March 31, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of 312.258 billion yen for the following seven projects.

(1) Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (III) (loan amount: 116.52 billion yen)

(2) Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) (II) (loan amount: 73 billion yen)

(3) Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (II) (loan amount: 37.068 billion yen)

(4) North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 6) (loan amount: 23.129 billion yen)

(5) Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project (loan amount: 6.401 billion yen)

(6) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (loan amount: 10.535 billion yen)

(7) Assam Health System Strengthening Project (loan amount: 45.605 billion yen)

71. Recently In April _____ announced its association with *The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) for Swanari techsprint initiative that aims at advancing digital financial inclusion for women across the nation.*

Ans – **Axis Bank**

- Recently In April Which Of The Following Bank Is **Not Among The List Of Partnering With Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) for Swanari techsprint initiative that aims at advancing digital financial inclusion for women across the nation.**

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

Axis Bank partners with the Reserve Bank of India for Swanari TechSprint initiative

This partnership will enable Axis Bank to strengthen its commitment towards financial inclusion and also reinforce its Bharat Bank strategy of ensuring last mile connectivity

April 01, 2022 10:26 IST | India Infoline News Service

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank today announced its association with The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) for Swanari TechSprint initiative that aims at advancing digital financial inclusion for women across the nation. RBIH will host Swanari (स्व-नारी) TechSprint from 18th - 22nd April 2022 to create and produce smart, creative and sustainable solutions for underserved, low and middle income (LMI) women and for women-owned enterprises in India.

With this launch, RBIH will create a platform for fintechs, financial service providers, innovators and subject matter experts to collaborate, ideate and solve specific problems and code prototype solutions in real time. This partnership will enable Axis Bank to strengthen its commitment towards financial inclusion and also reinforce its Bharat Bank strategy of ensuring last mile connectivity.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)**

Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank announced its association with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) for Swanari TechSprint initiative that aims at advancing digital financial inclusion for women across the nation. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub will host Swanari TechSprint from April 18th -22nd, 2022 to create and produce smart, creative and sustainable solutions for underserved, low and middle income (LMI) women and for women-owned enterprises in India.

With this launch, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub will create a platform for fintechs, financial service providers, innovators and subject matter experts to collaborate, ideate and solve specific problems and code prototype solutions in real time.

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has been consistently demonstrating their commitment in developing new and innovative ways to accelerate financial inclusion in India, and it gives us immense pleasure to associate with RBIH for Swanari TechSprint initiative

72. Recently In April As part of the *finblue initiative to promote innovation through financial technologies*, _____ has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (mou) with the *Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and AIC STPINEXT INITIATIVES*.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Indian Overseas Bank**
- C. State Bank OF India
- D. Bank Of Baroda

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and STPINEXT (a Section 8 company of STPI) for leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative.

The MoU was signed in the presence of IOB Managing Director and CEO Partha Pratim Sengupta and STPI Director General Arvind Kumar, the Chennai-headquartered bank said in a statement.

"This MoU will help the bank in leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative,

The FinBlue initiative by STPI is an integrated programme to start-ups to scale through its incubation facility. It provides access to the financial technology ecosystem that consists of bankers, financial institutions, mentors, investors among others.

73. Recently In April Tata Power's arm *Tata Power Renewables* has commissioned a 300 MW solar plant in _____ as the *country's largest single-axis solar tracker system*.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Dholera**
- C. Surat
- D. Ahmedabad

Tata Power Renewables Energy Ltd (TPREL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power has commissioned a 300-MW (Megawatt) project in Dholera in Gujarat, which the company described as “India’s largest single-axis solar tracker system”.

The project will generate 774 million units of power annually. Along with this, it will reduce carbon emission by approximately 7,04,340 metric tonnes per year.

Dr Praveer Sinha, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power,

Tata Power Renewables commissions Guj plant

TATA POWER ARM Tata Power Renewables has commissioned a 300 MW solar plant in Dholera, Gujarat with the country's largest single-axis solar tracker system. "Tata Power Renewables Energy (TPREL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned a 300 MW project in Dholera, Gujarat. It is India's largest single-axis solar tracker system," a company statement said.

74. Recently In April The tripartite venture Signed Between _____ "engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro and renewable energy company reNew Power came together to form a joint venture to develop a green hydrogen business .

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

Indian Oil Corporation, L&T and ReNew Power will form a joint venture for developing India’s green hydrogen sector. Additionally, Indian Oil Corporation (IndianOil) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) will also form a joint venture to manufacture and sell electrolyzers used in green hydrogen production.

The joint ventures aim to make India’s transition from a grey hydrogen economy to green hydrogen economy.

Green hydrogen is hydrogen made via electrolysis powered by renewable energy. In February 2022, centre has notified Green Hydrogen Policy.

ReNew Power is largest renewable energy company of India in terms of operational capacity.

GREEN HYDROGEN

IOC, ReNew, L&T to form JV

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Larsen & Toubro (L&T), and ReNew Power (ReNew) have signed a binding term sheet for the formation of a joint venture (JV) to develop the green hydrogen sector in India.

The JV will aim to supply green hydrogen at an “industrial scale”. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India can become a hub for green hydrogen as the country has an inherent advantage in the form

of abundant renewable energy.

“The IndianOil-L&T-ReNew JV will focus on developing Green Hydrogen projects in a time-bound manner to supply Green Hydrogen at an industrial scale,” said S N Subrahmanyam, CEO and MD, L&T, adding the infrastructure expertise of L&T, the R&D capacity of IOC, and the renewable energy expertise of ReNew would make the partnership “a significant step” in output of green hydrogen. ENS

75. Recently In April _____ has signed a pact with the Border Security Force to offer special benefits to the serving and retired BSF personnel and family pensioners .

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. State Bank Of India

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week Of April (1st– 8th April 2022)

- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. Axis Bank

State Bank of India (SBI) and Border Security Force have signed an MoU to give special benefits to the serving and retired BSF personnel and family pensioners.

These special benefits will be given under the Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP) Scheme.

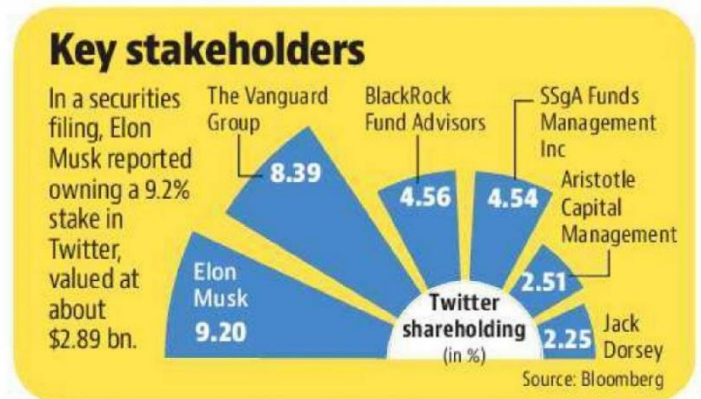
State Bank of India (SBI) will offer Personal and Air Accidental Insurance (Death) cover, additional cover in case of on-duty death, and Permanent Total Disability/ Partial Disability cover to BSF personnel.

Under this MoU, SBI will support child education and the marriage of girl children of deceased BSF personnel.

Border Security Force (BSF): It was founded on 1 December 1965. Pankaj Kumar Singh is the current Director-General of the Border Security Force.

76. Recently In April Tesla Inc Elon Musk acquired a _____ stake in Twitter Inc, worth nearly \$3 billion, likely making him the biggest shareholder in the micro-blogging site .

- A. 9.9%
- B. 9.2%**
- C. 8.5%
- D. 7.9%



Musk holds 9.2% stake in Twitter

Becomes largest shareholder

REUTERS
BENGALURU, APRIL 4

TESLA CHIEF executive Elon Musk revealed a 9.2 per cent stake in Twitter, worth nearly \$3 billion, making him the micro-blogging site's largest shareholder and trig-



Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Reuters file

generating a more than 25 per cent rise in the company's shares. Musk's move comes close on

the heels of his tweet that he was giving a "serious thought" to building a new social media platform, while questioning Twitter's commitment to free speech.

Of late, he has been critical of the social media platform and its policies, and recently ran a Twitter poll asking users if they believed the platform adheres to the principle of free speech, to which over 70 per cent voted "no".

A regulatory filing on Monday

showed that Musk owns 73.5 million Twitter shares, which are held by the Elon Musk Revocable Trust, of which he is the sole trustee.

Twitter was the target of activist investor Elliott Management Corp in 2020, when the hedge fund argued its then-boss and co-founder, Jack Dorsey, was paying too little attention to Twitter while also running Square. Dorsey, who owns a more than 2 per cent stake in Twitter, stepped down last year.

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A day after announcing that he had acquired a 9.2 per cent stake in Twitter, SpaceX and Tesla co-founder Elon Musk was on Tuesday appointed to the board of the company

The 9.2 per cent stake, worth nearly \$3 billion, makes Musk the biggest shareholder in the company, more than the 8.8 per cent stake held by the Vanguard Group, 8.4 per cent held by Morgan Stanley, and 2.2 per cent stake held by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey.

CEO Parag Agrawal

77. Recently In April a Private equity firm Carlyle, is set to sell its entire stake Of _____ % in SBI Cards & Payments, through a block deal amount to Rs 2,484 crore .

- A. 5.05%
- B. 3.09%
- C. 2.9%
- D. 7.3%

Private equity firm Carlyle Group will sell its entire stake in SBI Cards & Payments Services Ltd for as much as Rs 2,558 crore via block deal,

CA Rover Holdings, a Carlyle entity, which, as of December 2021 quarter, held 29.20 million shares or 3.09% stake in SBI Cards, will sell its entire stake in the firm through the block trade.

SBI Cards began operations in 1998 as a joint venture with GE Capital Corp. Carlyle, in 2017, had acquired 26 percent stake in SBI Cards from GE group for Rs 2,000 crore. It had also made a partial exit in the SBI Cards IPO that hit the market in March 2020. Since then the private equity firm has consistently reduced stake.

78. Recently In April _____ has been adjudged Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India .

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Axis Bank

PE firm Carlyle Group exits SBI Cards & Payment

Sells shares worth ₹2,484 crore at an average price of ₹851

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 5

Private equity firm Carlyle Group has sold its entire remaining stake in SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd on Tuesday, marking its exit from the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer.

Carlyle Group, through CA Rover Holdings, is understood to have realised at least ₹2,484 crore through sale of 2.92 crore shares (or 3 per cent) on the NSE and BSE at an average price of ₹851. As many as 2.62 crore shares were sold on the NSE.

When contacted, SBI Cards management declined comment on the Carlyle Group's exit.

Exit at regular intervals

SBI Cards had commenced operations in 1998 as a joint venture with

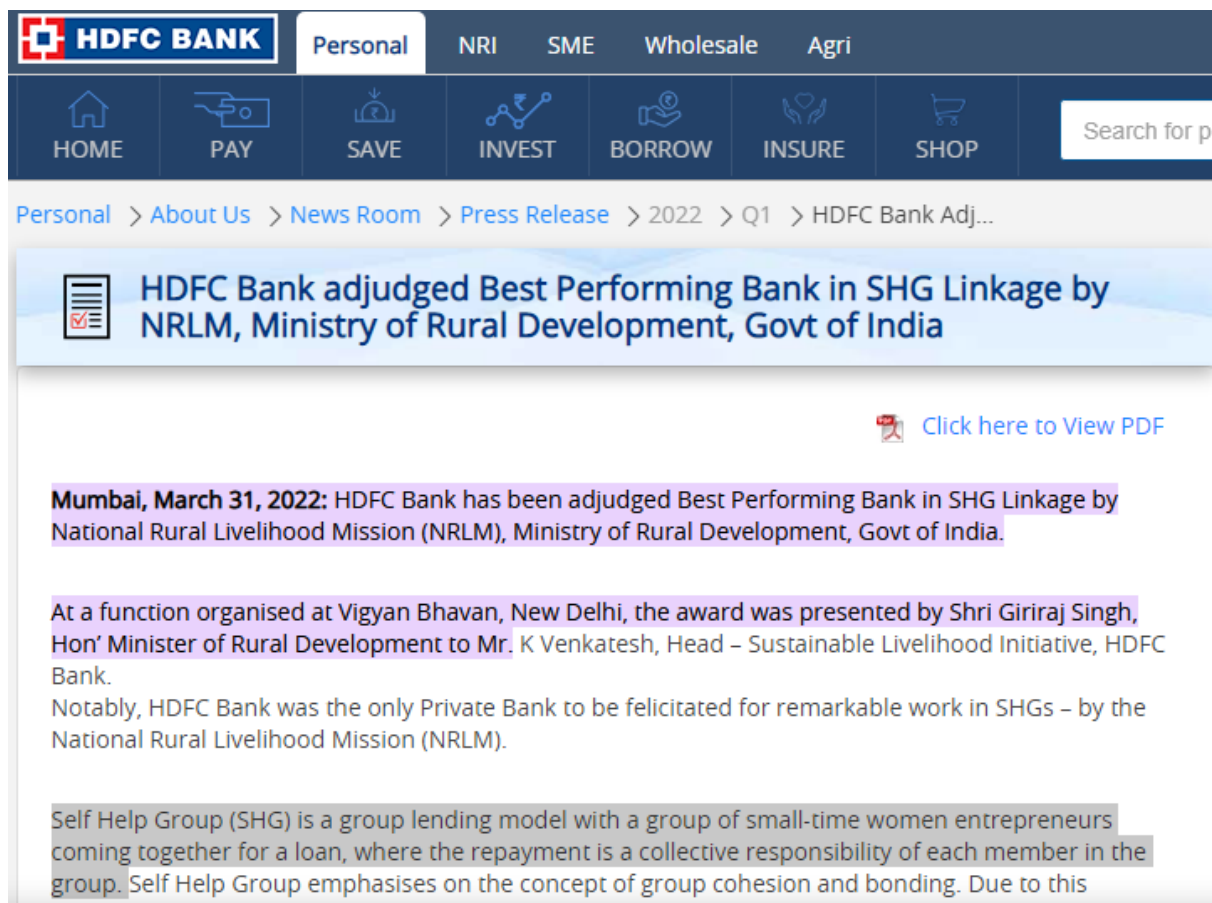


GE Capital Corp. In 2017, Carlyle acquired 26 per cent stake in SBI Cards from GE group for ₹2,000 crore. As part of the deal with GE, SBI had taken its holding in combined SBI Cards (it was two entities coming together after GE's exit) to 74 per cent.

Carlyle Group also made a partial exit in the SBI Cards IPO that hit the market in March 2020. Since then, the PE firm has consistently been reducing its stake.

Shares of SBI Cards closed at ₹839.90, down 4.14 per cent over the previous day's close of ₹ 876.15 on the NSE.

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HDFC BANK Personal NRI SME Wholesale Agri

HOME PAY SAVE INVEST BORROW INSURE SHOP Search for p

Personal > About Us > News Room > Press Release > 2022 > Q1 > HDFC Bank Adj...

HDFC Bank adjudged Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India

[Click here to View PDF](#)

Mumbai, March 31, 2022: HDFC Bank has been adjudged Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India.

At a function organised at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, the award was presented by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon' Minister of Rural Development to Mr. K Venkatesh, Head – Sustainable Livelihood Initiative, HDFC Bank.

Notably, HDFC Bank was the only Private Bank to be felicitated for remarkable work in SHGs – by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Self Help Group (SHG) is a group lending model with a group of small-time women entrepreneurs coming together for a loan, where the repayment is a collective responsibility of each member in the group. Self Help Group emphasises on the concept of group cohesion and bonding. Due to this

79. Recently In April According To The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) report titled as Harnessing India's Demographic Dividend for Boosting Growth, says that if India's working age population is productively employed, its GDP can grow from current \$3 trillion to _____ and _____ by 2030 and 2047, respectively.

- A. \$5 trillion, \$20 trillion
- B. \$7 trillion, \$30 trillion
- C. \$9 trillion, \$40 trillion**
- D. \$12 trillion, \$50 trillion

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has released report titled as Harnessing India's Demographic Dividend for Boosting Growth.

The report says that if India's working age population is productively employed, its GDP can grow from current \$3 trillion to \$9 trillion and \$40 trillion by 2030 and 2047, respectively.

CII report notes excess employment in agriculture event though its contribution to gross value added (GVA) is low and stagnant. As per Refinitiv's report, Mergers & acquisitions (M&A) activity involving India stood at \$30.3 billion in January-March 2022.

This was a four-year high level. US was the most active foreign acquirer in India. Refinitiv provides financial market data.

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80. Consider The Following Statement Regarding HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Merger :

1. HDFC Bank, India's most valuable lender, agreed to acquire HDFC Limited, India's largest housing finance company, in a USD 40 billion deal.
2. Once the deal goes into effect, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will hold 41% of the bank.
3. Under the deal, HDFC and its two wholly owned subsidiaries HDFC Holdings and HDFC Investments will be merged with HDFC Bank.
4. This is the banking sector's such second merger after ICICI Ltd's merger with its banking unit, ICICI Bank, in October 2001.

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

- A. Only 1, 2, 3
- B. Only 2, 4
- C. Only 1, 3, 4
- D. All Of The Above

WORLD'S LARGEST BANKING DEAL IN 15 YRS

- > Combined entity could become second most-valued Indian company today and the fifth most-valued lender globally
- > RBI has been nudging large NBFCs to turn into banks for more regulatory oversight and subjecting them to the same norms as banks
- > Parent's mortgage business gets access to cheaper funds and can provide overdraft loans that only banks can provide
- > HDFC Bank can get a large set of new customers for deposits and cross-selling

(Rs crore)

	HDFC	HDFC Bank
Mkt cap	4.8L	9.2L
Asset size	8.8L	18.4L
NET PROFIT		
(9 mths)	10,041	26,906

HISTORY

> HDFC was incorporated in 1977, promoted by institutions led by ICICI, and was the brainchild of H T Parekh (uncle of Deepak Parekh)
 HDFC Bank was promoted by HDFC in 1994—among the first to receive a private bank licence post-1991 reforms. UK's Natwest Bank had subscribed to 20% in the bank

“After 45 years in public finance, providing nine million homes for Indians, we have to find a home for ourselves. And we have found a home in our own family company HDFC Bank

—Deepak Parekh
 Chairman, HDFC



HDFC Bank CEO Jagdishan to Lead Merged Entity



(L-R) HDFC Bank MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, HDFC Bank chairman Atanu Chakraborty and HDFC vice chairman and CEO Keki Mistry in Mumbai on Monday

RBI rules don't allow me to be on the bank board as I am above 75: HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh

Saloni.Shukla
 @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: HDFC Ltd Chairman Deepak Parekh will step aside, after having led India's mortgage-lending pioneer for more than four decades, once the proposed merger between the home-financier and HDFC Bank is consummated.

His lieutenant, HDFC CEO Keki Mistry, would also step down, although he may choose to become an independent director in the merged entity, helping the bank navigate the complexities of the mortgage lending business in its initial years.

Sashidhar Jagdishan, the cur-

rent chief executive of HDFC Bank, would continue to lead the merged entity.

"This (merger) process will take anywhere between 12 and 18 months because of the numerous approvals we need," Parekh said in Mumbai. "Also, the RBI rules do not allow anyone above 75 to be on the board of a bank and I have already crossed that age; so, there is no way I can be

on the board of the bank." The regulator has also capped the age of MD & CEO of a bank at 70 years.

For 77-year-old Parekh, who joined HDFC as a 33-year-old in 1978 and built it as India's largest private-sector housing finance company, the merger marks the culmination of a journey that began by democratising access to formal credit at a time it was considered a rare privilege.

Set up in 1977 >>> 6

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HDFC Bank, India's most valuable lender, agreed to acquire HDFC Limited, India's largest housing finance company, in a USD 40 billion deal.

Once the deal goes into effect, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will hold 41% of the bank.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the merger is expected to be completed in the second or third quarter of FY24.

Under the deal, HDFC and its two wholly owned subsidiaries HDFC Holdings and HDFC Investments will be merged with HDFC Bank.

This is the banking sector's such second merger after ICICI Ltd's merger with its banking unit, ICICI Bank, in October 2001. HDFC Bank: HDFC Bank is India's largest private sector bank. It is India's second largest lender after State Bank of India.

It is headquartered in Mumbai. It was founded in 1994. The CEO of HDFC Bank is Sashidhar Jagdishan.

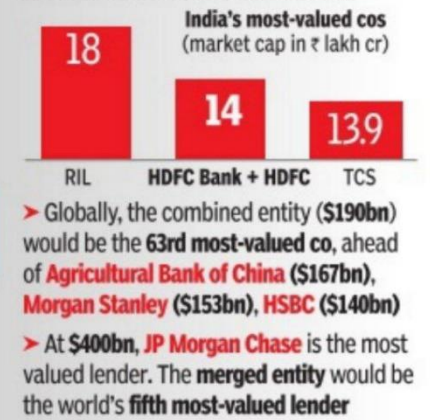
HDFC was the brainchild of H T Parekh and was incorporated in 1977 (promoted by institutions led by ICICI).

TO BE WORLD'S 5TH MOST-VALUED BANK

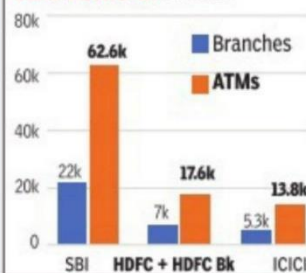
How The Merger Will Progress

- > HDFC Investments & HDFC Holdings will merge with HDFC (the parent mortgage co)
- > Later, HDFC will merge with its arm HDFC Bank
- > Group cos (like HDFC Life, HDFC MF) will be direct subsidiaries of HDFC Bank

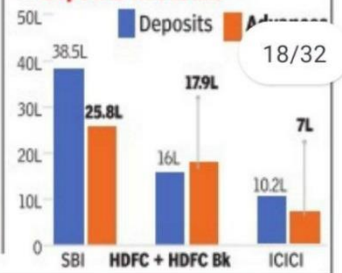
How big will the co be in India and globally in terms of market cap



It has the second-largest ATM network in India



It will also be 2nd in terms of deposits and loans



It is set to be the most profitable Indian fin co in FY22



81. Recently In April _____ has launched Guaranteed Income Star, a non-linked, non-participating life plan to provide the benefit of both savings and the protection of life insurance .

- A. Aegon Life Insurance
- B. Aviva Life Insurance
- C. Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- D. Exide Life Insurance

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has launched Guaranteed Income Star, an income solution that may help address individual's short and long-term financial goals.

The insurance company said in a statement that this is a non linked, non-participating life insurance plan designed to provide financial stability to policy holders by ensuring future income requirements with the dual benefits of savings and protection

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82. Recently In April In a first-of-its-kind project in the country _____ has inked a pact with Gujarat Gas Ltd in an initiative to blend Green Hydrogen with piped natural gas (PNG) supplied by Gujarat Gas Ltd.

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

NTPC, Gujarat Gas to blend green hydrogen with piped natural gas

New Delhi: State-run power giant NTPC has inked a pact with Gujarat Gas Ltd for an initiative to blend green hydrogen with the piped natural gas (PNG) supplied by the latter. Green hydrogen will be produced by using electricity from the existing 1 MW floating solar project of NTPC Kawas. This will be blended with PNG in a pre-determined proportion and will be used for cooking applications in NTPC Kawas Township, a company statement said.

PTI

GGL is India's largest city gas distribution (CGD) company and has presence across 43 districts in six states and one union territory

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian statutory corporation. It engaged in generation of electricity and allied activities. It is a statutory corporation incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is under the ownership of Ministry of Power, Government of India Headquarters: New Delhi, India

NTPC has signed an agreement with Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL).

Under the agreement, NTPC will blend green hydrogen in Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network of GGL at Kawas.

Electricity from the 1 MW floating solar project of NTPC Kawas will be used for the production of green hydrogen.

Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) is largest City Gas Distribution (CGD) Company in India. NTPC Kawas is located at Hazira, Surat district, Gujarat.

83. Recently In April _____ has sanctioned a loan of over 267 crore rupees to start-up company blusmart Mobility for the purchase of three thousand electric cars.

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

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State-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has sanctioned a Rs 267.67-crore loan to BluSmart Mobility for the purchase of 3,000 all-electric cars. "In a bid to promote electric vehicles in Delhi-NCR region,

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA), the largest lender of the Renewable Energy sector in India, sanctioned a loan of Rs 267.67 crores to BluSmart Mobility for the purchase of 3,000 all-electric cars,"

From the sanctioned loan of Rs 267.67 crores, the first tranche of Rs 35.70 has been disbursed by IREDA to the company. IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das

The IREDA under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is India's leading financial institution dedicated to clean energy expansion.

84. SEBI has introduced a new document to replace Power of Attorney (poa) for the purpose of pledging and repledging of stocks for margin purpose known as _____ and Pledge Instruction (DDPI), which will come into effect by _____.

- A. Habbit Credit , 1st6 January 2023
- B. Demat Debit , 1st July 2022
- C. Holding Debit , 31st September 2022
- D. Saving Debit , 31st December 2022

SEBI introduces instruction slips for share pledging

Will replace Power of Attorney; new framework to take effect from July 1

PALAKS SHAH

Mumbai, April 4

SEBI has introduced a new document to replace Power of Attorney (PoA) for the purpose of pledging and repledging of stocks for margin purpose. It is called Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI), which will come into effect from July 1.

For pay-in obligations

Clients can use DDPI to authorise the stock broker and depository participant to access their beneficiary ownership account (BOA) only to meet pay-in obligations for settlement of trades executed by them. The use of DDPI will be limited only for two purposes: for the transfer of securities

held in the beneficial owner account of the client towards stock exchange related deliveries or settlement obligations arising out of trades executed by such a client. Second will be pledging/re-pledging of securities in favour of the broker to meet margin calls.

"The DDPI shall serve the same purpose of PoA and significantly mitigate the misuse of PoA," SEBI said, adding that the client can use the DDPI or opt to complete the settlement by issuing physical Delivery Instruction Slip (DIS) or electronic Delivery Instruction Slip (eDIS) themselves.

SEBI said the existing PoAs will continue to remain valid till the time the client revokes



the same. Thus, the stock broker and depository participant will not directly or indirectly compel the clients to execute the DDPI or deny services to the client if the client refuses to execute the DDPI, it added.

Explicit consent needed

The DDPI needs to be executed only if the client provides his/her explicit consent for the same, including for internet-

based trading. It should be adequately stamped and can be digitally signed by the clients.

According to the circular, the PoA will be optional and should not be insisted upon by the stock broker and depository participant for opening of the client account. A clause in this regard will be incorporated under the sub-heading 'Additional Rights And Obligations' of the Rights and Obligations Document.

SEBI said the depositories should ensure matching and confirming the transfer of securities with client-wise net delivery obligation arising from the trade executed on the exchange, as provided by the Clearing Corporation to depositories for each settlement date.

This will be for the execution of the DDPI for fulfilling delivery/settlement obligations, prior to executing actual transfer of securities based on details provided by stock broker and depository participant.

The securities transferred on the basis of the DDPI provided by the client will be credited only to the client's trading member pool account. The DDPI will be registered in the client demat account.

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To curb possible misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers, Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines wherein execution of a new document will be made compulsory for transfer of securities towards deliveries and settlements.

The execution of the document -- Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) -- will also be applicable for pledging or repledging of securities.

The fresh guidelines, which will be effective from July 1, also comes against the backdrop of instances of misuse of PoAs.

The second purpose will be for pledging/re-pledging of securities in favour of the Trading Member(TM)/Clearing Member(CM) for the purpose of meeting margin requirements of the client.

85. Consider The Following Statement Regarding the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) :

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has called for "immediate and deep emission reductions across all sectors" to limit the rise in global warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels
2. It also states that public finance falls short of the Copenhagen (reiterated when the Paris Agreement was signed) goal of USD 100 billion per year by 2020

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

Union Environment Minister welcomed Working Group III (WG3) contribution to AR6 of IPCC released on 4th April 2022. WG3 contribution to Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of IPCC focuses on climate change mitigation. Its main findings are given below. Four-fifths of the total carbon budget for 1.5 degree Centigrade temperature increase has been already consumed.

Two-thirds of the total carbon budget for 2 degree Centigrade warming has been already consumed. Both cumulative and per capita annual emissions increased during the pre-2020 period. Public finance falls short of Copenhagen (UNFCCC-COP15, 2009) target of USD 100 billion per year by 2020. Focus should be on reducing dependency on fossil fuel. Complete phasing out of coal should be done by 2050.

Working Group I contribution to AR6 was released in August 2021 and Working Group II contribution to AR 6 was released in February 2022. Final report of AR6 will be released by late 2022.

CLIMATE CRISIS | REDUCING

Understand

The rate at which humanity
Current policies are likely to

What is the state of current actions?

The report, made by Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), found that mitigation action so far has been inadequate and annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are continuing to spike. If no additional action is taken, the world faces a catastrophic warming of 2.4°C-3.5°C by the end of the century, far surpassing the 1.5°C and 2°C thresholds. Global surface temperature was 1.09°C higher in 2011-2020 period than 1850-1900, or the pre-industrial period, average.

What is India's stand?

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav welcomed IPCC's findings. "The @IPCC_CH report underlines the need for deep and urgent global emissions reduction and justifies India's emphasis on equity at all scales in climate action and sustainable development. We welcome it," he tweeted on Tuesday.

"The report also fully supports India's view on the necessity of public finance for developing countries and the need for scale, scope and speed in Climate Finance," he added.

CLEAR AND PRESENT TARGET

In 2016, the world adopted the Paris Agreement, the only legally binding treaty on climate change, to limit global warming to well below 2°C and “preferably to 1.5°C” compared to pre-industrial levels. In 2018, the IPCC said the difference between limiting the rise by 0.5°C over 2°C could lead to 420 million fewer people being exposed to extreme heatwaves, cut the risk of heavy rain and extreme drought, and reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding.

LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE WITHIN 1.5-DEGREE CELSIUS

Check emissions fast or nothing will help after 2030: IPCC report

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

NO AMOUNT of climate action after 2030 will be good enough to limit the rise in global temperatures within 1.5 degrees Celsius, if the emissions' pathway is not altered significantly in the next few years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said in its latest report.

Even the 2-degree Celsius target, in that case, would rely on “rapid acceleration” of climate actions after 2030, it said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement aims to hold the global rise in temperatures to within 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times, while striving to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Navroz Dubash, one of the lead authors of the report, said enhanced climate action in the near term was the key. “The report clearly indicates that we are not on the path to keeping the 1.5 target. It is not about 2050, but what we do in the coming decade that is crucial,” Dubash, a professor at the Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research, said.

“This is the first time that an

EXPLAINED

E. Message in medium: short-term is key

THE LATEST IPCC report reinforces a message that is common to all such reports in the last few years – early action is key to minimising impacts of climate change. Long-term, or mid-century, targets are no longer viable because once the temperature rise crosses a threshold, it would become extremely difficult, if not impossible, to pull it back within a short period of time. Already, most projections show that even with the best of efforts, the temperature rise would most likely overshoot 1.5 degrees or 2 degrees Celsius targets before they can be brought back by the end of the century.

IPCC report has looked at sustainable development in detail. What kind of urbanisation, for example, will allow you to have a better living standard, but at the same time reduce emissions. These are not exclusive of each other,” he said.

Emphasising that it was urgent to scale up measures for mitigating emissions in order to achieve the 1.5 target, Dr Jayashree Roy, a professor of economics at Jadavpur University and a coordinating lead author, said the report showed that enhanced climate action was pos-

sible. She said since a large chunk of India’s infrastructure was still being built, there was an opportunity for India to take the lead.

“We have detailed as many as 60 different options and pathways, concrete measures, that can lead to 40-70 per cent reduction in global emissions. These options don’t just cover governmental strategies and policies but also what can be done at an individual level. For instance food waste reduction is an effective mitigation tool. Likewise, nutrition and dietary choices

made, shifting to a plant-based diet, for example, can help reduce emissions. Such choices can reduce emissions by 45 per cent from the nutrition sector alone. Choices we make in transportation as well – cycling and walking to cover short distances, can also lead to emission reduction. While this is an individual choice, the cities have to be made walkable – and that’s where government and development of appropriate infrastructure comes in,” Roy said.

The report points out that reducing emissions from the energy sector required a major transition, including a substantial reduction in overall fossil fuel use, deployment of low-emission energy sources, switching to alternative energy carriers, and energy efficiency and conservation.

“Electricity systems powered predominantly by renewables are becoming increasingly viable. Electricity systems in some countries and regions are already predominantly powered by renewables. It will be more challenging to supply the entire energy system with renewable energy,” the report said.

86. Recently In April Capital markets regulator **Sebi** revised upwards the UPI payment limit for individual investors in public issues, to _____ Lakh In payment in public issues .

- A. Rs 1 Lakh
- B. Rs 3 Lakh
- C. **Rs 5 Lakh**
- D. Rs 7 Lakh

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday revised upwards the UPI payment limit for individual investors in public issues, according to an official statement.

Now individual investors investors can use UPI for up to ₹5 lakh payment in public issues

NPCI has reviewed the systemic readiness required at various intermediaries to facilitate the processing of applications with increased UPI limit and confirmed that as on March 30, 2022,

The new guidelines will come into force for public issues opening on or after May 1, 2022,

In December 2021, NPCI enhanced the per transaction limit in UPI from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) in Initial Public Offers (IPOs).

Sebi hikes UPI limit in IPOs to ₹5L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said that from May 1, investors can apply in IPOs and public offers through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mode for up to Rs 5 lakh per application. Earlier, the limit was Rs 2 lakh.

Sebi said that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the company that manages UPI process, had conducted system audits at various market intermediaries and, as of March 30, had found that over 80% of these entities were ready to accept the increased limit.

87. Recently In April Government extended the **deadline for loan disbursement of ethanol projects till _____** to boost production of the renewable fuel And help in meeting the **target of achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending by 2025.**

- A. 31st December 2022
- B. 31st March 2023
- C. **30th September 2022**
- D. 31st December 2025

Centre extends timeline for loan disbursal under ethanol scheme by six months

Move aimed at expediting projects

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, April 6

The government has extended the timeline for disbursement of loans up to September 30 with regard to all the schemes under the ethanol blending programme notified during 2018-21. This is to facilitate entrepreneurs to complete their projects quickly and avail of interest subvention benefits.

In order to increase production of ethanol and its supply under Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) programme and also improve the liquidity position of sugar mills, enabling them to clear cane arrears of farmers,



the government had notified different interest subvention schemes for sugar mills and distilleries during 2018-21. Interest subvention at six per cent per annum or 50 per cent of rate of interest charged by banks, whichever is lower, is available to sugar mills for five years including one-year moratorium.

But, the timeline for disbursement of loan for ethanol projects was valid up to March 31 under these schemes. "Due to unavoid-

able and unfortunate situation caused by Covid-19, project proponents were unable to adhere to the time limit for disbursement of loan from banks/financial institutions and unable to complete their projects in a given time frame. Therefore, there is a need to extend the timeline for disbursement of loans under interest subvention schemes announced earlier during 2018-21," the Food Ministry said in a statement.

Augmenting capacities

Ethanol distillation capacity of molasses based distilleries was only 215 crore litres prior to 2014. However, in past seven years the capacity of molasses-based distilleries have increased to 555 crore litres due to the policy

changes made by the government. Capacity of grain-based distilleries increased to 280 crore litres from 206 crore litres in 2013.

However, ethanol production capacities are required to be enhanced to about 1,700 crore litres to achieve 20 per cent blending target by 2025. The decision for extension of timeline for ethanol projects would help in enhancing ethanol production capacities, the ministry said.

In ESY 2020-21, about 302.30 crore litres were supplied to oil marketing companies (OMCs) helping them to achieve 8.10 per cent blending. In the current ESY 2021-22, about 141 crore litres of ethanol have been blended with petrol till April 3, achieving 9.66 per cent blending.

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Government on Tuesday extended the deadline for loan disbursement of ethanol projects till September 30, 2022, a move which will help in boosting production of the renewable fuel, which is made of corn and other plants. The step, official sources said, will also help in meeting the target of achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending by 2025.

The earlier deadline for loan disbursement was March-April 2022.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs said in a statement that the timeline for disbursement of loans of ethanol projects has been extended till September 30, 2022 in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021.

88. Recently In April _____ a global edtech company Partnered With National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), an autonomous apex Institute established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Banks, to create talent for the next generation of banking and financial services .

- A. Ashila Finance
- B. Techsprint**
- C. Intellect Design
- D. Tataneu

To facilitate this learning, TalentSprint and NIBM have curated the first-of-its-kind Advanced Programme in Banking and Leadership for a Digital World.

National Institute of Bank Management is one of the three research units under the ownership of Reserve Bank of India which is in turn under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance of the Government of India. It is responsible for research and consultancy in banking and finance in India. Dr. Partha Ray, Director, National Institute of Bank Management.

89. Recently In April British telecom major Vodafone has raised its stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Limited to _____ per cent through its subsidiary Prime Metals From Earlier 44.39 per cent stake in Vodafone Idea .

- A. 45.63 %
- B. 51 %
- C. 47.61 %**
- D. 49.59 %

- **Vodafone Group Plc is a British multinational telecommunications company. Its registered office and global headquarters are in Newbury, Berkshire,**



Vodafone earlier had 44.39% stake in VIL. MINT

Vodafone raises stake in Vi to 47.61%

British telecom major Vodafone has raised its stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) to 47.61% through its subsidiary Prime Metals, a regulatory filing said on Monday.

The company earlier held 44.39% stake in VIL.

"Prime Metals held 2,18,55,26,081 equity shares, representing 7.61% of the equity share capital, of Vodafone Idea Limited (the "company"). PML has acquired 570,958,646 equity shares of the company through allotment of equity shares pursuant to a preferential issue of the company," the filing said.

On Thursday, Vodafone Idea had said that its board has approved the allotment of 338.3 crore equity shares at ₹13.30 per scrip to three promoter group entities - Euro Pacific Securities, Prime Metals and Oriana Investments - for about ₹4,500 crore. This includes allotment of 1,96,66,35,338 equity shares to Euro Pacific Securities (promoter), 57,09,58,646 equity shares to Prime Metals (promoter), and 84,58,64,661 equity shares to Oriana Investments (promoter group).

PTI

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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90. Recently In April _____ Has Partnered With National Payment Corporation Of India (NPCI) To facilitate Fintech Engagement For fulfilling customers digital transaction .

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

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has joined hands with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate fintech engagement for fulfilling customers' digital transaction needs through partnerships.

Eight fintech start-ups/companies — 42 Cards, Datasutram, FinVu, Dealsafe, MoFYDA, Fortiate, Rise Retail & Payment Solutions and Lendpartners — participated in the engagement session, the Pune-based public sector bank

91. Recently In April Reliance BP Mobility Limited's (RBML) Jio-bp Has Partnered With _____ to create public EV charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the country .

- A. Honda Cars
- B. TVS Motors**
- C. Tritin Technologies
- D. Arcellor Mittal Ltd

Farmiso rebranded 'Meesho Superstore'

YATTI SONI

Bengaluru, April 5

Meesho, an internet commerce company is integrating its grocery business within the core application by the first week of May. The company has also rebranded Farmiso (grocery business) to Meesho Superstore.

Meesho Superstore currently provides 500 products across categories like fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, groceries, home care and packaged food among others.

The integration will now provide the company's 100 million+ Meesho users access to over 87 million active product listings across more than 36 categories on a single platform.

Pilot project

Vidit Aatrey, Founder and CEO, Meesho, said: "As more users from tier 2+ regions get comfortable with the idea of shopping online, the demand for online grocery continues to grow. What started as a pilot in Karnataka is now seeing pos-

itive traction across six States."

Meesho launched a pilot in Karnataka to make online grocery shopping affordable for first-time users. In less than nine months, it has scaled its grocery offering to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Meesho plans to make Superstore available in 12 States by the end of 2022.

Last month, Meesho announced the launch of a unified mobile app for both buyers and sellers.

TVS Motor Co., Jio-BP partner to charge EVs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

TVS Motor Company and Jio-BP have agreed to explore the creation of a robust public EV charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers by building on the latter's growing network in this space.

Under this proposed partnership, the customers of TVS Motor's electric vehicles are expected to get access to the widespread charging network of Jio-BP, which is also open to other vehicles, the two-wheeler maker said in a statement.

The partnership aims to leverage the strength of both the companies and create a regular AC charging network and a DC fast-charging network, according to the statement.

Ecommerce firm Meesho said on that it is integrating its grocery business, Farmiso, within its core application by the first week of May. The company is also rebranding Farmiso to Meesho Superstore. According to Meesho it has now scaled its grocery vertical to six state Farmiso was started as a pilot in Karnataka last year and is mainly targeted at tier-II cities and customers with an emphasis on lower prices than convenience of faster delivery, which quick commerce players like Swiggy's Instamart, Zepto and others have been focusing on.

92. Recently In April _____, a carbon black company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nasdaq-listed The Metals Company Inc. (TMC) to jointly set up the “world’s first commercial polymetallic nodule processing plant” in India with an initial investment of ₹1,200 crore in the first phase .

- A. Epsilon Carbon
- B. Triton Technologies
- C. Tithan Limited
- D. Medha Group

IIM-A logo to retain old features; to be released in June

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

AMID OPPOSITION by a section of its faculty, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) announced Friday that it will unveil its new logo in June.

IIM-A's new logo, according to a statement by the institute's communications team, will retain the Sanskrit shloka on its existing one, as well as the lattice-work of the city's Siddi Saiyyed Mosque.

“Evaluation, exploration, development of wordmark, development of brandmark were all kept in mind while coming up with the final design recommendations,” the statement said.

The IIM-A said the institute found the need to refresh its logo while revamping its website. Its statement, however, made no reference to the allegation of some faculty members that the decision to change the logo was taken without consulting them.

The new logo will be out when the annual vacation ends in June, emphasising while the logo carries the Sanskrit shloka - Vidya Viniyogat Vikasa - as in the original, the colour rendition has been improved and the fonts modernised.

“The jaali-inspired brand mark has been made more amenable to communication in digital media and the brand name made more distinct,” the statement said.

PRODUCTION OF CATHODES

Epsilon Carbon forms JV, to invest ₹1,200 crore

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 5

Epsilon Carbon, a leading carbon black company, in joint venture with Nasdaq-listed The Metals Company Inc plans to invest ₹1,200 crore towards setting up the world’s first commercial polymetallic nodule processing plant in India.

Carbon footprint

The focus of the collaboration will be to produce cathode precursors with the lowest carbon footprint. These cathode precursors will be converted to cathode active materials at the proposed facility.

Epsilon Carbon will process 1 million tonne per annum of dry nodules to create a production capacity of over 30,000 tonnes of an intermediate nickel-copper-cobalt matte product per annum. This product is ideal for use for active cathode material in lithium-ion batteries (LiBs).

Exploring TN, Gujarat, AP

Vikram Handa, Managing Director of Epsilon Carbon, said the company is scouting for land in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh to set up the



Vikram Handa, Managing Director of Epsilon Carbon

plant and will provide the key raw material for battery cell manufacturers.

Govt incentive

The recent production-linked incentive scheme for advanced cell chemistries proposed by the government necessitates a 60 per cent local content to qualify for the incentive.

Epsilon, with its commercial production of synthetic graphite and a pipeline to produce 30,000 TPA of NMC and 20,000 TPA of LFP by 2025, will contribute significantly towards helping Indian giga-factories of the future to meet their local content requirement.

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93. Recently In April **Asian Development Bank** projected **India Economy** to grow at _____ in the current fiscal year before picking up to eight per cent the next year .

- A. 9.2 %
- B. 7.5 %**
- C. 6.5 %
- D. 8.3 %

ADB has projected that India's GDP will grow by 7.5% and 8% in FY2022 and FY2023, respectively In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022, ADB has projected that the growth rate in

South Asia will decline to 7% in 2022.

ADB has also projected that the growth rate in South Asia will increase to 7.4% in 2023. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that Asia's economies will grow by 5.2% in 2022 and 5.3% in 2023.

Asian Development Outlook (ADO): It is a report of ADB, which is annually published in March/April. It covers most countries in Asia.

94. Recently In April **Union Bank of India** launched its super app, _____ which focuses on providing pre-approved personal loans, pensioner loans, Mudra loans, MSME loan auto-renewal services, and farmer loans auto-renewal services to customers .

- A. Tataneu
- B. Union NXT**
- C. Union Fortune
- D. Union Mirror +

• Recently In April **Union Bank Of India** announced new initiatives And launched _____ Project under the bank's digitisation vertical With An Investment Of _____ .

- A. Project Utkarsh , Rs 2500 Cr
- B. Project Sambhav , Rs 1000 Cr**
- C. Project Drishyam , Rs 1600 Cr
- D. Project Next , Rs 1500 Cr

ADB estimates India's FY23 GDP growth at 7.5%

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 6

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pegged India's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) growth at 7.5 per cent for the current fiscal (FY23). However, risks to the outlook include uncertain global economic conditions, potential new surges in Covid-19 cases, and sharp rises in commodity prices.

ADB's forecast is lower than that of the RBI and other economic agencies. The RBI projected a growth rate of 7.8 per cent, while S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings estimated growth rate at 7.8 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively.

ADB attributed increased public investment in infrastructure and a pick up in private investment for projection of 7.5 per cent growth rate in the current fiscal and 8 per cent in the next.

Union Bank to invest ₹1k cr in digital plans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Union Bank of India on Wednesday announced new initiatives under the bank's digitisation vertical, which was launched last year. The bank has also unveiled a Rs 1,000-crore investment in digital initiatives this financial year.

Launching Sambhav, the digital transformation project, Union Bank MD & CEO Rajkiran Rai said the idea was to empower customers to do all banking transactions in a DIY (do-it-yourself) mode and to enable straight-through processing of small business and personal loans. The bank also launched its superapp Unionnxt that will reduce need to visit branches.

Super app "Union nxt" has been launched by Union Bank of India under its digital initiative "Sambhav".

The bank is planning to invest Rs 1,000-crore under digital initiatives in the financial year 2022-23.

The super app UnionNXT will reduce the need to visit branches physically.

Union Bank of India will bring all the banking services on the Union nxt super app. Union Bank of India: It is a government-owned bank founded in 1919. Its CEO is Rajkiran Rai G. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

95. Recently In April _____ is setting up **the world's largest mobile robotics factory, with a capacity to manufacture 0.5 million robots annually, which will rival the big Chinese players in the game in terms of size .**

- A. Indospace
- B. Reliance Jio
- C. Addverb
- D. Nasdaq Ltd

- **Backed by Reliance Industries, which has invested \$132 million for a 54 percent stake, Addverb Technologies, which was founded in 2016, aims to be among the top five mobile robotics manufacturers in the world.**
- **Addverb Technologies, which was founded in 2016, aims to be among the top five mobile robotics manufacturers in the world.**

96. Recently In April _____ has entered into **a strategic partnership with Payments Canada, the country's largest payment organization, to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR), the new real-time payments system that will allow Canadians to initiate payments .**

- A. Tcs
- B. Reliance Jio
- C. Adani Green
- D. Wipro

Aadverb to build largest mobile robotics plant

It aims to give Chinese competitors a run for their money

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 5 April

Noida based Aadverb Technologies is setting up the world's largest mobile robotics factory with a capacity to manufacture 0.5 million robots annually, which in terms of size will take on the big Chinese players in the game. The company is leveraging India's software prowess to build complex robots for the global market and lock horns with global competitors.

Backed by Reliance Industries, which has invested \$132 million for a 54 per cent stake, Addverb Technologies, which was set up in 2016, is aiming to be amongst the top-five mobile robotics manufacturers in the world in the next five years. Currently, most of its applications are in the growing material-handling space. But in the next one to one-and-a-half years, Addverb plans to enter two other large growth areas — non-invasive robotics surgery and robot-aided airport baggage handling. It has already undertaken a pilot with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for using robotics in ultrasound tests under the supervision of a doctor.

The global market for mobile robots, which can follow instructions and move around, is currently around \$5 billion and is expected to grow exponentially.

Says Satish Shukla, co-founder, Addverb Technologies, "We want to hit revenues of \$1 billion in the next five years. We should be amongst the top five in the world in mobile robotics with at least a 10-15 per cent of the global market. We are building the largest mobile robotics factory in the world, similar in size to the Chinese ones, if not bigger. Our aim is to have 60 per cent of the revenues coming from abroad and the rest from India."

Shukla adds that the company is ready to take on the Chinese, "because we can leverage India's software capability to provide more complex solutions. And software is 40-60 per cent of the cost of a robot."

Even though only 1500 robots, including mobile robots, automated, guided vehicles and sorting robots, were



BIG PLANS

- Firm aims to become among top 5 largest mobile robotic players in the world
- Has 10-15% global market share in this space
- Expects 60% of revenue to come from abroad
- Plans to enter robotics for

- non-invasive surgery and in airports replacing conveyor belts for baggage
- RIL not only an investor but a strategic partner and big client
- Has over 100 clients, including Amazon, Flipkart, ITC, Marico, Unilever

sold in India in the last financial year, Shukla says that once a pilot is successful, the order from clients goes up by 10-20 times as they typically want to shift their entire operations onto robots. So capacity needs to be built up.

He reveals that the Addverb factory, which currently has the capacity to manufacture 50,000 robots, is booked beyond 18 months.

The company's manufacturing model blueprint which is in the process of being finalised, is going to create one mega factory in Greater Noida for manufacturing products that are required in mass scale. Subsequently, Addverb plans to set up micro factories in locations like North America, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe which will help in building niche robots for customised solutions in particular geographical areas.

Shukla says that the company already has over 100 big clients, including Amazon, Flipkart, ITC, Unilever, Marico, Go Fresh in the UK, PepsiCo in southeast Asia, amongst others. It has recently set

up sales offices in the US, Netherlands, Australia and Singapore.

Unlike other startups, the company does not burn cash, says Shukla, so the funding is enough for the next three financial years. Hence, the focus is not on valuation as Addverb regards Reliance not only as an investor, but as a strategic partner. For instance, Reliance has over 1000 warehouses for its different businesses, from grocery, clothing to refineries. It is also leveraging Reliance's 5G foray to build solutions which can be enabled by high data speeds. Moreover, the company sees new opportunities in areas like renewable energy for robotics.

To be globally competitive, Addverb has already reached localisation levels of around 60-80 per cent. It builds the hardware as well as the embedded software of robots, a large part of the electronics, PCB cards with intelligence and control over the IP and all the mechanical parts as well. Components like sensors, which are dominated by a few manufacturers, are imported.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered into a strategic partnership with Payments Canada, the country's largest payment organization, to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR), the new real-time payments system that will allow Canadians to initiate payments and receive irrevocable funds in seconds,

TCS will leverage its deep knowledge of the Canadian payments industry and extensive experience in designing and implementing large payment systems for its Canadian financial services clients to help Payments Canada

97. Recently In April Karnataka Government Announced To Set Up Cooperative Bank' for milk producers Named _____ .

- A. Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank'**
- B. Sarawati Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank'**
- C. Kamdhenu Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank'**
- D. Gobardhan Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank'**

- **"Setting up of Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Bank will bring a second wave of White Revolution in dairy sector. The state government has provided Rs 100 crore as its share capital and the Milk Federation and Cooperatives would contribute Rs 260 crore as their share of capital for the proposed cooperative bank which would stimulate huge economic activity in rural hinterland,"**

98. Consider The Following Statement Regarding 36th Forbes Annual World's Billionaires List :

- 1. Elon Musk, tops the World's Billionaires list for the first time ever an estimated \$219 billion, after adding \$68 billion to his fortune over the past year.**
- 2. The U.S. still reigns supreme, with 735 billionaire citizens, 11 more than in 2021. China remains second, with 607 (including Hong Kong and Macau), followed by India (166), Germany (134) and Russia (83).**
- 3. Mukesh Ambani of India remains Asia's richest person. Worth an estimated \$90.7 billion, he held on to the No. 10 spot worldwide, enough to narrowly edge out fellow Indian Gautam Adani.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

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insurer, had said in its ana- Besides stability in cla- ses on their health portfolio. : IPO scale business,” said Bedi.

With \$90.7bn, Ambani richest Asian

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Mukesh Ambani, promoter of India’s most valued company Reliance Industries, is the richest Asian, followed closely by Gautam Adani, promoter of Adani Group, according to the latest billionaire list released by Forbes. Compared to Ambani’s total net worth at \$90.7 billion, Adani’s was \$90 billion, Forbes estimated, based on data till March 11.

In the global pecking order, Ambani is the 10th richest, followed by Adani at the 11th spot. The latest list also showed that Adani’s net worth had increased nearly \$40 billion since April 2021, the third-biggest addition by anyone in the world. It added that there were 166 Indian billionaires. Of these, the list featured Falguni Nayar,

FORBES GLOBAL RICH LIST



the main promoter of fashion retailer FSN E-Commerce Ventures (owner of Nykaa brand) who has a net worth of \$4.5 billion. Forbes called Nayar, a former investment banker who quit her job to start the online fashion retailer less

than a decade ago, a ‘New beauty billionaire’.

The global list was topped by Elon Musk, the founder of electric vehicles major Tesla and also space exploration & tourism company SpaceX. With a net worth of \$219 bil-

lion, Musk topped the Forbes annual billionaire list for the first time, replacing Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who’s at the second spot with a net worth of \$117 billion.

Musk also topped the list of billionaires who saw their net worth spurt the most during the last one year. Since April 2021, he has added \$68 billion to his fortunes.

The rich list also saw emergence of Changpeng Zhao, known as CZ, who made billions as his crypto exchange Binance turned out to be the biggest trading platform globally. In last one year, Changpeng’s net worth jumped 70%, or about \$63.1 billion, to an estimated \$65 billion as “new information about his stake and success of the exchange” flowed in, Forbes said.

Mukesh Ambani is world’s 10th richest person in the list. He is followed by Gautam Adani

Musk has replaced Amazon’s Jeff Bezos this year on 36th Forbes rich list.

Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Shiv Nader, Cyrus Poonawalla and Radhakishan Damani are top 5 Indians on 36th Forbes rich list.

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett are top 5 richest men in world.

Savitri Jindal is richest woman in India in Forbes’ Billionaires List 2022. Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar has entered into list this year.

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers is listed as the richest woman in the world in the list this year. She is followed by Alice Walton.

99. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Grohe-Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2021:

- 1. With a wealth of Rs 61,220 crore, Rajiv Singh of DLF overtook Mangal Prabhat Lodha & family of Macrotech Developers (wealth of Rs 52,970 crore) to become the wealthiest Indian real estate entrepreneur**
- 2. the report said, India is home to 12 real estate billionaires in 2021 – up from 5 compared to five years ago.**
- 3. China and the US have 58 and 28 real estate billionaires in Respectively**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- **With a wealth of Rs 340 crore, the youngest on the List is Aditya Chandak of the Chandak Group.**
- **Mumbai, New Delhi, and Bengaluru are home to 73 per cent of the GROHE-HURUN India Real Estate Rich List 2021.**

101. Recently In April Capital markets regulator SEBI issued fresh guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies (kras) whereby such agencies will have to independently validate KYC records of all clients from

- A. July 1
- B. September 30
- C. December 31
- D. October 31

India home to 12 real estate billionaires

Rajiv Singh of DLF the richest; Lodha family comes in second

PUNEET WADHWAN
New Delhi, 6 April

With a wealth of ₹61,220 crore, DLF Chairman Rajiv Singh overtook Mangal Prabhat Lodha & family of Macrotech Developers (wealth of ₹52,970 crore) to

become the wealthiest Indian real estate entrepreneur, according to the latest Grohe-Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2021. Singh added ₹25,000 crore to this wealth in 2021. Chandru Raheja & family (K Raheja Corp), Jitendra

Virwani (Embassy Office Parks) and Vikas Oberoi (Oberoi Realty) are at the third, fourth and the fifth spots, respectively, according to the list. The average wealth of the Grohe-Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2021 grew 31

per cent to ₹4,558 crore, the report said. India, the report said, was home to 12 real estate billionaires in 2021 — up from five just about five years ago. While India has seen their number more than double in the last five years, China and the US have recorded a fall in the number of real estate billionaires — from 121 five years ago in China to 58 in 2021; and from 28 in the US to 20 in 2021, the findings suggest.

M Arun Kumar of Chennai-based Casagrand is the biggest gainer on the list, followed by Ashok Sarin of Anant Raj and Keystone Realtors co-founders Boman Rustom Irani, Percy Sorabji Chowdhry and Chandresh Dinesh Mehta.

A large part of the rise in the fortunes of these realty barons is attributed to a rally in the real estate stocks at the bourses. For the year under review, the BSE Realty index gained 55 per cent compared to a 22 per cent gain in the S&P BSE Sensex.

"Real estate stocks are primarily driven by a recovery in real estate demand on the back of low-interest rates and government incentives. This could be the reason why the list registered the biggest ever cumulative wealth growth of 30 per cent since inception," said Anas Rahman Junaid, managing director and chief researcher, Hurun India.

With a wealth of ₹340 crore, the youngest on the List is Aditya Chandak (38) of the Chandak Group. And the oldest is Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi (93), of East India Hotels, who registered a wealth of ₹2,810 crore. Mumbai, New Delhi, and Bengaluru are home to 73 per cent of the Grohe-Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2021.

Western region states Maharashtra and Gujarat account for 46 per cent of the cumulative wealth of the list, followed by the southern region states consisting of Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala with 29 per cent. Northern region states Delhi, Haryana and Punjab are the closest third with a 25 per cent share.

THE REALTY BARONS

Rank	Name	Wealth (₹ cr)	1 year change (%)	Company	Residence
1	▲ Rajiv Singh	61,220	68%	DLF	New Delhi
2	▼ Mangal Prabhat Lodha & family	52,970	20%	Macrotech Developers	Mumbai
3	— Chandru Raheja & family	26,290	0%	K Raheja	Mumbai
4	— Jitendra Virwani	23,620	2%	Embassy Office Parks	Bengaluru
5	▲ Vikas Oberoi	22,780	44%	Oberoi Realty	Mumbai
6	▼ Niranjan Hiranandani	22,250	8%	Hiranandani Communities	Mumbai
7*	▲ Basant Bansal & family	17,250	75%	M3M India	Gurugram
8	▼ Raja Bagmane	16,730	7%	Bagmane Developers	Bengaluru
9*	▲ G Amarendra Reddy & family	15,000	New	GAR Corporation	Hyderabad
10	▲ Subhash Runwal & family	11,400	0%	Runwal Developers	Mumbai

Note: * indicates new entrants to the top 10
Source: GROHE-HURUN India Real Estate Rich List 2021 report



Rajiv Singh,
DLF



Mangal Prabhat Lodha,
Macrotech Developers



Chandru Raheja
K Raheja

BIGGEST GAINERS

Rank	Name	Change (%)	Wealth (₹ cr)	Company
1	M Arun Kumar	191%	2,240	Casagrand
2	Ashok Sarin	173%	1,500	Anant Raj
3	Boman Rustom Irani	154%	3,130	Keystone Realtors
4	Percy Sorabji Chowdhry	152%	1,560	Keystone Realtors
4	Chandresh Dinesh Mehta	152%	1,560	Keystone Realtors

Source: GROHE-HURUN India Real Estate Rich List 2021 report



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The move comes after Sebi, in January, notified new norms to make KRAs responsible for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by Registered Intermediaries (RIs).

Under the notified rules, such agencies will have to maintain an audit trail of the upload/modification/download with respect to KYC records of clients.

According to the regulator, clients whose KYC records are not found to be valid by KRA after the validation process will be allowed to transact in securities market only after their KYC is validated.

New norms for KYC Registration Agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 6

SEBI on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) whereby such agencies will have to independently validate KYC records of all clients from July 1.

The move comes after SEBI, in January, notified new norms to make KRAs responsible for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by Registered Intermediaries (RIs).

Audit trail mandatory

Under the notified rules, such agencies will have to maintain an audit trail of the upload/modification/download with respect to KYC records of clients.

KRAs will continue to act as repository of KYC data in the securities market and will be responsible for storing, safeguarding and retrieving the KYC documents.

Independently validate KYC records from July 1: Sebi to KRAs

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 6

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) stipulating that such agencies will have to independently validate KYC (know your customer) records of all clients from July 1.

Under the notified rules, such agencies will have to maintain an audit trail of the upload, modification or download with respect to KYC records of clients.

In January, Sebi notified new norms to make KRAs responsible



Sebi building, Mumbai. File

for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by Registered Intermediaries (RIs). KRAs registered with the Sebi in-

der ECGC's export credit insurance

clude CSDL Ventures Ltd, DotEx International Ltd, Karvy Data Management Services, NDML (NSDL Database Management Ltd) and CAMS Investor Services.

Sebi said KRAs will independently validate records of those clients (existing as well as new) whose KYC has been completed using Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD).

The records of those clients who have completed KYC using non-Aadhaar OVD will be validated only upon receiving the Aadhaar number. "The validation of all KYC records (new and existing) shall commence from July 1, 2022," Sebi said.

102. Recently In April _____ has joined hands with NPCI Bharat billpay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, to digitally transform the cash counters of BEST.

- A. Zebpay
- B. Xpay. Life
- C. SBI Card
- D. ICICI Bank

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This initiative will facilitate seamless electricity bill payments for millions of BEST customers. The BEST's BOCP (Biller's Own Collection Point) will now be completely digitized with user-friendly solutions for its customers to undertake a plethora of utility transactions over and above electricity bills payments.

The digitisation – powered by NBBL will take place through three different methods of payments. The first method is to deploy intelligent point of sales (POS) machines at select cash counters of BEST,

In the second method, Touch Screen Kiosks will be deployed at various BEST locations for customers to choose their convenient time and method of payment.

The third payment option is path-breaking and is aimed at getting the counters of BEST to the comfort of customers' homes. The XPay.Life Mobile van will be deployed for BEST and it will travel to the locations of the customers on select days of the week,

Mr. Rohit Kumar, Founder & CEO of XPay.Life Ms. Noopur Chaturvedi, CEO of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL)

XPay.Life is a one stop destination for Digital Payment Solutions. The firm's USP is Utility Bill Payment through its ATP Kiosk, PoS machines and Mobile Van where cash payment is accepted along with credit/debit cards,

The Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is a civic transport and electricity provider public body based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. BEST operates one of India's largest fleets of buses.

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India. Came into effect from April 1, 2021

103. Recently In April **Flipkart** has announced a new app _____ that will take on the likes of **pharmeasy** and **Tata 1mg** And will allow users to order medicines and healthcare products such as health drinks, wellness and hygiene products alongside others.

- A. **Flipkart Health+**
- B. **Flipkart Medi+**
- C. **Flipkart Telemedicine+**
- D. **Flipkart Wealth +**

- **Flipkart** has announced a new app – the **Flipkart Health+** – that will take on the likes of **pharmeasy** and **Tata 1mg**. The app will allow users to order medicines and healthcare products such as health drinks, wellness and hygiene products alongside others.

XPay.Life partners with NBBL to digitise cash counters of BEST Electricity in Mumbai To facilitate seamless electricity bill payments for BEST customers

TOPICS: #Mr. Lokesh Chandra IAS GM Of BEST #Mr. Rohit Kumar
#Mr. Rohit Kumar Founder & CEO Of XPay.Life #Ms. Noopur Chaturvedi CEO Of NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL)
#NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. #XPay.Life BEST UNDERTAKING



- Prashant Jhaveri, chief executive officer, Flipkart

104. Recently In April **Union Bank of India** Announced That it will sell its _____ per cent stake in **India SME Asset Reconstruction**

Company .

- A. 9 %
- B. 8 %**
- C. 7 %
- D. 6 %

Union Bank of India on Wednesday said it will sell its 8 per cent stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company.

"The bank has executed an agreement on April 6, 2022 for sale of its 8 per cent stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (ISARC) in favour of Dhansamridhi Finance

ISARC is the country's first ARC supported by a large number of public sector banks and undertakings, focussed on NPA resolution of the MSME sector.

The ARC is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd.

Union Bank to sell its 8% stake in ISARC

UNION BANK OF India on Wednesday said it will sell its 8% stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company. "The bank has executed an agreement on April 6, 2022, for sale of its 8% stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC) in favour of Dhansamridhi Finance," the bank said in a regulatory filing. The stake sale is subject to obtaining requisite regulatory approvals, it said.

IIFL Securities partners with GoldenPi

IIFL SECURITIES ON Wednesday said it has partnered with bond investing platform GoldenPi to provide retail investors seamless access to invest in secondary market bonds and debentures. IIFL Securities is in the process of accelerated digital transformation and has introduced multiple industry-first products developed by its 200-strong digital and technology team.

Flipkart joins race to deliver medicines

Nikhil Patwardhan

nikhil.patwardhan@livemint.com

MUMBAI

Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart Group will start delivering medicines in India, joining Amazon.com Inc, Reliance Industries Ltd and the Tata group, among others seeking to tap the country's near \$500 billion digital healthcare marketplace.

The online retailer on Wednesday said it has launched Flipkart Health+, a technology platform that enables access to medicines, healthcare products and services across the country. It plans to serve customers across 20,000 pin codes, enabling access to medicines and healthcare products from independent sellers.

VCCIRCLE

According to the company, the healthcare app would benefit from the expertise and experience of Flipkart's reach and last-mile supply chain capabilities, along with Sastasundar.com's healthcare network across the country.

According to an India Brand Equity Foundation report, the domestic digital healthcare market stood at \$116.61 billion in 2018 and is expected to post a compound annual growth rate of 27.41% to \$485.43 billion by 2024.

Flipkart had last November acquired a majority stake in online pharmacy and digital health platform SastaSundar Marketplace Ltd that owns and runs SastaSundar.com, VCCircle had reported.

105. Recently In April In A First Indian Railways Has partnered with _____ for a 'Joint Parcel Product' (JPP) provided by the Department of Posts, for the intermediate connectivity from station to station shall be done through Railways .

- A. Airtel Payment Bank
- B. India Post**
- C. State Bank Of India
- D. Bank Of Baroda

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A 'Joint Parcel Product' (JPP) of India Post and Indian Railways is being developed, wherein first-mile and last-mile connectivity will be provided by the Department of Posts, and the intermediate connectivity from station to station shall be done through Railways.

This will first such exercise where freight and parcels will be taken from the premise of the sender and delivered to the doors of the receiver under the joint initiative of two government run utilities.

The JPP by Indian Railways and India Post has commenced on pilot project basis. The first service of the pilot project has commenced on 31st March, 2022 from Surat to Varanasi,

India Post is a government operated postal system in India, which is under the jurisdiction of Department of Post, Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. Generally called "the Post Office" in India, Founded: 1 October 1854

Headquarters: New Delhi

106. Recently In April The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022, to settle tax disputes involving small taxpayers Taxpayers having total returned income up to _____ and having income tax disputes not exceeding ₹10 lakh will be able to avail the scheme.

- A. Rs 20 Lkah
- B. Rs 50 Lakh**
- C. Rs 25 Lakh
- D. Rs 15 Lakh

FinMin notifies e-dispute resolution scheme

Assesseees with taxable income up to ₹50 lakh and disputed income of ₹10 lakh in focus



The notifications seek to implement this year's Budget announcements

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, April 6

The Finance Ministry has notified constitution of a dispute resolution committee and e-dispute resolution scheme to provide faceless disposal of cases. This arrangement will be available for assesseees with taxable income up to ₹50 lakh and disputed income of ₹10 lakh.

Two notifications have been issued with an aim to implement an announcement made in this year's Budget.

Panel to be formed

"The Centre shall constitute a dispute resolution committee for every region of principal chief commissioner of income tax for dispute resolution," one

of the notifications said. The committee will have two retired Indian Revenue Service (income tax) officers and one serving officer not below the rank of principal commissioner of income tax or commissioner of income tax. They will be appointed for three years.

The committee may grant waiver of penalty imposable or immunity from prosecution or both, in respect of the order which is the subject matter of

resolution. This will be subjected to two conditions - tax has been paid in full and applicant has co-operated with the committee. However, no immunity will be granted where proceedings have been initiated before the date of receipt of the application. Also, an immunity will stand withdrawn, if such person fails to comply with conditions to which the immunity was granted.

The scheme

The notification pertaining to the scheme says a person will not be required to appear,

either personally or through authorised representative, in connection with any proceedings before the committee or income tax authority. However, the assessee may request for personal hearing.

Notification prescribes six months period to dispose-off the application. No appeal or revision can be made against the order.

Tax officials said such a scheme is required considering the large amount of tax dues even from small taxpayers. On Tuesday, the ministry informed Rajya Sabha that over ₹8.40-

lakh crore demands are outstanding with respect to individuals as on April 1.

They said dispute means unwanted use of limited resources, not just from taxpayers' side but also from the tax department.

Recovery of arrears

Further, the officials said strategies and targets for recovery of arrears of taxes are laid down as part of the CBDT's annual central action plan. Databases are made available to the field units for identification of assets.

**This is the closest yo
Warren Buffett's rule**

- **The CBDT also notified constitution of a dispute resolution committee, which shall consist of three members, including two retired officers from the Indian Revenue Service who have held the post of commissioner of income tax or higher post for five years and one serving officer not below the rank of principal commissioner of income-tax. Members will have a tenure of three years.**

107. Recently In April In A Largest Deal to date in the Indian asset management space. Bandhan Financial Holdings won the bid to buy IDFC Asset Management Company in a deal valued at _____ .

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- A. Rs 5000 Cr
- B. Rs 4500 Cr**
- C. Rs 3500 Cr
- D. Rs 3800 Cr

Bandhan Financial Holdings won the bid to buy IDFC Asset Management Company in a deal valued at ₹4,500 crore, marking the entry of a financier that began its life as a bottom-of-the-pyramid lender into the ritzy business of asset management dominated by bulge-bracket financial groupings such as ICICI, HDFC and the State Bank of India. This is the largest deal to date in the Indian asset management space

The consortium led by the Kolkata-based owner of Bandhan Bank trumped the US based Invesco that partnered with buyout firm Warburg Pincus and Kedaara Capital, paying 3.6% of the assets under management.

IDFC Asset Management, founded in 2010, is among the top 10 companies in investment management, especially fixed income, where it is among the best performers.

This is the second big acquisition in the mutual fund space in recent times after HSBC Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd's buyout of L&T Investment Management from L&T Finance for \$425 million in December last year.

108. Recently In April Public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra will divest its entire stake of _____ percent in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for nearly Rs 4 crore.

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

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has executed a share purchase agreement dated April 6, 2022 for sale of entire equity stake of 4 per cent in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (ISARC) The stake sale is subject to RBI approval for change in sponsor shareholder of ISARC

ISARC is the country's first Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), supported by a large number of public sector banks and undertakings, focussed on NPA resolution of the MSME sector.

The ARC is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd. Bank of Maharashtra is a nationalised bank under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Headquarters: Pune CEO: A. S. Rajeev Founded: 16 September 1935

Bandhan Financial-led consortium to buy IDFC Mutual Fund for ₹4,500 crore

Bandhan Financial will also look at other financial service businesses as permitted within the guidelines such as asset management business, insurance (both life and general). Bandhan Financial is also one of the resolution applicants for Reliance Nippon Life Insurance. "The asset management industry has been doing very well over the past 10 years and growing at 16-17 per cent. There has been quite a bit of activity and consolidation. It (the acquisition) fits with what the Bandhan Group endeavours to do. We want to explore other financial services and we will continue this journey," Arha said. IDFC AMC's assets under management total ₹1.25-lakh crore.



completed upon receipt of regulatory and other approvals and the completion of closing actions agreed between the parties, IDFC said in a regulatory filing to stock exchanges on Wednesday. While Bandhan Financial will hold 60 per cent, GIC and Chryscapital arms will hold 20 per cent each in the AMC. According to Karmi S Arha, MD, Bandhan Financial Hold-

ing, the acquisition fits with what the Bandhan Group endeavours to do – be a holistic financial services group.

OUR BUREAU Kolkata, April 6 The boards of directors of IDFC Ltd and IDFC Financial Holding Company have approved the sale of the entire shareholding of IDFC AMC and IDFC AMC Trustee held by IDFC FHCL to a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holding Ltd, Lathes Investment Pte Ltd (an affiliate of GIC), Tangerine Investments and Infinity Partners (affiliates of Chryscapital) for a proposed consideration of ₹4,500 crore. The transaction will be

109. Recently In April In A First Of Its Kind Supply chain finance company KredX has partnered With _____ to offer 'KredX Commercial Card', for B2B payments .

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda

Supply chain finance company KredX has partnered ICICI Bank to offer 'ICICI Bank-KredX Commercial Card', for B2B payments. The first-of-its-kind cashback card that enables businesses to avail financial rewards instantly for all B2B payments, without incurring any additional cost.

Through this partnership, KredX aims to disburse upwards of ₹2,000 crore business-to-business vendor payments per month. "KredX is India's Leading Supply Chain Financing Solution Provider helping enterprises

ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara.

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

110. Recently In April Tata Group Launched A New Super App Called _____ The one-stop portal, which will offer hotel bookings, electronics and grocery shopping and e-pharmacy, among others, which is set to launch in early 2022.

- A. Tatasup
- B. Tataneu
- C. Tatacop
- D. Tatatshop

- **Tata Group launched its much-anticipated super app 'Neu' on April 7 as it attempts to take on Amazon and Jio Platforms amid the rapid growth in the consumer digital economy space in the country.**
- **The super app promises "super rewards" and brings airlines, hotels, medicines and groceries in one place. Here are a few features of the app reviewed by Moneycontrol.**
- **The application allows users to access a range Tata services -- booking hotels with Taj, airasia for flights, Croma for buying electronics, Cliq for beauty and luxury products and Tata Sky to manage satellite TV.**

Tata's 'Neu' all-in-one app to rival Amazon, Reliance

Super app buzzing with offers and reward programmes, but experts sceptical

DEBANGANA GHOSH

Mumbai, April 7

Tata Digital launched India's first super app, Tata Neu, on Thursday, bringing services such as groceries, electronics, fashion, hotels, flights, food, digital content and even medical diagnostics in a one-stop app.

Tata Neu brings together some of the group's marquee in-house brands, a few of which it had earlier acquired, including BigBasket, Img, IHCL Hotels, Qmin, Starbucks, Croma, Tata CliQ, Westside and Air Asia.

The app is yet to list Vistara, Air India and Curefit's services.

"The journey of Tata Neu has begun with a cumulative consumer base of 120 million users, 2,500 offline stores, along with an 80 million app footprint across our digital assets.

"We have over a dozen category leading consumer brands ranging from electronics, fashion, travel, hospitality, groceries, pharmacy and financial services. We believe that with Tata Neu, we will create a highly differentiated consumer platform," said Pratik Pal, CEO, Tata Di-



gital, in a statement. The app comes with two new key features — a common reward programme across services and the introduction of UPI-based Tata Pay.

Reward programme

Tata Neu offers 'NeuCoins' for its rewards programme which can be exchanged for equal amount of rupees, wherein 1 NeuCoin is equal to ₹1.

Members earn 5 per cent NeuCoins or more every time they shop, dine, or travel via Tata Neu. NeuPass members will enjoy several benefits such as free deliveries, exclusive offers, built-in credit line, early access to product launches and brand-specific

privileges. Users of apps like BigBasket and Img can seamlessly migrate to the new super app without having to punch in details like a delivery address.

"Tata Neu is an exciting platform that gathers all our brands into one powerful app. Combining our traditional consumer-first approach with the modern ethos of technology, it is an all-new way to discover the wonderful world of Tata. The power of choice, a seamless experience, and loyalty will be at the centre of Tata Neu, delivering a powerful One Tata experience," said N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons

Is India super app-ready?

While the app by itself looked promising, industry experts remained divided on the scope of the super app model in India as complications related to draft e-commerce rules, data privacy and app stickiness surface.

"The super app model may work in India, but will face difficulties given the e-commerce regime that is being proposed. I do not expect it to work as well as WeChat did in China. Exclusivity and the range of services will attract the customers while the reward points will be the means of retaining them," Shoubhik Dasgupta, Partner, Pioneer Legal, told *BusinessLine*.

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- *The Neu app has services like bigbasket and 1mg (for medicines) built within it, so it does not feel like one is being overwhelmed with information.*
- *The app allows users to pay their bills and also offers personal loans and insurance.*
- *What is missing from the app is Vistara -- a joint venture between 4. Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines -- and the health and fitness startup Cure.fit, in which Tata has invested*

111. Recently In April Indian IT Major _____ Partnered With Rolls-Royce To launched a joint aerospace engineering research centre in Bengaluru to provide high-end research and development (R&D) services integrated with advanced digital capabilities .

- A. TCS
- B. Wipro
- C. **Infosys**
- D. JSW

IT company Infosys and industrial technology firm Rolls-Royce on Thursday launched a joint aerospace engineering research centre in Bengaluru.

The Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre has been established to provide high-end research and development (R&D) services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services from India,

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited is a British luxury automobile maker.

Infosys Limited is an Indian multinational information technology company that provides business consulting, Headquarters: Bengaluru

Infosys, Rolls-Royce launch aerospace engineering centre

Infosys and Rolls-Royce today inaugurated their joint 'Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre' in Bengaluru for providing high-end research and development services cum advanced digital capabilities to the latter's engineering and group business services from India.

BS REPORTER

112. Recently In April Meta Has Announced to launch a digital currency called _____ and virtual tokens, coins and other financial services, after its pet cryptocurrency project failed to take off .

- A. Onyx
- B. Robus
- C. **Zuck Bucks**
- D. Deim

Meta plans ‘Zuck Bucks’— digital money in Mark Zuckerberg’s name

REUTERS
April 7

META PLATFORMS INC IS READYING plans to introduce virtual tokens and cryptocurrencies to its family of apps with an aim to use such virtual tokens for rewarding creators and lending and other financial services, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.

The move, which is reported to be in its early stages, comes as Meta grows its focus on services centered around the metaverse, a virtual environment where people interact, work and play.

If implemented, it could also give Meta a new revenue channel and control over transactions in its suite of apps and services,



which include Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and the Meta Quest virtual reality platform.

Meta’s cryptocurrencies, internally dubbed “Zuck Bucks”, are intended for the metaverse and may not be based on

blockchain, the FT report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Meta could introduce in-app tokens that would be centrally controlled by the company, the report said, and such tokens could be used to pay favorite creators on Instagram or reward people who make meaningful contributions in Facebook groups.

“We have no updates to share today,” a Meta spokesperson told Reuters on Wednesday, adding that the company is focused on building for the metaverse “and that includes what payments and financial services might look like.”

Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer of Meta, said last month that Instagram will introduce non-fungible tokens (NFTs) in the “near-term”.

Meta is reportedly planning to launch a digital currency called 'Zuck Bucks' -- named after its Founder Mark Zuckerberg -- and virtual tokens, coins and other financial services, after its pet cryptocurrency project failed to take off.

Zuck Bucks" will not be a cryptocurrency but more like in-app tokens that would be centrally controlled by the company, similar to those used in gaming apps like 'Robux' currency by popular kids' gaming platform Roblox.

the cryptocurrency dream of Zuckerberg was officially over as the company in February announced it has sold its digital coin known as Diem for around \$200 million to Silvergate, a crypto-focused bank Originally launched as Libra and later renamed as the Diem Association, the cryptocurrency initiative faced regulatory backlash, and the US Federal Reserve was a key opponent to Diem launching.

113. Recently In April **Government has accorded In-Principle approval for _____ new sites for locating nuclear power plants in future .**

- A. 5
- B. 7
- C. 10
- D. 3

‘5 new sites approved for locating nuclear power plants in future’

New Delhi: Centre has accorded ‘in-principle’ approval for five new sites for locating nuclear power plants in future, said the union minister of state for atomic energy and space, Jitendra Singh.

STAFF WRITER

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He informed Lok Sabha that the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 10 indigenous 700 Mega Watt Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors PHWRs to be set up in fleet mode.

There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6,780 Mega Watt in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 Mega Watt) has been connected to the grid in January last year.

In order to produce fuel for all indigenous PHWRs, Fuel fabrication capacity is augmented in the facilities available at Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad and the upcoming facilities at Nuclear Fuel Complex, Kota, Rajasthan in order to match with the requirement of existing PHWRs and upcoming PHWRs.

114. Recently In April _____ and **coverstack, a digital B2B platform for insurance services**, have announced partnership to offer insurance products on the platform .

- A. Axis Direct
- B. ICICI Securities**
- C. Bandhan Bank
- D. RBL Bank

- **Icicidirect, a financial products distributor, and coverstack, a digital B2B platform for insurance services, have announced a partnership to offer insurance products on the platform.**
- **Using coverstack, icicidirect's more than seven million customers can now search, customize, compare, and buy the most suitable insurance plans for health and motor insurance, by comparing quotes and features from multiple insurance firms easily**

115. Recently In April The **Reserve Bank Of India Has Imposed A Monetary Penalty Of _____ On Axis Bank And _____ On IDBI Bank.**

- A. Rs 50 Lakh , Rs 1 Crore
- B. Rs 30 Lakh , Rs 60 Lakh
- C. RS 20 Lakh , Rs 50 Lakh
- D. Rs 93 Lakh , Rs 90 Lakh**

- **In the case of Axis Bank, the RBI has imposed a monetary penalty for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on loans and advance, KYC guidelines and penalties on non-maintenance of minimum balance in savings accounts.**
- **In the case of IDBI Bank, RBI said the lender reported frauds with delay and submitted flash reports in respect of frauds involving an amount of ₹5 crore and above to RBI with delay and failed to implement time restrictions on holidays and data access control**

RBI fines banks

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed fines of ₹93 lakh on Axis Bank and ₹90 lakh on IDBI Bank for violation of various norms. **PTI**

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- **Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry Founded: 1993,**
- **The IDBI Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank and a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation providing financial and banking services. It was established in 1964 as Industrial Development Bank of India, Headquarters: Mumbai CEO: Rakesh Sharma At present, IDBI Bank is classified as a private sector bank by the RBI with the government's shareholding at 45.5 percent, LIC's shareholding at 49.24 percent and the non-promoter shareholding at 5.29 percent.**

116. Recently In April _____ has joined the United Nations Global Compact India, voluntarily adhering to universal sustainability principles and taking actions to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals .

- A. Kredex
- B. Zebpay
- C. **Arya.ag**
- D. Xpay.Lite

Arya.ag, India's largest and fastest-growing integrated grain commerce platform, today announced that it has joined the United Nations Global Compact India thereby voluntarily conforming to universal sustainability principles and taking steps to support UN SDGs.

Arya.ag is among the pioneers to proactively embrace this globally coveted framework. The United Nations Global Compact is an evolved framework of Corporate Governance driven sustainability that requires members to conduct business conforming to 10 principles encompassing elements such as human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. Furthermore, members are required to take action to achieve SDGs 2030.

India's marine products exports stood at \$7.74 billion during 2021-22. Commerce Ministry has fixed the \$7.809-billion marine products export target for 2021-22. US, China (2nd) and Japan (3rd) are the top three markets for India's marine exports. Arya.ag (a grain commerce platform) has joined UN Global Compact (UNGC) India.

117. Recently In April the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Partnered with _____ government's Mission School of Excellence project, which aims to improve education quality in the state, for a loan worth _____ crore .

- A. Maharashtra , Rs 7000 Cr
- B. **Gujarat , Rs 7500 Cr**
- C. Odisha , Rs 8000 Cr
- D. Tamil Nadu , Rs 5000 Cr

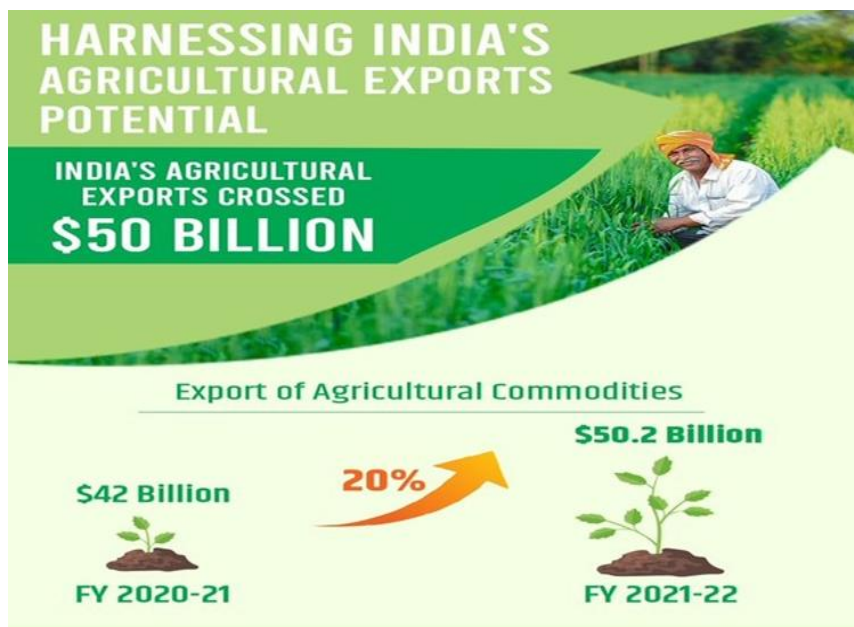
- **The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide a loan of Rs 7,500 crore for the Gujarat government's Mission School of Excellence project that aims to improve the quality of education in the state, an official said on Tuesday.**
- **Under the Mission School of Excellence project, the state government will spend Rs 10,000 crore in the next five years and cover all 35,133 government and 5,847 grant-in-aid schools in the state.**

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- The funds will be spent on building 50,000 new classrooms, creating 1.5 lakh smart classrooms, 20,000 new computer labs and 5,000 tinkering labs in 41,000-odd government and grant-in-aid schools across the state.
- A delegation from the World Bank on Tuesday visited Gandhinagar to study the School of Excellence project.
- The delegation, led by the bank's Global Education Director Jaime Saavedra also visited the state education department's command and control centre in the state capital, The delegation wanted to study these "Gujarat model initiatives" to check if they can be declared as "global best practices" The recently launched command and control centre is an interactive platform used by the education department to monitor the attendance of students and teachers,

118. Recently In April India's exports of agricultural products, including marine and plantation products, reached a record high of _____ for 2021-22 .

- A. \$52.21 billion
 - B. \$56.21 billion
 - C. \$50.21 billion**
 - D. \$54.21 billion
- India has achieved the highest-ever exports of agricultural products (including marine and plantation products) for the year 2021-22 as they surpassed the \$50 billion-mark, the most for agriculture exports.
 - Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, agricultural exports grew by 19.92 per cent during 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion.
 - **Rice - \$9.65 billion**
 - **Wheat - \$2.19 billion**
 - **Sugar - \$4.6 billion**
 - **Other cereals - \$1.08 billion**
 - Recently, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said that India is aiming to export a record 10 million tonne of wheat in 2022-23.
 - Coffee exports also crossed \$1 billion for the first time India's coffee exports during 2021-22 grew by 42% to \$1.042 billion. Commerce Ministry's target for coffee exports is \$1.07 billion for fiscal 2022.



Appointment News

119. Recently In April The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved an extension in the tenure of Murli M Natarajan as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of _____ for a period of two years.

- A. DCB Bank
- B. DBS Bank
- C. RBL Bank
- D. CSB Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved an extension in the tenure of Murli M Natarajan as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years. His extended term will be applicable from April 29, 2022, to April 28, 2024. Natarajan is serving as MD & CEO of the bank since April 2009.

RBI has capped the tenure of bank chief executives at 15 years and Natarajan will complete 15 years at the helm of the bank in 2024. The re-appointment as above is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing annual general meeting of the bank.

DCB Bank Limited is a private sector scheduled commercial bank in India. Headquarters: Mumbai

120. Recently In April Debt-ridden Future Retail Ltd's CEO _____ has resigned from the post seven months after his appointment, Future Group CEO _____ has been re-appointed as executive chairman of the company for three years.

- A. Diwakar Gupta , Manish Makharia
- B. Manish Makharia , Diwakar Gupta
- C. Sadashiv Nayak , Kishore Biyani
- D. Kishore Biyani , Sadashiv Nayak

Future Retail, which operates various formats such as Big Bazaar, Koryo, Foodhall and Easyday, is part of the 19 Future group companies, which would be transferred to Reliance Retail as part of Rs 24,713 crore deal announced in August 2020.

The deal is contested by e-commerce major Amazon and is under litigation at various forums including Supreme Court, Delhi high court and Singapore International Arbitration Center.

In February, Reliance Retail took over the operations of at least 300 stores of FRL and has offered jobs to its employees after the Kishore Biyani-led group failed to make lease payments to landlords.

Future Retail CEO resigns after 7 months in job



DEBT-RIDDEN
FUTURE Retail's
CEO Sadashiv
Nayak has

resigned from the post seven months after his appointment, according to a filing, reports Reuters in New Delhi. Future Group CEO Kishore Biyani has been re-appointed as executive chairman of the company for three years, a regulatory filing said on Thursday.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

121. Recently In April _____ Has Resigned From The Post Of chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL) While _____ a deputy managing director of the State Bank of India, was subsequently appointed interim chairman .

- A. Pradip Shah , Subrata Biswas
- B. Diwakar Gupta , Manish Makharia
- C. Manish Makharia , Diwakar Gupta
- D. Subrata Bishwas , Pradip Shah

Bad bank chief quit as RBI nod never can

7/18

Subrata Biswas, a senior SBI official, was appointed interim chairman

Shayan Ghosh
shayan.g@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Pradip Shah, the financial sector veteran who was appointed chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL) on 1 November 2021, had to resign on 28 January as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for his appointment did not arrive on time, said two people aware of the matter.

While Subrata Biswas, a deputy managing director of the State Bank of India, was subsequently appointed interim chairman, RBI has so far not made its position on Shah's appointment public, they said.

"I had no sense, nor did I try to sense if the RBI approval was likely or unlikely. It had not come by the date I resigned," Shah said in response to *Minf's* emailed queries.

Shah, the founder managing director of Crisil, is known for his role in setting up mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp. Ltd. The 69-year-old had also founded corporate finance and private equity advisory, IndAsia Fund Advisors, in 1998.

Though RBI did not inform lenders why his appointment was not ratified, the fact that Shah holds senior positions on boards of many companies could have gone against him as it could lead to a conflict of interest, said one of the people, seeking anonymity.

Shah is director on 17 company boards, according to data of the Registrar of Companies.

"The idea of getting an external expert as the chairman was meant to strengthen NARCL's process of buying into stressed assets," the person cited above said, adding that it is better to have a non-banker as the chairman of the bad bank.

The second person, also seeking anonymity, said Shah was initially reluctant,



The Reserve Bank of India has so far not made its position public on the appointment of Pradip Shah as chairman of NARCL, according to persons aware of the matter.

but decided to take up the role after multiple requests from lenders.

Email queries sent to an RBI spokesperson, and Padmakumar Nair, chief executive, NARCL, remained unanswered till press time.

Lobby group Indian Banks' Association

UNFAVOURABLE FACTOR

THE fact that Shah holds top positions on boards of many firms may have gone against him

SHAH is a director on the boards of 17 companies, as per Registrar of Companies data

SHAH was initially reluctant take up the post but changed his mind after lenders' repeated requests

(IBA) has also sought applications for the post of NARCL's chief executive.

While incumbent chief Nair may also apply for the position, fresh applications have to be invited as public sector entities are mandated to run an open selection process.

The plan to set up a bad bank was first

announced in the Union budget for FY22. However, the central bank was initially not happy with the proposed structure, which led to a delay. Subsequently, lenders submitted a revised proposal before the banking regulator and the NARCL was finally set up, and 38 accounts worth ₹82,845 crore were identified for transfer to the entity.

However, the central bank recently threw its weight behind the idea of a bad bank. Citing success stories from other countries, RBI said that if logistical and financial challenges are carefully navigated, experiments with bad banks have had more hits than misses.

Under the new structure, the bad bank will acquire and aggregate the bad loan accounts from banks, while India Debt Resolution Co. Ltd (IDRCL) will handle the resolution process under an exclusive arrangement.

Pradip Shah, the financial sector veteran who was appointed chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL) on 1 November 2021, had to resign on 28 January as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for his appointment did not arrive on time,

The plan to set up a bad bank was first announced in the Union budget for FY22. However, the central bank was initially not happy with the proposed structure, which led to a delay. Subsequently, lenders submitted a revised proposal before the banking regulator and the NARCL was finally set up, and 38 accounts worth ₹82,845 crore were identified for transfer to the entity.

Under the new structure, the bad bank will acquire and aggregate the bad loan accounts from banks, while India Debt Resolution Co. Ltd (IDRCL) will handle the resolution process under an exclusive arrangement.

122. Recently In April _____ has taken charge as the *president and CEO Honda Cars India* .

- A. Kunal Behl
- B. Takuya Tsumura**
- C. Yuichi Murata
- D. Trishkia Mouitra

Dr. S Raju has assumed charge as Director General of GSI. He was Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI headquarters. Dr. Raju has replaced Rajendra Singh Garkhal. Geological Survey of India (GSI):

It was founded in 1851. Its headquarters is in Kolkata.

Takuya Tsumura takes charge as president & CEO of Honda Cars India

HONDA CARS India on Friday said Takuya Tsumura has taken charge as President and CEO of the company.

As part of the organisational changes, the company has also elevated Kunal Behl as Vice President, Marketing and Sales from his erstwhile position of Operating Head – Sales and Network Development.

In his new role, Behl will be operating head of sales and marketing, and will form an integral part of the management team spearheaded by new CEO and will support Yuichi Murata, director - marketing and sales.

Tsumura has been associated with Honda Motor Co Ltd for more than 30 years.



Takuya Tsumura

He has vast experience in the automobile industry, having worked in several international markets, including Thailand, Australia, China, Japan, Turkey and has worked with overseas division for Europe and Asia and Oceania regions.

Behl joined Honda in 2002 and has headed several key functions, including Field Sales, Network Development, Sales Planning, Exports and New business development.

—PTI

123. Recently In April _____ has been appointed as the *new Chairman of National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH)* Which was set up to establish and operate accreditation programme for healthcare organizations .

- A. Diwakar Gupta
- B. Mahesh Verma**
- C. Subrata Biswas
- D. Pradip Shah

Mahesh Verma appointed as new Chairman of National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH).

Mahesh Verma is currently serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi's Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, and Professor at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH):

It was set up to establish and operate accreditation programme for healthcare organizations. It is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India.

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First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

124. Recently In April **Viktor Orban** won the election for the **fourth consecutive term as the Prime Minister of** _____ .

- A. **Hungary**
- B. Mexico
- C. Iceland
- D. Ireland

- **Viktor Orban** has won the election for the fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Hungary.
- **Fidesz party** is the name of his party. The opposition was led by **Péter Márki-Zay**.
- In March 2022, **Katalin Novak** was elected as Hungary's first female President. Its capital is Budapest. Its currency is **Forint (HUF)**.

125. Recently In April **Aleksandar Vucic**, has been appointed as the new **President Of** _____ .

- A. Hungry
- B. **Serbia**
- C. Switzerland
- D. Spain

- **Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic** re-elected with a resound
- **Aleksandar Vucic** was first elected President in 2017, succeeding **Tomislav Nikoli**.
- Its capital is **Belgrade**. Its currency is the **Serbian dinar**.

126. Recently In April **Capital markets regulator SEBI** constituted a _____ **Member committee for reviewing and making recommendations for further strengthening of governance norms at stock exchange and other market infrastructure institutions (miis)** Which is To Be Headed By _____ .

- A. 5 , **Harsh Bhanwalla**
- B. **6 , G Mahalingam**
- C. 7 , **Ramsarsha Mishra**
- D. 8 , **Jyanti Krishnan**

WIN FOR PRO-PUTIN LEADERS

Hungary's Orban, Serbia's Vucic win crucial re-elections

JUSTIN SPIKE & JOVANA GEC
BUDAPEST, APRIL 4



Hungarian PM Viktor Orban and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic (right)

AFTER TWO nationalist European strongmen won overwhelming victories in elections on Sunday, one of the first foreign leaders to congratulate both was not from a neighbouring country or a regional ally. It was Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The parliamentary elections in Hungary and Serbia both brought landslide wins for the two countries' longtime, pro-Putin leaders – Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

Their victories on Sunday highlighted an underlying discord in attitudes among European nations toward the autocracies of Russia and China. As those powers seek to exert greater influence on the continent and beyond, Orban and

Vucic have aimed to emulate the autocratic touch through their own style of governance in the heart of Europe.

Orban's right-wing Fidesz party won more than 53% of the vote. In Serbia, Vucic cruised into an outright victory with the nearest opposition candidate trailing by some 40%. It was the first time that a presidential candidate won a second mandate without a runoff vote. "I managed something no one else has done before me," Vucic said in a victory speech. "It wasn't even close." AP

SEBI formed a committee to examine and provide recommendations for improving governance norms at stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

G Mahalingam, a former full-time member of SEBI, will chair the six-member committee. The Committee has to make recommendations on measures for strengthening the role played by the governing board and committees of MIIs.

In addition, the panel will review the requirements for the appointment, role, and responsibility of board directors and Key Managerial Persons (KMPs).

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): SEBI was set up in 1988 and given statutory status in 1992. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai. Madhabi Puri Buch is the current chairperson of SEBI.

Sebi forms panel to strengthen governance of stock exchanges

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday constituted a committee for reviewing and making recommendations for further strengthening of governance norms at stock exchange and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

The development comes in the backdrop of alleged corporate governance lapses at NSE. The panel will be chaired by G Mahalingam, former whole-time member of Sebi, said a statement.

The other members are – MD and CEOs of stock exchanges NSE and BSE, and depositories – NSDL and CDSL; J N Gupta, MD of Stakeholders Empowerment Services; Aarti Nihalani, partner, Oliver Wyman; Sandip Bhagat, partner, S&R Associates; and Uttam Bagri, former chairman, BSE Brokers Forum. PTI

127. Recently In April _____ India's ambassador to Nepal has been named the new foreign secretary by the Centre As He succeeds Harsh Vardhan Shringla who is set to retire at the end of this month .

- A. Tarun Bajaj
- B. Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- C. Anubrata Ghosh
- D. N Chandrasekhran

- India's ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra will become new foreign secretary.
- He will take place of Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who is retiring in April 2022.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Kwatra as Foreign Secretary.

Vinay Kwatra will be the new Foreign Secretary

He is serving as Ambassador to Nepal

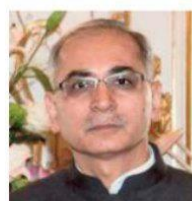
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The Union government has appointed Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the next Foreign Secretary. The announcement came just after a visit by Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Mr. Kwatra is set to assume charge on April 30, the day present Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan

Shringla retires, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet said.

Mr. Kwatra, a 1988-batch officer, had served as Ambassador to France (2017 to 2020), Deputy Chief of Mission in Beijing and Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy in Washington, DC. He had worked at the External Affairs Ministry headquarters on the policy planning desk, as Joint Secretary (Americas) and represented India at the SAARC Secretariat in Nepal as head of the Trade Bureau, according to de-



Vinay Mohan Kwatra

tails available on the website of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.

Mr. Kwatra will supersede several officers in the 1986-87 batches, including Gaitri Issar Kumar, envoy to U.K.; Ruchira

Khamboj (Bhutan); Ajay Bisaria (Canada); Jaideep Sarkar (South Africa); Sanjay Bhattacharya (Switzerland); and Sangeeta Bahadur (Malta).

South Block insiders credit his elevation not just to his tenure in Kathmandu but also to his roles as Ambassador to France, and prior to that, as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office who had Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ear.

Mr. Kwatra was often seen in close consultation with Mr. Modi during his initial years in office, serv-

ing as an unofficial translator to him at a pinch, given Mr. Kwatra's fluency in Hindi, English and French. Mr. Kwatra was posted as Ambassador to France in August 2017, a month before the Rafale deal was signed.

The move not to extend Mr. Shringla's tenure is at odds with the Centre's decisions this year on officials such as the Home Secretary, the Enforcement Directorate Director, the Research and Analysis Wing Secretary and the Intelligence Bureau Director.

- Vinay Mohan Kwatra has vast experience of handling international affairs. He had headed the policy planning & research division of the Ministry of External Affairs between July 2013 and October 2015.
- After retirement, Shringla is likely to be appointed as special coordinator for G-20.

128. Recently In April *pharmeasy*, a pharmacy platform, has launched its latest campaign #gharbaithebaithetakeiteasy featuring Bollywood star _____ as its brand ambassador ?

- A. Disha Patani
- B. Shahrukh Khan
- C. **Aamir Khan**
- D. Salman Khan

Aamir Khan becomes brand ambassador of PharmEasy.

PharmEasy has launched its latest campaign with Bollywood star Aamir Khan.

PharmEasy is an Indian healthcare app and e-commerce platform. Siddharth Shah is the current CEO of PharmEasy Godrej Appliances named Ayushmann Khurrana as its brand ambassador.

129. Recently In April _____ has been appointed as a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, The 16-member group will be led by Catherine mckenna, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change .

- A. Srachana Soreng
- B. **Arunabha Ghosh**
- C. Mukjeh Makhija
- D. Diwakar Gupta

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water has been appointed as a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against stemming global warming. Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group.

The High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities was constituted on March 31 and is expected to draw up an action plan and recommend actions to businesses and non-State actors to accelerate the transition to net-zero, or when carbon emitted by human sources is compensated by sucking carbon out of the atmosphere.

The 16-member group will be led by Catherine McKenna, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the group is tasked with reviewing current standards and definitions for setting net-zero targets;

UN chief names an Indian in climate team

Group to frame net-zero plans

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water, has been appointed a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against global warming. Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group.

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Currently, it is mostly countries that have committed to a year, by which they would be net-zero. India, for instance, has a 2070 target and the U.S. has committed to a 2050 date.

The 16-member group will be led by Catherine McKenna, former Canadian



Arunabha Ghosh

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the group is tasked with reviewing current standards and definitions for setting net-zero targets; check if proponents have used credibility criteria to assess the objectives, measurement and reporting of net-zero pledges and set out a roadmap to translate standards and criteria into international and national level regulations.

“Governments have the lion’s share of responsibility to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century. Especially the G20. But we also urgently need every business, investor, city, state and region to walk the talk on their net-zero promises,” Mr. Guterres said.

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130. Recently In April Embattled Pakistani leader Imran Khan nominated former Chief Justice _____ for the office of caretaker Prime Minister .

- A. Gulzar Ahmed**
- B. Shehbaz Sharif**
- C. Arif Alvi**
- D. Umar Ata Bandial**

Embattled Pakistani leader Imran Khan on Monday nominated former Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed for the office of caretaker Prime Minister.

Former Information Minister and senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Fawad Chaudhry said that Mr Khan made the decision after approval from the party's core committee.

President Alvi told them in case they do not agree on the appointment within three days of the dissolution of the Parliament, they shall forward two nominees each to a committee to be constituted by the Speaker,

131. Recently In April _____ has been appointed as the principal advisor to it's MD by indigo .

- A. RK Singh**
- B. Rahul Bhatia**
- C. Ramesh Gangwal**
- D. RS Raju**

Ex-IAS officer RK Singh appointed as principal advisor to MD by IndiGo. RK Singh is former CMD of Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. He was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

In February 2022, Rahul Bhatia was appointed as Managing Director of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (IndiGo).

IndiGo is largest airline in India by passenger carried and fleet size. It is headquartered in Gurgaon, Haryana.

132. Recently In April The road ministry has constituted a standing committee under a scheme " Compensation to Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022." to provide higher compensation to road accidents victims. The committee Is To Be Headed By ?

Imran Khan nominates former chief justice as caretaker PM

KSE-100 index plunges over 1,200 points

Pakistan until the appointment of a caretaker premier, according to a notification issued by President Arif Alvi on Monday.

The incumbent Prime Minister shall continue to hold office till appointment of the caretaker premier, the notification said.

President Alvi has also written a letter to Prime Minister Khan and Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif, asking them to propose names of suitable persons for appointment as the caretaker premier, the Dawn reported.

The letter said that the National Assembly (NA) and the federal Cabinet had been dissolved on Sunday as per the Constitution.

The market fell over 700 points immediately after the opening bell, sliding further to close 1,250 points or 2.77 per cent, in the red at 43,902. In the 5 sessions, the rupee lost nearly 1.3 per cent to end at 184.09, PKR

PKS Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 index shed 1,250.07 points on Monday. The Pakistani rupee also lost value against the US dollar following President Arif Alvi's decision to dissolve the lower house of Parliament on the recommendation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was expected to lose a no-confidence vote.

The market fell over 700 points immediately after the opening bell, sliding further to close 1,250 points or 2.77 per cent, in the red at 43,902. In the 5 sessions, the rupee lost nearly 1.3 per cent to end at 184.09, PKR



Justice Gulzar Ahmed (first from right) was nominated as caretaker PM by Imran Khan

even if the speaker of the National Assembly cites Article 5 of the Constitution, the no-confidence motion cannot be rejected, Geo News reported.

If Khan gets a favourable ruling, elections will take place within 90 days. If the court rules against the deputy speaker, the parliament will reconvene and hold the confidence vote against Khan, experts said.

Imran Khan will continue to be the Prime Minister of the country.

Chief Justice Bandial had ruled against Khan, saying the no-confidence motion was not valid.

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- A. Saurabh Mishra
- B. Amit Singh Negi
- C. **Amit Varadan**
- D. Rahul Boswe

According to an office memorandum issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Amit Varadan, joint secretary in the road transport ministry has been appointed as chairman.

Two joint secretaries from the finance ministry Saurabh Mishra and Amit Singh Negi have also been named as members of the Standing Committee, among others.

Last month, the road ministry had issued a notification to mandate the procedure for detailed investigation of road accidents, detailed accident report (DAR) and its reporting along with timelines for different stakeholders for quick settlement of claims by the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT).

133. Recently In April The government has formed an advisory committee to drive the Rs 76,000-crore project, Semicon India, to make the country a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing, design and innovation. The Pannel Is To Be Headed By _____ .

- A. **Ashwini Vaishnaw**
- B. Vinod Dham
- C. Arogyaswami Paulraj
- D. Amit Vardhan

- The panel formed under the chairmanship of electronics and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw includes venture capitalist Vinod Dham, who led Intel's iconic Pentium microprocessor from inception, and Arogyaswami Paulraj, who invested in MIMO wireless communication that is used in 4G technology.

- The newly-formed Advisory Committee shall steer the objectives in a structured, efficient, and strategic manner, and provide necessary guidance to the ISM executives.

- Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who will be vice-chairperson of the panel, said, "Partnership between the government, industry and academia to power the India semiconductor mission.
- Semicon India: It is a ₹76,000-crore project. It was approved by the union cabinet in December 2021.

Advisory committee formed for semiconductor mission

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 6

THE MINISTRY OF electronics and information technology (MeitY) on Wednesday formed an advisory committee for the country's semiconductor mission. The 17-member committee of experts, comprises senior government officials, academicians as well as industry and domain experts.

The Union Cabinet, in December, had approved a comprehensive Semicon India programme with a total outlay of ₹76,000 crore for the development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The programme aims to provide

The Union Cabinet, in December, had approved a comprehensive Semicon India programme with a total outlay of ₹76,000 crore

financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystem. This will serve to pave the way for India's growing presence in the global electronics value chains. A specialised and dedicated 'India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)' has been set up within Digital India Corporation to drive India's strategies for developing semiconductors and dis-

play ecosystem.

The newly formed advisory committee shall steer the objectives in a structured, efficient, and strategic manner, and provide necessary guidance to the ISM executives. It shall also provide insights and suggestions to develop a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in India. The committee is mandated to provide key inputs for building a resilient supply chain, promoting investments, financing mechanisms, global engagement, research & innovation, and IP generation for the semiconductors and display ecosystem and enable an ecosystem to support startups and MSMEs.

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134. Recently In April _____ has been selected *as the vice-chairperson of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management, giving India a leadership position .*

- A. Akanksha Shamra
- B. Aprajita Sharma**
- C. Deepika Ghosh
- D. Shaloni Sinha

- *Aprajita will continue to serve as vice-chairperson of the Council Standing Committee in 2023 and 2024, and as chairman in 2025 and 2026. International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; International Telecommunication Union Founded: 17 May 1865;*

135. Recently In April President Joe Biden has nominated _____ *as the first woman to lead a US armed service and to lead the Coast Guard .*

- A. Maya Angleou
- B. Linda Fagan**
- C. Paula Anderson
- D. Ian Ferry

- *Fagan would be the first woman to lead a US armed service and to lead the Coast Guard.*
- *Fagan currently serves as the No 2. In the US Coast Guard, a role she's held since June 2021.*
- *Fagan would become the 27th Commandant during a change of command ceremony scheduled for June 1 in Washington.*

136. Recently In April United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the first time appointed _____ *as an expert on climate change and human rights to embolden environmental defenders and to support victims of extreme weather .*

- A. Swayne Brown
- B. Archana Serong
- C. Aprajita Sharma
- D. Ian Fry**

Biden nominates first woman to lead US military branch

US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he has nominated Admiral Linda Fagan to lead the U.S. Coast Guard and become the first female uniformed leader of a branch of the US armed forces. "Her leadership and integrity are second to none," Biden said in a tweet announcing the nomination. Fagan, who currently serves as vice commandant of the Coast Guard, must be confirmed by the Senate to the post. She would replace Admiral Karl Schultz, who has served as commandant since 2018.

22/28

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The main objective of the appointment is to embolden environmental defenders and to support victims of extreme weather.

This post was created by UNHRC in October 2021. Ian Fry had negotiated on behalf of least developed countries at the 2015 Paris climate conference.

Ian Fry will study and identify the adverse effects of climate change. He will recommend ways to reduce the adverse effects of climate change.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC): It was founded on 15 March 2006. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Federico Villegas is the current President. It has 47 members elected for a three-year term.

137. Recently In April American President Has Appointed Whom As The First Black Women To Serve As The Supreme Court Judge Of America .

- A. Maya Anglou
- B. Ketanji Brown Jackson**
- C. Neena Aiyyer
- D. Pamela Anderson

FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO BECOME SUPREME COURT JUDGE

US Senate confirms Ketanji Jackson to top court

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, APRIL 7

KETANJI BROWN Jackson was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court in a milestone for the US and a victory for President Joe Biden, who made good on a



President Biden and Judge Jackson in White House. NYT

campaign promise as he seeks to infuse the federal judiciary with a broader range of backgrounds.

The vote to confirm the 51-year-old federal appellate judge to a lifetime job on the nation's top judicial body was 53-47, with three Republicans - Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney - joining Biden's fellow Democrats. A simple majority was

needed, as Jackson overcame Republican opposition in a SC confirmation process that remains fiercely partisan. Jackson will take the 83-year-old Breyer's place with an increasingly assertive 6-3 conservative majority. Breyer is due to serve until the court's current term ends - usually in late June - and Jackson would be formally sworn in after that.

- The Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, **making her the first Black woman to serve on the top U.S. court.**
- The 53-47 final vote tally showed bipartisan support for Jackson, with three Republicans joining all Democrats to elevate the 51-year-old federal judge to a lifetime appointment on the high court.
- Jackson is President Joe Biden's first Supreme Court nominee. She will replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who was confirmed to the bench in 1994.
- Just five women — Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett — have served on the Supreme Court
- Jackson is also set to become the first Supreme Court justice to have served as a public defender.

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- *The Senate announced Ketanji Brown Jackson as the Supreme Court Judge, making her the 116th and first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court.*

Panel formed to ensure forest mgmt

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The environment ministry has constituted a task force to study the proposed amendments to the National Forest Policy, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and regulatory regime for agro-forestry or trees outside forest, and make recommendations to develop synergies between all aspects of forest management in the country. The 19-member task force, headed by director general of forest and special secretary in the ministry, will submit its report by May 31.

The suggestions will help in bringing out a new forest policy of India, bringing clarity on the definition of 'forest' in the country by adopting uniform standards for protection and management of



The 19-member task force will help in bringing out a new forest policy

green cover in sync with India's global commitments.

"It has been decided to constitute a task force under the chairmanship of director general forests and special secretary to study and analyse the National Forest Policy, 1988, the proposed National Forest Policy, proposed amendments in the Forest (Conservation)

Act, 1980 and the current regulatory regimes on agro-forestry/tree outside forests across the country, in order to make recommendations to develop synergies for promotion of sustainable development and management of forests and trees outside forests in the country," said the ministry.

Except four members in-

cluding a legal consultant, rest of them are drawn from different wings of the government. Critics have, however, pointed out the absence of any representative from two hot-spots — northeast and Western Ghats — in the task force.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the principal legislation that regulates deforestation in India. It prohibits diversion of forests for any 'non-forestry' use without prior clearance. In order to streamline it keeping in view decentralisation of green clearance power and enabling infrastructure projects in the forest areas, the ministry had last year brought out a public consultation paper on the proposed amendments. The paper was, however, severely criticised by the environmentalists.

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Days And Obituriy News

138. **World Autism Awareness Day 2022** Is observed on _____ to generate awareness among the public about people living with autism .

- A. 1st April
- B. 2nd April**
- C. 3rd April
- D. 4th April

Every year on April 2nd, World Autism Awareness Day is commemorated. It is observed to generate awareness among the public about people living with autism.

The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2022 is 'Inclusion in the Workplace'.

The UN General Assembly declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day in 2007. The first World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated in 2008.

139. Recently **BB Goroong** Who Passed Away Was The Former chief minister of _____ .

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

BB Goroong was the third chief minister of Sikkim. He started his political career as a member of the Sikkim State Congress in 1947.

He was also editor in Kanchenjunga, the first news-based Nepali journal of Sikkim. In the history of Sikkim, he has the shortest tenure of two weeks as Chief Minister.

He also served as a Political and Press Advisor to the former SDF government.

140. Recently **Odisha** celebrated its _____ foundation day on 01 April 2022 .

- A. 86TH
- B. 87TH**
- C. 88TH
- D. 89TH

Odisha Day is commonly known as Utkal Divas. Odisha was formed as an independent province in 1936.

On 01 April 1936, it was separated from Bengal and Bihar provinces. Odisha is named after Odra tribe living in its central region. 113th Amendment Bill 2011 changed the name of Orissa to Odisha.

The Chief Minister is Naveen Patnaik and Governor is Ganeshi Lal.

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141. Every year on _____ the **International Day for Mine Awareness** is commemorated to raise awareness about the threat posed by landmines and to develop mine-action programs by the government .

- A. 1st April
- B. 2nd April
- C. 3rd April
- D. 4th April

Every year on April 4, the International Day for Mine Awareness is commemorated.

It is observed to raise awareness about the threat posed by landmines and to develop mine-action programs by the government.

The theme of International Mine Awareness Day 2022 is "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home."

The General Assembly declared on December 8, 2005, that every year April 4 will be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness. 164 countries had signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1997.

142. **National Maritime Day** is celebrated every year on _____ to create awareness regarding support for intercontinental commerce and worldwide economy .

- A. 4th April
- B. 5th April
- C. 6th April
- D. 7th April

The day was for the first time celebrated on 5 April, 1964. On this day, NMD Award of Excellence is given. Varuna Award is also given on this day to recognize people who made outstanding contribution to Indian Maritime Sector.

National Maritime Day 2022 is 59th edition of National Maritime Day.

National Cadet Corps (NCC) has launched a nationwide campaign 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan'. The initial phase of 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan 2022' is being organized from 01-05 April, 2022 on the occasion of National Maritime Day.

The campaign has been launched to clean up plastic and other types of waste from beaches and other water bodies including rivers and lakes. The initial phase of 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan 2022' is being organized from 01-05 April, 2022 on the occasion of National Maritime Day.

143. Every Year **World Health Day** Is Celebrated On _____ to draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world .

- A. 5th April
- B. 6th April
- C. 7th April
- D. 8th April



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World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization.

The theme of World Health Day 2022 is - “Our Planet, Our Health.”

The World Health Organization first commemorated World Health Day on April 7, 1950.

On World Health Day, the Ayush Ministry organized a “Yoga Mahotsav” at Red Fort in New Delhi.

According to the Union Health Ministry, India's maternal and infant mortality rates have decreased significantly, and the country will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals before the 2030 deadline.

144. Recently In April Every year on _____ the *International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)* is commemorated to create awareness regarding the power of sport to drive social change and promote peace and understanding.

- A. 4th April
- B. 4th April
- C. 6th April**
- D. 7th April

Every year on April 6, the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is commemorated. Its aims is to create awareness regarding the power of sport to drive social change and promote peace and understanding.

The theme for the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2022 is ‘Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport.’

UNGA passed a resolution on 23rd August 2013 to observe 6th April as the ‘International Day of Sport for Development and Peace’.

Sports Award Books News

145. Recently In April In a first for global cricket, _____ women Match Officials will oversee the final of the ICC Women’s ODI Cricket World Cup 2022 From India _____ who was the first woman ever in the ICC International Panel of Match Referees, has been named as the match referee for the final .

- A. 3 , Swati Shrestha
- B. 4 , GS Lakshmi**
- C. 5 , Raj Shree
- D. 6 , Madhu Gupta

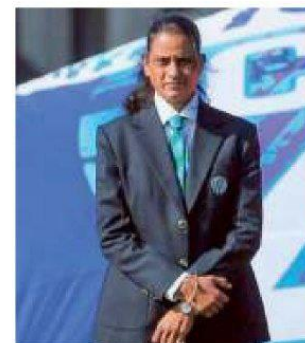
- Lauren Agenbag of South Africa and Kim Cotton of New Zealand will be the two on-field umpires while West Indies’ Jacqueline Williams, who in 2020 became the first female to officiate as the third umpire in a men’s international match, will also take charge as the TV umpire here

146. Recently In April _____ beat England by 71 runs to lift the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 trophy For The Record _____ Time .

- A. Australia , 7th**
- B. South Africa , 1st
- C. India , 1st
- D. Australia , 8th



Lakshmi is match referee for final



Lakshmi.

▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHRISTCHURCH

India’s G.S. Lakshmi, the first woman ever in the ICC international panel of match referees, will be the match referee for the Women’s World Cup final between England and Australia here on Sunday.

Lakshmi also has the distinction of being the first woman match referee in men’s ODIs, having stood in the World Cup League 2 in the UAE in December 2020.

The Women’s World Cup final at the Hagley Oval will be overseen by four women match officials – the first such instance in cricket history.

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ICC Women's World Cup 2022 Player of the Tournament and Player of the Match went to Alyssa Healy for her record-breaking innings of 170 runs off just 138 deliveries. Healy created a new world record of the highest-ever individual score in a World Cup final by man or woman, surpassing Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist's world record of 149 against Sri Lanka in 2007.

Australia won ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022. After defeating England by 71 runs in Christchurch, Australia has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup champions.

In women's cricket, Australia has won 7 of the 12 World Cups that have been held.

Alyssa Healy was awarded Player of the Tournament. With 21 wickets, England's Sophie Ecclestone is the tournament's best wicket-taker.

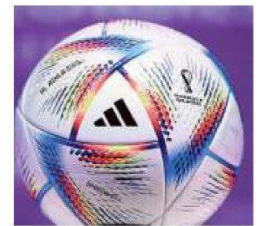
The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 was the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. From March 4 to April 3, 2022, the tournament was held in New Zealand.

147. Recently In April FIFA has unveiled _____ as the **official mascot for this year's FIFA World Cup 2022**. Earlier in the day, the **official ball for the World Cup** was also unveiled and it has been titled _____ .

- A. Jayaa , Korda
- B. Vijaya , Jabulani
- C. Veera Namma , Turboster
- D. La'eeb , Al Rihla**



Official match ball of WC 2022 unveiled



The official match ball.
 ■ AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI

Sportswear giant *adidas* on Friday unveiled Al Rihla –the official match ball for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. It is the 14th successive ball that *adidas* has created for the FIFA World Cup, designed to support the game at high speed as it travels faster in flight than any other World Cup ball.

Al Rihla translates as “the journey” in Arabic and has been inspired by the architecture, iconic boats, and the flag of Qatar.

The ball was designed with the environment at its heart and is the first World Cup ball made using only water-based inks and glues.

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- *La'eeb is introduced as one from a paraleel mascot-verse, which is a magic house. The word La'Eeb in arabic means super skilled player and the mascot encourages everyone to believe in themselves with the slogan, 'Now is All.'*
- *Adidas on Wednesday unveiled the official match ball for the World Cup. It has been named Al Rihla which means 'journey' in Arabic. The designers of the ball say that the ball will be the fastest and most accurate FIFA World Cup ball till date , Al Rihla will also be the first of its kind in the new age of football that will be inked with water inks mixed with a blend of glues*
- *FIFA World Cup Trophy : Right from the first-ever World Cup in 1930, the Jules Rimer Trophy was awarded to the winners. Originally called 'victory' the trophy was named in 1946 in honour of Jules Rimet who initiated the competition. The Jules Rimet trophy was awarded but not kept by the winning team and it was permanently awarded only if a team wins the trophy thrice. Brazil won the third title in 1970 and kept the trophy permanently. However it was stolen in 1983. In 1974, a replacement trophy was designed and the current trophy was selected and ever since 1974, it has been used as the official World Cup trophy. Unlike the Jules Rimet trophy, this new trophy is not awarded to the teams permanently as the original trophy remains with FIFA. Instead the gold-palated bronze replica is awarded to the winning nations.*
- *Measurements of the trophy*
- *Height – 36 centimeters (14 inches)*
- *Weight – 4,970 grams (11 pounds)*
- *This will be the first-ever World Cup held in the Middle East and will Also be the first-time it will be held during the Northern hemisphere Winter months.*

148. Consider The Following Statement Regarding *Khelo India University Games 2021 In Bengaluru :*

1. *The event, postponed due to the ongoing Covid crisis last year, will be the second edition of KIUG after Odisha hosted the Khelo India University Games in 2020.*
2. *Shri Gehlot launched the logo and official mascot of the games – Jaya (black buck), Vijay (tiger), Namma Veera (elephant), Shri Thakur launched the official jersey of the games as well as the anthem, sung by Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi.*
3. *KIUG 2021 is indeed about many firsts, among them is the introduction of Yogasana and Mallakhamb in the competition category, among 20 sporting disciplines.*

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

149. Recently In April _____ has become the highest wicket-taker in the Indian Premier League With _____ wickets as he surpasses record of Malinga .

- A. Ravindra Jadeja , 173
- B. Dwayne Bravo , 171
- C. Trent Boult , 159
- D. Amit Mishra , 166

- Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has become the highest wicket-taker in the Indian Premier League. He has taken 171 wickets in 153 matches of IPL. He breaks the record of Malinga. Virat Kohli is the highest run scorer in the IPL. He has scored 6283 runs in 199 innings.

150. Recently In April _____ has compiled a handbook , “The Climate Book” for tackling the world’s interconnected environmental crises, with contributions from leading scientists and writers .

- A. Scott Morrison
- B. Prince Henry
- C. Greta Thunberg
- D. Elon Musk



THE CLIMATE BOOK

CREATED BY
GRETA THUNBERG

COVER TO BE REVEALED

- The Swedish activist has already published a memoir, “Our House Is On Fire” and a collection of speeches, “No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference.”

KIUG second edition: logo, mascots unveiled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Khelo India University Games (KIUG), the second edition of which is set to be held in Bengaluru from April 24 to May 3, unveiled its logo and mascots at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

Jaya (Black Buck), Vijay (Tiger) and Namma Veera (Elephant) were presented at a function graced by Karnataka Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Karnataka Sports Minister K.C. Narayana Gowda and Karnataka

Minister of Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

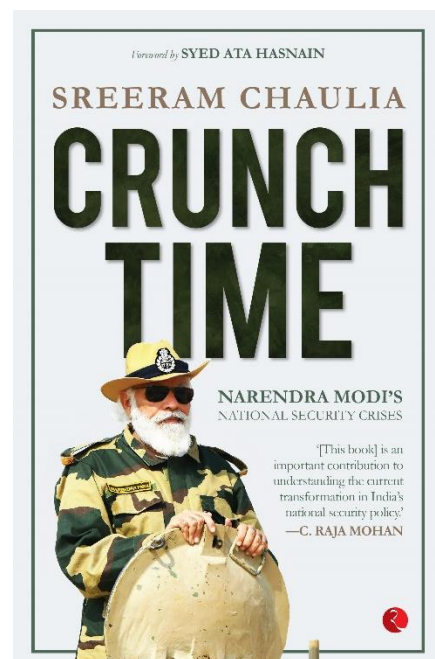
The official jersey and a mobile app along with the theme song composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty were also released.

As many as 20 sporting disciplines are set to be part of the KIUG, which will be held across the Jain University campus, Kanteerava Stadium, Hockey Stadium and the Sports Authority of India shooting range.

Mallakhamba, a traditional sport from Karnataka, will feature at the Games, so will Yogasana.



Ready to rock: Jaya, Namma Veera and Vijay were presented at a function on Friday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

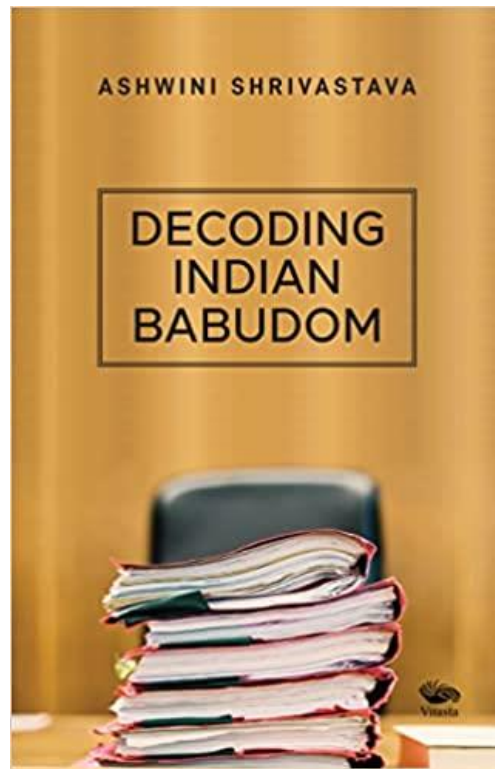
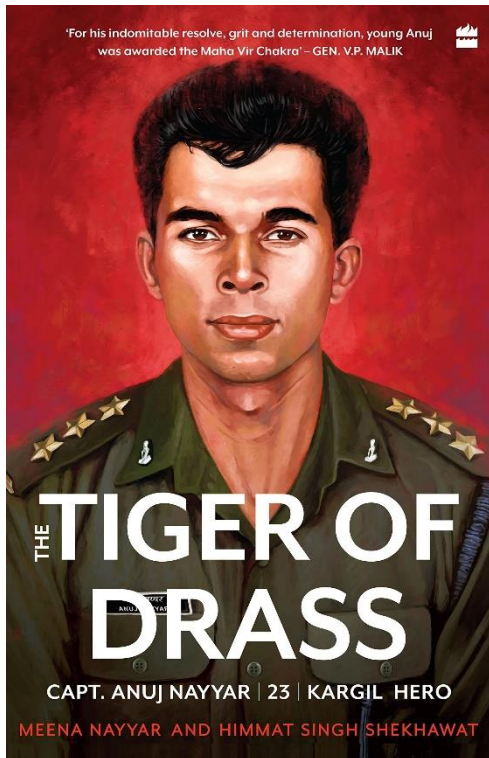
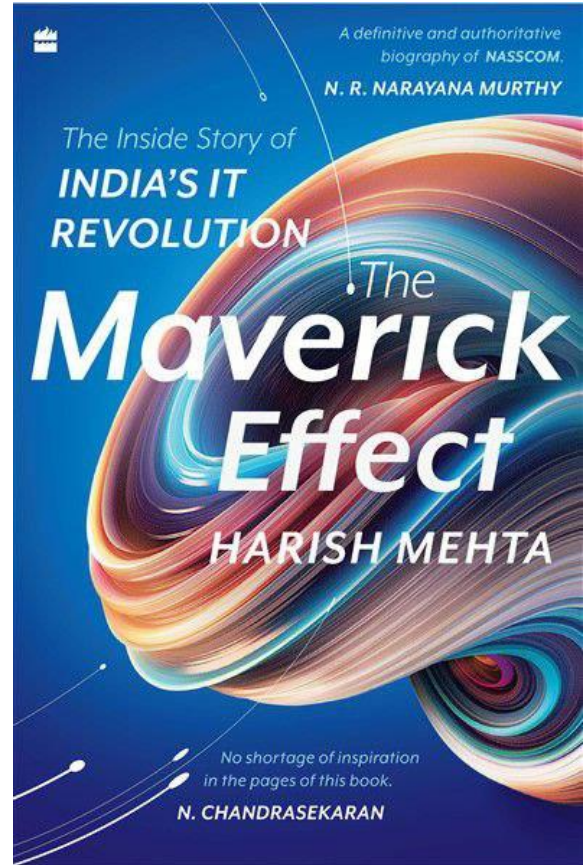


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151. Recently In April "*The Maverick Effect*," a new book, Which tells the untold story of how, in the 1970s and 1980s, a "band of dreamers" came together to form NASSCOM and pave the way for India's IT revolution. Which Has Been Authored By _____ .

- A. Alok Chandrwal
- B. Harish Mehta**
- C. Rekha M. Menon

- *Harish Mehta, the co-founder and first elected Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), has authored this book. National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM):*
- *It was established in 1988. Rekha M. Menon is the current chairman.*



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152. Recently In April *Formula One* added _____ *raceto the 2023 calendar* , as the most glamorous motorsports series in the world continues to expand its North American footprint .

- A. New York
- B. Washington
- C. **Las Vegas**
- D. California



- This will bring the total number of Formula One race locations in the US to three, the other two being Austin and Miami.

153. Recently In April The *first authorised biography of director Raj Khosla*, known for making classics like 'CID', 'Dostana', 'Do Raaste' and yesteryear star Sadhana's blockbuster 'Mere Saaya', Is To Be Authored By _____ .

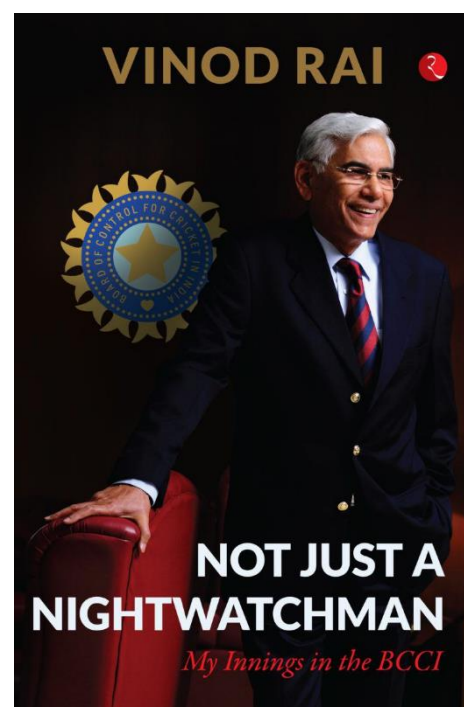
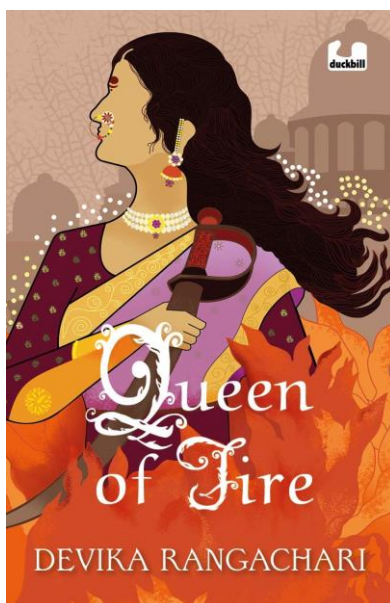
- A. Alok Chariwal
- B. Rahul Bose
- C. Abhinav Kashyap
- D. **Amborish Roychoudhury**

- The yet-to-be titled biography, written by author *Amborish Roychoudhury* in association with the late director's daughters *Uma Kapur* and *Anita Khosla*,

154. Recently In April the book titled "*Not Just A Nightwatchman : My Innings With BCCI* " Is authored By whom among the following .

- A. Guddapa Viswanath
- B. **Vinod Rai**
- C. Sunil Gavaskar
- D. Ravi Shashtri

- Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) *Vinod Rai*, who was asked by the Supreme Court to take charge of Indian cricket five years ago in the wake of the IPL corruption controversy Has Authored *Not Just a Nightwatchman — My Innings in the BCCI*, brought out by *Rupa Publications*,



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155. Recently In April _____ emerged as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2022 after defeating Jharkhand 3-0 in the final of the tournament, which was held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh .

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Haryana
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Haryana claims title in style

Blanks Jharkhand in the summit clash



Champion: Haryana which won the Junior national women's hockey championship.

•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Haryana defeated Jharkhand 3-0 in the final of the 12th Hockey India junior national women's hockey championship at Kakinada on Sunday.

Sakshi Rana struck a brace in the fourth and 60th minutes, while Kanika Siwach was on target in the 45th minute to complete the

tally for the winner.

Victorious coach Azad Singh Malik felt it was a team effort and said that they had beaten Railways last time also in the final, but had the satisfaction of winning by a bigger margin this time.

"The players in the team carried out short passes very well throughout the tournament which was the best aspect of the team's performance throughout the competition," he said.

Odisha defeated Maharashtra 4-0 to clinch the third place after Nikita Toppo scored twice in the 31st and 41st minutes and Munmuni Das (47th) and Sumi Mundari (50th) scored one goal apiece.

The result:

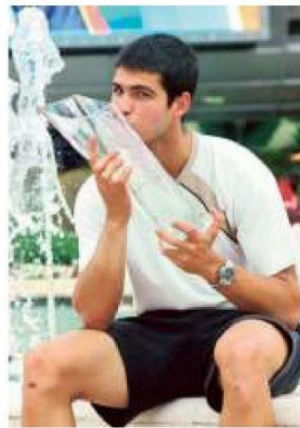
Final: Haryana 3 (Sakshi Rana 2, Kanika Siwach) bt Jharkhand 0.

Third place: Odisha 4 (Nikita Toppo 2, Munmuni Das, Sumi Mundari) bt Maharashtra 0.

156. Recently In April _____ won the Miami Open with a straight sets win over Naomi Osaka while the Men's Title was won by Carlos Alcaraz Of _____ .

- A. Iga Swiatek , Spain
- B. Victoria Azarenka , Switzerland
- C. Iga Swiatek , Poland
- D. Naomi Osaka , Japan

IN BRIEF



Teen star Alcaraz takes Miami Open crown

MIAMI

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who turns 19 next month, became the the youngest ever Miami Open champion on Sunday with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Norway's World No. 8 Casper Ruud. Only two men have won titles at this level at a younger age – Michael Chang (18 years, five months, Toronto, 1990) and Rafael Nadal (18 years, 10 months, Monte Carlo, 2005). AFP

Swiatek takes Miami title and No. 1 ranking



Iga Swiatek. •AFP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MIAMI

Iga Swiatek continued her wonderful start to 2022, beating Naomi Osaka 6-4, 6-0 to win the women's title at the Miami Open and extend her winning streak to 17 matches.

Swiatek will replace the now-retired Ashleigh Barty at No. 1 in the women's rankings when the points are updated on Monday.

Swiatek broke Osaka for a 3-2 lead in the first set on Saturday, hanging on from there to win a 52-minute set that saw the opening game – on Osaka's serve – feature seven deuces and go for 10 minutes.

The second set was a completely different story as Swiatek finished off her ninth consecutive straight-set victory.

It was her third title of 2022 and her sixth consecutive win in a final, a streak that started at the delayed French Open in 2020.

AFP reports

Out of Charleston

Later, Swiatek pulled out of the Charleston tournament saying cumulative fatigue was on the verge of leaving her injured. "Sorry everyone but after playing three marathon finals I'm tired, and have a slightly injured arm," she explained.

M ND-NDE

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Poland's Iga Swiatek clinched the Miami Open title by defeating Japan's Naomi Osaka in the final.

She defeated Naomi Osaka in women's singles by 6-4, 6-0. She has won 17 consecutive matches.

Iga Swiatek has become the only fourth woman to win the Indian Wells and Miami tournaments back-to-back.

Spanish player Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest man to win the Miami Open by defeating Casper Ruud 7-5, 6-4 in the men's singles final.

It is a tennis tournament usually held between March and April in Miami Gardens, Florida.

157. Recently The KK Birla Foundation announced _____ will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021, for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.

- A. Kalraj Mishra
- B. Ramakrishna Acharya
- C. Mzhouhao Dohua
- D. Ramdarash Mishra**

The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. It is named after an Indian goddess of knowledge.

He will be given the award for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'. He is known for his work in Hindi Literature. Last year, Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale won Saraswati Samman 2020.

Saraswati Samman: It was started in 1991. It is sponsored by K. K. Birla Foundation. It is given annually for prose or poetry in any one of 22 languages in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution. It includes a plaque, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. It is given for work published within last 10 years.

It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years. It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakhs.

Ramdarash Mishra selected for Saraswati Samman 2021

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Noted poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021, for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun', the KK Birla Foundation announced in a statement on Monday.

Instituted in 1991, Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country. It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years. It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is Dr Subhash C Kashyap, former secretary-general of Lok



Prof Ramdarash Mishra

Sabha Secretariat.

Born in Dumri village in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district on August 15, 1924, Mishra has excelled in different branches of Hindi literature.

In a career spanning decades, the 98-year-old has to his credit 32 collections of poems, 15 novels, 30 short-story collections, 15 books of literary criticism, four collections of essays, travelogues, and several memoirs. He has also served as an important member

of different Hindi consultative committees in various ministries and retired as a professor from the Hindi department of the University of Delhi.

In 'Mein to Yahan Hun', the literary stalwart brings to the fore different aspects of inner life, societal concerns, communalism, corruption, human perspectives, exploitation of the Dalits, disquieting urban cities, exuberance of the seasons and climatic concerns. In the collection, which was published in 2015, he writes: "I have written in many genres. Whatever form of text I got fascinated with I kept my journey on. At times the journey was short and sometimes lengthy too. But now I am not left with much energy to traverse long tracks. So my expressions now are either a short poem or writing a diary, eventually shaping this book."

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158. Recently In April _____ equals the record of fastest ever fifty in the Indian Premier League as he joined KL Rahul, reaching the landmark in only 14 balls during a match against the Mumbai Indians at the DY Patil Stadium in Pune .

- A. Andre Russel
- B. Liam Livingstone
- C. Pat Cummins
- D. Glenn Maxwell

- Pat Cummins was at his scintillating best as he played an unbeaten knock of 56 runs off just 15 balls. Cummins brought up his half-century off just 14 deliveries and as a result, he registered the joint-fastest half-century in the history of the IPL. This is also the fastest fifty of the ongoing season. Earlier, the fastest fifty in IPL belonged to KL Rahul as he scored a half-century off 14 balls against the Delhi Capitals in 2018. Cummins hit 6 towering sixes and four boundaries during his whirlwind knock.

Fastest 50s in IPL

Batter	BF	Vs	Year
P Cummins (KKR)	14	MI	2022
KL Rahul (KXIP)	14	DD	2018
S Narine (KKR)	15	RCB	2017
Y Pathan (KKR)	15	SRH	2014
I Kishan (MI)	16	SRH	2021
S Raina (CSK)	16	KXIP	2014



159. Recently In April Judit Jeptum Of _____ Broke The Paris Marathon Record To Win The Women's Title While Deso Gelmis Of _____ Won The Men's Race .

- A. Kenya , Ethiopia
- B. Jamaica , Kenya
- C. Zimbawae , Jamaica
- D. Ethiopia , Ghana



Jeptum and Gelmisa win Paris marathon

PARIS

Judith Jeptum of Kenya broke the Paris marathon record winning in 2:19:48 seconds on Sunday. Deso Gelmisa of Ethiopia won the men's race in 2:05:07. Jeptum's personal best broke the course record of 2:20:55s set by Purity Rionoripo of Kenya in 2017. AP

160. Recently In April _____ was picked as the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperperson 2021.

- A. Aarefa Johari
- B. Rasjshree
- C. Swati Sinha
- D. Shikha Sharma

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

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Aarefa Johari, a Mumbai-based journalist, has been declared the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for the year 2021.

The Media Foundation named Johari as the winner of the award. She works for 'Scroll.in' in Mumbai.

A three-member panel selected the winner, which included Nirupama Subramanian of 'The Indian Express,' writer Githa Hariharan and Ashutosh of 'SatyaHindi.' The award is named after Chameli Devi Jain, a freedom fighter and a community reformer.

The award was established in 1982. It is a prominent award given to Indian women media persons who have reported topics like social development, politics, equity, gender justice, health, war and conflict, and consumer values.

161. Consider The Following Statement Regarding **Grammy Award** :

1. **Ricky Kej and Falguni Shah**, the two Indian musicians, are among the winners at the **64th Annual Grammy Awards**, which was held in Las Vegas.
2. **Kej won his second Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides" in the Best New Age Album category** Kej won his first Grammy for **"Winds of Samsara" in 2015.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct ?

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



KEY WINNERS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
JON BATISTE, "WE ARE"



RECORD AND SONG OF THE YEAR
SILK SONIC, "LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN"
Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars

<p>BEST NEW ARTIST OLIVIA RODRIGO</p>	<p>BEST MUSIC VIDEO JON BATISTE, "FREEDOM"</p>
 <p>BEST RAP ALBUM TYLER, THE CREATOR, "CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST"</p>	<p>BEST RAP PERFORMANCE BABY KEEM FEATURING KENDRICK LAMAR, "FAMILY TIES"</p>
<p>BEST ROCK ALBUM FOO FIGHTERS, "MEDICINE AT MIDNIGHT"</p> 	<p>BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM OLIVIA RODRIGO, "SOUR"</p>
<p>BEST POP DUO/GROUP PERFORMANCE DOJA CAT FEATURING SZA, "KISS ME MORE"</p>	<p>BEST POP SOLO PERFORMANCE OLIVIA RODRIGO, "DRIVERS LICENSE"</p>
<p>BEST TRADITIONAL POP VOCAL ALBUM TONY BENNETT AND LADY GAGA, "LOVE FOR SALE"</p> 	<p>BEST COUNTRY ALBUM CHRIS STAPLETON, "STARTING OVER"</p>
<p>BEST GLOBAL MUSIC ALBUM ANGELIQUE KIDJO, "MOTHER NATURE"</p>	<p>BEST MUSIC VIDEO JON BATISTE, "FREEDOM"</p>

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

Ricky Kej and Falguni Shah, two Indian musicians, are among the winners at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, which was held in Las Vegas.

Kej won his second Grammy Award for the album "Divine Tides" in the Best New Age Album category. Kej won his first Grammy for "Winds of Samsara" in 2015.

Shah won the award for her album "A Colorful World" in the Best Children's Music Album category.

The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on May 4, 1959.

It is an award presented by the Recording Academy to recognize achievement in the music industry.

162. Recently In April Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released a book "*Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak*" written by _____ .

- A. **Alok Chakrawal**
- B. Vinod Rai
- C. Tarun Gangwal
- D. Mahesh Makhija

- A book titled "*Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak*" has been released on 5 April 2022.
- *Prof. Alok Chakrawal is the author of "Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak".*
- It has been *released by Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.*
- *His birth anniversary (15 November) has been declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.*

163. In April _____ will host the *83rd National Table Tennis Championship from April 18th till 25th* .

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

- *Meghalaya will host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship from April 18th till 25th, 2022 at SAI Indoor Training Centre in Shillong.*
- *National Table Tennis Championship is one of the biggest sports events hosted by Meghalaya.*
- *It will be the second time that National Table Tennis Championship will be hosted by any North-eastern state.*

Former South Africa women's team skipper Mignon du Preez on Thursday announced her retirement from ODI and Test cricket with immediate effect in order to focus completely on the T20 format and give importance to her family.

164. Recently In April _____ wins the prestigious O Henry Award for his 1977 story titled 'gamburo' in bangla and 'old man of kusumpur' In English .

- A. Ramakrishna Sharma
- B. Amar Mitra
- C. Chetan Makhija
- D. Purosstham Das

Amar Mitra won the prestigious O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction. He received the award for his short story "The Old Man of Kusumpur" originally written in Bengali with the title "Gaonburo". He is one of the 20 winners of the award.

Gaonburo was written by Amar Mitra in 1977 in Bengali and was published in Amrita Patrika.

Anish Gupta, a senior journalist, translated this story into English and it was published last year in the web magazine 'The Common'.

O. Henry Prize: It is awarded for short stories. Since 1919, it is being given in the memory of the acclaimed writer, O. Henry

Veteran Bengali writer wins O. Henry Award

Amar Mitra wrote Gaonburo in 1977

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

Amar Mitra wrote the story back in 1977, today, it has fetched him the 1919-founded O. Henry Award, whose past winners include William Faulkner, Saul Bellow and Raymond Carver.

The award has reinforced Mr. Mitra's belief that the short story – titled *Gaonburo* in Bangla and *The Old Man of Kusumpur* in English – must have some "internal force" for even the Western audience to find it relevant.

"I don't remember the last time an Indian writing in an Indian language getting such a recognition," said Mr. Mitra, who is also a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award. The story is about a man's journey to meet a seer-like figure who is supposed to have answers to all of life's problems.

The story, which drew from Mr. Mitra's experiences as an employee of the West Bengal's Land Reforms Department, lay for-



Amar Mitra •

gotten until it was translated by Anish Gupta in 1990, when it began to draw the attention of non-Bengali audiences. It started earning praise at literary gatherings in India. The principal of an American college, who happened to be present at one such festival, was so impressed by it that she urged Mr. Mitra to quit his day job and devote himself to writing full-time.

"I told her that quitting my job was out of the question because writing brought hardly any money in India, particularly in Bengal," said the Kolkata-based writer.

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Science Tech Environment Defence

165. Recently In April The _____ edition of the 'VARUNA' Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian and _____ Navies was conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 3.

- A. 15TH , Australia
- B. 17TH , Saudi Arabia
- C. 18TH , UAE
- D. 20TH , France

- The 20th edition of the 'VARUNA' Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian and French Navies is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 3.
- In 1993, the two navies began conducting bilateral naval exercises.
- In 2001, the exercise was renamed 'VARUNA,' and it has since become an important part of the strategic bilateral relationship between India and France.

Indian and French navies conduct 20th Exercise Varuna off Goa

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 3 April

Exercise Varuna 2022 (Varuna 22) — the 20th edition of the Indo-French naval exercise — is being conducted this year off Goa, in the Arabian Sea.

Paris regards itself as an Indian Ocean power and carefully husbands its island territories in the ocean such as the Réunion Island. Given the French Navy's stakes in the region, New Delhi believes there is a serious strategic dimension to Exercise Varuna.

"The exercise (Varuna) has been a principal driver for operational level interactions between the two navies and has underscored the shared commitment of both nations to security, safety and freedom of the global maritime commons,"



Phase I of the annual exercise concluded on Sunday, while phase II will be held on May 22

said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Sunday.

"Bilateral naval exercises between the Indian and French navies were initiated in 1993. In 2001, the exercise was christened 'VARUNA' and has become a vital part of India-France strategic bilateral relationship," said the press release.

Phase I of Exercise Varuna-

22 concluded on Sunday, while phase II will be held on May 22.

"The exercise this year has an expanded scope and includes surface gun firings on practice targets, advanced anti-submarine and air defence exercises, and other tactical manoeuvres that cover a broad spectrum of maritime operations," said the MoD.

The French Navy projects power into the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) with nuclear-powered submarines and a relatively state-of-the-art aircraft carrier battle group built around its flagship: the Charles de Gaulle.

This 42,500-tonne nuclear-powered aircraft carrier carries a potent air complement that includes the Rafale-M (Rafale Marine) aircraft. Given the Indian Navy's eagerness to buy S7 twin-engine, deck-borne fighters, Paris is tracking that tender closely.

Having grown in content and complexity since 1993, Exercise Varuna provides the two navies an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices. It focuses on operational level interaction between them to enhance mutual cooperation at sea, underscoring

their shared commitment to regional security.

During the sea phase of Exercise Varuna 2022, the Indian Navy is being represented by the indigenously built stealth destroyer, INS Chennai, with its integral complement of Sea King Mk 42B helicopters. India is also fielding its P-8I and Dornier 228 maritime patrol aircraft and MiG-29K/KUB fighter aircraft.

The French Navy is being represented by the La Fayette class frigate, FS Courbet and the submarine support vessel, FS Loire.

"The units undertook cross deck landings by integral helicopters, showcasing a high level of interoperability between them. Gun firing and underway replenishment procedures were also exercised between ships," said the Indian Navy, describing phase I of the exercise.

"All exercises planned during Varuna 2022 aim to enhance common understanding of the two navies on the conduct of joint maritime security operations," said the MoD.

166. Recently In April _____ announced to set up World's largest and greenest steel plant in _____.

- A. Exide , Karnataka
- B. Arcelor Mittal , Tamil Nadu
- C. Nippon Steel , Telanagana
- D. Jindal Steel and Power , Odisha

After bagging Utkal B1 and B2 coal block in the Angul-Talcher belt in the state, Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) on Friday said it would develop its Odisha plant into the largest and greenest facility in the world.

JSPL is the first steelmaker in the world to build Coal Gasification to produce steel using clean coal technologies.

The High-Level Clearance Authority of Odisha, headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had approved JSPL's proposal to expand the capacity of its steel plant to 25.2 MTPA at Angul by 2030.

167. Consider the following statement regarding Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS) :

1. The Indian Army has inducted a small number of Iгла-S systems recently procured from Russia under emergency procurement.
2. MANPADS have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km.

Which of the following statement is/are correct ?

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

The Army, which has for long been looking for new man portable air defence systems, has inducted a small number of Iгла-S systems recently bought from Russia under emergency procurement, according to defence sources. However, a much larger contract for Iгла-S systems under the Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD) deal is still pending and under review by the Defence Ministry.

The contract was signed in December 2020 and the equipment was delivered by December 2021. This includes 24 launchers, 216 missiles and testing equipment. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for VSHORAD was issued in October 2010 for over 5,000 missiles, 258 single launchers and 258 multi-launchers. While the benchmark price arrived at by the Army was just over \$2 bn, Rosoboronexport's bid was much lower at around \$1.47 bn, SAAB at about \$2.6 bn, and MBDA at about \$3.68 bn.

As per requirements, the VSHORAD should have a maximum range of 6 km, altitude of 3 km along with all-weather capability.



JSW Steel Gets Nod to Build 13.2 mtpa Plant in Odisha

Greenfield factory will likely cost about ₹65,000 cr

Our Bureau

Mumbai: A unit of JSW Steel, India's most valued maker of the infrastructure alloy, Monday got the environment ministry's green light to build the country's biggest single-location plant in Odisha. The greenfield factory will likely cost about ₹65,000 crore.

Clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change now paves the way for building the 13.2 million tonnes



per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant, potentially helping India bridge the output gap with its giant northern neighbour that dominates both global consumption, production and pricing trends.

The anticipated investment of ₹65,000 crore includes the associated facilities that will be constructed at the site. It will be one of the largest manufacturing sites in India, and could take up to 5-7 years to reach its complete planned capacity. Presently, JSW Steel's manufacturing unit in Vijayanagar, Karnataka is the largest single-location steel-producing facility in India with a capacity of 12 MTPA.

168. Recently In April The *first private astronaut mission*, _____ was launched – with private astronauts Of Four civilians on a spacex Falcon-9 rocket to live and work on the Space Station .

- A. Inspiration 4
- B. Artmeis
- C. **Axiom Space-1**
- D. Armadegoon 1

- Lopez-Alegria, 63, is the Spanish-born mission commander and Axiom's vice president of business development. He is set to be joined by Larry Connor Israeli fighter pilot Eytan Stibbe, 64, and Canadian businessman and philanthropist Mark Pathy, 52, both serving as mission specialists

First private astronaut mission to space readies for launch

THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE Station is set to become busier than usual this week when its crew welcomes aboard four new colleagues from Houston-based startup Axiom Space, the first all-private astronaut team ever flown to the orbiting outpost. The launch is being hailed by the company, NASA and other industry players as a turning point in the latest expansion of commercial space ventures collectively referred to by insiders as the low-Earth orbit economy, or “LEO economy” for short.

Army inducts Russian MANPADS

Igla-S is a short-range weapon

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army which has long been looking for new man portable air defence systems (MANPADS), has inducted a small number of Igla-S systems recently procured from Russia under emergency procurement, according to defence sources. However, a much larger contract for Igla-S systems under the very short-range air-defence system (VSHORAD) deal is still pending and is under review by the Defence Ministry.

“The contract was signed in December 2020 and the equipment was delivered by December 2021. This includes 24 launchers, 216 missiles and testing equipment,” one of the sources said.

The procurement was done through the Vice-Chief’s emergency financial powers given to the Services for the first time after the Balakot air strike in February 2019 and further extended after the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. Under this, the Services can procure weapons systems up to ₹300 crore on an urgent basis without any further clearances.

Against the backdrop of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine and the Western sanctions, India and Russia are working out modalities to utilise the rupee-rouble route in a large way for trade and payments. The Ministry is also assess-

ing the impact it would have on the timely execution of deals as well as steady supplies of spares and support.

Last defence

The Request for Proposal for VSHORAD was issued in October 2010 for over 5,000 missiles, 258 single launchers and 258 multi-launchers. Five contenders responded and eventually three made it to the trials – MBDA of France, Rosoboronexport of Russia and SAAB of Sweden. All three companies were declared technically compliant in 2017 and Igla-S was declared the lowest bidder in November 2018.

While the benchmark price arrived at by the Army was just over \$2 billion, Rosoboronexport’s bid was much lower at around \$1.47 bn, SAAB at about \$2.6 bn, and MBDA at about \$3.68 bn. This led to much deliberation within the Ministry as the Russian bid was much lower than the benchmark price. The deal also saw several allegations of deviations in procedures with some of the vendors sending protest letters.

As per requirements, the VSHORAD should have a maximum range of 6 km, altitude of 3 km along with all-weather capability and will replace the existing Igla in service which is in urgent need of replacement. VSHORADS are the soldier’s last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft and helicopters in the multilayered air defence network.

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169. Recently In April In a first of its kind the iconic sea cruise terminal coming up at BPX-Indira Dock, Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned by July 2024 With An Estimated cost at

- A. Rs 303 Cr
- B. Rs 819 Cr
- C. Rs 495 Cr
- D. Rs 550 Cr

- The project is costed at ₹495 crore, from which, ₹303 crore will be incurred by Mumbai Port Authority and the remaining by private operators. The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum
- To enhance the scope of cruise tourism and to attract international passengers, Development of Kanhoji Angre Island under the Lighthouse Tourism scheme. The work order for the project has been issued and it should be completed by March 2023. Mumbai Port has done developmental works worth Rs. 18 crores on the island,

Sagarmala Project -----

170. Recently In April Pixxel, the Indian Spacotech startup has launched its first commercial satellite called _____ full-fledged commercial satellite that has been launched with Elon Musk-run spacex's Falcon-9 rocket .

- A. Kaushyala

Mumbai International Cruise terminal is to be commissioned by July 2024. All you need to know



Two cruise ships will be able to berth at a time on the dock. (PIB)

2 min read . Updated: 31 Mar 2022, 08:01 PM IST

Livemint

- The project is costed at ₹495 crore, from which, ₹303 crore will be incurred by Mumbai Port Authority and the remaining by private operators. The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum.

mint

The vision of Sagarmala is to reduce logistics costs for both domestic and EXIM cargo with optimized infrastructure investment. Sagarmala aspires to reduce logistics costs for EXIM and domestic cargo leading to overall cost savings of ₹35,000 to 40,000 cr. per annum, focusing on the concept of port-led development. The Sagarmala scheme encompasses projects worth Rs. 5.48 lakh crores, out of which 194 projects worth Rs. 99,000 crores have been completed and 217 projects worth Rs. 2.12 lakh crores are under implementation.

- B. Sita
- C. Shakuntala
- D. Sumitra

- The satellite was launched on Friday with spacex's Transporter-4 mission from Cape Canaveral in the US
- Shakuntala (TD-2) weighs less than 15 Kg and is capable of capturing orbital images in more than 150 bands of colour from the visible and infrared spectrum
- CEO of Pixxel, Awais Ahmed

171. Recently In April In a move aimed at bolstering the 'Make in India' campaign, _____ on entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (mou) with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to convert civil (passenger) aircraft to Multi Mission Tanker Transport (MMTT) aircraft in India .

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd
- C. National Aerospace Laboratories
- D. Defence Research and Development Organisation

HAL in tie-up to convert aircraft

Passenger flight to be transformed into tanker transport with Israel collaboration

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to convert civil passenger aircraft to multi mission tanker transport (MMTT) aircraft in India.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been looking to procure new mid-air refuellers for some time.

"Under the pact signed recently, HAL will convert pre-owned civil (passenger) aircraft into air refuelling aircraft with cargo and transport capabilities. The move will provide India's defence ecosystem with new capabilities and cost-effective solutions in the market," HAL said in a statement.

The scope of the MoU also covers "passenger to freighter aircraft" conversion along with MMTT conversions, it stated. A defence official said



New deal: Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets. • FILE PHOTO

the aircraft likely to be converted was a Boeing 767 passenger jet.

'Long-standing partner'

"We are glad to join hands with our long-standing partner IAI in this venture of MMTT conversion business, which is one of the strategic diversification avenues identified by HAL," R. Madhavan, Chief Managing Director HAL, said.

The IAF at present has six

Russian IL-78 tankers and has been looking to procure six new aircraft for some time, but the deal has been repeatedly delayed. It has been looking to reissue the tender but the financial crunch had made it rethink the acquisition.

To meet requirements in the interim, it has been looking at leasing some mid-air refuellers, an option introduced in the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020.

Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets. It also allows the aircraft to stay in the air much beyond their normal limits allowing better exploitation of the platforms capabilities.

Third list

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, IAF officials had stated that broadly wet lease platforms could be used for peacetime use and dry leasing to cater to operational requirements.

In wet lease, the platform have to be maintained by the company supplying them be it the original equipment manufacturer or the aggregator.

On Thursday, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is all set to release the third positive indigenisation list the items in which cannot be imported by the Services.

The earlier lists have barred imports of 209 major platforms and systems.

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Under the pact signed recently, HAL will convert pre-owned civil (passenger) aircraft into air refueling aircraft with cargo and transport capabilities.

The MoU will facilitate HAL and IAI's decades' long expertise in developing, manufacturing and producing leading defence platforms

R Madhavan, CMD, HAL.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bengaluru, India. Established on 23 December 1940, HAL is one of the oldest and largest aerospace and defence manufacturers in the world today

172. Recently In April _____ the **first Sail Training Ship of the Indian Navy** departed for Lokayan-2022 from Southern Naval Command (SNC) in Kochi, Kerala .

- A. INS Shivaji
- B. INS Tarangini**
- C. Ins tabar
- D. INS Sashttra

- *The highlight of this voyage will be hoisting the national flag in the heart of London on the occasion of 75th Independence Day as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. During the voyage, the ship will be visiting 17 ports across 14 countries.*

- *“INS Tarangini, the sail training ship of Southern Naval Command is embarking for a seven-month long voyage for participating in tall ship races as well as to impart training to our sea training. The ship will touch 17 ports and visit 14 countries,” The ship will come back in November this year.*

Setting sail



INS Tarangini, the first sail training ship of the Indian Navy departs for Lokayan 2022, a 14-nation voyage, from the Naval Jetty at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi on Wednesday. The ship will call on 17 ports during her seven-month-long voyage, covering a distance of 17,485 nautical miles. The primary purpose of the voyage is the training of about 300 under-trainee officers of the Indian Navy who form part of the first training squadron

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173. Recently In April The _____ edition of the *India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise “KHANJAR”* which was held in _____ .

- A. 7th , Barguna
- B. 8th , Jaisalmer
- C. 9th , Bakloh
- D. 12th , Pittorgarg

9th edition of India – Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise concluded on 06 April 2022.

The exercise started on 25 March 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.

During the exercise, Special Forces contingents from India and Kyrgyzstan shared their expertise and best practices.

KHANJAR is the name of the exercise between Indian and Kyrgyzstan Special Forces.

174. In April According to Government *Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO’s)* commercial arms have earned a total Foreign Exchange Revenue of _____ Million US Dollars and _____ Million Euros through launching of satellites from 34 countries as of april .

- A. 56 Million , 190 Million
- B. 100 Million , 200 Million
- C. 90 Million , 250 Million
- D. 80 Million . 120 Million

Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO’s) commercial arms have earned a total Foreign Exchange Revenue of 56 Million US Dollars and 190 Million Euros through launching of satellites from 34 countries as on date.

The Minister said that so far, 114 Satellites of Indian Space Research Organization, 13 Indian Student Satellites and 342 Foreign Satellites of 34 countries have been launched by ISRO.

He said that starting from 1991, till date ISRO, through its commercial arms, has successfully signed commercial launch service agreements with several global companies, agencies and institutions for launching satellites from 34 countries into space on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

175. Consider the following statement regarding *Project Kuiper* :

1. Amazon continues to deliver on its roadmap for *Project Kuiper*, a low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite system designed to provide fast, affordable broadband to unserved and underserved communities around the world.
2. Amazon announced up to 83 launches from three commercial space companies—Arianespace, Blue Origin, and United Launch Alliance (ULA).

Which of the following statement is/are correct ?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2

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D. None Of The Above

- *The three agreements include 38 launches on ULA's Vulcan Centaur rocket, 18 launches on Arianespace's Ariane 6, and 12 launches on Blue Origin's New Glenn, with options for 15 additional launches.*
- *Project Kuiper is working to deliver high-speed, low-latency broadband service at an affordable price.*

The Project Kuiper contract is the single-largest order in Beyond Gravity's history.

176. Recently In April Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited (RITES Ltd.) And _____ have signed Memorandum of Understanding (mou) to explore ways of collaboration on road design and road safety consultancy project .

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

The MoU aims is to explore ways of collaboration on road design and road safety consultancy projects.

Through the MoU, RITES and IIT-Delhi aim to bring out best practices by using each other's experience and technologies to optimise operations.

RITES last week signed an agreement with National Railways of Zimbabwe on technical cooperation.

Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited (RITES Ltd.): It is a Government of India Enterprise. It was established in 1974.

177. Consider The Following Statement Regarding 12th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject :

- 1. India that collectively offer 35 programmes From 16 higher education institutes which globally rank among the top 100 in their respective subject categories.*
- 2.. In the overall rankings, US institutions lead in 28 of the 51 subjects ranked. Harvard University and MIT remain the strongest-performing institutions, ranking number one in twelve subjects.*

Which Of The Following Statement Is Correct ?

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

35 programmes across 16 varsities in QS top 100

Fareeha Iftikhar

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NEW DELHI: As many as 35 programmes offered across 16 Indian higher education institutes, including seven Institutes of Eminence (IoEs), figured in the top 100 globally, according to QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 released on Wednesday. Last year, 25 programmes offered by 12 Indian institutions made it to the top 100.

For the "subject ranking", Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranks institutions on the basis of the individual programmes and compares them to other programmes in the world. For the 12th edition of QS subject rankings, the universities were ranked in five broader areas – Engineering and Technology, Arts and Humanities, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Science and Social Sciences and Management.

Among the 16 institutions are five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), two Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University (DU), Indian Institute of Science, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Science, Indian School of Mines University, OP Jindal University, National Institute of Design, National Institution of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), and Anna University.

Union minister of education Dharmendra Pradhan said: "Happy to read that 35 Indian programmes across universities have achieved top 100 positions in the latest QS World University Rankings... It is also satisfying to learn that India remains at the forefront of global environmental science research with 8 universities fea-

Where Indian varsities stand

ENGINEERING & TECH*		NATURAL SCIENCES*	
RANK		RANK	
65	IIT Bombay	103	IISc Bengaluru
72	IIT Delhi	142	IIT Bombay
101	IIT Kharagpur	176	IIT Madras
103	IIT Madras	217	IIT Delhi
122	IIT Kanpur	248	IIT Kanpur

ARTS AND HUMANITIES		SOCIAL SCI & MANAGEMENT*	
188	Jawaharlal Nehru University	195	University of Delhi
227	University of Delhi	211	IIT Delhi
333	IIT Bombay	214	IIT Bombay
401-450	IIT Delhi	259	IIM Ahmedabad
401-450	Jadavpur University	271	IIM Bangalore

LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDICINE	
204	All India Institute of Medical Sciences
330	University of Delhi
375	Manipal Academy of Higher Education

*These categories have more Indian universities in the overall rankings; shown here are Indian varsities which had the highest rank

turing in the QS Environmental Sciences Ranking 2022."

Seven out of 11 institutes that were declared as IoEs by the government in 2018 for upgrade to world-class status also offer some of the programmes that are ranked in the top 100 by QS. They include IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras, IIT-Kharagpur, DU, Indian Institute of Science, and OP Jindal University. QS said the IoEs have managed to gain "moderate ground" on the global stage in these four and a half years.

Among the four IoEs in the top 50, IIT Madras (30th for petroleum engineering), is India's highest-ranking public IoE.

In subject-wise analysis of the programmes, 19 engineering courses from Indian institutes made it to the top 100. Of these, most were offered by IIT-Bombay.

It was followed by IIT-Delhi, whose five programmes made it to the top 100. They included electrical and electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, chemical and civil engineering.

"Regionally, India is the fourth-best represented higher education system for number of entries, and it is joint-fifth for number of top 200 entries," the statement released by QS stated.

QS research director Ben Sowter said of the biggest challenges faced by India is education – providing high-quality tertiary education in the face of exploding demand. "This much was recognised by 2020's NEP... It should therefore provide some reassurance that the number of Indian programmes featuring across our 51 subject rankings has increased this year – from 233 to 274..."

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY SUBJECT RANKINGS 2022

Saveetha, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad debut as India's best institutes

Four out of eight Institutes of Eminence move up among the top 100 in the world

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad, 6 April

Springing a surprise on some IITs, Tamil Nadu-based Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences and the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad have debuted as the country's best in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022.

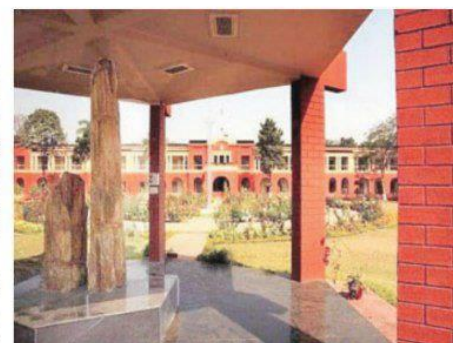
The twelfth edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject saw the two new entrants break into the global top-100 for dentistry and mineral and mining engineering subjects, respectively.

Similarly, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Mohali made the highest jump in rankings by being placed 44th globally in pharmacy and pharmacology, up by over 100 places from the 151-200 band in the previous edition.

On the other hand, after four and a half years since the inception of the country's "Institutes of Eminence" scheme, the recognised universities gained moderate ground on the global stage in the QS ratings.

Led by IIT Madras, which ranked 30th for petroleum engineering, four Institutes of Eminence made it to the top-50 ranks. IIT Madras became India's highest-ranking public Institute of Eminence.

Mineral and mining engineering emerged as India's topper among subjects with two public Institutes of Eminence making it to the top-



INDIAN INSTITUTES RANKINGS BY SUBJECT

Institute	Subject	2022 Rank	2021 Rank
Saveetha Institute of Medical & Technical Sciences	Dentistry	18	NR
IIT (ISM) Dhanbad	Mineral and mining engineering	26	NR
IIT Madras	Petroleum	30	30
IIT Kharagpur	Mineral & mining engineering	37	44
IIT Bombay	Mineral & mining engineering	39	41
University of Delhi	Development studies	41	50
NIPER, Mohali	Pharmacy & pharmacology	44	151-200
IIT Bombay	Electrical & electronic engineering	56	61
IIT Delhi	Electrical & electronic engineering	56	54

NR = Not Ranked; Source: QS

50. They are IIT Kharagpur (37) and IIT Bombay (39). For development studies, the University of Delhi was ranked at 41st place, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) retained a place in the top-100 bracket for materials science (76) and chemistry (81). It also broke into the top-100 for physics and astronomy (91) and mechanical engineering (98). IIT Delhi was ranked in 14

- **QS Quacquarelli Symonds, a higher education think-tank, has released the 'QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022'.**
- **The ranking has been released for a total of 51 disciplines grouped into five broad subject areas.**
- **The University of Oxford has topped the list with a score of 98 in the Arts and Humanities stream, followed by the University of Cambridge and Harvard University.**
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru University has got 188th place in the stream of Arts and Humanities.**
- **No Indian university has got a place in the top 100 universities in the Arts and Humanities.**
- **In the Engineering and Technology stream, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has got first place with a score of 96.5.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

First Week Of April (1st – 8th April 2022)

- *The Indian Institute of Bombay and the Indian Institute of Delhi got 65th and 72nd ranks respectively. IIT Kharagpur has been ranked 101 with a score of 76.2.*
- *In Life Sciences and Medicine, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been placed at 204th rank while the University of Delhi got 330th rank.*
- *Harvard University has topped in the Life Sciences and Medicine and Social Sciences and Management streams.*
- *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has got the first rank in the 12 disciplines.*

178. Recently In April China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite _____ on from Jiuquan Satellite Launch centre by a Long March-4C rocket .

- Tianwen - 02
- Gaofen -3 03**
- Zhourang 05
- Tinhonau 01

- *China on Thursday successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture fine-resolution images to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests.*
- *The satellite Gaofen-3 03 was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully.*
- *The satellite will be networked with the orbiting Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 satellites to form a land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture reliable, stable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images.*

IIT Kharagpur among top 100 universities in world: QS Rankings

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, April 8

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP) has been named as one of the world's top 100 universities for studying 19 subjects, according to the latest edition of the world's highest QS University ranking.

The institute ranked 37th in Mineral & Mining Engineering in 2022 compared to 44th in 2021 and in Electrical & Electronic Engineering 80th, improving its rank from 90th in 2021. In Engineering & Technology, it ranked 101st in the world and 3rd in India, as per the 12th QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2022 announced recently.

Among top three

Among universities in India it has topped in Agriculture & Forestry and Statistics & Operational Research; second in Mineral & Mining Engineer-



ing, Environmental Sciences, Economics & Econometrics, and third in Engineering & Technology, Computer Science & Information Systems, Chemical Engineering and Accounting & Finance.

VK Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur said, "IIT Kharagpur stands out from other IITs with its multi-disciplinary mandate to transform its education curriculum to a knowledge economy along with the focus on skill development and entrepreneurship."

Jagan inaugurates 13 new districts of Andhra Pradesh

Move aimed at more efficient administration, says CM

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

While inaugurating 13 new districts of Andhra Pradesh in the virtual mode on Monday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy reiterated that decentralisation from the village level to the proposed three capitals was a right policy decision of his government that would do good to people.

The primary objective of the new districts was to take a substantial leap in the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he said.

“The performance of all Collectors will be assessed on that basis and the same



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy releasing a District Handbook of Statistics on Monday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

will go into their service records. To help them in the endeavour, necessary tools and SOPs are being provided,” he said.

On the formation of new districts, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said hitherto the aver-

age population of districts was 38.15 lakh as per the 2011 Census, which was the highest in the country. “With 26 districts, it will come down to 19.07 lakh. This will make administration a lot easier.”

GST collections hit all-time high of Rs 1.42 lakh crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

MARKING A new high since its rollout in July 2017, gross collections of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rose to Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, for sales in February, according to data released by the Union Finance Ministry on Friday – a 14.7 per cent rise from March 2021 and a 45.6 per cent spike from March 2020.

The sharp surge has come on the back of anti-evasion measures, “especially action against fake billers”, and a pick-up in economic activity. The average monthly gross GST collections for FY22 now stands at Rs 1.23 lakh crore, which is 30.5 per cent higher than the monthly average seen in the previous fiscal.

The impact of Covid was visible from the drop in GST revenue at a monthly average of Rs 94,733

EXPLAINED
E The road ahead

GST REVENUES are expected to rise further in the coming month due to financial year-end activity. While improving collections may help set the stage for rate rationalisation and a GST rate structure change, including hikes, inter-state variations may present a case for extension of compensation by some states beyond the mandated period ending in June this year.

crore in 2020-21, which was 9.5 per cent lower than the monthly average of Rs 1.04 lakh crore in
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lanka names former FX in-charge as new central bank governor

BLOOMBERG
April 5

P. NANDALAL WEERASINGHE, a career central banker, was appointed to head Sri Lanka's monetary authority as the government seeks to pull the South Asian nation out of an economic tailspin, avoid a bond default and start aid talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Currently a deputy governor after a stint with the IMF, Weerasinghe expects to take over as governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on April 7, he said by phone from Australia. He will be replacing Ajith Nivard Cabraal who resigned Monday after failing to check a spiraling economic crisis and resisting aid from the multilateral lender.

“Yes, I have been approached and offered the post,” Weerasinghe said on the appointment, which was confirmed by a central bank spokeswoman. “I have agreed to accept it,” he said.

Weerasinghe takes the job with inflation running at its fastest pace in Asia and the rupee the world's worst-performing currency this year. His first job would be to review interest rates, a decision that was originally



due Tuesday but deferred indefinitely as President Gotabaya Rajapaksa overhauled his political and economic teams.

The main cause of Sri Lanka's almost 19% inflation may be beyond Weerasinghe's control. Dwindling foreign exchange reserves led to a shortage of food, fuel and medicines, brewing discontent in the island nation, while massive debt payments loomed. The problems were compounded by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which pushed up oil prices and strangled a recovery in tourism.

Sharad Chandak, SBI UK chief, awarded

THE REGIONAL HEAD of SBI UK, Sharad Chandak, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of the bank's historic ties with the financial hub of Britain.

Nepal's central bank governor suspended

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
 KATHMANDU, APRIL 8

THE NEPAL government suspended the country's central bank governor, Maha Prasad Adhikari, amid his purported disagreements with Finance Minister Janardan Sharma.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting, in which nominees for 20 ambassadorial positions were also decided.

A Cabinet source said Adhikari's suspension came in the wake of his refusal to release 400 million Nepali rupees, routed through the US, to a businessman and suspect in a money laundering case, despite the Finance Minister's instructions. Deputy governor Neelam Dhungana was designated as acting governor.

The nominees for ambassadors to 20 countries include Maoist leader Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, who has been picked as envoy to China. The ambassadorial positions will need parliamentary approval before they are finalised.

SATURDAY • APRIL 9 • 2022

10 States get nod to borrow ₹28,204 cr more

Move based on 15th Finance Commission recommendations following power sector reforms by States

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 8
 The government has allowed to States including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan additional borrowing permission to raise ₹28,204 crore for undertaking the power sector reforms including assuming the responsibility of losses of State Discoms.

The Finance Ministry, based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, had decided to grant the additional borrowing space of up to 0.5 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to the States every year for four years from FY22 to FY25 based on reforms undertaken by them in the power sector.

This was announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget speech for FY22. The Power Ministry is the nodal agency for assessment of the performance of States and determining



The Power Ministry is the nodal agency for assessment of the performance of States and for determining their eligibility for grant of additional borrowing permission

their eligibility for granting additional borrowing permission.

States and objectives

Tamil Nadu has been allowed to raise ₹7,054 crore followed by Uttar Pradesh (₹6,823 crore), Rajasthan (₹5,186 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹3,716 crore), Odisha (₹2,725 crore) and Assam (₹1,886 crore). The other four States are Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim.

The objectives of this move are to improve the operational and economic efficiency of the power sector finances, includ-

sector, and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption. Detailed guidelines and marking criteria in this regard were issued by the Department of Expenditure on June 9, 2021.

Benchmarks set

To avail of the additional borrowing, the States have to undertake a set of mandatory reforms and also meet stipulated performance benchmarks. The reforms include assuming responsibility for losses of Discoms, transparent reporting of power sector finances, includ-

ing payment of subsidies as well as the recording of liabilities of governments to Discoms. It also includes timely rendition of the financial and energy accounts, and its timely audit.

In FY23 as well, the States can avail of the facility of additional borrowing. An amount

of ₹1,22,551 crore will be available as an incentive to States for undertaking these reforms. States who could not complete the reform process in FY22 may also avail of the benefit for FY23 if they carry out the reforms in the current financial year.

14 States get ₹7,183 crore revenue deficit grant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 8

The Finance Ministry on Friday said it has released the first instalment of revenue deficit grant of ₹7,183 crore to 14 States.

The grant has been released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura,

Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on Thursday released the first monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant of ₹7,183.42 crore to 14 States, the ministry said in a statement.

The commission had recommended a total PDRD grant of ₹86,201 crore to 14 States for the financial year 2022-23, which will be released in 12 monthly instalments.