

National /State News

UIDAI, Isro ink pact for technical collaboration

AADHAAR-ISSUING BODY UIDAI and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Isro have signed a pact for technical collaboration. NRSC would be developing 'Bhuvan-Aadhar' portal providing information and locations of the Aadhaar centres across India. The portal also provides a facility to search the relevant Aadhaar centres by location, based on residents' requirements.

1. Recently Aadhaar-issuing body **UIDAI and National Remote Sensing Centre NRSC** and _____ have signed a pact for technical collaboration for developing the _____ providing information and locations of the Aadhaar centres across India.
- A. Pixxel , Shakuntala Portal
 - B. HAL ,Swayaam Portal
 - C. **ISRO , Bhuvan Portal**
 - D. BEML , Aadhaar Portal

Aadhaar-issuing body UIDAI and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO have signed a pact for technical collaboration.

NRSC would be developing the 'Bhuvan-Aadhaar' portal providing information and locations of the Aadhaar centres across India.

The portal also provides a facility to search the relevant Aadhaar centres by location, based on residents' requirements.

"Bhuvan will facilitate complete geographic information storage, retrieval, analysis and reporting for Aadhaar centres

UIDAI is mandated to issue an easily verifiable 12 digit random number as Unique Identity - Aadhaar to all Residents of India. Founded: 28 January 2009, India Dr. Sourabh Garg is the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is the national space agency of India, headquartered in Bengaluru. Founder: Vikram Sarabhai Founded: 15 August 1969, Shri S. Somanath

2. Recently **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** had announced an **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) promotion task force** that will look at ways to build domestic capacity and also to serve the global demand. It will be headed by _____.
- A. **Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**
 - B. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
 - C. Secretary , Ministry of Education
 - D. Secretary , Ministry of Culture

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) promotion task force that will look at ways to build domestic capacity and also to serve the global demand in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) sector.

Just over two months after the announcement, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry (I&B Ministry) has constituted the said AVGC Promotion Task Force. The announcement said that the AVGC Promotion Task Force will be headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and it will submit its first plan of action in the next 90 days.

The task force will submit its first action plan within 90 days and will also be responsible for framing a national AVGC policy.

Task force formed to promote animation sector

I&B Secretary to lead the panel, which will submit its first action plan within 90 days

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 8

The Centre has constituted a task force for the promotion of the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC) sector under the aegis of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

The task force, to be headed by the I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra, will submit its first action plan within 90 days, an official statement added.

“The creation of an AVGC Promotion Task Force with the participation of the Centre, State governments and key industry players will

provide a focussed thrust on the growth of the sector by driving institutional efforts to guide growth policies, establish standards for AVGC education, actively collaborate with industry and international AVGC institutes, and enhance the global positioning of the Indian AVGC industry,” the I&B Ministry said.

Industry representatives

The Ministry said India has the potential to capture 5 per cent of the global market share by 2025 and to create 1.6 lakh new jobs annually.

Seven industry representatives, Biren Ghosh, Country Head, Technicolor India; Ashish Kulkarni, Founder, Punaryug Artvision Pvt Ltd; Jesh Krishna Murthy, Founder and CEO Anibrain; Keitan Yadav, COO and VFX Producer, Redchillies VFX; Chaitanya



India has the potential to capture 5 per cent of the global market share by 2025 and create 1.6 lakh new jobs annually, says the govt

Chinchlikar, Chief Technology Officer, Whistling Woods International; Kishore Kichili, Senior Vice President and Country Head, Zynga India; and Neeraj Roy, Managing Director and CEO of Hungama Digital Media Entertainment, have been nominated to the task force.

“The AVGC Promotion Task

Force includes the Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana governments, the heads of education bodies such as the All India Council of Technical Education, the National Council of Educational Research and Training and representatives of industry bodies – MESC, FICCI and CII,” the official statement added.

3. Recently In April 'Corruption-Free App-1064' has been launched by _____ Government to make State corruption-free.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

'Corruption-Free Uttarakhand App-1064' has been launched by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama.

'Corruption-Free Uttarakhand App-1064' is available in both Hindi and English.

It has been developed by the vigilance department. The app will be available in both Hindi and English.

Uttarakhand CM said that the government is committed to make Uttarakhand corruption-free.

Gurmit Singh is Governor of Uttarakhand.

4. Recently In April _____ granted _____ loan to Ahmadabad under the Gujarat Resilient City Development Program for setting up new sewage treatment plants (STPs) and augmenting existing capacity.
- A. ADB , Rs 1500 Cr
 - B. WB , Rs 3000 Cr
 - C. IMF , Rs 2000 Cr
 - D. EU , Rs 1000 Cr

World Bank granted Rs 3000 cr loan to Ahmadabad under the Gujarat Resilient City Development Program.

Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) will receive the loan for setting up new sewage treatment plants (STPs) and augmenting existing capacity.

The funds will also be used to develop the Kharicut canal in the eastern parts of Ahmadabad. Bhupendra Patel presided over a meeting of AMC officials and representatives from the World Bank on urban development issues.

The World Bank provides loans to civic bodies through the Resilient City Development Program in order to carry out long-term planning and sustainable development works. Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat, Chief Minister:

Bhupendra Patel

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States President: David Malpass Founded: July 1944

5. Recently In April the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has given the approval to distribute fortified rice through different schemes in all States and Union Territories by _____.

- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2026
- D. 2023

Fortified rice for all in 2 years; to cost Centre ₹2,700 cr annually

The distribution will be done through PDS and other government schemes

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, April 8

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a plan under which rice, fortified with vitamins that can help prevent malnutrition, will be released from government stocks for the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare programmes such as mid-day meals.

However, this will be done in another two phases and will be rolled out in all districts for all schemes by March 2024.

Three-phased approach

The Cabinet has approved the distribution of fortified rice through PDS and other government schemes in three phases, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said on Friday. The entire cost of rice fortification, estimated at ₹2,700 crore per year, would be

borne by the Centre as part of the food subsidy. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN (previously known as mid-day meal scheme) and other welfare schemes (OWS) of the Food Ministry will be covered under the fortified rice scheme apart from 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Target: March 2024

PDS beneficiaries in one district each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have also been receiving the fortified rice.

In the next phase, the government targets to cover all 291 aspirational and high-burden districts (identified on basis of cases of stunting) under PDS



The pilot scheme was implemented for three years, beginning 2019-20, at an estimated budget of ₹174.64 crore

and OWS schemes by March 2023, while the remaining districts will get it by March 2024.

88.65 It procured

Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said 11 States had distributed 4.30 lakh tonnes (lt) of fortified rice in their identified districts during the pilot. As many as 88.65 lt so far, have been procured by the FCI and State agencies.

Pandey said the study from

pilot project in Odisha and Gujarat has also been very clear in establishing the positive impact of fortification. He added that the total annual cost would be less than 2 per cent of total food subsidy, whereas estimated savings of about ₹50,000 crore on expenses incurred in health care.

The government targets to fortify 175 lt of rice in the current fiscal, and 350 lt next year, he added.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given the approval to distribute fortified rice through different schemes in all States and Union Territories by 2024.

The fortified rice will be distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN and Other Welfare Schemes.

This initiative will be implemented in three phases. A Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System" was implemented in 2019-20.

Food Corporation of India and State Agencies had already procured 88 LMT fortified rice for supply and distribution.

The Centre will bear the total cost of rice fortification, which will be around two thousand 700 million rupees each year.

Fortified rice will provide nutrition to poor people, women, children, and lactating mothers. It will help in reducing malnutrition in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement on the Fortification of Rice on the 75th Independence Day.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Delhi government to include e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

1. Delhi has become the first state to promote e-cycle under the EV policy. The Government will give an incentive of 25% of MRP to the first 10,000 buyers.

2. Passenger and cargo e-cycles with a speed of less than 25 km/hour will be covered under the e-cycle policy.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

Delhi government to include e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) policy. Delhi government has decided to incentivize e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) policy.

Passenger and cargo e-cycles with a speed of less than 25 km/hour will be covered under the e-cycle policy.

Buyers of e-cycles and cargo e-cycles will get a "Scrapping Incentive" of up to Rs 3,000 per vehicle.

Delhi has become the first state to promote e-cycle under the EV policy. The Government will give an incentive of 25% of MRP to the first 10,000 buyers. An additional incentive of Rs 2,000 will be given to the first 1,000 individual e-cycle buyers.

The government will give an incentive of 33% of MRP or Rs 15,000 per vehicle, whichever is less, to the first 5,000 e-cargo cycles buyers.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the third indigenization list to promote defence manufacturing in India.

The third list comprises 101 items including Sensors, Weapons ammunitions, Rocket, Naval Utility Helicopters, Patrol vessels, Anti-ship Missile, and Anti-Radiation Missile.

These 101 items will be procured from local sources according to the provisions of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

This third positive indigenization list has been prepared by the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), Department of Defence Production (DDP); Service Headquarters (SHQs) and the private industry.

The first list (101) and second list (108) were released on August 21, 2020 and May 31, 2021, respectively.

7. Recently In April _____ launched an **India Alumni Portal**, a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India.
- A. **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**
 - B. Indian Agricultural Research Institute
 - C. Department of Promotion and Industry
 - D. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched an India Alumni Portal, as a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India.

The minister of state for external affairs Meenakashi Lekhi has launched the portal in the presence of ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabudhe.

The India Alumni Portal (www.iccr.almaconnect.com) will connect all foreign scholars who have studied in India including ICCR scholars who can be India's best ambassadors, offering invaluable soft projection

ICCR has been offering scholarships to foreign students for the past 40 years and now, through the portal, the organisation hopes to create an important platform of cultural ambassadors of India. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India, involved in India's global cultural relations, through cultural exchange with other countries and their people Founded: 9 April 1950, New Delhi

8. Recently In April _____ person's were presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards for 2018**, while the **Lalit Kala Akademi's Fellowship and National Awards for 2021** were given to _____ by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at a joint ceremony.
- A. 29 , 34
 - B. 34, 28
 - C. **43 , 23**
 - D. 51 , 27

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The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are national honours bestowed by the government on performing artists and teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.

The awards were given in the categories of music, dance, and theatre. In addition, one category was reserved for traditional, folk, and tribal dance, music, theatre and puppetry.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar (IPA: Saṅgīta Nāṭaka Akādamī Puraskāra) is an award given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama. First awarded in 1952.

9. Recently _____ state has decided to set up a training institute for drone pilots to support capacity development.

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana**
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Jharkhand

A Haryana will establish a drone pilot training centre to aid in capacity development.

The institute, to be established under the aegis of the Drone Imaging and Information Service of Haryana Limited (DRIISHYA), will give training to personnel of DRIISHYA and other organisations.

DRIISHYA's second board of directors meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, made a decision in this regard.

Haryana is the first state to create a separate corporation to expedite the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)-powered governance application.

Khattar said that with the help of drones, cases of land encroachment can be controlled and the extent of the area can also be detected.

10. Recently **Poila Boishakh** was celebrated in which of the following states?

- A. Punjab
- B. West Bengal**
- C. Haryana
- D. Chattisgarh

Poila Boishakh is the first day of the Bengali calendar which is also the official calendar of Bangladesh.

This festival is celebrated on 14 April in Bangladesh and 15 April in the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam (Barak Valley) by Bengalis regardless of religious faith.

The traditional greeting for Bengalis in the New Year is "Shubho Noboborsho" which is literally "Happy New Year".

The festive Mangal Shobhajatra is organized in Bangladesh. In 2016, the UNESCO declared this festivity organized by the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka as a cultural heritage of humanity.

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11. Consider the following statements regarding 10th and 11th Edition of Status Paper on Government Debt.

1. Government total net liabilities stood at 59.2 percent of GDP till March 2021.
2. General Government Debt (GGD)-GDP ratio has increased from 73.7 percent to 87.8 percent.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Government released 10th and 11th Edition of Status Paper on Government Debt. It will give detail about the overall debt position of the Government of India. The government is releasing the Annual Status Paper on Government Debt since 2010-11. It will increase transparency by providing detail of the debt operations during the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The Debt Management Strategy (DMS) is based mainly on three pillars: low cost, risk mitigation and market development.

Detail of Government Debt: Government total net liabilities stood at 59.2 percent of GDP till March 2021. It was 49.1 percent of GDP at the end of March 2020. General Government Debt (GGD)-GDP ratio has increased from 73.7 percent to 87.8 percent. Out of the total liabilities of the government, 94.7 percent are in domestic currency.

The share of marketable securities in internal debt has decreased as compared to last year. In 2020-21, the Interest Payments to Revenue Receipts (IP-RR) ratio of the Centre have reached at 41.6 percent.

12. Recently In April _____ has become the first Indian city to get into the global network of silk cities.

- A. Varanasi
- B. Bangalore
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Pune

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to get into the global network of silk cities, celebrated French textile artist Isabelle Moulin said in Kolkata,

Expressing hope that in the next few years West Bengal's Murshidabad district — known to produce fine silk in the over the past 300 years — may join the global silk city network French textile artist Isabelle Moulin said in Kolkata, "The International Seri-Cultural Commission was held at Lyon in the 1950s and came to Bengaluru [in 2013]

Bengaluru joins global network of silk cities

Hope for Murshidabad to join the elite club, says French textile artist

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to get into the global network of silk cities, celebrated French textile artist Isabelle Moulin said in Kolkata, expressing hope that in the next few years West Bengal's Murshidabad district — known to produce fine silk in the over the past 300 years — may join the global silk city network.

"Two days ago, I launched the membership of Bengaluru — the first Indian city in the global Silk City network. Now, we have nine countries and 13 cities. If everything goes fine, then with time, I hope 'Murshidabad Silk' too can make it to the network. The network helps artisans and craftsmen to exchange knowledge, build trade relations and understand various craftsmanship techniques," Ms. Moulin said during an interactive session with select media persons at Kolkata's Oxford Bookstore.

The French textile artist, who is on a 'Silk trip' to India, said there are historical reasons why Bengaluru has been included in the Silky City Network. "The International Sericultural Commission was held at Lyon in the 1950s and came to Bengaluru [in 2013]. Also Bengaluru is the Silken Valley of India and Lyon has a big cluster of innovation and IT," Ms. Moulin said. For the past three years, she has been working with stakeholders in Bengaluru to get into the global network of silk cities.

The 'Silk City' network, where the French artist has played a pivotal role, so far



French textile artist Isabelle Moulin, who is on a 'Silk trip' to India, said there are historical reasons why Bengaluru has been included in the Silky City Network. FILE PHOTO: K. K. MUSTAFAH

has 13 "best silk-producing cities" which have "same philosophy to protect silk and its related heritage" across nine countries as its member (after the introduction of Bengaluru).

Bengal silk

In Kolkata, Ms. Moulin established an initial contact with the Crafts Council of West Bengal to undertake a study on Bengal Silk (Murshidabad Silk) opening up the possibility to put the craft on the global map. The history of silk weaving in Murshidabad goes back to the early eighteenth century during the Mughal rule, when the Nawab of Bengal, Murshidkuli Khan, shifted his capital from Dhaka to a town on the east of the Bhagirathi river, and named it Murshidabad.

"Silk is a living material and West Bengal has a rich silk tradition with varieties such as mulberry, tasar, eri and muga. The silk industry

in West Bengal is mainly concentrated in Murshidabad and I am excited to learn more about Murshidabad Silk," Ms. Moulin said.

While Ms. Moulin said it may take years for Murshidabad to be included in the list and she will have to take up a new project for the endeavour, the textile artist emphasised that her work is to preserve the work of immensely gifted silk weavers and artists and provide them a global platform. The artists spoke about how silk at the global stage offers an "open market" and said the quality of Chinese is on a decline and "silk-producing cities here in India including Murshidabad can play a huge role as a change-maker".

At the Kolkata's Iconic Oxford Bookstore which is 100 years old, The French artist also launched her book "Impressions Indiennes" that takes a look at Indo-French relations through the prism of

silk. "We have a common history of relationship, the best one and first one is silk and textile," and added that even in the field of education both the countries have old ties with Major General Claude Martin setting up schools in Kolkata and Lucknow. The French artist's visit to Kolkata was facilitated by the Oxford Bookstore, Alliance française du Bengale, and Institut Français de New Delhi

Printed silk scarves

In 2011, Ms. Moulin created the Silk me Back, an approach that closely combines heritage and contemporary expressions, combining scientific, technical and artistic perspectives on the theme of silk and textiles. Her project is supported by the local government in Lyon, France and in Kolkata she presented an exclusive collection of Jacquard printed silk scarves, specially created and made in France.

13. Recently _____ Government is planning to *scrap its project to provide a bird's eye view of the city from _____ - metre height of the Signature Bridge.*
- A. Haryana , 240 m
 - B. Punjab , 136 m
 - C. Delhi , 154 m
 - D. Maharashtra , 180 m

Delhi government is planning to scrap its project to provide a bird's eye view of the city from 154-metre height of the Signature Bridge, months after the tourism department failed to get permission to operate inclined lifts to take tourists to a viewing gallery set up atop the pylon

There are four lifts installed in legs of the bow-shaped pylon of the bridge. Two lifts are inclined at an angle of 60 degrees and two at the 80 degrees.

The Delhi government had set a deadline of January 31, 2019, for the project.

Twice the height of Qutub Minar - of the country's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge. The height of Qutub Minar is about 73 metres.

The Signature Bridge, built at a cost of ₹1,518.37 crore, was thrown open to commuters in November 2018. The bridge connects Outer Ring Road with Karawal Nagar and Bhajanpura in northeast Delhi.

Signature Bridge 'bird's eye' project runs into hurdles

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

A VIEW of the city from atop the Signature Bridge will have to wait longer owing to safety concerns. According to sources, the Delhi labour department has denied permission to the tourism department to operate the inclined elevator/lifts installed to take the tourists to the viewing gallery set up atop the pylon of the bridge.

"The tourism department placed several merits of the project, on how we can improve it and operate the lifts for the public, before the labour department several times but permission has been denied citing public safety," said a source.

As per officials associated with the project, four lifts have been installed at the foot of the bow-shaped pylon of the bridge. These four lifts are inclined — two of them are slanted at an angle of 60 degrees and two at 80



Signature Bridge connects Outer Ring Road with Northeast Delhi. Archive

degrees. "The project is delayed from the government's end because of these concerns. The government may have to do away with this project altogether," said a source from Delhi Tourism department.

The Signature Bridge is the

country's first asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge. It was opened to public in 2018 and the AAP government targeted to complete the bird's eye view project by January 31, 2019. The bridge was delayed for several years and finally constructed at a cost of Rs 1,518.37 crore.

A source in the Delhi government said, "The problem in these inclined lifts is that they are very narrow and the lift car cabin is very small. There is no proper landing... these are inclined lifts constructed for repairing and maintenance purposes and not for tourism."

"The structure is not small, it is 153-metres high which is twice the size of Qutub Minar. Taking people to the glass facade in these inclined lifts at such a height will be risky," said an official.

The bird's eye view of the Yamuna and Delhi through an all-glass viewing gallery accommodating 50 people is ready, said officials.

14. Recently the *Airport Authority of India (AAI)* has taken an initiative named _____, to allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region.

- A. Upalabdh
- B. Avsar
- C. Avishkar
- D. Samrpan

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To encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities, Airport Authority of India (AAI) has taken an initiative to allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region.

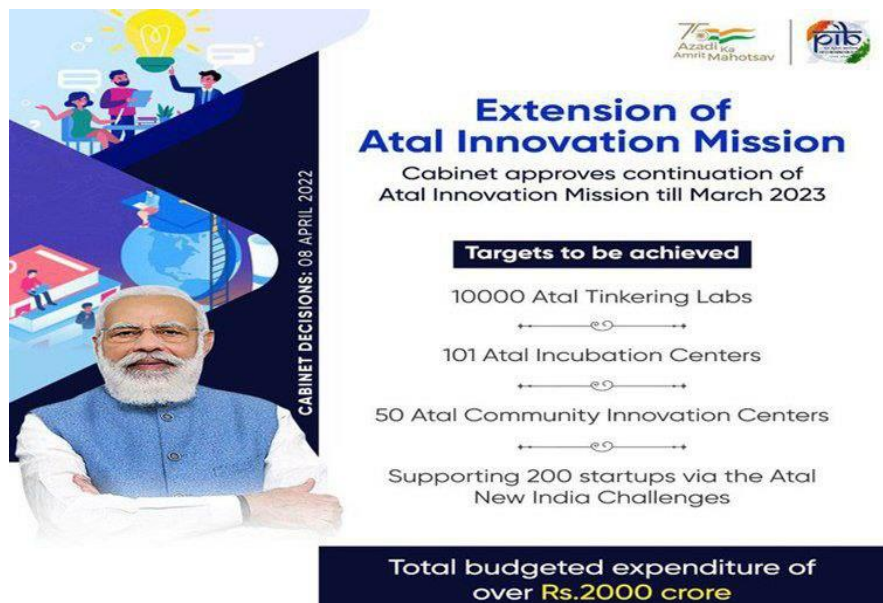
Under “AVSAR” (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region), which is an initiative of AAI, an opportunity to help the indigent to mobilize their households into functionally effective self-earned groups for self-reliance and self-dependence, has been provided.

Under this scheme, an area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport. The space is being allotted to the self- help groups; turn on turn basis, for duration of 15 days.

Few outlets have already been commissioned at Chennai, Agartala, Dehradun, Kushinagar, Udaipur & Amritsar Airport wherein shgs operated by local women, are showcasing and marketing their homemade local products like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, traditional craft with contemporary design to the air travellers.

15. Recently the Union Cabinet has approved continuation of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** till _____.

- A. December 2023
- B. March 2023**
- C. December 2022
- D. September 2022



Extension of Atal Innovation Mission
 Cabinet approves continuation of Atal Innovation Mission till March 2023

Targets to be achieved

- 10000 Atal Tinkering Labs
- 101 Atal Incubation Centers
- 50 Atal Community Innovation Centers
- Supporting 200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges

Total budgeted expenditure of over Rs.2000 crore

Atal Innovation Mission Gets 1-yr Extension

New Delhi: he Union Cabinet on Friday approved continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March

2023, according to an official statement. The

statement further said the intended targets that will be achieved by AIM include establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) as well as 101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs), and supporting 200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges.

The mission has been set up under the NITI Aayog. – PTI

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The AIM shall work on its intended target of creating an innovation culture and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country. This will be done by AIM via its various programs.

The intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are:

Establishing 10000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs),

Establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs),

Establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs) and

Supporting 200 start-ups via the Atal New India Challenges.

The total budgeted expenditure of Rs.2000+ crore shall be incurred in the process of the establishment and supporting the beneficiaries.

The Mission has been set up under the NITI Aayog, in accordance with the Finance Minister's declaration in the 2015 Budget Speech.

16. Recently In April the President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated five-day long **Madhavpur Ghed Fair** in which of the Following State?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Gujarat**
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab



At a Glance

The Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat shares its connect to the Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The Mishmi Tribe traces its ancestry to the legendary King Bhishmak and through him to his daughter Rukmini and Lord Krishna. The festival celebrates the immortal journey which Rukmini undertook from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat with Lord Krishna. Bhismaknagar, located near Roing in the lower Dibang Valley district, also finds mention in Kalika Purana.

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The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated five-day long Madhavpur Ghed Fair at Madhavpur Ghed, Porbandar in Gujarat on April 10, 2022.

Since 2018, the Government of Gujarat in association with the Ministry of Culture is organizing this fair every year to celebrate the sacred union of Lord Krishna and Rukmini.

Born in today's Uttar Pradesh, Shri Krishna makes Gujarat his workplace and marries Rukmini, a princess from today's north-eastern region of our country. According to folk belief, the land of Madhavpur Ghed village has been a witness to their union.

The Madhavpur Fair connects Gujarat with north-east region in an integral bond.

17. Recently in April **Amit Shah** has inaugurated _____ Project, an initiative of _____ at **Nadabet** located on the Indo-Pak border in **Banaskantha** District of Gujarat.
- A. **Seema Darshan Project**, BSF
 - B. **Border Raksha Project**, CRPF
 - C. **Shatra Raksha Project**, ITBP
 - D. **Seemanchal Raksha Project**, CISF

Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated 'Seema Darshan Project' at Nadabet located on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat.

This multipurpose tourism project was completed under the direct guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'Seema Darshan Project' was initiated with the aim to provide an opportunity to the people so that they can visualize the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border. BSF is constantly protecting our borders in very adverse weather conditions.

Under the 'Seema Darshan Project', all kinds of tourist facilities and other special attractions have been developed at a cost of 1 crore 25 lakhs. Border Security Force (BSF): It was founded on 1 December 1965. 'Jeevan Paryant Kartavya' is the motto of the Border Security Force.

Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. Pankaj Kumar Singh is the current Director-General of the Border Security Force.

18. Recently _____ has been selected for the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020** under the category **Innovation (General) - Central**.
- A. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**
 - B. **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**
 - C. **Atal Pension Yojana**
 - D. **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**

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Civil Aviation Ministry flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme - 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik', UDAN has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category Innovation (General) - Central.

The government has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State and Government.

The Ministry said, UDAN scheme emphasises on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. The award consists of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of ten lakh rupees. The Ministry of Civil Aviation will receive the award at Civil Service Day function on 21st of April's a short span of five years, 415 UDAN routes have connected 66 underserved and unserved airports, including heliports and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it. UDAN scheme has immensely benefitted several sectors pan-India including Hilly States, North-Eastern region and Islands.

19. Recently **Union Health Minister virtually launched e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility at one lakh centres on the occasion of _____ anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.**

- A. 3rd
- B. 4th**
- C. 5th
- D. 6th

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility at one lakh centres on the occasion of 4th Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

More than one lakh 17 thousand Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized in the country so far.

Now the common citizens will also be able to take advice from the big doctors of the country through e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility.

E-Sanjeevani is providing affordable and accessible health care as envisioned by the Prime Minister.

Teleconsultation services are very crucial for people in remote areas and are helpful in making healthcare services accessible for all.

20. Recently in a **first-of-its-kind in India the Centre Government would establish a seaweed park with special economic zone status in _____.**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Goa

Minister of State for Fishing, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr L Murugan has said, the Centre would establish a seaweed park with special economic zone status in Tamil Nadu.

The project will be the first of its kind in India and will come up under the PM Kisan Sampada Yojana.

The state government has been asked to locate the project site and acquire the land, after which the works on the project will start. He further said the Centre has plans to implement projects worth 20-thousand crore rupees, under the PM Kisan Sampada Yojana.

Seaweed, or macroalgae, refers to thousands of species of macroscopic, multicellular, marine algae.

21. Consider the following statements regarding child helpline number and national emergency helpline.

1. The Central Government is planning to merge child helpline number 1098 with the national emergency helpline 112.
2. Childline 1098 is a service of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Central Government is planning to merge child helpline number 1098 with the national emergency helpline 112.

Childline 1098 is a service of Ministry of Women and Child Development. Childline India Foundation is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in India that operates this telephonic helpline, for children in distress.

The Childline 1098 is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. It is also the sole agency/body responsible for establishing the CHILDLINE service across the country, monitoring of service delivery and finance, training, research and documentation, creating awareness, advocacy as well as resource generation for the service

The Childline India Foundation, till date, has connected to three million children across the nation offering them care and protection.

Childline 1098 may be merged with emergency helpline 112

Civil society organisations worried about new proposal

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Childline 1098 is the country's only dedicated helpline number for children and the entire child rights sector relies on it to provide assistance to them, but today a cloud hangs over its future as the government plans to merge it with national emergency helpline 112.

Childline 1098 is a 24x7 emergency, free phone outreach for children in distress. It is one of the world's biggest emergency helpline services dedicated to children, and is considered to be among the country's largest

SPECIAL

emergency response systems with 50 lakh calls received annually. But civil society organisations are worried about its future after the government in its recent draft guidelines for Mission Vatsalya scheme for child protection services said the Childline will be "integrated" with the universal emergency helpline 112 of

Responder in distress

Childline 1098 is a 24x7 free emergency helpline for children in distress. It started as a project by Jeroo Billimoria at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai

50 lakh calls have been answered by Childline

3.95 lakh children were provided emergency assistance in 2020-21

6 call centres have been established in five cities - Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru



Hand of support: Childline 1098 is one of the world's biggest emergency helpline services. ■ LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

598 districts have the helpline's presence through a network of intervention units

the Ministry of Home Affairs that provides assistance with services related to police, health and women's safety.

The draft guidelines of the Ministry of Women and Child Development say the detailed Standard Operating Procedure on the helpline will be issued separately.

Last year, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said the administrative control of Childline

1098 will be transferred from her Ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs so that police personnel, and not social workers, answer the calls made to 1098.

Senior officials of the Ministry said this was being done to ensure that the States are the interface for complaints from children as well as for "data sensitivity".

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 6

22. Consider the following statement regarding the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects.

1. The EC for river valley projects will now have 13 years validity.
2. Nuclear power projects or those involving the processing of nuclear fuel 15 years.
3. Projects and activities other than the mining and river valley projects will have their EC valid for 10 years.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Union Environment Ministry has extended the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects.

An EC is a lengthy process that is required for projects larger than a certain size. It frequently entails an environmental impact assessment of a potential project, as well as public hearings with local residents who may be impacted by the project. The EC for river valley projects will now have 13 year validity, and nuclear power projects or those involving the processing of nuclear fuel 15 years. Projects and activities other than the mining and river valley projects will have their EC valid for 10 years. Mining leases are now granted for a period of 50 years but the Environment Clearance is valid for 30 years.

Centre extends tenure of green permits

Some projects have 'high gestation' period due to variables beyond control: Environment Ministry

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Easing norms for infrastructure projects, the Union Environment Ministry has extended the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects.

The EC for river valley projects will now have a 13-year validity, and nuclear power projects or those involving the processing of nuclear fuel 15 years. Projects and activities other than the mining and river valley projects will have their EC valid for 10 years.

Multiple factors

Explaining its rationale, the Ministry said in its gazette notification that nuclear power projects and hydro-



New norms: Environment clearance is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size. *FILE PHOTO

power projects had "high gestation" period due to "geological surprises, delays in forest clearance, land acquisition, local issues, rehabilitation and resettlement and such other factors which are often beyond the control of project proponents and in this context, the Central go-

vernment "deems it necessary" to extend the validity of Environmental Clearance (EC) for such projects.

Long-drawn process

An EC is a long-drawn process that is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size and often involves an environment impact assessment of a potential project and sometimes public hearings involving the local populace who might be affected by the project.

"And whereas, for other projects also, considering the time taken for addressing local concerns including environmental issues related to the implementation of such projects, the Central Government deems it necessary to extend the validity of such

ECs," the notification dated August 12th added.

One of the conditions of an EC is that a project must begin construction in the period that it has been granted an EC and if unable, a fresh process must begin. This leads to projects being financially unviable.

Mining leases

Mining leases are now granted for a period of 50 years but the Environment Clearance is valid for 30 years. "The Central government deems it necessary to align the validity of mining ECs which is currently permissible up to a maximum duration of 30 years, subject to review and appropriate environmental safeguards," the note says.

23. Recently For the first time, GI tagged figs from _____ district of Maharashtra have been exported to Germany.

- A. Mumbai
- B. Worli
- C. Pune
- D. Thane

For the first time, fresh figs from Purandar taluka of Maharashtra's Pune district with GI tags have been exported to Europe. The Purandar Highlands Farmers Producers Company (PHFPC) has managed to successfully export a consignment to Germany.

The export was facilitated by the Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB). Fresh figs from Purandar is highly perishable, has never been exported before this.

In a first, Pune's GI-tagged figs exported to Germany

NANDA KASABE
Pune, April 14

FOR THE FIRST time, fresh figs from Purandar taluka of Maharashtra's Pune district with GI tags have been exported to Europe. The Purandar Highlands Farmers Producers Company (PHFPC) has managed to successfully export a consignment to Germany. The export was facilitated by the Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB). Fresh figs from Purandar is highly perishable, has never been exported before this.

Rohan Ursal, chairman of the FPC, said the first shipment was sent to Pilz Schindler GmbH, located in Hamburg, Germany. He said the farmer producer company has been working for the last two months on improving the shelf life of the fruit. Fresh figs while being a rich source of nutrients, are highly perishable; their quality deteriorates within hours of being plucked. Over the last two months, the FPC has been conducting trials with StePac, a packaging solution company from Israel, as well as Bayer Crop Sciences' food chain department. After preparing and fol-



lowing specific protocols in packhouse tests, the figs can be preserved in perfect condition for 15 days.

Following the success of this consignment, the farmer producer company intends to begin working on full-fledged exports to Europe later this year and also tap the Pan-Asian market, Ursal said. The company is also building its presence in the domestic market and has been able to send shipments out of Maharashtra through air cargo to markets of Hyderabad and other areas. Established in January 2021, Purandar Highlands has been working in the segments of fresh figs and custard apples. The company has been sending figs under the 'Super Figs' brand name to seven states, including

Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Cochin and Hyderabad. Sahyadri Farms of Nashik, Tata Trent Hypermarket and other supermarkets are also sourcing the fruit from Purandar Highlands.

At present, the FPC has been processing one tonne figs on a daily basis, and is working with 260 odd farmers. It intends to expand operations to include more farmers, besides inviting retail chains to set up pack houses in Purandar Taluka, he said. Turkey is the largest producer of figs in the world with 0.3 million tonnes. The total production of fig in the world is roughly 1.26 million tonne.

In India fig farming is mostly done in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The total area under fig cultivation is around 5,600 hectares and about 13,802 tonne of the fruit are produced. Figs are cultivated on around 400 hectares in Maharashtra and about 4,300 tonne of fresh figs are produced. About 90-92% of these figs are produced in Pune district. Poona figs are widely available in the Purandar area. The fig season occurs twice a year from May to June and December to January.

24. Recently NHPC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which of the following states for the development of green hydrogen technologies to produce hydrogen?

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

State-owned NHPC on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the district administration of Chamba, Himachal Pradesh for development of green hydrogen technologies to produce hydrogen.

The MoU is for development of green hydrogen technologies... As per the MoU, NHPC shall develop a pilot green hydrogen mobility project including hydrogen production.

This project will be executed by NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NHPC.

Besides, the research and development department of NHPC and Chamera-II Power Station of NHPC will be part of the project.

Under the project, a 300 kilowatt solar plant will be set up and its energy will be utilised for electrolysis of water to generate green hydrogen.

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25. Recently which of the following organizations **planned to launch the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) to provide government data a user-friendly format, to promote data-driven decision making and research?**
- A. State Bank of India
 - B. NITI Aayog**
 - C. DPIIT
 - D. Paytm

The NITI Aayog is planning to launch a National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in May to provide government data in a user-friendly format, to promote data-driven decision making and research.

Conceived in 2020, the platform aims to standardise data across government sources and provide flexible analytics that make it easy for users to analyse information using multiple datasets

The NITI Aayog serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development , Formed: 1 January 2015 ,Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Niti Aayog plans data and analytics platform

Risha Chitlangia

Risha.chitlangia@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The Niti Aayog is planning to launch a National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in May to provide government data in a user-friendly format, to promote data-driven decision making and research, officials of the think-tank said on Friday.

Conceived in 2020, the platform aims to standardise data across government sources and provide flexible analytics that make it easy for users to analyse information using multiple datasets, they said.

Anna Roy, a senior adviser at NITI Aayog, said, "We will launch the portal in May. It will help policymakers, academics, researchers etc to easily analyse data without having to process it. The portal will have 200 datasets from more than 46 ministries at the time of the launch and we will add new data-

sets up to the village level in the future." Currently, government data is not standardised, making it difficult for policymakers, researchers, etc. to analyse.

A Niti Aayog official familiar with NDAP said that while many government departments have public dashboards with options to download data, some are available as image files while others are in PDF format, making it difficult to compile information.

Analysis is another key challenge, the official said, adding that data collected by various government departments is incoherent due to different standards for common indicators. Roy said this issue has been addressed in NDAP. "Using specially designed algorithms, the data fetched from various government portals is processed to ensure uniformity in semantics so that two different datasets can be compared," she added.

26. Recently on the occasion of **Hanuman Jayanti, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a _____ ft statue of Hanuman in _____ district of Gujarat.**

- A. 104 Ft , Surat
- B. 108 Ft , Morbi**
- C. 102 Ft , Gandhinagar
- D. 98 Ft , Ahmadabad

Use only local products, says PM

Vocal for local is in-thing. Modi says at unveiling of 108-feet-tall Hanuman figure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

India cannot afford to remain stagnant and has to become *atmanirbhar* [self-reliant], Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while urging people to use and promote local products only.

Mr. Modi was speaking after unveiling a 108-foot-tall figure of Lord Hanuman at Morbi in Gujarat via video-conference on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

The Prime Minister used the occasion to bat for *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, and said that the country had to move in the direction of self-reliance to keep up with the rapidly changing global order.

"India cannot afford to remain stagnant today. We cannot continue to remain where we stand. The global situation is such that the entire world is thinking on how to become *atmanirbhar* [self-reliant]," Mr. Modi said.

He urged everyone to use and promote local products



The 108-feet-tall statue of Hanuman in Morbi, Gujarat, unveiled by PM Modi via videoconference on Saturday. •PTI

ducts only. Vocal for local is the in-thing. In our homes, we should only use things made by our people. Imagine the high number of people who will get employment due to this," he said.

"In the next 25 years, if we just use local products, there won't be unemployment for our people," the Prime Minister stated.

Four statues

As per details shared by the Prime Minister's Office, the statue in Morbi is the second of the four being built in the four cardinal directions across the country as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.

The first statue of the series was set up in the north in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla in 2010.

The second has been set up in the west, at the ashram of Bapu Keshvanand at Morbi in Gujarat. Work on the third statue project is progressing in the south, at Rameswaram.

that would help the economy and the country in becoming self-reliant.

"I would request the saints of the country to teach the people to buy local pro-

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On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will unveil a 108 ft statue of Hanuman Ji in Morbi, Gujarat on 16 April, 2022. This statue is the second of the 4 statues being set up in the four directions across the country, as part of #Hanumanji4dham project.

It has been set up in the west, at the Ashram of Param Puja Bapu Keshvanand Ji in Morbi.

The first statue of the series was set up in the north in Shimla in 2010. Work on the statue in the south at Rameswaram has been started.

The construction of the massive idol started in 2018 and cost ₹10 crore,

The festival of Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of the Hindu god by the devotees of Lord Hanuman.

27. Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index.

- 1. Gujarat has ranked at the top with a 50.1 score among the larger states followed by Kerala and Punjab in second and third place under the same category.**
- 2. Among the smaller states in NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index, Goa is at the top position followed by Tripura and Manipur.**
- 3. NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round-I has ranked the states and the Union Territories on six parameters. These parameters also include a total of 27 indicators.**

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**

NITI's energy, climate index benchmarks States

Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab are the top three performers, while Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are laggards

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 11
Gujarat, Kerala and Rajasthan are the top three performing States under NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index, an indicator of a State's performance regarding the utility. The grading is based on six indicators including Discom performance, access, affordability and reliability as well as clean energy initiatives.

SECI (Round 1) ranks the States' performance on the six parameters which are further divided into 27 indicators.

States' performance

Based on the composite SECI Round I score, the States and UTs are categorised into

three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants. Overall, among the larger states, Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab are the top three performers, while the bottom three performers are Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

For the smaller states, Goa, Tripura, and Manipur are the top performers, while Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are the bottom three states.

Among Union Territories, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are the top performers, whereas Andaman and Nicobar, Jammu and Kashmir, and Lakshadweep are the bottom three performers.

The country-level scores

NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index

Rank	States/UTs	Discom's performance	Access, affordability & reliability	Clean energy	Energy efficiency	Env sustainability	New initiatives	SECI score
1	Gujarat	72.7	52.4	39.2	40.1	35.1	5.5	50.1
2	Kerala	64.4	67.3	21.5	58	46.9	7.7	49.1
3	Punjab	77.1	46.8	26.1	35.1	37	2.3	48.6
4	Haryana	69.8	53.6	42.9	11.7	33.4	6.9	47.9
5	Uttarakhand	61.9	55.3	18.5	50.5	48.7	14.7	46.5
6	Maharashtra	57.7	51.2	34	75.7	36.2	10.4	46.0



of each parameter are calculated as an average of the State-wise score for their respective parameters.

Country-level scores

The overall score for India works out to be 40.6. The average score at the national level for Discom's performance is 56.8. The average scores for access, affordability and reliability, and environmental sustainability are 46.4 and 37.7, respectively.

For clean energy initiatives and energy efficiency, at the national level, the aver-

age scores are 22.2 and 29.1, respectively, while the all-India average score for new initiatives is 11.1.

Discom performance

The Discom performance indicator is a key metric while judging a State's performance. It consists of nine indicators – debt-equity ratio, AT&C losses, average cost of supply (ACS), average realisable revenue (ARR) gap, T&D losses, time of day (ToD)/time of use (ToU) tariffs for consumers, DBT transfer, open access surcharge, regu-

latory assets and complexity of tariffs.

Among the large States, Punjab is the best-performing State because of comparatively-higher scores achieved by it in indicators such as debt-equity ratio, regulatory assets, open access surcharge and complexity of tariff. Among the smaller States, Goa is the top performer in this category.

Way forward

Through the SECI, the States can explore and benchmark themselves on various para-

eters. For instance, in terms of energy efficiency, larger States like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well, while in terms of Discom's performance, two small UTs – Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have done well.

The best practices for all indicators in better-performing states can be adopted by other States to improve their performance. SECI will help States to understand their performance across multiple parameters/indicators.

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Gujarat has acquired a top position in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 among the larger states with a score of 50.1 points. Gujarat is followed by Kerala and Punjab in second and third place under the same category.

NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round-I has ranked the states and the Union Territories on six parameters. Including energy efficiency, discom's performance, and environmental sustainability. These parameters also include a total of 27 indicators.

Among the smaller states in NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index, Goa is at the top position followed by Tripura and Manipur.

On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand were placed at the bottom among the larger states.

On the basis of the scores gained in NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index, the states and the Union Territories have been categorised into three groups - achievers, front runners, and aspirants.

India is part to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where more than 190 nations have negotiated cuts to restrict the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established an international environmental treaty to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system",

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed by 165 countries in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992

28. Recently In April _____ Government launched a dedicated portal, AVSAR in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the youth of State with the industry.

- A. Delhi
- B. **Jammu & Kashmir**
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday launched a dedicated portal of Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the youth of J&K with the industry.

According to an official press release, the dedicated portal – AVSAR – 'Connect to Opportunities Initiative'– has been provisioned to facilitate our youth with real-time information flow notifying students about pre-placement activities and job opportunities

JAMMU & KASHMIR **L-G launches job portal**

Jammu: Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday launched a dedicated portal of Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the J&K youth with the industry. The initiative aims to provide 10,000 jobs in 2022. The portal – AVSAR-'Connect to Opportunities Initiative'– has been provisioned to facilitate the youth with real-time information about pre-placement activities and jobs. ENS

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29. Recently the Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** chaired 20th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in _____ of Arunachal Pradesh.

- A. **Pakke Tiger Reserve**
- B. Satkosia Tiger Reserve
- C. Bakhira Bird Sanctuary
- D. Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav chaired 20th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The meeting was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

For the first time in the history of NTCA, its meeting was held outside the national capital. Union Minister has directed that NTCA meetings will be held outside of Delhi from now on. The Minister issued the Standard Operating Protocol for dealing with the reintroduction and supplementation of tigers in the wild, which was produced by the NTCA.

Forest fire audit protocol for tiger reserves has been released. NTCA has released technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of tiger reserves in India. The MEE exercise in tiger reserves began in 2006, and four cycles have now been completed. 5th cycle of MEE exercise is starting in 2022. Arunachal Pradesh provides a model to follow programmes such as Hornbill Nest Adoption and Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan. Arunachal Pradesh started the Air Gun Surrender Abhiyaan in March 2021.

30. The Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** lead the Indian delegation at the _____, **India and US 2+2 dialogue** recently held in _____.

- A. 5TH, Singapore
- B. 6TH, New York
- C. **4TH, Washington**
- D. 2nd, Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the 4th India and US 2+2 dialogue.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin will attend the dialogue from the US side.

The 2+2 Dialogue gives an opportunity to exchange views related to important regional and global issues. This year's 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue will celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.

Apart from the US, India also takes part in 2+2 Dialogue with Japan, Russia and Australia. India-US Ministerial 2 plus 2 Dialogue:

It was first held in 2018 in New Delhi. It is the highest level institutional mechanism between US and India in which the defence and foreign ministers from both countries meet.

The second 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in 2019 in Washington DC.

Ukraine crisis to headline India-U.S. ‘2+2’ meet

Defence, science and technology, climate and public health, building supply chains are high on agenda

**SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN
DINAKAR PERI**
WASHINGTON DC/ NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. will hold their fourth annual “2+2” Defence and Foreign Ministry dialogue in Washington on Monday, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine looming over the discussions and occupying a prominent place on the agenda.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who arrived in Washington on Saturday night, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, scheduled to arrive on Sunday, will meet their counterparts, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, in the first such dialogue of the Biden administration.

The last meeting in this format was in October 2020.

The agenda for discussion is broad, reflecting the breadth of the “Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership” between the two countries. The two sides will discuss defence, science and technology (particularly emerging technology), climate and public health (particularly cooperation on managing the COVID-19 pandemic), fortifying and

building supply chains, as well as people-to-people ties, as per the readouts of the talks from the U.S. State and Defence Departments.

India and the U.S. will continue their “close consultations on the consequences of President Putin’s brutal war against Ukraine and mitigating the impact by addressing energy and food prices”, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday. India has raised the issue of commodity price impacts of the war, including at the United Nations. It has also purchased oil at a discounted price from Moscow – a move that has ruffled feathers in the Biden administration. The U.S. has said it is willing to help provide alternatives to India’s sourcing of oil from Moscow – which accounts for 1-2% of its energy imports. This is likely to feature in the week’s discussions.

Defence deals

In addition to meeting in the “2+2” format, the Defence and Foreign Ministry principals will hold bilateral meeting with their own counterparts on Monday.

Several big-ticket defence deals are in the pipeline, es-



Deferred event: S. Jaishankar is set to meet Antony Blinken during the meeting that begins today. *FILE PHOTO

pecially for the Navy. The purchase of 30 Predator armed drones for the three Services is in advanced stages but has been delayed pending approval from the Defence Acquisition Council.

Another major deal is a Navy tender for around 26 deck-based fighter aircraft for its existing *INS Vikramaditya* and the indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant*, which is scheduled to be commissioned in August.

A deal for six more P-8I maritime patrol aircraft is in the works, while the Navy will start receiving the first

batch of three MH-60R multi-role helicopters in June, contracted as part of a deal for 24 helicopters.

While the U.S. Congress is in recess, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to meet officials in the executive branch of the U.S. government, specifically members of the Biden Cabinet. India’s U.S. Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu and his team have been reaching out to U.S. officials and Members of Congress to explain and manage differences in the relative positions the two countries have on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Mr.

Jaishankar is expected to build on these efforts during these talks.

On this list of Cabinet meetings is United States Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai – who has led the U.S. side as India and the U.S. relaunched their Trade Policy Forum after four years last November to progress the bilateral trade relationship.

Also on the cards is a meeting between Mr. Jaishankar and U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

In addition to interactions at think tanks, a visit by Mr. Jaishankar to Howard University in DC is on the schedule, a U.S. government source indicated to *The Hindu*. The university is a “Historically Black College and University (HBCU)”, an organisation that educated African American students prior to 1964, during the segregation era. It is also the alma mater of powerful Washington residents, notably Vice-President Kamala Harris and Gregory Meeks. *The Hindu* has learnt that a meeting between the External Affairs Minister and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan is also in the works.

31. Recently Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off _____, a unique partnership between citizens and authorities for the rejuvenation of Dal Lake.

- A. Avsar
- B. Athwas**
- C. Ashirvad
- D. Aarogya

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today flagged off ‘Athwas’, a unique partnership between citizens and authorities for the rejuvenation of Dal Lake.

Underscoring that effective community participation is vital to develop and conserve ecological heritage, the Lt Governor said that the de-weeding and dredging will be conducted in collaboration with the citizens. In this year’s budget, Rs 373 crore has been allocated for development and conservation of Dal and Nageen lakes.

The Lt Governor noted that for the first time in history, a successful campaign is being run with active public participation to clean Dal Lake

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32. Recently _____ has been recognised as the Second City from India As "2021 Tree City of the World" by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN).
- A. Hyderabad
 - B. Pune
 - C. **Mumbai**
 - D. Jaipur

Mumbai has been recognised as the "2021 Tree City of the World" by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN) jointly with Arbour Day Foundation, Department of Public Relations, Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation informed on Tuesday. Mumbai is the second city in India to receive this distinction.

Due to this pride, the city of Mumbai, which is known as 'Dream City', has now got a new identity as 'Tree City'. Previously, Hyderabad was the only city in India to receive this honour. Therefore, Mumbai has become the second city in the country to get the honour of 'Tree City'

Total of 136 other cities from 21 countries are part of the premium listing. The US has 37 cities on the list while the UK has 19 and Canada 18, showing that developed countries have a higher share of green cities.

33. As per the Income Tax Act, _____ temple has been granted the status of a place of historical importance and public worship of renown.
- A. Ram Temple
 - B. **Somnath Temple**
 - C. Hoysala Temple
 - D. Kashi Vishwanath Temple

Under the Income Tax Act, the Somnath temple has been granted the status of a place of historical importance and public worship of renown.

A notification under section 80G of the Income Tax Act has been issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Section 80G of the Income Tax Act has a provision for deduction in respect of donations to certain funds, charitable institutions, etc.

As per this section, donations made to notified funds or charitable institutions, including religious places will be deducted from total taxable income.

Donations below ₹2,000 can be made via a cheque, draft, or cash. Donations above ₹2,000 should be made only through cheques or digital means.

34. Consider the following statements regarding Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Rs 5,911 crore for the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) till 31 March 2026.
 2. Out of Rs 5911 crore, the Central government's share is Rs.3700 crore and State's share is Rs.2211 crore.
 3. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme was approved by the Cabinet in 2018.

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Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Union Cabinet approved continuation of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) till 31 March 2026.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Rs 5,911 crore for the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

Out of Rs 5911 crore, the Central government's share is Rs.3700 crore and State's share is Rs.2211 crore.

It will help 2.78 lakh rural local bodies in achieving sustainable development goals and boost the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions (pris).

Under this scheme, Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages, Healthy Village, Child-Friendly Village, Water Sufficient Village, etc. Theme will be given priority.

Nod to extend Gram Swaraj scheme

Programme aims at improving governance of Panchayati Raj institutions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to continue the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a scheme for improving the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, till 2025-26.

The CCEA, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension of the scheme that ended on March 31 at a total financial outlay of ₹5,911 crore, of which ₹3,700 crore would be the Centre's share and ₹2,211 crore the share of States.

"The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh rural local bodies... to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs



Grass roots: The welfare of women is one of the focus areas of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. ■RANJEET KUMAR

[Sustainable Development Goals] through inclusive local governance with a focus on optimum utilisation of available resources," a government statement said.

The statement said the scheme would work towards

"poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages; healthy villages, child-friendly villages; water-sufficient villages; clean and green villages; self-sufficient infrastructure in villages; socially-secure villages; villages

with good governance and engendered development in villages."

The government said panchayats would be strengthened and a spirit of healthy competition inculcated. No permanent posts would be created under the scheme but "need-based contractual human resources may be provisioned for overseeing the implementation of the scheme and providing technical support to States/UTs".

While announcing the decision to extend the scheme that started in 2018-2019, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the government's focus had been the development of rural areas which, he said, had been neglected after Partition.

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35. As per the United Kingdom-based data provider, Official Airline Guide (OAG) _____ has become the third busiest airport in the world.
- A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
 - B. Indira Gandhi International Airport**
 - C. Chennai International Airport
 - D. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the third busiest airport in the world.

A report based on data provided by the United Kingdom-based data provider, Official Airline Guide (OAG), has been prepared.

This organisation keeps track of worldwide travel statistics and analyses a variety of factors such as the busiest airports, the busiest flight routes, and other travel-related information.

According to the report, Delhi airport has climbed six points to third place, surpassing China's Guangzhou airport.

However, Atlanta International Airport in the United States remains at the top of the list, followed by Dubai International Airport.

According to another OAG report, Indigo Airlines of India is one of the world's largest airlines for the month of March and ranked sixth among the top ten largest airlines.

36. Recently how many Airport Authorities of India (AAI) airports are now equipped with the Ambulifts, the facility to help the flyers in reducing mobility under the Accessible India Campaign of the Indian Government?
- A. 16
 - B. 14**
 - C. 15
 - D. 18

14 Airport Authorities of India (AAI) airports are now equipped with the Ambulifts. The facility will help the flyers in reducing mobility under the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan) of the Indian Government.

AAI, in order to facilitate the passengers with reduced mobility, such as those on wheelchairs or stretchers, has procured 20 Ambulifts for the airports that are having scheduled flight operations of Code C and other Advanced level aircraft but do not have the aerobridge facilities

Ambulifts at airports can cater to six wheelchairs and two stretchers with an attendant at a time.

The Ambulifts are fitted with Heating ventilation and Air conditioning system.

The Central Government has been taking forward the vision of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan (Accessible India Campaign) in order to ensure a fully accessible public infrastructure which will include railway stations, airports, and public transport systems.

37. Recently *Rathotsava (chariot festival)* seen in news is celebrated in which of the following city

- A. West Bengal
- B. Karnataka
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Telangana

- The historic Chennakeshava temple in Belur continued with its age-old tradition of kicking off the Rathotsava (chariot festival) after reciting passages from the Quran, despite opposition from Right-wing activists.
- According to the tradition, a maulvi reads out excerpts from the Quran to mark the beginning of the celebrations at the Chennakeshava temple.

38. Recently _____ district panchayat fo Award” for the best performance in the category.

- A. Kochi
- B. Kalpakkam
- C. Thiruvananthapuram
- D. East Khasi

made by foreigners but by Mr. Mami also responded live skills.

Belur’s historic Chennakeshava temple strikes a note of harmony

Moulvi reads excerpts from Koran to mark start of *rathotsava*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

“I have been participating in the festival for the last 50 years,” says Syed Sajjad Khaji of Dodda Meduru, who read out excerpts from the Koran to mark the beginning of the *rathotsava* (chariot or car festival) at the historic Chennakeshava temple in Belur on Wednesday.

His forefathers had read out excerpts from the Koran during the festival in the past, and his children would continue the tradition in future, he says.

“Whether you read the Bible, the Bhagvad Gita or the Koran, all texts spread the same message,” he adds, philosophically.

While Karnataka has seen several instances of Muslims being barred from putting up shops during temple festivals, the *rathotsava* at the 900-year-old Chennakeshava temple struck a different note by staying with the syncretic tradition. The festival began only after the moulvi recited



Devotees attend the *rathotsava* at the historic Chennakeshava temple in Belur on Wednesday. • PRAKASH HASSAN

the Koran, a custom whose origins are not clearly known in the temple built by Hoysala rulers.

K. Vidyullatha, Executive Officer of the temple, said that the custom is mentioned in the temple manual, which dates back to 1932. “We are following the customs mentioned in the manual. I am told this tradition has been followed for centuries. According to the chief priest, the custom began with the objective of involving people of all religions in the festival.”

the officer said.

The temple regularly gives foodgrain to the families that play a role in the festival, as per the manual.

The festival saw around 15 Muslim shopkeepers putting up stalls in the temple premises, with civil society groups putting pressure on the authorities not to exclude them.

Ahead of the festival, members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal had submitted a memorandum to the taluk administration seeking a ban on Muslim traders during the festival. They demanded that no Muslim be allowed to put up stalls during the festival, like in temples in Shivamogga and Sirsi.

Members of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, Communist Part of India (Marxist), Raitha Sangha and other progressive organisations organised processions in Hassan and Belur to put pressure on the district administration not to comply with the demands of the Hindutva organisations.

The Thiruvananthapuram district panchayat has, for the third time, won the Deen Dayal Upadhyay national award for the best performance in the category.

Notably, the district panchayat has also bagged the state government’s Swaraj Trophy for the best performer four times

Karivellur-Peralam grama panchayat in the district has bagged two national awards - Child Friendly Grama Panchayat Award (CFGPA) and the Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Award (NDRGGSP).

Government of India has been incentivizing the best performing Panchayats recommended by the State Governments/UT Administrations since 2011-12. The awards are given on the National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated on 24th of April every year.

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39. **Trikut Hills** recently in news is located in which of the following states?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Jharkhand**
- C. Telangana
- D. Maharashtra

Located at Deoghar, Trikut ropeway is the major tourist attraction in the Trikut Pahar. The Ropeway takes the Tourists to the top of the main peak.

Trikut Pahar is the only tourist destination in Jharkhand where ropeway is used. It is one of the highest vertical ropeways and has a maximum lens angle of 44 degrees

It has been built some 20 km from Baba Baidyanath Temple and is about 766-metres-long. The Trikut hill is 392-metres-high.

The Ropeway offers picturesque views of Deogha and enthralls tourists with a ride amid rocky terrain. It provides a completed panoramic view of the scenery and landscape around.

2 DEAD, 15 REMAIN TRAPPED MID-AIR AS ROPEWAY RESCUE OPS HALT



A man was killed on Monday after falling off a helicopter during a rescue op, following Sunday's Jharkhand ropeway accident, while 15 trapped inside cable cars will have to wait out one more night before they are brought down to safety. A woman, who was injured in the accident, had succumbed on Sunday night. Thirty two people have so far been rescued, winched up by two Indian Air Force helicopters, or by sliding down nylon ropes, more than 28 hours after two cable cars collided mid-air, stalling the ropeway, around 20 km from the temple town of Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar district

PHOTO: PTI

40. Recently _____ government signed MoU with Thailand government for the growth of SMEs and start-ups.

- A. Odisha
- B. Telangana**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Punjab

Telangana's Department of Industries and Commerce and Thailand's Ministry of Commerce signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and start-ups.

They have signed a memorandum of understanding for promoting bilateral trade and investment through innovation eco-system enabler T-Hub, Telangana State global-linker and Thaitrade.com of Thailand.

Both governments will also explore opportunities to enhance investment in the field of agro-based food processing, wood processing and wood-based industry.

This MoU has been signed on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Thailand. This is the first such agreement between an Indian state and the Government of Thailand.

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41. Recently seen in news **Vishu festival** is celebrated in which of the following states?

- A. Kerala
- B. Telangana
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Vishu festival celebrated by Keralites on 15 April 2022.

The festival marks beginning of spring and harvest season and first day of Malayalam month Medam.

On the occasion, family members wake up early morning to view Vishukani.

Then, Vishukaineettam is given to the youngsters by the elders in the family. Vishukaineettam is a token amount.

Vishukani is an arrangement of raw rice, coins, golden cucumber, cotton dhoti, coins, etc. It is placed before the idol of Lord Krishna.

42. Recently the **Cyclopean Wall** was seen in news, it is situated in which of the following states?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Bihar
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Chattisgarh

Bihar government has sent a fresh proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to get Cyclopean wall, a more than 2,500 years

The Cyclopean Wall of Rajgir is a 40 km long wall of stone which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir to protect it from external enemies and invaders, built before 3rd century BC.

Cyclopean Wall at Rajgir is similar to "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" that runs through Germany, UK and Northern Ireland, which was included on UNESCO's world heritage list in 1987.

Bihar is the home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and quite a few sites on the tentative list.

Nalanda University is one of the two UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bihar and was listed in 2002.

It is listed as the Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India list.

Another ancient monument in the state that has been included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list, is Mahabodhi temple of Bodhygaya

IN BRIEF



Bihar seeks UNESCO's tag for 'Cyclopean wall'

PATNA

Bihar government has sent a fresh proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India to get the 40 km long Cyclopean wall, a more than 2,500 years old structure at Rajgir, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built before 3rd century BC, to protect the ancient city of Rajgir from invaders. PTI

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43. Recently the researchers of _____ have launched *Kadam- First polycentric prosthetic knee of India* to improve the quality of life of above-knee amputees.

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

The researchers of IIT Madras have launched Kadam- First polycentric prosthetic knee of India.

This indigenously developed knee aims to improve the quality of life of above-knee amputees. It will provide stability thereby reducing the risk of stumbling.

It also aims to increase their access to education, community participation, livelihood opportunities, etc.

Kadam has been developed by a team at IIT Madras in association with the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India.

Kadam has advantages over a hinge-joint because it has multiple axes of rotation, and allows maximum knee flexion of 160 degrees which makes it easier for above-knee amputees to sit in cramped spaces.

It is made of aluminium alloy and stainless steel. It is affordable and is of high quality and performance.

The product was developed by a team at TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT-M, in association with the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India

44. Recently the *Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways* has developed the portal named _____ to provide instant information on road accidents and help accelerate accident compensation claims .

- A. Move
- B. E-Dar**
- C. CHGS App
- D. RoCast

IIT-Madras launches India's first polycentric prosthetic knee

Kadam will help above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait, provides stability reduces risk of stumbling.



Published: 09th April 2022 04:47 AM | Last Updated: 09th April 2022 04:47 AM



IIT-Madras (File photo | Sunish P Surendran, EPS)

e-DAR portal to speed up accident compensation claims

It will be linked to other databases for instant information

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A web portal designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.

The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has developed the portal named 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report). Digitised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded on the portal for easy access.

The web portal will be linked to the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD). From iRAD, applications to more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR. Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal informa-

tion for the e-DAR forms. Thus, e-DAR would be an extension and e-version of iRAD.

An apex court Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul expressed satisfaction after technicians demonstrated the working of the portal to the court and amicus curiae, advocate N. Vijayaraghavan and advocate Vipin Nair.

The court, in its detailed order, recorded that e-DAR portal would conduct multiple checks against fake claims by conducting a sweeping search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the First Information Report number.

The portal would be linked to other government portals like Vaahan and would get access to information on driving licence details and registration of vehicles.

For the benefit of investi-

gating officers, the portal would provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot along with the site map. This would notify the investigating officer on his distance from the spot of the incident in the event the portal is accessed from any other location.

Details like photos, video of the accident spot, damaged vehicles, injured victims, eye-witnesses, etc., would be uploaded immediately on the portal.

"Apart from the state police, an engineer from the Public Works Department or the local body will receive an alert on his mobile device and the official concerned will then visit the accident site, to examine it, and feed the required details, such as the road design. Hotspots for accidents would also be identified so as to obtain solutions to avoid accidents at these hotspots," the apex court's order noted.

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A web portal designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' family.

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From IRAD, applications to more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR. Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal information for the e-DAR forms. Thus, e-DAR would be an extension and e-version of IRAD.

45. Recently In April _____ Country has announced the import of wheat grains from India.

- A. Egypt**
- B. Indonesia**
- C. Ukraine**
- D. Russia**

Egypt to import wheat from India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Egypt, one of the world's biggest importers of wheat which has been importing the grain from Russia and Ukraine, has agreed to source wheat from India, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

"Officials from agriculture quarantine and pest risk analysis of Egypt visited various processing units, port facilities and farms in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. And we have decided to export the best quality of wheat," the Minister said.

He said Prime Minister had specially called him to ensure that the best quality of wheat is exported to Egypt to ensure that India makes it mark in that country in terms of wheat exports.



Piyush Goyal

The Egyptian delegation's visit to India follows several trade talks and meetings with the various wheat importing countries, which are exploring possibilities of sourcing grain from alternate sources as supplies have been disrupted because of the Russia and Ukraine conflict.

"During his visit to Dubai last month, Union Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had also met Egypt's Minister of Plan-

ning & Economic Development Dr. Hala El-Said and discussed India's readiness to supply high quality wheat towards ensuring Egypt's food security," a government statement said.

Egypt imported 6.1 million tonnes (mt) of wheat in 2021 and India was then not part of the list of accredited countries that could export wheat to Egypt.

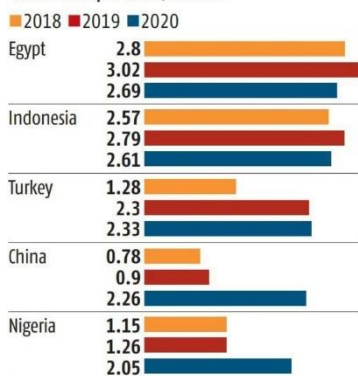
More than 80% of Egypt's wheat imports estimated to be close to \$2 billion in 2021 were from Russia and Ukraine.

Growth in wheat exports is driven mostly by the demand from countries such as Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Oman and Malaysia. However, India is also making efforts to boost wheat exports to other countries including Yemen, Afghanistan and Indonesia.



WHEAT TOPPERS

Top-5 wheat importing countries and their value of imports in \$ billion



Source: APEDA

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Egypt, one of the world's biggest importers of wheat which has been importing the grain from Russia and Ukraine, has agreed to source supplies from India

The Egyptian delegation's visit to India follows several trade talks and meetings with various wheat importing countries, which are exploring possibilities of sourcing grain from alternative sources as supplies have been disrupted because of the Russia and Ukraine conflict

Egypt imported 6.1 million tonnes (mt) of wheat in 2021, when India was not part of the list of accredited countries which could export wheat to Egypt. More than 80% of Egypt's wheat imports, estimated to be worth \$2 billion in 2021, were from Russia and Ukraine. India is making efforts to boost wheat exports to other countries including Yemen, Afghanistan and Indonesia. India's wheat exports rose to \$1.74 billion in April-January 2021-22 as against \$340.17 million in the same period last year.

India is the second largest producer of wheat with a share of around 14.14 per cent in the world's total production in 2020. China is the largest producer of wheat.

46. Recently _____ Government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.
- A. Uttar Pradesh
 - B. Madhya Pradesh
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Uttarakhand

In a first, Maharashtra app maps workers' migration for portability of ICDS scheme

GOVERNANCE
AN EXPRESS SERIES
MAHARASHTRA

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, APRIL 15

IN A first of its kind project in the country, the Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers



Anganwadi workers take weight and height of children of migrants in Amravati to port ICDS services. WCD, Maharashtra

through individual unique identity numbers. The state government's women and child devel-

opment (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in November last year in six dis-

tricts with high tribal population including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar and Nandurbar.

The MTS project is envisaged to maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) like nutrition supply, immunisation and health check-up etc. to migrant beneficiaries including children aged up to 18 years, lactating mothers and pregnant women registered with the anganwadi centres. Their migration will be tracked for ensuring the portability of the ICDS for their families in their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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In a first of its kind project in the country, the Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.

The state government's women and child development (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in November last year in six districts with high tribal population including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar and Nandurbar.

The MTS project is envisaged to maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) like nutrition supply, immunisation and health check-up etc.

Maharashtra is the first state in India to develop such an app for the tracing and porting of ICDS facilities to anganwadi beneficiaries during their seasonal migration.

47. Consider the following statement regarding relaxation made under **Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme**.

1. Those who are related to annual reporting of EO (export obligation) **can file by June 30 of each year with specified information**, but any delay will be subject to a late fee of Rs 5,000.
2. Requests for export obligation extension **should be made within six months of expiry instead of the earlier prescribed period of 90 days with late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The commerce ministry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Under the scheme, imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation.

The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

ComMin eases norms under EPCG scheme

To reduce compliance requirements, facilitate ease of doing business

New Delhi: The commerce ministry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Under the scheme, imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation. The authorisation holder (or exporter) under the scheme has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six years. The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

"With a view to enhance ease of doing business and reduce

compliance burden, certain provisions of chapter 5 related to the EPCG scheme of the Handbook of procedures (2015-20) are amended for EPCG authorisations issued under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notice.

The changes include those related to annual reporting of EO (export obligation) – instead of by April 30 each year, exporters can file that by June 30 of each year with specified information, but any delay will be subject to a late fee of Rs 5,000. Requests for export obligation extension should be made within six months of expiry instead of 90 days prescribed earlier. However, applications made after six months and up to six years are subject to a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation. **PTI**

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With a view to enhance ease of doing business and reduce compliance burden, certain provisions of chapter 5 related to the EPCG scheme of the Handbook of procedures (2015-20) are amended for EPCG authorisations issued under Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)

The changes include those related to annual reporting of EO (export obligation) -- instead of by April 30 each year, exporters can file that by June 30 of each year with specified information, but any delay will be subject to a late fee of Rs 5,000.

Requests for export obligation extension should be made within six months of expiry instead of the earlier prescribed period of 90 days. However, applications made after six months and up to six years are subject to a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation.

According to the changes, requests for block-wise export obligation extension should be made within six months of expiry. However, applications made after six months and up to six years will entail a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation. Earlier, no specified time limit was prescribed, leading to discretionary interpretations

48. Recently In April the **Utsav Portal website** was seen in news is initiative of _____.

- A. **Ministry of Tourism**
- B. Ministry Of Education
- C. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Culture

Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and DONER Shri G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the 2 days Conference of Amrit Samagam being held from 12th – 13th April in New Delhi.

During the inaugural day of the 2 days' Amrit Samagam Conference, Shri G. Kishan Reddy also launched the Utsav Portal.

The Utsav Portal website, a digital initiative launched by the Ministry of Tourism, aims to showcase all the events, festivals and live Darshan across India to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.

The Utsav portal will also have the official social media links, official websites, brochures, contact details of the organizing committee and the details of how to reach the destination through the air, rail and roadways conveniently

The Ministry had also released a digital Calendar on the theme of dedicated tourist sites on AKAM on the occasion of National Tourism Day on 25th January.

49. Recently the Government of India and the _____ signed a _____ **Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Loan** for designing climate resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity and improving municipal resource **mobilization in 16 district headquarter towns in**

- A. World Bank , \$ 10 Mn , Assam
- B. European Union , \$ 5 Mn , Manipur

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- C. Asian Development Bank , \$ 2 Mn , Nagaland**
D. International Monetary Fund , \$ 1 Mn , Mizoram

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank today signed a \$2 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Loan for designing climate resilient urban infrastructure; strengthening institutional capacity and improving municipal resource mobilization in 16 districts headquarter towns in Nagaland.

The signatories to the PRF for the proposed Nagaland Urban Infrastructure Development Project were Shri Rajat Kumar Mishra, The PRF loan will help design water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and urban roads in 16 DHTs with climate resilient features and improved access to poor and vulnerable.

The Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Artigas Centre located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. President: Masatsugu Asakawa

50. Consider the following statements regarding Domestic Patent Filing.

- 1. In India, for the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing has surpassed the number of international patent filing at Indian patent office in the Quarter Jan-Mar 2022.**
- 2. The total 19796 patent applications filed, 10706 were filed by Indian applicants against 9090 by non-Indian applicants.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

In India, for the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing has surpassed the number of international patent filing at Indian patent office in the Quarter Jan-Mar 2022.

This means the total 19796 patent applications filed, 10706 were filed by Indian applicants against 9090 by non-Indian applicants. This is represented as under:

Filing of patents have increased from 42763 in 2014-15 to 66440 in 2021-22, more that 50% increase in a span of 7 years Nearly five times increase in grant of patents in 2021-22 (30,074) as compared to 2014-15 (5978) Reduction in Time of patent examination from 72 months in Dec 2016 to 5-23 months at present, for different technological areas

India's ranking in Global Innovation Index has increased to 46th in 2021 (+35 ranks) as compared to from 81st in 2015-16.

The patent in India is governed by the Patents Act of 1970. The main aim of the patent is to encourage innovation and research and development.

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51. Consider The Following Statements Regarding Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya.

1. The logo of the Sangrahalaya represents the hands of the people of India holding the Dharma Chakra symbolizing the nation and democracy.
2. The Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya is a tribute to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

{ TEEN MURTI BHAVAN }

Govt gears up to unveil PMs' museum

Deeksha Bhardwaj

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The prime ministers' museum at Teen Murti Bhawan is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14, officials familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

"The Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya will be inaugurated on April 14," a government official said on the condition of anonymity.

"It has been developed to create awareness about all Prime Ministers of India."

The new museum, spread over 10,491 square metres, is equipped with latest technologies such as holograms, augmented reality, interactive kiosks and screens, kinetic sculptures, and smartphone applications, the official said.

Termed a unique blend of the old and the new, the museum has a logo that shows hands of the people of India holding up a chakra, symbolising the nation and its vibrant democracy, the official added.

The museum recognises the "contribution of all Prime Min-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the museum that commemorates India's top leaders on April 14.

TWITTER

isters irrespective of their ideology or tenure in office", the official said.

The museum will be a "seamless blend of the old and the new, and includes the erstwhile Nehru Museum building, designated as Block I, which now has a completely updated, technologically advanced display on the life and contribution of Jawaharlal Nehru", India's first Prime Minister, the official said.

It will capture events from

India's freedom struggle and the making of the Constitution. "The sangrahalaya (museum) goes on to tell the story of how our Prime Ministers navigated the nation through various challenges and ensured the all-round progress of the country," the official said.

Recognition of the contribution of the Prime Ministers has been done a completely non-partisan manner, the government has stressed.

"The design of the museum

building is inspired by the story of rising India, shaped and moulded at the hands of its leaders. The design incorporates sustainable and energy conservation practices. No tree has been felled or transplanted," the official said.

The information and artefacts displayed have been collected through institutions such as Doordarshan, Film Division, Sansad TV, defence ministry, media houses and the treasury of the foreign ministry where gifts received in honour of our leaders and country are kept, the official said.

"Families were also contacted for valuable information about the former Prime Ministers. The content has been acquired on perpetual license in most cases," the official said.

"Appropriate use of archives (collected works and other literary works, important correspondences), some personal items, gifts and memorabilia, speeches of Prime Ministers and anecdotal representation of ideologies and different aspects of the lives of Prime Ministers have been reflected in a thematic format," he added.

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on 14th April, 2022.

The Sangrahalaya, being inaugurated during the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, tells the story of India after Independence through the lives and contributions of its Prime Ministers.

The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya is a tribute to every Prime Minister of India since Independence, irrespective of their ideology or tenure in office.

The Sangrahalaya integrates the erstwhile Teen Murti Bhawan designated as Block I, with the newly constructed building designated as Block II.

The logo of the Sangrahalaya represents the hands of the people of India holding the Dharma Chakra symbolizing the nation and democracy.

52. Recently _____ has become an official digital payments partner for the Prime Minister's museum Delhi.

- A. PhonePe
- B. Paytm**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of Baroda

Paytm official digi payments partner for PMs' museum

PAYTM OWNER One97 Communications on Thursday said it has become an official digital payments partner for the prime ministers' museum in the national capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' (prime ministers' museum), which is a tribute to every PM in the country since independence.

Paytm owner One97 Communications has become an official digital payments partner for the prime ministers' museum in the national capital.

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya' (prime ministers' museum), which is a tribute to every prime minister in the country since independence*
- *The museum will open for public from next week. The museum tells the story of India after independence through the lives and contributions of its prime ministers.*

As the official partner for the museum, Paytm is offering its payment gateway, EDC (Electronic Data Capture) machines and QR code payment options to make way for super-fast, convenient and secure transactions.

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53. Consider the Following Statements Regarding 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' programme.

1. "SVANidhi se Samriddhi" is an additional PM-SVANidhi program, which was launched in 125 cities in Phase 1 in January 2022, covering about 35 lakh street vendors and their families.
2. "SVANidhi se Samriddhi" program was started to provide social security benefits to street vendors for their overall development and socio-economic upliftment.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

SVANidhi se Samriddhi' initiative launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

In 126 cities across 14 states and union territories, the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has launched the 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' programme. The expansion of the scheme will benefit 28 lakh street vendors and their families.

According to the Ministry, SVANidhi se Samriddhi is an additional PM-SVANidhi program, which was launched in 125 cities in Phase 1 in January 2022, covering about 35 lakh street vendors and their families.

After the program's success in Phase 1, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the program in additional cities with a target of totalling 20 lakh plan approvals for the financial year 2022. Since June 2020, the Ministry has been implementing Prime Minister Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi scheme.

"SVANidhi se Samriddhi" program was started to provide social security benefits to street vendors for their overall development and socio-economic upliftment.

54. Recently _____ State government announced to observe **April 14, the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar as 'Equality Day' in the state.**

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

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the assembly that from this year onwards, April 14, the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, would be celebrated as 'Equality Day' in the state.

In a statement to the House, Stalin stated that on Equality day a pledge would be taken across the state.

A life-size bronze statue of Ambedkar will be placed in the Ambedkar Manimandapam.

The Chief Minister said that Ambedkar's thoughts have depth and essence, which is a beacon for the future and his selected works, will be published in Tamil (Critical Edition). Its Governor is R. N. Ravi. Its Chief Minister is M. K. Stalin.

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55. India Will Host the **National Delphic Games for Arts and Cultures** in _____.

- A. 2022
- B. 2023**
- C. 2024
- D. 2025

National Delphic Games for Arts and Cultures will be hosted by India in 2023.

The games will cover arts and cultures from 36 states and Union Territories. 25 Indian States have already come together with State Delphic Councils to show their distinct cultures.

National Delphic Games in India will show competitions, performances and exhibitions in 6 different art categories given below. The winners of Delphic Games in India will represent India at International Delphic Games to be held in 2026. Seven International Delphic Games have been organized across Russia, Georgia, Germany, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, and South Africa. India took part in three International Delphic Games in Philippines, Malaysia and South Korea. Delphic Games are also called twin sisters of the Olympic Games. They are inspired by games held in Delphi in ancient Greece.

International Delphic Council is based in Berlin, Germany. It was formed in 1994

56. Recently a **Three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit** will be inaugurated by PM Modi in _____, Gujarat.

- A. Surat
- B. Gandhinagar**
- C. Ahmadabad
- D. Vadodara

Three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit will be inaugurated by PM Modi in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 20th April.

Industry leaders, academicians, and scholars will participate at the summit to discuss methods to promote traditional medicines and systems. One of the summit's aims is to attract lucrative investments to help India become the world's Global Ayush Destination.

The WHO Centre for Traditional Medicine will also have a ground-breaking ceremony on April 19 in Jamnagar, Gujarat. This centre will become a worldwide wellness hub, bringing traditional medicine systems around the world to new heights.

According to the AYUSH Minister, the present market size of the AYUSH sector has grown at a rate of 17% each year from 2014 to 2020.

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57. Consider the following statements regarding *Indian National Flag will be installed at INA Headquarters at Moirang.*

1. During the 78th anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day, CM of Manipur N Biren Singh said that a 165 ft tall national flag would be installed at INA headquarters at Moirang, Manipur.
2. Currently, Belagavi or Belgaum Fort in Kote Kere, Karnataka has the highest national flag at 361ft (highest in India).
3. On 3 February 2022, CM of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu hoisted a 104ft tall National flag at Buddha Park in Tawang, the second-highest in terms of altitude (10,000 ft).

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- During the 78th anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day, CM of Manipur N Biren Singh said that a 165 ft tall national flag would be installed at INA headquarters at Moirang, Manipur.
- This would be the highest flag in the northeast region.
- On 3 February 2022, CM of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu hoisted a 104ft tall National flag at Buddha Park in Tawang, the second-highest in terms of altitude (10,000 ft).
- Currently, Belagavi or Belgaum Fort in Kote Kere, Karnataka has the highest national flag at 361ft (highest in India). It was inaugurated in 2018 followed by a 360 ft national flag installed at the Atari border, Punjab.
- The biggest national flag of India was inaugurated in Leh, Ladakh. The flag has a length of 225 feet, a width of 150 feet and weighs 1000 kilogram. It is made up of Khadi cloth.
- Flag Hoisting Day is celebrated on 14th April to commemorate the hoisting of Tricolour Flag of Free India in 1944 by Lieutenant Colonel Shaukat Ali of Indian National Army (INA), under the guidance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for the first time on Indian soil at Moirang.

The present Indian national flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22nd July 1947.

The tricolor flag has three horizontal stripes of saffron, white and green color with the Ashoka Chakra (24 spoke wheel) in the middle.

According to the Flag Code of India, 2002, the ratio of the National flag should be 2:3 (height to width ratio). The first national flag in India was hoisted on 7th August 1906 in the Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park) in Kolkata. The flag had three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green color.

In 1931, the flag officially adopted by the INC had three stripes of saffron, white and green color with Gandhi's spinning wheel at the centre. Currently, Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Sanyukt Sangha, Hubli is the only licensed flag production and supply unit in India.

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International News

58. Recently _____ become the _____ country to join the India-backed Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to deal with the adverse impact of climate change.

- A. Mauritius , 50th
- B. Madagascar , 30th**
- C. Maldives , 29th
- D. Malaysia , 8th

Madagascar has become the 30th country to join the India-backed Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) that aims to help Small Island nations develop resilience to deal with the adverse impact of climate change.

India's Ambassador to Madagascar Abhay Kumar welcomed the island nation's entry into the CDRI and said it will help the country in combating natural disasters.

The CDRI is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the CDRI during his address at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019. As of April, 30 members, consisting of 23 national governments and seven organisations have joined the CDRI.

Madagascar is situated off the southeast coast of Africa and is an important country for India considering its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region. An India-Madagascar Chamber of Commerce was launched last month in Antananarivo to further strengthen the trade ties between the two countries

59. Recently In April _____ has become **first country to give legal rights to wild animals.**

- A. Albania
- B. Ecuador**
- C. South Africa
- D. Madagascar

Highest court of Ecuador decided to recognize the rights while hearing the case of Estrellita, a woolly monkey. It is believed that this is the first time a court has applied rights of nature to an animal.

Rights of nature recognize legal rights of the ecosystem to exist and regenerate.

Ecuador earlier became the world's first country to recognize nature as a legal entity.

Bolivia, New Zealand, Panama, Chile, Mexico, Colombia and Bangladesh have also recognized the rights of nature.

Woolly monkeys are found in northern countries of South America. These countries are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, and Peru Capital - Quito, currency – Dollar.

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60. Recently India has recently signed space situational awareness arrangements with which of the following countries?
- A. Australia
 - B. USA**
 - C. England
 - D. Japan

India and USA signed bilateral space situational awareness arrangements.

This agreement has been signed between the Department of Space from India and the Department of Defence of the USA on the sidelines of the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue.

Under this agreement, India and US will share information related to space and enhance cooperation in the field of space. India and USA will also start discussions on Defence Space and Defence Artificial Intelligence.

India and USA are also working together on unmanned aerial vehicles through Defence Technology and Trade Initiative. This agreement has added a new dimension to the growing relationship between both countries.

India-US space cooperation: NASA and ISRO are collaborating on India's Mars Orbit Mission and for a dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)

A bilateral Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation is a forum for discussion on joint activities in space between both countries. India and US are enhancing cooperation in different fields such as global navigation satellite systems, international space station, space debris mediation, etc.

61. Recently In April Russia has delivered which missile defence system for training squadron that includes simulators and other training-related equipment only?
- A. Sukhoi
 - B. Mirage
 - C. S-400**
 - D. Chetak

India received the second parts of the S-400 Triumph air defence system from Russia whose first squadron is operational with its elements deployed to take care of threats from both Pakistan and China.

The first regiment was raised in December last year and is stationed at an Indian Air Force base in Punjab, In all, five such missile systems are on order under a \$5-billion deal signed in October 2018

India gets S-400 training equipment

Second regiment from Russia likely to see some delay due to Ukraine war

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

There is a delay in the delivery of the second regiment of S-400 from Russia due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, some training equipment and simulators arrived in India, official sources confirmed.

"Simulators and training equipment have arrived. The second operational unit is likely to be delayed by a few months," a defence source said and this was confirmed by another official.

Last December, India took delivery of the first S-400 regiment, five of which were contracted from Russia under a \$5.43 billion deal signed in October 2018. The first unit has been deployed



Full unit: An S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile system at Kaliningrad in Russia. •FILE PHOTO

in Punjab and is operational, officials have confirmed.

With the threat of U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions

Act), New Delhi and Moscow had worked out payments through rupee-rouble exchange for this deal.

The two sides are now exploring the same payment

route for larger bilateral trade.

The Defence Ministry and Services have carried out assessments and are closely monitoring the impact of sanctions can have on timely deliveries and supplies from Russia. Officials had expressed concern that there could be some shipping delays given the prevailing situation. China too possesses the S-400 Triumph long-range air defence system, currently being inducted by India. Earlier, an Indian Air Force representative had told the parliamentary standing committee on defence that "direct tactical planning" would be a key requirement for India in countering Chinese forces.

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62. Recently in April **Pakistan's parliament elected _____** as the country's **Prime Minister** on, after a **walkout by lawmakers from ousted Premier Imran Khan's party.**

- A. **Abdulla Bantai**
- B. **Shahbaz Sharif**
- C. **Bilwal Bhutto**
- D. **Ashif Ali Zardari**

- **Pakistan's parliament elected opposition lawmaker *Shahbaz Sharif* as the country's new prime minister on Monday, after a walkout by lawmakers from ousted Premier Imran Khan's party.**
- **Sharif was the only contender. He is the brother of disgraced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif**
- **Shahbaz Sharif was elected with 174 votes in his favour after more than 100 lawmakers from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or Pakistan Justice Party,**
- **The former opposition will now run a truncated house with a small majority of 174 lawmakers, which is enough to pass laws in the 342-seat assembly**

END OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES

Shehbaz Sharif elected as new PM of Pakistan

It was the first time in Pakistan's history that a no-confidence motion against a prime minister had been successful

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
Islamabad, April 11

PAKISTAN PARLIAMENT ON Monday elected unopposed Shehbaz Sharif as 23rd prime minister of the country, bringing to an end the political uncertainty that had gripped the nation since a no-confidence motion was introduced against his predecessor Imran Khan on March 8.

Shehbaz, 70, was the only candidate left in the race after former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party will boycott the voting and staged a walkout.

"Sharif has secured 174 votes... and has been declared as prime minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan," according to the formal result announced by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq who presided over the session after Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri said his conscience did not allow him to conduct the session.

In the House of 342, the winning candidate should get support of at least 172 lawmakers. In his maiden address to the house as the prime minister, Shehbaz said that it was the first time in Pakistan's history that a no-confidence motion against a prime minister had been successful. "And good has prevailed over evil," he said.

He said today is a "big day" for the entire nation as a "selected" prime minister has been sent home in a legal and constitutional manner.

Shehbaz, the younger brother of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, said that the US dollar's value declining by ₹8 on Monday signified the "happiness of the people". He acknowledged the apex



Supporters of deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan's party participate in a rally to condemn the ouster of their leader's government, in Karachi, on Monday



When the forceful encroachment was done in August 2019 and Article 370 was abrogated, what serious efforts did we make...what serious diplomacy did we try...

SHEHBAZ SHARIF, PAKISTAN PM

court's "unanimous" verdict, saying the day when the Supreme Court gave its judgment should be marked as a "historic day" in the history of Pakistan.

On the letter controversy, Shehbaz said the letter came on March 7, but decisions to bring a no-trust motion was made way before that. "So, if (what the previous government claimed) is a lie, then the matter

should be disclosed transparently before the public," he said. He announced that the parliament's security committee would be given a briefing on the "threat letter" to the members of the committee in presence of the armed forces personnel and bureaucrats — the Inter-Services Intelligence chief, foreign secretary, and the ambassador who wrote it. —PTI

63. Recently In April **HAL signed a contract with _____** Army for imparting **Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter for six officers of Army Aviation.**

- A. **Australian**
- B. **Nigerian**
- C. **Russian**
- D. **Nepal**

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HAL signed a contract with Nigerian Army for imparting Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter for six officers of Nigerian Army Aviation.

This marks the continuation of contract signed in April 2021 for imparting Phase-I flying training to six Nigerian Army aviation officers, which was successfully executed in December 2021.

The Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter is scheduled to commence today and is planned to be completed by December 2022. As part of the training, 70 hrs flying training would be imparted for each Nigerian Army Aviation Officer.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bengaluru, India. Established on 23 December 1940 .Capital City - Abuja, Currency - Naira1.

64. Recently which of the following countries has **successfully tested the new "Iron Beam" laser interception system?**

- A. **Israel**
- B. Iran
- C. North Korea
- D. Ukraine

- *Israel's new laser missile-defence system has successfully intercepted mortars, rockets and anti-tank missiles in recent tests.*
- *The Israeli-made laser system, known as the "Iron Beam," is designed to complement a series of aerial defence systems, including the more costly rocket-intercepting Iron Dome.*
- *The Iron Beam's interceptions are silent, **they're invisible and they only cost around \$3.50`***

65. Recently India and _____ have signed **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the area of Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Management.**

- A. USA
- B. Turkmenistan
- C. **Japan**
- D. Australia

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to sign an MoC between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the area of decentralised domestic wastewater management.

A Management Council (MC) will be constituted for implementing this MoC. It will formulate detailed activities of the cooperation and monitor its progress.

The MoC will help in the effective reuse of treated wastewater by using Johkasou technology.

Its Capital is Tokyo. Its currency is the Japanese Yen.

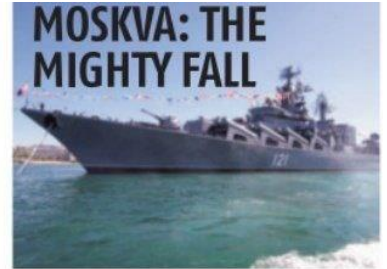
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66. What is the *name of the warship of the Russia that recently drowned into Black Sea due to a Ukrainian missile strike, as Russia claims?*

- A. Yangtze Rover
- B. Moskva**
- C. Dahieng
- D. Barbara



A wreath with a ribbon reading “To the Moskva ship”, at a ceremony organised by veterans of the Black Sea Fleet in memory of the Russian missile cruiser Moskva, in Sevastopol, Crimea



186-m, 11,500-tonne cruiser
16 Vulcan anti-ship cruise missiles with a range of at least 700 km
64 S-300 F surface-to-air missiles
500 crew members it can carry
32 knots or 59 kmph speed
10,000 nm or 19,000 km range

- *The sinking of the warship Moskva, the 600-foot, 12,500-tonne flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet — whether due to a Ukrainian missile strike or, as Russia claims, a fire on board — is a serious setback for Russia.*
- *Black Sea is bound by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.*
- *It links to the Sea of Marmara through the Bosphorus and then to the Aegean through the Dardanelles.*
- *The Moskva, a Soviet-era guided missile cruiser, sank near the port of Sevastopol on Thursday after Ukraine said it hit the ship with two cruise missiles.*
- *Ukraine claimed to have severely damaged the Russian Black Sea Fleet Flagship ‘Moskva’ off the coast of Odessa via a missile strike on the ship.*

Russian flagship Moskva has been blown up by Ukraine using Neptune anti-ship missiles

MOSKVA		NEPTUNE RK-360	
Length	611ft	Length	16.4ft
Weight	12,490 tons	Weight	1,920 lbs
Crew	510	Range	170 miles
Speed	32 knots	Speed	652 mph
Commissioned	1983	Warhead	330 lbs

1. Ukrainian drones distract the Moskva

2. Neptune missiles are launched from coastal batteries

3. Two missiles strike the Moskva causing an explosion

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- The Ukrainians claim that the Moskva was **hit by two anti-ship cruise missiles called the Neptune**. Ironically, the design of this missile is based on a Russian Kh-35 cruise missile which goes by the NATO name of AS-20 Kayak.
- The Neptune is a coastal anti-ship cruise missile which is capable of destruction of naval vessels in a range of 300 km.
- Moskva is a guided missile cruiser of the Russian Navy named after the city of Moscow. It has a displacement of 12,490 tons. It is the flagship of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Navy and carries a crew of around 500 personnel.

Banking / Economy News

67. Recently In April HDFC Ltd sold _____ stake in _____ to bring its shareholding to just below 5% to comply with regulatory guidelines.

- A. 2.5 %, ICICI Bank
- B. 3.1 %, Bandhan Bank
- C. 4.5 %, Axis Bank
- D. 9.9 %, RBL Bank

HDFC Ltd on Friday sold around 49.6 million shares or around a 3% stake in private sector lender Bandhan Bank in a bulk deal to bring its shareholding to just below 5% to comply with regulatory guidelines.

HDFC had to pare its stake in Bandhan Bank to below 5% due to the proposed merger with HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank and HDFC announced that they had entered into a definitive agreement whereby the business of HDFC will be merged into HDFC Bank in an all-stock transaction.

Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited is an Indian financial services company based in Mumbai.

Founder: Hasmukhbhai Parekh Founded: 1977 Keki M. Mistry is the vice chairman and CEO of Housing Development Finance Corporation. Deepak Parekh, the chairman of HDFC

Bandhan Bank Ltd. Is a banking and financial services company, headquartered in Kolkata. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, is the Founder, MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank.



HDFC cuts stake in Bandhan Bank

Mumbai, April 8

HDFC has sold 4.96 crore shares (or 3.1 per cent stake) in Bandhan Bank on Friday through a bulk deal. According to BSE data, HDFC sold the shares at ₹306.61 apiece. As of December 31, 2021, HDFC held 15.93 crore shares or 9.89 per cent stake in Bandhan Bank. The move comes in the wake of HDFC's merger with HDFC Bank. Following the merger, HDFC will have to pare its stake in Bandhan Bank to less than 5 per cent to meet the current regulatory norms. The merger process is expected to be over by the second or third quarter of 2023-24. The Bandhan Bank scrip closed 2.6 per cent higher at ₹323.75 apiece. OUR BUREAU

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

Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

68. To deliver life insurance Protection cover to rural households, _____ and Common Services Centre's (CSC) have partnered to engage its network of over 4 lakhs Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

- A. HDFC Ergo
- B. Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- C. **Tata AIA Life Insurance**
- D. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

To deliver much-needed life insurance Protection cover to rural households, Tata AIA Life Insurance and Common Services Centre's (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, have partnered to engage its network of over 4 lakhs Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan.

From the partnership, Tata AIA will be able to augment its reach to around 95% of gram panchayats, building in-roads to make life insurance accessible to the remotest areas of Bharat.

The deal is part of Tata AIA's business growth strategy to expand its distribution network across smaller towns and rural India

**Dr. Dinesh Kumar Tyagi, Managing Director, CSC e-Governance Services India, Tata AIA Life Insurance CEO:
Naveen Tahilyani.**

Tata AIA Life Insurance ties up with Common Service Centres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 9

TATA AIA LIFE Insurance on Saturday said it has tied up with Common Service Centres which will provide access to about 95% of gram panchayats in the country.

As part of its effort to deliver much-needed life insurance protection cover to rural households and safeguard their loved ones from life's uncertainties, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd has partnered with Common Services Centres under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, the insurer said in a release.

With this tie-up, the company said it can engage into the network of over four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan.



Through our partnership with Tata AIA Insurance, we have added new products like Tata AIA Life POS Smart Income Plus plan...

— **DINESH KUMAR TYAGI**
MD, CSC E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES INDIA

neurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan.

"The partnership will allow Tata AIA Life Insurance to augment its reach to around 95% of gram panchayats, building in-roads to make life insurance

accessible to the remotest areas of Bharat," Tata AIA Life said.

Venky Iyer, chief distribution officer & head of marketing, Tata AIA Life Insurance, said, "At present, life insurance penetration stands at 8-

10% across the rural population in India. Our constant endeavour is to make life insurance available to every Indian household, and this alliance will further strengthen our distribution efforts by helping millions of customers in the remotest corners of the country through technology leverage and product innovation."

"CSC has been providing insurance services to citizens since 2014. Through our partnership with Tata AIA Insurance, we have added new products like Tata AIA Life POS Smart Income Plus plan, endowment and income plans to our existing catalogue," Dinesh Kumar Tyagi, managing director, CSC e-Governance Services India, said.

69. Consider the following statements regarding Global Wind Energy Council released Global Wind Report 2022.

1. According to the Global Wind Report 2022, 93.6 GWs of wind capacity have been installed in 2021 less than the 95.3 GW installed in 2020.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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2. Total capacity has increased to 837 GW. In 2021, 21.1 GW has been installed in the offshore wind segment while 72.5 GW has been installed in the onshore wind segment.
3. India added 1.45 GW of wind capacity in 2021, an increase of 30% as compared to last year. India's wind capacity installation rate had slowed down between April to mid-June 2021.

Which of the Following Statement is/are Correct?

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

According to the Global Wind Report 2022, 93.6 GWs of wind capacity have been installed in 2021, less than the 95.3 GW installed in 2020. Total capacity has increased to 837 GW. In 2021, 21.1 GW has been installed in the offshore wind segment while 72.5 GW has been installed in the onshore wind segment.

The wind installation capacity has decreased in China and United States.

According to this report, wind installation capacity should be quadrupled in a decade to meet the 2050 goals.

India added 1.45 GW of wind capacity in 2021, an increase of 30% as compared to last year. India's wind capacity installation rate had slowed down between April to mid-June 2021.

The National Institute of Wind Energy has assessed more than 300 GW onshore winds potential and 700 GW offshore winds potential. As per this report, India can further add wind capacity by repowering older KW-rated wind turbines through a proper repowering policy.

The Global Wind Energy Council was established in 2005 to provide a credible and representative forum for the entire wind energy sector at an international level. Headquarters location: Brussels, Belgium.

70. Recently Cabinet has approved bilateral MoU between _____ and Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC) of _____, for help in setting up a technical assistance programme.
- A. RBI, Madagascar
 - B. SEBI, Mongolia
 - C. EIDBI, Mauritius
 - D. NABARD, Mauritius

Cabinet has approved bilateral MoU between SEBI and Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC) of Mongolia. The MoU would help in setting up a technical assistance programme. It will also strengthen the information-sharing framework.

International Organization of Securities Commissions' Multilateral MoU does not cover technical assistance.

SEBI has signed 27 bilateral MoU with capital market regulators of other countries.

International Organization of Securities Commissions is an association of the world's securities market regulating organizations. It is headquartered in Madrid, Spain. It was formed in 1983.

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. Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch is the current chairperson of SEBI.

- 71. Consider The Following Statements Regarding Reserve Bank of India (RBI) card-less cash withdrawal facility.**
- 1. The card-less withdrawal request can be initiated for a minimum of ₹100 per transaction and up to a maximum of ₹10,000 per day or ₹25,000 per month for a beneficiary while the limits are subject to change as per regulatory guidelines.**
 - 2. Under the card-less cash withdrawal facility, individuals can withdraw cash using debit card Issued by RBI at Automated teller machines (ARMs).**

Which of the following statement Is/are correct?

- Only 1**
- Only 2**
- Both 1 & 2**
- None of The Above**

RBI wants all banks to offer card-less withdrawal

Aim is to help bring down fraud: Das


SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The RBI has proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the unified payment interface (UPI).

"In addition to enhancing ease of transactions, the absence of the need for physical card for such transactions would help prevent frauds such as card skimming, card cloning," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, announcing this as an additional measure.

At present, the facility of card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited to a few banks.

To further facilitate greater penetration of bill pay-

 **Card-less withdrawal facility via ATMs is limited to a few banks**

ments through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), it has proposed to reduce the net worth requirement of such entities from ₹100 crore to ₹25 crore.

Separately, for the benefit of home loan borrowers, the RBI has decided to continue with the risk weights for all new individual housing loans sanctioned up to March 31, 2023. The risk weights for these loans were rationalised by linking them to the loan to value (LTV) ratio for all new loans sanctioned up to March 31, 2022.

Cardless cash withdrawal is now possible at the ATMs of all banks

The move will help prevent frauds such as card skimming and card cloning

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 8

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, on Friday, announced a proposal to make cardless cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the Unified Payments Interface.

"In addition to enhancing ease of transactions, the absence of the need for physical card for such transactions would help prevent frauds such as card skimming, card cloning," he said.

Customers will now be able to do cardless cash withdrawals at ATMs of all banks. At present, the facility of cardless cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks.

Settlement of such transactions would happen through the ATM networks.

Separate instructions would be issued to NPCI, ATM networks and banks shortly, said the RBI's Statement on Developmental and Regulat-



At present, the facility of cardless cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks

ory Policies. Experts said the move will also enhance customer convenience and give a further push to digital payments in the country as UPI is turning into the preferred payment mode for many individuals.

"The measures to allow interoperability in cardless withdrawal at banks will give a further impetus to QR code-enabled payments.

"The decision to set up a robust governance structure for digital payments is a logical corollary of this move," said Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India.

Mandar Agashe, Founder, MD and Chairman, Sarvatra Technologies, said the facility will be favoured by youngsters who don't carry debit cards.

'Will boost convenience'

"Since it is contactless, it will enhance convenience, and customers could expect a very different transaction experience going forward. With people preferring contactless payments nowadays, the ATM cardless withdrawals would be a big boost to contactless payments," he said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available at all ATMs, irrespective of banks, through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), one of the key decisions made by the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

At present the facility of card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks. It is now proposed to make the facility available across all banks and ATM networks using UPI while announcing the monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said RBI has proposed to make card-less cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

RBI Governor said the absence of need for a card to initiate cash withdrawal transactions would help in containing frauds like card skimming, card cloning, etc. However, Governor Shaktikanta Das clarified credit & debit cards will be continued. Under the card-less cash withdrawal facility, individuals can withdraw cash without using any debit card at Automated teller machines (ATMs).

The Card-less withdrawal request can be initiated for a minimum of ₹100 per transaction and up to a maximum of ₹10,000 per day or ₹25,000 per month for a beneficiary while the limits are subject to change as per regulatory

72. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has decided to enhance commercial bank's "Held to Maturity" limit from the existing 22 percent to _____ percent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NTDL) till _____.

- A. 25, September 30, 2022
- B. 23, March 31, 2023**
- C. 29, December 31, 2022
- D. 30, March 31, 2023

RBI raises HTM limit, creates headroom for banks to buy Government Securities

Banks can buy G-Secs without making investment depreciation provision

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 8

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has enhanced the limit for banks to park Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) securities such as Government Securities (G-Secs) in the Held to Maturity (HTM) category, in the backdrop of the huge ₹14.31-lakh crore government borrowing programme in FY23.

The limit has been upped from 22 per cent to 23 per cent of banks' deposits till March 31, 2023, thereby allowing banks to buy G-Secs aggregating up to ₹1.70-lakh crore without worrying about investment depreciation provision in the current rising yield scenario.

The central bank also allowed banks to include eligible SLR securities acquired between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, under this enhanced limit.

Borrowing programme

This move, coming as it does in the wake of the huge government borrowing programme, will encourage banks to participate in G-Sec auctions as they can park incremental purchases within the enhanced limit.

The RBI said the HTM limits would be restored from 23 per cent to 19.5 per cent in a phased manner starting from the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

RK Gurumurthy, Head-Treas-



The Held to Maturity limit has been upped from 22 per cent to 23 per cent of banks' deposits till March 31, 2023

ury, Dhanlaxmi Bank, observed that the increase in HTM percentage with a sunset date is primarily to help absorb a part of the new bond supply from weekly auctions.

"This should be seen as a signal as further increases can happen if yields remain durably el-

evated. Maybe, this can be accompanied with staggered provisioning of depreciation over the year," he said.

Anil Gupta, Vice-President & Co-Group Head, ICRA, emphasised that the increase in HTM limits by 1 per cent could create an additional headroom of ₹1.6-

1.7-lakh crore for banks to hold the government securities, without marking them to market in a rising bond yield scenario and thereby preventing any loss.

"This could improve the appetite of banks for government securities and facilitate the large borrowing programme of central and state governments while moderating the rising in yields.

"However, given the overall size of the government borrowings, the absorption of the large supply could remain a challenge," he said.

Marzban Irani, CIO-Fixed Income, LIC Mutual Fund, said the increase in HTM limit is positive as it will lead to comfort of around ₹1.50-lakh crore, allowing banks to buy equivalent amount of SLR securities.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has decided to enhance commercial banks' Held to Maturity (HTM) limit from the existing 22 percent to 23 percent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NTDL) till March 31, 2023.

In a circular, the central bank said banks will be allowed to include securities acquired between September 1, 2020, and March 31, 2022.

Banks currently have a special dispensation of enhanced HTM limit of 22 percent of NTDL for Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) eligible securities acquired between September 1, 2020, and March 31, 2022, until March 31, 2023.

"The enhanced HTM limit of 23 percent shall be restored to 19.5 percent in a phased manner, beginning from the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

73. Recently the central bank proposed to reduce the net worth requirement of Bharat Bill Payment System from Rs 100 crore to _____, to facilitate greater penetration of bill payments through the BBPS.

- A. Rs 50 Cr
- B. Rs 25 Cr**
- C. Rs 30 Cr
- D. Rs 10 Cr

BHARAT BILL PAYMENT OPERATING UNITS

Net worth requirement to be lowered to ₹25 cr

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, April 8

With the growing popularity of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), the RBI has decided to lower the net worth requirement of operating units to ₹25 crore from the current limit set at ₹100 crore.

"To further facilitate greater penetration of bill payments through BBPS and to encourage participation of a greater number of non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units in the BBPS, it is proposed to reduce the

net worth requirement of such entities from ₹100 crore to ₹25 crore," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday.

Non-bank BBPOUs

The Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies noted that while BBPS has seen an increase in the volume of transactions and number of on-boarded billers, there has not been a corresponding growth in the number of non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs). "The current require-

ment of net worth for a non-bank BBPOU to obtain authorisation is ₹100 crore and it is viewed as a constraint to greater participation," it said, adding that necessary amendment to regulations will be carried out shortly.

BBPS is an interoperable platform for bill payments and covers all categories of billers who raise recurring bills.

In March, BBPS processed 7.13 crore bill payments worth ₹11,467.79 crore for categories such as electricity, FASTags, loan repayments and LPG gas. While

there are over 20,000 billers on the platform, there are only 30 BBPOUs.

Meanwhile, in a bid to maintain safety and security of payment systems, the RBI will soon issue directions for Payment System Operators, covering robust governance mechanism for identification, assessment, monitoring and management of cybersecurity risks, including information security risks and vulnerabilities, and specify baseline security measures for ensuring secure payments.

- **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), an interoperable platform for bill payments, has seen an increase in the volume of bill payments and billers over the years. To further facilitate greater penetration of bill payments through the BBPS and to encourage participation of a greater number of non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units in the BBPS, it is proposed to reduce the net worth requirement of such entities from ₹100 crore to ₹25 crore.**

The Reserve Bank has over the years taken a number of measures to enhance consumer protection. These measures include laying down regulatory frameworks on customer service, internal grievance redress and the Ombudsman mechanisms.

In view of the transformation underway in the financial landscape due to innovations in products and services, deepening of digital penetration and emergence of various service providers, it is proposed to set up a committee to examine and review the current state of customer service in the RBI Regulated Entities, adequacy of customer service regulations and suggest measure to improve the same.

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

Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee.

1. The repo rate remained unchanged at 4% for the 11th time while the reverse repo rate remains unchanged at 3.35%.
2. MSF rate and Bank rate remained unchanged at 4.25%.
3. RBI has projected that retail inflation will rise to 5.7% from 4.5% projected earlier for FY23.
4. RBI has reduced its GDP growth rate forecast from 7.8% to 7.2% for FY23.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- RBI kept repo rate unchanged and maintained accommodative monetary policy stance.
- The monetary policy committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged.
- The repo rate remained unchanged at 4 % for the 11th time while the reverse repo rate remains unchanged at 3.35 %.
- MSF rate and Bank rate remained unchanged at 4.25 %.
- RBI has projected that retail inflation will rise to 5.7 % from 4.5 % projected earlier for FY23.
- RBI has reduced its GDP growth rate forecast from 7.8 % to 7.2 % for FY23.
- Repo rate is the interest rate at which the RBI provides short-term money to banks.
- Reverse Repo Rate is the interest rate at which the RBI absorbs liquidity from banks.

Committee to be set up to review customer service in regulated entities

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 8

The Reserve Bank of India will soon set up a committee to examine and review the state of customer service in RBI-regulated entities.

"In view of the transformation underway in the financial landscape due to innovations in products and services, deepening of digital penetration and emergence of various service providers, it is proposed to set up a committee to examine and review the current state of customer service in RBI-regulated entities, adequacy of customer service regulations and suggest measure to improve the same," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

The committee will examine and review customer service in REs and adequacy of customer service regulations, and suggest measures to improve these issues, said the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies.

The RBI has, over the years, taken several measures, including laying down an elaborate regulatory framework on customer service and internal grievance redress at REs, and also putting in place the Ombudsman framework to ensure overarching protection for customers.

Rates steady for 11th time, eye on 'inflation within target'

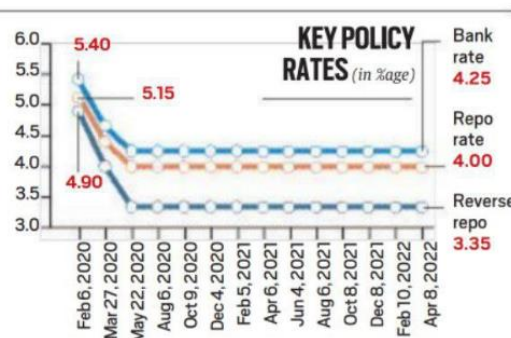
The RBI MPC on Friday kept the repo rate unchanged for the eleventh time straight, deciding to "remain accommodative ... to ensure that inflation remains within the target"

3.75% Standing Deposit Facility rate, a new tool for absorbing liquidity

3.35% Reverse repo rate, at which RBI borrows from banks

4.00% Repo rate, at which the RBI lends funds with security

4.25% Bank rate, at which RBI lends funds to banks sans security



MPC STANCE: All MPC members unanimously voted for keeping the policy repo rate unchanged

Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau

RBI shifts gaze to inflation from growth after 2 years

▶ SETS STAGE FOR RATE HIKES AFTER JUNE POLICY AMID HIGH OIL PRICES, YIELDS

▶ FY23 GROWTH PROJECTION CUT TO 7.2%; INFLATION FORECAST UPPED TO 5.7%

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai, 8 April

The increase in pump prices of petrol and diesel by a steep ₹10 in the fortnight following surging crude oil prices over \$100 a barrel has been the factor in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) turning its attention to inflation over growth, which was its focus since the pandemic came in March 2020.

The central bank on Friday indicated it was preparing to withdraw the accommodative stance, sending bond yields to a three-year high.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to keep the policy rate, or the repo rate, unchanged at 4 per cent. The accommodative stance too was unchanged, but with a caveat. The central bank said it would focus on withdrawing from it.

"The MPC decided unanimously to remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in a departure from his earlier comments over two years that the accommodative stance would be maintained "as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy".

This change in language probably ensured all the members voted in favour

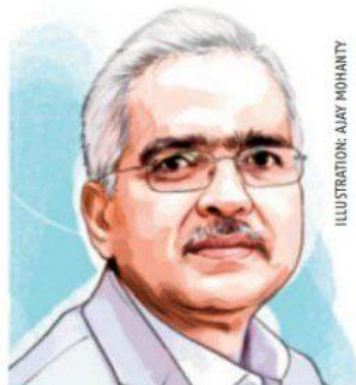


ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

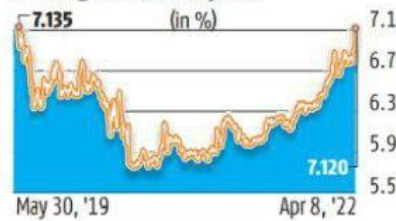
INFLATION PROJECTIONS, WHICH WOULD ATTRACT A LOT OF ATTENTION, HAVE BEEN REVISED UPWARDS DUE TO WAR-INDUCED FACTORS... THE STANCE CONTINUES TO BE ACCOMMODATIVE WHILE FOCUSING ON WITHDRAWAL OF ACCOMMODATION

Shaktikanta Das
RBI Governor

Q&A PAGE 6

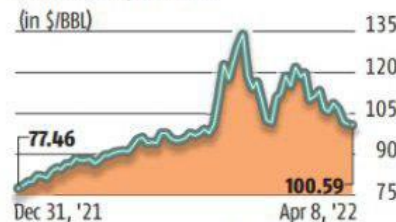
RISING YIELDS

The yield on India 10-year G-sec jumped to its highest since May 2019



OIL ON THE BOIL

Brent crude oil prices continue to hover around \$100 per barrel



Source: Bloomberg Compiled by BS Research Bureau

of this resolution. One of the external members, Jayanth Varma, had voted against the stance in the last four policies.

"In the sequence of priorities, we have now put inflation before growth. For the last three years, starting February 2019, we had put growth ahead of inflation in

the sequence. This time we have revised that because we thought the time is appropriate," Das said during the post-policy interaction with the media, which was in physical mode, again a first since the pandemic broke out two years ago.

Turn to Page 7 ▶

Cardless cash withdrawal at all banks, ATMs

Cardless cash withdrawal, which was offered only by a few banks, will now be made available across all banks and ATMs. It will be available via the UPI, which will be used for customer authorisation. This is expected to enhance ease of transactions. 6▶

'Sensitive to sanctions against Russia'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said they will be sensitive to the sanctions imposed on Russia by the western countries for its invasion of Ukraine amid a growing demand of rupee-rouble from domestic traders to bypass the sanctions. 6▶

Revised HTM cap to aid govt borrowing

The increase in the limit for keeping specified securities in the held-to-maturity (HTM) portfolio from 22 per cent to 23 per cent will provide room for supporting the elevated borrowing programme of the government. 6▶

INSIDE

- ▶ RBI TO RE-LOOK AT KYC RULES AFTER DIGITAL LENDING FRAUDS P7
- ▶ INFLATION EXPECTATION, CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RISE IN MARCH P7
- ▶ THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL, WRITES SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH P6

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75. Consider the following statements regarding newly instituted Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

1. RBI has started Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at the interest rate of 3.75%.
2. As per RBI, SDF is an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
3. RBI said SDF will take place of fixed rate reverse repo (FRRR) in the form of the floor of LAF corridor.

Which of the Following Statement is/are Correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 1 & 2
- D. All of The Above

- RBI has started Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at the interest rate of 3.75%.
- SDF has been kept at 25 basis points below the repo rate (4%) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) has been kept at 25 basis point above the repo rate (4%).
- As per RBI, SDF is an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
- RBI said SDF will take place of fixed rate reverse repo (FRRR) in the form of the floor of LAF corridor. RBI has kept FRRR at 3.35%.
- RBI has said that as of now, the scheduled commercial banks need not activate countercyclical capital buffer (CCCB).
- The amendment to Section 17 of the RBI Act in 2018 empowered the Reserve Bank to introduce the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).
- This would provide symmetry to the operating framework of monetary policy by introducing a standing absorption facility at the bottom of the LAF corridor, similar to the standing injection tool at the upper end of the corridor, namely the marginal standing facility (MSF)
- During the pandemic, the RBI offered liquidity facilities of the order ₹17.2 lakh crore of which ₹11.9 lakh crore was utilised. So far ₹5.0 lakh crore has been returned or withdrawn on the lapse of various facilities on their due dates.

RBI adds a standing deposit facility to 'normalise' liquidity

SDF rate to serve as the floor to LAF corridor, says Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday took steps towards normalisation of liquidity management to pre-pandemic levels, with the introduction of the standing deposit facility (SDF) as the basic tool to absorb excess liquidity, and narrowing the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) corridor to 0.50% from 0.90%.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said the SDF would be at 3.75%, i.e., 0.25% below the repo rate and 0.5% lower than the marginal standing facility (MSF) which helps the banks with funds when required. The SDF has its origins in a 2018 amend-



Shaktikanta Das

ment to the RBI Act and is an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without collateral.

By removing the binding collateral constraint on the RBI, the SDF strengthens the operating framework of monetary policy, he said, adding that it is also a financial stability tool. "The SDF will

replace the fixed rate reverse repo as the floor of the LAF corridor," he added.

"The LAF corridor will be symmetric around the policy repo rate with the MSF rate as the ceiling and the SDF rate as the floor with immediate effect," Mr. Das said, announcing the first policy review of FY23.

"At both ends of the LAF corridor, there will be standing facilities - one to absorb and the other to inject liquidity. Accordingly, access to SDF and MSF will be at the discretion of banks, unlike repo/reverse repo, OMO and CRR which are available at the discretion of the Reserve Bank," he said.

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76. Consider the Following Statements Regarding *IBBI's voluntary liquidation regulations to fast track the process.*

1. *The latest amendment provides that in cases where no claims are received from any creditors, final report may be provided in 90 days from the date of commencement of the process.*
2. *Now, a liquidator is needed to distribute the proceeds from realisation within 30 days to the stakeholders as opposed to the earlier norm of six months from the receipt of the amount.*

Which of the Following Statement is/are Correct?

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

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has made several changes to its voluntary liquidation regulations so as to fast track the process, thereby providing quicker exits for corporate persons, release idle resources faster and put them into productive uses.

The latest amendment provides that in cases where no claims are received from any creditor(s), final report may be provided in 90 days from the date of commencement of the process. Where claims are received from creditor(s), the period for submission may be provided as 270 days

Now, a liquidator is needed to distribute the proceeds from realisation within 30 days to the stakeholders as opposed to the earlier norm of six months

In cases where no claim is received, liquidator is now required to prepare the list of stakeholders within 15 days from the last date for receipt of claims.

IBBI puts voluntary liquidations on fast track

Move, a step in the right direction, say experts

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, April 6

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has made several changes to its voluntary liquidation regulations so as to fast track the process, thereby providing quicker exits for corporate persons, release idle resources faster and put them into productive uses.

The changes include crunching the timelines in preparation of list of stakeholders; distribution of proceeds from realisation and submission of final report to the adjudicating authority.

Liquidation process

The latest amendment provides that in cases where no claims are received from any creditor(s), final report may be provided in 90 days from the date of commencement of the process. Where claims are received from creditor(s), the period for submission may be provided as 270 days.

Besides, a compliance certificate (format specified under a new Form H) similar to the one under CIRP and liquidation regulations, has also been introduced. It would contain a summary of the entire voluntary liquidation.

Now, a liquidator is needed to distribute the proceeds from realisation within 30 days to the stakeholders as opposed to the earlier norm of six months

from the receipt of the amount. In cases where no claim is received, the liquidator is now required to prepare the list of stakeholders within 15 days from the last date for receipt of claims.

Thumbs up

The unamended regulation only provided for preparation of the list of stakeholders within 45 days, said Meghna Mishra, Senior Partner—Karanjawa & Co. The latest amendments will help streamline and expedite the process, she added.

Sushmita Gandhi, Partner, IndusLaw, said, "While the compressed process timelines would streamline and speed up the overall conclusion of voluntary liquidation process and ensure conservation of asset value, it is the introduction of compliance certificate that will hopefully act as a catalyst in ensuring consistency across benches and save precious judicial time."

Kumar Saurabh Singh, Partner, Khaitan & Co, said, "These amendments can help the exit process for entities which do not have creditor liabilities." Overall, a step in the right direction for ease of doing business and ease of exiting business, he added.

While Pritika Kumar, Founder—Cornellia Chambers, said the changes have streamlined and fast tracked the process, Sagar Manju, Partner, Saraf & Partner, said it is in line with the 'time value' principle under the IBC.

77. According To the *Bloomberg Billionaires Index*, _____ is the *only Indian member of an exclusive global group called the Centi-Billionaire's club.*

- A. **Gautam Adani**
- B. Mukesh Ambani
- C. Shiv Nadar
- D. Cyrus Poonawalla

Bloomberg Billionaires Index reported that Gautam Adani's net worth had reached \$100 billion, an accomplishment that makes the industrialist the only Indian member of an exclusive global group called the Centi-Billionaire's club.

The club has 10 members, with Musk (\$260 Bn) on top and Bezos (\$179 Bn) next, followed by Arnold, Gates, and Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway. Adani is tenth on the list and \$3 billion below the person above him, Oracle's Larry Ellison — whose net wealth is \$103 billion.

According to the Bloomberg report, Adani, whose interests range from ports and mines to green energy, is the biggest gainer in the Billionaires Index this year, up by almost \$24 billion

78. The Union Government's tax collection during Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22) has increased to _____, nearly 34% higher than that in the Fiscal Year 2020-21.

- A. ₹29 lakh crore
- B. ₹35 lakh crore
- C. **₹27 lakh crore**
- D. ₹17 lakh crore

- **Government's tax collection during Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22) has increased to ₹27 lakh crore.**
- **The tax collection of ₹27 lakh crore is nearly 34% higher than that in the Fiscal Year 2020-21.**
- **It is ₹5 lakh crore more than ₹22 lakh crore estimated in the Budget.**
- **Tax-to GDP ratio increased to 11.7%, which is the highest since 1999. It was 10.3% in the fiscal year 2020-21.**
- **Direct tax collection is higher than indirect tax collection in 2021-22.**

Tax receipts surge 34% to exceed ₹27 lakh cr.

Tax-to-GDP ratio rises to 11.7%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's gross tax revenues surged 34% in 2021-22 to exceed ₹27 lakh crore, lifting the tax-to-GDP ratio to an at least 23-year high of 11.7%, from 10.3% in the previous year, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Friday.

Tax collections were ₹5 lakh crore more than the Budget estimates, and surpassed the revised estimates by ₹1.87 lakh crore, with direct taxes surging 49% and indirect taxes rising by 20%.

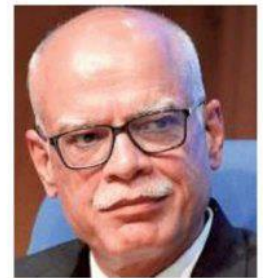
"When we started the year, the Budgeted estimate was ₹22.17 lakh crore, 17% higher than the previous year," Mr. Bajaj said. "We are now close to ₹27.07 lakh crore, an increase of almost ₹5 lakh crore. These figures are tentative at the moment and are likely to change, and I hope that is on the upside," he added.

Corporation tax collections rose by 56.1% and personal income tax grew about 43%, taking overall direct tax growth to 49%, which Mr. Bajaj said was the 'highest in a long time'.

"The Customs duty collections went up by 48%, as reflected in our robust export-import data, while excise duty collections have actually contracted 0.2% and the Central GST, which was a challenge for us, has grown by almost 30%," the Revenue Secretary said.

Direct taxes boost

"Commentators have said India's tax-to-GDP ratio is very low. It was 10.3% in 2020-21 and has gone up to 11.7%, the highest since at least 1999. Direct taxes are 6.1% of GDP, and indirect taxes are 5.6%. So the criticism we faced last year, that our indirect taxes are higher



Tarun Bajaj

than direct taxes, has also been" addressed, he emphasised.

The Finance Ministry, in a statement, said the tax-GDP ratio was the 'highest' and the tax buoyancy ratio was 'very healthy' at 1.9. The tax buoyancy ratio, which measures growth in taxes relative to GDP growth, was 2.8 for direct taxes and 1.1 for indirect taxes in 2021-22. The ratio of direct to indirect taxes recovered from 0.9 in 2020-21 to 1.1 in 2021-22.

"This revenue growth has been propelled by rapid economic recovery after successive waves of COVID, supported by one of the largest immunisation programmes of the world run by the Government," the finance ministry said, adding that the revenues signalled a 'robust recovery' and were supplemented by better compliance efforts.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said a large portion of the upside in revenues was shared with the States. "The actual tax devolution to the State governments in 2021-22 stood at ₹8.8 lakh crore, a considerable ₹1.4 lakh crore higher than the revised estimates (RE). After removing payments related to past arrears, the aggregate devolution to States has overshot the RE by about ₹95,000 crore," she noted.

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- **Direct tax collection stood at ₹14.10 lakh crore. This is a growth of 49% over the last fiscal.**
- **Indirect tax collection increased 20% to ₹12.90 lakh crore.**

79. According to the RBI's Data, Union Government has spent _____ as development expenditure from 2014-2022.

- A. Rs 24.85 lakh crore**
- B. Rs 90.9 lakh crore**
- C. Rs 26.3 lakh crore**
- D. Rs 49.2 lakh crore**

Government has spent Rs 90.9 lakh crore as development expenditure from 2014-2022.

This expenditure includes Rs 24.85-lakh crore spent on food, fuel and fertiliser subsidies. This also includes Rs 26.3-lakh crore on capital creation. During 2004-2014, only Rs 49.2 lakh crore was spent as development expenditure.

Government has spent Rs 93,685.68 crore during 2014 to 2022 on repaying oil bonds. Government will pay additional Rs 1.48 lakh crore by 2026.

Developmental expenditure comprises expenditure incurred on education, medical care, public health and family planning, labour and employment, agriculture, cooperation, irrigation, transport and communication and other miscellaneous services. Expenditure incurred on these items both on Revenue and Capital accounts is also treated as development expenditure.

Govt spent ₹91-lakh crore since 2014 on development: FM

Hits back at former finance minister P Chidambaram for his tweet on high fuel tax collections

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 10

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the Modi government has spent around ₹91-lakh crore as developmental expenditure since 2014 till date.

She was tweeting in re-

sponse to former finance minister P Chidambaram's tweets about the very high collection of fuel tax but less spending on people.

"RBI data shows total developmental expenditure incurred by Modi govt in 2014-22 was ₹90.9-lakh crore, far higher than is being alleged by some sections of the Opposition. In contrast, only ₹49.2-lakh crore was spent on this during 2004-14," Sitharaman said in a series of tweets.

Earlier, Chidambaram had



FM Nirmala Sitharaman

alleged that in the eight years of the Modi government, the Centre collected ₹26.5-lakh crore as fuel

taxes. "There are approximately 26 crore families in India. That means from every family, the Central government has collected, on average, ₹1,00,000 as fuel tax! Ask yourself, what did an average family get in return for paying this huge amount as fuel tax," he asked in a tweet.

Sitharaman said the expenditure incurred includes ₹24.85-lakh crore spent so far on food, fuel and fertiliser subsidies, and ₹26.3-lakh crore on capital creation.

Heated exchange

These tweets follow multiple hikes in the prices of diesel and petrol after a record 137-day hiatus. Since March 22, petrol and diesel prices have been raised by ₹10 each. On March 22, the price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was also increased to ₹949.50 in the national capital.

Meanwhile, CNG prices have risen by ₹13.1 per kg in the last month.

PSB performance review: FM to meet chiefs on Apr 23

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 10

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet public sector banks (PSB) chiefs in New Delhi on April 23 to review their performance in FY22 and set the agenda for the current fiscal.

For the April-December 2021 period, PSBs had cumulatively recorded net profit of ₹48,874 crore, clearly indicating that the bad days may be behind them. These banks had recorded collective losses for five straight years, from 2015-16 to 2019-20. PSBs registered a combined net profit of ₹31,820 crore in 2020-21.

This will be the first full review meeting after the presentation of this year's Budget and post the break-

out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Indications are that the Finance Minister will set a direction to the credit growth aspirations for PSBs in an economy that is now on a recovery mode. Credit growth is looking up with RBI not expected to quickly roll back its liquidity measures and accommodative monetary policy stance announced to support the economy during Covid-19.

Progress of various government schemes, including the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which was a lifeline for MSMEs, is expected at the review meeting, sources said. The actual agenda for the meeting is yet to be firmed up, they added.

Oil bonds (₹ cr)

	Opening balance	Issue	Discharge	Closing balance	Interest paid
Till 2021-22	-	1,70,518.65	49,595.48	1,20,923.17	1,48,898.94
2022-23	1,20,923.17	0.00	0.00	1,20,923.17	9,195.96
2023-24	1,20,923.17	0.00	31,150.00	89,773.17	9,195.96
2024-25	89,773.17	0.00	52,860.17	36,913.00	6,226.99
2025-26	36,913.00	0.00	36,913.00	0.00	2,731.56
Grand total	-	1,70,518.65	1,70,518.65	-	1,76,249.41

80. Recently In April _____ has been ranked the cheapest location in the top 100 electronics R&D FDI destinations as per the latest assessment using the FDI Benchmark.

- A. Chennai
- B. Shanghai
- C. Seoul
- D. Shenzhen

Chennai has been ranked the cheapest location in the top 100 electronics R&D FDI destinations as per the latest assessment using the FDI Benchmark, an investment location comparison tool by the financial Times.

Chennai has an estimated annual operating cost of \$1.24 million for a 50-person R&D centre, which is cheapest in the world.

The Malaysian city of Penang took the second spot with an estimated annual operating cost of \$1.32 million, followed by Gurgaon with \$1.52 million and Pune with \$1.53 million.

Chennai ranked second among the world's most competitive locations, only after Seoul. In this ranking, Chennai was followed by Chinese cities like Guangzhou and Shenzhen. Three other Indian cities, Bangalore, Pune, and Gurgaon were among the top 10 cities on this list.

81. Consider The Following Statement Regarding Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

1. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8th April 2015, for providing loans up to 10 Lakh rupees to the non-corporate, non-farm small or micro-enterprises.
2. More than 34 crore 42 lakh loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Which of the following statements is/are Correct?

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

Chennai is lowest-cost FDI location for electronics R&D

Scores on access to supply chain and manpower

TERAJA SIMHAN

Chennai, April 6

Chennai has been ranked the world's cheapest FDI location for electronics R&D with estimated annual operating costs of \$1.24 million for a 50-person centre. Penang (\$1.32 million) took the second spot followed by Gurgaon (\$1.52 million) and Pune (\$1.53 million), says fDi Benchmark, an investment location comparison tool of the *Financial Times*.

Chennai was ranked second, behind Seoul, as the world's most competitive location for electronics R&D. The two Chinese mega cities of Guangzhou and Shenzhen took the third and fourth places, respectively, the report said.

Boost to TN govt

The study should give a major boost to the Tamil Nadu government, which is striving to woo more investors in the electronics sector to Chennai. The SEZs at Oragadam and Sriperumbudur are electronic hardware specific zones. While companies such as Samsung and Apple have a strong manufacturing presence, large R&D centres are missing, said sources.

Location competitiveness was benchmarked based on cost and quality of doing electronic R&D activities.

The State produces nearly 20 per cent of India's electronics. The State's Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy 2020 is targeting an output of \$100 billion and raising export contribution to 25 per cent. The

fDi benchmark study

- Chennai has estimated annual operating costs of \$1.24 million for a 50-person centre
- Penang (\$1.32 million) took the second spot followed by Gurgaon (\$1.52 million) and Pune (\$1.53 million)

State government plans to soon announce an R&D policy with focus on using the State's human resources effectively, Industries Secretary S Krishnan recently said at a recent CII seminar.

'Guidance Tamil Nadu', in its website, points out that the State provides a conducive environment for large companies with access to supply chain and manpower.

Pooja Kulkarni, MD & CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, reacting to the report, said the presence of top institutions of higher education coupled with the best ecosystem for electronics manufacturing has made this possible.

The electronics manufacturing ecosystem has matured with the presence of global majors and cuts across all electronics domains. It is not for nothing that companies like Ford and Saint Gobain, have their global R&D centres here. The cost of living in Chennai is lower than other places, she added.

Companies, including Flex, Sanmina, Salcomp and Foxconn have strong R&D units in Chennai. Some manufacturers are also engaging with the IIT Research Park, said sources.

"IIT-M Research Park has played its role," said its president Ashok Jhunjhunwala.

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana completes seven years**
- **The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8th April 2015, for providing loans up to 10 Lakh rupees to the non-corporate, non-farm small, or micro-enterprises.**
- **AIR correspondent reports that more than 34 crore 42 lakh loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Around 68 percent loans of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs. Almost 22 percent of the loans have been given to New Entrepreneurs.**
- **The Scheme has helped in creating an enabling environment, particularly for small businesses, and has helped generate large-scale employment opportunities at the grassroots level.**
- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana PMMY has given wings to the dreams and aspirations of millions, along with a feeling of self-worth and independence.**

● **MUDRA SCHEME COMPLETES SEVEN YEARS**

Over 340 mn beneficiaries got ₹18.6-trn loans: Finmin

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 8

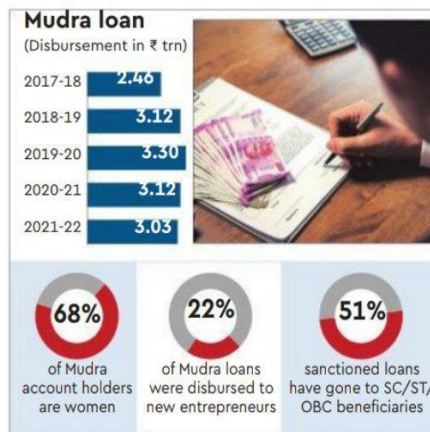
BANKS HAVE EXTENDED loans of ₹18.6 trillion to about 344 million beneficiaries so far under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), which completes seven years on Friday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

Under the scheme, meant primarily for budding and small entrepreneurs in the non-corporate and non-farm sectors, loans up to ₹10 lakh are extended to a beneficiary at affordable rates.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the performance of the scheme.

Guided by the principle of funding the unfunded, the Mudra Yojana has "given an opportunity to countless Indians to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and become job creators", Modi said.

Women make up over



68% of the Mudra account holders and 22% of the loans were disbursed to new entrepreneurs, Sitharaman said.

As many as 51% of total sanctioned loans have gone to beneficiaries in the SC/ST/

OBC categories, which suggests the scheme stands for social justice as well, the minister said.

The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on April 8, 2015.

Although the pandemic has hit the pace of growth of Mudra loans, the disbursement has still remained well above the annual average of ₹2.66 trillion until FY20.

In FY21, such loan disbursements stood at ₹3.12 trillion and in FY22, these touched ₹3.03 trillion.

Given that most of the Mudra loans are collateral-free, experts have warned of growing risks of deterioration of asset quality, although the scheme has improved access to credit of people belonging to vulnerable sections.

Mudra loans are extended to three categories of borrowers — Sishu, Kishore and Tarun.

Customers seeking loans up to ₹50,000 come under the Sishu category; the Kishore category covers credit above ₹50,000 and up to ₹5 lakh; and the Tarun category covers loan above ₹5 lakh and up to ₹10 lakh.

82. Recently the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and _____ signed a MoU at IFSCA's office at Gift City Gandhinagar for co-operation and collaboration to support and facilitate fintech ecosystem in GIFT IFSC.

- A. NDFC Limited
- B. GVFL Limited
- C. IFFCO
- D. ICCAR

- **This MoU focuses on collaboration between the two organizations for exchange of information and undertaking diverse initiative as regards fintech industry.**
- **The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is a unified regulator responsible for development and regulation of financial products,**

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financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre(s) (IFSC) established in India.

- **GVFL Limited is pioneer of Venture Capital in India. Promoted by World Bank and Government of Gujarat in 1990, GVFL is an independent, autonomous Board managed venture finance company based in Ahmadabad, Gujarat, India**

PNB opens international banking unit at GIFT City

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (PNB) on Friday said it has opened its international banking unit at GIFT City in Gujarat. PNB's IFSC banking unit at

GIFT City, Gandhinagar, was inaugurated by MD and CEO Atul Kumar Goel, the bank said. The branch will cater to the customers' needs outside

the domestic economy's jurisdiction, dealing with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders, PNB said. —PTI



IFSC Authority

IFSCA inks MoU with GVFL Limited for strengthening the FinTech ecosystem in GIFT IFSC

Posted On: 07 APR 2022 7:53PM by PIB Delhi

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GVFL Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at IFSCA's office at GIFT City here today for co-operation and collaboration to support and facilitate FinTech ecosystem in GIFT IFSC.

This MoU focuses on collaboration between the two organization for exchange of information and undertaking diverse initiative as regards FinTech industry including holding seminars, webinars, conferences, etc., for the growth of FinTech in the GIFT IFSC. The MoU also provides scope for guidance, mentorship

83. Recently _____, a digital growth partner for leading brands has achieved 2022 Google International Growth Partner status in the Google International Growth Agency Program.

- A. Agra. Ai
- B. Class
- C. Social Beat
- D. Insta-Mojo

Social Beat, a digital growth partner for leading brands and hyper scaling start-ups in India, has achieved 2022 Google International Growth Partner status in the Google International Growth Agency Program.

Social Beat is now part of a select group of Premier Partners in the Google International Growth Agency Program.

The program is exclusively designed for advertising & marketing agencies, and empowers them with innovative tools, resources, and support to help their clients to expand their business globally

Sunil Chawla, Founder, Social Beat

The Google International Growth Agency Program also enables advertisers to expand their business with access to customers in international markets.

84. Consider the Following Statements Regarding Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) New Norms in mutual funds schemes investing in commodities.

1. The risk-o-meter will also be applicable in mutual funds schemes investing in commodities.

2. The risk-o-meter will be implemented on the basis of 15-year volatility in the benchmark of the commodity

Which of the following statement is/are Correct?

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

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday said that the risk-o-meter will also be applicable in mutual funds schemes investing in commodities. The market regulator said in its circular that new rules will be applicable with immediate effect.

The risk-o-meter will be implemented on the basis of 15-year volatility in the benchmark of the commodity,

SEBI said that if the volatility in these commodities is less than 10 percent, then the risk will be moderate. Whereas, if there is a fluctuation of 10% - 15%, there will be moderately high risk and if there is a volatility of 15 to 20 percent,

Sebi unveils framework to evaluate risk value of gold, related instruments

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, April 11

SEBI ON MONDAY issued frameworks to manage the risk level in commodity investments (gold and gold-related instruments) by mutual funds. "It has been decided that investment in commodities by mutual fund schemes shall be assigned a risk score corresponding to the annualised volatility of the price of the said commodity," Sebi said in a circular. The new framework will come into force immediately.

The regulator said the annualised volatility would be computed quarterly based on past 15 years' prices of the benchmark index of the said commodity. Annualised volatility of less than 10%, 10-15%, 15-20% and more than 20% will have risk score of 3 (moderate), 4 (moderately high), 5 (high) and 6 (very high), respectively.

The regulator said the annualised volatility would be computed quarterly based on past 15 years' prices of the benchmark index of the said commodity

"If price of gold has annualized volatility of 18% based on price of past 15 years, then gold and gold-related instruments will have risk value of 5 (high) on risk-o-meter," Sebi explained.

On October 5, 2020, Sebi had said that investment in gold and gold-related instruments by schemes will be valued at 'moderately-high' risk perspective. It also ordered mutual funds to disclose the risk level of schemes as on March 31 of every year, along with number of times the risk level has changed over the year, on their websites and the Amfi website.

KKR invests ₹1,800 crore to pick 9.99% stake in Shriram General

PE firm to build on potential in general insurance space

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, April 11

Shriram General Insurance (SGI), a joint venture between Shriram Capital, the holding company for Shriram Group's financial services business, and pan-African financial services group Sanlam Ltd, on Monday indicated that it will recruit about 5,000 people in the next two years to grow the non-life business in small towns while announcing the acquisition of 9.99 per cent stake by KKR, a leading global investment firm, in the company.

Shriram General Insurance and KKR have signed an agreement for the deal, subject to necessary regulatory approvals.

According to industry sources, SGI was valued at ₹18,000 crore and KKR is acquiring the stake of Shriram Capital, which holds about 77 per cent in SGI. The

money that is going to the holding company will primarily be used for consolidation of the Shriram Capital's holdings in the group companies.

"KKR being a large PE firm, we look to benefit from their global insurance expertise, and experience taking Indian companies to the next level. Also, the exposure to various international markets will help us in understanding the products and strategic decisions taken by the companies globally," Anil Kumar Aggarwal, MD and CEO of Shriram General Insurance, told *BusinessLine*.

According to Gaurav Trehan, Partner and CEO of KKR India, Shriram General Insurance has been one of the outstanding performers in India's fast-growing general insurance industry. "It continues to build on its record by developing new capabilities, channels, and products to meet the growing needs of Indian consumers," he added.

The 13-year-old SGI said it does not need capital now as it holds



Anil Kumar Aggarwal, MD and CEO, Shriram General Insurance

an impressive solvency margin ratio in excess of 4 as against the industry prescribed ratio of 15.

Growth plans

Outlining SGI's growth plans, Aggarwal said the company will strengthen its digital capabilities via the 'Shriram One' app and ramp up the workforce to strengthen the untapped customer base in small towns and rural markets.

"We will be recruiting around 5,000 people for our general insurance business. Now, we have around 3,000 employees and hope to increase the headcount to 5,000 in the next 24 months.

We will increase the strength to 10,000 in about 5 years. "The idea is to expand to C and D category towns where the competition is less," he said.

Shriram General has approximately 43 lakh policies currently in action. In FY22, Shriram General Insurance's gross direct premium income (GDI) fell 18 per cent to ₹1,753 crore when compared with ₹2,139 crore in FY21. Of the 25 general insurers (excluding standalone health insurance and specialised companies), only Shriram General, National Insurance and United India reported a decline in GDI for FY22, while others reported positive growth.

"We don't want to chase the topline at all. We would like to drive profitable premiums. Profits only can ensure that the customers' claims are paid within time when the claims are payable. If you don't have the premium available at your disposal, where will the money be available to pay the claims?" said Aggarwal.

85. Recently In April Global investment firm KKR announced to acquire _____ stake in Shriram General Insurance for Rs _____.

- A. 3.1 %, Rs 450 Cr
- B. 9.99 %, Rs 1800 Cr

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- C. 9.49 % , Rs 2000 Cr
- D. 8.3 % , Rs 1500 Cr

Global investment firm KKR on Monday announced that it will acquire a 9.99% stake in Shriram General Insurance for Rs 1,800 crore, in a transaction that values the business at approximately Rs 18,000 crore

Shriram General Insurance (SGI) is a joint venture between Shriram Capital and South Africa's Sanlam Limited

Anil Kumar Agarwal, managing director and CEO, Shriram General Insurance,

There have been several deals in the general insurance space in the recent past. Future Enterprises on January 27, 2022, announced that it had agreed to sell a 25% stake in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company (FGILICL) to its joint venture partner Generali for Rs 1,252.96 crore,

86. Consider the Following Statements Regarding Reserve Bank of India (RBI) certain principles, standards and procedures for mid and large non-banking financial companies.

- 1. The upper layer comprises those NBFCs which are specifically identified by RBI as warranting enhanced regulatory requirement.**
- 2. Middle layer consist of all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of asset size; NBFCs with asset size of Rs 1,000 crore and above; and NBFCs undertaking certain type of activities**

Which of the following statement Is/are correct?

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

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday introduced certain principles, standards and procedures for mid and large non-banking financial companies.
- The revised regulatory framework for NBFCs, issued in October 2021, had indicated that such entities in the upper layer (NBFC-UL) and middle layer (NBFC-ML) would be required to have an independent compliance function and a chief compliance officer (CCO).
- The NBFCs have to lay down a board-approved compliance policy clearly spelling out its compliance philosophy, expectations on compliance culture, structure and role of the compliance function, and the role of CCO, among others.
- The CCO shall be appointed for a minimum fixed tenure of not less than 3 years. However, in exceptional cases, the board/board committee may relax the minimum tenure by one year,
- CCO should be a senior executive of the NBFC with a position not below two levels from the CEO.
- Middle layer consist of all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of asset size; NBFCs with asset size of Rs 1,000 crore and above; and NBFCs undertaking certain type of activities.
- The upper layer comprises those NBFCs which are specifically identified by RBI as warranting enhanced regulatory requirement.

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- *The top ten eligible NBFCs in terms of their asset size will always fall in the upper layer,*
- *NBFC-UL and NBFC-ML have to put in place a board approved policy and a compliance function, including the appointment of a CCO, based on the framework latest by April 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023,*

SCALE-BASED REGULATIONS

RBI gives NBFCs in upper, middle layers April 1 deadline for compliance function

The central bank wants chief officer appointed by October 1, 2023

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 11

Non banking finance companies in the Upper Layer and Middle Layer should put in place a board approved policy and compliance function including the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer latest by April 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023, respectively, the Reserve Bank of India has said.

This follows the RBI's guidelines on Scale Based Regulations for NBFCs.

"As part of the overall structure for corporate governance, compliance function serves a critical role. Accordingly, it has been decided to introduce certain principles, standards and procedures for Compliance Function in NBFC-UL and NBFC-ML, keeping in view the principles of proportionality," the

RBI said in a circular on Monday.

Timely implementation

It has also said that the circular should be placed in the immediate next meeting of the board of directors for information and devising an implementation strategy, under the Board's supervision, in a time-bound manner.

"Compliance function shall ensure strict observance of all statutory and regulatory requirements for the NBFC, including standards of market conduct, managing conflict of interest, treating customers fairly and ensuring the suitability of customer service," the RBI said, adding that the board or board committee should ensure that an appropriate compliance policy is put in place



and implemented.

Further, the board or board committee should prescribe the periodicity for review of compliance risk.

The Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) would be the nodal point of contact between the NBFC and the regulators and supervisors and would be a participant in the structured or other regular discussions held with RBI, according to the circular. Further, compliance to RBI inspection reports would be communicated to RBI through the office of the Compliance Function.

NBFCs would be expected to carry out an annual compliance risk assessment to identify and assess major compliance risks faced by them and prepare a plan to manage the risks.

The annual review should cover aspects including compliance failures, if any, during the preceding year and consequential losses and regulatory action, listing of all major regulatory guidelines issued during the preceding year and steps taken to ensure compliance; compliance with fair practices codes and adherence to standards set by self-regulatory bodies and accounting standards; and progress in the rectification of significant deficiencies and implementation of recommendations pointed out in various audits and RBI inspection reports.

'No dual hatting'

"There shall not be any 'dual hatting'. The CCO shall not be

given any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially any role relating to business," the RBI has further said. The CCO should be appointed for at least a three year tenure and should be a senior executive of the NBFC with a position not below two levels from the CEO.

"Selection of the candidate for the post of the CCO shall be made based on a well-defined selection process and recommendations made by a committee constituted by the board or board committee for the purpose," the RBI has said, adding that the board or board committee shall take final decision in the appointment of CCO.

A prior intimation to the Senior Supervisory Manager, Department of Supervision, RBI, shall be provided before appointment, premature transfer, resignation, early retirement or removal of the CCO.

87. Recently The *Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)* imposed a penalty of _____ on BSE and _____ on NSE for supposed lax approach in detecting the misuse of client securities by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd.

- A. Rs 5 Cr , Rs 2 Cr
- B. Rs 3 Cr , Rs 2 Cr
- C. Rs 2 Cr , Rs 3 Cr
- D. Rs 1 Cr , Rs 5 Cr

MISUSE OF CLIENTS' FUNDS BY KARVY

Sebi slaps ₹3-cr fine on BSE, ₹2-cr on NSE for laxity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 13

SEBI HAS PENALISED stock exchanges – BSE and NSE – for ‘laxity’ on their part in detecting misuse of clients’ securities worth ₹2,300 crore by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL). In two separate orders, Sebi has imposed a fine of ₹3 crore on the BSE and ₹2 crore on the NSE. The matter relates to KSBL mis-utilising client securities worth ₹2,300 crore, belonging to more than 95,000 clients, by pledging them from just one demat account. The funds raised against the pledge were used by KSBL for itself and its group entities.

KSBL and its group entities utilised this money for raising ₹851.43 crore from eight banks/NBFCs.

“Without doubt, it was KSBL which misused clients’ securities by unauthorisedly pledging them, and was thus responsible



ACTING TOUGH

■ The matter relates to KSBL misutilising client securities worth ₹2,300 crore, belonging to more than 95,000 clients

■ KSBL and its group entities utilised this money for raising ₹851.43 crore from eight banks/NBFCs

for loss caused by pledging securities which it did not own, including loss to investors as well as loss to banks and NBFCs who loaned funds to KSBL

against securities which did not belong to KSBL,” according to the orders passed on Tuesday.

Sebi noted that KSBL being member of BSE and NSE was under regulatory supervision of the exchanges. There was ‘laxity’ on the part of exchanges, which resulted in delayed detection of the misconduct by KSBL and the bourses need to be held accountable for the same.

Accordingly, the regulator has levied fines on the exchanges for the delay in detection of misuse of client securities by KSBL.

The orders come after Sebi, along with NSE and BSE, conducted a joint inspection of KSBL from June 2019. Subsequently, a forensic auditor was appointed by NSE and preliminary report was forwarded by it to Sebi in November 2019, based on which the regulator passed an interim order and then a confirmatory order on the non-compliances.

- *The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday night imposed a penalty of ₹3 crore on BSE and ₹2 crore on NSE for supposed lax approach in detecting the misuse of client securities by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd.*

- *National Stock Exchange of India Limited is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the world’s largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by number of contracts traded based on the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association, Girish Chandra Chaturvedi; (Chairperson); Vikram Limaye; (MD & CEO)*

- *BSE Limited, also known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, is an Indian stock exchange located on Dalal Street in Mumbai. Established in 1875 by cotton merchant Premchand Roychand, a Rajasthani Jain businessman, it is the oldest stock exchange in Asia, and also the tenth oldest in the world Vikramajit Sen; (Chairman); Ashish Chauhan; (MD & CEO)*

88. Recently Cabinet approved Bilateral MoU between _____ and *Manitoba Securities Commission, Canada* or cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations.

- A. SIDBI

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- B. SEBI**
- C. RBI
- D. NABARD

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Securities and Exchange Board of India and Manitoba Securities Commission, Canada.

The MoU, inter alia, seeks a formal basis for cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations, would facilitate mutual assistance, and contribute towards efficient performance of supervisory functions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.

89. Recently _____ was selected as **EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021** and will represent India at **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award** on June 9, 2022.

- A. Cyrus Poonawalla
- B. Falguni Nayar**
- C. Megha Majumdar
- D. Gautam Adani

Cosmetics & beauty products e-commerce Company Nykaa's founder & CEO, Falguni Nayar selected as EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021.

She will represent India at EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 9.

In 2019, she won EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Start-up category. A.M. Naik won the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro.

90. Recently _____ has partnered with **Sequoia India** to promote small and medium businesses in India.

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

- **Meta (formerly Facebook) has partnered with Sequoia India** to promote small and medium businesses in India.
- **Sequoia India** is taking part in **VC Brand Incubator Initiative** of Meta for the second time.
- **VC Brand Incubator Initiative** was launched by Meta in 2019 to promote small and medium businesses in India.

EY AWARDS

Nykaa CEO Falguni Nayar is EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021

Falguni Nayar, founder & CEO, Nykaa, was on Tuesday named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 and will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 9, 2022.

AM Naik, group chairman, Larsen & Toubro, was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards were also announced for nine other categories. The winners were selected by a nine-member independent jury panel led by KV Kamath, former chairman, ICICI Bank.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

■ EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021
Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO, FSN E-commerce (Nykaa)

■ Lifetime achievement
AM Naik, group chairman, Larsen & Toubro



financial.eb.in

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- *The initiative supports the growth of small and medium businesses in India by partnering with venture capital funds.*
- *Sequoia India is a venture capital firm. Meta has partnered with 15 VC funds over three years.*

91. Recently _____ *won the gold and silver awards in social responsibility and digital inclusion categories respectively at the 80th SKOCH Summit.*

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

National Mineral Development Corporation wins two Awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022.

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) won one gold and one silver award at the 80th SKOCH Summit. SKOCH Summit has been conducted under the theme 'State of BFSI & psus'.

In the social responsibility category, NMDC has won gold for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in the Dantewada District. In the digital inclusion category, NMDC has won silver for Project 'Kalpataru' for ERP implementation.

National Mineral Development Corporation has been also awarded the '3 SKOCH – Order of Merit Awards' for Project Kalpataru and Project Safety First.

NMDC is the largest Iron Ore producer in India. It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel. It is headquartered in Hyderabad. National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC): It is the largest Iron Ore producer in India. It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.

92. Recently *NPCI has asked banks, PSPS and TPAPS to enable international acceptance using UPI or UPI Global by*

- _____.
- A. July 2022
 - B. March 2023
 - C. **September 2022**
 - D. January 2023

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NPCI has asked banks, PSPS and TPAPS to enable international acceptance using UPI or UPI Global by September 30, 2022.

Many banks, payment service providers (PSPS), and third party application providers (TPAPS) did not meet the earlier deadline of December 31, 2021.

NPCI had earlier mandated International Merchants payments through UPI. UPI Global is live in Singapore and Bhutan. Government is trying to enable its acceptance in Nepal and the UAE. On 13 April 2022, NPCI also allowed Whatsapp to expand its UPI service to 100 million users. It has approved an additional 60 million users on UPI for Whatsapp.

NPCI had also asked banks, PSPS and TPAPS to implement an online dispute resolution system by September 2022.

In FY22, UPI transactions values reached beyond the \$1 trillion mark. They accounted for a 60% share in India's retail payment volumes.

93. Recently “IFSCA Expert Committee on Longevity Finance recommends setting up of Longevity Hub at GIFT-IFSC”. The committee was co-chaired by _____ along with Mr. Gopalan Srinivasan, Ex-CMD, New India Assurance Co. Ltd.

- A. Kaku Nakhate**
- B. GR Chintala**
- C. Rajesh Bansal**
- D. Inheti Srinivas**

International Finance Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) constituted Expert Committee on Longevity Finance, co-chaired by Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Country Head (India), Bank of America and Mr. Gopalan Srinivasan, Ex-CMD, New India Assurance Co. Ltd. Submitted its final report to Chairperson, IFSCA on 12th April 2022.

The committee examined emerging trends in Longevity Economy globally and observed that people over 60 years are still very much a highly productive demographic group in terms of purchasing power and make up the wealthiest part of financial system with a global spending power of \$15 trillion.

Highlighting the critical role of financial services sector for the growth of Longevity industry, the Committee recommended the setting up of first Global Longevity Hub (GLH) in GIFT-IFSC and suggested that the hub should focus on developing the longevity economy by offering various longevity finance solutions in coordination with leading corporate and financial institutions such as Bank

94. Consider the following statements regarding ‘South Asia Economic Focus Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward’ report Published By World Bank.

- 1. According to this report, the South Asia region will grow at 6.6 percent in 2022 and by 6.3 percent in 2023.**
- 2. The World Bank has lowered its forecast of India's GDP growth for FY 23 from 8.7% to 8%.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**

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

World Bank has recently released its 'South Asia Economic Focus Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward' report. According to this report, the South Asia region will grow at 6.6 percent in 2022 and by 6.3 percent in 2023. The World Bank has lowered its forecast of India's GDP growth for FY 23 from 8.7% to 8%. Due to the labour market's incomplete recovery and inflationary pressures, household consumption in India is restricted. The Green tax will be a new source of government revenue in the South Asian region. The current account deficit will widen due to the merchandise trade deficit increase and the rise of commodity prices. Industrial production in Bangladesh and Pakistan is above pre-pandemic levels and it has increased by more than the world average.

World Bank slashes India's FY23 growth forecast to 8% from 8.7%

REUTERS
New Delhi, April 13

THE WORLD BANK cut its economic growth forecast for India on Wednesday, citing worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks caused by the Ukraine crisis.

The international lender lowered its growth estimate for India, the region's largest economy, to 8% from 8.7% for the current fiscal year to March 2023.

In India, household consumption will be constrained by the incomplete recovery of the labour market from the

pandemic and inflationary pressures, the bank said.

"High oil and food prices caused by the war in Ukraine will have a strong negative impact on peoples' real incomes," Hartwig Schafer, World Bank Vice President for South Asia, said in a statement.

The World Bank raised its growth forecast for Pakistan, the region's second-largest economy, for the current year ending in June, to 4.3% from 3.4% and kept next year's growth outlook unchanged at 4%.

The region's dependence on energy imports meant high crude prices forced its

economies to pivot their monetary policies to focus on inflation rather than reviving economic growth after nearly two years of pandemic restrictions.

The World Bank slashed this year's growth forecast for Maldives to 7.6% from 11%, citing its large imports of fossil fuels and a slump in tourism arrivals from Russia and Ukraine.

It raised crisis-hit Sri Lanka's 2022 growth forecast to 2.4% from 2.1% but warned the island's outlook was highly uncertain due to fiscal and external imbalances.

95. Recently World Trade Organization slashed its forecast for global trade from 4.7% to 3% for FY 2022. Where is the Head-quarter of the World Trade Organization?

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

- World Trade Organization slashed its forecast for global trade from 4.7% to 3% for FY 2022.
- For FY 2023, global trade growth is expected to remain at 3.4%. World GDP at market exchange rates is expected to grow by 3.2% in 2023.
- World Trade Organization has lowered its forecast due to the Russia-Ukraine war and it warned that the global economy will be divided into rival blocks.
- According to the World Trade Organization's report, imports and GDP will decline in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region.

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan comes under the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region.
- The World Trade Organization is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade between nations.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala director-general of the World Trade Organization.

96. Recently in April _____ and Microsoft have entered a strategic cloud partnership to accelerate the firm's digital transformation and driving innovation in the oil and gas industry.

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

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Microsoft have entered a strategic cloud partnership aimed at accelerating the firm's digital transformation and driving innovation in the oil and gas industry.

The collaboration seeks to unlock the opportunities that Microsoft's cloud provides to address the unique challenges of the oil and gas sector, enabling BPCL to accelerate the modernization of its tech architecture

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Founded: 1952, Arun Kumar Singh – Chairman

97. Recently in April which company got the deal from UK Financial Ombudsman Service to drive digital transformation?

- A. Wipro
- B. Infosys
- C. TCS
- D. Accenture

BPCL announces cloud tie-up with Microsoft

BHARAT PETROLEUM (BPCL) and Microsoft have entered a strategic cloud partnership aimed at accelerating the firm's digital transformation and driving innovation in the oil and gas industry. According to a joint statement, the collaboration seeks to unlock the opportunities that Microsoft's cloud provides to address the unique challenges of the oil and gas sector, enabling BPCL to accelerate the modernisation of its tech architecture.

TCS gets contract from UK Financial Ombudsman Service

IT SERVICES company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday said it has been chosen as a strategic partner by UK's Financial Ombudsman Service to accelerate digital transformation. TCS will help futureproof the Ombudsman's technology capabilities with a new digital portal that would improve the experience for complainants and respondents, the company said in a release. TCS did not divulge the size of the contract.

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Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been chosen as a strategic partner by UK's Financial Ombudsman Service to accelerate digital transformation.

“The Ombudsman has partnered with TCS to enhance and future-proof its digital services capabilities, to help achieve its goal of preventing complaints and unfairness, and for better serving and supporting its customers TCS will help future-proof the Ombudsman's technology capabilities with a new digital portal that would improve the experience for complainants and respondents.

Tata Consultancy Services is an Indian multinational information technology services and consulting company headquartered in Mumbai. CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan

98. Consider the following statements regarding The Securities and Exchange Board of India amendments to regulations governing collective investment schemes (CIS).

1. The SEBI approved amendments to regulations governing collective investment schemes (CIS) to strengthen the framework and bring them on a par with mutual fund rules to “remove regulatory arbitrage” between the pooled investment vehicle .
2. To be eligible for registration of a collective investment management company (CIMC), the Shareholders are not allowed to hold more than 10% shares, directly or indirectly, in a CIMC.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday approved amendments to regulations governing collective investment schemes (CIS) to strengthen the framework and bring them on a par with mutual fund rules to “remove regulatory arbitrage” between the pooled investment vehicles.

CIS allow a group of people to pool money into an asset. The returns are divided on the basis of the proportion of investments. It is a pooled investment vehicle for closed-end funds and the units of the schemes must be listed on the exchange.

To be eligible for registration of a collective investment management company (CIMC), the markets regulator said. Shareholders are not allowed to hold more than 10% shares, directly or indirectly, in a CIMC.

99. Recently In April _____ purchased the 75% stake held jointly by Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in India International Bank Malaysia.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Union Bank of India
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Axis Bank

Union Bank of India (UBI) will buy out the 75% stake held jointly by Bank of Baroda (bob) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in India International Bank Malaysia, making it a 100% UBI unit

"IOB did not want to continue in the venture because of its capital issues as it was under the RBI's prompt corrective action framework

So it was a choice between bob and Union. After discussions, bob decided that it was best for Union Bank to take full control of the bank,

UBI will have to spend ₹180 crore to buy out the stake of its fellow shareholders at present book value. To be sure, the bank's loan book is less than ₹1,000 crore which is not even half a per cent of UBI's ₹6.69 lakh crore loans

Union Bank to Buy Out Stakes of BoB, IOB in Malaysian Entity

Joel.Rebello@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Union Bank of India (UBI) will buy out the 75% stake held jointly by Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in India International Bank Malaysia, making it a 100% UBI unit, two people directly aware of the development said. "IOB did not want to continue in the venture because of its capital issues as it was under the RBI's prompt corrective action framework. So it was a choice between BoB and Union. After discussions, BoB decided that it was

best for Union Bank to take full control of the bank," said one of the persons cited above.

The proposal is awaiting formal approval from the central bank, which has expressed its in-principle willingness. It will also require the government's nod including a go-ahead from the external affairs ministry since the bank is of strategic importance. These approvals are likely to come before the end of June, these people said.

India International Bank was incorporated in Malaysia in August 2011 and commenced operations in

July 2012. The erstwhile Andhra Bank was the initial promoter of the bank with a 25% stake, along with BoB and IOB. After Andhra Bank's merger into UBI in April 2020, the stake was transferred to UBI.



"Each of the three banks with shareholding had people posted in the bank which was not ideal for management. As a result, the bank has gone nowhere in the last 10 years. It is hoped that giving full control to one lender will help in making a clear strategy and be benefi-

cial for the bank," said a second person cited above.

UBI will have to spend ₹180 crore to buy out the stake of its fellow shareholders at present book value. To be sure, the bank's loan book is less than ₹1,000 crore which is not even half a per cent of UBI's ₹6.69 lakh crore loan book.

At the end of the quarter ended March 2021, the latest numbers available on its website, India International Bank slipped to a loss of 70,000 ringgit (about ₹12.6 lakh) from a profit of 789,000 ringgit (₹1.42 crore) mainly as net income fell 40% year-on-year.

101. Recently In April ADB Ventures, a platform of Asian Development Bank has provided seed funding to _____ for expanding micro pension coverage in India.

- A. Upbox
- B. Pinbox
- C. Cryptox
- D. Helina

- **ADB Ventures, a platform of Asian Development Bank, has provided seed funding to Pinbox for expanding micro pension coverage in India.**
- **Pinbox works to address friction and accessibility challenges in delivering micro pension and insurance solutions to underserved informal sector workers, ADB Ventures**

ADB Ventures funds pension-tech start-up pinBox to use money for expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) venture capital funding arm has provided seed funding, along with two other investors, for an Indian pension tech start-up striving to provide retirement solutions for millions of informal workers in India and across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

ADB Ventures, which invests in early-stage technology companies globally that address urgent development challenges in emerging Asia and the Pacific, has committed to invest in the New Delhi-based firm pinBox that has developed a micro-pension platform.

In India, pinBox is working with players such as

 pinBox plans to reach informal workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America

HDFC Pension and SBI AMC to deliver pension schemes, including access to the National Pension System, and insurance products to non-salaried workers.

"Over 1.7 billion self-employed women and youth across Asia, Africa and Latin America are not eligible for formal pension benefits. Even if half of them start saving a dollar a day for retirement, we could achieve nearly \$10 trillion in new long-term household savings in a decade," said pinBox co-founder Parul Seth Khanna.

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- In 2020, Pinbox joined hands with Whatsapp to integrate its platform with the popular app to make saving for old age as easy and simple as sending a message. The Pinbox-Whatsapp platform is already live in India and Kenya*

102. Recently In April _____ announced to approve the buying of a 12.19 percent stake in the New Delhi-based fintech Paysprint at an undisclosed amount.

- A. Airtel Payment Bank
- B. Fino Payment Bank**
- C. Jana Small Finance Bank
- D. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Recently Fino Payments Bank in company's media release, Stated that board has approved buying a 12.19 per cent stake in the New Delhi-based fintech player for an undisclosed amount.

Paysprint offers APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) in banking, payments, travel, lending, insurance and investments, as per a statement.

The strategic investment is a first for Fino Payments Bank after its public listing.

Fino Payments Bank Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Founded: 4 April 2017

103. Consider The Following Statements Regarding National Monetisation Pipeline.

1. The government garnered ₹96,000 crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline in FY22, surpassing the target of ₹88,000 crore.
2. The government has set a target of ₹6 lakh crore through asset monetisation in FY22-25 with FY23 target pegged at ₹1.67 lakh crore.

Which of the Following Statement is/are Correct?

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

Fino Payments Bank to buy 12.19% stake in Paysprint

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 12

The board of Fino Payments Bank has approved a minority strategic investment in fintech Paysprint.

"The bank will be investing up to 12.19 per cent in the fintech by way of subscription to its shares," it said in a statement on Tuesday.

This is in continuation to several in-house initiatives by the bank that are already underway towards building a digital ecosystem for its customers as part of its Fino 2.0 journey, it further said.

New Delhi-based Paysprint offers next generation APIs in the areas of banking, payments, travel, lending, insurance, investment and more. It is helping payments service providers to offer seamless services to customers by providing Unified Open API Platform through fast and wholesome integration and a plug and play model.

"As we continue our journey as a payments bank today, we are now partnering with

new-age technology companies that will transform the digital banking space in the days to come," said Rishi Gupta, Managing Director and CEO, Fino Payments Bank.

The partnership with Paysprint is expected to synergise on a host of financial and non-financial use cases for customers through API plug-ins to the bank's digital platforms.

BusinessLine
CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE ASHOK Leyland Ltd. Regd. Office: 1, Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600032 NOTICE is hereby given that certificate for under mentioned securities of Company has been lost. Due notice thereof has been given to Company & we have applied to Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates. Any person who has a claim for said securities should lodge such claim with Company at its Reg Office, within 15 days from this date else Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate, without further intimation. Name of Holders: S R Srividhya & S V Rangan; Kind of Securities & face value: Equity & Re 1; No. of Securities: 2000; Cert No.: 44309; Dist No(s): 2654880175 - 2654882174

The government garnered ₹96,000 crore under the National Monetization Pipeline in FY22, surpassing the target of ₹88,000 crore. The programme witnessed participation of some marquee investors including the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

"During FY22, transactions aggregating to about ₹96,000 crore of accrual or investments by central and state government entities have been completed under the core asset monetization programme,"

The National Monetization Pipeline was launched in August 2021.

The roads and highways sector monetized assets worth ₹23,000 crore, power sector garnered ₹9,500 crore, coal mining generated ₹40,000 crore and mining of minerals fetched ₹18,700 crore,

The government has set a target of ₹6 lakh crore through asset monetization in FY22-25 with FY23 target pegged at ₹1.67 lakh crore.

Govt says exceeded FY22 asset monetisation target

₹96,000 crore realised; targets for depts that lagged to be rolled over

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 12 April

The Centre has completed asset monetisation worth ₹96,000 crore during FY22, surpassing the target of ₹88,000 crore.

For FY23, it has set itself a goal of ₹1.62 trillion, and already has a pipeline of assets worth ₹1.6 trillion under advanced stages of implementation, an official said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday reviewed the progress made by several ministries and nudged departments to achieve the targets set for them, the official added.

The pipeline for assets to be monetised this year is being prepared by the NITI Aayog, in consultation with ministries.

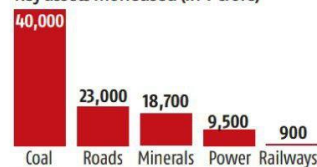
Last fiscal year, it was led by the roads, power, coal and mining ministries on the back of reforms and innovative models of the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) and Toll Operate Transfer (ToT).

The Ministry of Roads, Transport



STEPPING ON THE GAS

Key assets monetised (in ₹ crore)



Source: Govt official

and Highways has monetised assets worth ₹23,000 crore, which included a 390-km stretch through InvIT and three ToT bundles. Turn to Page 6 ▶

'EXPECT REVIVAL IN PVT-SECTOR CAPEX IN H2FY23'

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Tuesday that the volatility in global crude oil prices due to the war in Europe and the US Federal Reserve's expected tapering and increase in interest rates are the two strong headwinds the Indian economy faces. ▶



ICICI Bank, GIFT SEZ join hands to woo investors

ICICI BANK AND GIFT City Gujarat have come together to attract global investors as well as capital market firms to set up their operations in GIFT SEZ. ICICI Bank and GIFT SEZ (special economic zone) have signed an MoU to promote GIFT SEZ to Indian as well as global businesses, including IT/ITeS (IT-enabled services) and financial services, a release said on Wednesday.

104. Recently _____ and GIFT SEZ (special economic zone) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote GIFT SEZ to Indian as well as global businesses including IT/ITES (IT enabled services) and financial services.

- Axis Bank
- Federal Bank
- ICICI Bank
- HDFC Bank

- ICICI Bank and GIFT City Gujarat have come together to attract global investors as well as capital market firms to set up their operations in GIFT SEZ.
- ICICI Bank and GIFT SEZ (special economic zone) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote GIFT SEZ to Indian as well as global businesses including IT/ITES (IT enabled services) and financial services

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- *GIFT SEZ is the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) which is being developed as a global financial services hub. ICICI Bank has been a prominent player in GIFT SEZ with its banking business since 2016.*
- *Another objective of the MoU is to promote GIFT SEZ as the destination of choice for offering competitive regime for setting up capital markets business among industry stakeholders such as alternate investment fund (AIF), portfolio management services (PMS)*
- *ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara.*

105. Recently _____ bank announced its partnership with Social Alpha for tech start-ups, to address the global issue of food waste through sustainable solutions.

- A. Axis Bank
- B. DBS Bank**
- C. CSB Bank
- D. State Bank of India

DBS Bank India today announced its partnership with Social Alpha, a popular innovation curation & venture development platform for tech start-ups, to address the global issue of food waste through sustainable solutions.

The partnership furthers DBS' commitment to supporting entrepreneurial efforts toward addressing productivity and supply chain efficiency issues, leading to food waste and value erosion in the food and Agri sector.

Tectonic Innovations towards Zero Food Waste, presented by DBS and powered by Social Alpha, is a two-year program that identifies innovative and scalable solutions by entrepreneurs to help reduce quantitative and qualitative food loss.

106. Consider the following statement regarding *capital infusion in 3 state-run insurance companies* to enable subscription of capital.

1. *Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL) - ₹1,200 crore*
2. *National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NICTL) - ₹3,700 crore*
3. *United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UICL) - ₹ 100 crore*

Which of the following above is/are correct?

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

- The Centre has raised the authorised capital of three public sector insurance companies - Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NICTL) and United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UICL) - to enable subscription of capital.
- "In the instant case, the government infused ₹5,000 crore, i.e. ₹3,700 crore in NICTL, ₹1,200 crore in OICL and Rs 100 crore in UICL, which will be used to subscribe to the share capital of the respective public sector general insurance companies and issuance of shares to the Centre against the subscription
- A notification issued by the finance ministry on April 13 said that for NICTL the authorised capital will now be ₹15,000 crore, for OICL it will be ₹7,500 crore and for UICL, authorised capital has been raised to ₹7,500 crore from ₹5,000 crore.

3 PSU general insurers to get capital infusion of ₹5,000 crore

National Insurance gets ₹3,700 crore, Oriental ₹1,200 crore, United ₹100 crore

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, April 14

The government has enhanced authorised share capital of three public sector general insurance companies - National Insurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company. This will facilitate capital infusion of ₹5,000 crore in these companies.

A notification issued by the Finance Ministry said that for the National Insurance, authorised capital will now be ₹15,000 crore (1,500 crore shares with face value of ₹10 each) as against present ₹7,500 crore (1,500 crore shares with face value of ₹10

each). Similarly, for Oriental Insurance, it will be ₹7,500 crore (750 crore shares with face value of ₹10 each) from ₹5,000 crore (500 crore shares with face value of ₹10 each). In case of United India Insurance, authorised capital has been raised to ₹7,500 crore (750 crore shares with face value of ₹10 each) from ₹5,000 crore (500 crore shares with face value of ₹10 each).

Notification has amended merger schemes of 1973 related with these three insurance companies.

"Authorised share capitals of entities are increased from time to time to enable subscription of capital. In the instant case, government in-

fused ₹5,000 crore, that is, ₹3,700 crore in National Insurance, ₹1,200 crore in Oriental Insurance and ₹100 crore in United Insurance, which will be used to subscribe to the share capital of the respective public sector general insurance companies and issuance of shares to government against the subscription," a senior Finance Ministry responded to a query raised by *BusinessLine*.

Last month, Parliament approved third Supplementary Demands for Grants (SDG) related with FY 2020-21 which has the provision related with recapitalisation of insurance companies amounting ₹5,000 crore. Now, this process will be completed. All the three general insurance companies, mentioned above are in loss.



Last month, Parliament approved third Supplementary Demands for Grants related to FY21 GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

According to annual report, National Insurance incurred a net loss after tax of ₹561.85 crore in 2020-21 as against a net loss of ₹4,108.34 crore in the previous year. The government infused capital of ₹3,175 crore in FY21 to help the company in meeting the statutory solvency margin requirement and for supporting the business growth.

Oriental Insurance ended up with a loss after tax of

₹1,525.44 crore in the FY 2020-21 as compared to a loss of ₹1,524.10 crore in 2019-20. It received capital of ₹3,170 crore during FY 22. For United Insurance, loss dropped to ₹985 crore in FY21 from ₹1,485 crore in FY 20. It received capital infusion of ₹3,605 crore during FY 21.

Merger of companies

In her Budget speech of FY 2018-19, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that three public sector general insurance companies will be merged into a single insurance entity and will be subsequently listed.

However, earlier this year, the Finance Ministry told Parliament in a written reply that from time to time, associations of employees of public sector general insurance companies submit their demands of their employees and suggestions for strengthening them. The suggestions received have included suggestions in respect of merger of these companies.

"Against the above background and upon further consideration of the matter, government subsequently decided to infuse capital, focus on their growth and not to proceed with merger," it said.

107. Recently Ultra-tech Cement announced to acquire _____ stake in the UAE-based RAK Cement Co for White Cement and Construction Materials PSC (RAKWCT) amounting to _____.

- A. 35 % , Rs 3500 Cr
- B. 29.39 % , Rs 839 Cr
- C. 26.51 % , Rs 819 Cr
- D. 71.56 % , Rs 450 Cr

- The country's leading cement maker Ultra-tech Cement on Friday announced investing USD 101.10 million (around Rs 839.52 crore) for a 29.39 percent equity stake in the UAE-based

UltraTech acquires 29.4% in UAE cement firm for ₹839 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 15 April

The country's leading cement maker UltraTech Cement on Friday announced investing \$101.10 million (₹839.52 crore approximately) for a 29.39 per cent equity stake in the UAE-based RAK Cement Co for White Cement and Construction Materials PSC (RAKWCT).

This is a 'strategic investment' for the company, Aditya Birla Group firm said in a regulatory update.

"UltraTech Cement Middle East Investments Ltd (UCMEIL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company in the UAE, has invested



in 29.39 per cent equity share capital of RAKWCT, a company listed on the Abu Dhabi and Kuwait stock exchanges," the company said.

The shares have been acquired at a cost of USD 101.10 million, it

said. This together with the existing shareholding, will result in UCMEIL holding 29.79 per cent of RAKWCT's equity share capital.

RAKWCT was incorporated in September 1980 and had a turnover of ₹482.5 crore in CY21, it added.

UltraTech has a consolidated capacity of 11995 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of grey cement. It has 22 integrated manufacturing units, 27 grinding units, one clinkerisation unit and eight bulk packaging terminals.

UltraTech is the largest manufacturer of grey cement and ready-mix concrete (RMC) and one of the largest manufacturers of white cement in India.

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RAK Cement Co for White Cement and Construction Materials PSC (RAKWCT).

- **Ultra-tech is the largest manufacturer of grey cement and ready-mix concrete (RMC) and one of the largest manufacturers of white cement in India. It is the third-largest cement producer in the world, excluding China**

108. Consider the Following statement regarding RBI Plastic Banknote Plan, which now has been shelved off.

- 1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shelved its project to implement plastic banknotes due to concerns about the ability of the currency notes to withstand Indian climatic conditions.**
- 2. As Per RBI's 2015-16 annual report, a billion pieces of banknotes in denomination of ₹10 were to be printed on all available plastic (polymer) substrates and issued to the public in five cities having different climatic zones – Kochi, Mysore, Shimla, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar, on a trial basis.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- Only 1**
- Only 2**
- Both 1 & 2**
- None Of the above**

RBI shelves plastic banknote plan

Obviated by surge in digital payments and central bank's plans to launch a Digital Currency

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 15

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seems to have shelved its plastic banknote project with the surge in digital payments and the central bank's plans to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in FY23. It is also concerned about the ability of these notes to withstand India's high temperatures.

Per RBI's 2015-16 annual report, a billion pieces of banknotes in denomination of ₹10 were to be printed on all available plastic (polymer) substrates and issued to the public in five cities in different climatic zones – Kochi, Mysuru, Shimla, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar – on a trial basis.

The Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Ltd (BRBN-MPL) and the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL) have taken up this project.

But not much headway was made for reasons such as the possibility of plastic banknotes reacting to high temperatures and catching fire and UPI-based transactions gaining traction.

While polymer banknotes have a long life, weigh less and are waterproof vis-a-vis paper notes, bankers emphasise that once the polymer banknotes react to high temperatures, it may be difficult to get them exchanged.

However, soiled and mutilated paper currency notes can



According to RBI data, the volume of UPI-based transactions soared 100.50 per cent year-on-year to 46,171.56 lakh in January

be easily exchanged at bank and RBI counters.

UPI-based transactions

According to RBI data, the volume of UPI-based transactions soared 100.50 per cent year-on-year (yoy) to 46,171.56 lakh in January (23,027.28 lakh in January 2021), with the value of transactions jumping about 93 per cent to ₹8,31,993 crore in January (₹4,31,182 crore in January 2021).

Another factor discouraging the plastic banknote idea is the RBI's digital currency plan.

In a July 2021 speech, RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar had observed that "A CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency. Only the form is different... Introduction of the CBDC has the potential to provide benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, higher seigniorage due to lower transaction costs, reduced settlement risk."

Sankar noted that the introduction of the CBDC will lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted,

regulated and legal tender-based payments option. "There are associated risks, no doubt, but they need to be evaluated against the potential benefits. It will be the RBI's endeavour, as we move forward in the direction of India's CBDC, to take the necessary steps which would reiterate the leadership position of India in payment systems," he said.

Mixed reactions

A June 2016 article by Ping Wang, Communications Officer, IMF, captured ordinary users' mixed reactions to the polymer bills' 'plasticky' feel. According to the article, Zoë Martin, a tutor in Toronto, Canada, opined, "They stick to each other because of static cling, they don't fold like paper bills (notes) when they're new, and they're slippery so they can slide out of your pocket."

But Michael Brienza, a Toronto day-care teacher, said, "I prefer them; they're much cleaner. The paper bills got all grimy."

Peter Cecil Sinnott, a data science graduate of Montreal's McGill University, said, "The fact that they're waterproof means getting them wet isn't going to cost you".

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seems to have shelved its project to implement plastic banknotes due to concerns about the ability of the currency notes to withstand Indian climatic conditions, characterized by high temperatures.

Moreover, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based transactions growing by leaps and bounds and the planned launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in FY23, the need for introducing plastic banknotes has diminished.

Per RBI's 2015-16 annual report, a billion pieces of banknotes in denomination of ₹10 were to be printed on all available plastic (polymer) substrates and issued to the public in five cities having different climatic zones — Kochi, Mysore, Shimla, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar, on a trial basis.

The Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) and the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) have taken up this project.

But not much headway could be made in this regard due to reasons such as the possibility of plastic bank notes reacting to high temperatures and catching fire and UPI-based transactions gaining traction.

While polymer banknotes have a long life, weigh less and are waterproof vis-a-vis paper bank notes, Bankers emphasize that once the former react to high temperatures, it may be difficult to get them exchanged.

109. Recently which of the following companies **partnered with Extreme IX to reduce latency during transactions will enable a faster digital payments experience?**

- A. Paytm
- B. PhonePe**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Bank of Baroda

.Extreme IX and PhonePe have announced a partnership that will enable a faster digital payments experience for over 370 million PhonePe users.

PhonePe has become the first digital payments platform to participate in an Internet Exchange in India.

This industry first partnership will help decrease latency for PhonePe users irrespective of their location or ISP in India.

The partnership will allow PhonePe customers across India to swiftly administer their day-to-day financial transactions

110. Consider the following statement regarding **Government Allowing 20% FDI in LIC.**

1. The government has amended **rules of the RBI ACT 1934, paving the way for up to 20 percent foreign direct investment in the insurance behemoth LIC.**
2. These rules are to be **called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022.**

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3. RBI has approved the draft prospectus for sale of a 5 percent stake by the government for an estimated ₹63,000 crore.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The government has amended rules of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), paving the way for up to 20 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance behemoth LIC.

The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). LIC in February had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) before the markets regulator Sebi for the IPO.

FEMA notification was required to operationalized the provisions DPIIT issued through a press note, including FDI policy changes

"These rules may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022,"

"Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time,

Sebi has approved the draft prospectus for sale of a 5 per cent stake by the government for an estimated ₹63,000 crore.

The LIC public issue is expected to be the biggest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market.

So far, the amount mobilized from IPO of Paytm in 2021 was the largest ever at ₹18,300 crore, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly ₹15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at ₹11,700 crore.

111. Consider the following statements regarding Indian renewable energy sector.

1. The Indian renewable energy sector added a total of 14,077 MW of new capacity in FY22.
2. The Centre has fixed target of achieving 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by 2022.
3. The target of 175 GW includes 100 GW from solar power, 60 GW from wind power, 10 GW from biomass power and 5 GW from hydropower.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

For FY22, the renewable power sector added 14,077 MW against 7,356 MW and 8,711 MW in pandemic-hit FY21 and FY20, respectively.

The solar power segment added a total new capacity of 12,761 MW, the highest-ever annual addition by the sector. For FY22, the renewable power sector added 14,077 MW against 7,356 MW and 8,711 MW in pandemic-hit FY21 and FY20, respectively. The solar power segment added a total new capacity of 12,761 MW, the highest-ever annual addition by the sector. In solar power capacity addition, the ground-mounted sector accounted for 10,148 MW in FY22, rooftop solar added 2,206 MW and the off-grid segment brought in 407 MW during the year, according to data provided by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable.

The Centre had set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. While a solar power capacity target has been set at 100 GW, wind power's capacity is expected to reach 60 GW. Capacities of bio-mass and small hydro power segments are expected at 10 GW and 5 GW, respectively.

The Centre had set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. While a solar power capacity target has been set at 100 GW, wind power's capacity is expected to reach 60 GW.

FY22 renewables capacity addition the highest-ever

Of the total 14,077 MW of new capacity in FY22, the solar sector added 12,761 MW

able Energy. The previous highest annual capacity additions were 11,754 MW and 11,320 MW achieved in FY18 and FY17, respectively.

RE target

The Centre had set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. While a solar power capacity target has been set at 100 GW, wind power's capacity is expected to reach 60 GW. Capacities of biomass and small hydro power segments are expected at 10 GW and 5 GW, respectively.

As of March 31, 2022, the total grid-connected capacity of renewables stood at 110 GW. Of this, the solar power segment accounted for 54 GW (including 46 GW of ground-mounted capacity), followed by wind power at 40 GW and biopower at 11 GW. The small hydro segment accounted for 4.8 GW.

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy RK Singh recently said that 44.27 GW of solar power projects were un-



As of March 31, 2022, the total grid-connected capacity of renewables stood at 110 GW

der implementation, while 13.86 GW of projects were under the tendering process.

Utility segment on track

A report by JMK Research points out that the utility-scale segment is on track to achieve nearly 97 per cent of its 60 GW target. On the other hand, rooftop solar has severely underperformed over the years. By December 2022, the segment is expected to fall short of its target by 25GW.

"It is imperative to have a greater focus on, and more concerted efforts towards, ex-

panding rooftop solar," the report said.

RE challenges

Meanwhile, the government has raised the capacity target to be achieved by 2030 to 450 GW.

"Within this, the target for solar is 300 GW. Given the challenge of integrating variable RE into the grid, most of the RE capacity installed in the latter half of this decade is likely to be based on wind-solar hybrid (WSH), RE-plus storage and round-the-clock RE projects rather than plain vanilla solar/wind projects.

"The rooftop solar market is expected to develop at a higher growth rate in the future than that hitherto achieved," said the report.

On the other hand, lack of land and grid availability will become more challenging for the utility-scale market, disincentivising annual capacity addition. This would act as the primary headwind against overall solar sector growth, it stated.

GBALACHANDAR

Chennai, April 15

New capacity addition by the renewable energy sector hit a new peak in FY22, driven by the solar sector that accounted for 91 per cent of the new capacity.

For FY22, the renewable power sector added 14,077 MW against 7,356 MW and 8,711 MW in pandemic-hit FY21 and FY20, respectively. The solar power segment added a total new capacity of 12,761 MW, the highest-ever annual addition by the sector.

In solar power capacity addition, the ground-mounted sector accounted for 10,148 MW in FY22, rooftop solar added 2,206 MW and the off-grid segment brought in 407 MW during the year, according to data provided by the Union Ministry of New and Renew-

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112. Consider the following statements regarding **Company Law Committee**.

1. **Company Law Committee (CLC) recommended to the government to borrow provisions from UK Companies Act 2006 for the purpose of Indian legislation so that auditors can be made accountable for their resignations.**
2. **CLC was formed in September 2019 to give recommendations on the effective implementation of the Companies Act, 2013, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and the Rules.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- CLC has recommended review of provisions related to resignations of auditors. It recommended to the government to borrow provisions from UK Companies Act 2006 for the purpose of Indian legislation so that auditors can be made accountable for their resignations.
- The report suggests putting the auditor under explicit obligation for making detailed disclosures before resignation.
- As per the committee, the auditor should specifically mention whether the reason for her resignation is non-cooperation from the Audited Company, fraud or severe non-compliance, or diversion of funds.
- If this is not disclosed in the resignation letter and such information is known after resignation, action may be taken against resigning auditor.
- Further, CLC has recommended Companies Act (Section 144) should be amended. It has made a total of 24 recommendations in the report.
- Company Law Committee (CLC):

Company Law Committee recommends sweeping changes to auditor resignation provisions

Asks govt to 'borrow' provisions from UK Companies Act 2006 to make auditors accountable for their resignations

KR SRIVATS
New Delhi, April 14

The Company Law Committee (CLC), whose third report submitted in March 2022 is now public, has called for a review of the provisions concerning the resignation of auditors. It has also recommended that obligations of a resigning auditor, as prescribed in the UK Companies Act 2006, be "borrowed" for Indian legislation purposes.

In its 95-page report, the CLC, chaired by MCA Secretary Rajesh Verma, has particularly noted that there is a need for a resigning auditor to assure the shareholders and other stakeholders that, in her opinion, there is nothing in the company's accounts that need to be brought to their notice, and that her resignation is an independent decision.



Rajesh Verma, MCA Secretary

"The auditor shall be under an explicit obligation to make detailed disclosures before resignation and should specifically mention whether such a resignation is due to the non-cooperation from the auditee company, fraud or severe non-compliance, or diversion of funds. Moreover, if such information comes to light after the resignation of an auditor, but has not been disclosed in the resignation statement, suitable action may be taken against the resigning auditor," the CLC report said.

Non-audit services

The CLC has recommended an

amendment to the Companies Act (Section 144) to enable the Central government to prescribe a differential list of prohibitions on availing non-audit services or total prohibition of the same for such class or classes of companies where public interest is inherent, as may be prescribed.

The Committee was of the opinion that differing classes of companies may be permitted to avail differing non-audit services from their auditors.

Mandate joint audits

The CLC has also suggested that Companies Act 2013 be amended to enable the Central government to mandate joint audits for such class or class of companies as may be prescribed by the govern-

ment. In the case of a joint audit, the provisions concerning the extent of liability of individual auditors should also be prescribed in the Companies Act 2013, the CLC has recommended.

BusinessLine
CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I NEHA Bachhawat W/O Lokesh P. Bhadani R/O of 98 NC Block E, New Alipore shall henceforth be known as Neha Bhadani affidavit Dt. 07/04/22 sworn before 1st Class Magistrate.

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Tender No. CIL/SPV/O&M/8.5MWp/2022-23/01

CIAL Infrastructures Ltd., invites sealed item rate tender for the O & M CONTRACT FOR SOLAR PV INSTALLATIONS AT COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREMISES. Please visit www.cial.aero/ / www.cialinfra.in for further details. The completed bids shall be submitted on or before 03rd May 2022, 3.00 PM.

CIN: U45203KL2012PLC031692 Executive Chairman

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- **CLC was formed in September 2019 to give recommendations on the effective implementation of the Companies Act, 2013, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and the Rules.**
- **Chaired by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Secretary Rajesh Verma, CLC submitted its third report in March 2022.**

113. Consider the following statements regarding RBI Certificate of Registration (CoR) to Finance NBFC under Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022.

- 1. 121 Finance is the first NBFC to convert from an Investment and Credit Company (ICC) to NBFC-Factor.**
- 2. NBFC-Factor is also required to ensure that income derived from factoring business is not less than 50% of its gross income. It must keep a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹5 crore.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

RBI has given Certificate of Registration (CoR) to 121 Finance under Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022.

121 Finance is the first NBFC to convert from an Investment and Credit Company (ICC) to an NBFC-Factor.

A NBFC-Factor is required to ensure that its financial assets in the factoring business account for a minimum of 50% of total assets.

NBFC-Factor is also required to ensure that income derived from factoring business is not less than 50% of its gross income. It must keep a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹5 crore

121 Finance: It is a Digital Factoring company based in Jaipur. Ravi Modani is its founder & CEO.

It is India's first NBFC-Factor after RBI's Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022 released in January 2022.

114. Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) data, debt recovery through insolvency cases.

- 1. As per Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) data, debt recovery through insolvency cases is just 31%.**
- 2. Out of these, only 14% were resolved through asset sale as per resolution plans approved by lenders.**
- 3. Till December 2021, 4946 bankruptcy cases were admitted at various NCLTs (National Company Law Tribunals).**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3**

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

As per Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) data, debt recovery through insolvency cases is just 31%.

Almost half of 3,247 insolvency cases were resolved through liquidation.

Out of these, only 14% were resolved through asset sale as per resolution plans approved by lenders.

The data covers all cases from the year of implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2016) to December 2021. Till December 2021, 4946 bankruptcy cases were admitted at various NCLTs (National Company Law Tribunals). Despite the fact that a case must be closed within 90 days after admission, 73% of cases were concluded after 270 days. Only 11% of cases were closed within the minimum 90-day term. 16% of cases took 90-

115. Recently In April _____ signed a MoU with BHEL and REMC Limited to develop renewable energy projects for Indian Railways.

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

.The MoU is a step toward meeting Indian Railway's target of achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2030.

SJVN currently has 12 solar power projects of 3,065 MW Capacity. These projects are in various stages of development. SJVN is a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

REMC Limited is a joint venture Company of Indian Railways & RITES Limited.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL): BHEL is an Indian public sector company and India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer. Its CEO is Nalin Singhel. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

116. As per the UN report, _____ million people went into poverty in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- A. 55 Million
- B. 77 Million**
- C. 149 Million
- D. 182 Million

- **According to the UN, over 77 million people went into poverty in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.**
- **As per the UN report released recently, rich countries were able to avoid the worst economic impacts of the pandemic.**

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- However, as per the report, poorer countries continue to deal with financial debt.
- As per the report, 20% of countries will not reach pre-2019 levels of GDP per capita by 2023 end.
- As per the UN, rich countries on an average spend 3.5% of their revenue on servicing debt.
- However, less rich nations spend up to 14% of revenue on servicing debt.
- The report has been released on 13 April 2022 and prepared by U.N.'s Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

117. Consider the following statement regarding the **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) tender for DISCOMs with storage facilities.**

1. **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, has issued the tender for setting up 500 MW/1000 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in India.**
2. **A first-of-its-kind tender in the country, it will provide DISCOMs with storage facilities to be used on an “on-demand” basis. The tender has been issued under the Standard Bidding Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power in March 2022.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, has issued the tender for setting up 500 MW/1000 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in India.

A first-of-its-kind tender in the country, it will provide DISCOMs with storage facilities to be used on an “on-demand” basis. The tender has been issued under the Standard Bidding Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power in March 2022.

The total capacity to be set up under the RFs is 1000 MWh (500 MW x 2hrs), which will constitute two projects of 500 MWh (250 MW x 2 hrs) capacity each.

The Projects will be installed in the vicinity of the Fatehgarh - III Grid-Substation of the ISTS network, in the State of Rajasthan.

The Projects will be set up on a “Build-Own-Operate” basis, with the connectivity and necessary permissions being under the scope of the Project Developer.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

118. Recently the **RBI's balance-sheet** increased by Rs 4.7 lakh crore in FY22, registering a growth of _____ over FY21.

- A. 5.9 %
- B. 8.5 %
- C. 8.3 %**
- D. 6.95 %

The RBI's balance-sheet increased by Rs 4.7 lakh crore in FY22, registering a growth of 8.3% over FY21.

The percentage increase appears lower than the trendline growth of 13-14% prior to the pandemic period, but FY22 data isn't strictly comparable as the central bank presented a truncated balance-sheet (adopting an April-March cycle) for nine months in FY21.

As a percentage of GDP, RBI's total assets stood at 26.45%, down from 29% in FY21.

119. Recently **Retail inflation** soared to a _____ month high of _____ in **March** as per data published by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.

- A. 19th, 5.98 %
- B. 17th, 6.95 %**
- C. 16th, 7.12 %
- D. 15th, 8.51 %

- **Retail inflation soared to a 17-month high of 6.95% in March with the prices of most commodities soaring, data published by the National Statistical Office showed**
- **It is the third straight month when the inflation remained above the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of 6%. Retail inflation, measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 6.07% in February and 6.01% in January. The CPI inflation was 5.52% in March 2021.**

Retail inflation climbs to 6.95% on food prices

Roshan Kishore

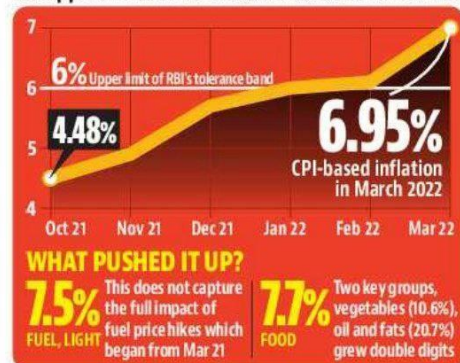
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Two key economic statistics released by the National Statistical Office on April 12 have underlined the low-growth, high-inflation threat for the Indian economy once again: inflation at almost 7% and factory output at under 2%. With inflation likely to be higher in April, the Reserve Bank of India may well have no option but to start increasing interest rates from June.

India's benchmark inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), jumped to 6.95%, the highest in 17 months, in the month of March. This is significantly higher than what analysts expected. A Bloomberg poll of economists projected March CPI at 6.4%. This was the third consecutive month when CPI has stayed above the upper limit of

SOARING TO A 17-MONTH HIGH

Retail inflation jumped to the highest in 17 months, and stayed above the upper limit of RBI's tolerance band for the 3rd month in a row



1.7% growth in IIP, which captures trend in mining, manufacturing, construction, in Feb 2022, a full percentage point lower than a Bloomberg forecast of economists

RBI's tolerance band of 6%.

Meanwhile, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which captures the trend in mining, manufacturing and con-

struction sector activity, posted a muted growth of just 1.7% in February 2022, a full percentage point lower than a Bloomberg

continued on → 15

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Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

120. Recently, *Mashreq NEO* announced a strategic partnership with _____, a leading financial institution in India to enable *Mashreq Neo's* Indian customers open a Non-Resident account in India.

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. **Federal Bank**
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. Axis Bank

- *Mashreq NEO*, a full-service digital bank from Mashreq Bank, announced a strategic partnership with Federal Bank, a leading financial institution in India to enable Mashreq Neo’s Indian customers open a Non-Resident account with Federal Bank in India, instantly via the Neo app.
- The new initiative leverages the Open Banking construct to simplify the customer onboarding journey and deliver real-time account opening experience for customers.
- Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kochi.

ADB, French co LDC pact for \$100 m loan for small farmers

ADB AND FRENCH firm LDC have signed a \$100 million (around ₹760 crore) loan pact to help smallholder farmers in countries, including India and Pakistan, recover from the economic challenges posed by the pandemic and improve their resilience to climate change impacts. The loan will support Louis Dreyfus Company BV's (LDC) operations in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam by financing coffee, cotton, and rice inventories for over 50,000 smallholder farmers across these countries.

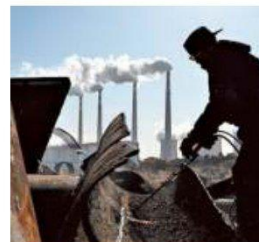
99% of world's population is breathing polluted air: WHO

Study covered 6,000 cities, other settlements in 117 nations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

A full 99% of people on Earth breathe air containing too many pollutants, the World Health Organization said on Monday, blaming poor air quality for millions of deaths each year.

Fresh data from the UN health agency showed that every corner of the globe is dealing with air pollution, although the problem is much worse in poorer countries. "Almost 100% of the global population is still breathing air that exceeds the standards recommended by the World Health Organization," the agency's environment, climate change and health director Maria Neira told reporters. "This is



WHO findings show that air quality is 'falling short basically everywhere'. • AFP

a major public health issue."

In its previous report four years ago, WHO had already found that over 90% of the global population was affected, but it has since tightened its limits, it said.

"The evidence base for the harm caused by air pollution has been growing ra-

pidly and points to significant harm caused by even low levels of many air pollutants," WHO said.

WHO's study provides air quality data from more than 6,000 cities and other settlements across 117 countries – representing around 80 percent of urban settings.

In addition, Ms. Neira said WHO used satellite data and mathematical models to determine that air quality is falling short basically everywhere.

The poorest air quality was found in the eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia regions, and Africa, she said. The findings were alarming, it said, and highlighted the need for rapidly curbing fossil fuel use.

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Appointment News

121. Recently SEBI has formed two separate working groups to streamline the role of mutual fund trustees. _____ Will lead the working group on reviewing the role and eligibility of an MF's sponsor while the other group will be headed by _____, the Independent Trustee of Mirae Mutual Fund.

- A. A Balasubramanian , Manoj Vaish
- B. Harsh Bhanwalla , G Mangilam
- C. RK Ramakrishnan , Ajay Kondikar
- D. Ajay Kondikar , G Mangilam

SEBI forms panels to review role of MF trustees, eligibility of sponsor

Move may open the field for new kind of players

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, April 8

Market regulator SEBI has formed two separate working groups to streamline the role of mutual fund trustees. While a group of the committee will review the role and eligibility of a sponsor of a mutual fund to facilitate growth and innovation, the other group will look into streamlining the role and obligations of trustees.

A sponsor establishes a mutual fund, along with any individual or body corporate, while the main role of a trustee is to ensure that the interest of the unit holders is protected.

A Balasubramanian, MD and CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and Chairman of AMFI will lead the working group on reviewing the role and eligibility of an MF's sponsor, while the other group will be headed by Manoj Vaish, Independent Trustee of Mirae Mutual Fund.

To usher in competition

"Considering the changing dynamics of the mutual fund industry, a need has been felt that in addition to the existing eligibility requirements to sponsor a mutual fund, an alternative set of eligibility requirements may be introduced to enable new players, who otherwise may not have been eligible, to act as sponsor," SEBI said in a statement.

This is expected to not only foster competition in the mutual fund industry but also facilitate consolida-



A Balasubramanian of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC will head the panel

tion in the industry through mergers and acquisitions so as to reap economies of scale and scope. Also, it is expected to facilitate fresh flow of capital into the industry and to foster innovation, it added. Apart from Balasubramanian, other members of the group include J Ranganayakulu, ex-Executive Director, Sebi and consultant at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Nilesh

Vikamsey, Khimji Kunverji & Co LLP Chartered Accountants; D P Singh, Chief Business Officer at SBI Funds Management and Alok Mundra, Partner at EY India.

Framework for panel

The working group constituted under Vaish will suggest a framework so as to ensure that trustees can devote attention to the fiduciary obligations and supervisory role cast upon them, rather than being burdened with operational responsibilities.

Apart from Vaish, other members of the group are Sunil Gulati, Independent Trustee, SBI Mutual Fund; Ramamoorthy Rajagopal, Chief Operating Officer, DSP Mutual Fund; Supriya Sapre, Chief Compliance Officer, HDFC Mutual Fund and Padmaja Shirke, Compliance Officer, Union Mutual Fund.

- SEBI formed two working groups to review the role and eligibility of a sponsor of a mutual fund to facilitate growth and innovation in the industry and to streamline the role and obligations of trustees of such financial instruments.
- The working group for reviewing the role and eligibility of an MF's sponsor will be chaired by A Balasubramanian, MD and CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and chairman of industry body AMFI,

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- The working group will recommend an alternative set of eligibility criteria for entities to act as sponsor; review the existing eligibility requirements for being a sponsor.
- While the other group constituted to streamline the role and obligations of trustees of MFs will be headed by Manoj Vaish, Independent Trustee of Mirae Mutual Fund.
- The working group will also identify those responsibilities for which trustees can avail the services of professional assurance agencies
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992 Headquarters: Mumbai , Madhabi Puri Buch Chairperson, SEBI

122. Recently in April _____ has been reappointed as the chairperson of National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

- A. Vimal Kothari
- B. Aditya Ghosh
- C. Falguni Nayar
- D. Iqbal Singh Lalpura

Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been reappointed as NCM chairperson.

He is an ex-IPS officer of Punjab cadre. He was appointed as NCM chairperson in September 2021.

He had served as Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Punjab Police. National Commission for Minorities (NCM): The central government has established it under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. It is a statutory body. It consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and five members. The NCM was first set up in May 1993.

123. Recently Sportasy has roped in _____ as its brand ambassador while _____ has been roped in as the brand ambassador of Havells India for its brand 'Lloyd'.

- A. KL Rahul , Hardik Pandya
- B. Shivam Dubey , Sourabh Ganguly
- C. Rohit Sharma , Ravindra Jadeja
- D. Hardik Pandya , M.S Dhoni

- Sportasy, a fantasy sports app based in India which offers plenty of daily fantasy sports con-tests, signed young cricketer Shivam Dubey as its brand ambassador.
- Lloyd, one of India's leading consumer durable brand of Havells India, has inked its association with former Indian cricket captain Sourabh Ganguly as the Brand Ambassador for markets in eastern part of

India. As a part of the association, Sourabh will endorse Lloyd range of consumer durables, through promotion, advertising and marketing.

Lloyd ropes in Ganguly as brand ambassador

ELECTRICAL GOODS major Havells India on Wednesday said its consumer durables brand, Lloyd, has roped in former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador for Eastern Indian markets. Ganguly will endorse Lloyd range of consumer durables, through promotion, advertising and marketing as a part of the association, Havells India said in a regulatory filing.

IN BRIEF



Dube is Sportasy's brand ambassador

KOCHI

Sportasy, a fantasy sports app based in India which offers plenty of daily fantasy sports contests, signed young cricketer Shivam Dube as its brand ambassador. The app aims to provide a unique sports engagement platform for individuals to utilise their strategic understanding of sport.

124. Recently **India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA)**, the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry has appointed _____ as the **new Chairman** with immediate effect.

- A. Varsha Singhania
- B. Bimal Kothari**
- C. Nipun Agarwal
- D. Jyoti Agarwal

- **India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA)**, the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, today (14 April 2022) announced the appointment of **Bimal Kothari** as the **new Chairman** with immediate effect while **Jitu Bheda** steps down as the current Chairman.
- **Bheda** was appointed the Chairman of **IPGA** on 25th April 2018. **Bimal Kothari**

Bimal Kothari appointed chairman of pulses, grains trade body IPGA

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, April 14

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, has appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman with immediate effect.

Kothari, one of the key founding members of the association, was the Vice-Chairman of IPGA since 2011 when the trade body was formed. Kothari takes over as the third chairman of the association after Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda.

"We are confident that Bimal Kothari will further the association's vision of being an apex body and a global think tank of the pulses industry and trade,"



Bimal Kothari, Chairman, IPGA

said Jitu Bheda, outgoing chairman of IPGA.

"IPGA has invested significantly over the last decade in enhancing relationships with foreign ministries and partner associations through The Pulses Conclave, National Pulses Sum-

mit and IPGA Knowledge Webinar Series. I feel very privileged to take on this role at such an exciting time for our sector – the needs are changing rapidly. At the helm of affairs, I will ensure that we deal with these changes in thoughtful and innovative ways to achieve larger goals which will benefit all stakeholders for years to come," said Bimal Kothari.

Recently, Kothari made a strategic representation to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Commerce, Agriculture and DGFT urging the government to allow free import policy for pulses with a caveat that the import duty on each pulse should be such to ensure that the landed cost is above MSP.

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- Takes over as the third chairman of the association after Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda, Kothari was one of the key founding members of the association and has been the Vice-Chairman of IPGA since 2011 when it had been formed.

125. Recently In April _____ was appointed as India's chief G20 coordinator, as the country assumes G20 presidency later this year to host the 2023 event amid an emerging geo-political order.

- A. Vinay Mohan Kumar
- B. Tarun Bajaj
- C. Harsh V Shringla
- D. R.K Ramakrishna

Foreign secretary Harsh V Shringla, who will retire at the end of this month, was Saturday appointed as India's chief G20 coordinator, as the country assumes G20 presidency later this year after the Summit in Indonesia and prepares to host the 2023 event amid an emerging geo-political order.

His tenure will begin from May 1 and will hold post till December 2023. G20 chief coordinator is a secretary-level post.

The G20 Summit will be the biggest multilateral event hosted by India in recent years and will entail all P5 (US-Russia-China-UK-France) delegations simultaneously in India.

126. Recently In April _____ has beaten former Indian cricketer and boards head Sourabh Ganguly to become a member of the ICC Cricket Committee.

- A. Jay Shah
- B. Ramiz Raza
- C. Gary Stead
- D. Greg Barclay

- BCCI secretary Jay Shah has beaten former Indian cricketer and boards head Sourabh Ganguly to become a member of the ICC Cricket Committee.
- Ganguly and Jay Shah faceoff was to take place with current ICC chairman Greg Barclay deciding not to extend his present term.

Shringla to be G20 chief coordinator

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla will take over next month as G20 chief coordinator, the government officially announced on Saturday. The appointment is significant as India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

Shringla will retire later this month, handing over charge to foreign secretary-designate V M Kwatra, who is currently India's ambassador to Nepal. On the day Kwatra's appointment was announced, official sources had said that Shringla was likely to join as chief G20 coordinator.

Shringla has been serving as foreign secretary since Ja-

nuary, 2020. An IFS officer of 1984 batch, he has also served as ambassador in the US, Thailand and Bangladesh.

The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, which reflects, according to the the ministry of external affairs, a recognition that global prosperity is interdependent and that economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked.

"G20 countries have come together to better prepare for the future. As a founding member of the G20, India has used the platform to raise issues of vital importance," the government had said earlier while announcing that India is now a member of the G20 Troika which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India—the current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies, respectively.



ICC rejects Raja's proposal, Shah in cricket committee

Press Trust of India

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: PCB chairman Ramiz Raja's proposal for a four-nation tournament was unanimously rejected by the ICC board on Sunday.

The other notable development was BCCI secretary Jay Shah being inducted into the ICC cricket committee. The two-day board meeting concluded in Dubai on Sunday.

Raja's ambitious proposal of conducting a four-nation tournament comprising India, Australia, England and Pakistan under the aegis of ICC was rejected even though there was

a projected revenue of \$750 million for five years.

Another sensitive issue which board members are talking in hushed tones is whether Raja will remain PCB chairman for long after Imran Khan was removed from Prime Minister's position. PCB chairman is a political appointee as Pakistan PMs are always Patron-in-chief of the board.

Shah is one of the new inductees in the cricket committee with Mahela Jayawardene reappointed as former player. New Zealand coach Gary Stead, umpire Joel Wilson and MCC representative Jamie Cox are also part of the panel.

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- *Shah is one of the new inductees in the ICC cricket committee with former Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene being re-appointed as former player.*
- *New Zealand chief coach Gary Stead, ICC Elite Panel umpire Joel Wilson and MCC representative Jamie Cox are also part of the panel.*
- *The ICC board on Sunday convinced its chairman George Barclay to complete his term till end of October*

127. Recently In April who amongst the following has been appointed as new chairman of UPSC?

- A. Jagdish Kumar
- B. Shubham Dutt
- C. **Manoj Soni**
- D. Vivek Seth

Dr Manoj Soni has been appointed as new chairman of UPSC. He became India's youngest vice-chancellor of a university (MS University, Vadodara) in 2005.

He is the author of the book "Understanding the Global Political Earthquake".

President appoints the chairman and members of UPSC. They hold office for a term of six years or till they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

The Union Public Service Commission, commonly abbreviated as UPSC, is India's premier central recruitment agency for recruitment of the entire Group 'A' officers under Government of India.

128. In which of the following committee(s) India has recently been elected as a member of UN ECOSOC Bodies?

1. Commission for Social Development
2. Committee on NGOs
3. Commission on Science & Technology for Development
4. Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
5. **All of the above**

- *India has been elected to the four major bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.*
- *India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations thanked all the member states for electing India to four key bodies of UN ECOSOC.*
- *Ambassador Preeti Saran has also been re-elected to the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Senior Indian diplomat Saran, earlier in December 2018 was elected unopposed to the Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.*

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Days and Obituary News

129. Every year **World Homoeopathy Day** is observed on _____ to commemorate the birth anniversary of the **founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann**.

- A. 9th April
- B. 8th April
- C. 10th April
- D. 11th April

Every year World Homoeopathy Day is observed on 10 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.

It is observed to mark the importance of homoeopathy and its contribution to the world.

World Homeopathy Awareness Week is celebrated annually from 10th April to 16th April.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Ayush has organized a two-day scientific convention under the theme 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'.

Samuel Hahnemann is known as the "Father of Homeopathy"

130. Every year **Siachen Day** is observed by **Siachen Warriors Brigade** on _____ to honour the courage shown by the Indian Army during "Operation Meghdoot".

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

It is observed by Siachen Warriors Brigade every year on 13 April.

It is observed to honour the courage shown by the Indian Army during "Operation Meghdoot".

Operation Meghdoot was launched by the Indian Army on April 13, 1984.

Under this operation, the Indian Army took control of the entire Siachen glacier including the main passes of the Salto ridge, Sia La and Bilafond La.

The Siachen Glacier is the highest battleground on the earth. It is spread over an area of 76 kilometres.

131. Every year, **National Safe Motherhood Day** is celebrated on _____ in India to raise awareness about the proper health care and maternity facilities for pregnant and lactating women.

- A. 9th April
- B. 10th April
- C. 11th April

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D. 12th April

National Safe Motherhood Day is celebrated every on 11 April in India.

It is observed to raise awareness about the proper health care and maternity facilities for pregnant and lactating women.

The Indian government declared the day of Kasturba Gandhi's birthday, April 11, as National Safe Motherhood Day at the request of the White Ribbon Alliance in 2003. The theme of the National Safe Motherhood Day 2022 is "Remain at home amid coronavirus, protect mother and infant from coronavirus".

India was the first country to declare 11 April as the National Safe Motherhood Day.

132. Every Year the **International Day of Human Space Flight** is observed on _____, as Soviet citizen Yuri Gagarin carried out first human space flight on 12 April 1961.

- A. 12th April**
- B. 11th April
- C. 10th April
- D. 09th April

.International Day of Human Space Flight is observed each year on 12 April. Soviet citizen Yuri Gagarin carried out first human space flight on 12 April 1961.

Sputnik I, the first man-made Earth satellite, was launched into orbit on October 4, 1957.

On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to orbit the Earth.

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the Moon's surface.

133. Every year on _____, the **World Chagas Disease Day** is observed to raise awareness about the disease.

- A. 15th April
- B. 14th April**
- C. 13th April
- D. 16th April

Every year on April 14, World Chagas Disease Day is commemorated to raise awareness about the disease.

This day was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the 72nd World Health Assembly in 2019.

The theme of World Chagas Disease Day 2022 is "Finding and reporting every case to defeat Chagas disease".

On April 14, 2020, the first World Chagas Disease Day was observed. It has been named after Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, the Brazilian doctor.

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134. Every year on _____, the *International Day for Street Children* is being celebrated to acknowledge the strength and resilience of millions of street children around the world.

- A. 12th April
- B. 13th April
- C. 14th April
- D. 15th April

- On the 12th of April, organisations around the world will be recognising International Day for Street Children: a special day acknowledging the strength and resilience of millions of street children around the world.
- *International Day for Street Children (IDSC) has been celebrated globally since 2012*, to recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children in the face of unimaginable hardships.

135. Recently *World Art Day* is observed on _____, to commemorate the birth anniversary of *Leonardo Da Vinci*, a painter, sculptor, architect of Italy.

- A. 14th April
- B. 15th April
- C. 16th April
- D. 17th April

15th April was proclaimed as World Art Day at the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2019. First World Art Day was celebrated in 2012. It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Leonardo Da Vinci, a painter, sculptor, architect of Italy.

UNESCO celebrates this day in association with the International Association of Art.

136. Recently _____ birth anniversary of *Dr. B R Ambedkar* was observed on _____.

- A. 126th, 12th April
- B. 139th, 16th April
- C. 131st, 14th April
- D. 135th, 13th April

- On April 14, the nation paid tribute to Dr. B R Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution, on his 131st birth anniversary.
- *The day is also known as 'Bhim Jayanti'*. Several functions have been organized across the country and floral tributes have been presented to Babasaheb Statue in the Parliament House Complex.
- In 1928, his first birthday was celebrated publicly in Pune.
- *Dr. B R Ambedkar: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. He is also known as the "Father of the Constitution of India"*.

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- *He is the first Law Minister of India. He had started the Dalit Buddhist Movement in India. He was born in the year 1891.*
- *He was conferred the Bharat Ratna award in 1990.*

137. Recently *Himachal Pradesh* observed its foundation day on which of the following days?

- A. 14th April
- B. 15th April
- C. 16th April
- D. 17th April

Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a centrally administered province on 15 April 1948.

It was formed by merging four districts- Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu, and Sirmaur with 30 princely states.

Himachal Pradesh was categorized as a 'C' state under the Indian Constitution in 1951.

On 18th December 1970, the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of the Union of India in 1971.

Jai Ram Thakur is the current Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

The Kalka-Shimla Railway known as the "toy train" is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

138. *Bilquis Bano Edhi known as "Mother of Pakistan" recently passed away. She was a famous _____.*

- A. *Philanthropist*
- B. *Footballer*
- C. *Cricketer*
- D. *Singer*

- *Bilquis Bano Edhi, the wife of Pakistan's renowned and revered humanitarian and philanthropist late Abdul Sattar Edhi, passed away.*
- *A nurse and social activist by profession, Bilquis Edhi co-founded the Edhi Foundation, a charity that helped in saving over 16,000 unwanted babies by giving them accommodations in Edhi Homes and centres places across Pakistan.*

TOP OF THE WORLD



Bilquis Bano Edhi

PAKISTAN

Philanthropist Bilquis Bano Edhi dies at 74

BILQUIS BANO Edhi, the wife of Pakistan's renowned humanitarian and philanthropist, the late Abdul Sattar Edhi, died at a private hospital in Karachi on Friday. She was 74. Bilquis worked shoulder to shoulder with her husband in establishing the Abdul Sattar Edhi Foundation, a welfare organisation that gained worldwide fame for its humanitarian work in many areas. After the death of her husband in July 2016, Bilquis carried on the work of the foundation with her son Faisal Edhi, who confirmed her death to the media. He said his mother was admitted to the hospital after her blood pressure suddenly dropped earlier this week. Pakistan President Arif Alvi and PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed their condolences. PTI

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- *Bilquis was affectionately known as the 'Mother of Pakistan' for all the work that she had done for the welfare of orphans*
- *Last year, she was also named the 'Person of the Decade', along with UN reporter on human rights Prof. Yanghee Lee and US ethicist Stephen Sold by an international organisation.*

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre **completed 103 years on April 13, 2022**. The gruesome tragedy took place on **April 13, 1919**, when British General R. E. H. Dyer ordered his troops to open fire at a large group of unarmed protestors at the **Jallianwala Bagh in Punjab**, killing hundreds of people and injuring over 1000

Sports Award Books News

139. Recently In April, _____ becomes **first Hindi novel to get shortlisted for International Booker Prize**. The novel is written by _____.

- A. *The Night Watchman* , Vinod Rai
- B. *The Little Book of India* , Ruskin Bond
- C. ***Tomb of Sand* , Geetanjali Shree**
- D. *At Night All Blood is Black* , David Diop

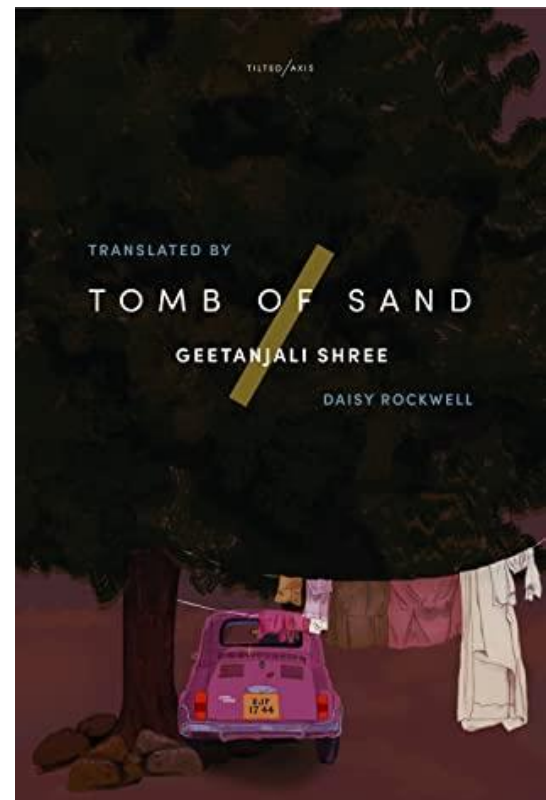
'Tomb of Sand' becomes first Hindi novel to get shortlisted for International Booker Prize.

'Tomb of Sand' is written by Geetanjali Shree. It is translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. It will compete with five other books from around the world to win the International Booker Prize.

The story of the novel revolves around an 80-year-old woman who goes into depression after the death of her husband.

Uttar Pradesh-born Geetanjali is an author of three novels and has translated many works into English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean.

Tomb of Sand will be her first book to be published in the UK. David Diop had won International Booker Prize 2021 for his book titled "At Night all Blood is Black".



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

140. Recently India won its maiden Women's Doubles in Mixed Doubles titles of the World Doubles Squash Championships held in _____.

- A. Bahrain
- B. Glasgow**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. New York

Dipika scripts a fairytale finish

Teams up with Joshna and Ghosal to triumph in women's and mixed doubles



Double delight: Ghosal, Dipika and Joshna created history by clinching the gold in the women's and mixed events at the World doubles squash championships. •TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

SQUASH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Less than six months after giving birth to twins, Dipika Pallikal made the mother of all comebacks on Saturday when she teamed up with brother-in-law Saurav Ghosal and long-time teammate

Joshna Chinappa to win the mixed doubles and women's doubles title at World Doubles Championships here.

Dipika, playing her first competitive event since October 2018, first clinched the mixed doubles title with Ghosal with a 11-6, 11-8 win over England's Adrian Waller and Alison Waters.

An hour and a half later, Dipika and Joshna triumphed in the women's doubles final after a hard fought 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 win over England's Sarah Jane Perry and Waters.

"Just happy to be back on court. I trained really hard (for the comeback). I was quite edgy at the start of the

tournament but got better as I "played more matches," Dipika said.

Other results (semifinals):

Women's doubles: Dipika Pallikal & Joshna Chinappa w/o. Joelle King & Amanda Landers Murphy (NZ)

Mixed doubles: Dipika & Saurav Ghosal bt Joel Makin and Tesni Evans (Wales) 11-9, 11-5.

India won its maiden Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles in World Doubles Squash Championships.

Dipika Pallikal teaming up with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa has won mixed doubles and women's double titles in the World Doubles Squash Championships at Glasgow.

Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal won the mixed doubles title 11-6, 11-8 by defeating English pair Adrian Waller and Alison Waters.

Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa won the women's doubles title after defeating Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters of England.

141. India will host Street Child Cricket World Cup In _____ to be organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India.

- A. 2024
- B. 2023**
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

Organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India, the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.

Taking place in September ahead of the ICC World Cup, the event will see street-connected children and young people take part in a mixed-gender cricket tournament.

In 2019, this championship was held in London where eight teams competed, and Team India South emerged victorious after beating hosts England.

In addition to the partnership between Street Child United and Save the Children the SCCWC 2023 will also collaborate with World Bank, ICC and the British High Commission.

142. Recently In April _____ won the 2022 Australian Grand Prix to consolidate his and Ferrari's championship leads.

- A. Lewis Hamilton
- B. Charles Lecrec
- C. Sebastian Vettel
- D. George Russell

- Charles Leclerc won the 2022 Australian Grand Prix to consolidate his and Ferrari's championship leads as Max Verstappen suffered a second retirement in three races – Red Bull team mate Sergio Perez finishing second and Mercedes' George Russell completing the podium.
- A capacity crowd descended on Albert Park, Melbourne hosting its first Australian Grand Prix in 1,100 days.

Leclerc wins Australian GP as Verstappen fails to finish



Melbourne: A flawless Charles Leclerc led from start to finish to steer his Ferrari to an action-packed win at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday with world champion Max Verstappen failing to finish. The world championship leader from Monaco started from pole, held his position at the first corner and never looked back, scorching round the 58-lap Albert Park circuit to take the chequered flag by a massive 20.5 seconds.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez was second with George Russell an encouraging third for the struggling Mercedes and his seven-time world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton fourth.

"It's amazing, the car was incredible today. What a race and what a pace today," said Leclerc after clocking a fourth career win and second of the season.

"Honestly, what a car today. I did a good job all week-end but it's not possible without the car. I'm just so happy. Obviously we have only had three races so it's difficult to think of the championship but we have a very strong car and a reliable car," he added.

The McLaren's of Lando Norris and Daniel Riccardo were fifth and sixth.

Alpine's Esteban Ocon came seventh ahead of Valtteri Bottas in an Alfa Romeo, with Pierre Gasly's Alpha-Tauri and Alex Albon's Williams rounding out the top-10 during the race.

ALL SMILES: Charles Leclerc holds his trophy after winning the race

143. Recently who won the men's title in 71st Senior National basketball championship by defeating Punjab in the finals?

- A. Punjab
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Tamil Nadu men's team defeated defending champion Punjab by 87-69 in the finals. Indian Railways women's team won the title by defeating Telangana in the final.

In the men's section, Karnataka and Indian Railways stood third and fourth respectively. In the women's category, Tamil Nadu and Kerala finished the tournament in third and fourth place respectively.

The 71st edition of the National Basketball Championship was held at Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

144. Consider the following places regarding host venues for FIFA Under 17 World Cup. Which of the following is not in the list?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Goa
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Pune

3 venues to host FIFA U-17 women's WC

MUMBAI: World football body, FIFA on Wednesday named Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai as the host cities for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in October. FIFA also announced that the draw for the marquee tournament will take place in Zurich on

June 24. Following the cancellation of the 2020 edition of the event due to the Covid-19 pandemic, FIFA, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) confirmed the host cities after undertaking a comprehensive review and consultation

process. "In order to ensure the safety of the players involved and the other participants in the tournament, Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, Goa's Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium have been announced as the three venues," the LOC said.

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

Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

The U-17 Women's World Cup will be held across three venues – Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai – later this year, FIFA has confirmed. In a statement on Wednesday, the football's governing body stated that the draw for the tournament will be held in Zurich on June 24.

Host India, six countries – Brazil, Chile, China PR, Colombia, Japan and New Zealand – have been confirmed for the competition so far and are sure to feature in the draw. With a total of 16 teams set to contest the tournament, spots are still up for grabs in several confederations.

The tournament was scheduled to be held across five venues in India in October, but during an inspection last month FIFA's director of tournaments, Jaime Yarza, indicated that keeping the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation in mind, they are 'open to' reducing the number of venues,

145. Recently In April _____ became the first transgender actress to be honoured with the Best Actors Award in the prestigious Manipur State Film Awards.

- A. Bishesh Huriem
- B. Riya Shree
- C. Kamlesh Kumar
- D. Rajni Kumari

A 33-year-old transgender actor Bishesh Huriem became the first transgender actress to be honoured with the Best actor Award in the prestigious Manipur State Film Awards. Manipur Governor La Ganesan presented the award to Huriem. She received the award for a splendid performance of a transgender character in 'Apaiba Leichil' (floating clouds), which also bagged the Special Mention Award.

Apart from Huriem, two other actors, one male and one female

146. The First-ever "Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award" will be given to whom?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Shreya Singh
- C. Ramnath Kovind
- D. Amit Shah

- The award has been started in the memory of Lata Mangeshkar who passed away in February 2022.
- The award ceremony will be organized on 24th April at Shanmukhanand Hall of Mumbai.
- After the award ceremony, a musical show called 'Swarlatanjali' will be also organized.

Manipur actor scripts a first as transgender to win best actor in film awards

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, APRIL 9

IN A first in Manipur, 33-year-old Bishesh Huriem, a transgender actress, was honoured with the Best Actor Award in Manipur State Film Awards, 2022.

Huriem received the award for her sterling performance in portraying a transgender character in the film *Apaiba Leichil* (floating clouds), which also clinched the Special Mention Award. Two other actors, a male and a female, were also honoured with the Best Actor Awards.

While third gender persons have long been associated with the Manipuri cinema when it comes to make-up and costumes, Huriem became the first to be honoured with a state film award.

The award distribution ceremony for the 14th Manipur State Film Awards was held on Saturday at the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS). Huriem received the award from Governor La Ganesan.

Huriem expressed joy over the third gender artistes being given the much-deserved recognition. She further lamented that third



Bishesh Huriem receives the award from Manipur Governor La Ganesan. Express

gender actors were often given the role of a comic character in popular films. Nevertheless, she observed that the film industry had also started recognising the presence and contribution of transgenders as in *Shumang Leelas* (a traditional theatre play).

Huriem is a renowned figure among the transgender community with many beauty pageant awards under her belt. She had represented India at the Miss International Queen for Transgender held in Thailand in 2016. She has a degree in professional fashion designs from Garden College, Bangalore.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- *Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award has been instituted by the family and Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan charitable trust in the memory of Legendary Singer Lata Mangeshkar*
- *The Master Dinanath Puraskar (special honour) will be conferred this year to Asha Parekh and Jackie Shroff for their "dedicated services in the field of Indian cinema".*
- *The Master Dinanath Puraskar for Indian music will be conferred to Rahul Deshpande, an Indian classical singer.*
- *The award will be given annually. It will be given to a person who has made contribution to the nation and its people.*

147. Recently Sports Authority of India has approved Rs 75 Lakh to host the 1st Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases. The First Phase will Begin In _____.

- A. Indore
- B. Jamshedpur
- C. Mumbai
- D. Pune

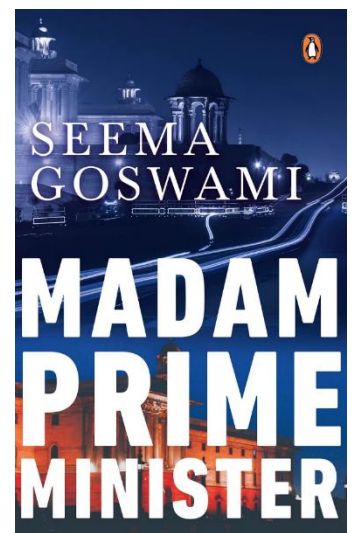
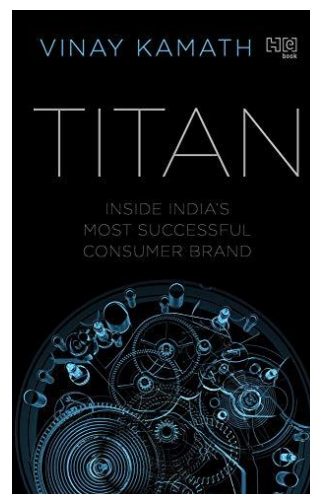
The Sports Authority of India has approved a total amount of Rs 75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases. TATA Archery Academy, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) is set to host the first phase of the tournament on April 12 and 13.

The tournament will be held across the Recurve and Compound events in the senior, Junior and Cadet Categories, and will be conducted as per the World Archery Rules. The Archery Association of India (AAI), in collaboration with the Jharkhand Archery Association and TATA Steel, are organizing the tournament.

The National Ranking Women Archery Tournament is yet another endeavor by the Khelo India's Sports for Women component, which takes the most necessary steps to power in more female participation in a wide array of sports competitions.

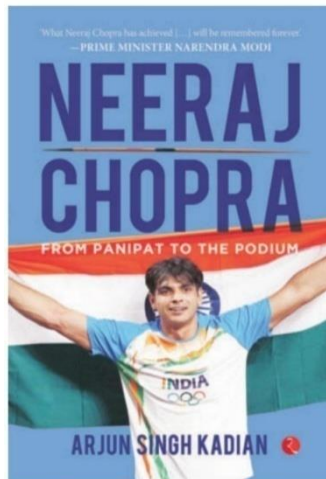
148. Who Is the Author of the book titled "Madam Prime Minister"?

- A. Rajni Kumari
- B. Swati Sinha
- C. Varsha Singhania
- D. Seema Goswami



149. Recently the Book Titled “*Neeraj Chopra: From Panipat to the Podium*” Is Being Authored By whom?

- A. Arjun Singh Kadian
- B. Vinod Rai
- C. Geetanjali Shree
- D. Megha Pant



NEERAJ CHOPRA: FROM PANIPAT TO THE PODIUM
Author: Arjun Singh Kadian

150. Consider the following statements regarding *International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021*.

1. The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 has been presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat.
2. The award was founded in 1986 by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 has been presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- The award was given to Dr. Bhushan Kumar and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust for raising awareness about leprosy and providing care to those afflicted with it.

Titan book by BL scribe soon to be web series

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, April 15

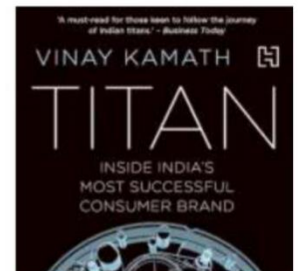
A book, *Titan: Inside India's Most Successful Consumer Brand*, written by Business-Line's Sr Associate Editor, Vinay Kamath, and published by Hachette India, will be made into a OTT web series.

Anish Chandy, Founder, Labyrinth Literary Agency, said that the book's audio-visual rights have been placed with a leading production house.

The book, with a foreword by Tata Sons' Chairman N Chandrasekaran, talks about how a quintessential Indian brand from the house of Tatas reached remarkable heights and in market capitalisation now only next to TCS in the Tata group. The book was unveiled at the Tata Literature Festival in November 2018 and has gone on to be a bestseller.

3-decade journey

Based on extensive interviews with Titan executives past and present, including with found-



ing MD, the late Xerxes Desai, the book talks about Titan's journey over the past three decades—from a company that rivaled watchmaker HMT by launching stylish watches in the late 1980s, and became an instant success—to its transformation to a jewellery maker with Tanishq and youth brand Fastrack, and later with forays into eyewear and sarees with Taneira.

The book catalogues the turbulent years, the innovation and out of the box thinking which helped turn its fortunes around, making it the success it is today.

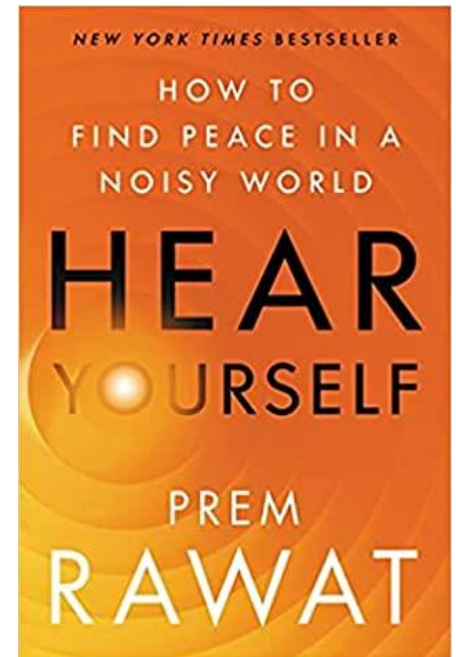
Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- **International Gandhi Award for Leprosy:**
- **The award was founded in 1986 by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, a pioneering organisation in the field of leprosy in India that was formed in 1951.**
- **The Award is given every two years and consists of a cash award of Rs 2 lakhs, a Medallion, and a Citation.**
- **Two awards are presented either to individuals or institutions.**

151. Who is the author of the book titled "hear yourself"?

- A. Prem Rawat
- B. Anuj Ghosh
- C. Ian Fry
- D. Aprajita Sharma

- 'Hear yourself' is a New York Times bestseller book. Now, the book has been launched for the Indian subcontinent.
- The book will help people find peace in a noisy world. The book is to help people develop better self-understanding.



152. Recently Indian Grandmaster, R Pragganandhaa won the Reykjavik Open chess tournament held in _____.

- A. Nepal
- B. China
- C. Iceland
- D. Russia

Pragganandhaa triumphs

REYKJAVIK OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)
 Young Indian GM R. Pragganandhaa, on Tuesday, won the Reykjavik Open chess tournament here with 7.5 points from nine rounds. The 16-year-old beat compatriot GM D. Gukesh in the fi-

nal round to emerge winner. Pragganandhaa turned things around after Gukesh blundered when he appeared to be losing. The highly-rated youngster remained unbeaten through nine rounds and posted victories over Matthieu Cornette (France) and Gukesh in the last two rounds.

He also scored four other wins, including one over USA's Abhimanyu Mishra, who last year became the then youngest GM.

Pragganandhaa (ELO 2624) gained 13.2 points.

Gukesh, who logged six points, finished 17th while GM Abhijeet Gupta took the eighth spot with 6.5 points.



Pragganandhaa. •FILE PHOTO

Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa wins Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland.

Young Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa has won the tournament with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

He defeated compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round of the Reykjavik Open chess tournament.

He had recently defeated world No.1 player Magnus Carlsen in an online tournament.

He is the fifth-youngest person to get the title of Grandmaster (GM).

Abhimanyu Mishra finished the tournament on the fifth spot with seven points.

153. Consider the following statements regarding 2026 Commonwealth Games.

1. The 2026 Commonwealth Games will be organized in the Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland towns of Victoria State.
2. 16 Sports including aquatics, cycling and Twenty20 cricket will be played in the tournament.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The 2026 Commonwealth Games will be organized in the Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland towns of Victoria State.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

16 Sports including aquatics, cycling and Twenty20 cricket will be played in the tournament. The Queensland state of Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the nodal agency for the control and functioning of the Commonwealth Games.

154. Recently, Kim Clijsters announced her retirement from competitive tennis for the third time in her career belongs to country?

- A. Poland
- B. Belgium
- C. Croatia
- D. Spain

- Former women's world number one Kim Clijsters has retired from competitive tennis for the third time in her career.
- The Belgian, a four-time Grand Slam champion, returned to the WTA Tour in February 2020, but her comeback coincided largely with the Covid pandemic and she played just five matches.

No shooting, wrestling in 2026 Victoria CWG

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games with the Australian state's regional centres organising the majority of events in a break from the traditional single host city model.

The Games will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.

An initial list of 16 sports, including T20 cricket, have been put forward, with further sports to be added later. The list, however, does not include shooting and wrestling – disciplines in which India have won bulk of their medals at the Games. Archery is also missing.

As per the CGF's new roadmap, athletics and swimming are the only compulsory sports from the 2026 edition, allowing host cities greater freedom to pick disciplines of their choice from core list of 22 sports.

Clijsters bids adieu for third time

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

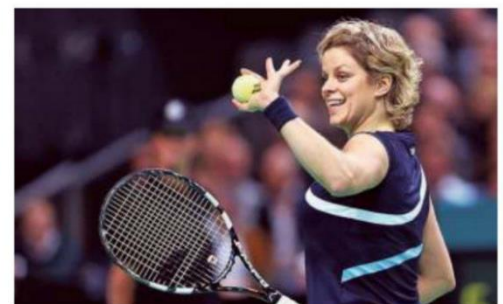
Four-time Grand Slam singles champion Kim Clijsters has retired from professional tennis again.

The 38-year-old, who ended her second retirement in 2019 after a seven-year hiatus, announced on Tuesday that she will "no longer play official tournaments."

"I can't wait to see what new adventures will cross my path," the former No. 1 player wrote on Instagram.

Clijsters, who already is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, won the U.S. Open for the first time in 2005 and walked away from tennis two years later at age 23 shortly before getting married.

The Belgian player then took about two years off while having a daughter but returned and won the 2009 U.S. Open. She won another championship at Flushing Meadows in 2010, then added an Australian Open title the following season and moved back atop the rankings.



Bye again! The Belgian star has announced that she will "no longer play official tournaments". • REUTERS

Clijsters, who has three children, left the tour again in 2012. "It's been on my mind for a while," Clijsters told WTA media. "I still love to hit the ball. With my schedule three, four days was enough to keep my rhythm

under control but definitely not good enough if I decided to play another tournament. Say, if I picked Australia, it's three, four weeks. That's just not possible at this stage in our family life. Life just sort of takes over, right?"

Her last official match was in October when she lost in three sets to Katerina Sinikova in the first round at Indian Wells.

- The 38-year-old, who won the 2005 US Open, originally retired in 2007
- Clijsters went on to win another three Grand Slam titles -- consecutive US Opens in 2009 and 2010 and the 2011 Australian Open -- before hanging up her racket again in 2012.

155. Anya Shrubsole recently announced her retirement from international cricket belongs to which of the following country?

- A. Australia
- B. England
- C. South Africa
- D. China

156. Who among the following is the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award this year?

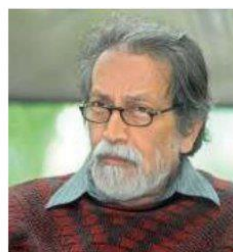
- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Prabhat Patnaik
- C. Ramchandra Mishra
- D. Raghuram Rajan

Renowned Indian economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik has been named the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award this year.

The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies.

Dr. Patnaik has taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and has served as Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board.

Malcolm Sathiyathan Adiseshiah (1910 – 1994), was an Indian development economist and educator. In 1976 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan.



Patnaik wins Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Renowned Indian economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik has been named the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award this year. The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist.

Dr. Patnaik has taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and has served as Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board.

Pulapre Balakrishnan from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode; Kamala Ganesh, former M.N. Srinivas Chair, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru; and Bishnu Mohapatra, Professor, Krea University, were part of the jury this year.

Shrubsole bids adieu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

England pacer Anya Shrubsole, a two-time Women's World Cup winner, on Thursday announced her retirement from international cricket after a 14-year-old career.

The 30-year-old, known for her sharp inswingers, played eight Tests, 86 ODIs and 79 T20s taking 19, 106 and 102 wickets respectively.

Shrubsole had famously taken six for 46 runs, which remains her career-best figures, in the World Cup final against India five years ago.

She was also part of 2009 victorious squad.

157. Consider the following statements regarding FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title.

1. Netherland defeated Germany by 3-1 in the finals of the FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup.

2. *Mumtaz from India is the highest scorer in the tournament with eight goals.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Netherlands wins fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title.

Netherland defeated Germany by 3-1 in the finals of the FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup. England defeated India 3-0 in the shoot-out and won the bronze medal.

Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup: It was earlier known as the Women's Hockey Junior World Cup. It is organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

The 2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup is the ninth edition of the Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup, held in Potchefstroom, South Africa

Top scorer(s) Netherlands Jip Dicke (13 goals) Best player Germany Stine Kurz Best goalkeeper Germany Mali Wichmann.

158. Recently *Allyson Felix* has announced her retirement following the conclusion of the 2022 season. She belongs to which country?

- A. Japan
- B. Australia
- C. USA
- D. Jamaica

- *Allyson Felix -- the most decorated US track and field athlete in Olympics history -- announced that she plans to retire following the conclusion of the 2022 season.*
- *During her illustrious career, she won 11 Olympic medals -- seven of them gold -- and 13 world championship titles.*
- *The 36-year-old began her career specializing in the 200 meters, winning an Olympic silver at Athens 2004 and becoming the youngest ever world champion in the discipline in 2005 at age 19.*

US track great Felix confirms retirement at end of season

Agence France-Presse
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LOS ANGELES: US track and field great Allyson Felix confirmed she will retire this year, bringing the curtain down on a career that spanned three decades and included a record-setting 11 Olympic medals. The 36-year-old said in an Instagram post she planned to embark on her farewell season as a gesture of gratitude to the sport. "I have given everything I have to running and for the first time I'm not sure if I have anything left to give," Felix said. "I want to say goodbye and thank you to the sport and people who have helped shape me the only way I know how - with one last run," she added.

"This season isn't about the time on the clock, it's simply about joy. If you see me on the track this year I hope to share a moment, a memory and my appreciation with you."

Felix did not give details of her competitive schedule, but it is likely she is targeting this year's World Championships, which will be held in Eugene, Oregon in



Felix's accolades

She won 11 Olympic medals, more than any woman in athletics.

Games	Venue	Event	Rank
2004	Athens	200m	2nd
2008	Beijing	200m	2nd
2008	Beijing	4x400m relay	1st
2012	London	200m	1st
2012	London	4x100m relay	1st
2012	London	4x400m relay	1st
2016	Rio de Janeiro	400m	2nd
2016	Rio de Janeiro	4x100m relay	1st
2016	Rio de Janeiro	4x400m relay	1st
2020	Tokyo	400m	3rd
2020	Tokyo	4x400m relay	1st

July. Felix is the most decorated woman in the history of Olympic track and field, winning the first of her 11 medals at the 2004 Olympics in Athens and the last at last year's Tokyo Games, a gold in the 4x400m relay.

She is also the most decorated athlete—male or female—in the history of the World Championships with 18 medals, seven from individual events and 11 from

relays. Felix took part in Tokyo Olympics three years after giving birth to daughter Camryn in 2018. She has since been a vocal advocate for the rights of working mothers and split with longtime sponsors Nike in 2019 after criticising them for slashing her pay after she became pregnant.

Felix said her advocacy for women would be a theme of her farewell season.

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

Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

- Her first Olympic success came at the 2008 Beijing Games when she guided the US women's 4 x 400m relay team to a gold medal.

Rohit Sharma has become 2nd Indian to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket.

Rohit Sharma made this record during the IPL 2022 match between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings.

Rohit Sharma is the seventh batter to achieve the record of 10,000 runs in the T20s. Virat Kohli is the first Indian to score 10 thousand runs in the T20 cricket.

159. Consider the following statement regarding **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup**.

1. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled logo of 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, to be held in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.
2. This is the 15th Edition of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.
3. Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second consecutive time in the country after 2018.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday unveiled logo of 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, to be held in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The prestigious quadrennial tournament is scheduled from January 13 to 29. Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second consecutive time in the country after 2018. The 15th edition of the showpiece will be staged in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, where the country's largest hockey stadium is being constructed. The stadium will have a seating capacity of 20,000.

The President of International Hockey Federation (FIH) is Narendra Batra.



The 2023 hockey World Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

HOCKEY INDIA

Patnaik unveils logo for 2023 World Cup

HT Correspondent

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

BHUBANESWAR: The logo for the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup was unveiled by Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik here on Thursday. The World Cup, the second edition in Odisha which also hosted the event in 2018, will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

The state of Odisha is the official partner for the 15th World Cup which will be organised by Hockey India. India's largest hockey stadium, with a capacity of 20,000, is being built in Rour-

kela. "We are thrilled that there will be two venues this time. The 2018 FIH Men's World Cup gave us all memories that we still cherish to this day and the 2023 FIH Hockey Men's World Cup will be even more exciting and unforgettable," said Patnaik. Also present at the event was international hockey federation (FIH) president Narinder Batra.

Last August, at an event to felicitate the India men's team which won bronze and the women who finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, Patnaik had announced that Odisha would continue to sponsor India teams for another 10 years.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult and skipper Sophie Devine have been named New Zealand T20I Players of the Year in the men's and women's categories respectively at the 2022 ANZ awards.

New Zealand pacer Hamish Bennett has announced that the 2021/22 season will be the last of his 17-year old career. The 35-year old has represented the New Zealand U-19 side, the senior men's team, and domestic teams Wellington and Canterbury.

Trent Boult, Sophie Devine win ANZ T20I award, named Players of the Year

Trent Boult and Sophie Devine have been named New Zealand T20I Players of the Year in the men's and women's categories respectively at the 2022 ANZ awards.



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New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (Photo | PTI)

160. Recently In April _____ scripted history to become the First Indian club by winning a game at the top-tier AFC Asian Champions League.

- A. Hyderabad FC
- B. **Mumbai City FC**
- C. Mohan Bagan
- D. Air Force Club

Mumbai City FC first Indian club to win in AFC Champions League

Rutvik Mehta
rutvik.mehta@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Diving into the unknown, Mumbai City FC had a single goal from their AFC Champions League (ACL) expedition—get a W; didn't matter if it took till the sixth and final group game. Didn't have to wait that long. In just their second match in Asia's premier club competition, Mumbai City delivered a first for Indian football. From a goal down, the 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) champions beat Iraq's Air Force Club (Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya) 2-1 in Group B at Riyadh's King Fahd Stadium on Monday. It was the first win for an Indian club in the tournament after FC Goa marked an Indian club's debut in ACL last year with three draws and losses each.



Rahul Bheke celebrates after scoring for Mumbai City. MFC

Mumbai City won it for his city club with a sublime header to the far bottom off an Ahmed Jabouh cross from a 75th minute corner. After hanging on for their dear lives in the final 20 minutes, Jabouh sank to his knees at the final whistle while a few of his teammates embraced each other. Head coach Des Buckingham wore a smile. "A range of emotions," Buckingham said. "This is a huge result, not just for our club but a historical one for Indian football. We knew coming into this tournament how tough it was going to be. The league we come from is only seven seasons old, and we're competing against very well resourced and experienced teams at this level. A lot of the people in there are very proud of what they have done for the club, for the country," added the Englishman.

A lot of players rose to the challenge too. Captain Mourtada Fall was ever so solid at the back, diving to clear balls in dangerous positions and winning one-on-one challenges inside the box, playing a key role to keep Air Force's goal count to nil in the first half. Goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa continued doing a good job while being kept busy like in the first game. Missing that game was Brazilian Mauricio, who provided the cutting edge in the final third, which Buckingham felt was lacking against Al-Shabab with top striker Igor Angulo injured.

winners. Remember his 117th-minute looping header in the 2018-19 ISL final that Bengaluru FC won 1-0 against FC Goa? "When I go for corners or set-pieces, that's the only chance for me to score. So, I make sure I get that goal," said Bheke, who became the first Indian to score in the competition, weeks after scoring against Bahrain in an international friendly. "The coach told us before the game that we have to create that history, and I'm happy we did that. It's a proud moment for me, my family, my team and my city. I think everyone will be happy there too."

It wasn't a clinical victory by any means against a club that beat Bengaluru FC in the 2016 AFC Cup final. A couple of silly back-passes in the opening 10 minutes that could have proved costly betrayed Mumbai City's nerves. The numbers, like in their opener, were lopsided. Air Force Club had 19 shots on goal (6 on target) to Mumbai's 5 (2). Buckingham though was confident that once the "players operate at the level they should" the tide could turn no matter the deluge from the other side. "Keep going. Believe in what we do," Buckingham told his players at half-time. "My message was to continue doing what we had set out to do. If we do that, I've said it all along the ISL season and even here, we'll come out with more such results."

IN BRIEF



Kiwi pacer Bennett to quit at end of season

WELLINGTON

New Zealand pacer Hamish Bennett has announced that the 2021-22 season will be the last of his 17-year career. The 35-year-old has played for New Zealand under-19, the senior men's team, and domestic teams Wellington and Canterbury. He made 31 appearances for New Zealand across all formats, taking 43 wickets and was selected for the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. ANI

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

Mumbai City FC scripted history as they fought back from a goal down to stun Iraqi giants Air Force Club 2-1 and become the first Indian club to win a game at the top-tier AFC Asian Champions League.

Mumbai City, Has won the Indian Super League Shield and trophy in the 2020-21

The AFC Champions League is an annual continental club football competition organized by the Asian Football Confederation, and contested by Asia's top-division football clubs. It is the most prestigious club competition in Asian football, played by the national league champions of their national associations, Founded: 1967; 55 years

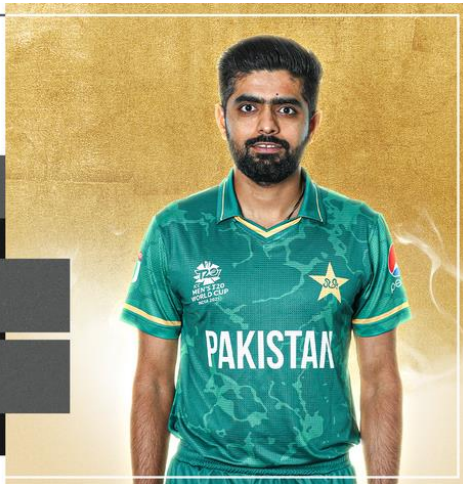
Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Australia opener Rachael Haynes have been voted the ICC Players of the Month for March 2022.

**ICC MEN'S
PLAYER OF THE MONTH**

CENTURIES IN TESTS & ODIS V AUS;
AGGREGATED 561 INTERNATIONAL RUNS AT 80.14

**BABAR
AZAM**

PAKISTAN

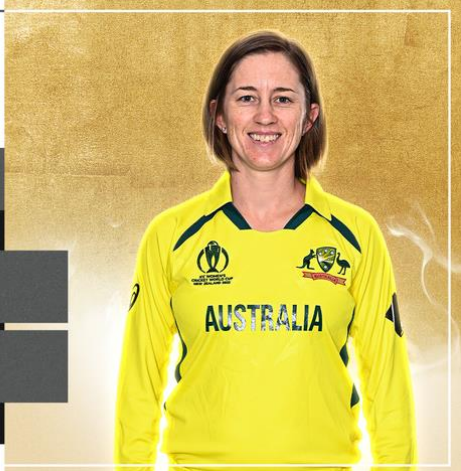


**ICC WOMEN'S
PLAYER OF THE MONTH**

429 RUNS AT 61.28 IN 8 ODIS;
AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST SCORER IN MARCH IN CWC22

**RACHAEL
HAYNES**

AUSTRALIA



Science Tech Environment Defence

161. Recently In April SFDR has been successfully flight tested at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha by DRDO. What does SFDR Stands For?

- A. Solid Fighter Ducted Ramjet
- B. Short Fuel Ducted Ramjet
- C. Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet**
- D. Solid fuel detection ramjet

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster has been successfully flight tested by DRDO.

The SFDR booster has been successfully flight tested at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

SFDR-based propulsion enables missiles to intercept airborne threats over very long distances at supersonic speeds (more than 1 Mach).

Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad has developed SFDR in partnership with other DRDO laboratories.

These laboratories are Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

India tests missile system successfully

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BALASORE

India on Friday successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster, a missile system, at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast here.

The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at supersonic speeds and the test demonstrated reliable functioning of all components, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

162. Consider the Following Statements Regarding Pinaka rocket systems.

- 1. Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges.**
- 2. The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Pinaka missile systems successfully test-fired

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 9

A NEW VERSION of the Pinaka rocket system has been successfully flight-tested by the DRDO and the Indian Army at the Pokhran firing ranges, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

As many as 24 Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket Systems (EPRS) were fired for different ranges during the last fortnight and the weapons met the required accuracy and consistency, it said.

The EPRS is the upgraded version of the Pinaka variant that has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The ministry said the rocket system has been upgraded with advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements.

*Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced)

Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran firing ranges," the ministry said in a statement.

"With these trials, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system," it added.

The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune, supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of the DRDO. After establishing the



Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems successfully flight-tested by DRDO and Indian Army

performance efficacy of the enhanced range version of Pinaka, the technology was transferred to Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Economic Explosives

Limited, Nagpur.

"Rockets manufactured by MIL under transfer of technology from DRDO were flight-tested during this campaign. Different variants

SOARING HIGH

■ As many as 24 Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket Systems (EPRS) were fired for different ranges during the last fortnight

■ The weapons met the required accuracy and consistency, the defence ministry said

of munitions and fuses which can be used in the Pinaka rocket system were also successfully test evaluated in the Pokhran field firing range," the defence ministry said.

DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy has congratulated the teams involved in the project for completing the flight trials of the rockets.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges.

A total of 24 EPRS rockets were fired for different ranges during the last fortnight. Required accuracy and consistency was achieved by the rockets meeting all trial objectives satisfactorily.

With these trails, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system.

The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of DRDO. The EPRS is the upgraded version of Pinaka variant which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade.

163. Consider the Following Statements Regarding MH-60R helicopters.

- 1. India had signed a \$2.2 billion deal for MH-60R helicopters built by Lockheed Martin during in February 2020.**
- 2. Three helicopters were handed over to the Indian Navy last July in the U.S. and are being used for training Indian pilots at Pensacola, Florida and San Diego.**
- 3. The MH-60Rs are a replacement of the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s and are envisaged to operate from the frontline ships and aircraft carriers**

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**

Navy crew completes training on MH-60R helicopters

The first batch of three choppers is expected to arrive in India by June, says a defence official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The first batch of Indian Navy aircrew successfully completed its training on the MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) at the U.S. Naval Air Station, North Island in San Diego last week.

"The 10-month course included conversion training and other advanced qualifications on MH-60R helicopter. The crew flew extensively from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron - 41 (HSM 41) and achieved day and night deck landing qualification onboard a U.S. Navy Destroyer," the Navy said in a statement.

The crew would be responsible for inducting the versatile 'Romeo' into the Indian Navy, it stated.

The first batch of three helicopters are expected to arrive in India by June, a de-



Touching skies: Indian Navy's first batch of MH-60R air crew after completing their training in San Diego. ■PTI

fence official said.

This will be the first major induction of helicopters by the Navy in decades for deployment on ships.

The MH-60R helicopters will provide the Navy enhanced offensive role includ-

ing anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship strike, specialised maritime operations as well as search and rescue operations, the Navy added.

Three helicopters were handed over to the Indian Navy last July in the U.S. and

are being used for training Indian pilots at Pensacola, Florida and San Diego.

\$2.2 billion deal

India had signed a \$2.2 billion deal for MH-60R helicopters built by Lockheed Martin during the visit of then U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020. Deliveries are expected to be completed by 2025.

The Navy is facing an acute shortage of helicopters on its frontline warships but procurement of new ones has been repeatedly delayed.

The MH-60Rs are a replacement of the Sea King 42/42A helicopters already decommissioned in the 1990s, and are envisaged to operate from the frontline ships and aircraft carriers providing them the critical attributes of flexibility of op-

eration, enhanced surveillance and attacking capability.

The third positive indigenisation list of 101 equipment and platforms released by the Defence Ministry on Thursday includes the long pending deal for Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) which was earlier being processed through the Strategic Partnership route of procurement procedure.

The Navy is now in talks with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to acquire a variant of its Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

Another major requirement for 123 multi-role helicopters is also pending. To address the shortfall in the interim, last April, the Navy issued a Request for Information (RFI) for lease of 24 light helicopters.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of April (9th–16th April 2022)

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“The 10-month course included conversion training and other advanced qualifications on MH-60R helicopter. The crew flew extensively from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron - 41 (HSM 41) and achieved day and night deck landing qualification onboard a U.S. Navy Destroyer,”

The crew would be responsible for inducting the versatile ‘Romeo’ into the Indian Navy the first batch of three helicopters is expected to arrive in India by June,

This will be the first major induction of helicopters by the Navy in decades for deployment on ships.

India had signed a \$2.2 billion deal for MH-60R helicopters built by Lockheed Martin during the visit of then U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020. Deliveries are expected to be completed by 2025.

164. Recently In April India has successfully flight-tested Anti-Tank Guided Missile _____ at high-altitude ranges as a part of user validation trials.

- A. Sanyukt
- B. Helina**
- C. Avsar
- D. Chetak

India successfully flight-tested Anti-Tank Guided Missile HELINA.

Anti-Tank Guided Missile ‘HELINA’ flight test was successfully conducted at high-altitude ranges.

The flight test was jointly conducted by DRDO, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF). The flight test is conducted by an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and the missile was launched in the ‘Lock on Before Launch mode’.

Anti-Tank Guided Missile ‘HELINA’ is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world.

165. Recently In April, _____ helicopter of the Indian Air Force set a record of the longest non-stop helicopter sortie by flying for seven-and-half hours from Chandigarh to Jorhat in Assam.

- A. Chetak
- B. Chinook**
- C. Helina
- D. Sanyukt

Anti-tank missile Helina fired from ALH at a high altitude

Rahul Singh

rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India on Monday successfully test-fired a locally developed anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), Helina, from the advanced light helicopter (ALH) at high altitude, with the latest launch paving the way for the weapon’s integration with the chopper, the defence ministry said.

The latest test came on the back of a series of trials conducted at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan. Helina or the helicopter-based Nag missile can strike targets up to 7km away.

The fire-and-forget missile, guided by an infrared imaging seeker system, successfully engaged a simulated tank target at high-altitude ranges, the defence statement ministry said. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army jointly conducted the test.

According to DRDO, the Helina system has all-weather day and night capability, and can knock out enemy tanks with conventional and explosive reactive armour. The missile can engage targets both in the direct hit mode as well as the top attack



Helina was successfully tested from a helicopter at high altitude ranges, in Pokhran. ANI

mode. In contrast to a direct hit, the top attack mode refers to a missile hitting a tank from above.

“In continuation to validation trials conducted at Pokhran, the proof of efficacy at high altitudes paves the way for its integration on ALH,” the ministry said.

“The successful test demonstrates our indigenous weapon building prowess. Now the focus should be on integrating the missile on the helicopter, production and operationalisation of the weapon in the armed forces,” said Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (retd), additional director general, Centre for Air Power Studies.

Helicopter-launched ATGMs figure on the list of weapons and

systems that the government has put under an import ban to boost self-reliance in the defence manufacturing sector.

In a renewed push to Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence, India last week published a new list of 101 weapons and systems that will come under a phased import ban over the next five years, with the military hardware sought to be developed locally ranging from lightweight tanks, naval utility helicopters and mounted artillery gun systems to medium altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicles, missiles and loitering munitions.

The third list came on the back of two similar lists of 101 and 108 weapons and systems released in August 2020 and May 2021, respectively. The new list has taken the combined number of weapons and systems under a phased import ban by India to 310.

Helicopter-launched ATGMs figured in the “second positive indigenisation”, list and their import was banned from December 2021. The latest Helina test came four months after India successfully tested the helicopter-launched stand-off anti-tank (SANT) missile, which has a range of 10km.

A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force on Monday set a record for the longest non-stop helicopter sortie by flying for seven-and-half hours from Chandigarh to Jorhat in Assam,

The helicopter covered a distance of 1,910 km, and it was made possible by the capabilities of the Chinook along with operational planning and execution by the IAF

The 1910 kms route was completed in 7 hrs 30 min and made possible by the capabilities of Chinook along with operational planning and execution

The Chinook is a multi-role, vertical-lift platform, which is used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment and fuel.

India had finalized a contract in September 2015 to procure 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinooks choppers from the US at a cost of around \$3 billion.

Chinook sets record with longest sortie

Rahul Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A CH-47F (I) Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force on Monday set a record by flying the longest, non-stop chopper sortie in India, with the operation training task requiring it to fly from Chandigarh to Jorhat, officials familiar with the development said.

The Boeing-made, multi-mission helicopter, used extensively in Ladakh amid the ongoing border row with China, flew a distance of 1,910km in seven-and-a-half hours.

The sortie was possible because of the capabilities of the Chinook, along with operational planning and execution by the IAF, the defence spokesperson Palam, Wing Commander Indranil Nandi wrote on Twitter.

“Chinook is a multi role, vertical lift platform, used for transporting men and material. It also plays an important role in Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations. Rapid mobility will allow IAF to employ this asset optimally as required,” he wrote.

The helicopter used additional fuel tanks for the mission. The IAF variant of the helicopter does not have mid-air refuelling capability.

The Chinook provides the Indian armed forces with strategic airlift capability across the full spectrum of combat and



The CH-47F (I) Chinook helicopter

PHOTO: IAF

humanitarian missions, the officials said, requesting anonymity. The chopper’s primary roles include moving artillery, battlefield resupply and transportation of troops.

“The non-stop sortie from Chandigarh to Jorhat proves the range and reach of air power to execute the missions assigned to IAF,” said Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd), former additional director general, Centre for Air Power Studies.

The Chinook helicopters can carry the army’s new M777 ultra-light howitzers as underslung load for swift deployment in high-altitude areas. India ordered 145 howitzers from the US for \$750 million in November 2016. Apart from M777s, the army has also deployed the K9 Vajra-T self-propelled artillery guns and the 155 mm FH 77 BO2 guns (better known as Bofors) in the Ladakh sector.

166. Consider The Following Statements Regarding **First Flight of Dornier 228 Plane**.

1. The first flight of the passenger aircraft took off from **Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam**.
2. The aircraft is **operated by Alliance Air**, making it India's first commercial aircraft to fly 'Made in India' aircraft for civil operations.
3. The Dornier aircraft has been **manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

Which of the Following Statement is/are Correct?

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

First Day, First Flight



Alliance Air on Tuesday became the country’s first commercial airline to fly an Indian-made aircraft, the Dornier 228 manufactured by HAL, for civil operations. Till now, Dornier 228 planes were used only by the armed forces. Regular flight operations are slated to start from April 18 on the Dibrugarh-Pasighat-Lilabari route.

The first-ever 'Made in India' Dornier 228 passenger aircraft was flagged off by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia along with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju in Pasighat on April 12, 2022.

The "Made in India" Dornier aircraft began its maiden service today, linking remote towns of Arunachal Pradesh to Assam's Dibrugarh. The first flight of the passenger aircraft took off from Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam.

The aircraft is operated by Alliance Air, making it India's first commercial aircraft to fly 'Made in India' aircraft for civil operations. The Dornier aircraft has been manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The aircraft will land using the Advanced Landing Grounds (ALG) maintained by the Indian Air Force.

167. Recently Indian Air Force signed a MoU with _____ to accelerate indigenization efforts for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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

Indian Air Force and IIT Madras signed a MoU on 13 April 22 for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF.

Joint Partnership between IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate IAF's indigenization efforts for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

Under the ambit of MoU, IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems.

IIT Madras will provide consultancy duly supported by research for feasibility studies and prototype development

IIT Madras in partnership with IAF will significantly contribute in indigenization efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF.



The Dornier 228 is being used by Alliance Air. ■ FILE PHOTO

HAL's Dornier 228 takes off on first commercial flight to Arunachal

Service will boost tourism: Khandu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A Dornier 228 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) took off on its maiden commercial flight from Dibrugarh in eastern Assam to Pasighat in central Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

HAL has been manufacturing the Dornier aircraft after transfer of technology from the German firm that owned it, but the made-in-India aircraft had not been used for civil aviation until now.

The public sector Alliance Air in February signed an agreement with HAL for leasing two Dornier 228 aircraft. The airline received the two aircraft on April 7.

"Overjoyed and proud to embark on the 17-seater Made-in-India Dornier 228 aircraft – in its maiden ser-

vice to Arunachal Pradesh!" Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted after inaugurating the Dibrugarh-Pasighat flight along with Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju.

"Alliance Air is the first airline to embark upon the journey of operating the made-in-India aircraft and contributing towards PM Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative," he said.

Alliance Air's coordinator (east) Chirasree Sanyal said the airline had been tasked with offering better connectivity for tier-2 and tier-3 towns with their closest city hubs with the vision of "connecting new India".

Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu, who flagged off the flight from Pasighat, said the small fixed-wing flight service would help bolster tourism.