

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Third Week of April (17th – 23rd April 2022)

National /State News

1. Consider the following statements regarding battery swapping policy.

1. NITI Aayog released a draft battery swapping policy to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45% and reduce the non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
2. Under the first phase, cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritised for the development of battery swapping.
3. All major cities above 5 lakh population and state capitals will be covered in the second phase.

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

At the COP 26 summit, India had announced to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45% and reduce the non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

Under the first phase, cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritised for the development of battery swapping.

All major cities above 5 lakh population and state capitals will be covered in the second phase.

As per the draft policy, vehicles with swappable batteries will be sold without a battery. It states that any person can set up a battery-swapping station at any location.

Finance Minister in her Budget speech 2022-23 had announced that Government will bring a battery swapping policy.

NITI Aayog has prepared this draft

NITI Aayog's draft policy aims to bring standardisation to battery swapping

Industry wants standards set after road-tests

SRONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, April 21

Even as episodes of electric vehicles (EVs) bursting into flames rock the industry, the NITI Aayog on Thursday released a draft battery-swapping policy.

In its first phase, it proposes to prioritise setting up battery-swapping networks in metropolitan cities with a population above 40-lakh (per Census 2011).

In the second phase, all major cities such as State capitals, Union Territory headquarters and those with population of over five lakh (per Census 2011) will be covered, given the importance of two- and three-wheelers in these cities, the policy paper said.

It said any individual or entity is free to set up a battery swapping station at any location, provided the specified technical, safety and performance standards are adhered to.

Alternative

Battery swapping is an alternative, which involves exchanging discharged batteries for charged ones and provides the flexibility to charge them independent of the vehicle. This de-links battery charging and usage and translates into minimum downtime for the vehicle.

"Any Central and State government agency involved in implementation of battery swapping networks may consider this prioritisation when providing addi-



Battery swapping is an alternative, which involves exchanging discharged batteries with charged ones and provides the flexibility to charge them independent of the vehicle. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

tional policy support and/or subsidy allocations for battery swapping networks," the government think tank said in the draft policy.

However, according to some EV manufacturers, there should be standards and policies only after road testing them.

"We are completely aligned with the government on the need to establish standards to promote interoperability of the swapping infrastructure. However, we would request the government to form these standards and policies only after testing them on ground and not

limiting the assessment to lab tests," Vivekananda Hallekere, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, Bounce, told *Business-Line*.

He said the technology around battery and its infra is fast evolving and the policies and standards should not choke innovation. "We urge the government to consider the above points before the policy and standards for battery swapping are formalised," he said. Battery swapping will help rural India more than anyone else because people there do a lot of inter-city rides. Therefore, prioritising bat-

tery-as-a-service (BaaS) there than in urban areas should have been better, he added.

The NITI Aayog had in February organised an inter-ministerial discussion to formulate a robust and comprehensive battery swapping policy framework. It also held a pre-draft discussions with a spectrum of stakeholders representing battery swapping operators, manufacturers, vehicle OEMs, financial institutions, and think tanks, and other experts.

Comments invited

The draft policy also proposes that demand side incentives offered under existing or new schemes for EV purchase be made available to EVs with swappable batteries eligible under this policy. "The size of the incentive could be determined based on the kWh rating of the battery and compatible EV," it suggested.

The NITI Aayog has invited comments on the draft policy until June 5.

EV battery explosion leaves 1 dead in Telangana

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, April 21

There's been yet another instance of EV battery explosion in the country, this time in Nizamabad, Telangana. One person was killed and two injured when the detached battery of an electric scooter exploded while it was being charged at the city's Subhash Nagar Colony on Tuesday night. According to the police,

the deceased, Ramaswamy, aged about 80 years, was sleeping in the room in which the battery was being charged. He suffered severe burns from the explosion and succumbed en route to a hospital.

His son Prakash and daughter Kamalamma were injured when they tried to rescue him.

A case has been registered under Section 304 A against the vehicle's manufacturer,

Pure EV, and investigation is on. Meanwhile, taking a stern view on fire incidents in electric two-wheelers, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that defaulting companies will face heavy penalties and will have to recall defective vehicles, which will be based on the findings of the expert committee formed to look into the issue.

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NITI Aayog has prepared this draft policy after an inter-ministerial discussion. It has been prepared by consulting with battery manufacturers, vehicle OEMs, financial institutions, think tanks, etc.

2. Recently the famous Lanka Podi festival was seen in news. It is celebrated every year in which of the following states?

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

Apr 21, 2022, 1:41PM

People fondly celebrate famous Lanka Podi festival in Odisha

In Odisha, people of Daspalla in Nayagarh district are fondly celebrating the famous Lanka Podi festival. The chief attraction of the 12 days long festival is the slaying of demon king Ravana which is enacted by setting a huge effigy of Ravan on fire, known as 'Ravan Podi'. Thousands of onlookers from near and far witnessed Ravan Podi which was celebrated yesterday. The festival that began on Ram Navami is being celebrated for a long, each time drawing big crowds.



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Thousands of onlookers from near and far witnessed RavanPodi which was celebrated yesterday. The festival that began on Ram Navami is being celebrated for a long, each time drawing big crowds.

3. Recently In April _____ have signed a MoU with Netherlands for the Cosmos Malabaricus project to help illustrate the history of the southern state in the 18th century.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. West Bengal

Kerala and Netherlands have signed a MoU for the Cosmos Malabaricus project to help illustrate the history of the southern state in the 18th century. The agreement also aims to establish paint academics at Kollam and Malappuram.

The Cosmos Malabaricus project is being implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) under the Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden. The Cosmos Malabaricus project aims to make the digitised Dutch archival material accessible to the majority of audiences, including international and Indian scholars and the people of Kerala

Kerala, Netherlands ink MoU for project on State's history

8/20

Cosmos Malabaricus deals with 18th century documents

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Netherlands on Thursday for the *Cosmos Malabaricus* project that is aimed at shedding further light on the history of Kerala using 18th century Dutch documents.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Dutch Ambassador to India Marten van den Berg.

The *Cosmos Malabaricus* project is being jointly implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), the National Archives, and the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.

The project will be completed in six years.



Netherlands Ambassador Marten van den Berg with KCHR Director G. Arunima.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vijayan said it was the State's responsibility towards future generations to preserve historical events and documents. He reiterated the government's desire to transform Kerala into a quality hub for higher education.

Emphasising on the robust relation between the Netherlands and India, Mr. Berg expressed optimism that the *Cosmos Malabaricus* project would help understand more about the political, social, economic and cultural history of Kerala. As part of the project, students from Kerala would get an opportunity to pursue Master of Arts programmes at Leiden University, while those from the Netherlands would be allowed to take up an internship at the KCHR.

The project deals with the 18th century Dutch documents on Malabar which are considered the most extensive source of information about the period in Kerala between 1643 and 1852.

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The MoU for the establishment of the Paint Academy was signed by ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition Programme), Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction, Kollam; CREDAI, Kerala and AxO Noble India Limited, a paint and chemical company in the Netherlands.

4. Recently, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has **announced that the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022 will be organized in _____.**

- A. Mumbai**
- B. Goa
- C. Delhi
- D. Kochi

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022 will be organized in Mumbai on 14th-15th May.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will organize this two-day event.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the Indian cruise market has the potential to grow by ten times over the next decade. Sarbananda Sonowal also unveiled the brochure, logo, and the mascot of the Conference-Captain Cruz. The conference's main aim is to hold discussions on 'Developing India as a Cruise Hub'.

The Conference will also highlight ports like Mumbai, Goa, Kochi, New Mangalore and Lakhwdeep as cruise hubs of the nation.

5. Recently in April **Karnataka government has decided to name Shivamogga airport after former CM _____.**

- A. HD Devgowda
- B. BS Yediyurappa**
- C. Basavaraj Bommai
- D. Kadidak Manjappa

Karnataka government has decided to name Shivamogga airport after former CM BS Yediyurappa.

The proposal to rename Shivamogga airport will be forwarded to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The Shivamogga airport will have the second-longest runway in Karnataka after Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

It is likely to be inaugurated in December this year with all international facilities.

Shivamogga Airport is being built at Sogane Village near Shivamogga. Karnataka chief minister B. S. Yediyurappa laid the foundation of the Airport on 15 June 2020.

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6. Recently in April, a Statement of Intent (Sol) on the Sustainable Development Goals focused on children has been signed by NITI Aayog and _____.
- UNFPA
 - UNICEF**
 - World Bank
 - UNDP

A Statement of Intent on the Sustainable Development Goals focused on children has been signed by NITI Aayog and UNICEF India.

The Statement of Intent aims to develop a framework of collaboration in order to launch the first report on the Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development in India.

Ms Sanyukta Samaddar, NITI Aayog's Nodal Officer for SDG, and Ms Hyun Hee Ban, UNICEF India's Chief of Social Policy, signed the Statement of Intent.

Both are developing a comprehensive measure to assess the multidimensional attainments and deprivations among children across health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and household living standards in order to meet the SDGs child development priorities.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): These are a collection of 17 goals designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future.

These were launched in 2015 by the UNDP and these have to be achieved by 2030.



UNICEF, NITI Aayog signed a deal on SDGs. MINT

UNICEF, NITI Aayog to assess children

Federal policy think tank NITI Aayog and UNICEF will study the extent of development and deprivation among children in India on parameters like health, education and living standard that will form the basis for policy recommendations to ensure that no child is left behind. NITI Aayog said in a statement. The assessment is set to throw light into the status of children in the aftermath of the humanitarian crisis that the covid pandemic has caused the world over.

The two agencies on Thursday signed a deal on sustainable development goals (SDGs) with a focus on children. The deal seeks to formalize a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the 'State of India's children: status and trends in multidimensional child development,' said the statement. Both the institutions reiterate a mutual commitment towards realizing the rights of children in India, the statement said. The agreement between the institutions was signed by Sanyukta Samaddar, nodal officer, SDGs, NITI Aayog and Hyun Hee Ban, chief of social policy, UNICEF India.

GIREESH CHANDRA PRASAD

7. Consider the following statements regarding **Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) Scheme**.
- Chairman of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) Dr. Virendra Kumar will launch the Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) Scheme Pan India from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.**
 - The DACEs are being set up to provide high quality free coaching facilities to the Scheduled Caste students for the Civil Services examinations, conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).**
 - Under the DACE Scheme, a total of 100 seats will be sanctioned for coaching per centre. Of the total sanctioned seats for coaching, 33% seats will preferably be given to the eligible female candidates of Scheduled Castes.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- Only 1 & 3
- Only 2 & 3
- Only 1 & 2
- All of the above**

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Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Chairman of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) Dr. Virendra Kumar will launch the Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) Scheme Pan India from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on 22.04.2022.

Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. Of India, is starting Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) in 31 Central Universities across the country.

The DACEs are being set up to provide high quality free coaching facilities to the Scheduled Caste students for the Civil Services examinations, conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Under the DACE Scheme, a total of 100 seats will be sanctioned for coaching per centre.

Of the total sanctioned seats for coaching, 33% seats will preferably be given to the eligible female candidates of Scheduled Castes. The coaching benefits, under the scheme, will only be utilized by a student ONCE regardless of the number of chances he/she is entitled for a particular competitive examination.

Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) shall fund the entire expenditure incurred on the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Centre for Excellence.

Rs. 75,000/- per annum / per student will be provided to the University for 100 students. Total amount of Rs. 75.00 lakh per year would be provided to the University for running the Scheme.

8. Recently in April [West Bengal](#) signed a total of _____ Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) and Letters of Intent (LoI) worth _____ at [Bengal Global Business Summit](#).

- A. 125 , Rs 2.45 lakh crore**
- B. 137 , Rs 3.42 lakh crore**
- C. 143 , Rs 4.56 lakh crore**
- D. 151 , Rs 1.51 lakh crore**

Investment proposals worth Rs 3.42 lakh crore were received by West Bengal in this year's business summit,

A total of 137 Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) and Letters of Intent (LoI) were signed for the investments.

A task force will be set up under the chief secretary for speedy implementation of these projects, she added. Sectoral committees for agriculture and allied services. Exports, services sector and tourism were also set up at the summit.

9. Recently In April _____ has signed two MoU with Ministry of AYUSH for starting Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment Hospitals and for starting Ayurveda Centres at 12 Military Hospitals of Armed Forces Medical Services.

- A. Ministry of Education**
- B. Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

₹3.42 lakh cr. proposals at meet: Mamata

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said investment proposals worth ₹3.42 lakh crore were received at the sixth Bengal Global Business Summit.

The Chief Minister said 137 MoUs have been signed and nearly 4,300 delegates participated in the summit. She said the investment proposals will create 40 lakh jobs. The two-day summit concluded on Thursday.

"We have received investment proposals worth ₹3,42,375 crore during BGBS 2022. This is the highest investment at the BGBS so far," she said. She said that in the first five sessions of the BGBS, investment proposals worth ₹12 lakh crore have been received which are under various stages of consideration. Ms. Banerjee spoke about the political stability in the State. "We don't want to bulldoze..... We don't want to divide the people; we want to unite the people."

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C. Ministry of Defence

D. Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Defence has signed two MoU with Ministry of AYUSH.

Out of these, one MoU is for starting Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment Hospitals.

Another MoU is for starting Ayurveda Centres at 12 Military Hospitals of Armed Forces Medical Services.

These MoU were signed during Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit.

These Ayurveda Centres will be made operational across the country from May 01, 2022.

10. Consider the following statements regarding India's first bus service with 'tap in, tap out' or fully digital ticketing facility.

1. The service was inaugurated on one of the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) routes from Gateway of India to Church-gate route.

2. A passenger will have to 'Tap In' his Chalo smartcard or the Chalo mobile app in front of the machine placed at the entry to use the 'Tap In, Tap Out' service.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

In a bid to make commuting easier across Mumbai, Maharashtra State Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray on Thursday inaugurated the tap-in tap-out service on the Gateway of India to Church-gate route.

"Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's 1st bus service to go completely digital"

A passenger will have to 'Tap In' his Chalo smartcard or the Chalo mobile app in front of the machine placed at the entry to use the 'Tap In, Tap Out' service.

The passenger will be able to enter the bus with a green tick, and the fare will be deducted when the passenger de-boards the bus after 'Tap Out' the smart card or mobile app. The words 'Digital Bus' will be written on the front of these buses.

11. Consider the following statement regarding PM Modi new program launched in Gujarat.

1. Manufacturing project of 9,000 Horse Power (HP) Electric Locomotives at Railway Production Unit in Dahod is one of them.

2. Dahod District Southern Area Regional Water Supply Scheme constructed on Narmada River Basin for providing water supply to villages in Dahod District and Devgadh Baria city.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

A. Only 1

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

PM Modi inaugurated various development projects at Adijati Maha Sammelan in Dahod, Gujarat. He inaugurated projects worth 22,000 crore rupees. Manufacturing project of 9,000 Horse Power (HP) Electric Locomotives at Railway Production Unit in Dahod is one of them.

The project is expected to cost roughly 20,000 crore rupees to complete.

Dahod workshop was set up in 1926. It was set up for periodic overhaul of steam locomotives. It will now be upgraded to electric locomotive manufacturing unit.

Other development projects worth over 1,400 crore rupees were also inaugurated by PM Modi. One of these projects is Dahod District Southern Area Regional Water Supply Scheme constructed on Narmada River Basin.

It will provide water supply to villages in Dahod District and Devgad Baria city. PM also inaugurated five projects of Dahod Smart City.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of works related to Dudhimat River Project.

PM launches new plans in Gujarat's tribal areas

Among them is an electric locomotive manufacturing unit

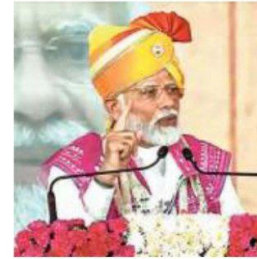
MAHESH LANGA
 AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated projects estimated at over ₹20,000 crore, including a locomotive manufacturing unit, in Gujarat's tribal belt of Dahod and Panchmahal.

He laid the foundation stone for a project to manufacture 9,000-HP electric locomotives in Dahod district. He said it was his dream to make the district an important centre for "Make in India".

He addressed a huge gathering of tribal people in central Gujarat, ahead of the Assembly polls slated for later this year.

"Projects worth more than ₹22,000 crore for Dahod and Panchmahal have



Narendra Modi

been inaugurated today. One of them is a scheme related to drinking water. There are many projects related to making Dahod a smart city. Dahod is now going to become a big centre for 'Make in India', he said.

Talking about the locomotive unit, he said the colonial-era steam locomotives workshop would now be an impetus for 'Make In India'.

"It was my dream after becoming Prime Minister to see Dahod get such an important project," he said.

According to the details shared by the Railways, the refurbished workshop would manufacture broad gauge electric locomotives for Indian Railways and standard gauge electric locomotives for the export market.

Mr. Modi reminded his audience that tribes from central Gujarat fought colonial rulers during the British rule. He said new science and medical colleges would be set up in tribal districts so that local boys and girls could study science and medicine.

He also narrated stories from his early life and mentioned how his work in tribal districts influenced him.

12. At the end of FY 2021-22, Defence Ministry is able to over achieve this target and has utilised _____ percent of Capital Acquisition Budget on indigenous procurements through Indian Industry.

- A. 66.90 %
 B. 65.50 %
 C. 72.50 %
 D. 61.90 %

Ministry of Defence (MoD) had earmarked 64 per cent of Capital Acquisition Budget for domestic industry in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

At the end of FY 2021-22, MoD has been able to over achieve this target and has utilised 65.50 percent of Capital Acquisition Budget on indigenous procurements through Indian Industry to achieve Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatma-Nirbhar Bharat'.

Further, as per preliminary expenditure report of March 2022, MoD has been able to utilise 99.50 per cent of the Defence Services Budget in FY 2021-22.

Govt surpasses procurement target on indigenous defence products

DALIP SINGH

New Delhi, April 20

The Ministry of Defence said it has marginally overspent funds and exceeded the target for military purchases from domestic companies during the last financial year.

The government had set aside ₹71,400 crore (64 per cent of the overall capital budget) for acquisitions from local sources. The ministry was "able to over-achieve this target and has utilised 65.50 per cent of capital acquisition budget on indigenous procurement."

Estimate vs spending

The revised estimate of the capital acquisition budget for FY22 was ₹1.13-lakh crore, but the actual spending was much less, that is ₹75,000 crore till December 2021, reveals the parliamentary standing committee on defence in its 28th report on demands for grants (2022-23). The actual expenditure and revised estimates (RE) were higher in FY21. The RE was ₹1.14-lakh



crore, and the actual spending was ₹1.18-lakh crore. The Defence Ministry also stated that the preliminary expenditure report of March 2022 pointed out that it has been able to utilise 99.50 per cent of the defence services budget in 2021-22.

In the last five years till December 2021, the ministry had signed 152 contracts with Indian vendors and 87 contracts with global vendors to procure equipment for armed forces.

Encouraging self reliance

The domestic defence industry clocked production of about ₹84,643 crore in the previous financial year due to a special thrust on encouraging self reliance within the sector. Other

than that, 12,000 MSMEs supply different items to defence PSUs and erstwhile ordnance factory boards (OFBs).

According to Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) figures shared with the parliamentary standing committee on defence (2021-22), procurement of defence equipment by the three services in the last three years from domestic sources has gone up, reflecting a corresponding decline from foreign manufacturers. Though much distance has to be covered, given that India continues to be the biggest arms exporter in the world.

The expenditure on procurement from the domestic industry in the last financial year was ₹88,631 crore (63.6 per cent), which is 4.8 per cent more than the figure for 2019-20 and 9.6 per cent higher than that of 2018-19. The government had earmarked an enhanced budget estimate of ₹3.85-lakh crore for this financial year, owing to a continued stand-off with China.

13. Recently in a first-of-its-kind, India to get its first indoor skydiving facility in _____ set up by _____.

- A. Pune , Meta
- B. Mumbai , Reliance
- C. Hyderabad , gravity zip
- D. Guwahati , Tata

For those adventure junkies seeking an adrenaline rush, an indoor skydiving experience is now being offered in Hyderabad. The indoor skydiving arena has been set up by gravity zip and is said to be the first of its kind in the country.

In indoor skydiving, people enjoy the feeling of free fall and levitating in a wind tunnel. Powerful fans generate wind inside the tunnel and help simulate a free fall.

The skydiving facility, in Hyderabad, has a 3-metres tall tunnel and the operators maintain a wind speed of 200 kmph to 400 kmph inside it.

14. Consider the following statements regarding **world's longest highway tunnel**.

1. The tunnel will be **beneath Shinku La Pass between Lahul valley, Himachal Pradesh and Zaskar valley, UT of Ladakh.**
2. The **length of tunnel will be 4.25km. It will be highest and longest tunnel at an altitude of about 16,000 feet in the entire world.**
3. **Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road is part of BRO's Yojak project, which was created last year.**

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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**

Director General of BRO Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary said that world's longest highway tunnel will be ready by 2025.

The tunnel will be beneath Shinku La Pass between Lahul valley, Himachal Pradesh and Zaskar valley, UT of Ladakh.

The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Himachal and Ladakh. The length of tunnel will be 4.25km. It will be highest and longest tunnel at an altitude of about 16,000 feet in the entire world.

BRO DG Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary attended golden handshake ceremony for opening of Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road.

Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road is part of BRO's Yojak project, which was created last year.

BRO DG Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been honoured with 13th CIDC Vishwakarma Achievement Award 2022 for Public Officer (From Govt and Public Sector).

Atal Tunnel is world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet. BRO has earlier built 'World's Highest Motorable Road' at Umling-La Pass at 1, 9300 Feet.

Construction of Sela Tunnel is underway. It will be the world' longest bi-lane road tunnel at an altitude above 13000 feet

15. Recently the **government has set the food grain production target at a record level of _____ for the 2022-23 year on the back of good monsoon rains.**
- A. 350 million tonnes
 - B. 375 million tonnes
 - C. 328 million tonnes**
 - D. 308 million tonnes

Govt announces foodgrain output target of 328 MT for 2022-23

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday announced a foodgrain production target of 328 million tonnes for 2022-23.

The target was announced at the National Conference on Agriculture: Kharif Campaign 2022, which was inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. The meet was attended by the senior officials from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and officials from the states' agriculture departments.

Of the 328 million foodgrain production target fixed for 2022-23, kharif foodgrain production target has been fixed at 163.15 million tonnes, while rabi foodgrain production target has been kept at 164.85 million tonnes.

Addressing the conference, Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja said that the country is maintaining an increasing trend in food grain production since 2015-16. Total food grain production has increased by 25% in the last 6 years from 251.54 to 316.01 million tonnes, he said.

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The government has set the food grain production target at a record level of 328 million tonnes for the 2022-23 year on the back of good monsoon rains.

The target is 3.8 percent higher compared to previous year's output.

As per the second advance estimate of the agriculture ministry, food grains production is estimated to be a record of 316.06 million tonne in ongoing 2021-22 crop year ending June

The target for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) was set at the National Conference for Kharif Campaign 2022 which was held on Tuesday to review the progress of the rabi (winter) season and plan for the Kharif (summer) crops.

Of the total food grain production, a production target of 163.15 million tonnes has been set for the Kharif season and 164.85 million tonnes for the Rabi season.

For the Kharif season, rice production target has been kept at 112 million tonnes, maize at 23.10 million tonnes, pulses at 10.55 million tonnes, and oilseeds at 26.89 million tonnes.

16. Consider the following statement regarding *expert committee tasked to oversee for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.*

- 1. The Supreme Court replaced the *Uttarakhand Chief Secretary with the Director-General of Forests, Environment Ministry, as the chairman of an expert committee.***
- 2. The *NGT had appointed the 12-member expert committee to be headed by Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, with nominees of Wildlife Institute of India, Central Pollution Control Board, Uttarakhand State Pollution Control Board and others.***

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Supreme Court replaced the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary with the Director-General of Forests, Environment Ministry, as the chairman of an expert committee tasked to oversee compensatory Afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.

The court made it clear that the replacement of the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary with C.P. Goyal should not be seen as an expression of lack of confidence in the senior bureaucrat.

The Bench also brought in Anil Prakash Joshi, founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation, and environmentalist Vijay Dhasmana as members of the panel.

The order was based on a plea by an NGO, Citizens for Green Doon, against a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order.

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The NGT had appointed the 12-member expert committee to be headed by Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, with nominees of Wildlife Institute of India, Central Pollution Control Board, Uttarakhand State Pollution Control Board and others.

The tribunal had allowed the expressway project and formed the committee to prevent environmental damage by unscientific muck dumping or obstruction of animal corridor on the Ganeshpur-Dehradun Road (NH-72A) stretch.

17. Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

1. The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957 passed by Parliament.
2. The Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to trifurcate the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into 3 Corporation North Delhi Municipal Corporation, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, East Delhi Municipal Corporation.
3. The Bill replaces the three municipal corporations under the Act with One Corporation named the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

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

Delhi municipal Bill gets President's nod

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to unify the three civic bodies in the national capital.

"The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 18th April, 2022 and is hereby published for general information: The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022 No. 10 of 2022," said a gazette notification is-

sued by the Centre.

The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 30 and by the Rajya Sabha on April 5. It says the unification of the municipal corporations in Delhi will ensure optimal utilisation of resources and synergy in strategic planning.

President Ram Nath Kovind has signed into law the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha in March, 2022.

The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 passed by Parliament. The Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to trifurcate the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into: North Delhi Municipal Corporation South Delhi Municipal Corporation East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

The Bill replaces the three municipal corporations under the Act with one Corporation named the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

The Act provides that the number of seats in the three corporations taken together should not be more than 272. The Bill states that the total number of seats in the new Corporation should not be more than 250.

President gives assent to Criminal Procedure Bill

It lets police take bio samples of accused

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, which empowers the police to obtain physical and biological samples of convicts and those accused of crimes.

The Act, which replaces the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 4 and the Rajya Sabha on April 6.

"The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 18th April, 2022 and is hereby published for general information:- The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 No.11 of 2022," a gazette notification issued by

the government said.

Apart from providing legal sanction to police to obtain physical and biological samples of convicts and detainees for investigation in criminal matters, the legislation also empowers a magistrate to order measurements or photographs of a person to be taken to aid the investigation of an offence.

In case of acquittal or discharge of the person, all material must be destroyed.

The Act explained the types of data that may be collected, people from whom such data may be collected and the authority that can authorise such collection.

It also provides for the data to be stored in a central database.

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18. Recently In April the **Delhi Government has released an educational song named, _____** to reflect the vision for education and a review of the progress of Mission Buniyaad, dedicated to the upliftment of Delhi Government schools.

- A. Lakdhya ko Panahai
- B. I have made an intention, we will teach them this way**
- C. Your Dream Make It Happen
- D. Shine in the brighter sky Hustle in the darker clouds

- The Delhi Government has released an educational song on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. As per the Government, the song is to reflect the vision for education and a review of the progress of Mission Buniyaad, dedicated to the upliftment of Delhi Government schools.
- The purpose of the song is to teach students studying at the Delhi schools about communal harmony, patriotism, women empowerment along with other valuable concepts and life skills.
- **Alok Shrivastava has written the lyrics of this song. It has been sung by renowned singers such as Shan and Sneha Shankar.**
- The lyrics of the song are as follows: **“I have made an intention, we will teach them this way...”** (In Hindi **IrDA Kar Liya Hai Humne**)



TRIBUTE SONG TO MARK EDUCATION REFORMS IN DELHI

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Tuesday launched an education anthem “Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne”, with deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia calling the song a tribute to the state’s education reforms.

While releasing the song at Thyagraj Stadium, Sisodia said, “This song reflects the vision of our education revolution and is dedicated to the journey of the education system of Delhi in the past seven years.”

He said that the song defined the aspirations and dedication of the government towards the cause of education. “Over the years, several education policies were made and a national curriculum framework was developed... this song summarises what all these policies for education have visualised,” added Sisodia.

He dedicated the song to students, parents and teachers of Delhi, saying that it recognised their role in improving the education system of the state.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also shared the song on Twitter. “Let us talk about giving the best possible education to every child in the country. Let us talk about taking the country forward through education,” wrote Kejriwal.

19. Recently the **rural development and Panchayati raj department of Jammu and Kashmir Administration launched an app, _____** to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online.

- A. Jan Bhagidari
- B. Jan Nigrani**
- C. Jan Andolan
- D. Jan Nirbhaya

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The rural development and Panchayat raj department of Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday launched a mobile application to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online,

The 'jannigrani' app is an internet based solution for reporting and resolving grievances by the residents of the Jammu and Kashmir against various schemes of the department,

The app has been developed as an e-governance initiative to provide a 24x7 platform to the people for redressal of their grievances. The application has been set at the block level with a seven-day time slot to redress any particular grievance.

20. Recently In April _____ has launched *Space-Tech Framework to help state emerge as a commercial hub for all products and services related to space.*

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

The framework aims to help state emerge as a commercial hub for all products and services related to space.

The framework also aims at promoting domestic production of launch vehicles, satellite systems and other facilities.

Hyderabad based Technology Company Gamitronics has created a blockchain technology led Metaverse platform party-Nite where the government's space-tech policy will be introduced at a spaceship walk through event.

The launch event was the first ever official government event, which was hosted on Metaverse.

Telangana's space-tech NFT (Non Fungible Token) collection was also launched by Industries and IT Minister KT Rama Rao.

21. Consider the following statements regarding *India's first dairy community radio.*

- 1. PM Modi to launch India's *first dairy community radio - Dairy Vani in Gujarat.***
- 2. It is Set up by the *Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Pro-ducers' Union or Banas Dairy, the Banas Dairy Community Radio station.***

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

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PM Narendra Modi will launch the first dairy community radio of the country named 'Dudh Vani' on 19th April, during his 3-day Gujarat visit

Dudh Vani 90.4 – a community radio station dedicated to animal husbandry will be inaugurated by PM Modi on Tuesday- 19th April.

The community radio station is set up by the Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union or Banas Dairy. It will connect over 5 lakh dairy farmers across 1700 villages in the state.

Dudh Vani will be the first community radio station of the country dedicated to the cattle breeders.

The National Dairy Development Board is a statutory body set up by an Act of the Parliament of India. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Government of India. The main office is in Anand, Gujarat

Founder: Varghese Kurien Founded: 1965, Chairman - Meenesh Shah

PM Modi to launch India's first dairy community radio

Dudh Vani to connect over 5 lakh farmers from Apr 19

RUTAM VORA

Ahmedabad, April 17

Dairy farmers in Gujarat will get a voice, quite literally, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates a community radio station (CRS)—Dudh Vani—dedicated to animal husbandry on Tuesday during his Gujarat tour.

Set up by the Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union or Banas Dairy, the Banas Dairy Community Radio station will connect over five lakh dairy farmers across 1,700 villages in the State.

This is set to become the country's first community radio station dedicated to the cattle-breeders.

Notably, the apex dairy development organisation — National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) — in collabora-

tion with All India Radio had launched a bi-weekly podcast series dedicated to dairy farmers. The dedicated radio station from Banas Dairy becomes the first such initiative for dairy farmers of the world's largest milk producing country.

"This community radio station has been established to provide farmers key scientific information related to agriculture and animal husbandry," a statement from the PMO said. Prime Minister Modi will start his three-day Gujarat tour from Monday, April 18.

BusinessLine

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22. Recently the Union Government will organize a grand event on the 20th and 21st of April in the Red Fort premises to celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of _____.

- A. Guru Tegh Bahadur**
- B. Guru Angad**
- C. Guru Har Govind**
- D. Guru Nanak**

The Union Government has announced that it will organize a grand event on 20 and 21 April in the Red Fort premises to celebrate the 400th Prakash Gurupurab of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

The event will be organized as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from Red Fort on 21 April. An exhibition on the life and times of the Sikh guru will be also organized at the Red Fort. Guru Tegh Bahadur:

He is the Ninth Gurus of the Sikh religion. He was also known as 'Hind-di-Chaadar', which means the 'Shield of India'.

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23. Consider the following statements regarding PM Modi Multiple projects launching in Gujarat.

1. PM Modi along with Pravind Kumar Jugnauth laid the foundation stone of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar.
2. Prime Minister visited the Command and Control Centre for Schools in Gandhinagar. It has been named Vidhya Samiksha Kendra.
3. PM also inaugurate the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar.

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day visit to Gujarat. He will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects at Banas Dairy Sankul in Diyodar, Gujarat.
- PM Modi along with Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus will also lay the foundation stone of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar.
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine –GCTM is the first global centre for traditional medicine in the world.
- PM Modi will also launch Banas Community Radio Station. The radio station will provide scientific information related to agriculture and animal husbandry to more than five lakh farmers.
- Prime Minister visited the Command and Control Centre for Schools in Gandhinagar. It has been named Vidhya Samiksha Kendra.
- He will also inaugurate the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar.

'STOOD LIKE A ROCK AGAINST AURANGZEB'

PM Lauds Guru Tegh Bahadur's Sacrifice on 400th Birth Anniv

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases a commemorative coin and postage stamp on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur at Red Fort on Thursday – ANI



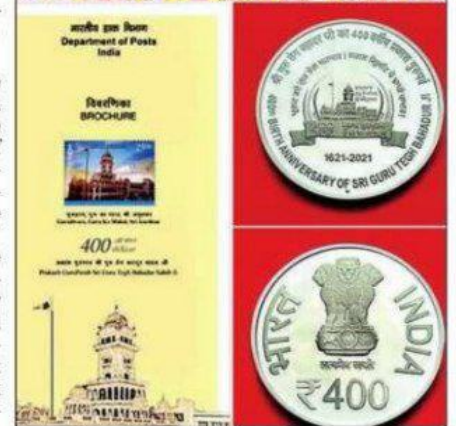
Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the supreme sacrifice of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur during the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of his birth, saying the wave of religious fanaticism of a cruel ruler like Aurangzeb had posed a threat to identity of Hindustan but he 'stood like a rock against it and protected the country'.

"At that time, a wave of religious fanaticism had swept the country. Hindustan, which considered religion as a matter of philosophy, science and soul-searching, was confronted with people who had crossed all limits of violence and atrocities in the name of religion. In those circumstances, a big hope for saving the identity of India emerged in the form of Guru Teg Bahadur. Against the cruel thought of Aurangzeb at that time, Guru Teg Bahadur stood like a rock, a Hind ki chaadar," Modi said.

His sacrifice inspired several generations to fight for protecting the cultural ethos of the country; to live and die for it. "Several big storms subsided and regimes lost sway but the nation stands eternal today and is moving towards progress," Modi said.

The Modi-led government has reached out to the Sikhs strongly since the Punjab elections. The breaking up of BJP's alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal and the partnership with Captain Amarinder Singh did not bring gains for BJP and it is now aggressively wooing the Sikh community on its own. Modi had received a delegation of Sikhs some weeks ago where the plan for the 400th Parkash Parv on such a large scale got a boost.



PM TO CIVIL SERVANTS 'Can't Compromise on India's Unity and Integrity'

NEW DELHI: Emphasising a "nation-first, India-first" approach to decision-making, the PM said there cannot be any compromise on the unity and integrity of the country and that even decisions at the local level should be made on this touchstone. Modi's comments in his address here to civil servants on the 15th Civil Services Day came against the backdrop of several communal incidents in the country in the recent days. He stressed that every decision should be evaluated on the basis of its capacity to strengthen the country's unity and integrity. – pn

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23. Consider the following statement regarding **India – Maldives**.

1. India and Maldives have **signed seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)** for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the **High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP)**.
2. The projects are worth **of 26.8 Million Rufiyaa**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India and Maldives have signed seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) through local bodies.

The HICDP enhances socio-economic development of our local communities, strengthening the Maldives India Partnership,'

The MoU were signed by Abdulla Shahid and Indian High Commissioner MunuMahawar.

"Development and cooperation is the central pillar of India-Maldives partnership and we remain committed to continue strengthening it.

The projects are worth a total grant of 26.8 million Rufiyaa (equivalent to approximately \$1.7 million).

The projects include establishing a mental health centre at Addu Equatorial Hospital, , a speech a therapy unit at Kulhudhufushi Regional Hospital, a prosthetics and orthotics manufacturing workshop at Hulhumale Hospital, preservation of cultural places in Noonu Landhoo Maabudhuge and Thaa Dhiyamigili Ganduvaru, development of a multi-sports complex in Noonu Manadhoo and developing youth centres in GaafuAlif Gemanafushi and Alif Dhaalu Dhigurah.

Maldives Capital: Male, President - Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

24. As of 31st March _____ has **become the leading state across the country in renewable energy with generation of 1877 MW of additional solar power.**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. **Rajasthan**
- D. Madhya Pradesh

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Rajasthan has become the leading state across the country in renewable energy with generation of 1877 MW of additional solar power in the month of March.

Rajasthan stands first in the field of renewable energy by developing 17040.62 MW. The state improved its position from fourth rank to first, last month.

Gujarat stands second with 16587.90 MW capacity; Tamil Nadu, third with 16099 MW capacity; Karnataka fourth with 15904.59 MW; and Maharashtra fifth with 10657.08 MW renewable energy generation capacity.

Rajasthan already stands first in the field of solar energy. Now, the state leads in overall renewable energy - wind power, bio-power and solar power. In the country 109885.39 MW renewable energy capacity has been developed till March 22.

RE capacity addition: Rajasthan, Gujarat power past leaders Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

G BALACHANDAR

Chennai, April 19

Rajasthan and Gujarat have surpassed toppers Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in terms of overall installed capacity of renewable energy in FY22 led by a strong rise in solar power capacity.

Rajasthan is now the leader in overall installed capacity of grid-connected renewable power in the country, followed by Gujarat. Tamil Nadu is in the third position, while Karnataka is at fourth position, down from the number one a year ago.

As of March 31, 2022, Rajasthan's total renewable capacity stood at 17,041 MW up from 10,205 MW a year ago, led by a sharp increase in solar power capacity to 12,565 MW (including 11,494 MW of ground-mounted capacity) in FY22 from 5,733 MW (including 5,314 MW of ground-mounted) in FY21, according to the data provided by Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. "Rajasthan and Gujarat have potential for solar energy. In Rajasthan, central organisations such as SECI and NTPC are aggregating power and selling it to other States through power-sharing agreements. This is one of the key factors for growth in Rajasthan," says Manish Gupta, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings.

Cumulative installed capacity of renewable power

States	FY22				FY21			
	Total	Solar	Wind	Biopower	Total	Solar	Wind	Biopower
Rajasthan	17040.62	12564.87	4326.82	125.08	10204.5	5732.58	4326.82	121.25
Gujarat	16578.9	7180.03	9209.22	109.26	13152.63	4430.82	8561.82	77.3
Tamil Nadu	16099.3	5067.18	9866.37	1042.7	15225.35	4475.21	9608.04	1019.05
Karnataka	15904.59	7590.81	5130.9	1902.15	15462.8	7355.17	4938.6	1888.3

Source: MNRE

Gujarat's total renewable capacity increased to 16,588 MW (13,153 MW), led by the solar power segment, which saw an increase from 4,431 MW to 7,180 MW, while the State's wind power capacity also increased to 9,209 MW from 8,562 MW.

"In Gujarat, State's Discom is coming out with tenders and more participation is happening. Also, Gujarat's Discom is among the best in terms of financial strength. In general, Discoms are reeling under financial stress, with a lot of them being unable to pay their dues," said Gupta.

Export-friendly policy

"Both Rajasthan and Gujarat started promoting the export of renewable power. For instance, in Gujarat, a 30 GW RE park is being developed for exporting power to other centres. Their policies also facilitated revenue land allocation for the planned

and systematic development of projects," says Disha Agarwal, Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Tamil Nadu's total renewable energy capacity stood at 16,099 MW (15,225 MW). But the State remains the leader in wind energy with an installed capacity of 9,866 MW, followed by Gujarat. Tamil Nadu's total solar capacity stood at 5,067 MW (4,475 MW).

Karnataka, which was the leader in overall renewable energy capacity in the country a year ago, reported tepid progress in new capacity addition during FY22 as its total capacity reached 15,905 MW (15,463 MW). The State also lost its leadership position in the solar power segment to Rajasthan in FY22. Karnataka's overall solar capacity stood at 7,591 MW (7,355 MW).

Discom concerns

"According to CEEW analysis,

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have shown high compliance rates with their renewable purchase obligations. In both these States, variable renewable energy accounts for a large share of their total electricity generation. It is about 16.1 per cent for Tamil Nadu, and 24.3 per cent for Karnataka, which is the highest in the country. Therefore, both the States must solve system integration challenges to continue the growth momentum," says Agarwal.

Gupta points out that though Tamil Nadu attracts a lot of investments in clean energy, Tamil Nadu's discom is under severe stress as it has not increased tariffs for years and there are delays in payments to generators. Hence, the ability to attract new developers is limited from the Discom's perspective. Karnataka is strong in renewables, but Discom related concerns remain here too.

Surat to host smart cities summit

SURAT WILL HOST the three-day national conference on 'Smart Cities Smart Urbanisation', organised by the ministry of housing and urban affairs, at International Exhibition-cum-conventional hall of SGCCI from April 18. CM Bhupendra Patel, Union ministers Hard-eep Singh Puri and Mansu-kh Mandaviya are among those who will attend it.

25. Recently In April "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference has been started in _____ by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- A. Surat
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Delhi

- The 3-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference had a grand opening in Surat today. The event is being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd.

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- The opening day of the 'Smart Cities Smart Urbanization' mega conclave showcased various interactive activities, arranged interactions with eminent speakers and Learning across the 5 themes vis. *Reimagining Public Spaces, Digital Governance, Climate Smart Cities, Innovation and Smart Finance*
- Smart Cities Mission launched the *Urban Outcomes Framework 2022, Artificial Intelligence Playbook for Cities &LIFI - Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India which is MoHUA's integrated data portal.*

26. Recently India's first radio channel for visually-impaired people 'Radio Aksh' launched in _____ by the *Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham).*
- A. Pune
 - B. Nagpur**
 - C. Surat
 - D. Hyderabad

India's first radio channel for visually-impaired people 'Radio Aksh' launched in Nagpur.

This concept has been envisaged first by the Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham).

It will help visually-impaired people in accessing educational resources and Audio Books. Visually-impaired people can study from their homes through Radio Aksh.

This Internet Radio has no geographical limits and study content is pre-recorded. A dedicated team of trained volunteers, mostly women, helped in creating content for this radio channel.

27. *Beach Festival Sea PONDY-2022* recently seen in news was concluded in which of the following places?
- A. Hyderabad
 - B. Pune
 - C. Pondicherry**
 - D. Patna

Beach Festival Sea PONDY-2022 was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan. It was held from 13-16 April. The events of the festivals were organized at four different locations: Gandhi statue beach promenade, Chunnambar water sports complex, Pondy Marina, and Paradise beach. As part of the event, a seafood festival was also organized. The Tourism Department has also organized a seminar on the 'Origin of Sea Route to Pondicherry' on April 16.

Water sports activities, western and classical music programmes, Silambam, puppet show, and catamaran race were part of this festival. Hundreds of tourists participated in the kite flying event held at Pondy Marina.

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28. Recently in April **Bureau of Police Research and Development** organized the _____ **All India Police Science Congress at Central Police Training Academy, Bhopal.**

- A. 50TH
- B. 48th**
- C. 51st
- D. 49th

Bureau of Police Research and Development organized the 48th All India Police Science Congress at Central Police Training Academy, Bhopal.

In addition to Union Home Minister, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also addressed the Congress.

Amit Shah attended the Conference of Forest Committees. He also took part in the distribution of dividends to Tendu leaves collectors.

All India Police Science Congress: In 1960, First All India Police Science Congress was organized in Patna, Bihar.

Bureau of Police Research and Development: It was established in 1970. Ministry of Home Affairs is its parent agency. It is headed by Director-General. Balaji Shrivastava is current Director General.

29. Recently **India's first Skill International Centre** launched at Skill Development Institute (SDI) in _____.

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

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched India's first Skill India International Centre at Skill Development Institute (SDI) in Bhubaneswar.

He also launched World Skills Academy and National Academy for Skill Teachers.

Skill India International Centre will provide high-quality training to youth. It will organize training sessions as per the demand of international employers.

It will provide over training of trainers, corporate training, up-skilling and trade testing facilities.

It will identify emerging trends in teaching and Skill delivery and it will create a pool of vocational education and training (TVET) teaching staff. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between National Skill Development Corporation International (NSDCI) and Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) to promote the international workforce mobility of skilled and certified workers.

30. Consider the following statements regarding the **first ever SEMICON INDIA-2022 Conference.**

- 1. SEMICON India-2022 Conference will be organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology from 29th of April to 1st of May in Pune.**

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2. Theme of SEMICON INDIA-2022- *Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Making India a Semiconductor Nation.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first ever SEMICON India-2022 Conference on 29th of April in Bengaluru. SEMICON India-2022 Conference will be organised by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology from 29th of April to 1st of May around theme of - *Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Making India a Semiconductor Nation.*

SEMICON India - 2022 aims to make India a significant player in Global Semiconductor value chain.

SEMICON India-2022 conference will attract best minds from across the world from semiconductor industry, research and academia and will act as a big step in fulfilling PM's vision on making India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and Semiconductor industry.

31. Consider the following statements regarding *Plant Protection Division.*

1. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched two online portals- *Comprehensive Registration of Pesticides -CROP and Plant Quarantine Management System- PQMS of the Plant Protection Division.*
2. *The Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS) is an improved version of Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS) while the Computerised Registration of Pesticides is now redeveloped as Comprehensive Registration of Pesticides (CROP).*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Realising the need for quicker disposal of applications related to export/import of agricultural commodities and pesticides registration, the *Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW)* launched two redeveloped online portals.
- *The Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS) is an improved version of Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS).*
- *While the Computerised Registration of Pesticides is now redeveloped as Comprehensive Registration of Pesticides (CROP), both catering to Indian exporters and importers of agriculture commodities and Indian pesticide industry.*

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- The PQMS portal will provide a transparent system with no physical touch points for the applicants and ensure convenience to the users, through an online system including e-payments and uploading of documents.
- Similarly, the re-developed CROP portal will immensely help in ease of doing business and provide greater and timely Crop protection solutions to farmers of the country.

32. Recently _____ has become the first state in the country to get the L-root Server to provide digital services and enforce e-governance with seamless connectivity.
- A. Maharashtra
 - B. Rajasthan**
 - C. Uttar Pradesh
 - D. Kerala

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to get the L-root server, which will enable the State government to provide its flagship digital services and enforce e-governance with seamless internet connectivity.

The new facility will strengthen internet infrastructure and help improve security and resilience of internet-based operations.

The new server has been installed at the Bhamashah State Data Centre here in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said here on Monday that the State would not depend on any root server for the domain name system following the installation of new facility.

Rajasthan first State to get L-root server

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to get the L-root server, which will enable it to provide digital services and enforce e-governance with seamless connectivity.

The new facility will strengthen infrastructure and help improve security of Internet-based operations. The new server has been installed at the Bhamashah State Data Centre here in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said.

33. Consider the following statements regarding PM Shri Narendra Modi visit to Jammu & Kashmir.
1. PM to launch Amrit Sarovar- an initiative aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country.
 2. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of three road packages of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, being built at a cost of over Rs. 7500 crore.
 3. During the visit, Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth around Rs 20,000 crore.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2**

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D. None Of the above

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will undertake a visit to Jammu & Kashmir to participate in the celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day

During the visit, Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth around Rs 20,000 crore.

Prime Minister will inaugurate the Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel, built at a cost of over Rs 3100 crore. The 8.45 Km long tunnel would reduce the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 km.

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of three road packages of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, being built at a cost of over Rs. 7500 crore

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Ratle and Kwar Hydroelectric projects. The 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project will be constructed on Chenab river in Kishtwar District at a cost of around Rs 5300 crore.

With a view to ensure rejuvenation of water bodies, during the visit to J&K, the Prime Minister will also launch a new initiative named Amrit Sarovar. It is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country. It is yet another mode of the government towards the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

34. Consider the following statement regarding the *first ever Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIS)*.

- 1. The first ever Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIS) at Gandhinagar with the AYUSH sector witnessing Letter of Intents (LoIs) of over Rs 9,000 crores.**
- 2. The government will soon launch 'Ayush mark', which will provide authenticity to locally-made Ayush products.**
- 3. In a bid to attract medical tourism in the country, PM Modi announced a special Ayush visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to India to take advantage of traditional medicine.**

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**

- In a bid to attract medical tourism in the country, PM Modi announced a special Ayush visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to India to take advantage of traditional medicine.**
- The initiative is part of the government's 'Heal In India' campaign to promote medical tourism in India.**

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- **The government will soon launch 'Ayush mark', which will provide authenticity to locally-made Ayush products.**
- **The first ever Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIS) at Gandhinagar concluded on a high note last night, with the AYUSH sector witnessing Letter of Intents (LoIs) of over Rs 9,000 crores.**

GLOBAL AYUSH INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION SUMMIT 2022

Ayush visa to be launched soon to boost medical tourism: PM

SOHINI GHOSH
 GANDHINAGAR, APRIL 20

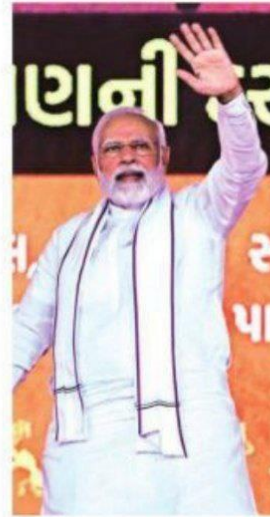
THE CENTRAL government will soon introduce a specific Ayush visa category to boost medical tourism and a digital portal to connect medicinal plant farmers with Ayush product manufacturers, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The PM was speaking at the inaugural session of the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIS) 2022 at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar where Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus were present on the dais along with Union Minister of Health Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of Ayush Sarbanand Sonowal, along with Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel.

"The government will soon start an Ayush visa for foreign citizens who come to India for Ayush treatment. With this visa, it will make travel easier for accessing ayush therapies," said Modi.

At a plenary session, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Jhansi-Lalitpur, Anurag Sharma, hailed the plan, saying, "Imagine the boost it will give to tourism in this country. We will have the Kerala model... in Uttarakhand, in the Sunderbans, in the Northeast."

Modi said the idea for an Ayush summit came to him



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering in Dahod, Gujarat, on Wednesday. *Bhupendra Rana*

"when there was widespread panic across the world" about Covid-19. "Innovation and investment increases capability of any sector... It is time now to increase investment as much as possible in the Ayush sector," the PM said.

Pointing at "limitless possibilities of innovation and investment" in this sector, Modi highlighted initiatives planned by the government, including aiding farmers, encouraging start-ups and incentivising medical

JAMAICA RESEARCHING MARIJUANA AS POTENTIAL CURE FOR GLAUCOMA: ENVOY

Gandhinagar: Marijuana is now the subject of research as a possible cure for glaucoma, High Commissioner of Jamaica to India Jason Keats Matthew Hall said during the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 on Wednesday. Hall said one of the advances that Jamaica is making in alternative medicine is with "a particular flower" that was brought to Jamaica by Indians. Adding that there is "significant research which is being done with cannabinoids", Hall said "this is an area which has been pioneering in creating a cure for glaucoma". **ENS**

tourism in the Ayush sector.

Speaking about the efficiency of traditional medicine, Modi took the example of Rosemarie Odinga, daughter of former Kenya PM Raila Odinga, and said her blindness was cured by Ayurveda treatment in Kerala.

Modi said Atmanirbhar Bharat existed even in the time of Ramayana when "Hanuman brought herbs from the Himalayas for Lakshman when he fainted".

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration were instituted by the Government of India to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by districts as well as organizations of the Central and State Governments. For the year 2021, these Awards have aimed at recognizing the contribution of civil servants in the categories of - Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's participation in Poshan Abhiyan.

Churu & Bishnupur Districts receive Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in Khelo India. The "Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports" (Khelo India Scheme) is a continuing flagship scheme of the Government of India initiated in 2016-17. Churu, Rajasthan has emerged as the best performing district, and the second spot has gone to Bishnupur, Manipur.

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35. Recently *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)* _____ *has established the highest number of manufacturing and service units under its flagship scheme- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP).*

- A. *Tamil Nadu*
- B. *Jammu & Kashmir*
- C. *Telangana*
- D. *Uttar Pradesh*

Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

KVIC Puts Jammu & Kashmir Ahead of All Indian States in Creating Self-Employment Under PMEGP

Posted On: 21 APR 2022 12:48PM by PIB Delhi

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has just scripted the golden chapter of industrial growth and employment boom in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). In the year 2021-22, KVIC, in J&K, has established the highest number of manufacturing and service units under its flagship scheme- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) and created the highest number of jobs in comparison with all other states and UTs in India. With a record 21,640 manufacturing and service units, J&K stands way ahead of bigger states like Uttar Pradesh (12,594 units), Madhya Pradesh (8082 units), Tamil Nadu (5972 units), Karnataka (5877) and Gujarat (4140 units). A massive 1.73 lakh new employment in J&K in 2021-22, under PMEGP alone, is also the highest across all states and UTs in India.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has just scripted the golden chapter of industrial growth and employment boom in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

In the year 2021-22, KVIC, in J&K, has established the highest number of manufacturing and service units under its flagship scheme- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) and created the highest number of jobs in comparison with all other states and UTs in India.

With a record 21,640 manufacturing and service units, J&K stands way ahead of bigger states like Uttar Pradesh (12,594 units), Madhya Pradesh (8082 units), Tamil Nadu (5972 units), Karnataka (5877) and Gujarat (4140 units). A massive 1.73 lakh new employment in J&K in 2021-22, under PMEGP alone, is also the highest across all states and UTs in India.

PMEGP was launched in the year 2008 and for the next 6 years, i.e. till 2013-14, this scheme progressed at snail's pace in J&K. However, 2014-15 onwards, there has been a phenomenal growth under PMEGP in the state.

36. _____ *Country is designated as the "Guest of Honour Country" at the Paris Book Festival 2022 being organized from 21st to 24th April, 2022*

- A. *Bangladesh*
- B. *India*
- C. *Nepal*
- D. *Pakistan*

India is designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022 being organized from 21st to 24th April, 2022 as announced under the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – President Emmanuel Macron Joint Statement released in 2018 during the French President's visit to New Delhi.

The India Pavilion which has been designed by National Institute of Design (NID), houses more than 15 digital and physical exhibitions displaying over 400 books published in various Indian languages representing the works of 65 Indian publishers.

37. Consider the following statements regarding **Def-Connect 2.0**.

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1. **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches iDEX-Prime & 6th Defence India Start-up Challenge during Def-Connect 2.0 in New Delhi.**
2. **The iDEX-Prime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore, to help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.**
3. **DISC 6 witnesses the participation of newly-formed seven defence companies, Indian Coast Guard and organisations under Ministry of Home Affairs for the first time.**

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

Rajnath rolls out schemes for defence start-ups

'Opportunity to understand new technologies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime and the sixth Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC-6) meant to encourage defence start-ups during DefConnect 2.0. The iDEX-Prime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond ₹1.5 crore up to ₹10 crore, to help the ever-growing start-ups in the sector, the Defence Ministry said.

"The iDEX has provided an opportunity to our science and technology professionals to understand futuristic technologies such as AI, Augmented Reality, block-chain and space technologies. The start-up ecosystem has also been promoted and encouraged through order placement," Mr. Singh said. He noted that the iDEX has, so far, introduced more than 100 win-



Innovation in focus: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at DefConnect 2.0 in New Delhi on Friday. **▲PTI**

ners to the market, providing direct & indirect employment to thousands of skilled and semi-skilled people.

The DISC-6 with 38 problem statements was also launched by Mr. Singh which relate to Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced imaging, sensor systems, among others.

Mr. Singh stressed on continuous strengthening of all sectors, especially the security apparatus, to deal with the challenges that may emanate from the fast-changing world order.

Stating that every new

threat is becoming more complex and challenging than the previous one, Mr. Singh said, "After the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now witnessing the Ukrainian conflict. We have also witnessed instability in the Middle East [West Asia], in Afghanistan and now in Pakistan. One way or the other, such events impact our country as well. There is a need to equip the country in every area to ensure peace and stability. The development of disruptive technology is a key requirement to handle new threats and challenges of the future."

Allowances for armed forces, CAPF now on par

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Correcting an anomaly linked to the existing difference in risk and hardship allowance between the armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the Defence Ministry has brought military personnel on a par with their CAPF counterparts. This was announced by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Army Commanders' Conference on Thursday.

A case to increase the same was taken up by the Department of Defence in March 2019 and by the Department of Military Affairs in March 2020, defence officials said.

"After due deliberations, it was submitted by the then Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee to the Defence Minister where it was subsequently approved," an official said.

The allowance will be admissible retrospectively from February 22, 2019, and the approximate cash outgo for the government is ₹10,000 crore.

It is also admissible to National Cadet Corps units, training centres, Border Roads Organisation, Military Engineer Services (MES).

In addition, 40% of the personnel posted to Strategic Forces Command (SFC) will be paid allowance in the revised matrix, which is ₹10,500 for Officers and ₹6,000 for Junior Commissioned Officers.

In case if there is any reduction in the revised allowance in any particular location, then the existing allowance would continue and also if any location has been inadvertently left out in the annexure, the existing allowance would continue, officials added.

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime and sixth Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 6) during Def-Connect 2.0 in New Delhi on April 22, 2022.**
- **The iDEX-Prime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore, to help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.**

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- *DISC 6 witnesses the participation of newly-formed seven defence companies, Indian Coast Guard and organisations under Ministry of Home Affairs for the first time.*
- *The Raksha Mantri congratulated the Department of Defence Production (DDP) for receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 under the 'Innovation (General) – Central' category for the iDEX initiative.*
- *The third edition of Innovate4Defence internship (i4D) was also launched on the occasion, inviting applications from students all over India. In addition, a DIO e-Brochure and the 'Runway for Innovations' e-Coffee Table Book was launched during Def-Connect 2.0.*

38. Recently In April **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** signed a MoU with _____ for the implementation of the Agri Export Policy and to strengthen the export value chain.

- A. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative
- B. National Research Development Corporation**
- C. Jute Corporation of India
- D. Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Aiming to give a boost to the export value chain, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).

The MoU has been inked for utilizing both the organizations' expertise by working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders. The MoU has been signed for the implementation of the Agri Export Policy and to strengthen the export value chain.

NRDC is an enterprise of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and it was established in 1953 with the primary objective to promote, develop and commercialize the technologies, know-how, inventions, and patents.

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International News

39. Recently In April which of the following countries successfully test-launched a *Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile*?

- A. North Korea
- B. Russia**
- C. China
- D. Pakistan

Russia tests nuclear-capable Sarmat ballistic missile

REUTERS
LONDON

Russia said on Wednesday it had conducted a first test launch of its Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, a new addition to its nuclear arsenal which President Vladimir Putin said would give Moscow's enemies something to think about.

"It has no analogues in

the world and won't have for a long time to come," Mr. Putin said. "This truly unique weapon will strengthen the combat potential of our armed forces, reliably ensure Russia's security from external threats and provide food for thought for those who, in the heat of frenzied aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country."

- *Russia announced that it successfully test-launched a Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile at a time when Moscow-West tensions have sharply escalated over Ukraine.*
- *The missile was fired from the Plesetsk state test cosmodrome in northwest Russia's Arkhangelsk region.*
- *After the test, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the new missile complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is able to overcome all modern means of anti-missile defence.*
- *An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more thermonuclear warheads).*

The missile can carry nuclear weapons and ten or more warheads can be installed on this missile.

It has a range of 18000 km and an RD-274 liquid rocket engine gives power to this missile.

It is one of Russia's next-generation missiles. It has the ability to dodge all anti-missile defence systems.

It can carry weapons weight up to 200 tons and can attack any pole on the Earth.

It has a mass of 208.1 metric tons, while the length is 35.5 meters and the roundness is 3 meters. It can travel at a speed of Mach 20.7 (about 25560 km/hr).

It has been designed by the Russian company Makeyev Rocket Design Bureau.

40. Consider the following statements regarding *India and Finland*.

1. *India and Finland announced their decision to set up an Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.*
2. *In 2023, Finland will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, while India will host it in 2024.*

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Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- On April 18, India and Finland announced their decision to set up an Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, and Mika Lintila, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland.
- Bilateral collaboration between the two countries aims to promote creative research and development initiatives that address a specific need or challenge.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that the Indian side has picked three institutes for a Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing: IIT Madras, IISER Pune, and C-DAC Pune.
- India and Finland are Antarctic Treaty consultative members with active stations in the Antarctic.
- In 2023, Finland will host the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, while India will host it in 2024.
- Since 2014, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Finnish Meteorological Institute has collaborated in the area of the atmospheric environment.

Finland keen on more tie-ups with India

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
 gireesh.p@livemint.com
 NEW DELHI



Finland's minister of economic affairs Mika Lintilä (left) met science and technology minister Jitendra Singh on Monday.

Finland is keen to step up cooperation with India in areas such as waste-to-energy, low-carbon mobility and communication, said visiting Finnish minister of economic affairs Mika Lintilä, who on Monday made a joint announcement with science and technology minister Jitendra Singh on cooperation in quantum computing.

Lintilä said in an interview that India and Finland are exploring more tie-ups and that the two sides would be announcing partnerships in energy, too. Lintilä, who is on a week-long visit, said Finnish companies have expertise in areas such as quantum computing, 5G technology, renewable energy and low-emission mobility.

India's collaboration with Finland in technology has benefited companies such as Nokia and digital technology would naturally be an area of future collaboration between the two countries, he said.

Under the deal announced by the two sides on Monday, an India-Finland virtual network centre on quantum computing

would be set up, said the ministry of science and technology.

Lintilä said he would be meeting commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri. "We try to open doors for companies for cooperation. In energy sector we have solutions which could be very interesting for India," said Lintilä.

The minister said connectivity is a key area in bilateral

cooperation. "The MoU signed today looks at quantum technology opportunity. There are specific areas where Finland is really advanced. We have strong research (capability) and companies that have technology," said the minister.

The statement from the science and technology ministry quoted Jitendra Singh as saying bilateral collaboration was an attempt to stimulate innovative research and development projects that address

specific needs or challenges, demonstrate high industrial relevance and commercial potential and aim to deliver benefit to both the nations.

Singh said the department of science and technology has started several mission-mode programmes covering electric vehicles, quantum technologies, future manufacturing and green hydrogen fuel and have sought collaboration with Finland in solving issues of societal challenges.

"We are an export country. More than 40% of our GDP come from exports. We strongly support open trade.

We (India and Finland) have good trade relations and we have to continue that and companies have a big role in that," said Lintilä.

On the proposed Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU, the minister said that a trade agreement tailored for today's needs—one that facilitates a broad range of economic cooperation—would be in the interests of India, Finland and the EU.

An email sent to the ministries of power and petroleum and natural gas on Monday evening remained unanswered at the time of publishing.

41. Recently China launched a new satellite _____ into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch to provide reliable, stable and safe radio and television transmission and communication services.

- A. Xingong 6M
- B. Zhongxing 6D
- C. Goefoen 5
- D. Zhurong 7B

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China sent a new satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province

The satellite, Zhongxing-6D, was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered the planned orbit successfully. Authorities say it will provide reliable, stable and safe radio and television transmission and communication services.

The launch marked the 415th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

42. Recently In April G20 countries have agreed to set up a global fund for pandemic preparedness at the _____.

- A. European Union
- B. World Bank**
- C. UNEP
- D. United Nation

- G20 countries have agreed to set up global fund for pandemic preparedness at the World Bank.
- The US and Indonesia have given the proposal to establish such kind of fund to tackle future pandemics.
- The WHO and the World Bank estimate that \$10.5 billion per year is needed to support equitable global access to vaccines, testing and treatments.
- However, no details are available from G20 on the size of the new financial intermediary fund.
- G20: It was formed in 1999. It consists of 19 countries and the European Union.



Delivering on the G20 Leaders commitment to build an equitable and effective Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR)

Recommendations to G20 leaders, finance and health ministers from the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All and the G20 Health and Development Partnership.

43. Recently India has agreed to extend an additional _____ credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel for mitigating the dire financial crisis facing the island nation.

- A. USD 400 million
- B. USD 200 million
- C. USD 500 million**
- D. USD 300 million

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- **India has agreed to extend an additional USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel, Finance Minister Ali Sabry said, amid delays in chalking out a bailout package with the IMF to mitigate the dire financial crisis facing the island nation.**
- **India has already agreed to defer USD 1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.**
- **New Delhi has also extended the tenure of a USD 400 million swap given in January this year.**

44. Recently In April India has extended the duration of _____ currency swap facility concluded with the island nation in January 2022.

- A. USD 400 Million
- B. USD 200 Million
- C. USD 500 Million
- D. USD 300 Million

- **In an "unstinted and multi-faceted support" to Sri Lanka which is grappling with its worst-ever economic crisis, India has extended the duration of the USD 400 million currency swap facility which had been concluded with the island nation in January.**
- **This was the first extension of an international debt instrument to Sri Lanka after the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on April 12 temporarily suspended debt servicing.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2019-22.**
- **Under the agreement, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka can make withdrawals of US Dollar, Euro or Indian Rupee in multiple tranches up to a maximum of USD 400 million or its equivalent.**



Pitching for change: Demonstrators camped in tents at a protest site in Colombo. • REUTERS

'India to extend \$500 mn credit line to import fuel'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

India has agreed to extend an additional \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel, Finance Minister Ali Sabry said, amid delays in chalking out a bailout package with the IMF to mitigate the dire financial crisis facing the island nation.

"India has agreed to provide an additional \$500 million for our fuel

imports," Mr. Sabry said on Friday, while adding that he was hopeful that New Delhi would consider handing out another \$1 billion dollars as a credit line.

India has already agreed to defer \$1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.

On Friday, New Delhi extended the tenure of a \$400 million currency swap arrangement with Colombo.

India extends duration of \$400 mn currency swap

Sri Lanka also draws on \$1 bn credit line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

India on Friday extended the duration of a \$400 million currency swap facility with Sri Lanka which it had concluded with the island nation in January.

This was the first extension of an international debt instrument to Sri Lanka after the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on April 12 temporarily suspended debt servicing.

"India's unstinted and multi-faceted support to Sri Lanka continued. As ongoing currency support, @RBI extended the duration of the \$400 million currency swap for @CBSL which was concluded in #January this year," India's High Commission in Colombo said on Twitter.

The debt default came as the island nation was grappling with economic crisis, forex shortages and a balance of payments crisis.

Sri Lanka had also drawn on Indian credit lines worth \$1 billion for essential imports and separate ones for the importation of fuel.

Meanwhile, PM Mahinda Rajapaksa expressed Sri Lanka's gratitude to Chinese premier Li Keqiang for Beijing's assurances of support.

"Had a very productive conversation with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. I reiterated #SriLanka's gratitude to #China for the longstanding friendship and for assuring support to address some of the crucial needs affecting peoples' livelihoods and well-being in these difficult times," he said in a tweet.

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Banking / Economy News

45. Consider the following statements regarding S&P Global Market Intelligence’s ranking of the Asia-Pacific’s largest banks.

1. The ranking was based on the total assets features the largest state lender SBI at 22nd position, whereas HDFC Bank occupied the 44th slot in the latest ranking.
2. ICICI Bank has become third bank to enter in the top 50 list to join State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank with \$226 billion in assets.
3. Nearly half of the list is dominated by Chinese lenders (22) whereas Japan comes second with eight banks featuring in the list.

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

ICICI BANK MAKES THE CUT IN TOP 50

Indian banks better their ranks in Asia, SBI at 22

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence

	No. of banks	Aggregate assets (\$ trillions)
Mainland China	22	34.53
Japan	8	11.71
Hong Kong	2	1.59
Australia	5	3.15
India	3	1.19
South Korea	6	2.66
Singapore	3	1.25
Taiwan	1	0.26

YOUSEF KP
Mumbai, April 20

THE ASSETS SIZE of the country’s top banks has improved in 2021 with State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank climbing up two notches in the latest S&P Global Market Intelligence’s ranking of the Asia-Pacific’s largest banks. What’s more, the third-largest lender — ICICI Bank — has found a place in the league table with the rank of 50.

The three lenders together have an asset size of \$1.2 trillion, which is 2.1% of the aggregate assets of the top banks in Asia.

The ranking, which was based on the total assets, features the largest state lender SBI in 22nd position, whereas HDFC Bank occupied the 44th slot in the latest ranking. Among the top 25 lenders, only SBI and Industrial Bank Co of China have seen two notches jump in the ranking.

“Banks in the Asia-Pacific face uncertainties from the Russia-Ukraine conflict

RAISING THE BAR

- The ranking features HDFC Bank in the 44th slot of the latest ranking
- Among the top 25 lenders, only SBI and Industrial Bank Co of China have seen two notches jump in the ranking

and divergent monetary policies in the region. The rising pace of inflation, fueled by higher commodity prices, has pressured the region’s central banks to follow the US Federal Reserve and end ultra-loose monetary policies. Still, many central banks, especially in China, see the need to support their economies as they continue to face the drag from the Covid-19 pandemic,” observed S&P

Global Market Intelligence.

However, nearly half of the list is dominated by Chinese lenders whereas Japan comes second with eight banks featuring in the list. Twenty-two mainland Chinese banks made it to the list, holding combined assets of \$34.526 trillion at end of 2021. The combined assets of all 50 banks together stand at \$56.32 trillion. South Korea and

Australia have six and four lenders, respectively, featured on the ranking.

With 20.05% compounded annual growth in net income and similar growth in deposits, the total assets of HDFC Bank surged by 18.9% over the last five years. While the total assets of SBI grew 9.5% over the last five years, ICICI Bank saw its assets grow by 11.4% during the same period.

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Top 50 Asia-Pacific banks by total assets

Pro forma for recent and pending acquisitions

Current rank [^]	Previous rank ^{^^}	Current vs. previous	Company (ticker-exchange)	Headquarters	Accounting principle	Total assets (US\$B)
1	1	NC	Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. (1398-SEHK)	Mainland China	IFRS	5,536.53
2	2	NC	China Construction Bank Corp. (939-SEHK)	Mainland China	IFRS	4,762.46
3	3	NC	Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. (1288-SEHK)	Mainland China	IFRS	4,575.95
4	4	NC	Bank of China Ltd. (3988-SEHK)	Mainland China	IFRS	4,206.53
5	5	NC	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. (8306-TSE)	Japan	Japanese GAAP	3,176.84
6	6	NC	Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc. (8316-TSE)	Japan	Japanese GAAP	2,176.94
7	7	NC	Japan Post Bank Co. Ltd. (7182-TSE)	Japan	Japanese GAAP	1,998.98

Chinese banks continued to dominate the Asia-Pacific banking scene accounting for six out of the top ten slots by assets in 2021, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

India's ICICI Bank has entered the top 50 list for the first time to join State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank with \$226 billion in assets.

SBI, India's largest bank by assets, jumped two spots to be ranked 22 nd in the list with \$695 billion in assets.

HDFC Bank, the country's private sector bank also improved its position to 44 th from 46 th last year.

ICICI just about made it to the list at number 50 with \$226 billion in assets.

However, Chinese banks remain dominant in the region with 22 mainland Chinese banks featured in the list of 50. Together these lenders hold assets of \$34.52 trillion at end-2021.

Eight Japanese banks, with combined assets of \$11.706 trillion, made it to the list with combined assets of \$12.748 trillion in the previous-year.

Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., China Construction Bank Corp., Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of China Ltd. kept their positions as the region's largest banks while Japan Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. retained its fifth position on the list with \$3.177 trillion in assets.

46. Consider the following statements regarding NBFCs registered with RBI to carry out credit card business.

- 1. To enter into the credit card business, the company must have a minimum net-owned fund of ₹100 crore and must fulfil other conditions.**
- 2. This will also apply to non-deposit taking company w.e.f. July 1, 2022.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

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- **NBFCs registered with RBI must take prior approval from RBI to carry out credit card business.**
- **RBI has said that any company must take a Certificate of Registration and other permissions to enter into credit card business.**
- **This will also apply to non-deposit taking company. RBI's directions will come into effect from July 1, 2022.**
- **To enter into the credit card business, the company must have a minimum net-owned fund of ₹100 crore and must fulfil other conditions, which RBI will specify.**
- **RBI directed NBFCs to not issue debit cards, credit cards, charge cards or similar products, virtually or physically without taking prior approval of RBI.**
- **"Without obtaining prior approval from the Reserve Bank, NBFCs shall not issue debit cards, credit cards, charge cards, or similar products virtually or physically,"**
- **To increase transparency related to interest rate charged by the credit card issuers, RBI has asked them to quote the **annualised percentage rates (APR)** on credit cards for different situations such as retail purchases, balance transfer.**
- **RBI has said that Urban Co-operative Bank (UCBs) is not allowed to create any honorary positions/ titles at Board level.**
- **It has also said that UCBs are not allowed to confer such honorary titles that are non-statutory in nature.**
- **RBI has asked UCBs to do away with any such existing position/titles (Chairman Emeritus, Group Chairman, etc) within a period of one year.**
- **RBI has said that NBFCs-UL will keep Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of at least 9% of risk weighted assets.**
- **RBI has also said that NBFCs shall not give loans and advances of ₹5 crore and above to their directors, relatives of directors and others as specified by RBI.**

RBI sets 3-year time table for non-individual borrowers to get legal entity identifier codes

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday set a three-year timetable for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of ₹5 crore and above to obtain Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) codes.

Those with exposure of above ₹25 crore from banks and financial institutions will have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2023. For those with exposure between ₹10 to 25 crore will get more year (till April 30, 2024) and those with ₹5 and up to ₹10 crore

have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2025. The RBI said borrowers will obtain LEI codes through authorised Local Operating Unit will not get sanctions for any new exposure.

The LEI is a 20-character alpha-numeric code used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. It is being implemented to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data reporting systems for better risk management. **ABHIJIT LELE**

Don't create honorary posts, RBI tells UCBs

The RBI on Thursday asked UCBs not to create any honorary position or title such chairman emeritus and group chairman at the board level as it results in creation of a shadow authority. The RBI has directed these banks to eliminate such positions within one year. **PTI**

Bank credit up by 10.09% in fortnight: RBI

Bank credit grew by 10.09 per cent to ₹119.88 trillion and deposits by 10.06 per cent to ₹167.42 trillion in the fortnight ended on April 8, the RBI data showed. In the fortnight ended on April 9, 2021, it stood at ₹108.88 trillion, according to the Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position. **PTI**

RBI GUIDELINES

NBFCs need approval to issue credit cards

Experts say move will benefit large NBFCs

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 21

Non-banking financial companies registered with the RBI will not undertake credit card business without prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India.

In *Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022*, the RBI has said that any company, including a non-deposit taking company, will need a Certificate of Registration, apart from specific permission to enter into this business. It has also set a prerequisite of minimum net-owned fund of ₹100 crore, and other terms and conditions it may specify in this regard.

"Without obtaining prior approval from the Reserve Bank, NBFCs shall not issue debit cards, credit cards, charge cards or similar products, virtually or physically," it added. The directions will be effective from July 1, 2022.

Experts say the move could help large NBFCs.



The directions will be effective from July 1, 2022

"This is a positive move for large NBFCs that may wish to enter the credit card business on their own. They can do so with prior approval from the RBI. Fintechs have already been working with banks to issue cards – both co-branded and prepaid – and most will continue to do so," said Anuj Kacker, Co-Founder, Freeto.

A number of NBFCs had been in talks with the RBI to receive permission to issue credit cards.

Evolution of BNPL space

"It's a welcome move for large NBFCs. They may now be able to enter the credit card space on their own, with prior approval of and registration with RBI. But it has to be seen what kind of

terms and conditions the RBI sets in terms of risk weighted assets, NPAs and unsecured lending, and any provisioning needs that it might expect from those NBFCs," said Srinath Sridharan, corporate advisor and independent markets commentator.

"It could also help fintechs with large balancesheets. It will be interesting to see how the BNPL space evolves amongst those lenders who will also have credit card business," he added.

SCBs need approval

As part of the eligibility criteria, the RBI has said that scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), other than regional rural banks (RRBs) with net worth of ₹100 crore and above, can undertake credit card business either independently or in tie-up arrangement with other card issuing banks or NBFCs with the approval of their boards.

On interest rates, RBI said card issuers can be guided by instructions on interest rate on advances. Card-issuers should also inform cardholders of the implications of paying only "the minimum amount due", the RBI added.

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47. Consider the following statements regarding RBI Circular on timeline for non-individual borrowers to get Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) codes.

1. The RBI set a three-year timetable for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore or more to obtain Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) codes.
2. Those with exposure above Rs 25 crore from banks and financial institutions will have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2023.
3. Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-digit unique code used to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The Reserve Bank of India set on Thursday a three-year timetable for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore or more to obtain Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) codes.
- The LEI is a 20-character alpha-numeric code used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.
- It is being implemented to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data reporting systems for better risk management.
- Those with exposure above Rs 25 crore from banks and financial institutions will have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2023.
- For those with exposure between Rs 10 to 25 crore will get more year (till April 30, 2024) and those with Rs five and upto Rs 10 crore have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2025.
- If borrowers did not get LEI codes from authorised Local Operating Unit (LOU), they will not be sanctioned any new exposure.
- Central and State governments departments/agencies will be exempted from these rules. PSUs will come under these rules.
- For the purpose of these rules, the banks include local area banks, small finance banks, scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks), and primary (urban) co-operative banks.

48. Recently State Bank of India (SBI) raised the MCLR for the first time in three years, signalling that the soft rates regime that has prevailed since 2019 may be over. What Does M stands for in the term MCLR?

- A. Minimum
- B. Marginal
- C. Maximum
- D. Market

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State Bank of India (SBI) raised the marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) for the first time in three years, signalling that the soft rates regime that has prevailed since 2019 may be over.

SBI raised the MCLR by 10 basis points (bps) across tenures to 7.1% (from 7% earlier); it is now slightly lower than the 7.25% at HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, and ICICI Bank.

MCLR, which RBI instituted with effect from April 1, 2016, is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer. It is applicable to fresh corporate loans and floating rate loans taken before October 2019.

RBI then switched to the external benchmark linked lending rate (EBLR) system where lending rate is linked to benchmark rates like repo or Treasury bill rates. As a result of the increase in MCLR, borrowers who have taken home, vehicle, and personal loans will find their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) rising in the coming months.

49. Recently the Reserve Bank of India has given approval to _____ for starting referral services of FD and RD on behalf of Sarvodaya Small Finance Bank.

- A. Airtel Payment Bank
- B. Fino Payments Bank**
- C. Jana Small Finance Bank
- D. India Post Payment Bank

RBI has allowed Fino Payments Bank to carry out referral services of term deposit products as fixed deposit (FD) and recurring deposit (RD).

RBI has allowed Fino Payments Bank to carry out services as a business correspondent of Sarvodaya Small Finance Bank.

Fino Payments Bank was launched in 2017 by Fino Pay-tech Limited. Fino Pay-tech Limited was set up as a payments technology company in 2006.

50. Recently _____ has signed a memorandum of understanding with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for collection of taxes.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. RBL Bank
- C. DSB Bank
- D. Dhanlaxmi Bank**

- *Dhanlaxmi Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for collection of taxes.*
- *The bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on the recommendation from the Controller General of*

Dhanlaxmi Bank signs MoU with CBDT, CBIC



DHANLAXMI BANK on Thursday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for collection of taxes. The bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India based on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts for collection of various taxes, the bank said in a regulatory filing. Customers will soon be able to make direct taxes and GST payments through the branch network and the banks' digital platforms, it said.

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Accounts for collection of various taxes, Dhanlaxmi Bank said in a regulatory filing.

- *Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank was put under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework by RBI in November 2015 due to its deteriorating financial health and only last year it came out of these restrictions.*

51. Recently in a first of its kind ESG (environmental, social and governance) platform in India _____ announced the launch of an international sustainability platform, at Gujarat's GIFT City.

- A. IIM Ahmadabad
- B. **NSE IFSC Limited**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Punjab National Bank

NSE IFSC Ltd, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), on Friday announced the launch of an international sustainability platform, at Gujarat's GIFT City, which is expected to get operationalized in the second half of the year.

This is a first of its kind ESG (environmental, social and governance) platform in India.

The platform will facilitate listing and trading a variety of sustainability products including green bonds, voluntary carbon, sustainable bonds, green real estate investment trusts (REITs), green equity.

The sustainability platform will use Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) or Blockchain to ensure integrity, speed, tracking and traceability of transactions.

ECube Investment Advisors, an ESG-focused platform and Chain flux, a Blockchain products firm are working closely with NSE IFSC.

NSE IFSC is located at Gujarat's GIFT City, which is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

Vikram Limaye, Managing Director and CEO at NSE

NSE to launch ESG platform at GIFT IFSC

To facilitate listing of sustainable bonds, REITs/equity

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 22

NSE IFSC is launching an international sustainability platform, a first-of-its-kind ESG platform in India, at GIFT IFSC. It is expected to be operationalised in the second half of 2022, subject to regulatory approvals.

The platform will facilitate the listing and trading of a variety of sustainability products including green bonds, voluntary carbon, sustainable bonds, green REITs and green equity, and channelise the flow of sustainable finance to India and other markets. Locating it in GIFT City will facilitate international investors to participate in environment, social and governance (ESG) transitions in India and other markets.

Blockchain technology
Issuers listing on the plat-



form will be expected to meet a minimum set of ESG standards, besides complying with specific criteria defined by NSE IFSC for the sustainability products they wish to list. The platform expects a range of corporate bodies to leverage and attract capital to achieve climate and ESG goals. The platform will use distributed ledger technology (DLT) or blockchain to ensure integrity, speed, tracking and traceability of transactions.

A sustainability expert group, led by Nick Robins of the Grantham Research Institute at the LSE, will offer guidance, with Amit Garg of IIM-A as co-chair.

Several industry leaders welcomed the setting up of the platform.

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52. Recently in April, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on Central Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions on Customer Protection.

- A. Rs 30 Lakh
- B. Rs 36 Lakh**
- C. Rs 50 Lakh
- D. Rs 93 Lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 36 lakh on Central Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Customer Protection – limiting liability of customers in unauthorised electronic banking transactions',
- This penalty has been imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Central Bank of India is an Indian nationalised bank. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance is based in Mumbai, the financial capital of India and capital city of state of Maharashtra.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 17.6 lakh on Malappuram Finance Ltd for the violation of various guidelines. Fine levied on Malappuram Finance for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and the Master Direction - Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction 2016. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Manappuram Finance Ltd, or MAFIL, is an Indian non-banking financial company based in Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala.

RBI imposes ₹36-lakh fine on Central Bank



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, April 22

THE RESERVE BANK of India on Friday said it has imposed a fine of ₹36 lakh on Central Bank of India for violating norms on customer protection. This penalty has been imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the regulator said.

“This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers,” it added.

The RBI had conducted a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2020.

It revealed non-compliance with the relevant directions to the extent the bank failed to credit (shadow reversal) the amount involved in the unauthorised electronic transaction to the customers’ account within 10 working days from the date of notification by the customer, RBI said.

53. Consider the following statements regarding International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), comprehensive regulatory framework for Investment Funds.

1. A Fund Management Entity will be registered with IFSCA to manage different types of funds and schemes subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.
2. Venture capital schemes or non-retail schemes soliciting money from accredited investors only shall qualify for a green channel.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

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

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), has notified a comprehensive regulatory framework for Investment Funds in the official gazette on April 19, 2022.

Registering the Fund Management Entity: A Fund Management Entity will be registered with IFSCA and will be able to manage different types of funds and schemes subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

Green Channel: Venture Capital Schemes or non-retail schemes soliciting money from accredited investors only shall qualify for a green channel i.e. the schemes filed can open for subscription by investors immediately upon filing with IFSCA.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs): Considering that ETFs offer a means to gain exposure to specific markets or asset classes at a low cost, registered fund managers in IFSC shall be able to launch not just Index based ETFs but also Active ETFs and Commodity based ETFs.

Environment Social Governance (ESG): Growing numbers of investors expect fund managers to make ESG issues integral to their investment strategies. With the intent of making IFSC a hub for a host of activities related to sustainable finance, disclosures have been proposed to be mandated at the entity level and scheme level.

54. Recently, on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Indian Independence & ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, _____ announced the launch of Fincluvation– a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Start-up community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

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

India Post Payments Bank to advance inclusion

Gulveen Aulakh
 gulveen.aulakh@livemint.com
 NEW DELHI

India Post Payments Bank on Thursday launched Fincluvation, a platform to promote innovative solutions in collaboration with fintech startups to accelerate financial inclusion among the underserved and unserved population.

India Post will invite startups to co-create solutions on the platform. The government will offer up to ₹3 crore to support the entire journey from the proof-of-concept stage to the final product,

said Ashiwini Vaishnav, Union minister for communication and information technology.

"We will also back you and talk to investors, venture capital and private equity firms, for raising funds after the product is successful in the market," Vaishnav said while addressing startup representatives at the launch event.

Startups will be encouraged to develop solutions for inclusive credit products that would be beneficial to the target population and take them to their doorsteps through the massive postal

network, he added.

The convergence of technology and traditional postal services such as the money order service will be interoperable with digital banking services. They can also create any market-led solution that can help solve all the problems relevant to the department of posts in serving target customers, Vaishnav said.

Fincluvation will allow startups to work with experts

from India Post to develop solutions and run pilots using the postal network and India Post Payments Bank's technology stack. Successful

India Post will invite startups to co-create solutions on the new platform called Fincluvation

pilots can mature into long-term partnerships, he added.

Fincluvation mentors will work closely with startups to tweak products to customer needs and align the go-to-market strategies with operating models of India Post.

Startups will also be able to

use the physical infrastructure that the department of posts has across the country.

Devusinh Chauhan, minister of state for communications, said the government will provide support to the joint initiative between India Post and fintech startups. The department serves close to 430 million Indians through neighbourhood post offices and doorstep services via more than 400,000 trusted and capable post office employees and *gramin dak sevaks* or postmen, making it one of the largest and trusted postal networks in the world.

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On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence & ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government owned entity under Department of Posts (DoP) announced the launch of Fincluvation– a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Start-up community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

“Fincluvation will be a permanent platform of IPPB to co-create inclusive financial solutions with participating start-ups

Fincluvation will allow the start-ups to work with IPPB and DoP experts to develop solutions and conduct pilots using the postal network and IPPB’s technology stack.

India Post Payments Bank, abbreviated as IPPB, is a division of India Post which is under the ownership of the Department of Post, a department under Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. Opened in 2018

CEO: J. Venkatramu, Headquarters location: New Delhi

55. Recently Indian Navy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) With _____ as a Knowledge Partner for nurturing technologies in various domains into the Indian Navy.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. Larsen & Turbo**
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. IISc Bangalore

Indian Navy and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 20 Apr 22.

The MoU aims to engage M/s L&T as a Knowledge Partner for nurturing technologies in various domains, for induction into the Indian Navy. Further, the MoU aims to bring together IN and L&T to collaborate on innovative and pioneering projects related to contemporary and emerging technologies of mutual interest.

The MoU encompasses all the aspects related to Electrical, Weapon, Engineering, Machinery and Control, and Hull of a Naval Warship.

56. Recently a new global body named _____ have been formed with a mission to support the development of the plant-based food sector as it surges in popularity around the world.

- A. International Plant Based Foods Working Group**
- B. European Alliance for Plant Based Foods
- C. China Plant Based Foods Association
- D. World Plant Based Foods Working Group

New global body formed to support plant-based food sector

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, April 20

The plant-based foods movement is gaining global momentum with the formation of an International Plant Based Foods Working Group (IPBFWG) to support growth of the rising sector.

Plant-based food associations from seven regions/countries including India have joined forces to form the working group with a mission to support the development of the sector as it surges in popularity around the world.

For a humane food system

IPBFWG’s current executive comprises Plant-Based Foods Canada (PBFC), US-based Plant Based Foods Association (PBFA), European Alliance for Plant Based Foods (EAPF), European Plant Based Foods Association (ENSA), Plant-Based Food Alliance UK, China Plant Based Foods Association and Plant

Based Foods Industry Association (India). Plant-based foods can be a part of the solution to issues that are worry many consumers, companies and governments and offer real advantages when it comes to water use, land use and carbon emissions.

Siska Pottie, Secretary General, EAPF said, “The European Alliance for plant-based food is pleased to join forces with other national plant-based food associations, for creating a global network to exchange knowledge and insights.”

Sanjay Sethi, ED, Plant Based Foods Industry Association said, “The plant-based food sector is seeing exponential growth, and a lot of effort needs to be taken to provide a level playing field for this nascent but promising industry.”

Beyond its seven launch partners, the IPBFWG will be expanding its membership around the world, with more organisations expected to join.

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Plant-based foods movement gains international momentum with the formation of New International Plant Based Foods Working Group (IPBFWG) to support growth of the rising sector.

Seven international plant-based food associations have joined forces in a working group with a mission to support the development of the sector as it surges in popularity around the world.

Formed just months before the United Nations Climate Change conference COP26, (The International Plant Based Foods Working Group (IPBFWG) is made up of like-minded associations representing companies and other organizations involved in producing plant-based foods in their respective countries and regions.

57. Recently _____ has announced a research collaboration with agricultural tech open digital platform, nurture.farm to identify scalable and cost-effective solutions to measure soil health, measuring parameters such as soil organic carbon and other key nutrients.

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

Google has partnered a research collaboration with agricultural tech open digital platform nurture.farm to identify scalable and cost-effective solutions to measure soil health, measuring parameters such as soil organic carbon and other key nutrients.

Soil health is key for crop yield and productivity. But poor land practices and management, magnified by climate change, have wrecked healthy soils.

Google and nurture.farm have outlined multiple areas of research to accelerate the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the country.

58. Recently in April _____ signed a MoU with National Insurance Academy for capacity building to provide skilled talent pool in the insurance sector.

- A. State Bank of India**
- B. Punjab National Bank**
- C. IFSCA**
- D. Paytm**

• **IFSCA inked MoU with National Insurance Academy for capacity building and providing skilled talent pool in the insurance sector.**

nurture.farm, Google to develop soil health checks at low cost

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, April 22

nurture.farm and Google have entered into a research collaboration to establish a scalable and low-cost method to measure soil health, covering soil organic carbon and other key nutrients in soil.

Combining Google's cutting-edge AI, imaging technologies and cloud infrastructure, and nurture.farm's direct on-ground reach and engagement with millions of farmers in India, the two companies have outlined multiple areas of research collaboration that will enable and accelerate the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the country, a release said.

Soil testing

The partnership will focus on the use of hyperspectral image analysis combined with other remote sensing and data collection methods, to accurately measure soil organic carbon and other nutrients in soil across a range of soil types and characteristics



that comprise the landscape of agricultural practices in India.

Pranav Tiwari, CTO, nurture.farm said, "Once developed, we will be able to provide actionable insights and advice to farmers and help them optimise their choices of crops, seeds, and nutrients. This will not only benefit the farmers with a better ROI, but will also help promote practices that make farming, and our planet, more sustainable."

Manish Gupta, Director, Google Research, said, "Using remote measurement of soil health can help deliver orders of magnitude gains in cost-effectiveness and scalability that will directly benefit farmers across the country, enabling them to improve their productivity and meet the challenges of the future."

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- *The main objective of this MoU is to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy.*
- *The MoU will help in capacity development in the field of insurance. It will help in providing skilled manpower for the International Financial Services Centre.*
- *National Insurance Academy: It was founded in 1980 by the Finance Department of the Indian government.*
- *International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA): It has been established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.*

59. Recently **NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)**, the international arm of NPCI, has entered the UAE market by partnering with _____, the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank, to offer Unified Payments Interface-based payments for Indians travelling to these regions.

- PhonePe
- Neo Pay
- Mastercard
- Visa

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has entered the UAE market by partnering with Neo Pay, the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank, and will offer Unified Payments Interface-based payments for Indians travelling to these regions.

This is NPCI's third such international expansion after Bhutan and Singapore. The payments entity is also talking to Nepal to create an indigenous payments platform like UPI.

Mashreq Bank has one of the largest merchant acquiring businesses in the Middle East and North Africa. It processes \$22 billion of annual volume in the UAE across the retail, government, hospitality and e-commerce sectors.

60. Recently _____ has partnered with Delhi Jal Board to convert sludge produced by sewage treatment plants into energy.

- NTPC
- BPCL
- IOCL
- NDMC

AFTER BHUTAN AND SINGAPORE FORAYS
NPCI Ties Up with UAE's Mashreq to Launch UPI

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Mumbai: NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has entered the UAE market by partnering with NeoPay, the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank, and will offer Unified Payments Interface-based payments for Indians travelling to these regions.

Both the entities have been creating the acceptance infrastructure over the past year, with the BHIM UPI service now live on NeoPay terminals.

This is NPCI's third such international expansion after Bhutan and Singapore. The payments entity is also talking to Nepal to create an indigenous payments platform like UPI.

"We are looking at creating an acceptance footprint for UPI-powered apps, including BHIM, across the globe," said Ritesh Shukla, CEO, of NIPL. "We are following the markets where our Indian consumers travel, and this partnership is to expand the usage universe of Indians who currently enjoy seamless UPI experience in India."

Presently, 3.5 million Indians live in the UAE while another 2 million Indians

visit the Emirate every year for business, leisure and academic purposes.

About 25% of the total payments volume in the UAE is cross-border and of that Indians contribute about 10-15%.

"As a leading merchant acquirer, we need to offer as many payment options as possible to our partners," said Vibhor Mundhada, CEO, NeoPay. "And with UAE-India being a strategic corridor for trade and tourism, it is but natural for us to look at relevant payment options for Indian consumers. We are starting with BHIM and will then open up for other UPI-powered wallets."

The idea is to put UPI-powered QR codes in high visibility tourist areas in malls and restaurants.

Mashreq Bank has one of the largest merchant acquiring businesses in the Middle East and North Africa. It processes \$22 billion of annual volume in the UAE across the retail, government, hospitality and e-commerce sectors.

In the previous fiscal year, UPI enabled 45.6 billion transactions worth \$1 trillion, making it the best performing real-time payment ecosystem in the world.



NPCI's global arm aims to facilitate payments for Indians living in and travelling to the UAE

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- **State-owned NTPC has partnered with Delhi Jal Board to convert sludge produced in latter's sewage treatment plants into energy. In Delhi-NCR alone, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) produce up to 800 MT of sludge per day.**
- **NTPC is taking various steps to make its energy portfolio greener and plans to have 60 GW Capacity through renewable energy sources by 2032.**

NTPC ties up with Delhi Jal Board to convert waste into energy

Torrefied waste sludge was fired into NTPC's unit 4 boiler at Dadri for power generation. Firing sludge into the boiler will reduce net CO₂ emissions as well as water and land pollution.



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🔍 | A+ A A-



61. Consider the following statements regarding RBI new regulatory norms for large NBFCs.

1. RBI has capped the aggregate exposure of NBFCs in the upper layer toward one entity at 20% of capital base. These norms will be effective from October 2022.
2. NBFCs shall not grant loans and advances aggregating ₹5 crore and above to directors, relatives of directors etc.
3. All NBFCs in the upper layer will have to list themselves on the stock exchanges within a period of 3 years from the upper layer classification.

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

- **In yet another move to close the regulatory gap between banks and shadow banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated exposure limits to the non-banking finance companies, in line with commercial banks.**
- **The regulator capped Aggregate exposure of NBFCs which are in the upper layer toward one entity at 20% of capital base.**
- **The limit can only be extended by another 5% with board's approval. For a particular borrower group, the cap is at 25%, with additional 10% if exposure is towards infrastructure.**
- **The upper-layer NBFCs are typically the top 10 ones in terms of asset size.**
- **In case of breach of the large exposure limits, the NBFCs have to report to the department of supervision of RBI.**
- **These norms will come into effect from October 1, 2022.**

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- **Further, the central bank has asked all NBFCs to make additional disclosures in their notes to accounts, including their exposure to real estate, capital market, intra-group exposure, and un-hedged foreign currency exposure.**
- **These guidelines will be effective for annual financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2023, and onwards**
- **Middle layer NBFCs are - all deposit taking NBFCs (NBFC-Ds), non-deposit taking NBFCs with asset size of Rs 1000 crore and above and NBFCs which are Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs), Infrastructure Debt Fund, Core Investment Companies (CICs), Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs).**
- **The regulator has also prescribed NBFCs which are in the upper layer to maintain a common equity tier-1 (CET1) capital of at least 9 per cent to the risk weighted assets, as compared to 5.5% for banks. The minimum capital adequacy requirement of NBFCs is 15%.**

New NBFC rules likely to avert credit risks

Rules will insulate lenders from shocks, help avoid concentration of risk

Shayan Ghosh
 shayan.g@livemint.com
 MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest move to stem systemic risks and make shadow banks more accountable by extending the large exposure framework to upper-layer non-banking financial companies will not only reduce credit risks, but may also lead to consolidation, experts said.

On Tuesday, RBI said the exposure of a non-banking financial company (NBFC) to a single entity must not cross 20% of its available capital base and, subject to board approval, an additional 5% exposure will be allowed. For a group of connected entities, the aggregate exposure will be limited to 25% of the non-bank's capital base. The rules, however, provide more headroom for infrastructure finance companies.

With the announcement, the central bank has now harmonized regulations for upper-layer non-banks, commercial banks and co-operative banks, leaving little room for arbitrage. The large exposure framework was first introduced for banks in 2016, and subsequently revised in 2019. In 2020, the guidelines were extended to urban cooperative banks, following the collapse of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank in 2019.

According to experts, if the large exposure norms were not harmonized for commercial banks, cooperative banks, as well as NBFCs, the gaps could be exploited by borrowers. "When others have such caps and NBFCs do not, it poses a risk to the credit system," said R. Gandhi, former deputy governor, RBI.

Besides, the move to bring NBFCs on par with banks on large exposures, and a string of other measures by the central bank, have also led to speculation that the sector may enter a phase of consolidation, especially after HDFC Bank's merger announcement



According to experts, if the large exposure norms were not harmonized for commercial banks, cooperative banks, as well as NBFCs, the gaps could be exploited by borrowers. **AFF**

with Housing Development Finance Corp. earlier this month.

In October 2021, RBI released a set of rules to classify NBFCs based on their size and perceived risks. RBI had said the upper layer of NBFCs could have group exposure of up to 40% of the capital base. While it has now reduced the exposure for group entities, the single borrower exposure limit has been retained.

The rules will help avoid concentration

towards activity-based regulation. "Changes started then are being visible now after years of work," said Gandhi.

By creating a large exposure framework, RBI is also prodding large borrowers to tap funds from the markets instead of solely relying on bank loans, experts said, adding that since market exposures will be in the form of tradeable securities, the price discovery of an asset is better, as markets react faster than the banking sector on fresh information about a company.

RBI has initiated a series of measures to strengthen the supervisory framework for scheduled commercial banks, urban cooperative banks as well as non-banks, governor Das had said on 16 January 2021. "The possibility of working in silos has been eliminated."

According to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), risk of large losses associated with the failure of a single counterparty or a borrower is not captured by the risk-based capital standards of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

NEW NORMS

RBI said the exposure of an NBFC to a single entity must not cross 20% of capital base

FOR a group of connected entities, the exposure will be limited to 25% of the capital base

RBI said the upper layer of NBFCs could have group exposure of up to 40% of capital base

of risk and insulate lenders from shocks owing to failure of any large borrower account.

Before it decided to bring regulated entities on par, RBI followed entity-based regulations, or a category the lender belonged to. In 2013, under former governor Raghuram Rajan, RBI made a conscious shift

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62. Recently in April _____ in association with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has announced the launch of online ticketing for NRM.

- A. Paytm
- B. PhonePe
- C. National Rail Museum**
- D. State Bank of India

- National Rail Museum (NRM), Ministry of Railways in association with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has announced the launch of online ticketing for NRM.

- The online ticketing system for NRM was launched by Shri V.K.Tripathi, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board in presence of Shri. R.N. Singh, Secretary, Railway Board here today on the occasion of World Heritage Day.

- National Rail Museum represents 169 years of rich heritage of Indian Railways. Emulating the setting of a railway yard, the extensive outdoor gallery houses a variety of steam, diesel and electric locomotives along with fascinating collection of royal saloons.

Indian Railways Launch Online Ticketing System For Rail Museum; Here's Step-by-step Guide



The National Rail Museum draws around 5 lakh visitors every year who come to witness the 169 years of heritage of Indian Railways

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NEWS DESK

INDIAN RAILWAYS UPDATE: People visiting the National Rail Museum (NRM) in Delhi will now be able to book tickets online through the museum's website. The facility has been provided by the National Rail Museum, Ministry of Railways in association with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) and was announced this Monday. Live Mint reported.

63. Recently IMF cuts India's FY23 growth forecast to _____ from its previous projection of 9.0 percent in January 2022.

- A. 7.6 %
- B. 8.2 %**
- C. 9.8 %
- D. 8.8 %

- IMF projects India's GDP to grow at 8.2% in FY23, 0.8 percentage points lower than its projection in January, according to the World Economic Outlook for April 2022 published. GDP is estimated to grow 6.9% in FY24, 0.2 percentage points lower than what was projected previously.

- Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1% in 2021 to 3.6% in 2022 and 2023. This is 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023, respectively, than projected in January.

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 190 countries.

IMF trims India's FY23 growth forecast to 8.2%

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund on Tuesday scaled down its FY23 growth forecast for

Ukraine weighs on revised projection

India by 80 basis points from its January projection to 8.2%, as

it underscored the ripple effects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on net oil importers and aggregate demand, reports Banikinkar Pattanayak in New Delhi. It also cut its FY24 India growth projection to 6.9%.

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- **First Deputy Managing Director: Gita Gopinath**
Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S Managing Director:
Kristalina Georgieva Chief Economist: Pierre-Olivier Gourinch

64. Consider the following statements in regards with **Nidhi companies**.

1. **Nidhi's are incorporated by NBFCs to receive deposits from and lend to members for mutual benefit.**
2. **It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India for deposit taking and by the Department of Company Affairs for operational matters and deployment of funds.**
3. **The 11 member committee on Nidhi Companies by CLC (Company Law Committee) is headed by Rajesh Verma, Secretary, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

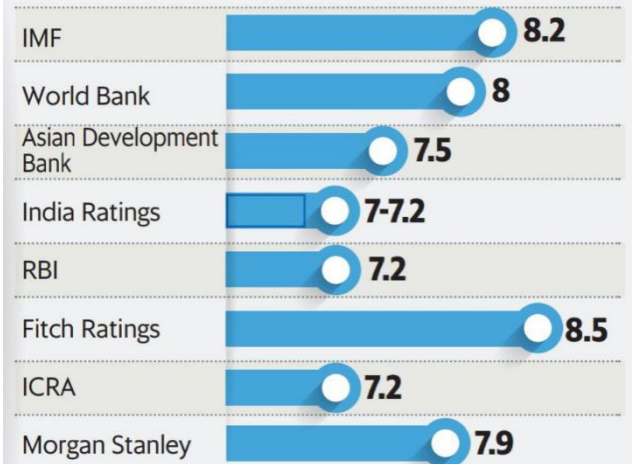
Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **The Company Law Committee has made a host of recommendations for stricter regulation of Nidhi companies, including more due diligence at the incorporation stage, restricting validity of Nidhi status to about five years, and empowering the Centre to formulate schemes for their restructuring.**
- **The recommendations come after the failure of leading Nidhi's, involving crores of rupees and lakhs of depositors, due to imprudent lending and mismanagement.**

- **The 11-member committee is headed by *Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.***

IMF's forecast is among the most optimistic (in %)



*Figures for FY23 and FY24 for India;
 GDP: gross domestic product
 Asean-5: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

Panel recommends tighter regulation of Nidhi companies

Flags repeated violations, proliferation of this NBFC segment post demonetisation

K RAM KUMAR
 Mumbai, April 19

The Company Law Committee has made a host of recommendations for stricter regulation of Nidhi companies, including stricter due diligence at the incorporation stage, restricting validity of Nidhi status to about five years, and empowering the Centre to formulate schemes for their restructuring.

Nidhis are NBFCs incorporated to receive deposits from, and lend to members for mutual benefit. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India for deposit taking and by the Department of Company Affairs for operational matters and deployment of funds.

The recommendations come after the failure of leading Nidhi companies, involving crores of rupees and lakhs of depositors, due to imprudent lending and mismanagement.

The 11-member committee is headed by Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Committee's suggestion
 The committee suggested that the Centre should prescribe rules and only companies that fulfil the prescribed financial and non-financial criteria should be declared as Nidhis.

The declaration notification for each Nidhi may also specify additional restrictions or conditions, as deemed necessary and reasonable by the Central Government, and the Government should have the power to revoke the declaration in the event of non-compliance, the panel recommended.

'Limit Nidhi status period'
 It proposed granting Nidhi status for a specified period (approximately five years),



Panel suggested that the Centre prescribe rules and let only firms that fulfil the prescribed financial and non-financial criteria be declared as Nidhis

sick, financially weak or mismanaged. Additionally, Nidhis which are not financially viable should be liquidated.

The panel suggested that existing Nidhis should be mandated to comply with the new requirements within a reasonable transitional period (two to three years).

Focus on due diligence
 The committee noted there were repeated violations by Nidhis and many were incorporated after demonetisation. There are reportedly nearly 10,000 Nidhis currently.

Observing the disproportionately higher presence of Nidhis in some States, the panel said this brought into question the intention of the promoters.

It called for increased oversight to ensure only diligent players are in existence.

The committee stressed on robust and time-bound checks ahead of granting Nidhi status.

after which the Nidhis may apply for renewal, subject to compliance with the Companies Act (CA) 2013.

The committee suggested that the Central Government should have the power to formulate schemes for restructuring (merger, amalgamation or takeover) of Nidhis that are

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- **Nidhi's are companies incorporated to receive deposits from, and lend to members for mutual benefit. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for deposit taking and by the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) for operational matters and deployment of funds.**
- **The committee suggested that the Central Government should prescribe rules and only companies that fulfil the prescribed financial and non-financial criteria should be declared as Nidhi's.**
- **It proposed granting Nidhi status for a specified period (approximately five years), after which the Nidhi's may apply for renewal, subject to compliance with the Companies Act (CA) 2013.**
- **The committee suggested that the Central Government should have the power to formulate schemes for restructuring (merger, amalgamation or takeover) of Nidhi's that are sick, financially weak or mismanaged.**
- **Additionally, Nidhi's not financially viable should be wound up through liquidation.**
- **The panel suggested that existing Nidhi's should be mandated to comply with the new requirements within a reasonable transitional period (two to three years).**

65. Consider the following statements regarding Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) new rules for Nidhi Companies.

1. Any public company incorporated as Nidhi with a share capital of Rs 10 lakh have to submit NDH-4 form and apply with the central government to be notified as a Nidhi company within 120 days of its incorporation.
2. The company needs to have at-least 200 members and should have a net owned fund (NOF) of Rs 20 lakh.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has tightened the rules for Nidhi Companies. Going forward, any public company incorporated as Nidhi with a share capital of Rs 10 lakh will have to submit NDH-4 form and apply with the central government to be notified as a Nidhi company within 120 days of its incorporation.**
- **Also, the company needs to have at-least 200 members and should have a net owned fund (NOF) of Rs 20 lakh.**

Nidhi companies need to have Net Owned Funds of ₹20 lakh

Tightened norms enhance the minimum paid-up capital requirement to ₹10 lakh

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, April 20

The Corporate Affairs Ministry has prescribed doubling the Net Owned Funds (NOF) of a Nidhi company to ₹20 lakh. Also, the minimum paid-up capital requirement has been enhanced to ₹10 lakh against ₹5 lakh.

The Ministry has amended the Nidhi Rules 2014, which came into effect on April 19. "To safeguard the interest of general public, it has become imperative that before becoming its member, one must ensure declaration of a company as a Nidhi by the Central government and, towards this, a few necessary/important amendments in the Rules have been carried out, which are applicable to the companies to be incorporated after Nidhi (amendment) Rule, 2022," said a statement.

Similar to a Non-Banking Financial Company, a Nidhi is formed to borrow and lend money to its members. It inculcates the habit of saving among



its members and works on the principle of mutual benefit. Such companies are not required to get an RBI licence, but need approval under the Companies Act.

Minimum membership

According to the amended rules, a public company incorporated as a Nidhi with a share capital of ₹10 lakh, needs to first get itself declared as a Nidhi by the Central government by applying through form NDH-4, with a minimum membership of 200 and NOF of ₹20 lakh within 120 days of its incorporation. The promoters and directors of the company have to meet the criteria of fit and proper person as

laid down in the Rules. For timely disposal, it has also been provided in the amended Rule that in case no decision is conveyed by the Centre within 45 days of the receipt of application, approval would be deemed as granted. This would apply to such companies incorporated after the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

Under the Companies Act 1956, a Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society is a company which the Central government has declared as Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society by notification in the official gazette. Initially, under the Companies Act, 2013 there was no need for a company to get declaration from the Central government to function as a Nidhi company.

Such companies were required to only incorporate as a Nidhi and meet requirement such as minimum membership of 200, NOF of ₹10 lakh, NOF-to-deposit ratio of 1:20, and keeping 10 per cent unencumbered deposits in scheduled commercial banks or post offices within one year of commencement of the Nidhi Rules, 2014.

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- **MCA also said that the promoters and directors of the company will have to satisfy the fit and proper criteria. Under the current rules, a Nidhi company to obtain consent from the central government to operate within 14 months from their incorporation.**
- **According to the ministry, in the period between 2014 to 19 more than 10,000 new companies were incorporated however only 2,300 of them submitted the NDH-4 form with the applicable provisions of the Act and the Nidhi Rules, 2014.**
- **MCA has proposed that if a company doesn't receive any intimation from the Central government within 45 days of submitting the NDH-4 form, the approval would be deemed to be granted.**

66. Consider the following statements regarding new norms of University Grants Commission (UGC) for domestic institutions to partner with peers abroad.

- 1. Instead of top 500, Indian universities can now collaborate with the top 1,000 universities for the courses.**
- 2. For foreign institutes to be eligible to collaborate with Indian institutions, they must feature in the list of the world's top 1,000 in the Times Higher Education (THE) and QS World University Rankings.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- Only 1**
- Only 2**
- Both 1 & 2**
- None of the above**

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday relaxed norms for domestic institutions to collaborate with for-ign insti-tu-tions and higher educational institutions to offer joint degrees, dual degrees and twin-ning degree courses.**
- **Instead of top 500, Indian University can now collaborate with the top 1,000 universities for the courses. For foreign Institutes to be eligible to col-lab-or-ate with Indian institutions, they must fea-ture in the list of the world's top 1,000 in the Times Higher Education (THE) and QS World University Rankings.**

- **Any Indian higher education institution accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a minimum score of 3.01 on a 4point scale or figuring in the top 100 in the university category of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) will be eligible to enter into a partnership to offer collaborative programmes.**

UGC relaxes norms for domestic institutions to partner with peers abroad

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 19

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday relaxed norms for domestic institutions to collaborate with foreign institutions and higher educational institutions to offer joint degrees, dual degrees and twin-ning degree courses.

Instead of top 500, Indian universities can now collaborate with the top 1,000 universities for the courses. For foreign institutes to be eligible to collaborate with Indian institutions, they must feature in the list of the world's top 1,000 in the Times Higher Education (THE) and QS World University Rankings.

Any Indian higher education institution accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a minimum score of 3.01 on a 4-point scale or figuring in the top



100 in the university category of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) will be eligible to enter into a partnership to offer collaborative programmes.

Entitled institutions

"Institutes fulfilling the prerequisite eligibility criteria of rankings will be called 'entitled institutions' and will not require any approval from the UGC to proceed with the partnership," M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC, said in a virtual meeting.

In 2016, such collaborations were allowed by the UGC, but it received a lukewarm response which led to the relaxation of norms.

According to Kumar, students enrolling in the jointly-offered programmes will be able to earn a specific percentage of the course credit, depending on the type of programme, at a foreign university. Students need not get admission to a foreign university and the current amendments will allow them to have the study abroad experience while being in India.

'Affordable fees'

"Universities have been told to keep the fees affordable. We have 4 crore students now and this number will soon go up to 10 crore. We believe the new amendments will lead to internationalisation of higher education," he said.

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- *The University Grants Commission of India is a statutory body set up by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India in accordance to the UGC Act 1956, Headquarters: New Delhi, Jagadish Kumar, Chairman.*

67. Recently **Mortgage firm HDFC Ltd** announced the sale of a _____ percent stake in its private equity arm **HDFC Capital Advisors** to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** for about _____.

- A. 5 % , Rs 219 Cr
- B. 10 % , Rs 184 Cr**
- C. 15 % , Rs 819 Cr
- D. 25 % , Rs 119 Cr

- **Mortgage firm HDFC Ltd** on Wednesday announced sale of a 10 percent stake in its private equity arm **HDFC Capital Advisors** to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** for about **Rs 184 crore.**

- **ADIA is also the primary investor in the alternative investment funds managed by USD 3 billion-HDFC Capital.**
- **Set up in 2016, HDFC Capital is the investment manager to HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds 1, 2 and 3; and is aligned with the government's goal to increase housing supply and support the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – 'Housing for All' initiative,**
- **HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh**

68. Recently _____ has teamed up with global payments company, **Mastercard** to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card.

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Nexo**
- C. PhonePe
- D. Google

HDFC to sell 10% in HDFC Capital to ADIA

Housing finance firm will get ₹184 crore; transaction to be completed by April 30



Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC Ltd

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 20

HDFC Ltd on Wednesday announced a 10 per cent stake sale in HDFC Capital Advisors to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for about ₹184 crore. "ADIA is also the primary investor in the alternative investment funds managed by HDFC Capital," HDFC Ltd said in a statement.

Set up in 2016, HDFC Capital Advisors is the wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Ltd and is in the business of managing private equity funds focused on real estate sector in the country. According to a stock exchange filing by HDFC Ltd, the trans-

action will be completed by April 30, this year.

To sell at ₹7,841.49 a share

A little over 2.35 lakh shares of HDFC Capital Advisors will be sold at a price of ₹7,841.49 per equity share on a cash basis. "Post the said sale, HFCAL would cease to be a wholly-owned subsidiary of the corporation; however, it would continue as a subsidiary of the corporation," HDFC said.

HDFC Capital manages an approximately \$3-billion funding platform, which has been rated as one of the world's largest private finance platforms focused on development of affordable housing.

"This investment by ADIA will enable HDFC Capital to leverage ADIA's global expertise and experience to propel HDFC Capital towards becoming a leading investment platform for global and local investors across multiple strategies and asset classes in the real estate and technology ecosystem," said Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC Ltd.

Mohamed AlQubaisi, Executive Director - Real Estate Department, ADIA, said, "This agreement underlines our belief in the positive long-term outlook for affordable and mid-market housing in India."

Earlier this month, HDFC Ltd announced its merger with HDFC Bank.

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Crypto lender Nexo said it has teamed up with global payments company Mastercard to launch on Wednesday what it calls the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card. Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer. It signals the latest move by crypto and incumbent financial networks to join forces as digital assets become more mainstream.

Nexo card, available in selected European countries initially, allows users to spend without having to sell their digital assets such as bitcoin, which are used as collateral to back the credit granted.

69. Recently **Wealth Desk** and _____ have entered into a partnership to offer readymade portfolios, called **Wealth Baskets**, to the latter's over 4 million retail investors.

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

Wealth Desk and Axis Securities have entered into a partnership to offer readymade portfolios, called Wealth Baskets, to the latter's over 4 million retail investors

The partnership will enable access to investment and wealth products like direct equity and ETF-based Wealth Baskets from SEBI registered intermediaries.

Wealth Desk is an internet-scale investment technology platform that's building the Unified Wealth Interface (UWI) that would enable retail investors to invest across mobile apps and websites through their broking accounts.

The users of Axis Securities can access wealth products through their RING Mobile application and RING platform.

70. Recently in April, **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL)** has launched _____, a new enterprise platform designed specifically for Business Banking and Corporate clients.

- A. Kotak LINE
- B. Kotak FYN**
- C. Kotak XTREME
- D. Kotak MIRROR

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) announced the launch of Kotak FYN,

its new enterprise portal exclusive for Business Banking and Corporate clients. The bank's customers can use the portal to carry out all trade & services transactions. By the last quarter of 2022,

The Kotak FYN portal will include many other services, including account services, payments and collections.

The main objective of Kotak FYN is to provide customers with a seamless experience in a unified view across all product platforms.

Established in 1985, Kotak Mahindra Group is one of India's leading financial services conglomerates

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71. Consider the following statements regarding Twitter.

1. Twitter's board of directors has adopted a limited-term shareholder rights plan called a 'poison pill'
2. Recently Tesla Inc top boss Elon Musk acquired 9.2 % stake in Twitter Inc, worth nearly \$3 Billion.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Twitter has thrown a roadblock in front of Elon Musk's hostile takeover bid, adopting a "limited-duration shareholder rights plan", also known as a "poison pill",

The method, known as a "poison pill" in the finance world, essentially allows existing shareholders to purchase freshly issued shares in a company at a discount to the trading price, effectively making any possible buyout plan extremely costly and prohibitive for the party planning a hostile takeover.

The move will prevent anyone from having more than a 15 per cent stake in Twitter by allowing existing shareholders to buy additional shares at a discount.

Elon Musk Holds 9.2% stake in Twitter Inc. to the platform's biggest shareholder Vanguard is Twitter's second-biggest shareholder, with an 8.79% stake

Twitter is an American micro-blogging and social networking service on which users post and interacts with messages known as "tweets". Founded: 21 March 2006, CEO: Parag Agarwal

72. Consider the following statements regarding the data by Ministry of corporate affairs on Businesses Set up in FY 22.

1. As many as 167,076 companies were set up in FY22, a 7.5% increase from the 155,377 companies created in FY21.
2. The data showed that the services sector was the biggest creator of new companies, accounting for more than 105,000 in FY22.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Over 167,000 businesses set up in FY22, the highest in 3 years

Gulveen Aulakh
gulveen.aulakh@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The number of businesses set up in the year ended 31 March rose to the highest in three years, led by the services sector, ministry of corporate affairs data showed, signalling a steady rise in entrepreneurial activity despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

As many as 167,076 companies were set up in FY22, a 7.5% increase from the 155,377 companies created in the previous year, according to data compiled by the corporate affairs ministry. Around 122,721 companies were set up in FY20.

The steady rise in entrepreneurial activity points to improving sentiment about business prospects and confidence that economic growth will rebound despite the pandemic.

The increase in the number

Improving sentiment

The growing number of businesses being set up signals a steady rise in entrepreneurial activity.



Source: ministry of corporate affairs
SATISH KUMAR/MINT

of new businesses is also a good sign for the economy and the jobs market.

"The growth in new registrations has slowed down in FY22. This was expected as the economy opened up and companies started operating, there were job openings across sectors," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

In the alternative scenario, joblessness would have prompted people to start their own ventures.

The data showed that the services sector was the biggest creator of new companies, accounting for more than 105,000 in FY22. Among the newly registered services companies, 44,161 were set up for business services, 23,416 in the community, personal and social services space, more than 20,000 trading companies and 6,200 finance companies.

Analysts noted that the jump in new registrations during the lockdown year of FY21 is significant as people preferred to start their own enterprises and operate from home rather than having to buy land or set up a factory. This, in turn, is reflected in the high share of services in new registrations, with business services accounting for around

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As many as 167,076 companies were set up in FY22, a 7.5% increase from the 155,377 companies created in the previous year, according to data compiled by the corporate affairs ministry. Around 122,721 companies were set up in FY20.

The data showed that the services sector was the biggest creator of new companies, accounting for more than 105,000 in FY22.

Among the newly registered services companies, 44,161 were set up for business services, 23,416 in the community, personal and social services space, more than 20,000 trading companies and 6,200 finance companies. New registrations have risen across most states, with Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka leading the growth

73. Inflation in India's wholesale prices hit a four-month high of _____ in March, from 13.11% in February 2022.

- A. 15.56 %
- B. 14.55 %**
- C. 13.98 %
- D. 14.29 %

- **Inflation in India's wholesale prices hit a four-month high of 14.55% in March, from 13.11% in February, driven by accelerating price rise across all categories of goods, with fuel and power as well as primary articles driving most of the gains.**
- **This is the 12th month in a row that wholesale inflation has exceeded 10% While retail inflation had hit a 17-month high of 6.95% in March.**

At 14.55%, March wholesale price inflation hits 4-month high

Pricier crude the key reason, though prices up across segments

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 18

Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) surged to a four-month high of 14.55 per cent in March. It is up from 13.11 per cent in February.

Last week, the Statistics Ministry data showed retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) at a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent. CPI inflation is a more critical data point in policy-making compared with wholesale inflation. With inflation rising, analysts believe the Monetary Policy Committee may announce an interest rate hike at its next meeting in June.

Surging oil price impact

The data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed that crude oil prices were the biggest contributor to the rise in WPI inflation in March



Source: Bloomberg

compared to February, followed by fuels and core items. There was some softening in food articles month-on-month led by vegetables and pulses, though wheat, paddy, potato, milk, egg, meat and the fish basket saw moderate increases during March. During March, inflation in food articles eased to 8.06 per cent from 8.19 per cent in February. Vegetable inflation was 19.88 per cent against 26.93 per cent.

A note by Sunil Kumar Sinha and Paras Jasrai of India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) said the surge in wholesale inflation is

fairly broad based as all the three major categories – primary articles, fuel and power and manufacturing – recorded double-digit inflation in March.

Further, manufacturing inflation rose to 10.7 per cent in March from 9.8 per cent in February. Edible oils inflation increased further to 16.06 per cent (14.9 per cent), remaining in double digits for 28 months.

Even core inflation remained sticky and rose further to 10.9 per cent in March. This was led primarily by the uptick in inflation of basic metals, chemicals and textiles.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with ICRA, said: "We expect the WPI inflation to remain in the range of 13.5-15 per cent in April, partly depending on where crude oil prices settle and how much petrol and diesel prices are revised further." The broad-based rise in the WPI inflation is likely to be of particular concern to the MPC. "We see a growing probability of the first repo hike being preponed to June."

74. Recently _____ has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Spain under the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) to benefit its Spanish programme for 2022-2025.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. Delhi University
- C. Patna University
- D. O.P. Jindal Global University**

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- *The O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Spain under the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs (MAEC).*
- *The agreement aims to benefit the Jindal School of Languages and Literature (JSLL), which shall host a native Spanish language lecturer to teach Spanish language, culture and literature.*
- *“The MOU demonstrates the commitment of JGU and JSLL to advancing the study of Hispanic literatures and cultures in India.*
- *Students in JSLL will be able to make the most of the wide-ranging teaching expertise of Indian and foreign faculty*



Students are currently being admitted to the BA honours Spanish programme for 2022-2025.

The O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Spain under the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Spanish Ministry of External Affairs (MAEC). The agreement aims to benefit the Jindal School of Languages and Literature (JSLL), which shall host a native Spanish language lecturer to teach Spanish language, culture and literature.

75. Recently **Sterlite Power** has acquired a _____ percent equity stake in **Maharashtra Transmission Communication Infrastructure Limited**.
- 49.15 %
 - 55.61 %
 - 64.98 %**
 - 71.35 %

Sterlite Power on Monday said it has acquired a 64.98 per cent equity stake in Maharashtra Transmission Communication Infrastructure Limited.

MTCIL (Maharashtra Transmission Communication Infrastructure Limited) operates a fibre network of 3,162 kms, serving telcos, ISPs (internet service providers) and data centres in Maharashtra.

Sterlite Power, Is a private sector transmission infrastructure developer and solutions provider Prateek Agarwal, managing director, Sterlite Power.

Sterlite Power acquires 64% in MTCIL

OUR BUREAU
 Mumbai, April 18

Sterlite Power, the power transmission infrastructure development company, has announced the acquisition of a 64.98 percent equity stake in Maharashtra Transmission Communication Infrastructure (MTCIL) from Sterlite Technologies.

MTCIL is a joint venture between Sterlite Power and Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company.

It is a public-private partnership (PPP) for optical ground wire (OPGW) fiber networks operating on a BOOM (build, own, operate and maintain) model. MTCIL operates a fiber network of about 3,162 km across 35 co-locations, serving telcos, ISPs and data centers in Maharashtra.

Pratik Agarwal, Managing Director, Sterlite Power, said, “OPGW fiber networks offer a reliable data delivery solution and help leverage the existing power utility infrastructure for telecommunications purposes. We intend to replicate this PPP OPGW model in other parts of the country.”

76. Consider the following statements regarding the data released by **World Steel Association on April 22**.
- India is the only country among top 10 steel producing nations of the world, which has registered growth in steel production in January to March 2022 period.**
 - India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel in this period with a growth of 5.9 percent.**

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Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

INDIA HAS REGISTERED STERLING PERFORMANCE IN STEEL PRODUCTION AS PER STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY.

worldsteel
ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2022 CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION

TOP 10 STEEL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES				
	Mar 2022 (Mt)	% change Mar 22/21	Jan-Mar 2022 (Mt)	% change Jan-Mar 22/21
China	88.3	-6.4	243.4	-10.5
India	10.9	4.4	31.9	5.9
Japan	8.0	-4.3	23.0	-2.9
United States	7.0	-1.7	20.3	-0.4
Russia	6.6 e	-1.8	18.7	-1.2
South Korea	5.7	-6.1	16.9	-3.8
Germany	3.3	-11.8	9.8	-3.7
Turkey	3.3	-2.9	9.4	-4.7
Brazil	1.0 e	1.4	8.5	-2.2
Iran	2.3 e	-6.1	6.9	-4.4

- As per the data released by **World Steel Association** on April 22, India is the only country among top 10 steel producing nations of the world, which has registered growth in steel production in January to March 2022 period, as compared to corresponding period last year.
- India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel in the period with a growth of 5.9 percent. In March 2022, with a production of 10.9 million tonnes of steel in India, the growth rate is 4.4 percent.
- Brazil is the only other country among top 10 Nations which has registered growth in the month of March.
- World Steel Association, often abbreviated as world steel, is the international trade body for the iron and steel industry. Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

77. Recently the **Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** has participated in the _____ meeting of the **Development Committee Plenary in Washington D.C.**

- A. 103rd
- B. 105th**
- C. 104th
- D. 106th

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Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 105th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary in Washington D.C.

The items on the agenda included Digitalisation & Development, Making Debt Work for Development & Macroeconomic Stability and World Bank Group’s Response to Global Impacts of the War in Ukraine: A Proposed Roadmap.

The Finance Minister underlined that India voluntarily offered COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) platform to all countries and stand willing to provide assistance for other public-goods platforms recognising the importance of replication of proven and scalable digital platforms.

Sitharaman to Attend WB and IMF Meets in US



Sitharaman will also attend the G20 finance ministers’ and central bank governors’ meeting

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank during an official visit to the United States that begins Monday (April 18).

Sitharaman will also attend the G20 finance ministers’ and central bank governors’ meeting there.

The 2022 spring meetings of the IMF

78. Consider the following statements in respect with SBI Fund Raising through Gift City Branch.

- 1. State Bank of India (SBI) has raised 3-year funds of \$500 million through syndicated loan facility.**
- 2. This is the Second off-shore USD SOFR linked syndicated loan by SBI through Gift City branch.**
- 3. MUFG, Bank of America and JP Morgan were the joint lenders for this offering whereas First Abu Dhabi Bank acted as the facility agent.**

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**

• **The country’s largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday said it has raised USD 500 million (over Rs 3,800 crore) through its IFSC Gift City branch.**

• **This is the first offshore USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked syndicated loan raised by SBI through its Gift City branch, a release said. The facility is for USD 400 million plus USD 100 million as a green shoe option.**

• **MUFG, Bank of America and JP Morgan were the joint lenders for this offering whereas First Abu Dhabi Bank acted as the facility agent. It is another step towards the bank’s commitment to develop IFSC Gift City as an international financial hub.**

SBI raises \$500 million through Gift City branch

MUFG, JP Morgan, Bank of America were joint lenders for this offering



Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director, SBI

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 18

India’s largest commercial bank, State Bank of India, acting through its IFSC Gift City branch, has raised three-year funds of \$500 million through a syndicated loan facility.

Offshore market

The facility is for \$400 million-plus-\$100 million as a greenshoe option. It is the first offshore USD secured overnight financing rate-

ated for itself in offshore financial markets, allowing it to efficiently raise funds even during ongoing turbulence in the markets caused by geopolitical tensions and rate hike expectations by US Federal Reserve and other Central banks across the globe.

“This is another important step taken by us to promote IFSC Gift City as an international financial hub,” said Tewari.

Largest branch

SBI Gift City Branch has become the largest branch in IFSC, it said. MUFG, Bank of America and JP Morgan were the joint lenders for this offering whereas First Abu Dhabi Bank acted as facility agent.

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79. Recently *Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ)* has entered into a definitive agreement for acquisition of _____ % stake in *Ocean Sparkle Ltd (OSL)* worth amount of INR 1,700 Cr with INR 300 Cr of free cash in the company.

- A. 50 %
- B. 100 %**
- C. 74 %
- D. 49 %

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (“APSEZ”) through its subsidiary, The Adani Harbour Services Ltd (“TAHSL”), has entered into a definitive agreement for acquisition of 100% stake in Ocean Sparkle Ltd (“OSL”), India’s leading third-party marine services provider.

With an asset base of 94 owned vessels and 13 third-party owned vessels, OSL is a market leader. OSL is valued at an enterprise value of INR 1,700 Cr with INR 300 Cr of free cash in the company.

The company was established in 1995 by a group of marine technocrats with Mr. P Jairaj Kumar as the Chairman and MD, who will continue as the Chairman of the OSL board.

80. Consider the following statement regarding *working paper of World Bank, on Poverty in India* :

1. According to policy research working paper of World Bank, Poverty in India is 12.3 percentage points lower in 2019 as compared to 2011.
2. Rural poverty dropped by 14.7 percent while urban poverty declined by 7.9 percentage points during 2011 to 2019.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Adani Ports buys Ocean Sparkle for ₹1,700 cr 2/20

DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, 22 April

The stock of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone went up 3 per cent on Friday, after the company announced that it was buying Ocean Sparkle, a leading third-party marine services provider, at an enterprise valuation of ₹1,700 crore.

Ocean Sparkle is a leading player in towage, pilotage, and dredging with an asset base of 94 own vessels and 13 third-party vessels. The company, with ₹300 crore of free cash, was established in 1995 by a group of marine technocrats with P Jairaj Kumar as chairman. Kumar will continue as chairman of the OSL board.

According to the plan, The Adani Harbour Services (TAHSL), an Adani Ports subsidiary, signed an agreement with the promoters of Ocean Sparkle to acquire a 75.69 per cent stake of OSL for ₹1,135 crore; it will buy the entire stake in Savi Jana Sea Foods, which owns the remaining 24.31 per cent in OSL, for ₹395 crore.

In the past five years, the company has acquired several ports across India to reinforce its numero uno position in the port and marine sectors. Last financial year, the group acquired Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam ports. “Given the synergies of OSL and Adani Harbour Services, the consolidated business is likely to double in the five years with improved margins, thereby creating significant value for APSEZ’s shareholders,” said Karan Adani, CEO and whole-time director, APSEZ. “

This acquisition not only provides APSEZ a significant share of India’s marine services market but also provides us a platform for building a presence in other countries, thereby facilitating APSEZ’s journey towards becoming the largest port operator globally by 2030 and largest integrated transport utility in India,” Adani said.

OSL has long-standing relationships with its existing clients, with contracts ranging from 5 to 20 years (average contract is for 7 years). Further, the contracts are on a take or pay basis, thereby providing robustness to OSL’s business model. The company has a presence in all the major ports, 15 minor ports, and all the 3 LNG terminals in India. The company reported consolidated revenue of ₹622 crore in the financial year ended March 2021.

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As per World Bank Report, extreme poverty in India decreased by 12.3 percentage points between 2011 and 2019.

The poverty headcount ratio or percentage of population below poverty line has decreased from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019.

As per World Bank’s policy research working paper, poverty reduction was higher in rural areas than in urban India.

During eight years from 2011 to 2019, rural poverty decreased by 14.7% while urban poverty decreased by 7.9%.

Income growth has been higher in the case of farmers with small landholding sizes.

Real income for farmers with the smallest landholdings has increased by 10%, while the real income of the farmers with the largest landholdings has increased by 2%.

81. Consider the following statements regarding Gender Equality Index 2022 by World Bank in its report 'Women, Business and the Law 2022'.

- 1. Around 2.4 billion women of working age are not afforded equal economic opportunity and 178 countries maintain legal barriers that prevent their full economic participation.**
- 2. India rank has declined to 124th among 190 countries in 2022 against 123rd a year ago and 117th in 2020.**
- 3. The overall score for India 74.4 is higher than the regional average observed across South Asia (63.7).**

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**

Extreme poverty more than halves in India: World Bank

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, April 17

Extreme poverty in India has declined by over 12 percentage points during 2011-2019, a World Bank working paper has said. This is the second working paper after a recent International Monetary Fund paper that talked about poverty reduction. However, while the former dealt with the period before Covid, the latter focuses on the period during the pandemic.

The World Bank paper said extreme poverty was as low as 0.8 per cent in the pre-pandemic year of 2019, and food transfers were instrumental in ensuring that it remained at that level in the pandemic year 2020. Extreme poverty is measured as the number of people living on less than \$1.90 per day (₹144.40 at ₹76 a dollar).

“Our preferred estimates suggest that the poverty head-count rate is 10.2 per cent in 2019, down from 22.5 per cent in 2011,” said the paper titled ‘Poverty in India Has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought’ and authored by Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide.

The paper said poverty reduction was higher in rural areas (down from 26.3 to 11.6 per cent

between 2011 and 2019 or 14.7 percentage points) than in urban areas (from 14.2 to 6.3 per cent during the same period or 7.9 percentage point).

Consumption inequality

Consumption inequality in India has moderated after 2011, with almost no change between 2015 and 2019. Farmers with small landholding sizes have experienced higher income growth. Real incomes for farmers with the smallest landholdings have grown by 10 per cent in annualised terms between 2013 and 2019.

However, the paper mentioned that urban poverty rose by 2 percentage points in 2016 (coinciding with demonetisation) and rural poverty rose by 10 basis points in 2019 (coinciding with a slowdown in the economy).

“We observe a slight moderation in consumption inequality since 2011, but by a margin smaller than what is reported in the unreleased NSS-2017 survey. Finally, the extent of poverty reduction during 2015-2019 is estimated to be notably lower than earlier projections based on growth in the private final consumption expenditure reported in the national account statistics,” it says.



Poverty head-count rate at 10.2% in 2019 is down from 22.5% in 2011 and is higher in rural areas than urban ones REUTERS

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India's overall score in gender equality in terms of legal reforms remains consistent for the past three years at 74.4 out of 100, according to an index compiled by the World Bank. The 2022 study, 'Women, Business and the Law', which covers 190 economies, has taken into account legal reforms in eight areas from October 2, 2020, to October 1, 2021

The overall score for India is higher than the regional average observed across South Asia (63.7), but its overall ranking in gender equality in legal terms has dropped to 124th among 190 countries in 2022, against 123rd in 2021 and 117th in 2020.

The ranking has been done on the basis of the laws and regulations applicable to Mumbai, the country's financial capital. Eight indicators structured around the working life cycle of a woman has been taken into consideration – mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, asset and pension.

On the other hand, Nepal, which was behind India, improved its position in 2021 and 2022 and currently stands at 88th position in the overall ranking.

Economy	Score	Economy
Belgium	100.0	New Zealand
Canada	100.0	United Kingdom
Denmark	100.0	Australia
France	100.0	Austria
Greece ✓	100.0	Hungary
Iceland	100.0	Norway
Ireland	100.0	Slovenia
Latvia	100.0	Peru
Luxembourg	100.0	Cyprus ✓
Portugal	100.0	Paraguay
Spain ✓	100.0	Croatia
Sweden	100.0	Czech Republic

Gender equality: Rank declines a notch in 2022 against last yr

INDIA DROPS
New Delhi, 11 April

Despite India maintaining a consistent performance on gender equality, its rank in this area in legal terms has declined to 124th among 190 countries in 2022 against 123rd a year ago and 117th in 2020, according to an index compiled by a World Bank study.

The 2022 study, "Women, Business and the Law", has taken into account legal reforms in the period from October 2, 2020, to October 1, 2021.

India's position went down despite its score remaining 74.4 out of 100 in all the three years. This means other countries reformed faster than India did in bridging the gender gap.

The ranking is on the basis of legal reforms on eight counts – mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pension.

India got the lowest – 25 per cent – in "pay" in each of the three years, followed by 40 per cent in "parenthood". Its score in "entrepreneurship" and "pension" was 75 per cent in each of these years, while in "assets" it was 80 per cent.

It received 100 per cent in "mobility", "workplace", and "marriage".

When asked why India's rank declined even though its score was the same in all the three years, an expert involved in the study said while India had not followed up on its reforms after they were put into motion, other countries, especially its neighbours, had improved, which is shown in their performance.

Nepal was behind India in 2020 but went ahead in 2021 and 2022. It improved its position a notch to 88th in the 2022 report from 99th in 2021.

Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were behind India in all three years. Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan too



improved their positions by a notch each to 131st, 147th, and 167th, respectively, in the 2022 report over the previous year's.

Bangladesh's rank remained the same at 174th in both these years.

When not enough laws in India were not enforced, which led to another expert said the reasons

for the pay gap between genders ranged from socioeconomic to structural factors.

"Even educated women are not allowed to work by their families. Women who do join the workforce often need to take extended leave for maternity and child care. All these factors lead up to women falling behind men when it comes to their earnings," he said.

He quoted Minister India's report, which said in India men earned a median gross hourly salary of ₹288.68 while women got ₹207.85.

"This is even though we have the Equal Remuneration Act," he said.

Parul Soni, founder and secretary general, Association of

Business Women in Commerce and Industry (ABWCI), said India needed to do more on the "entrepreneurship" indicator, which measures restrictions on women's legal capacity as well as laws prescribing equal access to credit. Collateral constraints and social norms are major reasons for this gender credit gap.

He said women worldwide faced practical and regulatory barriers to becoming entrepreneurs. Access to finance is a major hurdle, leaving women with an estimated \$1.7 trillion of unmet demand for credit.

For example, due to lenders' gender bias, women-led enterprises in Vietnam have a 34 per cent higher likelihood that loans will be denied to them than it is for men-led firms.

"India also faces the same problem. However, increasing women's control of finances by combining access to bank accounts with skills training can shift conservative social norms

and increase women's work. We still lack a legal provision that expressly prohibits gender-based discrimination in access to credit," Soni said.

The "parenthood" indicator examines laws affecting women's work during and after pregnancy, including paid leave, and those prohibiting firms from dismissing workers because they are pregnant. Apart from that, the reform pushes for leave for men or partners for undertaking responsibility.

The global average for "leave to partners" is about 20 days while in South Asia it is around five days. The global average for "maternity leave" comes to about 190 days.

When asked why India had scored just 40 per cent in this category even as women were given maternal leave, the second expert said working mothers were earlier allowed to take 12 weeks of paid leave. In 2017, this was extended to 26 weeks.

WHERE INDIA STANDS
Women, Business and the Law Index
■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022

Country	2020	2021	2022
Nepal	119	89	88
India	117	123	124
Bhutan	125	131	132
Sri Lanka	147	148	148
Pakistan	172	167	168
Bangladesh	171	174	174



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Appointment News

81. Recently In April _____ has been named as the New Global Peace Ambassador 2022 for promoting Peace through Sports, Art, and Culture & Diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022.

- A. Manika Batra
- B. Mirabai Chanu
- C. Babita Singh**
- D. PV Sindhu

Babita Singh named as New Global Peace Ambassador 2022. She has received this honour for promoting Peace through Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022.

Prof Dr Zahid Haque conferred the award to Babita Singh. She is a business professional for the last 20 years.

AAC-Global Peace Ambassador: It has been constituted by Asia Africa Consortium. It is the highest honour given to those citizens who foster Socio-Economic Relations and Sustainable Growth between Asia and Africa in Education, Health and Trade.

Rajiv Kumar steps down, Suman K Bery to be new NITI vice chairman



Suman K Bery (left) will take charge after Rajiv Kumar leaves on April 30

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

ANNOUNCING THE resignation of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson Rajiv Kumar, the Centre appointed economist Suman K Bery to the post on Friday. Kumar will step down on April 30, marking the second successive resignation from the post since the formation of the government think-tank in 2014.

Kumar had taken over in August 2017, replacing Arvind Panagariya who resigned from the post to return to academics.

While Bery will join the organisation with immediate effect, he will assume the role of Vice-Chairperson from May 1, said a government order released late on Friday.

Bery is a former Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), a position he held for a decade from 2001 to 2011. He also served as a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee and the National Statistical Commission.

Prior to NCAER, Bery was with the World Bank in Washington DC and his areas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

82. Recently the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet appointed _____ as the vice-chairman of the government's think tank NITI Aayog and will remain in the office till further orders.

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Suman K Berry**
- C. Raja Ramnath
- D. Sudhir Saxena

- The Indian government on Friday, April 22, appointed Suman K Bery as the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, following the sudden resignation of Rajiv Kumar. **Bery will take charge from May 1, 2022, an official order said. Kumar's tenure will end on April 30. Kumar, an eminent economist, took over as Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog in August 2017 after the then VC Arvind Panagriya exited the government think-tank to return to academics.**
- **Rajiv Kumar played a key role in NITI Aayog's policy making, with focus on agriculture, asset monetisation, disinvestment, Aspirational districts programme and electric vehicles,**
- **Bery had earlier served as Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. He was also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Statistical Commission and the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy.**

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83. Recently *Jose Ramos-Horta won the presidential election of East Timor. He was awarded a Nobel Prize for peace in _____ for his efforts in facilitating conflict resolution in the country.*

- A. 1996
- B. 2008
- C. 2012
- D. 2015

{ EAST TIMOR }

Ramos-Horta wins presidential polls

Agence France-Presse
 letters@hindustantimes.com

DILI, EAST TIMOR: Nobel laureate Jose Ramos-Horta scored a landslide victory in East Timor's presidential election, according to preliminary results published on Wednesday by the election secretariat.

The 72-year-old secured 397,145 votes, or 62.09%, against incumbent Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres' 242,440, or 37.91%.

the secretariat's website showed after all ballots were counted.

"The count of the district, national and regional vote has been completed", said Acilino Manuel Branco, general director of the election secretariat.

The election results still need to be validated by the country's electoral commission.

The victory gives Ramos-Horta his second term in office. He served as president of South-

east Asia's youngest country from 2007 to 2012 and was also the country's first prime minister. "The elections were competitive, and the campaign was largely peaceful," EU observer Domenec Ruiz Devesa said on Wednesday.

Ramos-Horta will be inaugurated on May 20 - the 20th anniversary of East Timor's independence from Indonesia, which occupied the former Portuguese colony for 24 years.

- **Nobel laureate Jose Ramos-Horta scored a landslide victory in East Timor's presidential election, according to preliminary results published Wednesday by the election secretariat.**
- **The victory gives Ramos-Horta his second term in office. He served as president of Southeast Asia's youngest country from 2007 to 2012 and was also the country's first prime minister.**
- **Ramos-Horta was awarded a Nobel Prize for peace in 1996 for his efforts in facilitating conflict resolution in the country. In 2008, he survived an assassination attempt.**
- **Timor-Leste Capital – Dili**

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83. Consider the following statements regarding *chief of Indian Army*.

1. *Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the 29th Chief of Indian Army.*
2. *The 29th Army Chief will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the Chief of Army Staff succeeding General Manoj Mukund Naravane.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- *Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Indian Army.*
- *The 29th Army Chief will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the Chief of Army Staff succeeding General Manoj Mukund Naravane who is scheduled to complete his 28-month tenure on 30th of April.*
- *An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lieutenant General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in December 1982. Lt. General Manoj Pande commanded an engineer regiment during Operation Parakram in the Pallanwala sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.*
- *The Chief of the Army Staff also known as the Army Chief is the head of the Indian Army Headquarters and is also the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Army.*
- *The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is the principal advisor to the Defence Minister on matters that are exclusively related to the Indian Army and is also a key military adviser to the President who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.*

Lt Gen Manoj Pande first engineer to be Army chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 18 April

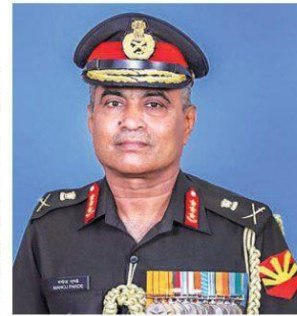
Lt Gen Manoj Pande will take the reins as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff after incumbent Gen MM Naravane's tenure ends on April 30.

Lt Gen Pande, currently serving as the vice chief, will become the first commander from the Corps of Engineers to take charge of the 1.3-million-strong force as the position has been held so far by officers from infantry, artillery and armoured regiments. Before taking charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on February 1, he was heading the Eastern Army Command tasked with guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors.

Officials said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Lt Gen Pande as the next Army chief.

Lt Gen Pande also served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, which is India's only tri-services command.

"General MM Naravane #COAS & All Ranks of #IndianArmy congratulate



Lt Gen Manoj Pande headed the Andaman and Nicobar Command, India's only tri-services command

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande #VCOAS on being appointed as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff #COAS of the #IndianArmy. Lt Gen Manoj Pande will assume the appointment of #COAS on 01 May 2022," the Army tweeted.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers (the Bombay Sappers) in December 1982.

He has held several prestigious command and staff assignments in conventional as well as counter-insurgency operations in all types of terrain.

He commanded an engineer regiment along the Line of Control during the Operation Parakram in Jammu and Kashmir, an engineer brigade in the western sector, an infantry brigade along LoC and a mountain division in high-altitude area of western Ladakh and a corps in the Northeast.

His staff exposures include Brigadier Major of a Mountain Brigade in the Northeast, Assistant Military Secretary (AMS) in the Military Secretary's Branch and Brigadier General Staff (Operations) at the Eastern Command headquarters.

He has served as chief engineer in the United Nations mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

He has also served as the additional director general in the military operations directorate at the Army headquarters and as the chief of staff at the headquarters of the Southern Command.

For his illustrious service, he has been conferred Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the Chief of Army Staff Commendation and the GOC-in-C Commendation.

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Digit Insurance on Monday announced that it has elevated Jasleen Kohli as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company with effect from April 20. The 42-year-old, Kohli will become one of the youngest CEOs in the insurance industry, as per the company release.

As the new MD and CEO, Jasleen Kohli will take over from Vijay Kumar who held the position since the company was founded in 2017. He will superannuate on April 19, 2022

Kamesh Goyal, Chairman, Digit Insurance

Digit Insurance appoints Jasleen Kohli as managing director, CEO



Mumbai: Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax India Holdings-backed general insurance company Digit Insurance, operated by Go Digit General Insurance Ltd, has appointed Jasleen Kohli as its new managing director and chief executive officer. Go Digit General Insurance is a subsidiary of IIFL Asset Management-backed cloud insurance unicorn Go Digit Info-works Services Pvt. Ltd. Unicorns are startups with at least \$1 billion valuation.

NIKHIL PATWARDHAN

84. Consider the following statements regarding the **SEBI ALeRTS Committee**.

1. The **Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)** will now be headed by **Sunil Bajpai**.
2. The 7 member committee, set up in December 2021, was earlier chaired by **Madhabi Puri Buch**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **Sebi has reconstituted its advisory committee, which provides guidance on enhancing the regulator's technological capabilities and on exploring appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies.**
- **The Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) will now be headed by Sunil Bajpai, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI),**
- **The seven-member committee, which was set-up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in December 2021, was earlier chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch, current chief of the regulator.**

Sunil Bajpai to head ALeRTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19

SEBI has reconstituted its advisory committee, which provides guidance on enhancing its technological capabilities and exploring appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies.

The Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) will now be headed by Sunil Bajpai, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, an update with SEBI showed on Tuesday.

The seven-member committee, set up in December 2021, was earlier chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch, current SEBI chief.

The terms of reference for the committee include recommending future roadmaps and improvements in the various ongoing technology projects.

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Senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the chief secretary of Delhi. Kumar, a 1987-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer, has been transferred from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi. He was holding the post of chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh before the transfer. Kumar had earlier held the posts of chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and managing director of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) in his previous stint in Delhi. Current NDMC chairman Dharmendra (AGMUT 1989) will be the new Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh.

Delhi gets new Chief Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed the Chief Secretary of Delhi, a Home Ministry order issued on Tuesday said.

Mr. Kumar, a 1987-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer, has been transferred from

85. Recently _____ has been appointed as brand ambassador and advocate for Wholsum Food's Slurrp Farm.

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Anushka Sharma
- C. Ranbir Singh
- D. KL Rahul

- Anushka Sharma has been appointed brand ambassador and advocate for Wholsum Foods' Slurrp Farm. This follows the actor investing in Wholsum Foods. Sharma will be brand ambassador for all of the future brands Wholsum Foods will launch.
- Wholsum Foods was founded in 2016 with the launch of Slurrp Farm, a brand that uses millets to provide healthy mealtime options. The company has been co-founded by Meghana Narayan and Shauravi Malik.

Anushka Sharma joins Wholsum Foods as investor, ambassador



New Delhi: Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma has joined Wholsum Foods as investor and brand ambassador for the company's flagship brand Slurrp Farm. Sharma will also play the role of an advocate and endorse future brands launched by the Gurugram-based company. Sharma said sustainable food choices go a long way in setting the tone for a healthy life.

STAFF WRITER

Indian-American Sethi appointed Harris' advisor

SHANTI SETHI, A trailblazing Indian-American Navy veteran, has joined US Vice President Kamala Harris' office as her executive secretary and defence advisor, a media report said. She is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship.

Shanti Sethi, a trailblazing Indian-American Navy veteran, has joined US Vice President Kamala Harris's office as her executive secretary and defence advisor. Sethi, the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship, recently joined Vice President Harris' office. Harris, the daughter of an Indian immigrant from Chennai, scripted history in 2021 by becoming the first-ever woman Vice President of the United States. The 57-year-old former Senator from California is also the first Black and first South Asian American vice president.

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P Jaspal ONGC's 1st woman director (fin)



POMILA JASPAL HAS on Tuesday shattered the glass ceiling, becoming the first woman director

(finance) of top oil and gas producer ONGC, the firm said. ONGC now has an unprecedented two women executive directors – Alka Mittal is the acting chairperson and man-

aging director as well as director (human resource) at the firm. The oil and gas PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas now have three women at the top – Vartika Shukla is the chairperson and MD of Engineers India (EIL). Prior to this, Pomila served as director (Finance) in Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC.

—PTI

86. Recently **United Breweries Limited** has signed actor's _____ and _____ as brand ambassadors for **Kingfisher soda** for its '**Spread the Cheer**' campaign, focused on celebrating this year as the 'Year of the Cheer'.

- A. KL Rahul , Varun Dhawan
- B. Rashmika Mandhana , Varun Dhawan**
- C. Aamir Khan , KL Rahul
- D. KL Rahul , Varun Dhawan

- **United Breweries Limited** has signed actors **Rashmika Mandhana and Varun Dhawan** as brand ambassadors for **Kingfisher soda**. The association will kick off its '**Spread the Cheer**' campaign, focused on celebrating this year as the 'Year of the Cheer'

Kingfisher Soda ropes in Rashmika Mandanna, Varun Dhawan as brand ambassadors



Actor Varun Dhawan (Photo: ANI)

1 min read . Updated: 19 Apr 2022, 12:37 PM IST

Livemint

▪ The company will release its television commercial in the coming week and will be using an all-round approach including both traditional and social media

87. Recently in April the **government** has granted an extension of one year to **Atomic Energy Commission Chairman**, _____ beyond **May 3, 2022** or "until further orders".

- A. Kamlesh Nagar kotiu
- B. Kamlesh Neelkanth Vyas**
- C. PC Vaidyanathan
- D. Murali Joshi

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The government has granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Neelkanth Vyas. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service to Vyas for a period of one year beyond May 3, 2022 or "until further orders",

This is the second extension for Vyas, who was first appointed to the post in September 2018.

He has been conferred several awards, which include the Indian Nuclear Society Outstanding Service Award 2011, the Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award 2006 and DAE Awards in the years 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013.

The Atomic Energy Commission of India is the governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. The DAE is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. The Indian Atomic Energy Commission was set up on 3 August 1948 under the late Department of Scientific Research.

88. Consider the following statements regarding Haj Committee of India.

- 1. A P Abdullah kutty has been elected as the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India.**
- 2. While for the first time, two women Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun have been chosen as its vice chairpersons.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

A P Abdullah kutty has been elected as the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India, while for the first time, two women have been chosen as its vice chairpersons

Abdullah kutty in the national vice president of the BJP and a former Member of Parliament.

While Munnawari Begum is a member of the Central Waqf Council, Mafuja Khatun is the vice president of the Bengal unit of the BJP as vice chairpersons.

In a first, Haj committee gets women as top office-bearers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 22

BJP LEADER from Kerala A P Abdullahkutty was on Friday elected the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India while party colleagues Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun were chosen as vice-chairpersons.

It's for the first time the panel will have women as top office-bearers. While Begum has been with the BJP for more than two decades, Abdullahkutty and Khatun joined it recently. The two were colleagues earlier as well, both rising through the ranks, in the CPI(M). A national vice-presi-

dent of BJP, Abdullahkutty began his political career with the Student Federation of India, the CPI(M)'s student wing, and rose to become its Kerala unit president in 1998. Kannur ex-MP, he swung into prominence after defeating Kerala Congress chief Mullappally Ramachandran in Lok Sabha polls — first in 1999 and then in 2004.

Mafuja Khatun, a two-time CPI(M) MLA from Kumarganj in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district, joined the BJP in 2017.

A BJP old-timer, Munnawari Begum is a member of the Central Waqf Council and also of the general body of the Minorities Ministry-funded Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

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Days and Obituary News

89. Every year **Earth Day** is observed on _____ in support of environmental protection.

- A. 20th April
- B. 21st April
- C. 22nd April
- D. 23rd April

Every year Earth Day is observed on 22 April. It was first celebrated in 1970.

It is observed in the support of environmental protection. The Earth Day 2022 theme is 'Invest in Our Planet'.

The idea for Earth Day was originally given by US Senator named Gaylord Nelson in 1969.

On Earth Day, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and 120 other countries in 2016.

- A. Every year on _____ India celebrates **Civil Services Day** to mark the efforts of civil servants who work tirelessly in various departments and organizations.
- B. 20th April
- C. 21st April
- D. 22nd April
- E. 19th April

Every year on April 21, India celebrates **Civil Services Day**. The day is observed to mark the efforts of civil servants who work tirelessly in various departments and organizations to ensure the smooth functioning of the administrative machinery.

The government chose 21 April to celebrate **National Civil Services Day** because on 21 April 1947, India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed and constituted Administrative Service officers.

In 2006, the first **National Civil Service Day** was observed. Charles Cornwallis is renowned as the "Father of the Indian Civil Service" for his contributions to reforming and modernising India's civil services.

On the occasion of **Civil Services Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

90. Every Year on _____ **World Creativity and Innovation Day** is observed to raise awareness about the important roles that innovation and creativity play in every aspect of human development.

- A. 19th April
- B. 20th April
- C. 21st April
- D. 22nd April

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World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on April 21. The day is marked to raise awareness about the important roles that innovation and creativity play in every aspect of human development. The main idea behind celebrating this day to encourage people to come up with multi-disciplinary thinking both at individual and group levels.

World Creativity and Innovation Day came into existence after the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to celebrate the day. The resolution by UN General Assembly was passed on April 27, 2017, and the first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated in 2018. The day was founded on May 25, 2001 in Toronto, Canada.

The theme of World Creativity and Innovation's Day this year, observed on April 21, is Collaboration.

UN Chinese Language Day has been observed annually since 2010 as part of an initiative to raise awareness and respect for the history, culture and achievements of each of the six official languages of the world body. The day falls on April 20 in remembrance of the legendary figure Cangjie, who invented Chinese characters in ancient times.

91. Every year **World Liver Day** is observed on _____ to increase awareness about disorders and diseases of the liver.
- A. 17th April
 - B. 18th April
 - C. 19th April
 - D. 20th April

- Every year on April 19, the world celebrates World Liver Day.
- The aim of this day is to increase awareness about disorders and diseases of the liver.
- The **theme of World Liver Day 2021** was 'keep your liver healthy and disease-free.'

Every Year World Voice Day is a worldwide annual event that takes place on April 16 devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice. The aim is to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people This year, the theme of the World Voice Day campaign is 'Lift your voice'.

On April 16, 1999, the Brazilian Society of Laryngology and Voice, chaired by Dr. Nedio Steffen, declared the day as Brazilian Voice Day.

92. **World Haemophilia Day** initiated by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF) is observed on _____ every year.
- A. 16th April
 - B. 17th April

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- C. 18th April
- D. 19th April

World Haemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF) and is annually observed on 17th April.

The day was first celebrated in 1989 and 17th April was selected to mark the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of WHF.

The day aims at raising awareness about haemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

World Haemophilia Day 2022 Theme: "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress"

93. Every Year the *World Heritage Day* or the *International Day for the Monuments and Sites* is observed on _____.

- A. 16th April
- B. 17th April
- C. 18th April
- D. 19th April

The International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, is celebrated annually on 18th April.

The day aims to promote awareness about rich cultural heritage and the efforts required to protect and conserve them. The day was proposed by ICOMOS in 1982 and the UNESCO's General Conference approved it. World Heritage Day 2022 theme: "Heritage and Climate"

94. Recently *Deenadayalan Vishwa* passed away was associated with _____ while *Prafulla Kar* was re-owned _____ also passed away.

- A. Cricketer , Politician
- B. Table Tennis , Musician
- C. Football , Dancer
- D. Hockey , Singer

- **18-year-old National Table Tennis player Deenadayalan Vishwa died in a road Accident while travelling from Guwahati Airport to Shillong.**

- **He was going to Shillong to take part in the 83rd Senior National Table Tennis championships.**
- **A legendary musician of Odisha Prafulla Kar has also passed away. He was a Padma Shri Award winner.**
- **He will be remembered for his contribution to Odia culture and music.**

Tamil Nadu paddler Vishwa dies in a road accident

K. KEERTHIVASAN
SHILLONG

Eighteen-year-old D. Vishwa, who was part of the Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association (TTTA) State men's team for the 83rd senior National and inter-State table tennis championships which begin here on Monday, died in a road accident while travelling from Guwahati on Sunday. He is survived by his parents and elder sister.

It is learnt that Vishwa, a first year B. Com student of Loyola College, was sitting in the rear when the car in



D. Vishwa. *FILE PHOTO

which he was travelling collided with a truck. The driver and Vishwa died on the spot. The three other

TTTA paddlers – R. Santosh Kumar, D. Kishore Kumar and S. Abhinash Prasannaji – escaped with injuries.

Vishwa, who trained at the Krishnaswamy TT Club in Anna Nagar (Chennai), won the youth under-19 boys' title in the National-ranking tournament in Dehradun in December last year and finished runner-up in the same category in the South Zone ranking tournament the same month.

Vishwa was not in the top eight of the TTTA men's team this season as he

hadn't taken part in the only tournament held – the State championships. He had informed TTTA of his inability to participate as he was due to travel to Belgrade for a WTT Youth Contender tournament which clashed with the State championships. At the same time he had requested TTTA to include him.

After his return, he won the selection trials against Malesh Kumar to be included in the squad for the Shillong Nationals. The trials had to be conducted since E. Prabhakaran, who

was part of the team, withdrew citing prior commitments.

TTFI president Dushyant Chautala, in his message, said: "Vishwa Deenadayalan, winner of the under-19 title last year at Dehradun, was an exceptional talent. We all expected him to make India proud in the international arena. We have truly lost a champion. May God give strength to the family to bear this excruciating loss."

The TTFI also announced ₹five lakh to the bereaved family.

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95. **Khongjom Day** is celebrated every year on _____ to remember Manipuri warriors.
- 21st April
 - 22nd April
 - 23rd April**
 - 24th April

Khongjom Day is celebrated every year on 23rd April to remember Manipuri warriors.

These warriors sacrificed their lives in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.

Governor of Manipur La. Ganeshan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the celebration.

96. Every Year on _____ **World Book Day**, also known as **World Book and Copyright Day** or **International Day of the Book** is celebrated across the world to promote the joy of reading.
- 21st April
 - 22nd April
 - 23rd April**
 - 24th April

World Book and Copyright Day



- World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated on April 23 every year to promote the joy of reading. April 23 is symbolic for world literature as it is a tribute to iconic writers like Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare.**
- "This date was a natural choice for UNESCO's General Conference, held in Paris in 1995, to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date"*
- In 2022, the Mexican city of Guadalajara is taking up the mantle of World Book Capital, with a year-long programme that focuses on the role of books and reading in triggering social change, combating violence, and building a culture of peace.*

97. Recently In April **Mwai Kibaki** passed away was **former president** of which of the following countries?
- South Korea
 - Kenya**
 - East Timor
 - South Africa

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- *Former Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki, who led the East African nation for more than a decade, has died, his successor Uhuru Kenyatta announced*
- *Kibaki, a veteran politician whose career dated back to the birth of independent Kenya, served as the country's third president from December 2002 to April 2013, taking over from the authoritarian rule of Daniel arapMoi.*
- *Kenya's capital and largest city is Nairobi, The shilling is the currency of Kenya*

Former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki aged 90, dies



Mwai Kibaki, the former Kenyan leader whose distinguished political career was tarnished when he won a second presidential term that was followed by deadly post-election violence, has died at the age of 90. Kibaki's death was announced Friday by President Uhuru Kenyatta, who said his passing was a sad day for the country and praised his predecessor as a great Kenyan and a statesman.

PTI

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Sports Award Books News

98. Consider the following statements regarding *Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year'*.

1. *Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah have been named among five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.*
2. *England's Joe Root has been named leading cricketer in the world, while South African women's team batter Lizelle Lee has been awarded with the title of leading woman cricketer.*
3. *Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah have been named among five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.

Besides the duo, the list also features New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and Proteas women star Dane van Niekerk.

England's Joe Root has been named leading cricketer in the world, while South African women's team batter Lizelle Lee has been awarded with the title of leading woman cricketer.

Besides, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world.

Bumrah and Rohit among Wisden Cricketers-of-the-Year

Root and Lee chosen leading cricketers in the world

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

India captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah have been named among five players in Wisden's Cricketers-of-the-Year in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.

Other winners

The list also features New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and South Africa women star Dane van Niekerk.

England's Joe Root has been named Leading Cricketer-in-the-World, while South Africa batter Lizelle Lee gets the women's equivalent. Besides, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan earned the title of Leading T20 Cricketer-in-the-World.

Bumrah starred for India in the visit to England last summer. Besides his exploits



Dynamic duo: Bumrah and Rohit's exploits on the world stage gain recognition. •PTI

in India's historic win at Lord's, he also produced a match-winning spell at The Oval, which gave India a 2-1 lead in the series that is to be concluded in July this year.

Rohit had an exceptional summer at the top of the order for India, scoring 368 runs in four Tests at an average of 52.57. The India skipper scored a match-defining 127 at The Oval, his first Test century away from home.

Rizwan's T20 recognition came after a record-breaking 2021 in which he scored 1,329 runs at 72.88 in 27 T20s that included a century and 11 fifties.

101. Recently In April _____ has been appointed as the ICC General Manager – Cricket as he takes over Geoff Allardice.

- A. Jay Shah
- B. Wasim Khan
- C. Sourabh Ganguly
- D. Imran Khan

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Former Chief Executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board Wasim Khan has been appointed as the ICC General Manager – Cricket. The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed the announcement Khan takes over as General Manager from Geoff Allardice, who served in the position for eight years before his recent promotion to ICC's Chief Executive Officer.

Khan has previously served as Chief Executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Leicestershire County Cricket Club and Chance to Shine and will take over the General Manager duties from next month.

102. Recently **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, the President of _____ is among **five people named as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award** for acting to protect democracy.

- A. Belarus
- B. Ukraine**
- C. Russia
- D. East Timor

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among five people named as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy.

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation said that he was chosen because of the way he has “marshalled the spirit, patriotism and untiring sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in a life-or-death fight for their country.

They are Republican U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers, and Fulton County, Georgia, elections worker Wandrea “Shaye” Moss

103. Recently **Sajan Prakash** in _____ and **Vedant Madhavan** in _____ have won gold and silver medal respectively at the **Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.**

Pak's Wasim Khan is ICC general manager-cricket

DUBAI

The ICC on Friday appointed former Pakistan Cricket Board CEO Wasim Khan as its general manager-cricket to succeed Geoff Allardice. Wasim, who will take up his post next month, was also previously chief executive of Leicestershire County Cricket Club and Chance to Shine, a cricket charity that works in schools and communities across England, Wales and Scotland. PTI

Apr 22, 2022, 10:43AM

Ukrainian Prez Zelenskyy gets John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for protecting democracy



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among five people named yesterday as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy. The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation said that he was chosen because of the way he has “marshalled the spirit, patriotism and untiring sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in a life-or-death fight for their country.

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- A. 100m butterfly , 800m freestyle
- B. 200m butterfly , 1500m freestyle
- C. 400m butterfly , 400m freestyle
- D. 800m butterfly ,800m freestyle

- **Sajan Prakash and Vedaant Madhavan have won gold and silver medal, respectively.**
- **Sajan Prakash won the medal in men's 200m butterfly event at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.**
- **Vedaant Madhavan won the medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.**
- **Sajan Prakash is an Indian swimmer from Kerala. Last year, he became 1st Indian swimmer to surpass Olympic 'A' standard time, which is most difficult to achieve.**
- **Vedaant Madhavan is also an Indian swimmer. He won bronze medal at Latvia Open in March 2021.**

104. What is the name of famous West Indian cricketer recently announced retirement from International Cricket?

- A. Dwayne Bravo
- B. Odeon Smith
- C. **Kieron Pollard**
- D. Chris Gayle

- **Kieron Pollard has announced retirement from international cricket. He is a West Indies all-rounder player. He was captain of West Indies' limited-overs teams.**
- **He played a total of 123 ODIs and 101 Twenty20 International (T20I). He has been a part of the Mumbai Indians team in the Indian Premier League.**
- **He was in the West Indies team that won the 2012 ICC World Twenty20.**

Sajan Prakash bags butterfly gold

Vedaant Madhavan clinches silver in personal best time

DANISH OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash began his season on a winning note by clinching the men's 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen.

Competing in his first international meet this year, Prakash stopped the clock at 1:59.27s to stand atop the podium on Friday night. Earlier, the Kerala swimmer, who trains in Dubai under coach Pradeep Kumar, had clocked 2:03.67s in the heats to qualify for the 'A' final.

Not his best

However, Friday's performance was not even close to the 28-year-old's personal best of 1:56.38s that came last year in Rome, when Sajan became the first Indian swimmer to breach the Olympic 'A' standard time.



Making a splash: Sajan began the season in style, winning the 200m butterfly.

• FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"We have some competitions coming up this month. It (Denmark Open) is a preparation meet, we will slowly try to peak towards the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games," Sajan, a two-time Olympian, told PTI.

Meanwhile, teenager Vedaant Madhavan improved his personal best time to bag the silver medal in the

men's 1500m freestyle event. Vedaant, son of Indian actor R. Madhavan, clocked 15:57.86s to finish second in the 10-swimmer final.

The 16-year-old, who had won a bronze at the Latvia Open in March 2021, had also impressed at the junior National aquatics championships last year, bagging

seven medals – four silver and three bronze.

Shakthi Balakrishnan finished second in the 'B' final and eighth overall in the women's 400m medley with a timing of 5:10.71s.

The fourth Indian swimmer at the meet, Tanish George Mathew finished 29th in 50m freestyle heats with a timing of 24.29s.

Pollard retires from international cricket

'Proud to play for WI for over 15 years'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket though he will continue to play in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe.

The 34-year-old, who made his ODI debut back in 2007, played his last series against India, his second home due to his long association with Mumbai Indians.

"Hi all, after careful deliberation, I have decided to retire from international cricket."

"It was a dream of mine to play for West Indies since I was a 10-year-old boy and I am proud to represent the West Indies for over 15 years in T20 and ODI format of the game," Pollard announced on his official Instagram page.

One of the finest

One of the finest T20 cricketers, his numbers for the West Indies remain underwhelming with only 2706 runs at just above 26 and 55 wickets from 123 ODIs along



Pollard.

• FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

with 1569 runs from 101 T20Is at an average of shade over 25. He also took 44 wickets.

Pollard, who hit six sixes of Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya in a T20I, was part of the 2012 ICC T20 World Cup-winning West Indies squad. He never played Test cricket.

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- In March 2020, he became the first cricketer to play in 500 Twenty20 matches.
- In February 2022, he became the first cricketer for the West Indies to play in 100 Twenty20 International (T20I) matches.

105. Recently *Peres Jepchirchir and Evans Chebet* of _____ won the *Women's And Men's Boston Marathon* respectively that took place on Patriots Day.

- A. Kenya
- B. Jamaica
- C. South Africa
- D. England

• For the first time since 2019, the Boston Marathon (50th anniversary) took place on Patriots Day, the third Monday of April.

• *Evans Chebet of Kenya broke away from a crowded pack in the men's field to win the race, which he did not finish in 2018. Chebet turned onto Boylston Street with a steady lead as the crowd cheered him to the finish.*

• *Evans Chebet of Kenya broke away from a men's field to win the race, which he did not finish in 2018. Chebet turned onto Boylston Street with a steady lead as the crowd cheered him to the finish.*



Jepchirchir, Chebet win Boston Marathon

BOSTON

Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir won a thrilling sprint to the line to claim the Boston Marathon women's title on Monday, as fellow Kenyan Evans Chebet dominated a stellar field to take the men's race. REUTERS

Jepchirchir wins Boston Marathon

BOSTON: Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir capped the celebration of a half-century of women in the Boston Marathon with a finish to top them all. The 28-year-old Kenyan won a see-saw sprint down the stretch on Monday. Jepchirchir traded places with Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh eight times in the final mile before finishing in 2 hours, 21 minutes, 1 sec.

106. Recently _____ has been recently appointed as the *brand ambassador for Karnataka- Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)*.

- A. Robin Uthappa
- B. KL Rahul
- C. Faf Du Plessis
- D. Glen Maxwell

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- **Karnataka named Robin Uthappa as brand ambassador for Brain Health Initiative – The Karnataka State Government has launched the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) with the help of NIMHANS and NITI Aayog. Karnataka has appointed Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa as the brand ambassador for Karnataka- Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI).**

107. Recently Former **Cricketer Musharraf Hossain** passed away. He used to play for which of the following countries?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bangladesh**
- D. Afghanistan

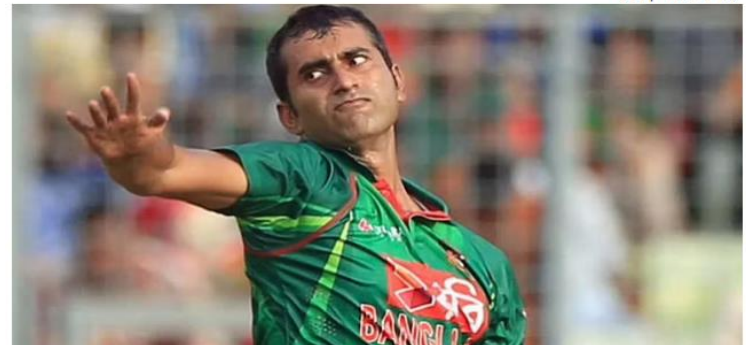
Former Bangladesh spinner Mosharraf Hossain dies at 40

Former Bangladesh spinner Mosharraf Hossain was suffering from brain cancer, which was diagnosed in March 2019.



Published: 20th April 2022 03:48 PM | Last Updated: 20th April 2022 03:48 PM

🔍 | A+ A A-



Former Bangladesh spinner Mosharraf Hossain (Photo | AFP)

- **Former Bangladesh left-arm spinner Musharraf Hossain has died.**
- **"The left-arm spinner amassed over 550 wickets across all formats in a career spanning two decades.**

108. Recently _____ has won the **48th Open Ajedrez La Roda chess tournament at La Roda in Spain.**

- A. D Gukesh**
- B. Raunak Sadhwani
- C. R Praggnanandhaa
- D. Abhimanyu Mishra

- **India's D Gukesh, the third youngest Grandmaster in the world, has won the 48th Open Ajedrez La Roda chess tournament at La Roda in Spain, overcoming the challenge of Israeli GM Victor Mikhalevski in the final round.**
- **Armenian GM Haik M. Martirosyan finished second with 7.5 points while Indian GMs R Praggnanandhaa and Raunak Sadhwani finished joint third with three other players**

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- This is the first Open title for the 15-year-old Gukesh and comes soon after he had lost to compatriot Praggnanandhaa in the final round of Reykjavik Open a few days back.*

109. Recently _____ defeated Tamil Nadu in the finals to win the 12th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022 in Bhopal.

- A. Punjab**
- B. Haryana**
- C. Madhya Pradesh**
- D. Uttar Pradesh**

Haryana defeated Tamil Nadu in the finals of the Senior Men National Championship 2022.

In the shootout, Haryana scored thrice in their first four attempts, while Tamil Nadu scored only one goal.

Haryana has become the winner of the Senior Men National Championship after 2011.

Karnataka defeated Maharashtra to finish third in the tournament.

110. The book titled "The Struggle and the Promise: Restoring India's Potential" is authored by whom amongst the following?

- A. Naushad Forbes**
- B. Nandan Nilkenni**
- C. Amit Raj**
- D. Sudha Murty**

Gukesh clinches title

SPORTS BUREAU

The country's youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh, 15, improved upon his two runner-up finishes in March with a resounding title-triumph in the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament in Castile-La Mancha, in Spain.

In the ninth and final round, joint overnight leader Gukesh stopped Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in 26 moves to finish with eight points.

Earlier, R. Praggnanandhaa did Gukesh a favour by holding the other overnight leader Armenia's Haik Martirosyan in 37 moves.



Gukesh. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Martisroyan (7.5 points) finished runner-up and Praggnanandhaa topped a five-way tie for third place at seven points. Raunak Sadhwani was part of those at seven points and took the fourth spot.

Haryana beats Tamil Nadu for title

NATL. HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Haryana claimed the 12th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championships beating Tamil Nadu 3-1 via penalties in Bhopal on Sunday. The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

In a largely defensive game with teams relying more on opposition mistakes than being adventurous themselves in creating chances, Haryana took the lead when Deepak converted a penalty corner in the fourth minute.

Tamil Nadu stepped up to the challenge and levelled six minutes later through Saravana Kumar but things remained unchanged after that. The next 50 minutes saw few chances at either end.

In the shootout, Somjeet,



On a high: The triumphant Haryana team. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prabhjot Singh and Pankaj were successful for Haryana while Dhanush M. was the lone scorer for Tamil Nadu.

The playoff for the third place in the morning was a repeat of last year's clash with Karnataka retaining its bronze medal with a 4-3 win against Maharashtra.

The teams kept exchanging the lead with goals at regular intervals as Karnataka went ahead twice only for

Maharashtra to level scores. Karnataka upped the tempo in the final quarter as Nachappa I.R. managed to convert a penalty corner in the 52nd minute for the winner.

The scores: Final: Haryana 1 (Deepak) bt Tamil Nadu 1 (Saravana Kumar) in shootout.

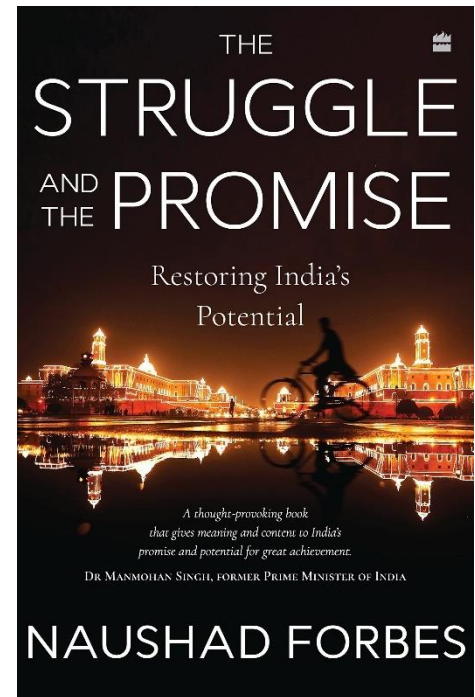
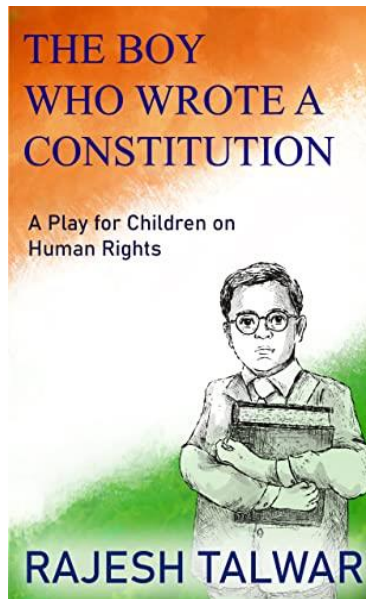
3/4 place: Karnataka 4 (Punith R, Yathish Kumar B, Nachappa I.R., Deekshith SP) bt Maharashtra 3 (Rajendra Pawar, Prajwal Moharkar, Harish Shindgi).



A ND-NDE

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- **Born in 1960, Naushad Forbes is an Indian engineer and businessman. He is Co-Chairman of Forbes Marshall, India’s leading process and energy efficiency company, and was the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2016-17.**



111. Recently *Stefanos Tsitsipas* of _____ successfully defended his Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters title to capture his second ATP Masters 1000 crown.

- A. Spain**
- B. Greece**
- C. Switzerland**
- D. Germany**

- ***Stefanos Tsitsipas* successfully defended his Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters title Sunday, dispatching Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3, 7-6(3) to capture his second ATP Masters 1000 crown**
- ***Tsitsipas* has become the sixth player to win back-to-back Monte Carlo titles in the Open Era joining Rafael Nadal (2005-12, 2016-18), Juan Carlos Ferrero (2002-03), Thomas Muster (1995-96), Bjorn Borg (1979-1980) and Ilie Nastase (1971-1973).**

Tsitsipas beats Fokina in straight sets, retains Monte Carlo crown

Agence France-Presse
 sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

MONTE CARLO: Stefanos Tsitsipas successfully defended his Monte Carlo Masters title with a hard-fought 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Spain’s Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in Sunday’s final.

Third seed Tsitsipas hammered 21 winners and made only 11 unforced errors in the Monaco sunshine to win in an hour and 36 minutes.

It was the 23-year-old Greek’s eighth ATP title and first in 11 months as he made the perfect start to the clay-court season.

“Not in a million years would I have thought I would be in the situation I’m in today,” Tsitsipas said.

“I’m very proud of the amount of belief I had in my game. He fought in moments I didn’t really expect him to fight



Stefanos Tsitsipas. AFP

and hit some incredible winners. I believe that’s a great result against him.”

Tsitsipas joins an illustrious list of players to win back-to-back Monte Carlo Masters, including Rafael Nadal, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Thomas Muster and Bjorn Borg.

Tsitsipas has now won four clay tournaments in his career. He is gearing up for another tilt at the French Open title after losing last year’s final at Roland

Garros to Novak Djokovic despite leading by two sets.

Davidovich Fokina had knocked out world No 1 Djokovic earlier this week but could not repeat those heroics in his first ATP final, losing for the third time in as many meetings with Tsitsipas.

“I always thought about being in the final here one day... I hope to be here again next year,” said Fokina, who also reached the quarter-finals last year before retiring injured after one set against Tsitsipas.

The world No 46 struck first on Sunday, breaking in the third game, but Tsitsipas hit straight back with a magnificent forehand up the line to level the first set at 2-2.

The set remained on serve until game eight, when Tsitsipas broke as Davidovich Fokina fired a backhand into the tram-lines.

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112. Recently _____ edition of **National Table Tennis Championship** has begun in **AI Indoor Stadium, NEHU, and Shillong**.

- A. 81st
- B. 82nd
- C. 83rd**
- D. 84th

In Meghalaya, the 83rd Senior National Table Tennis Championship began today at SAI Indoor Stadium, NEHU, Shillong.

The event has been organised by the Meghalaya Table Tennis Associations in collaboration with the Department of Sports Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India.

Meghalaya will be hosting the Meghalaya Games in the next month and will also be organising the 2nd edition of the Northeast Olympic Games by the end of this year so as to promote sports in the state and also as part of the 50th statehood celebrations

113. Recently Indian wrestler **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** clinched his **third straight Asian Championship gold medal** in the _____ category.

- A. 57 Kg**
- B. 63 Kg
- C. 67 Kg
- D. 57 Kg

Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya clinched his third straight Asian Championship gold medal with a dominating performance in the 57kg category, winning the title clash by technical superiority against Kazakhstan's Rakhat Kalzhan.

Ravi had won gold at the 2020 edition in Delhi and in Almaty last year

114. Recently the **founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando', Kishroe Kumar Das** of _____ has been chosen for the **Commonwealth Points of Light Award** for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children.

- A. Bangladesh**
- B. India
- C. Nepal
- D. Myanmar

Third successive gold for Dahiya

First Indian to achieve the feat in Asian championships

WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympics silver medalist Ravi Kumar Dahiya became the first Indian wrestler to claim three successive gold medals in the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Saturday.

Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia (65kg) and Gourav Baliyan (79kg) took silver medals, while Naveen (70kg) and Satyawart Kadian (97kg) picked up bronze as India collected five medals on day one of freestyle bouts.

In the 57kg final, Ravi was 0-2 down against Kazakh wrestler Rakhat Kalzhan. However, the determined Indian fought back to establish an 8-2 lead, which included three superb takedowns and a flip.

Two-time defending champion Ravi continued to display his supremacy as he widened his lead to 12-2 and won on technical superiority.

Earlier, Ravi recorded comprehensive wins over Japan's Rikuto Arai (15-4) in the quarterfinals and local favourite and former Asian silver medalist Zanabazar Zandanbud (12-5) in the sem-



Proud moment: Dahiya poses with the gold medal.

•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

finals to enter the title clash.

Bajrang defeated Uzbekistan's Abbas Rakhmonov 3-0 in the last-eight and Bahrain's Haji Mohammad Ali 3-1 in the last-four to make it to his fourth straight final. He lost to World junior champion Iranian Rahman Amouzad 3-1 in the gold medal match, which was loaded with defensive moves from both.

This was Bajrang's third consecutive silver and eighth continental medal.

Losses on criteria

Gourav, a silver medalist two years ago, saw off Turkmenistan's Gurbanmyrat Ovezberdiyev 10-0 and 2020 Asian champion Kyrgyz Ar-

salan Budazhapov 8-5 to reach the summit clash. He fought back to level the scores with two-time Asian medallist Iranian Ali Bakhtiar Savadkouhi on 9-9, but lost the final on criteria.

Naveen defeated Turkmenistan's Perman Hommadov 11-0, but lost to Worlds medallist Ernazar Akmatalliev of Kyrgyzstan 6-3. He beat Mongolian Temuul Enkhtuya 'by fall' in the bronze medal match. Satyawart beat Asian bronze medallist Takashi Ishiguro 5-0 but went down against Iranian Askari Mohammadian 10-0. He outsmarted Turkmenistan's Zyyamuhammet Saparov 10-0 to collect his fourth bronze medal.

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The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishroe Kumar Das from Bangladesh has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds,

Kishore Das setup Bidyanando in 2013 with just 22 students. It now runs five primary schools which provide free education as well as academic coaching sessions and scholarship programmes to help children continue into higher education.

Commonwealth Point of Light Awards recognises outstanding individual volunteers who are making a change in their community.

Kishore has also started a meal programme, 'Ektakayaahar' (Meal for one Taka), which has provided more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people, particularly children and those who are homeless.

Bangladesh educational charity founder Kishore Das selected for Commonwealth Points of Light Award



The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishroe Kumar Das from Bangladesh has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds, said the British High Commission in a statement on Saturday.

Kishore Das setup Bidyanando in 2013 with just 22 students. It now runs five primary schools which provide free education as well as academic coaching sessions and scholarship programmes to help children continue into higher education. Kishore has also started a meal programme, 'Ek takay' (Meal for one Taka), which has

115. Recently the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) awarded _____ as the *Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award* for his dedication to research, advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

- A. Ratan Lal
- B. Sir David Attenborough**
- C. Prince Charles
- D. Babita Singh

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced today that Sir David Attenborough is the recipient of the Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

He is most famous for his work with the BBC's Natural History Unit, including documentaries such as Life on Earth, the Living Planet, Our Planet and Our Blue Planet.

This Lifetime Achievement Award is given in a historic year for the global environmental community. 2022 marks fifty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, which was one of the first international meetings on the environment



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David Attenborough receives the UN's most distinguished environment award

Science Tech Environment Defence

116. Consider the following statements regarding *Def-Connect 2.0*.

1. *Def-Connect 2.0* has been organised by *iDEX- Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO)* at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. *PM Modi* launched *Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)* in 2018 to offers a unique platform for multiple stakeholders in sectors like defence and aerospace.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Def-Connect 2.0. Def-Connect 2.0 has been organised by iDEX - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on April 22, 2022.

Def-Connect 2.0 provided opportunity for innovators having association with iDEX-DIO to showcase their capabilities.

It included exhibitions of start-ups supported by iDEX-DIO. Innovators and investors from India's defence sector industries took part in it.

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX): PM Modi launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) in 2018. It offers a unique platform for multiple stakeholders in sectors like defence and aerospace.

117. Recently *Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology* has signed a MoU with _____ to build collaboration and exchange best practices in the field of *Instructional leadership, Educational Psychology and Management*.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIM Kozhikode**
- C. IIM Ahmadabad
- D. IISc Bangalore

Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode.

Director of IIM-K Professor Debashis Chatterjee and director of NIETT Commodore Ben H Berson signed the MoU.

*The MoU aims to build collaboration and exchange best practices in the field of *Instructional leadership, Educational Psychology and Management*.*

The MoU would help NIETT to offer world-class training to trainers of the armed forces of India and friendly foreign nations.

Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology: It is situated in Kochi, Kerala. It is a centre for the training of trainers and a full-fledged centre for the production of training aids and resource material.

118. Recently _____ has commissioned India's first pure green hydrogen plant at _____.

- A. HPCL, Bhopal
- B. BPCL, Hyderabad
- C. Oil India Limited, Jorhat**
- D. NTPC, Leh

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Oil India Limited has commissioned India's first pure green hydrogen plant. The plant has been commissioned at Jorhat, Assam. It has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day.

The plant uses a 100kW AEM Electrolyser array to produce Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW solar plant.

Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) technology is being used for the first time in India.

The plant will increase Oil India Limited's green hydrogen production from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day. Oil India Limited has started a study in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on blending Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas.

Oil India Limited is the second largest Indian-government owned hydrocarbon explorer and producer. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.

Assam gets hydrogen plant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Exploration and production major Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has commissioned "India's first 99.999% pure" green hydrogen plant in Assam.

Green hydrogen, which has the potential to replace fossil fuels, is the name given to hydrogen gas produced using renewable energy such as wind or solar power that do not entail greenhouse gas emissions.

Sushil Chandra Mishra, OIL's Chairman and Managing Director, said the green hydrogen pilot plant set up in central Assam's Jorhat has capacity for producing 10 kg of hydrogen a day, which can be later be increased to 30 kg a day.



119. Consider the following statements regarding the sixth *Scorpene-class* submarine 'INS Vagsheer' under Project-75.

- 1. Defence secretary Ajay Kumar launched *INS Vagsheer* at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.**
- 2. The six submarines were being built under *Project-75* by the Mazagon Dock under a \$3.75 bn deal signed in October 2005.**
- 3. The Mazagon Dock has delivered Five *Scorpene-class* submarines to the Indian Navy- *INS Kalvari*, *INS Khanderi*, *INS Karanj*, *INS Vela* and *INS Vagir*.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

*India gets its sixth *Scorpene-class* submarine 'INS Vagsheer' under Project-75. Defence secretary Ajay Kumar launched *INS Vagsheer* at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.*

*'Vagsheer' has been named after the sandfish found in the Indian Ocean. The first submarine *Vagsheer* was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 26 December 1974. The Mazagon Dock has delivered four *Scorpene-class* submarines to the Indian Navy- *INS Kalvari*, *INS Khanderi*, *INS Karanj* and *INS Vela*.*

*The fifth submarine 'Vagir' is currently undergoing trial at sea and is likely to be commissioned this year. The first submarine, *INS Kalvari*, was commissioned in 2017. The six submarines were being built under *Project-75* by the Mazagon Dock under a \$3.75 bn deal signed in October 2005.*

*Project-75 (P-75) was conceptualised by former Prime Minister I K Gujarat. The *Scorpene-class* submarines have four MTU 12V 396 SE84 diesel engines, and 360 battery cells for giving power. The submarines have a length of 67.5 metres, height of 12.3 metres and a beam measures 6.2 metres.*



Grand launch: *INS Vagsheer* being launched at the Mazgaon Dockyard on Monday. •EMMANUEL YOGINI

Sixth Scorpene takes to water

INS Vagsheer to be inducted next year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The sixth and last of the French Scorpene-class submarines, *INS Vagsheer*, was launched into water at the Mazgaon Docks in Mumbai.

“The sixth submarine will now commence setting to work of various equipment and their harbour trials. The crew will thereafter sail the submarine for the rigorous sea acceptance trials after which the submarine would be delivered to the Navy by late next year,” the Navy said. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar was the chief guest at the ceremony.

INS Vagsheer was launched by Veena Ajay Kumar, in keeping with the naval tradition of launch and naming by a woman. The six submarines were being built under Project-75 by the Mazgaon Docks under technology transfer from the Naval Group as part of a \$3.75-billion deal signed in October

2005. *INS Kalvari* was commissioned in December 2017; *INS Khanderi* in September 2019; *INS Vagir* in November 2020; *INS Karanj* in March 2021; and *INS Vela* in November 2021.

INS Vagir is undergoing sea trials now. The Navy has drawn up plans to install an air independent propulsion (AIP) module on all the Scorpene as they go for refit, beginning with *INS Kalvari*, in the next couple of years to enhance their endurance.

Development of an indigenous AIP module by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is in advanced stages. The tender to build six more advanced conventional submarines under Project-75 is in the Request For Proposal stage. The Navy has a 30-year submarine-building programme and after the P-75I, it intends to design and build conventional submarines indigenously.

Sixth submarine of Kalvari-class launched; enters service in 2 yrs

Rahul Singh

rahul.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: *Vagsheer*, the navy's sixth and last Kalvari-class submarine built in India with French help, was on Wednesday launched at Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, with its proposed induction into the Indian Navy in two years set to further bolster the country's underwater capabilities, officials familiar with the development said.

A submarine or a ship's launch marks a significant milestone in its construction and refers to the vessel entering the water for the first time. Defence secretary Dr Ajay Kumar was the chief guest at the launch ceremony of the *Vagsheer*, along with senior naval officers including Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral SN Ghormade and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command Vice Admiral AB Singh.

Kalvari-class diesel-electric attack submarines have been constructed with technology transfer from French firm Naval Group under a ₹23,562-crore programme called Project 75, and four of them have already been commissioned into the navy.

A fifth submarine, *Vagir*, is currently undergoing sea trials.

These conventional submarines are capable of a raft of mis-



Vagsheer was built in India with French help.

INDIAN NAVY

sions including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strikes, special operations and intelligence gathering, the officials said.

“MDL teams will now have to complete the integration and setting to work of the equipment and machinery onboard (*Vagsheer*) before beginning the sea trials, including weapon and sensor trials,” the Naval Group said in a statement.

Crews will sail the submarine for rigorous sea acceptance trials, following which *Vagsheer* will be delivered to the navy by late next year, the Indian Navy said in a statement. Both *Vagir* and *Vagsheer* will be commissioned into the navy over the next two years, officials familiar with the matter said.

Alain Guillou, executive vice president, international development, Naval Group, said, “We

are proud of this cooperation with MDL and we stand by their side and are ready to assist for future projects. We celebrate the success of ‘Make in India’ while moving towards a true sense of ‘aatmanirbhar’ [self-reliance] naval defence industry.”

India is focussed on strengthening its capabilities amid changing power dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) where the Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) is seeking to increase its footprint, officials familiar with the matter said.

India is also pursuing a project (P-75I) worth ₹40,000 crore to build six more advanced submarines in the country under the government's strategic partnership model to bolster the navy's underwater firepower and counter the rapid expansion of China's submarine fleet.

120. Consider the following statements regarding richest healthcare billionaire in the world as per the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022.

- 1. According to Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022, Cyrus Poonawalla has a net worth of \$26 billion and is the richest healthcare billionaire in the world.**
- 2. In India, Dilip Shanghvi is on second position having a net worth of \$18 billion. Murali Divi & family is the third richest healthcare billionaire with a net worth of \$9.5 billion.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 & 2**

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D. None of the above

Cyrus Poonawalla is the richest healthcare billionaire in the world

The Serum Institute of India founder grows his wealth 41 per cent in a year

RAM NARAYAN MURTHY
 Chennai, April 13

Cyrus Poonawalla, founder of Serum Institute of India, is the richest healthcare sector billionaire in 2022, according to Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022. With a net worth of \$26 billion, he trumped other pharma company owners from around the world. Poonawalla, the fourth richest Indian, grew his wealth by 41 per cent over the past year to \$26 billion, riding on the wide usage of the Covid-19 vaccines produced by the Serum Institute.

Passion for race horses

In 2020, Poonawalla had a net worth of \$8.2 billion, which has risen by \$17.8 bil-

lion over the last two years. Born into a family known more on the horse racing circuit thanks to its stud farms, very early on Poonawalla realised that this pursuit had "no future in socialist India of the time". He founded Serum Institute in 1966 and the company has grown to become the world's largest vaccine maker, producing over 1.5 billion doses of vaccines that counter measles, polio and flu among others.

Race horses continue to be a passion for Poonawalla, who is also known for his penchant for cars. Even before Serum was born, he built a \$120-prototype sports car modelled on the D-type Jaguar. Today, he has a collection of sports cars

Top 10 healthcare billionaires 2022

				
1 Cyrus Poonawalla (Serum) India \$26b	2 Thomas Frist Jr & family (HCA Healthcare) US \$19b	3 Li Xiting (Mindray) China \$19b	4 Xu Hang (Mindray) China \$19b	5 Dilip Shanghvi & family (Sun Pharma) India \$18b
				
6 Jiang Rensheng & family (Zhifei) China \$17b	7 Andreas Strungmann (BioNTech) Germany \$15b	8 Thomas Strungmann (BioNTech) Germany \$15b	9 Chen Bang (Aier Ophthalmology) China \$15b	10 Massimiliana Landini Aleotti & family (Menarini) Italy \$15b

Source: Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022

and custom-built from the Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce (BMCC) in 1966, he developed a close friendship with classmate Sharad Pawar. He and his wife Viloo

are known in Pune circles for their philanthropic activities as well.

Down the list

The second richest healthcare billionaire globally is Thomas Frist Jr and family. The family owns HCA Healthcare, which operates 187 hospitals and around 2,000 sites of care in 20 States in the US and the UK, according to Forbes. The third and fourth on the list are from China – Li Xiting and Xu Hang of Mindray. At No 5 is again an Indian, Dilip Shanghvi and family of Sun Pharmaceuticals. India has a total of nine healthcare billionaires in 2022, which is the fifth highest globally.

Dilip Shanghvi and family have a net worth of \$18 billion and have added \$5.5 billion over the past year, an increase of 44 per cent. The

third richest billionaires from India are Murali Divi & family of the Divi's Laboratories with a net worth of \$9.5 billion. Other healthcare billionaires from India who find a mention on the list are Pankaj Patel and family of Cadilla Healthcare, Kiran Mazumdar and John Shaw of Biocon, Samir Mehta & family of Torrent Pharma, Sudhir Mehta & family of Torrent Pharma, B Parthasaradhi Reddy of Hetero Drugs, and Manju D Gupta & family of Lupin.

The top 10 richest women healthcare billionaires are from China (4), Switzerland (4), Italy (1) and the US (1). The richest woman healthcare billionaire with a net worth of \$15 billion is from Italy – Massimiliana Landini Aleotti of Menarini.

With inputs from Radheshyam Jadhav

Cyrus Poonawalla is the richest healthcare billionaire in the world: Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022.

According to Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022, Cyrus Poonawalla has a net worth of \$26 billion. He is the fourth richest India and his wealth has grown by 41 per cent to \$26 billion.

Cyrus Poonawalla is the founder of the Serum Institute of India. He founded Serum Institute in 1966. Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker.

The second richest healthcare billionaire globally is Thomas Frist Jr. and family.

Li Xiting and Xu Hang are on the third and fourth positions. India has a total of nine healthcare billionaires in 2022.

In India, Dilip Sanghavi is on second position having a net worth of \$18 billion. Murali Divi & family is the third richest healthcare billionaire with a net worth of \$9.5 billion.

121. Recently Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and _____ have developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IISc Bangalore**
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kanpur

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Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea.

These ‘space bricks’ can be used to construct building-like structures on Mars that could facilitate human settlement on the red planet.

The team first made the slurry by mixing Martian soil with guar gum, a bacterium called *Sporosarcina pasteurii*, urea and nickel chloride (NiCl₂).

As per the release, the team has also developed a lab-on-a-chip device that aims to measure bacterial activity in micro-gravity conditions. “The device is being developed keeping in mind our intention to perform experiments in micro-gravity conditions in the near future.

Buildings can be constructed in Mars with ‘Space bricks’

Researchers develop a way to make bricks from Mars 8/20 il

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea. These ‘space bricks’ can be used to construct building-like structures on Mars that could facilitate human settlement on the red planet, the IISc said in a press release.

Their research was published in the peer-reviewed open access scientific journal, *PLOSOne*. The team first made the slurry by mixing Martian soil with guar gum,



The ‘space bricks’ developed by researchers from ISRO and IISc. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a bacterium called *Sporosarcina pasteurii*, urea and nickel chloride (NiCl₂). “This slurry can be poured into moulds of any desired shape, and over a few days the bacteria convert the urea into crystals of calcium carbonate. These crystals, along with biopolymers secreted by the microbes, act

as cement holding the soil particles together,” stated the release.

This method ensures that the bricks are less porous, which was a problem with other methods used to make Martian bricks. “The bacteria seep deep into the pore spaces, using their own proteins to bind the particles together, decreasing porosity and leading to stronger bricks,” said Alope Kumar, associate professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering at IISc, and one of the senior authors of the paper.

In the past, the team had made bricks out of lunar soil using a similar method.

CM

122. Recently **Bharti group-backed One-Web** and _____ have entered into an agreement that will help ensure **One-Web** completes its satellite launch programme.

- A. **New Space India Limited**
- B. **SpaceX**
- C. **NASA**
- D. **Blue Origin**

- **Bharti group-backed OneWeb and New Space India Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, have entered into an agreement that will help ensure OneWeb completes its satellite launch programme,**
- **The first launch with New Space India is expected in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.**
- **The launches will add to low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications firm One-Web's total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites 66 per cent of the planned total fleet to build a global network that will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity.**

PMGKP insurance extended for health staff

NEW DELHI

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) – insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting COVID-19, has been extended for a further period of 180 days from April 19. “It has been decided to extend the policy so as to continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients,” said a release issued by the Union Health Ministry.

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123. Recently the Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) signed a MoU with _____ to encourage research on issues related to the India's power sector.

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

POSOCO-NRLDC signed a MoU with IIT Delhi on Wednesday to encourage research on issues related to the India's power sector and strengthen academia-industry interaction with the goals of knowledge sharing and capacity building through collaboration.

The objectives of the MOU are to strengthen academia-industry interaction with the goals of knowledge sharing and capacity building through collaboration, encourage research on issues related to the India's power sector like data science / data analytics.

Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) is a wholly owned Government of India Schedule an enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power. It is responsible to ensure the integrated operation of the National electricity Grid in a secure manner.

124. Recently _____, an Integrated Fire Power exercise was conducted at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) in West Bengal.

- A. Kripan Shakti**
- B. Dhruv Shakti**
- C. Kirti Shaurya**
- D. Shaurya Shakti**

- **Kripan Shakti, an Integrated Fire Power exercise, was conducted at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) near Siliguri in West Bengal.**
- **The main aim of the exercise is to synergize the capabilities of the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces.**

Sunil Mittal-backed OneWeb to launch satellite with ISRO

OneWeb already has a total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites



S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, April 21

Bharti group-backed OneWeb – the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company – on Thursday said it and New Space India – the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation – have entered into an agreement to ensure OneWeb completes its satellite launch programme.

The first launch with New Space India is anticipated in the late half of this year from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, the company said in a statement.

The launches will add to OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites – 66 per cent of the planned total fleet – to build a global network that will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity, it said.

LEO satellite communications company is jointly owned by UK government and Bharti Global

"This is yet another historic day for collaboration in space, thanks to the shared ambition and vision of New Space India and OneWeb. This most recent agreement on launch plans adds considerable momentum to the development of OneWeb's network, as we work together across the space industry toward our common goal of connecting communities globally," said Sunil Mittal, Executive Chairman of OneWeb.

This launch contract follows a separate agreement between OneWeb and SpaceX to enable the company to resume satellite launches, announced last month. OneWeb has already activated service with its network at the 50th parallel and above, as demand for the company's broadband connectivity services continues to grow from multiple sectors and markets.

Other terms of the agreement with New Space India are confidential, the company added.

Other terms of the agreement with New Space India are confidential, the company added.

Space economy
According to industry veterans, the partnership will pave the way for greater participation of private space players, resulting in a boost to Indian space economy.

"This partnership has the potential to drive the attention of many international players towards India's capabilities, leading to a significant increase in our share in the international space economy which is just 2.6 per cent currently. It will also contribute to nation building and the economic growth of the country," said AK Bhatt, Director General, Indian Space Association (IspA).

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- During the exercise, Trishakti Corps demonstrated their ability to hit hard and swiftly with precision.
- Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich General Officer Commanding Trishakti Corps reviewed the exercise.
- **The exercise will strengthen the ties between the Indian Army, civil administration and Central Armed Police Forces.**
- During the exercise, the swift action by Special Heliborne troops and rapid deployment of arty guns was done with exact precision.

125. Recently In April the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully test-fired a **BrahMos supersonic cruise** missile from a _____ fighter jet on the Eastern seaboard.

- A. Helina
- B. Sukhoi - 30**
- C. Mig 32
- D. S- 400

Different variants of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile were test-fired successfully Tuesday from the Indian Navy's frontline guided-missile destroyer INS Delhi and Indian Air Force (IAF)'s frontline fighter jet Sukhoi-30 MKI.

"Successful maiden BrahMos firing by INS Delhi from an upgraded modular launcher once again demonstrated long range strike capability of BrahMos along with validation of integrated network centric operations from frontline platforms

The Indian Navy on March 5 successfully test-fired an advanced version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai in the Indian Ocean. In January this year, BrahMos was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly-commissioned guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam

BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.

126. Recently **California-based Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti)** has announced to establish the world's largest electric **three-wheeler factory** in _____ with an investment of US \$ 150 million.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu**

{ **MY INDIA** } WORKING WITH NAVY
IAF tests BrahMos missile from Sukhoi



The Indian Air Force (IAF), in coordination with the navy, on Tuesday successfully tested a BrahMos missile from a Su-30 Mki aircraft on the Eastern seaboard. The missile hit the target with accuracy and precision, officials said. "Today on the Eastern seaboard, IAF undertook live firing of BrahMos missile from a Su30 Mki aircraft. The missile achieved a direct hit on the target, a decommissioned Indian Navy ship. The mission was undertaken in close coordination with @indiannavy," the IAF tweeted. On March 5, the Indian Navy successfully test-fired an advanced version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from a stealth destroyer in the Indian Ocean. The missile was test-fired from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai. BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

AGENCIES

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- C. Telangana**
- D. Uttar Pradesh**

- **In a major boost to the State, California-based Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti) has announced that it would be establishing the world’s largest electric three-wheeler factory, with a production capacity of 240,000 EVs per year, in Telangana.**
- **The new plant is estimated to bring an investment of US\$ 150 million and generate over 3,000 jobs while aligning with the State’s policy to become a global hub for EV and energy storage manufacturing.**
- **Biliti currently operates through an exclusive manufacturing partnership with Hyderabad- based Gayam Motor Works (GMW) for manufacturing its three-wheelers.**

Home / States / Telangana

TS to get world’s largest 3-wheeler EV making plant

The facility is expected to manufacture more than 2.4 lakh vehicles every year



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🔒 | A+ A A-



Image used for representational purposes only. (Photo | AP)

127. Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary was recently seen in news. It is situated in which of the following states?

- A. Tamil Nadu**
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Odisha**
- D. Maharashtra**

- **Odisha will soon have its first animal overpass on a railway track at Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary in Dhenkanal to ensure safe passage for wild animals and protect them from train accidents, which are a major, cause of elephant deaths in the State.**
- **The 100-metre-long pathway for wildlife will be one of the two railway overpasses in the country, the second one being planned in Jharkhand. It has received the go-ahead from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).**

Home > States > Odisha

Odisha’s first animal overpass to come up in Kapilash

The 100-metre-long pathway for wildlife will be one of the two railway overpasses in the country, the second one being planned in Jharkhand.



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🔒 | A+ A A-



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128. Consider the following statements regarding *Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50 companies 2021*.

1. *Grasim Industries has become most sustainable company in India.*
2. *The city with the most companies on the list is Mumbai, followed by New Delhi.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Grasim Industries has become most sustainable company in India. It is ranked first in the list of 2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50 companies.

It has achieved a cumulative sustainability score of 47. Tech Mahindra (score 46), Tata Power Company (score 45) and Wipro (score 45) have come at 2nd, 3rd and 4th places.

Climate action (SDG 13) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) are the most prioritized SDGs. Life below water (SDG 14) is the least prioritized SDG.

Hindustan Unilever has the highest number of measurable SDGs with time-bound targets, followed by ITC, and Tech Mahindra.

Only 29 companies have set a deadline for becoming carbon-neutral. ITC and Infosys, respectively, became carbon-neutral in 2006 and 2020.

The city with the most companies on the list is Mumbai, followed by New Delhi.

2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50 lists the top 50 companies based in India, ranked as per their alignment with 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL HURUN INDIA IMPACT 50

Grasim Industries is India's most sustainable company

VINSON KURIAN

Thiruvananthapuram, April 18

Grasim Industries has been ranked number one in the debut 2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50, a list of top 50 companies headquartered in India, based on their alignment with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With a cumulative sustainability score of 47, Grasim Industries emerged as India's most sustainable company. Tech Mahindra came in second with a score of 46, followed by Tata Power Company and Wipro with 45 each.

Benefits stakeholders

Jinisha Sharma, Social Impact and Strategy Executive, Capri Global Capital, said beyond corporate social responsibility, there is a strong business case for companies to benefit stakeholders and not just shareholders. "This list is only a starting point, and we hope that more companies particip-



ate over the years." Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun India, said stories of these corporations tell the story of sustainable development in modern India. The list indicates that India Inc is actively pursuing structural updates to systematically measure and report sustainability goals.

Only 14 companies reported their sustainability goals against all 17 SDG pillars. The SDGs most prioritised by them are climate action (SDG 13) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12). Life below water (SDG 14) is the least prioritised. Only Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone has a documented measurable

goal against the same. The highest measured pillar in the list is climate action, with 37 companies listing themselves in. This was followed by the responsible consumption and production pillar, measured by 31 companies.

With eight goals, Hindustan Unilever has the highest number of measurable SDGs with time-bound targets, followed by ITC and Tech Mahindra with seven each. Interestingly, three companies in the list have no documented measurable goals against any pillars.

Only 29 companies have time-bound targets to achieve carbon-neutrality. ITC and Infosys achieved carbon-neutrality in 2006 and 2020, respectively. Cipla and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone aim to achieve it by 2025. Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Zinc and Tech Mahindra have implemented an internal carbon-pricing policy to reduce emissions.

GRASIM EMERGES INDIA'S MOST SUSTAINABLE FIRM ON HURUN LIST

TOP GOAL SCORERS

2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50 – Top 10

Rank	Company	Score	Hurun India 500 rank	Industry	Top contributing SDGs
1	Grasim	47	39	Cement	Zero hunger, Gender industries products equality, climate action, responsible consumption & production
2	Tech Mahindra	46	30	Software & services	Industry, innovation & infrastructure
3	Tata Power Company	45	63	Electric utilities	Clean water & sanitation, affordable & clean energy, quality education
3	Wipro	45	10	Software & services	Gender equality, affordable & clean energy
5	Ambuja Cements	44	N.A.	Cement products	Sustainable cities and communities, Clean water & sanitation
5	Hindustan Unilever	44	N.A.	Personal products	Responsible consumption and production
7	Hindalco Industries	43	42	Metals & mining	Affordable & clean energy
7	Tata Steel	43	29	Metals & mining	Clean water & sanitation
7	Infosys	43	4	Software & services	Gender equality
10	ITC	42	14	FMCG	Zero hunger
10	Marico	42	61	FMCG	Responsible consumption & production

Source: Hurun Research Institute, 2021 Capri Global Capital Hurun India Impact 50

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129. Recently in April the *country's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in _____.*

- A. Barmer
- B. Indore
- C. Gandhinagar**
- D. Hyderabad

India's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gandhinagar

The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, has a long shelf life of 25-30 years, can be easily installed by a single person and is ideal for the Indian climate.



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🖨 | A+ A A-



- *The country's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar.*
- *The installation of 10 PV Port systems in the temple complex has been supported by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ),*
- *The systems have been installed under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India.*
- *Designed by GIZ, the PV Port systems are standard plug and play photovoltaic systems of a minimum of 2 kWp that come with or without battery storage. "*
- *The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servo-tech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of high-end solar products like LEDs, oxygen concentrators.*

130. Recently the Defence Secretary, Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated _____ edition of *two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise*, _____ conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour, Goa.

- A. 6th , Xexter
- B. 7th , Kripan 9
- C. 8th , NATPOLREX-VIII'**
- D. 9th , Operation Samnway

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Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated, on April 19, 2022, the 8th edition of two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise, 'NATPOLREX-VIII', being conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour, Goa.

The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills. It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels under the aegis of SACEP MoU to which India is a member state.

Besides NATPOLREX, ICG is concurrently conducting a capacity building professional training course in Marine Oil Response and Preparedness for 45 international participants from 18 countries including member states from Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at Chennai from April 18-29, 2022.

131. Recently in April J&K's first functional Gobardhan Plant constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) was inaugurated at _____ Jammu district.

- A. Anntang
- B. JatHerry
- C. Gigian**
- D. Lupilekh

Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur, today virtually inaugurated J&K's first functional Gobardhan Plant constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) at Gram Panchayat Gigian of RS Pura block, Jammu district.

The project is based on a floating drum model which has been executed with a cost of Rs 15 lakh which has been funded through SBM-G in convergence with 14th FC. As many as, 20 households have been connected with the plant through HDPE pipes while Anganwadi Centers and schools will also be connected with the project in future.

To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister of India had launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014.

132. Consider the following statements regarding Vagsheer.

- 1. Vagsheer, the last of the six submarines of Project 75, is ready for launch on 20th of April.**
- 2. The Scorpene class submarine is a diesel-electric attack submarine built by Mumbai's Mazgaon Dock ship builders with French collaboration.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

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- *Vagsheer, the last of the six submarines of Project 75, is ready for launch on 20th of April. Post-launch Vagsheer will undergo sea trials.*
- *The Scorpene class submarine is a diesel-electric attack submarine built by Mumbai’s Mazgaon Dock ship builders with French collaboration.*
- *The state-of-the-art technology used in Scorpene-class has superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels and ability to launch crippling attacks with precision-guided weapons on board.*
- *Four submarines of scorpene class- INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela have already been commissioned while the fifth submarine Vagir is still undergoing sea trials.*
- *The first two submarines - INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi - were commissioned on September 21, 2017 and September 19, 2019.*
- *INS Karanj and INS Vela were commissioned in one calendar year in 2021 in the month of February and November respectively.*



READY FOR LAUNCH

The sixth and final Scorpene submarine of Project-75 named ‘Vagsheer’ at the Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), in Mumbai on Friday. The MDL will launch ‘Vagsheer’ on April 20, officials said. PTI

133. Recently in April _____ has partnered with Pune-based Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) to conserve a 2,400-hectare mangrove in Maharashtra’s Raigarh district.

- A. Google
- B. Amazon
- C. Meta
- D. Apple

Apple Inc. has partnered with Pune-based Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) to conserve a 2,400-hectare mangrove in Maharashtra’s Raigarh district.

The US technology major said it has granted an undisclosed sum to the non-governmental organisation involved in biodiversity conservation to work with the people who are living around the mangrove forest.

AERF will sign conservation agreements with the local community and help protect the ecosystem. It will also partner with Conservation International to verify climate benefits of the mangrove forest and harvest carbon benefits.

Indian NGO, Apple tie up to save mangroves

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Apple’s initiative is part of its \$200 million Restore Fund, which was announced in April 2021.