

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Fourth Week of April (24th – 30th April 2022)

National/State News

1. Consider the following statements regarding the 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue.

1. President of the European Union, Ursula Von Der Leyen will be the chief guest at the Dialogue.
2. The three-day Dialogue is based on the theme - Terranova, impassioned, impatient, and imperilled.

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 seventh edition of Raisina Dialogue tomorrow. President of the European Union Ursula Von Der Leyen will be the chief guest at the Dialogue.

The three-day Dialogue is based on the theme - Terranova, impassioned, impatient, and imperilled. There are six broad thematic pillars of the Dialogue including Rethinking Democracy, End of Multilateralism, Water Caucuses, and Achieving Green Transitions.

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

Every year, global leaders in policy, business, media, and civil society are hosted in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. Recently In April _____ State Government announced setting up 'Garima Grah' (Dignity Home) for the elderly transgender people to help them lead a comfortable and dignified life.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Karnataka

Raisina Dialogue Will Focus on Six Pillars, Including Indo-Pacific and High Tech

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New Delhi: This year's Raisina Dialogue, India's premier multilateral foreign policy and geo-economics conference, will focus on six pillars covering a range of contemporary issues from democracy to technology to global health to the Indo-Pacific region.

The seventh edition of the conference, hosted by the external affairs ministry in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will join the inaugural session of the three-day conference as chief guest.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, will join the inaugural session on Monday

The participants will include former PM of Sweden Carl Bildt, former Canadian PM Stephen Harper, former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed and former Australian PM Anthony Abbott. The president of the United Nations General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid, will deliver a pre-recorded address. Foreign ministers of Argentina, Armenia, Australia (online) Guyana, Nigeria, Norway, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia will also participate in the event, said officials.

The conference will have more than 100 sessions with over 210 speakers from more than 90 countries and multilateral organisations.

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The Social Welfare Ministry of Uttar Pradesh has proposed a first of its kind census for transgender people in the state, aimed at devising welfare measures for the marginalised community,

The ministry has proposed a budget of Rs 200 crore for the welfare of transgender people by means of providing them education facilities,

During his first tenure as chief minister, Adityanath had in 2021 formed the Transgender Welfare Board.

It has also announced setting up 'Garima Grah' (Dignity Home) in cities on lines of old-age homes for the elderly transgender people to help them lead a comfortable and dignified life,

3. Recently _____ district of Jharkhand has become the **first district across India to have community libraries in all gram panchayats.**

- A. **Jamtara**
- B. Palli
- C. Deoghar
- D. Jamshedpur

Jamtara district of Jharkhand has become the first district to have community libraries in all gram panchayats.

The library is open for all students from 9 a.m. To 5 p.m. Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also held free of cost here. The first community library was inaugurated in 2010 in Jamtara district.

Libraries have been set up in panchayats such as Chandradeep, Panjaniya, Menjhia, Gopalpur, Shaharpura, Champapur, and Jhilua. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds received from several companies under the 14th and 15th Finance Commission was spent on the restoration and infrastructure of these libraries.

4. Recently In April the Ministry of Civil Aviation and _____ **Government signed a MoU for development of a Green Field Airport in Nagchala.**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. **Himachal Pradesh**
- D. Uttarakhand

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Govt. Of Himachal Pradesh signed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for development of a Green Field Airport in Nagchala, Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh

The new Greenfield airport at Nagchala, Mandi is being developed under the Greenfield Airport Policy of MoCA and a Joint Venture Company between State Government of Himachal Pradesh and Airport Authority of India has been formed. The projected land requirement for airport is 515 acres approx. And the project is estimated to cost around Rs 900 crore excluding the cost of land.

There are 3 airports i.e. Shimla, Kullu, & Kangra and 5 heliports i.e. Kangnidhar, Shimla, Rampur, Baddi, and SASE(Manali) in Himachal Pradesh that are developed or being developed which would give a massive boost to tourism industry of the state once completed.

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5. Recently in April the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** organized “Yog Prabha”, a mega Yoga event at _____ Airport.
- A. Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport
 - B. Safdarjung Airport**
 - C. Indira Gandhi International Airport
 - D. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

The Ministry of Civil Aviation organized “Yog Prabha”, a mega Yoga event today at Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated and led by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr). V.K. Singh (Retd).

At the initiative of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the United Nations General Assembly took a historic decision in 2014 to declare 21st June as the International Day of Yoga (IDY). This worldwide acceptance of Yoga is a matter of pride for our country, as Yoga is an integral part of our nation’s cultural and spiritual heritage.

With almost two months to International Yoga Day on 21st June 2022 during the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Yog Prabha helped in creating a wider awareness among the participants about importance of Yoga and will motivate them to participate Yoga daily.

6. Consider the following statement regarding British PM Boris Johnson Visit to Gujarat.
1. British PM Boris Johnson has inaugurated JCB India’s new £100-million factory near Vadodara in Gujarat.
 2. Boris Johnson becomes first UK PM to visit Sabarmati Ashram, the place from where Gandhi led India’s struggle for freedom.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Johnson became the first prime minister of the UK to visit the Sabarmati Ashram here, the place from where Gandhi led India’s struggle for freedom from the British colonial rule for more than a decade
- The Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust also gifted two books to him.
- One of the books was ‘Guide to London’, an unpublished book which consists of Gandhi’s suggestions on how to live in London.
- The other book was ‘The Spirit’s Pilgrimage’, autobiography of Miraben or Madeleine Slade, Gandhi’s British-born follower.
- British PM Boris Johnson has inaugurated JCB India’s new £100-million factory.
- The factory has been launched near Vadodara in Gujarat.
- This factory will be JCB India’s 6th factory in India. 50% of the factory’s staff will be women.
- The factory is expected to start full production in October. India is an export hub for complete machines of JCB.

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- **British PM Boris Johnson was on a two-day visit to India. PM Modi and British PM Boris Johnson have decided to conclude negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement by end of 2022.**
- **JCB India is a fully-owned subsidiary of UK-based J C Bamford Excavators.**

Boris first UK PM to visit Sabarmati Ashram; raises trade deal, Ukraine



UK PM Boris Johnson at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. REUTERS

AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who on Thursday became the first British premier to visit Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, signalled his intention to seal a trade deal with India before the year-end and said he will discuss the Ukraine crisis with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Johnson began his two-day visit to India by flying into Gujarat, the ancestral home of almost half of the Indian-origin population of the UK. He told reporters that Britain hopes to conclude a free trade agreement (FTA) with India "by the

autumn". Earlier, speaking to reporters on the plane, Johnson indicated he was ready to offer more visas to India in order to clinch the FTA that could boost annual bilateral trade by billions of pounds.

Johnson also said he would discuss the Ukraine crisis during his meeting with Modi in New Delhi on Friday. "...India and Russia have, historically, a very different relationship perhaps than Russia and the UK have had over the last couple of decades. We have to reflect that reality, but clearly I'll be talking about it to Narendra Modi," he said. →P8

7. Recently In April _____ edition of the **Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022** held in Delhi to discuss important maritime matters.

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

- **The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 will be organized from 25-28 April.**
- **It is a platform for naval commanders to discuss important maritime matters. It gives an opportunity to senior government functionaries to interact through an institutionalised forum.**
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the conference and interact with naval commanders.**
- **The chiefs of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force will also interact with the naval commanders.**

Navy meet to focus on Ukraine crisis and tri-service synergy

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Boosting tri-service synergy, geopolitical dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine war and operational readiness of the Indian Navy will top the agenda of a four-day naval commanders' conference that will begin in New Delhi on Monday and will be addressed by defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar later in the week, the Indian Navy said on Sunday.

"The Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders, will review major operational, logistics, training and administrative activities undertaken in the last six months. The conference will also dwell upon dynamics of the geo-strategic situation in the backdrop of security scenario in the neighbourhood as well as changes emerging due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict," the navy said in a statement.

The army and Indian Air Force chiefs will interact with the navy brass to address issues

THE ARMY AND INDIAN AIR FORCE CHIEFS WILL INTERACT WITH THE NAVY BRASS TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO CONVERGENCE OF THE THREE SERVICES

related to convergence of the three services, as also avenues for augmenting tri-service synergy and readiness, officials said. Singh and Jaishankar will address navy brass on April 28.

The navy meet in New Delhi comes on the back of the army commanders' conference last week during which top brass assessed issues related to jointness, the likely impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on India's military preparedness and reviewed the situation along the country's borders with China and Pakistan.

The naval conference comes at a time when India is working

on a road map for the military's theaterisation — a long-awaited defence reform — to best utilise the resources of the three services for future wars and operations. The theaterisation model seeks to set up four integrated commands — two land-centric theatres, an air defence command and a maritime theatre command.

The three services are expected to submit comprehensive reports on theaterisation and joint structures soon.

In February, top three-star officers from the army, navy and air force carried out deliberations in Mumbai on setting up the integrated maritime theatre command as part of India's theaterisation drive.

The meet also comes at a time when complications stemming from the sanctions slapped on Russia by the US and its allies following the Ukraine war have posed challenges for the India-Russia defence relationship and put India's military preparedness to the test. Two-thirds of India's military equipment is of Soviet or Russian origin.

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- **The Navy chief will review major operational, materiel, logistics, and human resource development activities undertaken by the Indian Navy.**
- **During the conference, naval commanders will also discuss the geostrategic situation as well as changes that emerged due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.**

8. Recently In April the Union Agriculture Ministry launched a campaign called "Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari". Who is the Union Agriculture Minister?

- A. Dharmendra Pradhan**
- B. Arjun Munda**
- C. Narendra Singh Tomar**
- D. Giriraj Singh**

Union Agriculture Ministry launched a campaign called "Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari."

The campaign, which will run through the 30 April, is being organised in collaboration with a number of different Ministries and Departments under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Agriculture Research and Education Department will organize Krishi Mela in each Krishi Vigyan Kendra and field exhibition on natural farming.

The country-wide workshop on crop insurance will be organised by the common service centre. It will be launched by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar (CSC).

A National Atma Nirbhar Bharat Conclave of 75 selected farmers and entrepreneurs will take place under the campaign.

- 9. Recently in April _____ Signed MoU with the Government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator – i-create (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) to harness India's tech strength.**
- A. Ministry of Defence**

Boris Johnson inaugurates JCB's £100-million factory at Vadodara

The plant will be company's 6th in India, to provide jobs for 1,200 people



UK PM Boris Johnson at the JCB factory in Vadodara in Gujarat AFP

G BALACHANDAR

Vadodara (Gujarat), April 21

Leading manufacturer earth-moving and construction equipment maker JCB India, a fully-owned subsidiary of UK-based J C Bamford Excavators, will consolidate its manufacturing and fabrication of parts meant for its global factories at its new £100-million factory near Vadodara in Gujarat.

The new factory, which was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday in presence of the Chairman of J C Bamford Excavators, Lord Bamford, will be JCB's 6th factory in India and will generate jobs for 1,200 people directly and thousands more through its supply chain units. About 50 per cent of the staff will be women.

Production capacity

With the Gujarat factory, the total investment made by JCB in India is estimated at more than £1 billion. Also, one in two of every construction machines sold in India today is made by JCB. The company has a total production capacity of about 50,000 machines a year.

"This new factory is meant for exports. We make components in all other Indian factories such as Jaipur, Pune and Ballabgarh for some global requirements. Those plants will stop making the export components and this new factory will make all of those. We made this decision as there is a proximity to Surat Port, which is modern and about 3 hours from our factory," Lord Bamford told a select group of journalists here.

India is also an export hub for complete machines of JCB and this year the total exports are expected at more than 14,000 machines. "This will go to many parts of the world, including the US and UK," he said.

The Vadodara factory, which has come up on a 47-acre site, is expected to start full production in October. It will be capable of processing 85,000 tonnes of steel annually.

Bamford indicated that the growth outlook for the company is positive given the immense focus on infrastructure development.

Growing demand

JCB's factories are now running at 65-75 per cent capacity as Deepak Shetty, CEO & Managing Director, JCB India, said the company would always invest ahead of demand.

This correspondent was at Vadodara at the invitation of the company

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- B. ICAR**
- C. CSIR**
- D. SAIL**

Gujarat Chief Minister facilitates MoU between CSIR and iCreate to harness India's tech strength

Posted On: 25 APR 2022 5:59PM by PIB Delhi

The MoU will foster rapid economic development and help create world-class start-ups

- *iCreate to help establish new start-up incubators at select CSIR labs to boost commercialisation of CSIR's innovations*
- *CSIR to provide access to its equipment, facilities as well as scientific manpower to iCreate's start-ups*
- *CSIR and iCreate to jointly work on creating tech innovation-based commercial solutions to address large challenges facing the country*
- *CSIR will explore new ways of financially supporting innovative start-ups*

The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel today presided over the MoU signing between the Government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator - iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the premier research and development body of the Government of India. Dr Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Mines Department and Chairman, iCreate and Dr Rahul Gupta, IAS, Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat were amongst the dignitaries present.

The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel today presided over the MoU signing between the Government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator – i-create (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the premier research and development body of the Government of India.

The MoU will foster rapid economic development and help create world-class start-ups

i-create to help establish new start-up incubators at select CSIR labs to boost commercialisation of CSIR's innovations

CSIR to provide access to its equipment, facilities as well as scientific manpower to i-create start-ups

CSIR and i-create to jointly work on creating tech innovation-based commercial solutions to address large challenges facing the country

CSIR will explore new ways of financially supporting innovative start-ups

Under the MoU, CSIR and i-create intend to establish a collaborative support system for promising tech start-ups by making combined resources available for entrepreneurs and innovators in the country. The partnership will also catalyse scientific innovation and the marketability of high-tech start-ups.

10. Recently in April India created world record by waving 78,220 Tri-colours simultaneously at the "Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav" held at _____.

- A. Dahod**
- B. Jagdishpur**
- C. Safdarganj**
- D. Vaishali**

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In the presence of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India has created the record in waving the National Flag at the same time. On 23 April 2022, India entered the Guinness Book of World Records by waving 78,220 tri-colour flags simultaneously at the “Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav” programme at Duler Ground in Jagdishpur, Bhojpur, Bihar.

The occasion was a tribute to the glorious victory of the then King of Jagdishpur, Veer Kunwar Singh, who is considered one of the ‘heroes’ of the freedom struggle of 1857. The event was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Culture under the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence

Babu Veer Kunwar Singh emerged as a prominent leader of the Indian freedom struggle of 1857, who even at the age of about 80, fought bravely against the British colonial rule. He belonged to the Ujjayini dynasty of the Parmar Rajput of Jagdishpur, a part of present-day Bhojpur district, Bihar, India.



Setting record: Amit Shah with others waves the national flag at Jagdishpur in Bhojpur district on Saturday. •PTI

Amit Shah attends Vijayotsav in Bhojpur

77,000 people wave National Flag

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA**

A record of sorts was created when over 77,000 people waved the National Flag at Jagdishpur in Bhojpur during the Vijayotsav [victory day] celebrated on Saturday as part of the Centre’s Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who attended the event, listed the achievements of the Narendra Modi government and slammed the previous Lalu Prasad-Rabri Devi regimes in the State.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a mega event at the Dulaur ground in Jagdishpur in Bhojpur, the birthplace of freedom fight-

er and hero of the 1857 uprising Veer Kunwar Singh. All senior State BJP leaders were present.

Earlier, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar welcomed Mr. Shah at the Patna airport and had a brief meeting with him there. Later, Mr. Shah flew to Jagdishpur by helicopter.

BJP leaders kept announcing that a world record was being set with over 75,000 people waving national flags. The party said that 77,900 people waved the flag at the meeting. “It was counted digitally as well,” a BJP leader said.

The event was organised amid the buzz in political circles that Mr. Kumar would be replaced soon.

11. Recently Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) is organising Asia’s biggest B2B international food and hospitality fair _____ at Pragati Maidan.

- A. AANAJ
- B. AAHAR
- C. ASHWAS
- D. AVSAR

.With a view to unlock the abundant potential in food and hospitality sector, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), is organising Asia’s biggest B2B international food and hospitality fair AAHAR commencing from April 26, 2022 at Pragati Maidan APEDA is organizing in the 36th edition of AAHAR with the theme “Geographical Indication Products” as APEDA is focussing on promotion of exports of GI certified agricultural products.

AAHAR is a part of the series of export promotion initiatives taken by APEDA, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade, to showcase agricultural and processed food products to the global players in the food and beverages industry as the fair is visited by a large number of importers from different parts of the world. Apart from AAHAR, APEDA also organizes national events like Organic World Congress, bio-fach India etc to promote agri-exports. Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA): It is a government organization established in 1986. It is responsible for the promotion of the export of agro products.

12. Recently In April the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has formed a _____-member committee to prepare regulations to allow foreign higher education institutes placed among the top 500 globally to set up campuses in India.

- A. 5
- B. 7
- C. 8
- D. 9

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) has formed a five-member committee to prepare regulations to allow foreign higher education institutes, placed among the top 500 globally, to set up campuses in India, particularly in areas of science and technology.**
- **The committee's formation is the first step in preparing the ground for opening up the higher education sector to foreign universities, a key proposal in the National Educational Policy (NEP) to "internationalise" the higher education sector.**
- **Without giving out names of committee members, Kumar said it is being headed by a "top academic with a legal background". The other members have also reputed academics, including IITs.**
- **In March, the government had informed Lok Sabha that two foreign higher education institutes, including Milan-based institute of fashion and design Istituto Marangoni and another based out of France,**

UGC forms committee to firm up rules for foreign varsities' India campuses

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 23

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) has formed a five-member committee to prepare regulations to allow foreign higher education institutes, placed among the top 500 globally, to set up campuses in India, particularly in areas of science and technology.

The committee's formation is the first step in preparing the ground for opening up the higher education sector to foreign universities, a key proposal in the National Educational Policy (NEP) to "internationalise" the higher education sector.

UGC chairperson Prof M Jagadesh Kumar told The Sunday Express that the committee, set up on April 11, is expected to submit its report by April-end. "The committee's mandate is to frame draft regulations so that foreign universities can start functioning in India in tune with the NEP. It was given three weeks to prepare its report," Kumar said.

Without giving out names of panel members, Kumar said it is being headed by a "top academic with a legal background". The other members are also reputed academics, including from IITs.

EXPLAINED
E The idea predates NEP

THE BID to allow foreign institutes to start operations in India predates NEP. In 2010, under UPA-2, the Foreign Education Institutions Bill was introduced in Parliament. The Bill lapsed in 2014 after NDA came to power. While in Opposition, BJP, along with the Left and Samajwadi Party, had opposed the Bill, questioning the degree of autonomy it sought to give to foreign institutes setting up campuses in India. In 2015, the Centre advised HRD Ministry to consult with Niti Aayog, which was in favour of allowing foreign universities.

Besides drafting a legal framework, Kumar said, the committee will attempt to frame broad outlines of institutional structures required to invite foreign universities to start operations in India. But he made it clear that the major thrust will be on research.

"The idea is to create an

ecosystem to enable global educational institutions to set up campuses in India, particularly in emerging areas including Artificial Intelligence (AI), data sciences," he said. "Attempts will be made to attract institutions in areas of science and technology. We would like them to grow into research institutes; it will help students in India to access world-class education."

The UGC believes that if its efforts strike success, top educational institutions here will benefit through collaborations with their foreign counterparts. Earlier this week, the Commission had issued amended regulations to promote tie-ups between domestic and international institutes for offering dual-degrees, joint degrees and twinning programmes.

Kumar said that initially institutes among top 500 in various global rankings, such as the ones issued by Times Higher Education or Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), are likely to be approached once the regulations are in place. He said the existing UGC Act need not be amended to allow such an arrangement in the future. "We have studied the UGC Act and felt that no amendment is required. Regulations are needed, which the five-member committee is drafting," Kumar said.

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are interested in setting up campuses in India.

- IIT-Delhi has expressed interest and even submitted proposals to the Ministry of Education requesting that it be allowed to set up campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt

13. Recently In April _____ and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a joint statement of understanding on localisation of Sustainable Development Goals.

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Panchayati Raj

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a joint statement of understanding on localisation of Sustainable Development Goals.

The agreement was signed by Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Panchayati Raj, and UNDP resident representative Shoko Noda.

About 65% of India's population lives in rural areas and the government is increasingly routing the funding of social sector schemes in sectors such as sanitation, housing and solid waste management through rural local bodies

The UNDP has been leading efforts in partnership with the NITI Aayog and the State governments, notably Haryana, Karnataka, Nagaland, Punjab and Uttarakhand, to localise and accelerate the SDGs through its signature solution of Sustainable Development Coordination Centres.

14. Recently in April _____ village has become India's first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy with all its records digitised and saturation of benefits of all the Central schemes.

- A. Angtang
- B. Srinagar
- C. Palli
- D. Shikar

- Palli village in Jammu's Samba district has become the country's first panchayat to become carbon neutral fully powered by solar energy and with all its records digitised and saturation of benefits of all the Central schemes.

- Inaugurating the 500 KW solar plant at the country's first carbon-neutral panchayat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it would take three weeks to move a 'Sarkari' file from

Ministry, UNDP sign pact on SDGs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a joint statement of understanding on localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The agreement was signed by Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Panchayati Raj, and UNDP resident representative Shoko Noda. The UNDP has been leading efforts in partnership with the NITI Aayog and the State governments, to accelerate the SDGs.

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Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir but this project with the help of villagers was completed in a record time of three weeks.

- **Palli was a major step towards the Glasgow goal of making India carbon-neutral.**
- **Palli village was also an example of the slogan ‘Sab ka Prayas’ (Everyone’s efforts). ‘Every household in Pall offered ‘Rotis’ to workers who completed the solar power plant.**

Palli in Jammu becomes India’s first carbon-neutral panchayat

It is a major step towards achieving the Glasgow goal, says Prime Minister Modi

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy. All its records have been digitised and the benefits of all the Central schemes are available in this village around 17 km from Jammu.

Inaugurating a 500-kilowatt solar plant in Palli, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while it would take three weeks to move a *sarkari* file from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir, this project, with the help of villagers, was completed in a record time of three weeks.

Referring to the Glasgow Climate Change Conference which he attended last year, Mr. Modi said he was witness to speeches and statements being made during the conference on reducing carbon



All cheers: Supporters attending a rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Panchayati Raj Day at Palli on Sunday. •PTI

generation. “It’s India that has come up with a living example in the form of Palli village to the Glasgow pledge. Palli village, with its enthusiastic and dedicated elected representatives full of dreams, has shown how to implement the Glasgow pledge,” Mr. Modi said.

Palli was a major step towards the Glasgow goal of making India carbon-neutral.

Palli village was also an ex-

ample of the slogan *Sabka Prayas* (everyone’s efforts). “Every household in Palli offered *rotis* to workers who completed the solar power plant,” he added.

He said the government was pushing for major technology-related measures, *swaraj* and mode of payments to make panchayats more powerful. “We aim that all basic issues included in citizens’ charter are addressed at the village level,” Mr. Modi said. Whether it was panchayat or Parliament, no work was small or big. “Panchayats will become mediums for the country to reach new heights,” the Prime Minister said.

He asked panchayats to participate in the movement “to segregate waste at the doorstep and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers”.

15. Recently the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for Kharif Season worth amount _____ including support for indigenous fertilizer (SSP).

- A. Rs. 93,939.23 Crores
- B. Rs. 60,939.23 Crores
- C. Rs. 65,939.23 Crores
- D. Rs. 68,939.23 Crores

Centre hikes subsidy for DAP, MoP fertilisers

Cabinet approves ₹60,939-crore NBS for kharif sops

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi, April 27

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic (P) and Potassic (K) fertilisers to ensure that the fertilisers are available on time for kharif sowing. The decision will help companies to plan their imports of fertilisers as the country is mostly dependent on overseas supply of phosphatic fertilisers.

“Subsidy approved by the Cabinet for the NBS Kharif-2022 (until Septem-

NBS subsidy (₹/kg)	2022* 2021**	
	Nitrogen (N)	92
Phosphorous (P)	72	45.30
Potash (K)	25	10.10
Sulphur (S)	7	2.40

*Approximate subsidy approved.
**As on May 20, 2021, phosphorous subsidy got revised twice last year

ber 30) will be ₹60,939.23 crore, including support for indigenous fertilisers—SSP through freight subsidy and additional support for indigenous manufacturing and imports of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP),” the government said in a statement.

Subsidy doubled

Though the government

said subsidy per bag (50 kg) on DAP will increase to ₹2,501 from existing ₹1,650, the average subsidy was ₹1,211.55 per bag during 2021-22. This means the subsidy has more than doubled this year, at least for the kharif season.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, announcing the Cabinet decision, said farmers would continue to get the DAP at ₹1,350 per bag. Recently IFFCO had raised DAP price to ₹1,350 per bag from ₹1,200 last fiscal.

However, the subsidy on muriate of potash (MoP) has been kept at around ₹750 per bag, sources said. Though, it has more than

doubled from last year’s ₹303 per bag (annual average), it may not bring down its current retail prices of ₹1,700-1,750 as the import cost is too high for potash. The annual average MRP of MoP was ₹1,130/bag in 2021-22. “Even in 2011, when there was a price spiral globally, the government had subsidised to the extent of nearly ₹1,000 per bag. But this time there is an unprecedented hike after the Russia-Ukraine war and any cool off is expected only after end of war of when supplies from the war zone resumes,” said an industry expert.

The increase in the international prices of DAP and its raw materials have been

primarily absorbed by the Centre and the hike in global prices of these fertilisers and its raw material is in the range of nearly 80 per cent.

“The decision will help farmers receive notified P and K fertilizers on subsidized, affordable and reasonable rates and support the agriculture sector,” the statement said. “As far as the farmers are concerned, from time to time, we have been giving benefits. There is a sharp increase in raw material cost, shipping cost and other components which has led to the overall price increase as far as P and K fertilisers are concerned,” Thakur said.

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The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for Kharif Season - 2022

Subsidy approved by Cabinet for the NBS Kharif-2022 (from 01.04.2022 to 30.09.2022) will be Rs. 60,939.23 Crores including support for indigenous fertilizer (SSP) through freight subsidy and additional support for indigenous manufacturing and imports of DAP.

16. Recently in April the Union Cabinet has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs.1435 crore to _____ as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement.

- A. Rs.2456 crore
- B. Rs.2255 crore**
- C. Rs.2965 crore
- D. Rs.2792 crore

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs.1435 crore to Rs.2255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement.

The Cabinet also granted in principle approval for future fund infusion to the tune of Rs.500 crore for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation.

The objective of the project is to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man; spearhead the financial inclusion agenda by removing the barriers for the unbanked and reduce the opportunity cost for the under banked populace through assisted doorstep banking.

The decision shall help India Post Payments Bank pursue its objective of furthering financial inclusion across India by leveraging the network of Department of Posts.

Since the launch of IPPB, it has opened more than 5.25 crore accounts with 82 crore aggregate number of financial transactions with Rs.1, 61,811 crore which includes 765 lakh number of AEPS transactions worth Rs.21, 343 crore.

17. Consider the following statements regarding Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approval in April.

- 1. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has accorded approval to the opening of a new Indian Mission in Lithuania in 2022.**
- 2. Cabinet approves amalgamation of Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) along with its manpower, moveable assets and liabilities with Council of Scientific**

IPPB to get ₹820-cr funding

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, April 27

The Union Cabinet has approved additional funding of ₹820 crore for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for 2020-21 to 2022-23.

It has approved the revision of project outlay for the setting up of IPPB from ₹1,435 crore to ₹2,255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement.

Technological upgradation

The Cabinet also granted an in-principle approval for future fund-infusion to the tune of ₹500 crore for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation.

This additional funding into IPPB will help it further enter rural areas and aid financial inclusion, said Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting (I&B), after the Cabinet meeting. The decision is expected to help IPPB pursue its objective of furthering financial inclusion across India by leveraging the network of Department of Posts.

It maybe recalled that IPPB did a nationwide launch on September 1, 2018, with 650 branches/controlling offices. IPPB has enabled 1.36 lakh Post Offices to provide banking services and has equipped nearly 1.89 lakh postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks with smartphone and biometric devices to provide doorstep banking services.

Since the launch of IPPB, it has opened more than 5.25 crore accounts. Of the 5 crore accounts, 77 per cent of accounts were opened in rural areas, and 48 per cent are women customers with around ₹1,000 crore of deposits.



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and Industrial Research (CSIR) of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

3. Cabinet approves signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Chile for co-operation in Disability Sector.

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 Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Chile for cooperation in Disability Sector.

- The bilateral Memorandum of Understanding will encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India and Government of Chile through joint initiatives in the disabilities sector. It will strengthen bilateral ties between India and Chile.

- The year 2019-20 marked 70th year of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Bilateral relations have strengthened over the years with exchange of high-level visits, which include two visits of the Hon'ble President of Chile in 2005 and 2009.
- Santiago de Chile is Chile's impressive capital, the peso is the currency of Chile.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the following: The existing 13 employees of CDC shall be accommodated in CSIR by creating thirteen (13) supernumerary posts.
- CSIR and CDC are two separate Autonomous bodies (Abs) under Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology. CSIR was set up in 1942 under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 as a National R&D organization for scientific industrial research for India's economic growth and human welfare.
- CDC was set up in 1986 as a society with the support of DSIR for developing, strengthening and promoting consultancy skills and capabilities in the country. CDC was approved as an Autonomous Institution of DSIR by Union Cabinet on 13th October 2004. Memorandum and Articles of Association of CDC as Autonomous Institution was issued on 16th January, 2008. CDC is located in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, having

Other approvals by Cabinet

A look at seven other key decisions cleared on Wednesday

Construction of 540MW Kwar hydroelectric project in J&K

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared investment of ₹4,526.1cr for 540MW Kwar hydroelectric project located on Chenab in J&K's Kishtwar district

Revised estimate to set up IPPB

₹820cr additional funding cleared under revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to ₹2,255cr as equity infusion

Upgradation of 2G to 4G in LWE areas

To be done at a cost of ₹2,426.4cr to enable better internet and data services in left wing extremist areas. Will also promote domestic manufacturing

Continuation of PM SVANidhi

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved continuation of lending under PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi beyond Mar 2022 till Dec 2024

Approval for opening of Indian mission in Lithuania

Amalgamation of Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) with CSIR

MoU with Chile for cooperation in disability sector

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1000Sqm. Built up space allocated on 08.03.1990 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on lease. CDC has total strength of 13 permanent employees.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi **has accorded approval to the opening of a new Indian Mission in Lithuania in 2022.**
- Opening of Indian Mission in Lithuania will help expand India’s diplomatic footprint, deepen political relations and strategic cooperation, enables growth of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements.
- Indian Mission in Lithuania will also better assist the Indian community and protect their interests.
- The decision to open a new Indian Mission in Lithuania is a forward-looking step in pursuit of our national priority of growth and development or ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’.
- **Capital: Vilnius, Currency – euro.**

18. Consider the following statements regarding the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project for upgrading 2G mobile services to 4G at security sites in LWE areas.**

1. The Project envisages upgrading 2,343 left Wing Extremism Phase-I sites from 2G to 4G mobile services at an estimated cost of Rs.1,884.59 crore (Excluding taxes and levies).
2. BSNL will maintain the sites for another five years at its own cost. The work will be awarded to BSNL because these sites belong to BSNL.

Which of the following statement is/are correct:

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

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi **has approved a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project for upgrading 2G mobile services to 4G at security sites in LWE areas.**
- The Project envisages upgrading 2,343 left Wing Extremism Phase-I sites from 2G to 4G mobile services at an estimated cost of Rs.1,884.59 crore (Excluding taxes and levies).
- **This includes O&M for five years. However, BSNL will maintain the sites for another five years at its own cost. The work will be awarded to BSNL because these sites belong to BSNL.**

₹2,426-cr fund to upgrade 2G sites to 4G in naxal-hit areas approved

BSNL chosen to upgrade and run the projects

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 27

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project to upgrade 2G mobile services to 4G at security sites in the naxal-hit or Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas, at an estimated cost of ₹2,426.39 crore.

The project envisages upgrading 2,343 LWE phase-I sites from 2G to 4G mobile services at an estimated cost of ₹1,884.59 crore (excluding taxes and levies). This includes operation and maintenance (O&M) for five years.

Contract extension

“However, BSNL will maintain the sites for another five years at its own expense. The work will be awarded to



BSNL will maintain the sites at its own expense

BSNL because these sites are owned by BSNL,” a government statement said.

The Cabinet also approved funding of the O&M cost of the LWE Phase-I 2G sites by BSNL for an extended period beyond the contractual period of five years at an estimated cost of ₹541.80 crore.

The extension will be up to one year from the date of approval by the Cabinet or commissioning of 4G sites, whichever is earlier, it said.

The government chose BSNL for the project to develop indigenous 4G telecom equipment to achieve self-reliance in the telecom gear segment to fulfil domestic market needs apart from exporting to other markets. The 4G equipment will be deployed in this project as well.

“The upgrade will enable better Internet and data services in these areas. It meets the requirements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State governments. It shall also fulfil the communication needs of the security personnel deployed in these areas,” the government said.

The proposal is in line with the goal of providing mobile connectivity in rural areas. In addition, delivery of various e-governance services, banking services, tele-medicine, and tele-education through mobile broadband shall be possible in these areas, it added.

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- The Cabinet also approved funding of operations and maintenance cost of LWE Phase-I 2G sites by BSNL for an extended period beyond the contractual period of five years at an estimated cost of Rs.541.80 crore.
- The extension will be up to 12 months from the date of approval by the Cabinet or commissioning of 4G sites, whichever is earlier.

19. Consider the following statements regarding Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approval in April.

1. Cabinet approves continuation of Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) beyond March 2022 till December 2024.
2. Cabinet approves construction of 540 Megawatt Kwar Hydro Electric Project through M/s. Chenab valley Power Projects Private Limited.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the investment of Rs.4526.12 crore for 540 Megawatt (MW) Kwar Hydro Electric Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project will be implemented by M/s. Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (M/s. CVPPL) a joint venture company between NHPC and JKSPDC with equity contribution of 51% and 49% respectively on 27.04.2022.
- Government of India is extending grant of Rs.69.80 crore towards cost of Enabling Infrastructure and also supporting the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir by providing grant of Rs.655.08 crore for Equity contribution of JKSPDC (49%) in M/s. CVPPPL.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved the continuation of lending under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) beyond March 2022 till December 2024, with focus on enhanced collateral free affordable loan corpus.
- Through the Scheme, affordable collateral-free loans are being facilitated to the Street Vendors. The Scheme had envisaged to facilitate loans for an amount of Rs. 5,000 crore.
- The PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) Scheme was launched in June 2020 as a Micro-Credit facility which aims to empower street vendors to recover losses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PM SVANidhi scheme extended to facilitate loans up to ₹8,100 cr

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 27

THE CABINET COMMITTEE on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to extend the validity of the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme — under which subsidised and collateral-free loans are provided to Covid-hit street vendors in urban areas — up to December 2024 from March 2022.

A total credit of ₹8,100 crore will now be facilitated at an interest subvention of 7% during the course of the scheme, compared with that of ₹5,000 crore estimated earlier.

Rolled out in June 2020 to soften the pandemic blow to these nano entrepreneurs, the scheme offers each beneficiary working capital loan up to ₹10,000 for a tenure of one year.

Timely repayment ensures a loan up to ₹20,000 in the second tranche and up to ₹50,000 in the third tranche.

The extension has been necessitated as “the pandemic and related stress on the small businesses have not fully retracted”, the government said in a statement.

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- It has been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Key Objectives of the PM SVANidhi Scheme are:
 - **Facilitating working capital loans upto INR 10,000**
 - **Incentivising regular repayment of loans by offering an interest subsidy of 7% per annum. This subsidy will be credited back on a quarterly basis.**

20. Recently, India launched _____ program for **next generation Microprocessors to achieve commercial silicon & Design wins by December 2023.**

- A. Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V)
- B. Diversified India RISC-V (DIR-V)
- C. Demolishing India RISC-V (DIR-V)
- D. Donation India RISC-V (DIR-V)

- **As one of the concrete steps towards realizing the ambition of self-reliance and a momentous stride towards “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced today Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program with an overall aim to enable creation of Microprocessors for the future in India, for the world and achieve industry-grade silicon & Design wins by December'2023.**

+ **‘Govt to launch indigenous chipsets by 2023-24’**

Unveils Digital India RISC-V programme

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, April 27

The government said it has set a timeline to commercially launch the first indigenous chipsets by 2023-24, under the Digital India RISC-V programme, launched on Wednesday.

Launching the programme, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT, said it will help create future generations of microprocessors, which will serve the need of India's strategic focus on mobility, computing and digitisation.

“One big milestone that I am very focussed on is to have the first set of commercial silicon of Shakti and Vega processors available by December 2023 or early



Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT

2024. We want at least a few companies to adopt their product designs to DIR-V products Shakti and Vega before 2023-24, and when the silicon is ready, they start manufacturing and incorporating chips in the products,” he said.

Vega, Shakti
IIT-Madras and the Centre

for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named Shakti (32 bit) and Vega (64 bit), respectively, using Open Source Architecture under the Microprocessor Development Programme of MeitY.

The government has appointed V Kamakoti, Director, IIT-Madras, as chief architect, and Krishnakumar Rao, Scientist, CDAC, Thiruvananthapuram, as programme manager of the DIR-V programme.

“We also believe over the next one-and-a-half-years, the partnership between the Shakti and Vega teams and overall DIR-V programme with platform companies like HP, VVDN and Apple and large number of companies in the electronic ecosystem, will help create design wins

IIT-Madras and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing have developed two microprocessors named Shakti and Vega

around DIR-V family of products Shakti and Vega,” Chandrasekhar added.

The DIR-V programme will consolidate and leverage the ongoing efforts in the country with an integrated multi-institutional and multi-location team, finalise the formal architecture and target performance of chipsets, support original equipment makers and design wins in India and abroad.

The DIR-V initiative is part of the government's ₹76,000-crore effort to build a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

- **While setting the aggressive milestones for commercial silicon of SHAKTI & VEGA and their design wins by December 2023,**
- **DIR-V will see partnerships between Start-ups, Academia & Multinationals, to make India not only a RISC-V Talent Hub for the World but also supplier of RISC-V soc (System on Chips) for Servers.**

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Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Narayan Rane inaugurated the Ministry's Mega Event: "Enterprise India" under the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. "Enterprise India" is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of Ministry of MSME across the country.

21. Recently _____ has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Equinor ASA in areas of upstream Exploration & Production, midstream, downstream and clean energy.**

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

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Equinor ASA, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company.**
- **The MoU was inked in New Delhi for collaboration and partnership in areas of upstream Exploration & Production, midstream, downstream and clean energy options, including Carbon Capture Utilization & Sequestration (CCUS).**
- **Equinor is the leading operator on the Norwegian continental shelf, present in around 30 countries worldwide.**
- **The MoU is valid for two years under which both companies have agreed to work together in the areas identified.**

ONGC to collaborate with Equinor on E&P, clean energy

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 27

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Wednesday signed an MoU with Norway's Equinor ASA for collaboration on upstream Exploration & Production (E&P), midstream, downstream, and clean energy options.

ONGC and Equinor will also partner for solutions such as carbon capture utilisation & sequestration, ONGC said in a statement.

According to the agreement, ONGC and Equinor will collaborate in the fields of upstream oil and gas, mid-

stream, marketing and trading, besides exploring further options in low carbon fuel, renewables, Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) and CCUS opportunities in India, it added.

The MoU is valid for two years and it was signed during the visit of a high-level delegation from Norway to India.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt, ONGC CMD Alka Mittal and Executive Vice-President of Equinor Irene Rummelhoff were present on the occasion.

22. Recently in April _____ signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Vault Holdings, Inc. to collaborate and formalize a long-term strategic partnership for deployment of Energy Vault's evx™ gravity-based energy storage technology.**

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

- **NTPC Limited the largest power generating utility in India today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Vault Holdings, Inc.**
- **The objective of the MoU is to collaborate and formalize a long-term strategic partnership for deployment of Energy Vault's evx™ gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions based on the outcome of a joint feasibility study.**

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- *The technology also offers beneficial utilization of coal ash for manufacturing of composite blocks for Energy Vault's gravity based energy storage system.*
- **Gurdeep Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC.**

23. Recently which ministry has launched **Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak**, a 90-day campaign with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 09 Central Ministries?

- A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Ministry of Panchayat Raj**
- D. Ministry of Education

Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak, a 90-day campaign with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 09 central ministries will be launched by Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh.

The goal of the campaign is to take up 17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode, reaching out to the person at the bottom of the pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries/departments.

The campaign is to be implemented in a celebratory mode involving all rural stakeholders including families of selected freedom fighters (FF).

24. Recently _____ has won a coveted UN Award — World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022.

- A. **Meghea**
- B. Meghraj
- C. Neva
- D. BEST

- **The state planning department's key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (Meghea), has won a coveted UN Award — World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022.**
- *"In the current digital era, there is a dire need for IT to not just innovate the digital services but also cater to the needs of the public and create inclusive societies.*
- *Taking cognizance of this, chief minister Conrad K Sangma in 2019 initiated Meghea, which is being implemented by the planning department, Government of Meghalaya.*
- *Meghalaya was selected among the top 360 projects across the world, in the beginning of the year. Out of these, UN selects the top 5 in 18 categories and awards them as Champion Project. Meghalaya has been selected today by the UN as Champion Project in the category of 'the role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development', along with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania,"*

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- *One among these top 5 will be declared the winning project. Meghalaya's e-proposal system is poised to win the winner award also for which the prize ceremony will be held on May 31 in Geneva, Switzerland.*

25. Recently the Government of India has conducted _____ under '**Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Campaign**' from 25th April to 1st May 2022 as a Jan Bhagidari movement under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- A. **Fasal Bima Pathshala**
- B. Padhe Bharat
- C. Amrit Fasal Patshala
- D. Urja Patshala

Government of India will conduct 'Fasal Bima Pathshala' under 'Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Campaign' during the period from 25th April to 1st May 2022 as a Jan Bhagidari movement under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar will chair the National level special programme on 'Fasal Bima Pathshala' on 27th April 2022.

He will connect with farmers in all the Implementing States across the country through specially organized 'Fasal Bima Pathshala' coordinated by CSC from 1 lakh locations across the country.

Under sprint campaign from 25th April-1st May 2022, all Implementing Insurance Companies to organize 'PMFBY-Fasal Bima Pathshala' at Block/GP/village on all 7 days of campaign period with participation of at least 100 farmers.

The Campaign aims to make the farmers aware about key scheme aspects of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) like basic scheme provisions, importance of insuring the crops and how to avail scheme benefits etc.

26. Recently **NHLML (National Highways Logistics Management Limited)** Signed MoU with _____ government for the construction of **7 ropeway projects of length 57.1km at cost of Rs 3,232 Crore in the State.**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. **Himachal Pradesh**
- C. Haryana
- D. Jammu & Kashmir

They are:

1. Palampur Thatri – Chhunja Glacier of length 13.5km with a cost of Rs. 605 Crore.
2. Shirgul Mahadev Temple to Chudhar (District – Sirmour) of length 8 km with a cost of Rs. 250 Crore.
3. Lunhu – Bandla (District – Bilaspur) of length 3 km with a cost of Rs. 150 Crore.
4. Himani to Chamunda (District – Kangra) of length 6.5 km with a cost of Rs. 289 Crore.
5. Bijli Mahadev Temple (District - Kullu) of length 3.2 km with a cost of Rs. 200 Crore.
6. Bharmour to Bharmani Mata Temple of length 2.5 km with a cost of Rs. 120 Crore.
7. Killar to Sacch Pass (District – Chamba) of length 20.4 km with a cost of Rs. 1618 Crore.

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Union Minister for Road transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari along with Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur, MoS Shri V. K. Singh witnessed the signing of MoU between NHLML (National Highways Logistics Management Limited) and State Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of Ropeways in Himachal Pradesh under the ambitious Parvatmala Yojana.

This is a significant MoU which will facilitate a unique, eco-friendly, scenic and seamless travel experience for tourists. By leveraging world class technology, 7 ropeway projects of total length 57.1km at total cost of Rs 3,232 Crore will be constructed in the State.

27. Recently the Ministry of DoNER has organized the North East Festival across all the eight North Eastern States from 28th April to 4th May, 2022 with the Spirit of _____ .

- A. India Ka Tyohar
- B. Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahi**
- C. Ye Hai Humara Bharat
- D. Tyoharo Ka Mela

The Ministry of DoNER, as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, is organizing North East Festival across all the eight North Eastern States from 28th April, 2022 to 4th May, 2022.

As India is celebrating its 75 years of its Independence, its glorious history, people, culture and achievements during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Ministry intends to highlight the beauty of the North Eastern Region and its achievements in various fields through this festival.

The seven day festival, which is being celebrated at the Regional and State level, aims to showcase the achievements of North Eastern Region with the Spirit of "Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahi".

Under the spirit of "Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahi", various programmes have been slotted across all the eight States. These programmes cover all the areas which are critical to the development of the North East including infrastructure, investment potential, energy needs and role of women in development of North East.

28. Recently the Union Minister launched, 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniyan,' a short video series showcasing inspiring stories in partnership between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) & _____ to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- A. Viacom India
- B. Netflix**
- C. Amazon Prime
- D. Disney Hot star

- As part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 12th March 2021, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur today launched 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya', a short video series created in collaboration with OTT platform, Netflix.
- Netflix and ministry will partner to develop a creative ecosystem by organizing training programs for post-production, VFX, animation, music production among others and will be organized on ground and virtually

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AZADI KI AMRIT KAHANIYA INITIATIVE

Netflix and I&B Ministry partner to develop short videos on role of women changemakers

To also conduct workshops, masterclasses for film-makers as part of the initiative

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 26

Netflix India, in collaboration with the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, on Tuesday, released a series of short video series under an initiative called 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya', highlighting the role of women achievers.

As part of a broader partnership, the global OTT platform will also conduct workshops and masterclasses for the skill development of Indian film-makers.

More to come

Unveiling the videos at an event, Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, said: "This is just the first set of short



videos as part of the Azadi Amrit Kahaninya initiative. Netflix will be producing 25 videos on themes, including women empowerment, environment and sustainable development and other days of significance.

"Netflix will produce these two-minute short films for the Ministry, which will be shared on social-media platforms and

telecast on Doordarshan network." "Netflix and the I&B Ministry will partner to develop the creative ecosystem in India by organising training workshops and master classes to encourage film-makers in India to create inspiring content.

Training programmes in post-production, VFX, animation and music production will be organised virtually and on the ground," Thakur added.

Last year, Netflix participated in the International Film Festival of India in Goa, as part of this partnership.

Bela Bajaria, Head of Global TV, Netflix, said: "India is one of the most-vibrant entertainment industries in the world, and it is remarkably well-placed in times of Internet entertainment. We are ex-

cited to be part of these times when powerful stories from India in the form of films and series are being exported and loved at the global stage."

"Our commitment to India is strong and growing, and Netflix will continue to find the country's finest stories and share them across the globe," she added.

The seven women changemakers featured in the short video series include Poonam Nautiyal, Tessy Thomas, Tanvi Jagdish, Aarohit Pandit, Basanti Devi and Anshu Jansenpa and Harshini Kanhekar

Bajaria added that Netflix has been at the forefront of bringing 'female forward' stories, pointing to its recent releases such as the Madhuri Dixit-starrer *Fame Game* and *Mai*.

29. Consider the following statements as per latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

1. India remains ahead of Russia and the United Kingdom as the third largest military spender in the world.
2. The total global military expenditure rose to \$2,113 billion in 2021, surpassing the two-trillion-USD mark for the first time despite the economic shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world up by 0.9 percent from 2020 and by 33 percent from 2012.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- India remains ahead of Russia and the United Kingdom as the third largest military spender in the world, but far behind China that spends four times and the United States, which spends 10 times its defence budget.
- The total global military expenditure rose to \$2,113 billion in 2021, surpassing the two-trillion-USD mark for the first time despite the economic shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic, as per the latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The five largest spenders were the US (\$801 billion), which accounted for 38% of the world military spending, China (estimated \$293 billion), India (\$77 billion), the UK (\$68 billion) and Russia (\$66 billion). Pakistan was placed at the 23 spot with \$11 billion.

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- **India's spending was up by 0.9% from 2020 and by 33% from 2012. Amid ongoing tensions and border disputes with China and Pakistan that occasionally spill over into armed clashes.**
- **India's Rs 5.2 lakh crore defence budget for 2022-2023, for instance, includes the huge Rs 1.2 lakh crore pension bill for the over 33 lakh retired military and defence civilians. Moreover, the Rs 2.3 lakh crore revenue expenditure dwarfs the Rs 1.5 lakh crore capital allocation for overall modernisation and new weapon systems.**

India 3rd highest military spender

Nation's spending rose to \$76.6 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

World military spending continued to grow in 2021, reaching a record \$2.1 trillion despite the economic fallout of the pandemic, according to new data on global military spending published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The five largest spenders in 2021 were the U.S., China, India, the U.K. and Russia, together accounting for 62% of expenditure. The U.S. and China alone accounted for 52%.

"India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. This was up by 0.9% from 2020 and by 33% from 2012. Amid ongoing tensions and border disputes with China and Pakistan that occasionally spill over into armed clashes, India has prioritised the modernisation of its armed forces and self-reliance in arms production," the report said.

Stating that military spending in Asia and Oceania totalled \$586 billion in 2021, the report noted that spending in the region was 3.5% higher than in 2020, continuing an uninterrupted upward trend dating back to at least 1989. "The increase in 2021 was primarily due to growth in Chinese and Indian military spending. Together, the two countries accounted for



Despite COVID, the world's military spending reached a record \$2.1 trillion in 2021.

63% of total military expenditure in the region in 2021," it observed.

"Even amid the economic fallout of the COVID-19, world military spending hit record levels," the report said quoting Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production (MEAP) programme.

Russia increased its military expenditure by 2.9% in 2021, to \$65.9 billion, at a time when "it was building up its forces along the Ukrainian border," the report pointed out.

On Ukraine, the report remarked that as it had strengthened its defences against Russia, its military spending "has risen by 72% since the annexation of Crimea in 2014".

Spending fell in 2021, to \$5.9 billion, but still accounted for 3.2% of the country's GDP, it added.

At \$77 bn, India now 3rd biggest military spender

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 25 April

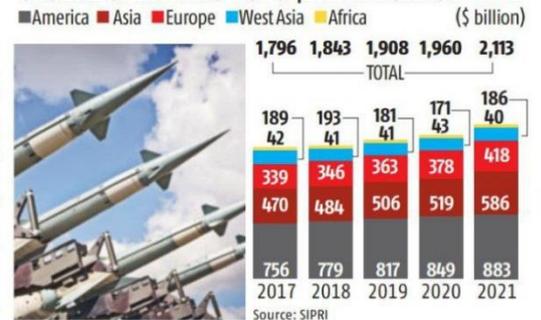
India's military expenditure increased to \$76.6 billion in 2021, marking a 0.9 per cent hike over the 2020 figures, according to a report released by defence think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Monday.

"China, the world's second largest spender, allocated an estimated \$293 billion to its military in 2021, an increase of 4.7 per cent from 2020 and 72 per cent from 2012," the report said.

The militaries of India and China have been in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh for the last 23 months following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas on May 5, 2020. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"India's military expenditure of \$76.6 billion in 2021 was the third highest in the world. Its spending was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012," the report issued by the think-tank said. Amid ongoing tensions and border disputes with China and Pakistan that occasionally spill over into armed clashes,

GLOBAL SPENDING TOPS \$2 TRN FOR 1ST TIME



India has prioritised the modernisation of its armed forces and self-reliance in arms production, it noted.

In a drive to strengthen the indigenous arms industry, 64 per cent of capital outlays in the 2021 Indian military budget was earmarked for acquisitions of domestically-produced arms, the report said.

"The five largest military spenders in 2021 were the US, China, India, the UK, and Russia, which together accounted for 62 per cent of world military spending. The US and China alone accounted for 52 per cent," it mentioned.

According to the report, military spending in Asia and Oceania totalled \$ 586 billion

in 2021. "Spending in the region was 3.5 per cent higher than in 2020, continuing an uninterrupted upward trend dating back to at least 1989," the report said. "The increase in 2021 was due primarily to growth in Chinese and Indian military spending. Together, the two countries accounted for 63 per cent of total military expenditure in the region in 2021," the report added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had, on April 21, said the ongoing talks with China for a peaceful resolution of the eastern Ladakh row will continue and that the disengagement of the troops and de-escalation of the situation is the way forward.

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GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING TOPS \$2 TRILLION

Military expenditure worldwide has reached \$2.1 trillion or \$2,113 billion per year for the first time, and looks set to rise further as European countries beef up their armed forces in response to Ukraine war

THE TOPPERS

Figures in billion dollars



These 5 countries account for 62% of the total expenditure, according to new data on global military spending published on Monday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)

RECORD SPENDING

Despite the economic fallout of the Covid pandemic, countries around the world increased their arsenals, with military spending rising by 0.7% last year, according to Sipri. "In 2021 military spending rose for the seventh consecutive time to reach \$2.1 trillion. That is the highest figure we have ever had," said Diego Lopes da Silva, senior researcher at Sipri

THE US-CHINA RIVALRY

Over the past decade, US spending on research and development has risen by 24% while arms procurement has gone down by 6.4%. While both decreased in 2021, the drop in research was not as pronounced, highlighting the country's focus "on next-generation technologies". The US government has repeatedly stressed the need to preserve the US military's technological edge over strategic competitors.

China, the world's second largest military spender at an estimated \$293 billion, boosted its expenditure by 4.7%, marking the 27th straight year of increased spending. The country's military buildup has in turn caused its neighbours to beef up their military budgets, with Japan adding \$7 billion, an increase of 7.3% – the highest annual increase since 1972

TENSION IN EUROPE

Total spending in Europe amounted to \$418 billion and has been rising sharply since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. Military budgets rose 3% from 2020 and stood 19% higher than in 2012, Sipri said. That figure is likely to increase as countries like Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden fulfil promises to boost spending to 2% of GDP over the coming years. Missile defence systems, drones and high-tech fighters are high on the shopping list of countries worried about Russia



30. Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**.

1. Over **45 crore Jan Dhan Accounts** have been opened in last seven years under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
2. **The scheme was launched in 2014** with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people across the country.
3. The total deposit balances under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts stand at over one lakh 68 thousand crore rupees as on April 13, 2022.

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

- Over 45 crore Jan Dhan Accounts have been opened in last seven years under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- The scheme was launched in 2014 with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people across the country. Jan Dhan has provided an avenue to the poor for bringing their savings into the formal financial system.
- The scheme has brought the unbanked into the banking system, expanded the financial architecture of India and

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brought financial inclusion to almost every adult.

- The total deposit balances under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts stand at over one lakh 68 thousand crore rupees as on 13th of this month. The average deposit per account is 3723 rupees.
- Under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, an amount of five hundred rupees per month for three months April 2020 to June 2020 was credited to the accounts of women account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. A total of 30 thousand 945 crore rupees have been credited in accounts of women Jan Dhan Accounts holders during COVID lockdown.
- A mobile application, Jan Dhan Darshak App was launched to provide a citizen centric platform for locating banking touch points such as bank branches, ATMs, Bank Mitra's and Post Offices in the country.

BALANCE BELIES CONCERNS OF RURAL DISTRESS

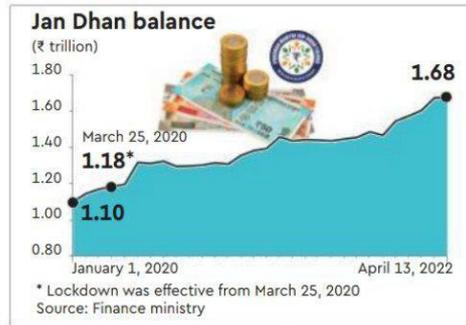
Jan Dhan net deposits soar to a record ₹1.68 trillion

The number of accounts has risen by 69.4 million in the past two years to 451.6 million

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK
New Delhi, April 24

NETDEPOSITS IN the no-frills Jan Dhan accounts hit a peak of ₹1.68 trillion as of April 13, having witnessed almost steady growth over the past four months despite the Omicron onslaught in January.

The net deposits haven't dropped even after the easing of localised curbs, imposed in the wake of the third Covid wave, that opened up avenues of spending since late February. The latest Jan Dhan balance was also way above the pre-pandemic level of ₹1.17 trillion (in the first week of March 2020).



This lends some credence to the view that farmers may have gained from a rise in commodity prices in recent months and concerns in some quarters about the persistence of wide-spread rural distress even after the third Covid wave may have been exaggerated.

Jan Dhan accounts had a net balance of ₹1.68 trillion as of April 13, higher than that of ₹1.45 trillion on April 14, 2021

and ₹1.34 trillion as of April 15, 2020, according to the finance ministry data (see chart). On March 25, 2020, when a Covid-induced lockdown was imposed across India, net deposits were to the tune of ₹1.18 trillion.

Of course, the number of Jan Dhan accounts has risen by 69.4 million in the past two years to 451.6 million as of April 13. The government's free grain supply under the Prad-

han Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana in the past two years, too, has saved the poor household a tidy sum. Moreover, some amount of precautionary savings by the depositors for any Covid-related exigencies can't be ruled out. However, despite accounting for these factors, the net balance still remains higher than expected.

Public-sector banks accounted for 77% of the Jan Dhan deposits, while regional rural banks made up another 20% and private banks just 3%. The Jan Dhan accounts — originally intended to spur financial inclusion by making banking facility available to the poor — were used by the government to swiftly transfer funds for immediate relief in the aftermath of the Covid outbreak in 2020. On Saturday, the finance minister asked state-run banks to come out with ideas to herald next-generation reforms in various financial inclusion initiatives, including the Jan Dhan scheme.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

31. Recently _____ district of Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) - SEHAT scheme.

- A. Palli
- B. Samba
- C. Angtang
- D. Gya Sosma

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Samba district of Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) - SEHAT scheme.

Apr 28, 2022, 2:10PM

J&K: Samba becomes first district in India to cover 100% households under ABPMJAY- SEHAT scheme

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Samba district of Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)- SEHAT scheme. The district achieved this milestone after the conclusion of special registration drive organized by State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all BDO offices across the district which was aimed to cover all families under ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme in the district.

The Samba district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards. However, 100% family coverage for the Ayushman Bharat Golden card in the district is a major achievement for the UT Government.

Worth to mention, the ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by Government and the people with Ayushman Bharat Golden Card get free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh in all government and empanelled private hospitals across India. This ambitious health insurance scheme enables all the residents of J&K including employees and pensioners as well as their families to avail cashless quality healthcare services across public and empaneled private hospitals across India.



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- *The district achieved this milestone after the conclusion of special registration drive organized by State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all BDO offices across the district which was aimed to cover all families under ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme in the district.*
- *ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by Government and the people with Ayushman Bharat Golden Card get free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh in all government and empanelled private hospitals across India.*
- *Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:*
- *It was launched in 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.*
- *It provides annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary diseases, which require hospitalization.*
- *National Health Authority is the implementing agency of this scheme.*

32. Consider the following statement regarding "*Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS), 2022*".

1. *The Tripura government launched the "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS) 2022" for the next 5 years.*
2. *Under this scheme, the government will provide subsidies to companies and Self Help Groups for setting up industries in the state.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The Tripura government launched the "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS), 2022" for the next 5 years.

Under this scheme, the government will provide subsidies to companies and Self Help Groups for setting up industries in the state.

The state government will give a 50 per cent subsidy to transportation costs incurred on transporting secondary raw materials from outside the state.

The Tripura government has increased the transport subsidy from 10 per cent to 50 per cent.

TIIPIS-2022 scheme will also encourage the entrepreneurs to set up industrial units based on the local raw materials like rubber, bamboo, agriculture and horticultural produce.

33. Recently in April the *Maharashtra Cabinet approved a gene bank initiative aimed at conserving genetic resources in the state with an amount of _____.*

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- A. Rs 227 crore
- B. Rs 172 crore**
- C. Rs 495 crore
- D. Rs 106 crore

First-of-its-kind gene bank project approved by the Maharashtra Cabinet. At a cost of more than Rs 172 crore, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a gene bank initiative aimed at conserving genetic resources in the state.

The forest department will execute the Maharashtra Gene Bank project.

For the project, a special unit will be established under the chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

The cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also accepted the report of a ministerial panel on nomadic tribes and other special backward classes.

The panel was constituted in October 2020 to study the benefits given to nomadic tribes and other special backward classes.

34. Consider the following statements regarding the **India Pharma and India Medical Devices Awards 2022**.
1. The Minister, **Bhagwanth Khuba**, presented awards during the 7th edition of the International Conference on Pharma and Medical Devices sector 2022.
 2. The conference was organized in New Delhi. The theme of India Pharma 2022 is **India Pharma-Vision 2047: Transformative agenda for future**.
 3. The theme of India Medical Device 2022 is **Transforming Healthcare through Innovation and Integrated Services**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- India Pharma and India Medical Devices Awards 2022 presented by **Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- The Minister, **Bhagwanth Khuba**, presented awards during the 7th edition of the International Conference on Pharma and Medical Devices sector 2022.
- The conference was organized in New Delhi. The theme of India Pharma 2022 is **India Pharma-Vision 2047: Transformative agenda for future**.
- The theme of **India Medical Device 2022 is Transforming Healthcare through Innovation and Integrated Services**.
- India Pharma and India Medical Devices event is organized annually by Department of Pharmaceuticals in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

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- *This year, six categories of India Pharma and India Medical Devices Awards were announced by Department of Pharma.*
- *Zydus Life Sciences Limited has won India pharma CSR Company of year award.*

35. Consider the following statements regarding India's first cable-stayed bridge- Anji Khad Bridge.

- 1. India's first cable-stayed bridge- Anji Khad Bridge is being built in the Reasi district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- 2. Anji Khad Bridge is situated over the Anji River and it will connect the Katra-Reasi section at the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla route.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

India's first cable-stayed bridge- Anji Khad Bridge is being built in the Reasi district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Anji Khad Bridge is situated over the Anji River and it will connect the Katra-Reasi section at the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla route.

80 per cent of work on the 272-kilometre long Udhampur-Baramulla Railway Line has been completed.

111 km railway line project between Katra and Banihal is the highest altitude railway network in India.

Indian Railway is using the most advanced technologies for the planning and construction of the Kashmir Railway Project.

36. Recently in April _____ Government inked pact with Punjab for knowledge sharing agreement to enable improve health, education infra & facilities.

- Haryana**
- Delhi**
- Uttar Pradesh**
- Rajasthan**

- **The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments in Punjab and the national capital signed knowledge sharing agreement**
- **The deal has been signed between both the states to enable improve health, education infra & facilities,**

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- *It is a new step in the history of India that we have signed an agreement to share knowledge*
- *The agreement is a new type of initiative in the country, which will help both states progress. Under the agreement, the governments of the two states will work together for the people of the two states.*

Delhi, Punjab ink deal to 'learn and share'

Agreement a ploy to administer Punjab through remote control from Capital, say Opposition parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday signed a Knowledge Sharing Agreement (KSA) between their governments aimed at enabling each entity to "cooperate for public welfare".

The KSA, according to the government, empowers the two governments to send and receive officials, Ministers and other personnel to "learn and share" their knowledge, experience and skills for public welfare.

According to the BJP and the Congress, however, the agreement was a ploy to enable Mr. Kejriwal to "remote control" the administration of Punjab from the Capital.

New experiment

"We have inked a Knowledge Sharing Agreement with the Punjab government, marking



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann addressing a press conference in the Capital on Tuesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

a new experiment in India's history. We've resolved to learn from each other's good deeds and practices in order to improve the lives of the people of Delhi and Punjab," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"This is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country; the two governments will collaborate for the benefit of the people. We shall learn and pass on our good actions to one another. Cooperation and collaboration is the only

way how Delhi and Punjab can progress and drive the country to success," he added.

Mr. Mann said Punjab would benefit from and replicate Delhi's "revolutionary endeavours" while Delhi, too, would learn from the Punjab government's policies.

"We will make the best use of each other's knowledge; we will make Punjab *Hasta-Khelta-Rangla* Punjab

again," said Mr. Mann.

Both the BJP and the Congress have attacked the Delhi government, accusing Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Mann of seeking to bypass existing administrative norms. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said Mr. Mann was merely "parroting a readymade script" which would lead Punjab to ruin.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri termed the agreement "a lie agreement" between two Chief Ministers.

"In the name of knowledge sharing, Arvind Kejriwal wants to rule Punjab as well while he is unable to take care of Delhi. Kejriwal should stop this spectacle and focus on the problems of Delhi," Mr. Bidhuri said.

"In the past, Kejriwal had called a meeting of the electricity officers of Punjab, which was opposed. Now in the name of this agreement,

Kejriwal will call all the Ministers and officials of the Punjab government to Delhi and run the Punjab government," Mr. Bidhuri added.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor wrote to Mr. Mann demanding a solution to the issue of stubble burning.

"Every year Delhi faces acute pollution from October to December and for the last seven years Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has been telling us that this is caused due to parali burning in Punjab," Mr. Kapoor said.

"Now when both Delhi and Punjab have Aam Admi Party governments, the people of Delhi expect that Punjab will ban stubble burning and give relief to Delhi," he added.

Delhi Congress chief Anil Kumar said, "The KSA is a devious way to collect funds from Punjab to beef up the AAP coffers."

37. Recently in April _____ has launched the 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia successfully' (SAANS) Campaign to ensure early detection and greater awareness of pneumonia in children under the age of five.
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Karnataka**
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Bihar

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar launched 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia successfully' (SAANS), a campaign to ensure greater awareness and early detection of pneumonia in children under five. Pneumonia is a lung infection caused by bacterial, viral or fungal infection.

Basavaraj Dabadi, State Deputy Director (Child Health), said childhood pneumonia continues to pose a significant health threat to the children under-five years of age across the country contributing to 15% of under-five deaths.

38. Recently _____ has become the first city to get vacuum-based sewers in India to be used in public places.
- Rampur
 - Agra**
 - Nainital
 - Karnal

- *Agra has become the first city to get vacuum-based sewers in India. This vacuum-based sewer system will be used in public places.*
- *The Municipal Corporation has connected 240 houses near the Taj Mahal with a vacuum-based sewer system.*
- *Around 112 chambers have been made in this area, which are equipped with GIS-based sensors.*

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- This technology will be used for low-lying areas and maintenance will be done by the Netherlands Company.
- If there is a choke or any other problem, the vacuum sewer system will automatically issue an alert.
- If the trial in Agra becomes successful, then the vacuum sewer will be used in Kochi Municipal Corporation as well.

39. Consider the following statements regarding **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0**.

1. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, **UBA 2.0** has completed four years launched in 2018.
2. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Education Ministry.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, UBA 2.0 has completed four years today. On this day in 2018, the **UBA 2.0** was launched with the vision of transformational change in rural development processes.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Education Ministry which aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast five villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.

Its objective is also to engage the faculty and students of Higher Educational Institutions in understanding rural realities. Currently 748 Institutions are participating under the scheme.

In the phase -2 of the scheme 605 institutions have been selected. Out of these 313 are Technical Institutions and 292 are Non-Technical Institutions.

40. Recently, the **Tamil Nadu Assembly** passed two Bills that seek to transfer the Governor's power in appointing Vice-Chancellors of 13 state universities to the state government. Education comes under which of the following list under the seventh schedule of the constitution of India?

- A. State
- B. **Concurrent**
- C. Union
- D. Residual

T.N. clips Governor's power to appoint V-Cs

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

The **Tamil Nadu** Assembly on Monday adopted two Bills that seek to empower the government to appoint Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to 13 State universities under the aegis of the Higher Education De-

partment by amending the respective Acts.

The AIADMK and the BJP opposed the Bill, and the latter also staged a walkout.

Currently, the Governor, who is also the Chancellor of State universities, appoints V-Cs from a panel of three

names recommended by a selection committee. The House adopted the Bills on the same day that Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated a two-day meet of V-Cs of State, Central and private varsities at Udhagamandalam.

The Bills, introduced in

the House by Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy, cited the Gujarat University Act, 1949, and the Telangana Universities Act, 1991, which empower the State governments to appoint V-Cs.

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The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed two Bills that seek to transfer the Governor's power in appointing Vice-Chancellors of 13 state universities to the state government, currently led by the DMK.

Chief Minister MK Stalin said the Bills were required as the Governor was disregarding the state government's opinion on the appointments of VCs, an argument also made by states such as Maharashtra and West Bengal in the past.

In December 2021, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a Bill amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.

In 2019, the West Bengal government, led by the Trinamool Congress, took away the Governor's authority in appointing VCs to state universities. It has also hinted at removing the Governor as the Chancellor of the universities.

Education comes under the Concurrent List, but entry 66 of the Union List – "coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions" – gives the Centre substantial authority over higher education

onomous Bodoland Terri- Gujarat.

T.N. govt. clips Governor's power to appoint V-Cs

It also cited the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, according to which the V-Cs shall be appointed by the Chancellor with the concurrence of the State government.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said in the House that though it had been the tradition that the Governor would consult the government, there had been a change in the recent past.

"During the past four years, there has been a trend in which the Governor, without consulting the State government, is functioning as if he has the exclusive right over appointing V-Cs," he said.

The fact that the State government could not appoint V-Cs for universities under its control affected its administration, Mr. Stalin said.

"As the State govern-

ment is not able to appoint the V-Cs for universities under its control, it has led to confusion. It is against the ideals of democracy," the Chief Minister said.

Punchchi panel quote

Citing the recommendations of the Punchchi Commission on the appointment of V-Cs, Mr. Stalin went on to quote the panel: "There would be a clash of functions and powers."

A total of 19 States, including Tamil Nadu, had accepted the recommendations of the Punchchi Commission, he said.

Soon after the DMK government led by him came to power, when the Union Home Ministry sought its opinion on the recommendations of the Punchchi Commission, Mr. Stalin said his government had accepted them.

41. Consider the following statements regarding the "Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna" (PMBJP).

1. Union Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024.
2. "Janaushadhi Sugam", a mobile application for Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP) facilitates the public by providing a digital platform.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Union Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024.

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- **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP).**
- **All the districts of the country have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP).**

Apr 24, 2022, 8:39AM

Govt to raise number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024

Union Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024. Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry said that the government has invited applications to open Janaushadhi Kendras in three thousand five hundred 79 Blocks of four hundred six districts of 26 States and Union Territories. It highlighted that under the scheme, seven hundred 39 districts of the country have been covered and eight thousand six hundred ten stores have been opened till the last month. The Ministry said that about fifteen thousand crore rupees have been saved of the general public under this scheme.



The Ministry said that new applications have been invited to cover five hundred 79 blocks of 406 districts. It said that any Individuals, Unemployed Pharmacist, Government nominated agencies, NGO's, Trust and Societies can apply for PMBJK. The applications have been invited through an online process. Interested applicants can apply on PMBI's website - janaushadhi.gov.in

- **Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,000 by March 2024. As on 5th October, 2021, the number of stores has increased to 8355.**
- **These Kendra's will ensure easy access of affordable medicine to the people in every nook and corner of the country.**
- **Product basket of PMBJP presently comprises 1,451 drugs and 240 surgical instruments. Further, new medicines and Nutraceutical products like Glucometer, protein powder, malt-based food supplements, protein bar, Immunity bar, etc. have been launched.**
- **"Janaushadhi Sugam" a mobile application for Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP) facilitates the public by providing a digital platform at the tip of their fingers.**
- **Under the Scheme, medicines are procured from World Health Organization – Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP) certified suppliers for ensuring the quality of the products.**

42. Recently **India's first 'Amrit Sarovar'** has been completed at _____ in Uttar Pradesh.

- Moradabad
- Rampur**
- Lucknow
- Varanasi

- **With the efforts of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh, India's first 'Amrit Sarovar' has been completed in Rampur's Gram Panchayat Patwai.**
- **Under the Amrit Sarovar initiative, 75 water bodies will be developed and rejuvenated in each district as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.**

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- A pond in Rampur has been cleaned and rejuvenated in a few weeks. Now this pond has become a big centre of tourism in the rural area.
- **Seventy-five ponds in Rampur were selected to be developed as Amrit Sarovar.** Out of the selected ponds, the work of pond of village panchayat Patwai of development block Shahbad was completed.

43. Consider the following statement regarding the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data on India's labour force participation rate (LFPR).**

1. Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that **India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has fallen to just 40% from an already low 46% in 2016.**
2. According to the CMIE, the labour force consists of persons who are of age 15 years or older.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

'Labour participation dips to 40% from 46% in six years'

Labour force participation for women drops to 9.2% from 15%, CMIE data show

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

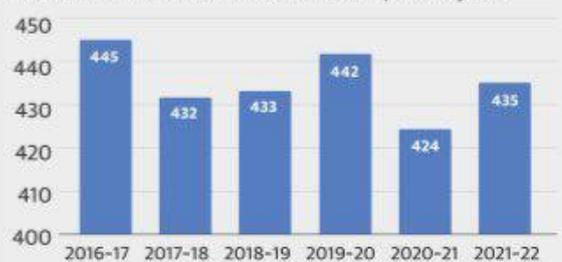
Only 40% of Indians of legal working age were employed or were looking for jobs in 2021-22. In comparison, the labour force participation rate was above 46% in 2016-17, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

In absolute terms, India's labour force has shrunk from about 445 million to 435 million in the six years. Currently, about 1,085 million Indians are aged 15 or above and can be legally employed.

Labour force participation among women, which was already in low double di-

Losing interest

India's labour force participation has declined from more than 445 million to 435 million over the past six years



gits, has declined further. In 2016-17, about 15% women were employed or looking for jobs. This metric dipped to 9.2% in 2021-22.

Among men, the participation rate declined to 67%,

from more than 74%. The dip in the participation rate was higher in the urban areas.

The rate slid to 37.5% from 44.7% in urban areas – a more than seven percentage-point drop. The rate in rural

areas fell to 41.4% from 46.9%. Of the 24 States with data, 23 saw participation rates decline in March 2022 compared with March 2016.

The rate dropped in all the States, except in Rajasthan. The slide was more pronounced in two southern States, which had a high participation rate to start with.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu had participation rates of 54% and 56%, respectively, in March 2016, and witnessed the sharpest declines. Between 2016 and 2022, participation rates fell 20 percentage points and 17 percentage points for Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

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Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has fallen to just 40% from an already low 47% in 2016.

This suggests not only that more than half of India's population in the working-age group (15 years and older) is deciding to sit out of the job market, but also that this proportion of people is increasing.

According to the CMIE, the labour force consists of persons who are of age 15 years or older, and belong to either of the following two categories:

Employed and Unemployed and are willing to work and are actively looking for a job Essentially, LFPR is the number of people ages 15 and older who are employed or actively seeking employment, divided by the total non-institutionalized, civilian working-age population. In five years, while the total working-age population has gone up by 12 crore, the number of people with jobs has gone down by 80 lakh.

According to CMIE data, as of December 2021, while the male LFPR was 67.4%, the female LFPR was as low as 9.4%.

The National Health Authority (NHA) has rolled out the module for nurses on Health Professional Registry under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

The module for doctors from all systems of medicines and their onboarding is already in place in the Health Professional Registry.

Going forward, NHA plans to enroll more categories of health professionals like Para-medicals, grass-root level community health workers (ASHAs), medical support staff, allied healthcare professionals etc. in the registry. Health Professional Registry (HPR) is a comprehensive repository of all healthcare professionals involved in delivery of healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.

The National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body of the Government of India leading the implementation for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

44. Consider the following statements regarding India's Coal Reserves.

1. China led global coal power expansion in 2021 with about 25,000 MW of new plants followed by India with about 6,100 MW.
2. India holds fifth-largest coal reserves in the world.

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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- **China led global coal power expansion in 2021, with about 25,000 MW of new plants, followed by India with about 6,100 MW India holds fifth-largest coal reserves in the world.**
- **Commercial coal-mining industry has been in operation since 1774, launched by the East India Company along the Damodar River in West Bengal.**
- **70% of India's coal supply comes from the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.**
- **State-owned Coal India Limited has a virtual monopoly on coal mines in India, which produce roughly 75% of the coal burned in India's coal-fired power stations.**

China, India add coal plants as global capacity addition dips 13%

China leads coal power expansion trailed by India, which aims to add 6,100 MW

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

China led global coal power expansion in 2021, with about 25,000 MW of new plants, followed by India with about 6,100 MW, reported the Global Energy Monitor which conducts an annual survey of coal power capacity under development or deployment. Worldwide, however, coal-plant capacity under development declined 13% last year.

After rising in 2020 for the first time since 2015, total coal power capacity under development slid last year to a record low of 457 gigawatts (GW), from 525 gigawatts. Thirty-four countries are



Firing up earth: Coal use needs to fall by 75% by 2030 to limit temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. •REUTERS

mulling new coal plants, down from 41 countries in January 2021. China, South Korea, and Japan have pledged to stop funding new coal plants in other countries, but China continued to lead

globally in domestic development of new coal plants, commissioning more coal capacity than the rest of the world combined.

In all, 45,000 MW of global coal power capacity – a

little over half of which was from China – was commissioned in 2021 while 26,800 MW was retired, resulting in a net increase in the global coal fleet of 18,200 MW. In 2020, the net increase was 11,500 MW, which was the result of 56,800 MW of new capacity and 45,300 MW of global retirements.

Earlier this month the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said there was no carbon budget left for new coal plants, and added that coal use needed to fall by 75% by 2030 (from 2019 levels) to limit global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the Paris Agreement.

45. Recently the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) launched _____ Portal that will provide a central database for Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Tribal Development/Welfare Department to access, interact and analyse up-to-date scheme wise.
- A. Adivasi Grants Management Software (ADIGRAMS) Portal
 - B. Adivasi Grants Management System (ADIGRAMS) Portal
 - C. Adivasi Grants Minority System (ADIGRAMS) Portal
 - D. Adivasi Gold Management System (ADIGRAMS) Portal

Ministry of Tribal Affairs organises 2 days' workshop in Jharkhand on ADIGRAMS

Training programs held for state officials and agencies for data uploading on Monitoring Portal of Tribal schemes

Posted On: 28 APR 2022 2:57PM by PIB Delhi

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) as part its 'Outreach Initiative' is connecting with key stakeholders associated with execution of government schemes at ground level.

In continuation with this, MoTA organised two-day's hands-on training of key functionaries from across the Jharkhand state on ADIGRAMS (Adivasi Grants Management System) on 27th and 28th April 2022. The program was held at Jharkhand State Ministry 'Project Bhawan' Ranchi. 66 key officials like District Welfare Officers, Officials from ITDAs along with Project Management Unit (PMU) from all 24 districts across the state, associated with tribal scheme implementation actively participated in the training program. They were given hands on training in uploading the data.

Dr Naval Jit Kapoor, Joint Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs informed that ADIGRAM is a unique portal which monitors physical and financial progress of the grants given by the Ministry to States and can track the actual utilization of funds. The details of beneficiaries are also uploaded on portal and the infrastructure projects are geotagged. Once the data from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is uploaded, the information will be placed in public domain which will bring transparency and accountability. Similar programs have been conducted by the Ministry in Maharashtra, Himachal, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, where in training is as conducted by team of technical experts from MoTA and UNDP.

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Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) organises 2 days' workshop in Jharkhand on ADIGRAMS (Adivasi Grants Management System) on 27th and 28th April 2022.

Adivasi Grants Management System (ADIGRAMS) Portal will provide a central database for Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Tribal Development/ Welfare Department to access, interact and analyse up-to-date scheme wise Physical and financial information and progress.

The portal will enable the officials/stakeholders at Central, State, District, Block and village level to access, monitor and measure performance in a real-time basis and take decisions accordingly.

Procurement orders by Ministry of Defence (MoD) through Government e-Market (GeM) portal have reached an all-time high of Rs 15,047.98 crore for Financial Year 2021-22.

The GeM was started in August 2016 to revamp the old tender process and bring greater probity and transparency in government procurement through digitization.

46. Recently in a **first-of-its-kind, Integrated Election Complex with state-of-art infrastructure** inaugurated by CEC Shri Sushil Chandra at _____.

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bangalore
- D. Pune

Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Sushil Chandra along with Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey today inaugurated the Integrated Election Complex at Bakhtawarpur, Delhi for warehousing and management of EVMs & VVPATs of NCT of Delhi.

The Integrated Election Complex has been built by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi and Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Limited (DTTDC) is the executing agency for the project.

The first of its kind, integrated complex is a multi-functional state-of-the-art facility aimed at modernising the warehousing and management of EVMs and VVPATs.

47. Consider the following statements regarding the **Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS)**.

1. The three-day summit is being **organised by Sardardham at Surat, Gujarat.**
2. The main theme of Global Patidar Business Summit 2022 is "**AatmaNirbhar Community to AatmaNirbhar Gujarat and India**".

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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Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) through video conferencing on April 29, 2022.

The three-day summit is being organised by Sardardham at Surat, Gujarat.

The Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) is aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and value creation among the youth. It is organised once in every two years. The first two summits were held in Gandhinagar in 2018 and 2020.

The main theme of Global Patidar Business Summit 2022 is "AatmaNirbhar Community to AatmaNirbhar Gujarat and India".

48. Recently as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, _____ organized a 'Bijli Utsav' in the states of Manipur, Odisha and Chattisgarh.

- A. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited**
- B. Power Finance Corporation Limited**
- C. Equitas Small Finance Bank**
- D. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited**



'Bijli Utsav' organized by REC in three states as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Posted On: 29 APR 2022 1:15PM by PIB Delhi

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, a public infrastructure finance company under the Ministry of Power organized a 'Bijli Utsav' in the states of Manipur, Odisha and Chattisgarh. The date of the event was specifically chosen as 28th April 2022 since it marks the four years anniversary of successfully providing access to electricity infrastructure to all villages under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY). As a mark of the occasion, Leisang Village of Manipur was one of the villages where the event was held since it was the last village to be connected to the grid under the DDUGJY Scheme on 28th April 2018. The village electrification drive of the country was also recognized as one of the greatest success stories by the International Energy Agency.

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, a public infrastructure finance company under the Ministry of Power organized a 'Bijli Utsav' in the states of Manipur, Odisha and Chattisgarh.

The date of the event was specifically chosen as 28th April 2022 since it marks the four years anniversary of successfully providing access to electricity infrastructure to all villages under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

49. Recently _____ Ministry signed a MoU with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aimed at creating a formal framework for short-term courses to provide training for the skill development and capacity- building of the technical staff of ISRO.

- A. Ministry of Defence**

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- B. Ministry of Rural Development**
- C. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
- D. Ministry of Education**

With an aim to upskill the technical staff at the Department of Space in the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signs a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The programme is aimed at creating a formal framework for short-term courses to provide training for the skill development and capacity- building of the technical staff of ISRO as per the industry requirements, in the space domain in the country.

More than 4000 ISRO technical employees will be trained in the programme over the course of the next 5 years. The location of the training will be the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) under MSDE located across India.

Under the MoU, ISRO will jointly work with MSDE and associated NSTI to prepare a detailed training calendar, training curriculum, and syllabus to accomplish the larger objectives of the programme. ISRO will provide trainee kits to the trainees.

International News

50. Consider the following statements regarding the *Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R Hari Kumar visit to Seychelles.*

- 1. The CNS presented a Navigation *Chart of Port Victoria, prepared by the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) of India under the MoU on bilateral Hydrographic cooperation.***
- 2. *INS Sharda* is currently in Seychelles after escorting Coast Guard Ship Zoroaster, a vessel sourced from an Indian Shipyard (GRSE, Kolkata) in 2021.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1**
 - B. Only 2**
 - C. Both 1 & 2**
 - D. None of the above**
-
- Continuing with his ongoing tour to the South West Indian Ocean Region, Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Indian Navy, visited Seychelles**
 - During the visit, he called on HE Mrwavelramkalawan, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Seychelles.**

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- *The CNS presented a Navigation Chart of Port Victoria, prepared by the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) of India, under the MoU on bilateral Hydrographic cooperation.*
- *INS Sharda is currently in Seychelles after escorting Coast Guard Ship Zoroaster, a vessel sourced from an Indian Shipyard (GRSE, Kolkata) in 2021, back to Seychelles after her recent deployment to India for participation in MILAN-22 and Guarantee Refit.*
- *Seychelles Capital Currency – Victoria, Rupee.*

51. Consider the following statements regarding the **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), R Hari Kumar visit to Maldives.**

1. *The CNS unveiled the first Navigation Chart jointly produced by India and Maldives and handed over Hydrography equipment to consolidate organic capabilities of the MNDF.*
2. *INS Sutlej is currently deployed to Maldives for undertaking joint Hydrographic survey under the MoU on Hydrographic Cooperation.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Adm. R Hari Kumar, CNS is on a three day visit to Maldives from April 18 to 20, 2022. It is his first overseas visit after assuming office.

During the visit he called on HE Mr Ibrahim Mohamad Solih, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Maldives, HE Mr Abdulla Shahid, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs

The CNS hosted a reception onboard Indian Naval Ship Sutlej on April 18, in honour of the Defence Minister of Maldives and the leadership of Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF).INS Sutlej, is currently deployed to Maldives for undertaking joint Hydrographic survey under the MoU on Hydrographic Cooperation.

The CNS unveiled the first Navigation Chart jointly produced by India and Maldives and handed over hydrography equipment to consolidate organic capabilities of the MNDF.

52. Recently which country has proposed **the initiative on the principle of "Indivisible Security"** to help in preventing future conflicts?

- A. ***China***
- B. *Russia*
- C. *Ukraine*
- D. *Japan*

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Xi Jinping has proposed this initiative on the principle of "indivisible security". This principle is also endorsed by Russia.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that it will help in preventing future conflicts.

Although, he gave no details of how it would be implemented.

As per the Chinese officials, it has been proposed for countering the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad grouping.

The principle of "indivisible security" means that no country can strengthen its own security at the expense of others.

53. Recently in April _____ become the second nation in the world to accept the cryptocurrency as legal tender.

- A. Kenya
- B. Central African Republic**
- C. Myanmar
- D. Estonia

The Central African Republic declared Bitcoin an official currency, the second nation in the world to accept the cryptocurrency as legal tender.

The country is following the lead of El Salvador, which in September became the first nation to introduce Bitcoin as legal tender.

The country which has gold and diamond reserves, is one of the world's poorest countries

Central African Republic Bangui

IN BRIEF

Now, Central African Republic says Bitcoin is its official currency

The Central African Republic declared Bitcoin an official currency, the second nation in the world to accept the cryptocurrency as legal tender. "Cryptomoney including Bitcoin is now considered an official currency in CAR," Albert Mokpeme, spokesman for President Faustin-Archange Touadera, said on Thursday. "By legalising the use of Bitcoin, CAR hopes to attract investors," he said, adding that its use would ease money transfers that can "sometimes be complicated in our country." The country is following the lead of El Salvador, which in

September became the first nation to introduce Bitcoin as legal tender. The country which has gold and diamond reserves, is one of the world's poorest countries. Years of violent conflict and a political crisis that gripped the country in the lead up to the presidential election in December 2020 have had a severe impact on the economy and damaged relations with its global partners. Internet penetration in the landlocked nation is about 11 per cent of the 5 million population, according to DataReportal, an online data portal. **BLOOMBERG**

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54. Consider the following statement regarding *WEF's Davos annual meet*.

1. *Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, and Maharashtra minister Aditya Thackeray will take part in Davos for the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2022 from May 22-26.*
2. *The meeting will be held under the theme of 'History at a Turning Point: Government Policies and Business Strategies'.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy are expected to be in Davos for the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2022 from May 22-26, while Maharashtra minister and chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's son Aditya Thackeray as also Telangana minister and the state chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's son K T Rama Rao would be there.

Besides, the Tamil Nadu government is also likely to set up a special lounge in Davos for the duration of the WEF summit,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some senior union ministers are also expected to participate in the WEF's Davos summit,

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

55. Recently India and _____ signed MoU to *establish transmission interconnection for renewable power transfer Under One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)*.

- A. Russia
- B. Japan
- C. Maldives
- D. United Kingdom

Union Minister for Power and New and renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh met Ms Aminath Shauna, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Republic of Maldives

During the meeting, both leaders proposed two Memoranda of understanding –one on Energy cooperation and another on transmission interconnection Under One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG).

To facilitate Maldives' energy transition programme, India and Maldives have proposed to establish transmission interconnection for renewable power transfer as part of One Sun, One World & One Grid initiative.

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56. Consider the following statements regarding **PM Modi- UK PM Boris Johnson Signed Pacts**.

1. India and the United Kingdom exchanged **six MoUs during the talks held between PM Narendra Modi and UK PM Boris Johnson**.
2. **UK joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative under the maritime security pillar and agreed to co-operate closely in this region**.
3. **A total of two G2G MoUs and four non-governmental MoUs were exchanged during the official visit of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to India**.

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 and the United Kingdom exchanged six MoUs during the talks held between PM Narendra Modi and UK PM Boris Johnson**
- **India welcomed the UK joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative under the maritime security pillar and agreed to cooperate closely in this region towards their shared commitment for maintaining an open, free and secure and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.**
- **India & the United Kingdom issued a joint cyber statement outlining their commitment to a joint programme of cooperation to deliver this partnership, focused on cyber governance,**
- **A total of two G2G MoUs and four non-governmental MoUs were exchanged during the official visit of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to India.**

India-U.K. defence, trade ties to get a booster shot

U.K. likely to offer series of technological collaborations

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the rapid geopolitical turmoil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Friday agreed on a new and expanded India-U.K. defence partnership and vowed to seal an ambitious free trade agreement by the end of the year.

After his wide-ranging talks with Mr. Modi on the second and final day of his India visit, Mr. Johnson said the U.K. is creating an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) for India to “reduce bureaucracy and slashing delivery times” for defence procurement.

The British Prime Minister said both sides agreed to work together to meet new threats across land, sea, air space and cyber domains and the U.K. will partner with India on new fighter jet technology as well as in the



Strengthening bonds: Narendra Modi and Boris Johnson at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

maritime sphere to detect and respond to threats.

‘A beacon in stormy seas’ Ahead of a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House, the British Prime Minister on Friday described the India-U.K. relationship as a “beacon in stormy seas.”

“Our collaboration on the issues that matter to both our countries, from climate change to energy security

and defence, is of vital importance as we look to the future. I look forward to discussing these issues with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi today and working together to deliver a more secure and prosperous future for both our peoples,” said Mr. Johnson in his first statement after a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

57. Consider the following statements regarding **India-EU Commission Pact**.

1. **PM Modi launch India-EU Trade and Technology Council a first for India, but second for the EU as they established the first TTC with the US.**
2. **As India and the EU celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties, two discussed the strong co-operation on climate and clean energy.**

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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

- **The EU Commission President also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi where they established the India EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC). A first for India, but second for the EU as they established the first TTC with the US.**
- **PM Modi and Von Der Leyen also discussed the strong co-operation on climate and clean energy between the two sides.**
- **As India and the EU celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties, the TTC will enable them to handle challenges in trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields between the EU and India.**
- **The TTC is expected to provide the necessary structure to operationalized political decisions, coordinate technical work, and report to the political level to ensure implementation and follow-up in areas that are important for the sustainable progress of Indian and European economies.**
- **The European Commission is the executive branch of the European Union. It operates as a cabinet government, with 27 members of the Commission headed by a President, Founded: 16 January 1958.**

India & EU agree to establish Trade and Technology Council

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 25 April

India and the European Union (EU) on Monday agreed to establish a Trade and Technology Council, a strategic mechanism to address the challenges of ensuring trusted technology and security in the wake of rapid geopolitical changes — a move that is expected to deepen their strategic relationship.

The decision to set up such a council will be the first for India with any of its partners and second for the EU, following the first one with the US.

“Both sides agreed that rapid changes in the geopolitical environment highlight the need for joint in-depth strategic engagement. The Trade and Technology Council will provide the political steer and the necessary structure to operationalise political decisions, coordinate technical work, and report to the political level to ensure implementation and follow-up in areas that are important for the sustainable progress of European and Indian economies,” said a joint statement.

The announcement comes in the backdrop of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s two-day visit to Delhi starting April 24.

This was her visit to India in her current role. The agreement I was reached at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the president of the European Commission on Monday.

Turn to Page 6 ▶



PM Narendra Modi with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, in New Delhi. Both leaders reviewed the progress of the re-commencement of FTA negotiations PHOTO: PTI

STRENGTHENING TIES

- Trade and Technology Council is being set up to provide political-level oversight into the India-EU relationship
- Will ensure coordination in different areas of cooperation between India, EU
- The second such body the EU will set up, following the first one with the US

58. Recently Russia withdraws from UN Tourism Body ahead of a vote to suspend Russia’s membership over its invasion of Ukraine. Where is the Head quarter of the UN World Tourism Organisation?

- A. Zurich
- B. Geneva

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- C. Madrid
D. Rome

UNWTO announced that Russia has withdrawn from the United Nation’s tourism body ahead of a vote to suspend Russia’s membership over its invasion of Ukraine.

UNWTO is an intergovernmental body that promotes tourism and also facilitates international trade between nations around the world. The UN’s tourism body has been placed in Madrid ever since it was founded in 1975.

Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

Banking / Economy News

59. Consider the following statements regarding Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) initial public offering (IPO).

1. The government is likely to dilute 3.5% stake instead of 5% as planned earlier in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) through its listing,
2. Currently, the Government of India holds 100% stake in LIC.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The government is likely to dilute 3.5% stake instead of 5% as planned earlier in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) through its listing, according to the government sources. It is hoping to garner Rs 21,000 crore from this much-awaited initial public offering (IPO), likely to hit the floor in May first week. “We are planning to sell 3.5% instead of 5% in LIC. The issue size would be of Rs 21,000 crore.”
- Currently, the Government of India holds 100% stake in LIC. Its valuation would be Rs 6 lakh crore with 3.5 dilution, 1.1 times of its embedded value of Rs 5.4 lakh crore.

Board okays LIC IPO size cut to 3.5%

‘Issue to hit the market in early May’

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, April 23

The government proposes to scale down the size of the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) by 1.5 percentage point or around 9.4 crore shares. Earlier, in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed with SEBI on February 13, the government had proposed offering 31.62 crore shares which was around 5 per cent of total number of equity shares. The issue is expected to hit the market early next month.

Sources told *BusinessLine* that the board of the insurance major met on Saturday and approved the issue size at 3.5 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers, it comes to around 22.14 crore shares. “The revised size is subject to regulatory approvals,” a highly-placed source said while adding that the IPO is likely to hit the market in the first week of May. “Reservations, discounts, issue dates and issue price will be known by Wednesday morning,” the source said.

LIC’s embedded value, which is a measure of the consolidated shareholders’ value in an insurance company, was pegged at about ₹5.4-lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors.

The Ukraine-Russia conflict, withdrawal by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) from emerging economies like India and rising inflation along with interest rates globally are some of the factors at play with regard to the proposed IPO. “It is a tough call to take... whether to go ahead with retail and domestic investor demand or wait for geopolitical tensions to ease so that FPIs return to market. But now, we are going ahead,” the official source said.



Quota for policyholders

The DRHP has already mentioned that the employee reservation portion will not exceed 5 per cent of post-offer equity share capital. Also, the policyholder reservation portion will not exceed 10 per cent of the offer size.

On Friday, *BusinessLine* had reported, quoting government officials, that the objective of the LIC IPO is to get the life insurance behemoth listed on the bourses rather than mobilising money. Earlier, the government planned to bring the issue before the end of March. However, the Russia-Ukraine conflict derailed the plan. Now, the government has time till May 12 to launch the IPO without filing fresh papers with markets regulator SEBI. For this, it needs to file the red herring prospectus by next week.

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60. *Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has set its price band of _____ for the initial public offer (IPO) that is likely to open for public bidding on May 4.*

- A. Rs 900 – 950
- B. Rs 902 – 949**
- C. Rs 905 – 950
- D. Rs 907 – 949

- *The price band for the initial public offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been set at Rs 902 to Rs 949, with a discount of Rs 60 for policyholders,*
- *At the upper end of the price band, the government may raise up to Rs 21,000 crore.*
- *For retail and employees, the discount will be of Rs 40.*
- *India now expects to rise up to \$2.74 billion from selling a 3.5 percent stake in LIC, a third of the original expectations and a billion short of the original projection.*
- *LIC valuation is now at close to Rs 6 lakh crore, from the earlier Rs 17 lakh crore expected.*
- *The LIC IPO size has been set at 221.8 million shares. The issue size is expected to be worth around Rs 20,557 crore.*

61. *Recently in April _____ has become the first Indian company to hit a market capitalisation of Rs 19 lakh crore following a rally in its share price.*

- A. TCS
- B. Reliance Industries**
- C. Adani Limited
- D. HDFC Corporation

ISSUE TO REMAIN OPEN FROM MAY 4-9

LIC sets IPO price band at ₹902-949

₹60 discount for policyholders;
₹45 for employees, retail investors

FE BUREAUS
New Delhi/Mumbai, April 26

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC) has fixed the price band for its initial public offer (IPO) at ₹902-949 a share. The issue, which will remain open for retail investors from May 4 to 9, will enable the government to offload 3.5% stake in the insurer for ₹21,000 crore, according to an official source.

The insurer filed the red herring prospectus (RHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) late Tuesday.

The IPO will still be the country's largest though the issue size is lower than the 5% mentioned in the insurer in the draft IPO papers filed with the regulator on February 13. The valuation is also almost half the level indicated by the Centre in the FY22 Budget.

For the anchor investors, the issue will open on May 2. Another source said thanks to 'strong demand' in the form of informal bids from domestic



Govt to raise ₹21,000 cr by offloading 3.5% stake

For policyholders, **22.1 million** shares, and for employees, **1.5 million** shares reserved

Anchor book seemed subscribed by **1.6 times** as on Tuesday, given informal bids

institutional investors, including mutual funds, the anchor book looked subscribed by 1.6 times as of Tuesday. "We, however, saw no point in going for a 5% stake sale after seeing the total demand till Tuesday from anchor investors," the second source added.

The insurer's board, which met on Tuesday in Mumbai, also approved a discount of ₹60/share for policyholders for whom 22.1 million shares, or 10% of the total offer size, has been reserved. The discount is ₹45/share for retail investors and employees, and

for the latter, 1.5 million shares or 0.68% of the total issue size will be reserved.

The net of the two categories — policyholders and employees, 35% — is set aside for retail investors, while 50% is kept for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) and 15% for non-institutional investors. As much as 60% of QIBs portion is reserved for anchor investors.

According to the sources, the minimum bid size for the IPO will be 15 shares.

Continued on Page 2

THE MEGA LIC IPO - #10 THINGS TO KNOW

- Price band set at **Rs 902-949/share**
- Govt may raise up to **\$2.74 bn** via **3.5%** stake sale in LIC
- IPO nearly a third of original plan, **\$1 bn** short of first projection
- Government could raise **\$2.61 bn** at lower end of the band
- LIC valuation now pegged near **Rs 6 lakh crore**



- IPO set to open on **May 2** for anchor investors
- IPO to open for subscription between **May 4-9**
- Employees and retail investors get **Rs 45/share** discount
- LIC policyholders to get **Rs 60/share** discount
- **50%** shares for **QIBs**, **35%** for retail and **15%** for non-institutional investors

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- **Reliance Industries Ltd. has become the first Indian company to hit a market capitalisation of Rs 19 lakh crore following a rally in its share price.**
- **Reliance Industries' market cap stood at Rs 19, 12,814 crore.**
- **The Mukesh Ambani-led firm had achieved a market cap of Rs 18 lakh crore in March 2022 and Rs 17 lakh crore on Oct. 13, 2021. The stock has rallied more than 19% so far this year.**

62. Recently **SIDBI** has given first approval to _____ Government under its **SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF)** to provide **Rs 600 crore** assistance for revival of **ITI /Polytechnics**.

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

SIDBI has given first approval to Maharashtra government under its SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF).SIDBI has agreed in principal to provide Rs 600-crore assistance to Maharashtra government for revival of ITIs/polytechnics.

Expert Committee on MSMEs has recommended SIDBI to engage with State Governments in a more focused way for MSME development and promotion.

This expert committee was headed by UK Sinha. SIDBI Cluster Development Fund was established with the support of RBI. It was set up to help infrastructure facilities in pan-India clusters. The fund is intended to support MSME infrastructure in areas other than agriculture.

63. Recently _____ has won first prize in four categories of **Public Relations Awards 2022** presented by the **Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)**.

- A. NTPC
- B. Coal India
- C. NDMC**

leaders in the top seven markets globally. According to Sonjoy Chatterjee, chair-

issue of \$3-billion size, which no other market has seen over the last three to four

RIL's market cap touches ₹19 trn in intra-day trade

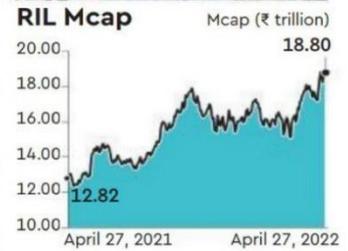
YOUSEF KP
Mumbai, April 27

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES BUCKED the trend on Wednesday, as the company's market capitalisation briefly hit the ₹19-trillion mark in intra-day trade. The conglomerate became the first Indian company to achieve the feat. Analysts attribute the surge in Singapore GRM as the main reason for the extended rally in company's share other than hikes in telecom tariffs and gaining market share in its retail business.

Shares of RIL surged 3.1% over the last two sessions, adding its year-to-date gains to 17.3%. On Wednesday, the stock hit a life-time high of ₹2,777.90 whereas the Sensex closed 0.94% lower at 56,819.39. The company is now accounts for 16.4% of the Sensex's market cap and almost equal to the market cap of the bottom 12 Sensex companies put together.

The conglomerate's revenues for the current year are expected to come in at close to ₹7.5 trillion, a big jump over ₹4.66 lakh crore reported in FY22. The operating profits are estimated to nudge ₹1.5 trillion while the net profits could top ₹60,000 crore, compared with FY22's ₹49,128 crore.

Analysts at JPMorgan recently observed the sharp surge in diesel cracks would boost refining profits for the company while offsetting the weaknesses in the petrochemicals business. Goldman Sachs wrote that refining tailwinds should sustain given the improved supply, demand from closures and from jet fuel, lower Chinese exports, low inventory and also supply disruption. "We



forecast GRM to improve from \$9.0/bbl in FY22E to \$14.3/11.0 per bbl in FY23/24E at a premium to industry benchmark GRM," analyst at the firm observed. The brokerage estimates a compounded growth of 35% in earnings over FY21-24 and has a 12-month price target of ₹3,200 per share.

Morgan Stanley believes the recommendations for the auction of 5G spectrum, announced by the telecom regulator, would mean lower spectrum costs and easier rollout obligations which would reduce the need for RIL to leverage too much.

CEO, EDELWEISS ARC

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D. IOCL

NMDC has won first prize in four categories of Public Relations Awards 2022 presented by Public Relations Society of India (PRSI).

The mining company got the awards for its Corporate Website, Annual Report, Layout and Design of Newsletter, and CSR Corporate Video.

ED (Personnel) Praveen Kumar and DGM Ch. Srinivasa Rao received the awards on the behalf of NMDC.

A conference was also hosted on the theme of 'Emerging Trends in Modern Public Relations'.

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is the country's largest Iron Ore producer. It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.

64. Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of _____ on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions, including those related to know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

- A. Rs 6.78 crore**
- B. Rs 1.12 crore**
- C. Rs 5.45 crore**
- D. Rs 3.12 crore**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.12 crore on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions, including those related to know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

The penalty has been imposed for violation of provisions related to KYC, creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures - Across Banks,

In another release, RBI said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 12 lakh on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Rajkot for 'non-compliance with the direction on Interest Rate on Deposits'.

Separately, the central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on The Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank, Chandigarh for contraventions with RBI directions on housing finance.

65. Recently Seen in news Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) is subsidiary of which of the following?

- A. NTPC**
- B. IOCL**
- C. Coal India**
- D. NDMC**

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Recently unconfirmed reports have appeared in a section of the Media that the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) is being merged with Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL).

In this regard, the Ministry of Coal has clarified that CMPDIL is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) that provides exploration and consultancy services primarily to the coal sector.

Keeping in view the scope for its business expansion in other minerals, the Government has plans for its strengthening, for which it is being considered to merge MECL into CMPDIL. MECL has domain expertise in non-coal mineral exploration and consultancy. Therefore, such merger and creation of one integrated exploration and consultancy organization with requisite expertise for coal and non-coal sector would result in growth and value addition. At the same time, CMPDIL will continue to be a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.

66. Recently Torrent Power Limited has announced to set up a 50 MW solar power plant from sky-Power in _____ with an enterprise value for the acquisition around Rs 417 crore.

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

- **Torrent Power Ltd. has signed a share purchase agreement with sky-Power Southeast Asia III Investments Ltd. And sky-Power Southeast Asia Holdings 2 Ltd. To acquire Sun-Shakti Solar Power Projects Private Ltd (SPV).**
- **The SPV operates a 50-megawatt (MW) solar power project in Telangana.**
- **"Enterprise value for this acquisition is approximately ₹417 crore, subject to closing price adjustments.**

67. Recently the Central government has formed _____ working groups to suggest ways to improve digitisation in the state-owned banks and strengthen their balance sheets.

- A. 5
- B. **6**

CIL to launch own e-auction platform

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, April 17

Coal India Ltd is set to launch its own e-auction platform, and has asked new and existing bidders to register on the portal, a top company official said. Currently, the e-auction portal is managed by mjunction and State-owned MSTC Ltd.

E-auction accounts for around 120 million tonnes of sales annually for CIL, while the rest is through fuel supply agreements and special sales windows.

The dedicated e-auction portal has been developed by National Informatics Centre and supported by CIL subsidiary Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd.

"We expect to commence in-house coal e-auction in the next six months," the official told PTI.

E-auction of Coal India is executed in a 60:40 ratio between

Torrent Power to acquire 50 MW solar plant from SkyPower Group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 23

TORRENT POWER HAS inked a share purchase pact to acquire 100 percent equity in a 50 MW solar plant of SkyPower Group at an enterprise value of ₹417 crore.

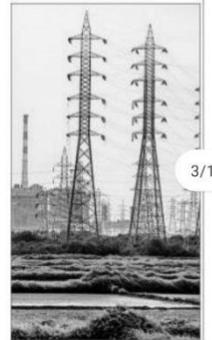
Torrent Power Ltd has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Sky-Power Southeast Asia III Investments Limited and Sky-Power Southeast Asia Holdings 2 Limited (the Sellers) for the acquisition of 100% securities of Sunshakti Solar Power Projects Private Ltd (the SPV special purpose vehicle).

The SPV operates a 50 MW Solar Power Project in the state of Telangana.

Long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Project is with Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (NPDCTL) for a period of 25 years at a fixed tariff of approx ₹5.35 per kWh, with remaining useful life of about 20 years.

The enterprise value for this acquisition is around ₹ 417 crore, subject to closing price adjustments, if any, the company said in a statement.

The acquisition is further subject to customary conditions for transaction closure. Torrent Power, the integrated power utility of the diversified Torrent Group with group revenues of ₹20,500 crore (approx. \$2.7 billion) is one of the largest companies in the country's power sector with presence across the entire



The enterprise value for this acquisition is around ₹417 crore, subject to closing price adjustments, if any, the company said in a statement

power value chain of generation, transmission and distribution. Torrent Power currently has an aggregate installed generation capacity of 4.1 GW, which consists largely of clean generation sources such as gas (2.7 GW) and renewables (1.0 GW). It also has a capacity of 0.4 GW of renewable energy plants under development.

With the acquisition of 50 MW Solar Power Plant, Torrent Power's total generation capacity, including under development portfolio, will reach 4.6 GW with a renewable portfolio of more than 1.5 GW.

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C. 7
D. 8

- **Six working groups created to suggest ways to improve digitisation in the state-owned banks and strengthen their balance sheets have been asked to submit their respective reports by December.**
- **Participating in the meeting, Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra recently asked the banks to explore strategies for long-term profitability and adopt a more customer-centric approach.**
- **The groups will have regular meetings and periodic review to track the progress of each panel,**
- **Manthan was held on April 22, to brainstorm with the top leadership of public sector banks and unlock next-generation reforms, while continuing with the EASE journey. The last such exercise was held in 2019. The first PSB Manthan took place in 2014.**
- **To improve the financial health of the PSBs, the government implemented a comprehensive 4R's strategy -- recognition of non-performing assets (NPAs) transparently, resolution and recovery of value from stressed accounts, recapitalisation of PSBs, and reforms in PSBs and the wider financial ecosystem.**
- **As part of the strategy, the government has infused Rs 3, 10,997 crore to recapitalise banks during the last five financial years -- from 2016-17 to 2020-21, out of which Rs 34,997 crore were sourced through budgetary allocation and Rs 2, 76,000 crore through issuance of recapitalisation bonds to these banks.**

6 groups set up to improve PSB functioning to submit report

Six working groups created to suggest ways to improve digitisation in the state-owned banks and strengthen their balance sheets have been asked to submit their respective reports by December, according to a senior banker. Participating in the meeting, Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra recently asked the banks to explore strategies for long-term profitability and adopt a more customer-centric approach. The senior banker, who participated in the recently concluded Manthan 2022 – a meeting of the top PSU bankers, said the six working groups would look into functioning the public sector banks (PSBs) and suggest ways to improve customer service, digitisation, HR incentives, corporate governance and collaboration. **PTI**

68. Recently _____ has signed a formal shareholder agreement for the USD 2 billion TA'ZIZ chemical joint venture in the UAE and also inked a pact to collaborate with ADNOC in finding and producing conventional and unconventional resources.

- A. Adani Green
- B. Ultra Cement
- C. **Reliance Industries Limited**
- D. Tata Consultancy

- **Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has signed a formal shareholder agreement for the USD 2 billion TA'ZIZ chemical joint venture in the UAE and inked a pact to collaborate with ADNOC in finding and producing conventional and unconventional resources.**
- **TA'ZIZ is joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) and sovereign wealth fund ADQ.**

RIL, Abu Dhabi's TA'ZIZ ink \$2-billion chemical project JV

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 26

ABU DHABI Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ) and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) have signed the formal shareholder agreement for the Rs 15,000-crore TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC project.

The joint venture will construct and operate a chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride (EDC) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) production facility, with total investment of over \$2 billion. These chemicals will be produced in the UAE for the first time, unlocking new revenue streams and opportunities for local manufacturers. RIL is a strategic partner with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company in the project at the TA'ZIZ Indust-

PRODUCTION UNIT

■ The joint venture will construct and operate a chlor-alkali, EDC and PVC production facility, with total investment of over \$2 billion

rial Chemicals Zone in Ruwais. The formal shareholder agreement was signed by senior executives during a visit of RIL CMD Mukesh Ambani to ADNOC headquarters. He met Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry & Advanced Technology and ADNOC MD & Group CEO, and discussed opportunities for partnership and growth in upstream, new energies and decarbonisation across the hydrocarbon value chain. *Full report on* www.indianexpress.com

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- Under the terms of a strategic agreement, Reliance and TA'ZIZ will build plants with the capacity to produce 940,000 tonnes per annum of Chlor-alkali.
- Chlor-alkali is used in water treatment and manufacture of textiles and metals, while ethylene dichloride is typically used to produce PVC.

Gautam Adani has overtaken legendary investor Warren Buffett to become the fifth-richest billionaire in the world, according to Forbes Real Time Billionaire Index. The 59-year-old Adani has an estimated net worth of \$122.2 billion, as market close, as against Buffett's \$119.4 billion fortune, Forbes' data showed. According to Bloomberg Billionaire Index, Adani, who also is Asia's richest, at \$119 billion is \$3 billion shy of Buffett's fortune as of Monday but has been the biggest wealth creator of 2022. Mukesh Ambani, Reliance Industries' chairman and former Asia's richest, was in 9th position in the Forbes list with a fortune of \$101.9 billion.

Flipkart signs MoU with the West Bengal govt

FLIPKART ON MONDAY announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) Department, government of West Bengal, to train and support local artisans, weavers, and handicraft makers to leverage e-commerce platform to scale their local products nationally.

69. Recently Flipkart has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) Department, Government of _____ to train and support local artisans, weavers, and handicraft.

- West Bengal
- Karnataka
- Madhya Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh

- Flipkart, India's home-Grown e-commerce marketplace.
- Announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) Department, Government of West Bengal to train and support local artisans, weavers, and handicraft makers to leverage e-commerce platform to scale their local products nationally.

Adani 5th richest with \$124bn, overtakes Buffett

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Adani Group chief Gautam Adani has become the 5th richest person in world by surpassing Berkshire Hathway CEO Warren Buffett.

According to the Forbes rich list, Adani has reached the 5th position with a total net worth of \$123.7 billion, about \$2 billion higher than Buffett's \$121.7 billion. Adani entered the \$100-billion wealth club on April 4 and now holds a place among the top 5 richest people in the world.

WORLD'S WEALTHIEST	
Net worth (in Sbn)	
Elon Musk	270
Jeff Bezos	170
Bernard Arnault	168
Bill Gates	130
Gautam Adani	124
Warren Buffett	122

(Source: Forbes)

He is also the richest Asian, ahead of Mukesh Ambani (\$105 billion).

The business tycoon is now behind Tesla chief Elon Musk — who continues to hold the top spot with a total net worth of \$269.7 billion, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Louis Vuitton CEO Bernard Arnault and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. Shares of Adani Group companies have shown stellar performance in the past 2 years. Adani added the most wealth in 2021, about \$49 billion, at the rate of Rs 6,000 crore per week, a report by the latest Hurun rich list had showed.

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- *The Flipkart Samarth programme will empower artisans/weavers in West Bengal with the ecosystem support required to grow and benefit from the e-commerce platform access*
- *Flipkart Samarth was launched in 2019 to democratize e-commerce through technology and build a sustainable and inclusive platform for under-served domestic communities, with a special focus on women-led enterprises and people with disabilities.*

70. Recently the Malaysian oil and gas giant, Petronas has joined hands with _____ to form, India's first factory racing team.

- A. Tata Motors
- B. Force India
- C. TVS Motors**
- D. Hero Limited

TVS joins hands with Petronas for India's first factory racing team

SHINE JACOB
Chennai, 25 April

Malaysian oil and gas giant Petronas has joined hands with TVS Motor Company's TVS Racing, India's first factory racing team.

This comes after it had become the technical partner of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team and made strides in MotoGP, through the Petronas Sepang Racing Team.

As part of the tie-up, TVS Racing was rechristened Petronas-TVS Racing and both TVS and Petronas have launched co-branded lubricant oil targeting premium customers. TVS said that the tie-up will only be targeting the domestic market now.

"Petronas has been at the forefront of motorsports for a quarter of a century. As part of this partnership, Petronas will be providing TVS Racing team special racing oils that will help in improving performance of the bikes. This will help in elevating TVS performance," said KN Radhakrishnan, director and chief executive officer (CEO), TVS Motor Company.

Factory-backed racing teams are those sponsored by a vehicle manufacturer in official competitions.

The Malaysian giant will also supply its high-performance engine oil, Petronas Sprinta, to the team that will participate in road-racing, supercross and rally formats of racing. These include the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship (INMRC), Indian National Supercross Championship (INSC), and Indian National Rally Championship (INRC).

The rebranded Petronas TVS Racing Team's outfit will don a new livery as part of the alliance, effective this season.

"Petronas continues to make headway across the value chain in India. Among the examples of a significant portfolio, enhancements include supplying LPG through IndianOil Petronas Pvt Ltd (IPPL) and provision of rooftop solar panels via AmPlus Energy. Today, we seal a stronger partnership with one of India's most-respected OEMs, TVS Motor Company, with the Petronas TVS Racing Team launch," said Datuk Sazali Hamzah, executive vice-president and CEO of Downstream Petronas. "Petronas lubricants have a solid track record in global motorsport events, and we are proud to support TVS Racing's ambitions," Hamzah added. It was in 2010 when



As part of the tie-up, TVS Racing was rechristened Petronas-TVS Racing and both TVS and Petronas have launched co-branded lubricant oil

Petronas became the title and technical partner of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team. The company entered into MotoGP through Petronas Sepang Racing Team in 2019. In 2020, Petronas also became the official fuel provider for the Moto2 and Moto3 World Championships.

The two partners said that the new brand — Petronas TVS Tru4 Race Pro — will be available for consumers in the high street market across India from May 2022.

"The Petronas TVS Tru4 Race Pro engine oil is formulated with the same premium additive technology as the one used by the Petronas-TVS

Racing team. This is so that TVS consumers can experience the same superior performance in their bikes," said Giuseppe Pedretti, regional managing director, Petronas Lubricants International.

"TVS Racing has been a prominent force in Indian motorsports for over four decades. We are immensely committed to motor racing in the country and have been continuously working towards growing the interest and enthusiasm for the sport here. Our partnership with Petronas is a testimony of this," said Meghashyam L Dighole, vice-president, new product development, TVS Motor.

- *After becoming the technical partner of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team and making strides in Moto GP through Petronas Sepang Racing Team, Malaysian oil and gas giant Petronas has joined hands with TVS Motor Company's TVS Racing, India's first factory racing team.*
- *As part of the tie up, TVS Racing has been rechristened Petronas-TVS racing and both the players have launched co-branded lubricant oil targeting premium customers.*

- *"Petronas has been at the forefront of motorsports for a quarter of a century. As part of this partnership, Petronas will be providing TVS Racing team special racing oils that will help in improving performance of the bikes.*
- *The Malaysian giant will also supply its high-performance engine oil, Petronas Sprinta to the team who will participate in road-racing, super cross, and rally formats of racing, including the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship (INMRC).*
- *It was in 2010 that Petronas became the title and technical partner of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team. The company entered into Moto GP through Petronas Sepang Racing Team in 2019. In 2020, Petronas also became the official fuel provider for the Moto2 and Moto3 World Championships.*

71. Consider the following statements regarding Rubber Board's Electronic Trading Platform-'Mrube'.

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1. The technology partner for developing the electronic trade platform is *i-Sourcing Technologies Pvt Ltd*, based in *Ahmadabad*.
2. The Board has partnered with *Federal Bank and ICICI Bank* to operate the payment gateway and escrow account.

Which of the following statement is/are correct? +

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

Rubber Board's electronic trading platform set to go live next month

Federal Bank, ICICI Bank come onboard mRube for payment gateway



The e-market is likely to strengthen the supply chain

payment gateway and escrow account, which will nullify the payment risk of buyers and sellers involved in trade through this portal, Kurian said.

How it works

It is for the first time in the history of commodity trade either in online or offline, banks have agreed to provide interest-free advance against credit in escrow account from buyer. The Board has made arrangements with the two partnering banks for extending zero interest rate facility to rubber sellers trading through this e-market, he added. 'mRube' also allows users

to filter out buyers and sellers according to their geographical location, quantity, grade of rubber, customer ratings, etc. The buyers and sellers can upload their offer and there is provision for quoting counter offers before confirming the trade. The e-market modules are mobile phone-compatible and Android and ios versions are also ready for use.

The e-trade platform attempts to figure out certain impending issues in the existing rubber marketing system. Despite being used in the manufacture of products with critical importance like automobile tyre and tubes, surgical and pharmaceutical products, etc, there is no systematic arrangement for certifying quality of rubber traded in the country.

The Board has a system for assaying quality of rubber in the electronic market, which will be a game changer in the domestic natural rubber trade.

V SAJEEV KUMAR

Kochi, April 25

'mRube', the electronic trading platform for natural rubber introduced by Rubber Board, is all set to go live by the middle of May. Binoi Kurian, Deputy Director, Marketing, said arrangements for commencing the e-market operations are at the final phase. The e-market is expected to strengthen the existing supply chain by integrating the upstream and downstream segments.

The Ahmedabad-based i-Sourcing Technologies Pvt Ltd is the technology partner for developing the electronic trade platform. The Board has joined hands with Federal Bank and ICICI Bank for operating the

- *Rubber Board's electronic trading platform for natural rubber, dubbed 'Mrube,' is set to launch in the middle of May.*
- *The technology partner for developing the electronic trade platform is i- Sourcing Technologies Pvt Ltd, based in Ahmadabad.*
- *The e-trade platform aims to identify potential problems in the current rubber marketing system.*
- *The Board has developed a system for assessing rubber quality in the electronic market, which will revolutionize the domestic natural rubber trade.*
- *According to Kurian, the Board has partnered with Federal Bank and ICICI Bank to operate the payment gateway and escrow account, which will eliminate the payment risk for buyers and sellers who transact through this portal.*

72. Recently *Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)* expanded its strategic partnership with _____ India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, to power the latter's next leg of digital transformation.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. SBI Cards and Payments Services Limited

- *Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is expanding its strategic partnership with SBI Cards and Payments Services Ltd., India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, to power the latter's next leg of digital transformation. The new engagement is built on a decade-long partnership.*

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- In the run up to SBI Card’s blockbuster IPO in 2020, TCS had helped the company transform its core cards sourcing platform and digitized a significant portion of the process. The future-ready, agile platform personalized customer experience and helped boost sales and retention.*
- TCS worked closely with SBI Card to implement video KYC and e-signature features to fully digitalize its cards sourcing process. This entire digitalization project was complex, considering the integration touch points between these new technologies and the SBI Card-owned Sales24 platform, which is used for new account originations.*

73. Recently Twitter has announced to sell its social media company to world’s richest man Elon Musk, in a _____ deal.

A. USD 45 Bn
 B. USD 44 Bn
 C. USD 50 Bn
 D. USD 48 Bn

- Twitter has announced to sell its social media company to world’s richest man Elon Musk, in a 44 billion dollar deal.*
- The company said its board has accepted an offer from the billionaire to buy Twitter. Chair of Twitter’s board Bret Taylor said the Twitter Board conducted a thoughtful and comprehensive process to assess Mr. Musk’s proposal with a deliberate focus on value, certainty, and financing.*
- Under the terms of the deal, shareholders will receive 54.20 dollar in cash for each share of Twitter stock they own, matching Mr. Musk’s original offer and marking a 38% premium over the stock price the day before he revealed his stake in the company.*
- The deal, which was unanimously approved by Twitter’s board, is expected to close this year. Under the deal, Twitter’s shares will be delisted and it will be taken private.*

SBI Cards expands ties with TCS

Decade-long partnership to help SBI Cards to grow its e-card issuance

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 25

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday announced the expansion of its decade-long partnership with SBI Cards and Payments Services to power the latter’s next leg of digital transformation.

The platform TCS had built in run up to the company’s IPO in 2020, personalised customer experience and helped boost sales and retention.

Digitalisation

TCS had helped the company transform its core cards sourcing platform and digitised a significant portion of the process. With this expansion in partnership, it will further digitise the online

onboarding processes enabling a faster turnaround and frictionless experience. In addition, it will enable SBI Cards to grow its e-card issuance.

“At SBI Card, we have been able to implement high performing and scalable technology initiatives in association with TCS. TCS has played an important role in this digital journey, especially in digitising our core cards sourcing platform, implementation of Video KYC and eSignature features during Covid-19 period,” Rama Mohan Rao Amara, MD & CEO, SBI Card said.

Anupam Singhal, Business Head, Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance, TCS added, “We are thrilled to expand our long-standing partnership with SBI Card to realise their vision of forming long-lasting customer relationships, and accelerate their next wave of growth,” said.

{ LANDMARK TAKEOVER }

Billionaire Elon Musk strikes deal to acquire Twitter for \$44 billion

NEW YORK: Elon Musk clinched a deal to buy Twitter Inc for \$44 billion cash on Monday in a transaction that will shift control of the social media platform populated by millions of users and global leaders to the world’s richest person.

It is a seminal moment for the 16-year-old company that emerged as one of the world’s most influential public squares and now faces a string of challenges.

Discussions over the deal, which last week appeared uncertain, accelerated over the week-end after Musk wooed Twitter



Elon Musk

shareholders with financing details of his offer.

Under pressure, Twitter started negotiating with Musk to buy the company at the pro-

posed \$54.20 per share price.

“Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated,” Musk said in a statement.

Twitter’s shares were up about 6% following the news.

“Twitter has a purpose and relevance that impacts the entire world. Deeply proud of our teams and inspired by the work that has never been more important,” Twitter’s chief executive officer Parag Agrawal said shortly after details of the deal were announced. **REUTERS**

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Sebi issues Rs 2 crore recovery notice to former NSE official Anand Subramanian

Capital markets regulator Sebi sent a notice to former group operating officer of NSE, Anand Subramanian, asking him to pay Rs 2.05 crore in a case related to governance lapses at the stock exchange. In addition, Ramkrishna was accused of sharing confidential information of the company with an "unidentified person". The regulator levied a fine of Rs 3 crore on Ramkrishna and Rs 2 crore on Narayan. Narayan was the MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) from April 1994 till March 2013. He was appointed as vice-chairman in the non-executive category on the NSE's board from April 2013 and remained so till June 2017. Ramkrishna was MD and CEO of NSE from

Sebi issues ₹2-crore recovery notice to Anand Subramanian

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 26

CAPITAL MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi on Tuesday sent a notice to former group operating officer of NSE, Anand Subramanian, asking him to pay ₹2.05 crore in a case related to governance lapses at the stock exchange, and warned of arrest and attachment of assets as well as bank accounts if he fails to make the payment within 15 days.

The notice came after Subramanian failed to pay the fine imposed on him by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The regulator, through an order passed on February 11, levied a fine of ₹2 crore on Sub-

ramanian in the matter of governance issues at the exchange.

Sebi charged former NSE chiefs, Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain, and others with alleged governance lapses in the appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic advisor and his re-designation as group operating officer and advisor to then MD Ramkrishna.

In addition, Ramkrishna was accused of sharing confidential information of the company with an "unidentified person".

The regulator levied a fine of ₹3 crore on Ramkrishna and ₹2 crore on Narain.

Narain was the MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) from April 1994 till March 2013.

74. Recently Private sector lender _____ has announced to seek shareholders' approval for the appointment of interim MD and CEO Rajeev Ahuja till June 24.

- A. DBS Bank
- B. DCB Bank
- C. RBL Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

- Private sector lender RBL Bank will seek shareholders' approval for the appointment of interim MD and CEO Rajeev Ahuja till June 24, as the process to appoint a regular head awaits RBI's consent.
- Rajeev Ahuja as interim Managing Director and CEO for the period from December 25, 2021 till June 24, 2022 or till the appointment of a regular MD and CEO, whichever is earlier.
- On April 20, the lender had informed that its board of directors had accepted recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and finalised the names of candidates for the position of regular MD and CEO and approved making an application to the Reserve Bank of India.

RBL Bank seeks to extend interim MD & CEO's term



PRIVATE SECTOR LENDER RBL Bank on Tuesday said it will seek shareholders' approval for the

appointment of interim MD and CEO Rajeev Ahuja till June 24, as the process to appoint a regular head awaits RBI's consent. Voting through postal ballot will start on April 28 and end on May 27. The results will be declared within two working days from the conclusion of the remote e-voting, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

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- **Rajeev Ahuja was appointed as an executive director of the bank for a period of three years from February 21, 2020 to February 20, 2023 with the approval of RBI and shareholders at its Annual General Meeting held in July 2020.**
- **However, in a surprise turn of events, the board in a meeting held on December 25, 2021 sent the then MD and CEO Vishwvir Ahuja on leave and appointed Rajeev as interim MD and CEO.**
- **Rajeev took charge as an interim MD and CEO of RBL Bank for a period of three months with effect from December 25, 2021 or till the appointment of a regular executive.**

75. Recently in April _____ announced its partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer fixed deposits services for its customers.

- A. **Airtel Payment Bank**
- B. Paytm Payment Bank
- C. India post payment bank
- D. NSDL Payment Bank

- **Airtel Payments Bank on Tuesday announced its partnership with IndusInd Bank to offer fixed deposits for its customers.**
- **The payments bank's customers can open FDs starting from ₹500 up to ₹1.9 lakh in few minutes through a digital process on the Airtel Thanks mobile application.**
- **The payments bank's customers will have the option to book multiple FDs for a fixed duration of one, two or three years.**
- **IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, CEO: Sumant Kathalia.**

Airtel Payments Bank ties up with IndusInd Bank



AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK on Tuesday launched the fixed deposit facility in partnership with IndusInd Bank, offering interest rates of 6.5% and above and an option of premature withdrawal without any penalty. With the launch of the fixed deposits (FD) facility, Airtel Payments Bank has further strengthened its digital banking portfolio, IndusInd Bank said in a release.

76. Recently in April _____ has partnered with debt financier Northern Arc Capital and claims to have facilitated disbursal of credit to over 50,000 Kirana stores and small retailers.

- A. **UDAAN Capital**
- B. Amazon
- C. Flipkart
- D. Meta

- **UDAAN capital, the fintech arm of e-commerce firm UDAAN, has partnered with debt financier Northern Arc**

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Capital and claims to have facilitated disbursement of credit to over 50,000 Kirana stores and small retailers.

- *The fintech player enables retailers to make purchases for their stores from a wide array of suppliers on the UDAAN platform with credit lines provided by its lender partners.*
- *Financial services platform Northern Arc provides credit to MSMEs, households, financial institutions and emerging businesses.*
- *Ashish Mehrotra, MD and CEO, Northern Arc Capital.*

- 77. Consider the following statements regarding India Patents report launched by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).**
- 1. According to the India Patents report Technology Innovation is gaining pace in India with Indian companies having filed 1,38,000 tech patents in India from 2015 to 2021.**
 - 2. Initially, India adopted process patenting in 1970s which enabled India to become a significant producer of generic drugs at global scale.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **According to the India Patents report launched by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), Technology Innovation is gaining pace in India with Indian companies having filed 1,38,000 tech patents in India from 2015 to 2021.**
- **The report is one among a series of NASSCOM's Emerging Technology-focused reports that aims to understand how Indian technology companies are creating IP assets in their largest market.**
- **A patent represents a powerful intellectual property right, and is an exclusive monopoly granted by a Government to an inventor for a limited, pre-specified time.**
- **It provides an enforceable legal right to prevent others from copying the invention.**

investors and employees, and **Continued on Page 2**

CREDIT DISBURSAL TO SMEs **Udaan arm ties up with Northern Arc**

SALMAN SH
 Bengaluru, April 26

B2B E-COMMERCE START-UP Udaan's digital lending arm UdaanCapital has entered into a partnership with Northern Arc Capital Limited to facilitate disbursement of credit to over 50,000 kiranas and small retailers.

UdaanCapital is owned and operated by Udaan through a subsidiary firm in partnership with IDFC First Bank. The start-up said that UdaanCapital currently facilitates disbursement of over ₹8,000 crore of credit per annum to over 150,000 kiranas/small businesses across the country. The credit limits offered range from ₹10,000 to ₹25 lakh and the credit tenures offered are short term.

UdaanCapital enables small and medium-sized retailers to make purchases for their stores from a wide array of suppliers on the udaan platform with credit lines provided by its lender partners. Today, more than a third of sales on udaan, India's largest B2B commerce platform is powered by UdaanCapital, according to a company statement.

The lending platform also

UdaanCapital, through its lender partners, currently enables disbursement of over **₹8,000 crore** per annum



The partnership with Northern Arc now benefits over **1.5 lakh** kiranas/retailers transacting on the Udaan platform, and catalyses kirana commerce

leverages Udaan's logistics and sales network, and has built strong loan re-collection capabilities required to effectively service this segment.

Continued on Page 2

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- **Initially, India adopted process patenting in 1970s which enabled India to become a significant producer of generic drugs at global scale.**
- **However, due to the obligations under the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement, product patenting is also allowed in India.**
- **TRIPS are an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization.**
- **The Patents Act was largely based on the recommendations of the Ayyangar Committee Report headed by Justice N. Rajagopala Ayyangar.**
- **Later, India became signatory of the Paris Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty in 1998 and thereafter signed the Budapest Treaty in 2001.**
- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade notified the Patents (Amendments) Rules 2021 which have come into force in September 2021.**
- **As per the report, the US remains a key export market for India.**
- **Over 9,500 patents were filed by India domiciled companies in the US between 2015-2021.**

‘Indian companies filed 1.38 lakh tech patents in 2015-22’

US remains a key export market for India, says Nasscom report

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, April 25

Technology innovation is gaining pace in India, with Indian companies having filed 1,38,000 tech patents in India between 2015 and 2021, according to the India Patents report launched by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

The report is one among a series of Nasscom’s Emerging Technology-focused reports that aim to understand how Indian technology companies are creating IP assets in their largest market.

It marks the start of our IP

charter for FY23, which will be followed by a deep dive analysis into the tech patents filed in India.

According to the report, the US remains a key export market for India. Over 9,500 patents were filed by India-domiciled companies in the US between 2015-2021, an increase of 47 per cent over 2015 and 2019. “The US continues to witness increased patent filing from Indian companies as it remains a key export market,” said the report.

US accounted for 62 per cent of tech exports in FY22, and would continue to drive share of tech patents, said the report. 65 per cent of the total patents filed in the US in 2020-21 by India-domiciled companies were in the technology domain, compared to 55 per cent in 2019.

Further, 45 per cent of the



technology patents filed have been granted. Start-ups have been key contributors in terms of technology innovation. Over 60 per cent of the technology patents were filed by Indian companies and start-ups, while 16.7 per cent of the tech patents were filed by individual inventors/academia-research, which witnessed the highest growth of 60 per cent.

Overall, more than 400 technology patents were filed by Indian start-ups during 2015-2021, an increase of 45

per cent from 280 patents in the 2015-2019 period.

In terms of key segments, 21 per cent of the tech patents were related to software applications and healthcare and medical devices, the leading segments.

“Focus for start-ups continues to be led by Health and Medical Devices, while it continues to be led by software applications for the larger assignee group,” according to the report.

“Share of Communication Technology, IoT and Cyber Security patents have increased over the last two years,” it further added.

Emerging technologies

According to the report, the share of emerging technologies continues to grow in technology patents. Over 50 per cent of the patents filed

during 2015-2021 were related to emerging technologies.

AI patents more than doubled in 2015-2021, compared to 2015-19. Over 1,300 patents were filed in the AI domain during 2015-2021.

“AI continues to lead in terms of total patents filed under various emerging technology domains,” said the report. Machine Learning patents grew by over two-fold, maintaining its lead in AI.

IoT leads

In growth terms, IoT was in the lead with a growth of 45 per cent in 2015-2020/21, compared to 2015-19. Cloud computing remained another key emerging area, accounting for a growth of 33.6 per cent, while cybersecurity accounted for the majority share of granted patents in 2015-2020/21 at 27.4 per cent.

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79. Consider the following statements regarding the IFSCA Framework for fintech Entity in International Financial Services Centers (IFSCs).

- 1. The framework incorporates the Inter Operable Regulatory Sandbox (IORS) mechanism.**
- 2. The framework proposes a Regulatory Referral mechanism which shall be governed as per the provisions of the MoU or collaboration or special arrangement between IFSCA and corresponding overseas Regulator.**
- 3. The framework provided for a dedicated Regulatory Sandbox for fintech products or solutions namely IFSCA fintech Regulatory Sandbox.**

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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

- *The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), in furtherance of its mandate to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) and to encourage promotion of financial technologies ('fintech') across the spectrum of banking, insurance, securities, and fund management in IFSC has issued a detailed "Framework for fintech Entity in the IFSCs".*
- *The framework provides for a dedicated Regulatory Sandbox for fintech products or solutions namely IFSCA fintech Regulatory Sandbox and empowers IFSCA to grant Limited Use Authorization within fintech Regulatory Sandbox to the eligible financial technology entities in IFSC.*
- *The framework also incorporates the Inter Operable Regulatory Sandbox (IORS) mechanism. IORS is a proposed mechanism to facilitate testing of innovative hybrid financial products / services falling within the regulatory ambit of more than one financial sector regulators. IFSCA will facilitate Indian fintech's seeking access to foreign markets and foreign fintech's seeking entry into India.*
- *The framework proposes a Regulatory Referral mechanism which shall be governed as per the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or collaboration or special arrangement between IFSCA and corresponding overseas Regulators.*

80. Recently In April a tripartite MOU has been signed between Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities and _____ to jointly provide skill training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

- A. Flipkart
- B. Amazon
- C. Snapdeal
- D. SpaceX

- *Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities and Flipkart signed a MoU.*
- *This tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed in New Delhi on 26 April.*
- *The main aim of this MoU is to jointly provide skill training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.*

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- For the first time, the PWDs has partnered with e-commerce business Flipkart to promote the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the e-commerce industry.
- It will create new job opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by imparting job-specific, practical and e-commerce skills.
- This MoU will help in creating a structured skill development intervention and enabling mechanism for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) into the mainstream economy.

81. Recently In April **Maruti Suzuki India** has partnered with _____ to facilitate easy finance for customers.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Indian Bank**
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Canara Bank

- **Maruti Suzuki India** has partnered with **Indian Bank** to facilitate easy finance for customers. As part of this partnership, customers of the carmaker will be able to avail loan benefits in over 5,700 plus branches of the Indian Bank at metro, urban, semi-urban and rural locations.

- **Indian Bank** is a major nationalised bank. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established in 1907 and is headquartered in Chennai, India.

Maruti joins hands with Indian Bank for car loans



TO FACILITATE easy financing for customers, Maruti Suzuki India has partnered with Indian Bank, a PSB, to provide customised car loans to customers, who can avail loan benefits across 5,700-plus branches of the Indian Bank.

82. Recently in April _____ launched a New Version of its digital ecosystem for micro, small and medium enterprises, including customers of other banks named "InstaBIZ app".

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Axis Bank

- Private lender **ICICI Bank** launched a digital ecosystem for micro, small and medium enterprises, including customers of other banks

ICICI Bank launches MSME digital solutions



ICICI Bank on Thursday launched a comprehensive set of purely digital solutions for customers in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) segment, targeted at ICICI's own clients as well as those of other banks. Under the bank's updated InstaBiz app, MSMEs will have access to instant sanctions of overdraft (OD), fully digital and instant current account (CA) opening through video KYC and a set of value-added services on a single platform. The InstaBiz app has over 10 lakh (1 million) MSME customers.

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- *The bank said anyone can avail of the benefits of ICICI Bank's digital solutions by downloading the new version of the InstaBIZ app, or on the bank's corporate internet banking platform.*
- *"The most important in the list of these services is sanction of instant and paperless overdraft facility up to ₹25 lakh. Named Instaad Plus.*
- *ICICI Bank Limited is an Indian multinational bank and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara*
- *CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi. Anup Bagchi, executive director, ICICI Bank.*

83. Recently in April _____ announced its partnership with **Religare Broking** to provide access to platforms to invest in capital market to people in rural areas.

- A. Paytm
- B. Spice Money**
- C. NIRA
- D. Fin App

Fintech firm Spice Money has announced its partnership with Religare Broking to provide people in rural India access to platforms to invest in capital market.

The partnership between Religare Broking and Spice Money will facilitate rural India to get assisted access to a Demat account and invest in capital market-linked products,

*Religare Enterprises Limited is an Indian financial services company, headquartered in New Delhi, India. Spice Money is India's leading Rural Fintech company empowering merchants / nanopreneurs,
Sanjeev Kumar, co-founder & CEO, Spice Money, Gurpreet Sidana, COO, Religare Broking*

84. Recently in April _____ announced the **launch of bob World Gold** – a new feature on its bob World mobile banking platform designed especially for seniors and the elderly.

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

Bank of Baroda announced the launch of bob World Gold – a new feature on its bob World mobile banking platform designed especially for seniors and the elderly.

Bob World Gold is a unique digital banking platform that has been designed especially for this demographic and provides its senior customers with a simple, smooth and secure mobile banking experience. Bob World Gold is customized specifically for senior citizens (60 years and above)

*Bank of Baroda is an Indian nationalized banking and financial services company headquartered in Vadodara.
Sanjiv Chadha, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda.*

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85. Recently For the first time in 118 years, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will host the 21st World Congress of Accountants. What was the theme of this year's World Congress?

- A. Build Back Better
- B. Building Trust Enabling Sustainability
- C. Build the future for tomorrow
- D. Building your nation Sustainability

- For the first time in 118 years, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will host the 21st World Congress of Accountants.
- India is the first South Asia country to host the World Congress.

- It will be organized from 18-21 November at the newly built Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.
- Around 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme.
- The theme of this World Congress is 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'.
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI): It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament in the year 1949.

India to host accountants World Cong for the first time in 118 yrs

"It is a proud moment for ICAI that it has been able to host the World Congress for the first time in 118 years of its existence. We were successful in outbidding France in this round," Mitra said.

Kolkata: Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is set to host 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA), the kumbh of accountants, for the first time in 118 years of its existence, ICAI president Debashis Mitra said on Saturday.

The event will be held from November 18 to 21 after outbidding France.

About 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme

physically. The event will take place in newly built Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, he said.

"It is a proud moment for ICAI that it has been able to host the World Congress for the first time in 118 years of its existence. We were successful in outbidding France in this round," Mitra said.

The WCOA, a forum for thought leadership and global exchange of views, is held every four years since it started in 1904.

While 6000 delegates from across the globe will directly attend the WCOA, another 10000 are expected to join in virtually, Mitra, said.

The theme this time would be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability', he added. PTI

NOTICE

Smt. Nirmal Arora has resigned from partnership firm M/s. AKG Ventures: K-20, Udyog Nagar, Peeragarhi, Rohtak Road, Delhi-110041 on closing of 31.03.2022 and the continuing partner Smt. Anupam Kaur has admitted Mr. Kanwarjeet Singh as Partner in the firm w.e.f. 01.04.2022

In the Court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC
(Central) Delhi- 110054.

86. Recently in April FinMapp has launched an all-new 'Fixed Deposit' feature in collaboration with _____.

- A. Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- B. Bajaj Finance
- C. Bajaj Finserv
- D. HSBC Oriental Commerce Insurance

FinMapp has launched an all-new 'Fixed Deposit' feature in the FinMapp application. The Fintech major has updated the app by adding a new icon for an improved customer experience, collaborating with Bajaj Finance.

The fintech firm is offering to provide an interest rate of 7.35 per cent on the fixed deposit of app users, which will assist in beating the high inflation rate that is currently prevailing.

Kumar Binit, Co-founder and CEO, FinMapp.

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87. Recently in April the **Ministry of Railways** signed a MoU with _____ to establish a robust collaborative working partnership for coordination and resource sharing.

- A. Paytm
- B. C-Dot**
- C. C- DAC
- D. IIT Madras

Ministry of Railways signed a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) to establish a robust collaborative working partnership for coordination and resource sharing with respect to provision of Telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-DOT's Telecom Solutions and services in Railways.

With this MoU, C-Dot and Ministry of Railways will work together for modernization of Telecommunication in Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security Services using LTE-R following world standards, 5G Use Cases in Indian Railways in line with Make in India (MII) policy.

88. Recently **MSME Minister Narayan Rane** has launched _____ Scheme in New Delhi to encourage and enable **MSMEs** for adopting zero defect zero effect solution for attaining maximum quality while ensuring minimum impact on the environment.

- A. MSME Sustainable - Zero Digital Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme
- B. MSME Sustainable - Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme**
- C. MSME Sustainable - Zero Demat Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme
- D. MSME Sustainable - Zero Defect Zero Emission (ZED) Certification Scheme

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME Minister Narayan Rane today launched MSME Sustainable - Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme in New Delhi. It is an initiative to encourage and enable MSMEs to adopt zero defect zero effect solution for attaining maximum quality while ensuring minimum impact on the environment.

This certification scheme will improve the quality of the product and increase the production.

MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, and enhance environmental consciousness, through the ZED certification scheme, a part of the MSME Champions scheme.

Phase 1 of the scheme launched will focus largely on maximising inclusion of manufacturing MSMEs

The Phase 2 of the scheme will entail the inclusion of services sector MSMEs and also strive to integrate manufacturing and services sector MSMEs that are registered under a state government system but not on Udyam.

The scheme comprises three certification levels including bronze, silver and gold.

Under the scheme, subsidies will be provided to MSMEs on the cost of ZED certification as given below.

Micro Enterprises (80%), Small Enterprises (60%), Medium Enterprises (50%)

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89. Recently in April Google has partnered with _____ Government to support and accelerate its vision of leveraging technology for sustainable economic development and inclusive social development.

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

Deepening its ties with the State government in the quest to achieve Digital Telangana, and to extend the benefits of the digital economy to youth and women entrepreneurs, Google has partnered with the State government, to support and accelerate its vision of leveraging technology for sustainable economic development and inclusive social development. Under the new initiative, Google will collaborate with the State government through its various arms to extend scholarships for Google Career Certificates to Telangana’s youth, support women, ‘Google Bolo App’ developed in its Hyderabad campus, had gone global, which was helping children learn multiple languages through stories, also mentioning how You tube has been helping people tell their stories from the convenience of their homes.

90. Recently _____ became the first airline in the country to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN).

- A. Air India
- B. Indigo**
- C. Spice Jet
- D. Air Asia

- **Indigo became the first airline in the country to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN,**
- **The flight was conducted using an ATR-72 aircraft and landed at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan using GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN)**
- **It has been jointly developed by the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space**

IndiGo runs 1st trial flight using GAGAN satellite tech

ANEESH PHADNIS
Mumbai, 28 April

IndiGo made history on Thursday as it became the first airline in Asia to use the indigenously developed satellite-based navigation system during landing.

The trials were carried out in the presence of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials at Kishangarh Airport near Ajmer with an ATR72 aircraft.

The system, known as GAGAN, has been jointly developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation. With the help of reference and uplink stations, GAGAN provides corrections to the global positioning system signal to improve air traffic management.

While the project was unveiled for aviation use by then civil aviation minister Puspendra Ashok Gajapathi Raju in 2015, it remained a non-starter until now.

The planning for the trial flight began eight months ago,



with AAI designing the approach procedures that were used on Thursday.

“We started training our pilots after receiving approval from the regulator. Last week, we successfully carried out simulator checks to assess our capabilities. After the trial flight on Thursday, the DGCA will give us the final approval,

which will be endorsed in our air operator certificate,” said Captain Ashim Mitra, senior vice-president (flight operations), IndiGo.

SpiceJet, too, has made an application to the DGCA, seeking approval for satellite-based approaches, it is learnt.

Aircraft rely on radio navigation aids for precision land-

ing and approaches. However, smaller airports lack modern navigation aids. Visibility requirements to such smaller airfields are much higher. For instance, visibility requirement for regular passenger flights at Kishangarh is 5,000 metres (m). Using the GAGAN-based technology, an aircraft will be able to operate with a visibility of around 800 m.

“A number of airports, including those under the Regional Connectivity Scheme, are being surveyed for development of GAGAN-based localiser performance with vertical guidance instrument approach procedures, so that suitably equipped aircraft can derive maximum benefit in terms of improved safety during landing, reduction in fuel consumption, reduction in delays, diversions, and cancellations,” AAI said in a press release.

At present, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India, Go First, and AirAsia India have aircraft that are capable of carrying out these satellite-based procedures.

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Research

Organisation (ISRO)

- **GAGAN is used to provide lateral and vertical guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway for landing. Its precision is especially useful at small airports where the instrument landing system (ILS) has not been installed.**

91. Recently Air India has proposed to buy the no-frills carrier **Air Asia India's entire stake**, currently Tata Sons owns _____ stake in Air Asia India.

- A. 91.45 %
- B. 83.67%**
- C. 49 %
- D. 56.45 %

Tata to merge AirAsia with Air India

Seeks nod from competition panel for proposed deal

FORUM GANDHI
 Mumbai, April 27

In a bid to consolidate its aviation business under one umbrella, Tata Sons has taken the first step to merge Air India with AirAsia. Air India, which was recently acquired by the Tata group, has approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for acquiring 100 per cent stake in AirAsia India.

As per a notice filed with the CCI – “The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the entire equity share capital of AirAsia India by Air India – an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons (TSPL). Currently, TSPL holds 83.67 per cent of the equity share capital



of AirAsia India.”

Stakes raised recently

Tata Sons had recently raised its stake in AirAsia India to 83.67 per cent in December 2020. AirAsia India, which started flying in June 2014, offers scheduled air passenger transport, air cargo transport and charter flight services in the country. It does not have international operations.

“The proposed combination will not lead to any change in the competitive landscape or cause

any appreciable adverse effect on competition in India, irrespective of the manner in which the relevant markets are defined,” says the notice.

Took over in Jan

Tata took over Air India and Air India Express in January this year.

In October 2021, Tata Sons emerged as the winning bidder for the loss-making Air India. It offered a bid of ₹18,000 crore, comprising cash payment of ₹2,700 crore and take over of the carrier’s debt worth ₹15,300 crore.

Vistara not in merger plan

The Tata group also controls Vistara Airlines, but so far this company has been kept out of the merger plan. According to sources, Singapore Airlines, which is a joint venture partner

in Vistara, may not want to have a stake in the combined Air India as it competes with the Indian airline on international routes.

Second to Indigo

Air India, Vistara and Air Asia have a combined market share of 26.9 per cent, making Tata group the second-largest domestic airline company after IndiGo.

“Given the strong financial flexibility, availability of a larger fleet and multiple brands catering to different customer segments, the Tata group is likely to have a competitive advantage over other players.

However, the ability to optimise costs, and streamline operations will be a formidable challenge and the key to profitability in the group’s airline operations,” said an expert.

- **Air India, which was recently acquired by the conglomerate, has proposed to buy the no-frills carrier Air Asia India's entire stake.**
- **Tata Sons owns 83.67% stake in Air Asia India and the remaining stake is with Air Asia Investment Ltd (AAIL), which is part of Malaysia's Air Asia Group.**
- **Tata is expected to buy the remaining 16.33% stake and take full ownership of the airline. Besides, Tata operates the full-service airline Vistara in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines.**
- **Tata owns 51% stake in Vistara while the remaining 49% is owned by Singapore Airline.**

92. Recently _____ signed a MoU with **African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO)** for bringing better management skills to the officials in addressing the issues and challenges being faced in the rural areas.

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- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIM Ahmadabad
- C. IIM Kozhikode
- D. IIT Bombay

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode has collaborated with the African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development in 33 members including 31 countries in the African Asian Region.

Under the agreement, IIMK and AARDO will cooperate and collaborate with each other to address the challenges in agriculture and sustainable rural development; through research, publication, consultancy and advisory.

Moreover, both IIMK and AARDO will organize international, regional and On-The-Spot (OTS), in-country training programmes, workshops, seminars to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Member Countries.

93. Consider the following statements regarding Key changes made by RBI for individuals invest in initial public offerings (IPOs).

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a cap of ₹1 crore on IPO financing by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
2. Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new sub-category for those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Starting this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a cap of ₹1 crore on IPO financing by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- This is expected to bring down oversubscription levels as earlier NBFCs lent in excess of ₹100 crore to individuals to place wagers on IPOs.
- Further, capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced a new sub-category for those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh. A third of the HNI quota will be reserved for such investors.
- In October, the RBI announced a ₹1-crore ceiling per borrower for financing subscriptions to IPOs in a bid to curtail excessive speculation. The rule came into effect on April 1.
- Sebi rules define those who invest more than ₹2 lakh in an IPO as HNI. Huge oversubscriptions

meant those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh barely got any allotment in the HNI category.

New rules to upend initial offer playbook of HNIs

IPO application patterns set to change as investors adjust to new realities

SAMIE MODAK
Mumbai, 21 April

Key regulatory changes are set to change the way wealthy individuals invest in initial public offerings (IPOs). Starting this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a cap of ₹1 crore on IPO financing by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

This is expected to bring down over-subscription levels as earlier NBFCs lent in excess of ₹100 crore to individuals to place wagers on IPOs. Further, capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced a new sub-category for those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh. A third of the HNI quota will be reserved for such investors.

Several retail applications are expected to spill over into this segment. Investment bankers said these two rule changes could result in a significant change in application patterns as investors adjust to the new market realities.

₹1-crore cap

In October, the RBI announced a ₹1-crore ceiling per borrower for financing subscriptions to IPOs in a bid to curtail excessive speculation. The rule came into effect on April 1.

NBFCs were able to cash on last year's IPO boom by lending trillions of rupees to HNIs. The modus operandi was to raise capital by issuing seven-day commercial papers (CPs) ahead of blockbuster IPOs.

The money was lent by maintaining a spread of 200-400 basis points. The borrowers managed to make money as the listing day pop exceeded the acquisition cost even after factoring in the borrowing charges in most cases. However, with the



UNDERSTANDING IPO QUOTAS

35% Retail investor quota—those submitting applications of up to ₹2 lakh

15% HNI or non-institutional investors quota—those submitting applications in excess of ₹2 lakh

50% Qualified institutional buyer (QIB)—only institutional investors such as mutual funds, FPIs can invest in this quota

(Note: Up to 60% of shares available in the QIB quota can be allotted to anchor investors. 1/3rd of the shares available in the HNI quota will now have to be reserved for those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh)

introduction of the ₹1-crore cap, the IPO financing market is likely to shrink considerably, impacting NBFCs.

NBFCs said they now expect investors to apply through multiple accounts belonging to family members and friends. They are hoping that the increase in applications will partially help offset the expected drop in IPO financing.

Some said there could be more work-arounds too.

"RBI has banned IPO financing, a form of unsecured lending. However, there is

no cap on loan against shares. So NBFCs will lend to investors who pledge their securities," said an industry player. "Also, the ₹1-crore cap applies only on NBFCs. There could be other financial institutions, which are not registered as NBFCs, who can still do IPO financing," he added.

New HNI category

Only a few hundred HNIs mastered the game of borrowing and applying in the IPOs. This crowded out relatively smaller investors. Sebi rules define those who invest more than ₹2 lakh in an IPO as HNI. Huge oversubscriptions meant those investing between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh barely got any allotment in the HNI category. To help such investors, Sebi has introduced a new sub-category. While this is a welcome step, the number of shares reserved for such investors will only be 5 per cent of the total IPO size as against 35 per cent for retail investors—those investing less than ₹2 lakh. This is because only 15 per cent of the IPO size forms the HNI quota. And only one-third of shares in this category will be reserved for the new class of investors. Experts say this new category will see huge oversubscription during popular IPOs.

"Investors who have more than ₹2 lakh surplus in their account are likely to take this new route. In case of huge oversubscription shares will be allotted based on a lottery system just as it is done in the retail category. However, in retail the maximum allotment one can get in blockbuster IPOs is for around ₹15,000. Here if you are lucky you will get ₹2 lakh worth of shares," said another investment banker.

Industry players say new playbooks will emerge once IPO market activity starts buzzing again.

94. Consider the following statements regarding *Scars of the pandemic* - published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- 1. According to a recent report - *Scars of the pandemic* - published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Indian economy is expected to overcome losses arising out of the pandemic (that hit the country in March 2020) only by 2034-35.**
- 2. The output losses for individual years have been calculated to be Rs 19.1 lakh crore, Rs 17.1 lakh crore and Rs 16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 respectively.**

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

- According to a recent report - **Scars of the pandemic - published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Indian economy is expected to overcome losses arising out of the pandemic (that hit the country in March 2020) only by 2034-35.**
- It is RBI's first detailed analysis of the impact of the pandemic, included in its annual publication on currency and finance.

- The output losses for individual years have been calculated to be Rs 19.1 lakh crore, Rs 17.1 lakh crore and Rs 16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, respectively (adding up to Rs 52.6 lakh crore).
- As per the WHO data, India, with 8.5% of the total cumulative Covid cases, ranked second after the US with 15.8% of cases.

95. As Per the data of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), India's net direct tax collections amounted to _____ for FY22, the highest collection ever.

- A. ₹15,09,640.83 crore
- B. ₹16,09,640.83 crore
- C. ₹14,09,640.83 crore**
- D. ₹18,09,640.83 crore

- India's net direct tax collections amounted to ₹14,09,640.83 crore for FY22, which is the highest collection ever, signalling that the Indian economy has bounced back after two years of the pandemic,
- As against ₹9.45 lakh crore this year, our collection in 2020-21 was only ₹9.45 lakh crore. In

‘Economy may take till FY35 to overcome COVID-19 losses’

Feasible range of medium-term GDP growth works out to 6.5-8.5%: RBI report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance (RCF).

"The pandemic is a watershed moment and the structural changes catalysed by the pandemic can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium term," the authors observed.

"The pre-COVID trend growth rate works out to 6.6% and excluding the slow-down years it works out to 7.1%. Taking actual growth



Conditions apply: The authors said price stability was a precondition for strong and sustainable growth. • REUTERS

rate of (-) 6.6% for 2020-21, 8.9% for 2021-22 and assuming growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23 and 7.5% beyond that, India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35," they said in a chap-

ter titled "Scars of the pandemic". "The output loss for individual years have been worked out at ₹19.1 lakh crore, ₹17.1 lakh crore and ₹16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, respec-

tively," they added. The theme of the report for FY22 is 'Revive and Reconstruct'.

"The report reflects the views of the contributors and not of the Reserve Bank," the RBI said.

'Price stability is key'

As per the RCF, a feasible range of medium-term steady GDP growth in India works out to 6.5%-8.5%, consistent with the blueprint of reforms and 'timely rebalancing of monetary and fiscal policies will likely be the first step in this journey.

The authors also said price stability was a necessary precondition for strong and sustainable growth.

‘CBDT aims to lift tax-GDP ratio to 15-20% from the current 12%’

India logs record net direct tax revenue in FY22: Mohapatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

India's net direct tax collections amounted to ₹14,09,640.83 crore for FY22, which is the highest collection ever, signalling that the Indian economy has bounced back after two years of the pandemic, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman J.B. Mohapatra said here on Tuesday.

"As against ₹14.09 lakh crore this year, our collection in 2020-21 was only ₹9.45 lakh crore. In a single year, we moved upward by nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore, registering a growth of 49%," said Mr. Mohapatra, addressing a press conference.

"The collection... is the



J.B. Mohapatra

major indication of the strengthening of the Indian economy. This gives the clearest signal that the Indian economy has bounced back after two pandemic years," Mr. Mohapatra said.

'60% of overall tax take'

"The direct tax-to-GDP ratio is around 12%," he added, noting that the CBDT was working to raise the ratio to 15-20% in 5-10 years.

"The direct tax collection this year has surpassed the indirect tax collection which was other way round till last year. It is now 52%... our aim is to look at 60% of tax contribution coming from direct taxes in some years," said the CBDT chairman.

best-ever... as far as income tax and corporation tax are concerned."

Gross direct tax collections (before adjusting for refunds) grew 32.8% to ₹16,34,454.95 crore in FY22 compared with ₹12,31,270.52 crore in FY21.

"Increase in net and gross collection numbers is a ma-

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a single year, we moved upward by nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore, registering a growth of 49%.

- *The collection is the best-ever as far as income tax and corporation tax are concerned.*
- *“The direct tax collection this year has surpassed the indirect tax collection which was other way round till last year. It is now 52%... Our aim is to look at 60% of tax contribution coming from direct taxes in some years,”*

96. Recently _____ for the **first time among all FMCG Company with a massive turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore in the country.**

- A. Adani Group
- B. Khadi and Village Industries Commission**
- C. Coca Cola
- D. Aditya Birla Limited

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved a height which remains a distant goal for all FMCG companies in India. Thanks to the constant support of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, KVIC has, for the first time, clocked a massive turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore, which is unprecedented by any FMCG company in the country.

This makes KVIC the only company in the country to have recorded a turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore.

In FY 2021-22, the overall turnover of KVIC stood at a whopping Rs 1, 15,415.22 crore as compared to Rs 95, 741.74 crore in the previous year, i.e. 2020-21

KVIC Chairman, Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena.

97. Consider the following statements regarding the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).**

- 1. The scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st May 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.*
- 2. To celebrate the achievements of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to celebrate 1st May 2022 as Ujjwala Diwas.*
- 3. Oil marketing companies will organize more than 5000 LPG panchayats on the occasion of Ujjwala Diwas on 1st may 2022.*

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**

- *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a major step towards social inclusion by providing Free LPG connection to every BPL household. The scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st May 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.*

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- To celebrate the achievements of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to celebrate 1st May 2022 as Ujjwala Diwas.
- Oil marketing companies will organise more than 5000 LPG panchayats on the occasion of Ujjwala Diwas on 1st may 2022, where apart from experience sharing, aimed at safe and sustained usage of LPG.

98. Recently _____ has announced a collaboration with the C-DAC, an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Qualcomm India Private Limited (Qualcomm India), to support Indian semiconductor start-ups.

- A. Vedanta
- B. Reliance Industries
- C. **Qualcomm India**
- D. NTPC

Qualcomm India Private Limited (Qualcomm India), part of the Qualcomm group of companies (NASDAQ: QCOM), plans to initiate and conduct the Qualcomm® Semiconductor Mentorship Program ('QSMP') 2022 for select start-ups from the semiconductor space in India.

Qualcomm India has announced a collaboration with the C-DAC, an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, who will be an outreach partner for the program and facilitate exposure for the participating start-ups.

Qualcomm India will shortlist up to 10 Indian semiconductor start-ups for QSMP 2022. Each shortlisted start-up will be paired with a Qualcomm India leader for mentorship on product planning and development.

Qualcomm is the world's leading wireless technology innovator and the driving force behind the development, launch, and expansion of 5G.

C-DAC is a premier Research and Development organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

99. Recently as per the Central Government _____ has been disbursed by banks and cooperatives as agriculture credit during 2021-22.

- A. ₹14.09 lakh crore
- B. **₹17.09 lakh crore**
- C. ₹8.09 lakh crore
- D. ₹7.09 lakh crore

- ₹17.09 lakh crore has been disbursed by banks and cooperatives as agriculture credit during 2021-22.
- The agriculture credit disbursal has exceeded the target of ₹16.5 lakh crore.
- The total agriculture credit includes crop loans of ₹10.21 lakh crore and ₹6.88 lakh crore for agricultural infrastructure and long-term projects.

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- The share of crop loan is less than 60% in overall agri credit. The cooperative banks' share in crop loan is only 19.76%.

100. Consider the following statements regarding the guidelines for compensation policy of senior management and key managerial personnel in NBFCs.

1. The guidelines will come into effect from April 1, 2023 and will be applicable to all NBFCs under SBR framework.
2. As per the guidelines, the board of NBFCs will form Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC).
3. Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2021-2022 has also been released by RBI. Its theme is "Revive and Reconstruct".

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

- Guidelines for compensation policy of senior management and key managerial personnel in NBFCs have been released by RBI.
- The guidelines will come into effect from April 1, 2023. They will be applicable to all NBFCs under SBR framework.
- The guidelines will not be applicable to NBFCs categorised under 'base layer' and government-owned NBFCs.
- As per the guidelines, the board of NBFCs will form Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC).
- The mandate of NRC includes overseeing framing, review and implementation of compensation policy of NBFC.
- In October 2021, RBI has already established Scale Based Regulatory (SBR) framework for NBFCs.
- Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2021-2022 has also been released by RBI. Its theme is "Revive and Reconstruct".

RBI issues norms on compensation of key managerial personnel at NBFCs

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 29

The Reserve Bank of India has come out with guidelines on compensation of key managerial and senior management personnel at non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

This follows the revised Scale Based Regulatory (SBR) framework for NBFCs put in place by the RBI in October 2021.

The guidelines, which will come into effect from April 1, 2023, will be applicable for fixing the compensation policy of key managerial personnel and members of senior management of NBFCs under the SBR framework, except those categorised under 'base layer' and government-owned NBFCs.

Board approval

The boards of all applicable NBFCs will constitute a Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), which will also have the mandate to oversee the framing, review and imple-



mentation of compensation policy of the company, which should have the approval of the board, said the RBI.

The NRC may work in close coordination with Risk Management Committee to achieve effective alignment between compensation and risks. It should also ensure that compensation levels are supported by the need to retain earnings of the company, and the need to maintain adequate capital based on Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process.

"NRC may also ensure 'fit and proper' status of proposed/existing directors,

and that there is no conflict of interest in appointment of directors on board of the company, KMPs and senior management," said the RBI.

The compensation packages may comprise fixed and variable pay components, aligned effectively with prudent risk taking to ensure that compensation is adjusted for all types of risks; the compensation outcomes are symmetric with risk outcomes; compensation pay-outs are sensitive to the time horizon of the risks; and the mix of cash, equity and other forms of compensation are consistent with risk alignment.

According to the guidelines, all fixed items of compensation, including the perquisites and contributions towards superannuation and retiral benefits, may be treated as part of fixed pay. All perquisites that are reimbursable may also be included in the fixed pay so long as there are monetary ceilings on these reimbursements.

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- *As per the report, 6.5 – 8.5% is feasible range for medium-term steady state GDP growth in India.*
- *The report says that it is important to lower down general government debt to less than 66% of GDP over the next 5 years to secure India’s medium-term growth prospects.*

RBI REPORT ON CURRENCY AND FINANCE

‘Banks with better loan recovery must get priority access to capital’

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, April 29

The Reserve Bank of India has mooted an incentive mechanism, where banks with better performance in loan recovery and asset quality improvement, could be given priority in access to fresh capital.

“To avoid the moral hazard problem of government recapitalisation of PSBs, an incentive mechanism should be established, and banks with better performance in terms of loan recovery and asset quality improvement, should be given priority in terms of access to fresh capital,” said the RBI in the Report on Currency and Finance 2020-21. It further said

that capital infusion should not become a substitute for better governance and risk controls.

“In the medium term, it is necessary to wean away public sector banks from their dependence on government recapitalisation; this will be an important pre-condition to achieve greater privatisation of the sector,” it said.

Capital infusion

The government has infused ₹2.9-lakh crore in the last five years in PSBs, including the recapitalisation of ₹4,600 crore in 2021-22. This helped PSBs improve their CRAR to 14.3 per cent by December 2021 from



11.8 per cent in March 2016. The report also called for strengthening the infrastructure of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to ensure quicker and more effective resolution. This can be done by increasing the number of NCLT benches and by training more insolvency professionals.

“Lenders need to accept haircuts to kickstart the economic

recovery process,” it said. While the amount recovered through asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) was significantly higher in the initial years of their inception, in recent years it dipped before getting revived to 41 per cent in 2020-21, the report noted.

“Banks’ reluctance to assume haircuts, especially when the counterparty is a private ARC, is one of the major hurdles behind subdued appetite for this route,” it said, adding that as such the ARC model for debt resolution has had limited success in the Indian context.

There is a need to expand the ambit of pre-pack mechanism, presently available to MSMEs,

to larger corporates, it has suggested. It has also highlighted that new-age companies, which often have riskier business models, are increasingly resorting to IPOs.

“It is important to ensure adequate disclosures about risk factors affecting their business to maintain investors’ confidence in the primary market,” it suggested.

Digital ecosystem

While noting the importance of the digital ecosystem, the report said that care, however, must be taken to protect the stakeholders from digital frauds, data breaches and digital oligopolies.

101. Recently Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased the exposure limit for insurers in Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) to

- A. 20 %
- B. 30 %
- C. 45 %
- D. 50 %

- **Exposure limit for insurers in Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector has been increased.**

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

IRDAI hikes exposure limit for insurance firms to 30%

Insurers welcome move, say it will give them more flexibility to invest

SURABHI

Mumbai, April 29

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has permitted insurers to have exposure to financial and insurance activities of up to 30 per cent of their investment assets.

“Accordingly, the limit of 25 per cent of investment assets mentioned in Note No 8 to Reg 9 of IRDAI (Investment) Regulations 2016 stands revised to a limit of 30 per cent of investment assets,” said IRDAI in a circular on Friday.

The move has cheered insurance companies, who believe it will give them more flexibility to invest and help improve returns.

Mihir Vora, Senior Director, Chief Investment Officer, Max Life Insurance, said: “The limit is

across equities and fixed income exposures. The overall importance of the financial sector has been increasing as banks and finance companies have grown significantly in size, and newer financial segments like insurance, asset management, broking, wealth management and fintech, have also achieved remarkable growth in the equities and fixed income markets.”

Rushabh Gandhi, Deputy CEO, IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company, noted that the BFSI weightage in key indices such as Nifty is at about 35 per cent.

“Thus, the cap of 25 per cent was restrictive. The relaxation of the cap to 30 per cent by the IRDAI will facilitate insurance companies to take a higher exposure in the BFSI sector. From our point of view, this is a positive and forward-looking development and we welcome the same,” he said.

Typically, 70-75 per cent of investment goes into government securities and state government



bonds and infrastructure bonds, which are very safe investments but low yielding, said Kapil Mehta, co-founder, www.securenwin. The increase gives insurers the flexibility to invest into different assets and improve their returns over the long term.

Ahead of LIC IPO

Significantly, the higher investment cap also comes just ahead of the initial public offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Sources said while this could possibly give more flexibility to insurers to invest in the IPO, it is to

be seen how many insurers are able to do so.

“This had been a long-standing demand of the industry,” pointed out an industry source. “How many will use this dispensation for the IPO is to be seen,” he said.

“Insurers who have not used the 25 per cent limit can anyway choose to invest in the IPO. But those who have utilised the limit will need to get board approval to change the investment norms. With just a few days left for the IPO, it is to be seen how many are able to put such approvals in place,” said an insurance executive.

The Centre will offload 3.5 per cent stake in LIC through the IPO, which opens on May 4 and closes on May 9. Up to 50 per cent of the net offer will be available for allocation to Qualified Institutional Buyers, 15 per cent for allocation to non-institutional bidders, and not less than 35 per cent of the net offer will be available for allocation to retail individual bidders.

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- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased the rate to 30%.
- IRDAI has allowed the insurers to carry exposure to financial and insurance activities up to 30% of their investment assets.
- Centre will sell its 3.5% stake in LIC through IPO. Up to 50% of net offer will be allocated to Qualified Institutional Buyers up to 15% will be available for allocation to non-institutional bidders.
- Not less than 35% of the net offer will be allocated to retail individual bidders.

102. Consider the following statements regarding Pawan Hans Limited.

1. CCEA has approved the selling of 51% stake in helicopter services provider Pawan Hans Ltd to Star9 Mobility for Rs 211.24 Cr.
2. It is a joint venture of the government of India and ONGC for providing helicopter and aero mobility services.
3. The government holds 51% of the shares in the company and ONGC holds the balance 49% shareholding.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the sale of 51 per cent equity in Pawan Hans Limited.
- CCEA has approved the selling of 51% stake in helicopter services provider Pawan Hans Ltd to Star9 Mobility for Rs 211.24 cr.
- The government had received three bids for the sale of Pawan Hans.
- The government had fixed the Reserve Price of Rs 199.92 crore for the sale of 51%.
- ONGC had already said that it would give its entire stake to the successful bidder in the strategic disinvestment deal at the same price and terms.
- Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL): It is a joint venture of the government of India and ONGC for providing helicopter and aero mobility services.

Govt. approves Pawan Hans sale at ₹414-crore valuation

Deal will net ₹211.14 cr. for Centre; ONGC to get ₹202.86 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday approved the sale of its stake in Pawan Hans Ltd. along with transfer of management control to an entity called Star9 Mobility Pvt. Ltd. at a price of ₹211.14 crore, pegging the firm's total value at ₹414 crore.

The Centre had attempted the sale of Pawan Hans thrice earlier, after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the sale of its 51% stake in the firm in late 2016. The process for the present transaction was kicked off in December 2020 when expressions of interest were invited from bidders.

The winning bidder, Star9



Mobility, is a consortium of Big Charter Private Ltd., Maharaja Aviation Private Ltd. and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, the Finance Ministry said.

"It is expected that the strategic buyer will revitalise the company by replacing the ageing fleet through infusion of fresh capital and im-

prove the performance of the company," the Ministry said in a statement.

A joint venture between the Centre and ONGC, which owns 49%, Pawan Hans offers helicopter and aero mobility services. It incurred losses for three successive years from 2018-19 to 2020-21. Pawan Hans has a fleet of 42 helicopters, 41 of which are owned by the firm and have an average age exceeding 20 years.

ONGC had earlier decided to offer its entire holding to the successful bidder in the strategic disinvestment transaction, on the same terms and price. This would translate into a ₹202.86 crore receipt for the oil major.

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- *It is incurring losses for the last three financial years.*
- *The government holds 51% of the shares in the company and ONGC holds the balance 49% shareholding.*

103. Consider the following statements regarding RBI modified interest subvention scheme for short term loans for agriculture.

- 1. Banks are providing interest subvention of 2% annually to provide short term crop loans up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum.**
- 2. Farmers get an additional 3% interest subvention if they pay their loans promptly.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

RBI has modified interest subvention scheme for short term loans for agriculture and allied activities availed through Kisan Credit Card during FY22.

RBI has said that pending claims for the financial year 2021-22 can be submitted by June 30, 2023.

RBI has said banks should submit their claims on an annual basis duly certified by their statutory auditors.

Banks are providing interest subvention of 2% annually to provide short term crop loans up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Farmers get an additional 3% interest subvention if they pay their loans promptly. The effective interest rate for these farmers is 4%.

The aim of the interest subvention scheme for farmers is to provide short term credit to them at subsidized rates.

This scheme became effective from the Kharif season of 2006-07.

104. Recently in April _____ has become the first tyre brand in India to be accredited with the recently introduced star labelling program of Government of India.

- Tata**
- Cylo**
- Michelin**
- JSW**

- **French Tyre-Maker, Michelin has become the first tyre brand in the country to be accredited with the recently introduced star labelling program of Government of India which is aimed at improving sustainability and newly introduced performance standards for tyres.**

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- **Michelin X MULTI ENERGY Z tyre has been awarded the industry's first fuel savings label with a 4-Star rating by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).**
- **As part of an ambitious road map by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for a smooth transition towards green mobility, a draft notification was issued in 2021 proposing that the tyres of cars, buses and trucks to meet requirements of rolling resistance, wet grip and rolling sound emissions, as specified in Stage-II of the Automotive Industry Standards (AIS).**

105. Recently, SEBI has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to _____ from Rs 2 lakh currently for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer.

- A. 3 Lakh
- B. 4 Lakh
- C. 5 Lakh
- D. 10 Lakh

- **With an aim to simplify the procedure for transmission of securities, Sebi has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh currently for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer.**
- **Also, the threshold in this regard for securities held in the dematerialised mode for each beneficiary account has been increased to Rs 15 lakh from the present level of Rs 5 lakh.**

Estonia hosts the world's largest cyber exercise

By Silver Tambur / April 19, 2022 / Leave a Comment / Security / 2 minutes of reading

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The Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, abbreviated as CCDCOE, is organising the Locked Shields 2022, the largest and most complex annual international live-fire cyber defence exercise in the world.

At the exercise, cyber experts practise the protection of national civilian and military IT systems and critical infrastructure in a large-scale cyber-attack. It is conducted under conditions of intense pressure, with teams countering series of sophisticated cyberattacks.

According to the exercise's scenario, a fictional island country, Berylia, is experiencing a deteriorating security situation. Several hostile events have coincided with coordinated cyberattacks against Berylian major military and civilian IT systems. The exercise planners draw on the current geopolitical situation to develop realistic and challenging scenarios that consider the current security environment where cyber incidents are unlikely to happen in isolation and are employed as part of a wider geopolitical strategy.

Michelin is first tyre maker to get star rating for fuel efficiency

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 27

Michelin has become the first tyre brand in India to be accredited with the recently introduced star labelling programme of Ministry of Power, aimed at improving sustainability and newly introduced performance standards for tyres.

Michelin X MULTI ENERGY Z tyre has been awarded the industry's first fuel savings label with a 4-star rating by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power.

The tubeless truck and bus tyre 295/80R22.5 X@ MULTI ENERGY Z is manufactured and designed by Michelin in India.

The company claims to offer fuel savings, longevity with multiple re-treads and safety on Indian terrain. This efficient 4-star rated tyre promises up to 8 per cent more fuel saving.

BusinessLine

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SEBI simplifies transfer of shares

New Delhi, April 27

With an aim to simplify the procedure for transmission of securities, SEBI has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to ₹5 lakh from ₹2 lakh for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer. Also, the threshold for securities held in the demat mode for each beneficiary account has been increased to ₹15 lakh from ₹5 lakh. Legal Heirship Certificate or its equivalent certificate issued by competent government authority will be an acceptable document for transmission of securities, the regulator said. PTI

Airtel acquires 7% stake in Cnergiee Tech



TELECOM OPERATOR Bharti Airtel has acquired around 7% stake in cloud-based networking solutions provider Cnergiee Technologies under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program. Navi Mumbai-based Cnergiee specialises in integrated networking solutions over cloud for businesses of all sizes.

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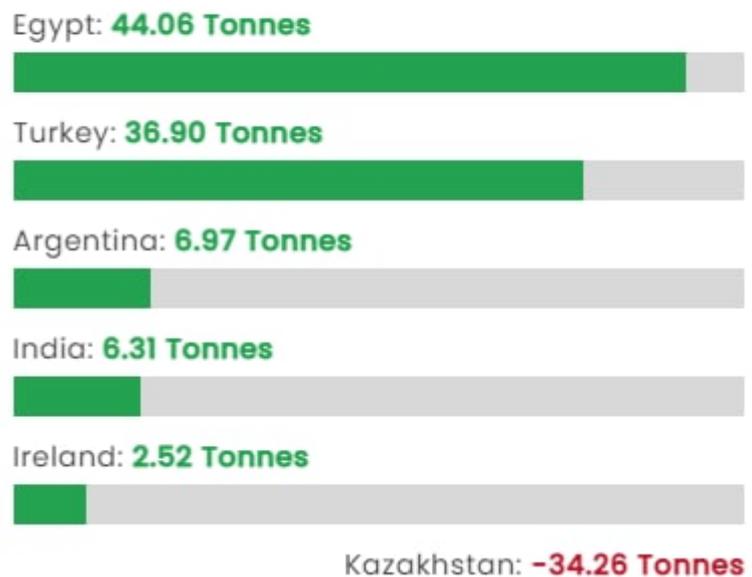
106. Consider the following statements regarding *World Gold Council report titled "Gold Demand Trends Q1 2022"*.

1. *Global central bank gold reserves rose 84 tonnes during a turbulent Q1.*
2. *Egypt Central Bank was the biggest buyer in Q1, reporting a 44t (+54%) increase in its gold reserves in February.*
3. *India RBI bought 6 tonnes during the quarter.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Largest increases / decreases



- *Global central bank gold reserves rose 84t during a turbulent Q1*
- *Central bank gold demands in Q1 more than doubled q-o-q, but was 29% lower y-o-y.*
- *Egypt was the biggest buyer in Q1, reporting a 44t (+54%) increase in its gold reserves in February. This took total gold reserves to 125t.*
- *Turkey was the other major purchaser in the quarter, increasing its gold reserves by 37t. This pushed total gold reserves to over 430t, accounting for 28% of total reserves.*
- *India bought a further 6t during the quarter, taking gold reserves to 760t (8% of total reserves). Since it resumed buying in late 2017, the RBI has purchased over 200t, similar to the amount it bought from the IMF in 2009.*

107. Consider the following statements regarding a *new report by data analytics firm Chainalysis*.

1. *The company in its latest report revealed that investors around the world realized total gains of \$162.7 billion in 2021.*
2. *According to Chainalysis, the United States lead by a wide margin at an estimated \$47 billion in realized cryptocurrency gains, followed by the UK, Germany, Japan, and China.*
3. *India ranked at 21st with realized gains of around \$1.85 billion.*

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

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Cryptocurrency investment is risky, but is profitable, says a new report by data analytics firm Chainalysis.

The company in its latest report revealed that investors around the world realized total gains of \$162.7 billion in 2021, compared to just \$32.5 billion in 2020.

According to Chainalysis, the United States lead by a wide margin at an estimated \$47 billion in realized cryptocurrency gains, followed by the UK, Germany, Japan, and China. Meanwhile, India ranked a lowly 21st with realized gains of around \$1.85 billion.

The report highlights that Ethereum edged out Bitcoin in total realized gains globally at \$76.3 billion to \$74.7

108. Consider the following statements regarding process of public issue of units of REIT and INVITs by SEBI.
- SEBI reduced the time taken for the listing of such emerging investment vehicles to six working days from the present 12 days.
 - The new rule will apply to a public issue of units of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) and Infrastructure Investment Trust (INVITs), which opens on or after June 1.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- To streamline the process of public issue of units of REIT and INVITs, markets regulator SEBI reduced the time taken for the listing of such emerging investment vehicles to six working days from the present 12 days.
- The new rule will apply to a public issue of units of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) and Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), which opens on or after June 1.

● STREAMLINING THE PROCESS

Sebi halves listing time for REITs, InvITs to 6 days

New rules will be applicable to public issues of REITs and InvITs which open on or after June 1

RUCHIT PUROHIT
Mumbai, April 28

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India on Thursday said the time taken for allotment and listing of REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts) after the closure of issue would be reduced to six working days, against the current requirement 12 working days.

The new rules will be applicable to the public issues of REITs and InvITs which open on or after June 1, 2022, Sebi said in two separate circulars.

Both REITs and InvITs are investment vehicles similar to mutual funds, wherein sponsors/managers pool money from investors, which is further invested in real estate and infrastructure projects.

According to an EY report released last year, REITs and InvITs have raised capital of over \$4 billion in India, while the combined market capitalisation of the three listed REITs in India has surged over \$7 billion.

ATTRACTING RETAIL INVESTMENTS

■ Move to further streamline the process of public issues of these investment vehicles

■ REITs and InvITs have raised capital of over **\$4 billion** in India

■ Combined market capitalisation of the three listed REITs in India has surged over **\$7 billion**



■ Sebi had earlier reduced the minimum application amount for REITs from **₹50,000 to ₹10,000-15,000**

■ Trading lot size of REITs was reduced from **200** earlier to single unit

■ Sebi made some amendments in August last year to attract retail investors

As of March 2021, 6 InvITs and 3 REITs are listed on the exchanges.

Sebi on Thursday said the move is to further streamline the process of public issues of these investment vehicles.

Further, the regulator has asked self certified syndicate banks (SCSBs), stock exchanges, depositories and intermediaries to coordinate and ensure completion of listing (through the public issue), and commencement of trading of units of REITs and InvITs within six working days from the date of closure of the issue.

In August last year, the markets regulator had amended the regulations of these two investment vehicles to enhance their reach to a larger set of investors. Sebi reduced the minimum application amount for REITs from ₹50,000 to ₹10,000-15,000.

Further, the trading lot size of REITs was reduced from 200 earlier to single unit. The amendments were made to attract retail investors who restricted themselves from investing in such investment vehicles due to high entry barrier.

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- *The regulator has asked Self Certified Syndicate Banks (SCSBs), stock exchanges, depositories, and intermediaries to coordinate to ensure completion of listing (through the public issue) and commencement of trading of units of REIT and InvIT within six working days from the date of closure of the issue.*
- *REITs and InvITs are relatively new investment instruments in the Indian context but are extremely popular in global markets.*
- *As of March 2021, a total of 15 InvITs and four REITs were registered. Of these, six InvITs and three REITs were listed on the stock exchanges.*

109. Consider the following statement regarding report by ACI Worldwide, in partnership with global data and the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

1. Real-time payments are forecast to boost India's GDP by \$45.9 billion in 2026.
2. In 2021, India accounted for the largest number of real-time transactions at 48.6 billion.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Real-time payments are forecast to boost India's GDP by \$45.9 billion in 2026 as real-time payments transaction volumes are set to exceed 206 billion by that time,

In 2021, India accounted for the largest number of real-time transactions at 48.6 billion, almost threefold that of China (18 billion transactions) and almost seven times greater than the combined real-time payments volume of US, Canada, the UK, France and Germany (7.5 billion).

According to the report by ACI Worldwide, in partnership with global data and the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr), the real-time payments helped India unlock \$16.4 billion of additional economic output in 2021, equivalent to 0.56 per cent of formal GDP.

Appointment News

110. Recently in April *Generali Asia* has appointed _____ as its *managing director and chief executive officer*.

- A. Abhishek Ghosh
- B. Susan Clarke
- C. Bruce de Broize
- D. Anjali Sharma

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Generali Asia has appointed Bruce de Broize as managing director and chief executive officer, Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI)

Bruce de Broize takes over from Miranjit Mukherjee who was serving as interim CEO since September 2021.

Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited is a private general insurance company in India. The company is a joint venture between the Future Group and Assicurazioni Generali.

Bruce de Broize is MD & CEO of Future Generali India Life 2/14

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 27

Generali Asia has appointed Bruce de Broize as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI).

“The appointment follows Generali’s move to consolidate its position in FGILI by completing the transaction to become the majority stakeholder,” it said in a statement on Wednesday. He will take over from Miranjit Mukherjee who was serving as interim CEO since September 2021.

Bruce de Broize has had a career spanning over 34 years of life, property and casualty insurance experience.

111. Recently, Emmanuel Macron has won the presidential election of which country for the second term?

- A. Germany
- B. Singapore
- C. Russia
- D. France**

MARINE LE PEN CONCEDES DEFEAT

Macron wins 2nd term as French President

MIMOSA SPENCER, JULIETTE JABKHIRO & LAYLI FOROUDI
 PARIS, APRIL 24

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron defeated his far-right rival Marine Le Pen on Sunday by a comfortable margin, securing a second term and heading off what would have been a political earthquake.

Cheers of joy erupted as the results appeared on a giant screen at the Champ de Mars park at the foot of the Eiffel tower, where Macron supporters waved French and EU flags. People hugged each other and chanted “Macron”.

In contrast, a gathering of dejected Le Pen supporters erupted in boos and whistles at a sprawling reception hall on the outskirts of Paris.

Le Pen admitted defeat but vowed to keep up the fight, with the June parliamentary elections in mind.

“I will never abandon the French,” she said to supporters chanting “Marine! Marine!”

The first pollsters’ projections



showed Macron securing around 57-58% of the vote. Such estimates are normally accurate but may be fine-tuned as official results come in from around the country throughout the evening. But Macron can expect little

to no grace period after many, especially on the left only voted for him reluctantly to block the far-right from winning. Protests that marred part of his first mandate could erupt again quite quickly, as he tries to press on with pro-

business reforms.

“We will not spoil the victory ... but (Le Pen’s) National Rally has its highest score ever,” Health Minister Olivier Veran told BFM TV.

“There will be continuity in



French President Emmanuel Macron (left) casts his ballot at a polling station in Le Touquet; his far-right rival Marine Le Pen (above) votes in Henin-Beaumont, both in northern France, Sunday. AP

government policy because the president has been reelected. But we have also heard the French people’s message,” he added, pledging change.

A first major challenge will be the parliamentary elections in

June and opposition parties on the left and right will immediately start a major push to try to vote in a parliament and government opposed to Macron.

Victory for the centrist, pro-European Union Macron was immediately hailed by allies as a reprieve for mainstream politics that have been rocked in recent years by Britain’s exit from the EU, the 2016 election of Donald Trump and the rise of a new generation of nationalist leaders.

“Bravo Emmanuel,” European Council President Charles Michel, wrote on Twitter. “In this turbulent period, we need a solid Europe and a France totally committed to a more sovereign and more strategic European Union.”

But Macron’s margin of victory looks to be tighter than when he first beat Le Pen in 2017, underlining how many French remain unimpressed with him and his domestic record.

That disillusion was reflected in turnout figures, with France’s main polling institutes saying the abstention rate would likely settle around 28%, the highest since 1969. **REUTERS**

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President Macron won re-election in France. Emmanuel Macron received 58.2% of the vote in France's presidential election for second term.

Marine Le Pen, Macron's opponent, received 41.8% of the vote in the election.

Macron, 44, has become the first French President to win re-election after Jacques Chirac.

France: Prime Minister is Jean Castex. The currency of France is Euro capital is Paris.

112. Recently, in April _____ party has won the *National Election of Slovenia*.

- A. Freedom Movement Party**
- B. Slovenian Democratic Party**
- C. Environment Democratic Party**
- D. Slovenian Republic Party**

Freedom Movement (FM) party recorded a landslide victory at Slovenia's general election. It has defeated the centre-right Slovenian Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Janez Jansa.

Robert Golob has led the Freedom Movement party. It has won 41 seats out of 90 seats in Parliament. Robert Golob will form a new government in a coalition with smaller parties. Freedom Movement (FM) party was formed in January 2022 to promote a green economy, democratic values, the rule of law and media freedom.

Vishakha Mulye, an ICICI Bank veteran, will take over as the chief executive of Aditya Birla Capital, Mulye, who was the executive director of ICICI Bank in charge of the wholesale banking portfolio, will take over her role on June 1. She will be the first female to join Aditya Birla Management Corporation, the conglomerate's top decision making body. Mulye replaces Ajay Srinivasan, who is taking up other responsibilities within the group, as per the exchange filing.

Aditya Birla Capital names Vishakha Mulye CEO

Mumbai: Vishakha Mulye, an ICICI Bank veteran, will take over as CEO of Aditya Birla Capital, the non-bank lender said Saturday.

Mulye, who was the executive director of ICICI Bank in charge of the wholesale banking portfolio, will take over her role on June 1, Aditya Birla Capital told exchanges. She will be the first female to join Aditya Birla Management Corporation, the conglomerate's top decision making body.

Mulye replaces Ajay Srinivasan, who is taking up other responsibilities within the group, as per the exchange filing.

The appointment has been made as per the recommendations of the company's nomination, remuneration and compensation committee, it said. **PTI**

113. Recently in April *Indifi Technologies* announced the appointment of _____ as an *Advisor*, engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector.

- A. Rajnish Kumar**
- B. Vinod Rai**
- C. MS Sahoo**
- D. Chitra Ramakrishna**

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- **Indifi Technologies announced the appointment of Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as an Advisor. In this capacity, Kumar will engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector.**
- **He currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. His stint with SBI spanned 40 years from where he retired as the Chairman in October 2020.**

SBI ex-chairman Rajnish Kumar new Indifi adviser



ONLINE LENDING PLATFORM Indifi Technologies on Thursday announced the appointment of SBI's former chairman Rajnish Kumar as an adviser. Kumar is also chairman of the Bharatpe board.

114. Recently, **NASSCOM** has appointed _____, as its Chairperson for 2022-23. He succeeds Accenture's Senior Managing Director in India **Rekha M Menon**.

- A. K Radhakrishnan
- B. Krishnan Ramanujam**
- C. Kris Gopalchari
- D. Rajeev Ahuja

IT industry body Nasscom has appointed Krishnan Ramanujam, a senior executive at Tata Consultancy Services, as its Chairperson for 2022-23.

Krishnan was the Vice Chairperson of the body. He succeeds Accenture's Senior Managing Director in India Rekha M Menon, who had served as the Chairperson for 2021-22. Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) has appointed Anant Maheshwari, President of Microsoft India, as the Vice Chairperson for 2022-23.

The new leadership, along with President Debjani Ghosh, will lead Nasscom to carry out its diverse array of priorities to achieve the 2025 vision for the industry.

TCS exec K Ramanujam named chairperson of Nasscom for 2022-23



IT INDUSTRY BODY Nasscom has appointed Krishnan Ramanujam, a senior executive at Tata Consultancy Services, as its chairperson for 2022-23. Krishnan was vice-chairperson of the body. He succeeds Accenture's senior MD in India Rekha M Menon. Anant Maheshwari, president of Microsoft India, has been appointed vice-chairperson for 2022-23.

115. Recently in April **Tata Sons**, the holding company and promoter of **Tata group companies** has approved the re-appointment of _____ as chairman for another five-year term.

- A. Cyrus Mistry
- B. Shapoorji Pallonji
- C. N Chandrasekaran**

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D. Leo Puri

Tata Sons, the holding company and promoter of Tata group companies, have approved the reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as chairman for another five-year term despite its single largest shareholder the Shapoorji Pallonji family abstaining from voting,

In February this year, the Board of Tata Sons had approved the reappointment of Chandrasekaran as executive chairman for another five years till February 2027,

Leo Puri, JP Morgan India chairman, was appointed as an independent director on the board of Tata Sons.

Chandrasekaran joined the Tata Sons board in October 2016, was designated chairman in January 2017 and took official charge in February 2017.

TATA SONS EGM

Chandra reappointed as chairman, Mistrys abstain

Majority of Tata Sons shareholders vote for directors' appointment

DEV CHATTERJEE
Mumbai, 25 April

The Mistry family, which owns 18.4 per cent stake in Tata Sons Private Ltd, abstained from voting on the reappointment of group chairman N Chandrasekaran and appointment of independent director, Leo Puri — at the shareholders' meeting held on Monday.

The Mistry family however rejected appointment of Vijay Singh as a director saying in the past, Singh had not fulfilled his fiduciary duty to the company but only taken instructions from the majority shareholder, Tata Trusts.

A Tata Sons spokesperson declined to comment on the matter.

Chandra, who drew a remuneration of ₹91 crore in the financial year ending March 2021, was appointed for a second term beginning February 2022 by the Tata Sons board.

The remaining shareholders of Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata group, voted in favour of his re-appointment.

The Tatas, who own a majority stake in Tata Sons, voted in favour of all the three resolutions put to vote on Monday.

In addition to basic salary and other



N Chandrasekaran has been appointed for a second term beginning February this year

perks, Tata Sons will pay Chandra a commission on net profit of the company as determined by the board at the end of each financial year.

Chandrasekaran is also entitled to a long-term incentive based on certain performance criteria as laid down by the board and/or committee, the Tata Sons extraordinary general meeting (EGM) notice said. A Mistry family spokesperson declined to comment.

The Mistry family and the Tatas are

fighting a bitter legal battle in the Supreme Court with Mistry's review petition pending in the court.

The Mistry family had challenged the apex court's decision of March 2021 that agreed with Tata Sons board to remove Cyrus Mistry as chairman in October 2016.

In February this year, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Mistry's petition in an open court. The matter is currently pending in the Supreme Court.

Majority shareholders also voted in favour of former civil servant Vijay Singh, who was earlier appointed on Tata Sons board as a trust nominee and a non-executive director with effect from June 17, 2013. In accordance with the retirement age policy for directors, Singh had retired in July 2018.

But this year, the board reviewed the retirement age policy for directors and changed it to provide more flexibility to Tata Trusts to nominate directors on Tata Sons board. Accordingly, the Tata Trusts nominated Singh as a director. The board of directors also appointed Puri as additional director of Tata Sons and also as independent director, for a period of three years from March 24, 2022. Shareholders cleared his appointment on Monday.

116. Recently in April, SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data to recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy is to be headed by _____.

- A. G Mangliman**
- B. Amit Vardhan**
- C. M.S. Sahoo**
- D. Jay Narayan Patel**

Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now have 21 members, as per the latest information with the regulator.

Earlier the committee had 20 members.

The committee is chaired by M S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

SEBI restructures market data advisory committee

Sahoo-headed panel to have 21 members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 25

SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas such as securities market data access and privacy.

Rejigging its market data advisory committee, SEBI said the panel will now have 21 members, as per the latest information with the regulator. Earlier the committee had 20 members.

The committee is chaired by M S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi, and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Apart from Sahoo, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and

depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.

Panel members

Some of the committee members include: Nithin Kamath, Founder and CEO, Zerodha Broking Ltd; Ranjit Pawar, Managing Director - South Asia at Refinitiv; Raman Uberoi, Senior Advisor Government and Regulatory Relations at CRISIL; BSE Managing Director and CEO, Ashishkumar Chauhan; NSE MD and CEO, Vikram Limaye; Mahesh Vyas, MD of CMI; Prithvi Haldea, chairman at Prime Database; and Anuj Kumar, CEO of CAMS.

The scope of the work of the committee includes identifying segment-wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommending data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data.

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117. Recently President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed *Vijay Sampla as NCSC chairperson for the second time.* Which of the following Article of the Indian Constitution is related to National Commission for SCs?

- A. Article 353
- B. Article 343
- C. Article 217
- D. Article 338**

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Vijay Sampla as NCSC chairperson for the second time.

Sampla had resigned as chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and fought Punjab elections.

He is a BJP leader. He was Chairman of Punjab Khadi Board till 2012.

He was Chairman of Punjab State Forest Development Corporation. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC):

It is a constitutional body that provides safeguards against the exploitation of SC communities. Article 338 of the Indian Constitution is related to National Commission for SCs. President of India appoints the Chairman and other members of NCSC.

118. Recently, *Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju* was appointed as the _____ by succeeding incumbent Lt. Gen Manoj Pande.

- A. Vice Chief of the Defence Staff
- B. Vice Chief of the Army Staff**
- C. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff
- D. Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju will take over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 01 May 2022.

He commanded his Battalion during OP PARAKRAM in the Western Theatre and in Jammu & Kashmir.

He also holds the distinction of commanding the Uri brigade along the Line of Control, a Counter Insurgency Force and the Chinar Corps in the Kashmir Valley.

The army Vice Chief is the deputy head and the second highest-ranking officer of the Indian Army. T

He position is held by a senior officer in the rank of Lieutenant General, of the Commander-in-Chief grade.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju is new Vice Chief of Army Staff

3-star officer being Vice Chief is rare

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army's Director General of Military Operations, Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, has been appointed the next Vice Chief of the Army Staff. He will take over on May 1, 2022, the Army said.

The current Vice Chief, Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande is set to take over as the next Army Chief on April 30 from incumbent Gen. Manoj Naravane.

This is a rare instance where a three star officer will be first taking over as Vice Chief before serving tenure as an Army Commander.

As a practice in the Army, Vice Chiefs have for a long time been those who had already served as Army Commander. However, Lt. Gen. Raju will be taking first as Vice Chief and is expected to proceed as Army Commander later this year, an



Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju

official stated. There have been very few such instances in the past, another official said. One such was former Army Chief Gen. S. F. Rodrigues, who was Vice Chief of the Army Staff from November 1987 to April 1989. He served as Chief of the Army Staff from 1990 to 1993, and retired on June 30, 1993.

Lt. Gen. Raju did his National Defence College (NDC) at Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom.

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Patrick Achi has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.

He was appointed as Prime Minister in March last year. He is the third Prime Minister of the Ivory Coast in the last three years.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara appointed Tiemoko Meyliet Kone as the governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO).

Yamoussoukro is the political capital of the Ivory Coast.

Paytm Parent Names Head for Policy

Ropes in Srinivas Yanamandra



Our Bureau

Bengaluru: One97 Communications (OCL), the parent entity of fintech firm Paytm, is strengthening its senior management. It has roped in Srinivas Yanamandra as the group head for regulatory affairs and policy. Yanamandra joins the company from the New Development Bank in Shanghai, where he served as chief of the compliance division. Yanamandra has also worked with ICI- CI Bank and IDFC First Bank, focusing on aspects of banking regulation, governance, prudential reporting and risk management.



Yanamandra joins the company from the New Development Bank in Shanghai

Days and Obituary News

119. Every Year **International Jazz Day** is observed on _____ to honour the unifying power of music.

- A. 28th April
- B. 29th April
- C. 30th April
- D. 27th April

International Jazz Day is observed on April 30 each year to honour the unifying power of music.

The aim of the day is to raise awareness of jazz's virtues as an educational tool as well as a force for empathy, dialogue, and improved cooperation among people.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 30 April as International Jazz Day in 2011

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120. What is the name of the **former Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services**, who passed away in April?

- A. Sunil Sherwal
- B. N Shankar
- C. Ravi Parthasarathy**
- D. K Karthik

. Ravi Parthasarathy, the former Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services, passed away on April 27 after a prolonged illness

Parthasarathy was the Chairman of IL&FS and was seen as a controversial figure in recent years.

He stepped down on health grounds in July 2018 right around the time IL&FS began defaulting on its debt repayments.

Incorporated in 1987, the Centre superseded the board of IL&FS in October 2018 after a series of defaults by IL&FS Group companies in August and September, 2018.

Ravi Parthasarathy, former IL&FS Chairman, passes away

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, April 27

Ravi Parthasarathy, the former Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services, passed away on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. He would have turned 70 in October this year.

Parthasarathy was the Chairman of IL&FS and was seen as a controversial figure in recent years. He stepped down on health grounds in July 2018 right around the time IL&FS began defaulting on its debt repayments.

He was arrested by the Economic Offences Wing in June last year with regard to an alleged cheating of a Chennai-based private limited company of ₹200 crore through IL&FS Transportation Networks India Ltd (ITNL), Mumbai.

An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, he joined IL&FS in



the late 1980s and eventually went on to become its Chairman.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office in its complaint in May 2019 named Parthasarathy as the main accused in the IL&FS saga. He was a key decision maker at IL&FS, which is a large Systemically Important Non-Deposit Accepting Core Investment Company (CIC-ND-SI).

The Centre superseded the board of IL&FS in October 2018 after a series of defaults by IL&FS Group companies in 2018.

121. Every year on _____ **World Malaria Day** is commemorated to highlight the need for investment and sustained political commitment to the prevention and control of malaria.

- A. 24th April
- B. 25th April**
- C. 26th April
- D. 27th April

Every year on April 25, World Malaria Day is commemorated.

It is observed to highlight the need for investment and sustained political commitment to the prevention and control of malaria.

The theme of World Malaria Day 2022 is “Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.” In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted World Malaria Day at the 60th session of the World Health Assembly.

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122. Every year on _____ **World Intellectual Property Day** is commemorated with the aim of highlighting the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) and to encourage creativity and innovation.

- A. 24th April
- B. 25th April
- C. 26th April
- D. 27th April

Every year on April 26th, World Intellectual Property Day is commemorated.

The day is observed with the aim of highlighting the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) and how it encourages creativity and innovation.

The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2022 is “IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future”.

In 2000, WIPO's member states agreed to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day on April 26.

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NISCP) organized a National Workshop on “IP and Youth: Innovating for better future” to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day on 26th April 2022.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): It was established in 1967. The headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

123. **National Panchayati Raj Day** is celebrated every year on _____ to commemorate the day on which the 73rd Constitutional Amendment was passed in 1992.

- A. 23rd April
- B. 24th April
- C. 25th April
- D. 26th April

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24 April.

It commemorates the day on which the 73rd Constitutional Amendment was passed in 1992.

National Panchayati Raj Day was first declared in 2010. There are more than 2.6 lakh Panchayats at all three tiers in India. On this occasion, PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.

He will also visit Palli Panchayat in the Samba district and he will attend the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards Ceremony in Mumbai.

National Panchayat Awards–2022 will also be conferred on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day to 322 Panchayats.

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124. Every year on _____ **International delegate's day** is Commemorate to raise awareness of the role of delegates of the Member States to the United Nations.

- A. 23rd April
- B. 25th April**
- C. 24th April
- D. 26th April

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed April 25 as International Delegate's Day to raise awareness of the role of the delegates and representatives of the Member States to the United Nations.

The day marks the anniversary of the first day of the United Nations Conference on International Organization also known as the San Francisco Conference.

April 25, 2020 is the first time that International Delegate's Day is being observed and the 75th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference is also being celebrated this year.

On April 25, 2020, delegates from 50 countries came together to set up an organization that would impose rules and restores peace among the post-war world. This was the first time such meeting was held and the meeting was held in San Francisco.

125. Every year, the **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general.

- A. 25th April
- B. 26th April**
- C. 27th April
- D. 28th April

The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on April 26 to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general.

The United Nations (UN) proclaimed the day on April 26, 2016, that marked the 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

On this day, Member States of the UN, along with international organizations, are encouraged to raise awareness of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy.

126. Every year on _____ **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is observed to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases around the world.

- A. 26th April
- B. 28th April**
- C. 29th April
- D. 30th April

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Every year on April 28th, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is commemorated.

Its main aim is to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases around the world. It also promotes security, safety, and health at work.

The theme of World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 is 'Act together to build a positive safety and health culture'. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been celebrating the day since 2003.

The day also marks the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers, which has been observed by the trade union movement around the world since 1996.

The Tamil Nadu government will celebrate Minorities Rights Day at the state level on 18 December every year. The government will allocate about Rs 2.50 lakh for the purpose.

The main objective of the day is to promote the upliftment and economic advancement of minorities.

The state government would provide education aid of Rs 500 to the students of Classes 3 to 5 and Rs 1,000 to the wards of Class 6 of the minority girl students.

127. What is the name of the former Union Home Secretary, who passed away in April 2022?

- A. Anil Sorabjee
- B. **Madhav Godbole**
- C. Binay Mohanpanti
- D. Rajeev Ahuja

- **Dr Madhav Godbole who was the Union Home Secretary when Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, and took early retirement in protest, died of cardiac failure in his home in Pune.**

- **Godbole retired in March 1993, 18 months before he was scheduled to, in protest against Prime Minister PV Narasimhan Rao's decision to reject his recommendation to dismiss the Kalyan Singh-led Uttar Pradesh government.**

128. Kenneth Tsang passed away recently was the renowned actor of which of the following countries?

- A. Singapore
- B. China
- C. **Hong Kong**
- D. Japan

Former Home Secretary Madhav Godbole no more

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Former Union Home Secretary and prolific writer Madhav Godbole passed away at his residence in Pune city Monday. He was 85.

The cause of his death was cardiac failure, said sources. He had taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service in March 1993. An outstanding civil servant, known and respected for his integrity, energy and phe-



Madhav Godbole

nomenal erudition, Mr. Godbole held several top positions in both the Central and State governments through his career.

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Famous Hong Kong actor Kenneth Tsang died in a hotel in a southern Chinese city.

He is famous for his action roles in the 2002 James Bond film Die Another Day, John Woo's The Killer in 1989, and Rush Hour 2 in 2001.

Tsang began his acting career after passing from the University of California. He made his debut in 1955.

Apr 28, 2022, 8:29PM

Veteran Hong Kong actor Kenneth Tsang dies in Covid quarantine hotel



Veteran Hong Kong actor Kenneth Tsang died while in a COVID-19 quarantine hotel in the southern Chinese city, local media reported on Thursday.

Tsang was best known internationally for his action roles in the 2002 James Bond film 'Die Another Day,' John Woo's 'The Killer' in 1989, 'Rush Hour 2' in 2001 starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. Tsang had been undergoing seven days of

129. Writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner, Binapani Mohanty passed away recently was related to which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Maharashtra

Binapani Mohanty, a legendary Odia writer, passed away Mohanty, who was a recipient of several prestigious awards including the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award has more than 100 books to credit. Also an academician, Binapani Mohanty taught Economics at Sailabala Women's College.

Binapani Mohanty was well-known for 'Kasturi Mriga O Sabuja Aranya', 'Patadei', 'Khela Ghara', 'Bastraharana', 'Naiku Rasta', and 'Andhakarara'.

130. Every year 'World Immunization Week' is celebrated worldwide in the last week of _____, to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all age groups against disease.

- A. March
- B. April
- C. May
- D. June

- World Immunization Week is celebrated worldwide in the last week of April, to highlight the collective action required and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all age groups against disease.
- This year, the theme for World Immunization Week is "Long Life for all".

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- In May 2012, the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, endorsed World Immunization Week. Before 2012, Immunization Week activities were observed on different dates in different regions of the world.*
- The world's first "World Immunization Week" was observed in 2012, which witnessed the simultaneous participation of more than 180 countries and territories worldwide.*

131. Every Year on _____, **International Dance Day** is observed to focus on commemorating the one form of staying active that not only helps your body but can also fulfil your soul.

- A. 28th April
- B. 29th April**
- C. 30th April
- D. 31st April

International Dance Day 2022 will be celebrated on April 29. Every year, this day is focused on commemorating the one form of staying active that not only helps your body but can also fulfil your soul.

International Dance Day is celebrated on April 29 as this day marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet.

International Dance Day 2022, which will be the 40th Anniversary of the Day.

International Girls in ICT Day is marked annually on the fourth Thursday in April. This year International Girls in ICT Day is observed on 28th April 2022.

This year's theme is access and safety

Sports Award Books News

132. Recently in April _____ completed a decade of domestic dominance by beating main rival Borussia Dortmund 3-1 to seal a **record-extending 10th consecutive Bundesliga title**.

- A. Manchester United
- B. Bayern Munich**
- C. Liverpool
- D. Arsenal

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- **Bayern Munich completed a decade of domestic dominance by beating main rival Borussia Dortmund 3-1 to seal a record-extending 10th consecutive Bundesliga title.**
- **Bayern's 10th straight German championship is a record among Europe's top five leagues, eclipsing the nine Serie A titles in a row by Juventus from 2012-20.**

133. Indian Actor Deepika Padukone will be a part of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival jury while _____ will lead the jury at the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

- A. Will Smith
- B. Chris Hemsworth
- C. Robert Downey Junior
- D. Vincent Lindon

Indian Actor Deepika Padukone will be a part of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival jury.

French actor Vincent Lindon will lead the jury at the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

The jury comprises five men and four women. The jury will announce this year's winners on 28 May.

Cannes Film Festival: It was established on 20 September 1946.

It is an annual film festival held every year in Cannes, France.

134. Recently published book titled "Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal" was translated into Marathi by who amongst the following?

- A. Ashok Chaliwal
- B. Dr Jyostna Kolhatkar
- C. Dr Anirban Ganguly
- D. Shivanand Dwivedi

Bayern makes it 10-in-a-row

Arsenal sees off a sorry United; Manchester City back on top

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON
Bayern Munich completed a decade of domestic dominance by beating main rival Borussia Dortmund 3-1 to seal a record-extending 10th consecutive Bundesliga title on Saturday.

Goals from Serge Gnabry, Robert Lewandowski and Jamal Musiala sent Bayern an unassailable 12 points clear of second-placed Dortmund with three games of the season remaining.

It was Bayern's eight consecutive league win over Dortmund, which hasn't won a game in Munich since 2014.

Arsenal took control of the battle to finish in the Premier League top four with a 3-1 win over Manchester United to all but end the Red Devils' hopes of Champions League football next season.

Later four goals from Brazilian forward Gabriel Jesus earned Manchester City a 5-1 win over relegation-threatened Watford, a victory that moved Pep Guardiola's side four points clear at the top of the Premier League standings.

Newcastle United's Brazilian contingent sprung to the fore as Joelinton scored a



On a high: Bayern players celebrate yet another title triumph. •REUTERS

brace and Bruno Guimaraes netted one more in an emphatic 3-0 victory over struggling Norwich City at Carrow Road.

Reigning Serie A champion Inter Milan reclaimed top spot after beating Roma 3-1 at home to move one point clear of AC Milan.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Tavares 3, Saka 32-pen, Xhaka 70) bt Manchester United 1 (Ronaldo 34); Manchester City 5 (Jesus 4, 23, 49-pen, 53, Rodri 34) bt Watford 1 (Kamara 28); Norwich 0 lost to Newcastle 3 (Joelinton 35, 41, Guimaraes 49); Leicester 0 drew with Aston Villa 0; Brentford 0 drew with Tottenham 0.

Serie A: Torino 2 (Lukic 4-pen, 69) bt Spezia 1 (Manaj 90+7-pen); Venezia 1 (Crnigoj 80) lost to Atalanta 3 (Pasalic 44, Zapata 47, Muriel 63); Inter Milan 3

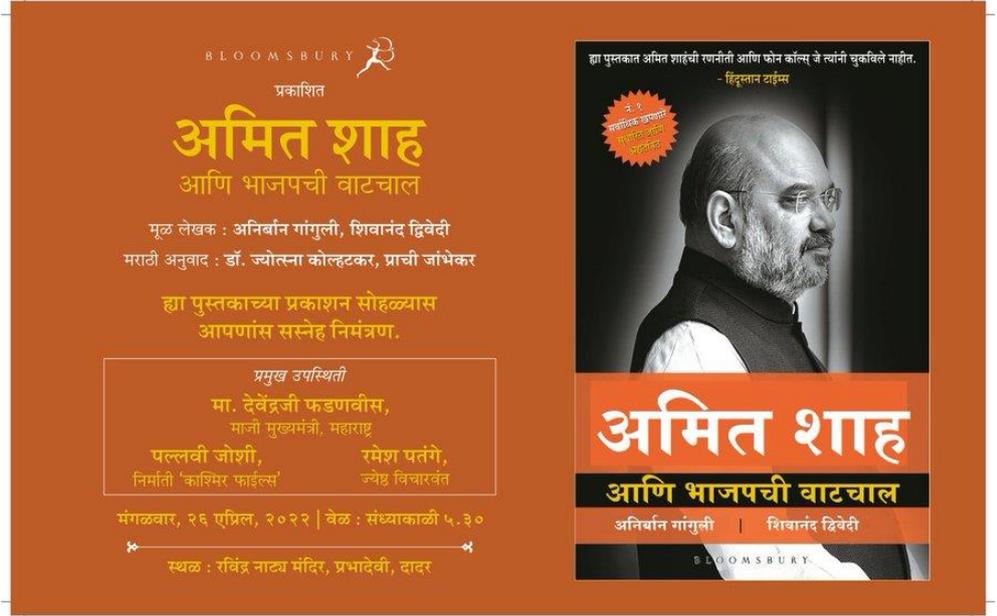
(Dumfries 30, Brozovic 40, Martinez 52) bt Roma 1 (Mkhitaryan 85).

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 15, Lewandowski 34, Musiala 83) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Can 52-pen); RB Leipzig 1 (Poulsen 46) lost to Union Berlin 2 (Michel 86, Behrens 89); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (N'Dicka 32, Kamada 66) drew with Hoffenheim 2 (N'Dicka 12-og, Rutter 78); Freiburg 3 (Grifo 49-pen, Gunter 61, Lienhart 80) drew with Borussia M'gladbach 3 (Bensebaini 3-pen, Embolo 13, Stindl 90+3); Cologne 3 (Uth 3, Modeste 43, Thielmann 86) bt Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Hubers 33-og); Greuther Furth 1 (Willems 5) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Schick 8, Azmoun 18, Paulinho 58, Palacios 84).

On Friday: Bundesliga: VfL Wolfsburg 5 (Wind 8, 42, Kruse 24-pen, 34, 45+2) bt Mainz 05 0.

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- Devendra Fadnavis released a book titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal'.
- 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal' is originally written by Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi.
- It has been translated into Marathi by Dr Jyostna Kolhatkar.
- This book has documented the life journey of Amit Shah and his contribution in building the BJP.
- Amit Shah has served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2014 to 2020. He is the youngest serving full-time Home Minister.



135. Consider the following statements regarding **Deaflympics 2021**.

1. A total of **65 athletes** will be participating **at the Games in Caxias Du Sul, Brazil**, making it the largest and the youngest contingent ever from India to participate in the Deaflympics.
2. They **will participate in a total of 11 sports disciplines**: Athletics, Badminton, Judo, Golf, Karate, Shooting, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Wrestling.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

A total of 65 athletes will be participating at the Games in Caxias Du Sul, Brazil, making it the largest and the youngest contingent ever from India to participate in the Deaflympics.

They will participate in a total of 11 sports disciplines: Athletics, Badminton, Judo, Golf, Karate, Shooting, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Wrestling. The Games are scheduled from May 1 to May 15

India had sent a delegation of 46 participants in the last Deaflympics in Turkey in 2017, bagging a total of 5 medals, which included 1 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medal.

136. Recently Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced that **Khelo India Youth Games-2021** will begin in Haryana from 4th-13th June, 2022. Which of the following is not in the list of host city?

- A. Shahbad
- B. Ambala

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- C. Karnal
- D. Panchkula

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced that Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh, Panchkula and Delhi.
- Under-18 age category, around 8500 players will participate in the 25 sports.
- Mascot and logo of Khelo India Youth Games will be launched on 8th May.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that 2-3 multipurpose halls, synthetic track, and athletic track have been constructed for the event.

Khelo India Youth Games from June 4

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said the Khelo India Youth Games-2021, which were postponed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be organised in the state from June 4 to June 13. The Games will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi apart from Panchkula. Around 8,500 players will participate in these games, he said.

137. Recently in April _____ won the Menorca Open chess tournament held in Menorca, Spain.

- A. D. Gukesh
- B. Raunak Sadhwani
- C. Nihal Sarin
- D. P Praggnanandhaa

- D. Gukesh won his second title in eight days by beating a strong field in Group A of the Menorca Open chess tournament in Menorca, Spain,
- The country's youngest Grandmaster, winner of the La Roda Open, scored a title-clinching victory over his senior compatriot B. Adhiban in 53 moves to finish with six points from seven rounds.

Gukesh wins second title in eight days

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

In irrepressible form, 15-year-old D. Gukesh won his second title in eight days by beating a strong field in Group A of the Menorca Open chess tournament in Menorca, Spain, on Sunday.

The winner of the La Roda Open last Sunday, Gu-

kesh scored a title-clinching victory over compatriot B. Adhiban in 53 moves to finish with six points from seven rounds.

Gukesh's stellar performance earned him 13 rating points, raised his live rating to around 2660 and reinforced his freshly-earned spot in the world's top-100.

Aryan Chopra, one of the seven overnight leaders,

drew with fourth-seeded Armenian Shant Sargsyan to finish runner-up following a seven-way tie at 5.5 points.

S. P. Sethuraman (fifth), Raunak Sadhwani (seventh) and Nihal Sarin (eighth) also tallied 5.5 points.

Top seed Arjun Erigaisi and sixth seed Adhiban (5 each) finished ninth and 10th.

138. The book titled "Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping" is authored by who amongst the following?

- A. Roger Faligot
- B. Matthew Thomas
- C. George W Bush
- D. Will Rogers

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- A new book 'Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping' traces the history of the modern Chinese secret service, while looking at segments linked to Chinese espionage and the relationship between the country's intelligence agencies and party leadership.
- Written by Roger Faligot, the book gives a credible and accessible account of Chinese intelligence agencies, and covers secret operations relating to the New Silk Road, the current global economic wars, battles on the internet and Islamist terrorism.
- "Under Xi Jinping, the Ministry of State Security (Guoanbu) and People's Liberation Army secret services have become as active as the CIA, the MI6, the R&AW or the Russian GRU and SVR
- 'Chinese Spies', was originally published in French in 2008 but was later translated into English, from the updated fourth edition, by Natasha Lehrer.

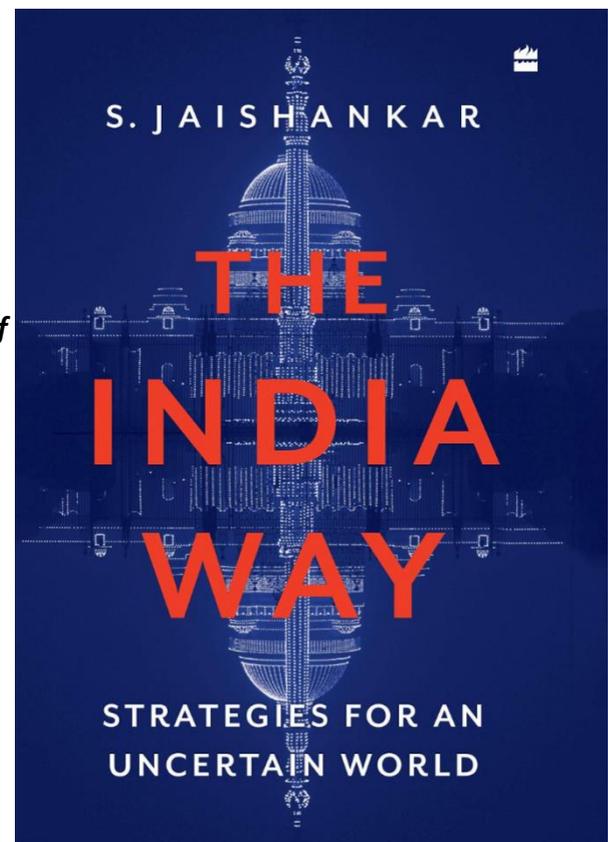
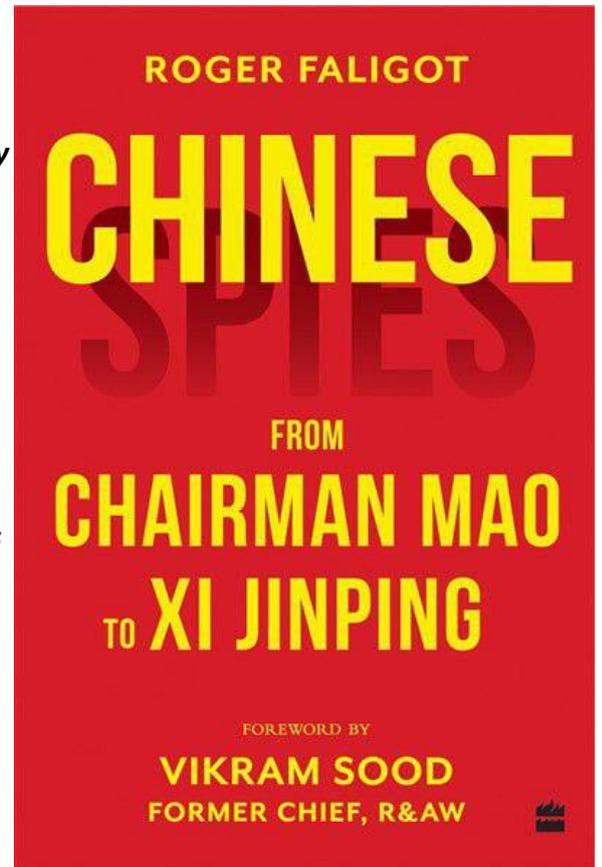
139. Who is the author of the book titled "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World Book"?

- A. Manmohan Singh
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. P Chidambaram
- D. S Jaishankar

140. Elvera Britto passed away recently was associated with which of the following sports?

- A. Cricket
- B. Football
- C. Hockey
- D. Badminton

- Former Indian women's hockey team captain Elvera Britto died here on Tuesday due to old age related problems. She was 81.
- Elvera, the eldest of the three famous Britto sisters (others are Rita and Mae), ruled the domestic circuit from 1960 to 1967, guiding Karnataka to seven national titles.
- She represented India against Australia, Sri Lanka and Japan.



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- **In 1965, Elvera became only the second woman hockey player to be conferred with the Arjuna Award after Anne Lumsden (1961).**

141. Recently _____ produced a hugely dominant performance to win this year's Emilia Romagna Grand Prix.

- A. Lewis Hamilton**
- B. Max Verstappen**
- C. Sergio Perez**
- D. Charles Leclerc**

- **Max Verstappen won his second Grand Prix of the new season with a commanding victory ahead of Sergio Perez at the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix.**
- **The Dutchman managed to hold off the threat of Charles Leclerc, who ultimately slipped down to sixth place after a late brush with the barriers, and never looked back to clinch the maximum total of 26 points after setting the fastest lap of the afternoon.**

Verstappen eases to victory at Imola GP

Associated Press
 sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

IMOLA: Formula One champion Max Verstappen dominated Sunday in a Red Bull rout of Ferrari at the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix. Verstappen won from the pole, logged the fastest lap and picked up his second win of the season while leading teammate Sergio Perez to the first one-two Red Bull finish since Malaysia in 2016.

"Lovely Sunday," Verstappen radioed his Red Bull team. The Dutchman also won the sprint qualifying race on Saturday and earned maximum points on the weekend. Lando Norris was third for McLaren. It was a disastrous race for Ferrari, racing on its home soil and hoping to cele-

brate a return to F1 dominance. Charles LeClerc came into Sunday as the championship leader with two wins in the first three races and Carlos Sainz Jr. celebrated a two-year contract extension this weekend in Italy. But LeClerc couldn't get the jump on Verstappen at the start and never was in contention. Sainz spun off course on the opening lap to ruin his race, and LeClerc's bid to salvage the day for Ferrari ended when he spun racing Perez for second. He ultimately finished sixth.

LeClerc had a 46-point lead over reigning champion Verstappen at the start of the race but the Verstappen win cut the gap to 27 points. The race featured a stirring late battle between Mercedes newcomer George Russell



Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates his win on Sunday. REUTERS

and Valtteri Bottas, the driver he replaced. The two went down to the final lap for fourth position, with Russell holding off the veteran for the spot. Lewis Hamil-

ton finished 13th. Mercedes head Toto Wolff apologised to Hamilton over the radio for the "undriveable" car that Hamilton was given in Italy.

Elvera Britto passes away

An Arjuna Awardee, she was the captain of the Indian hockey team

SPORTS REPORTER
 BENGALURU

Celebrated women's hockey player and administrator Elvera Britto passed away here on Tuesday. She was 81. An outstanding player and champion of women's hockey, Elvera was the captain of the Indian and then Mysore teams.

She led Mysore State to the Senior national title for eight consecutive years, from 1960 to 1967. Elvera, alongside her sisters Rita and Mae, formed a formidable trio for the State and Indian teams.

She received the Arjuna Award in 1965.

After her playing career, Elvera was the government nominee in the National Selection Committee for over a decade. She also served as the president of the Karnataka State Women's Hockey Association for two terms.

Undying commitment

Former India men's hockey captain Jude Felix recalled Elvera's undying commitment to improving the state of women's hockey. "Every time I met her, I was amazed at her passion for women's hockey. She felt that women did not get the same opportunities as men in the sport,



Elvera Britto.

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

and she always tried to make things better for women's hockey. She was very happy that our academy – Jude Felix Hockey Academy – included girls in our programme. In fact, she even made a donation to our academy. She was a lady of action, not words," Felix told *The Hindu*.

"I did not get the chance to see her play, but our seniors always spoke very highly of her skills. During a recent interaction with Elvera, she spoke at length about the forgotten skill of using the reverse stick. Her technical knowledge amazed me," Felix said.

The Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA) condoled her demise.



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142. Consider the following statements regarding the Laureus awards 2022.

1. Formula One champion Max Verstappen was named the 2022 Laureus Sportsman of the Year while triple Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Elaine Thompson-Herah bagged the top women's honour.
2. British tennis starlet Iga Swiatek who has struggled for consistency since winning the US Open last year received the 'Breakthrough of the Year' award.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Formula One champion Max Verstappen was named the 2022 Laureus Sportsman of the Year while triple Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Elaine Thompson-Herah bagged the top women's honour at the digital awards ceremony in Seville on Sunday.
- Verstappen became the first Dutch driver to win the world championship when he clinched his maiden crown by beating seven-time winner Lewis Hamilton on the final lap of the last race of the 2021 season in Abu Dhabi in December.
- Jamaica's Thompson-Herah became the first woman to win back-to-back Olympic sprint doubles when she retained her 100m and 200m titles in Tokyo last year and capped memorable Games with gold in the 4x100m relay.
- The awards are organised by the Laureus Sports Foundation and the 2021 winners were selected by a 71-member panel led by All Black rugby great Sean Fitzpatrick.
- British tennis starlet Emma Raducanu, who has struggled for consistency since winning the US Open last year, received the 'Breakthrough of the Year' award.
- NFL great Tom Brady, who made a U-turn on his retirement plans this year, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award after winning a record seventh Super Bowl with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Verstappen, Thompson voted the best

Italian football squad honoured

LAUREUS AWARDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Dutchman Max Verstappen, the 2021 Formula One World champion, was voted the Sportsman of the Year in the 2022 Laureus World Sports Award during a virtual event from Seville, Spain, late on Sunday.

The honour for the Sportswoman of the Year went to Jamaican athlete Elaine Thompson-Herah. In the Tokyo Olympic Games, she not only retained the 100m and 200m gold medals but also added the 4x100m relay crown.

The awardees:
Sportsman of the Year: Max Verstappen (Motor racing);
Sportswoman of the Year: Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics);
World Team of the Year: Italy Men's football team;
Breakthrough of the Year: Emma Raducanu (Tennis);
Comeback of the Year: Sky Brown (Skateboarding);
World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability: Marcel Hug (Wheelchair Athletics);



Elaine Thompson-Herah.
 ■ GETTY IMAGES

World Action Sportsperson of the Year: Bethany Shriever (BMX);
Lifetime Achievement: Tom Brady (American football);
Academy Exceptional Achievement: Robert Lewandowski;
Sporting Icon: Valentino Rossi (Motorcycle Racing);
Sport for Good: Lost Boyz Inc (Baseball);
Sport for Good (Society): Real Madrid Foundation;
Athlete Advocate of the Year: Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles (football).

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- **Polish striker Robert Lewandowski of Bayern Munich won the Exceptional Achievement award after scoring a German Bundesliga record of 41 goals last season to break Gerd Muller's 49-year-old mark.**
- **Seven-time Moto GP world champion Valentino Rossi, who called time on a career spanning more than two decades last year, won the Sporting Icon award — his third Laureus honour having scooped the Comeback of the Year (2011) and Spirit of Sport (2006) awards.**
- **“This Award was founded in the year 2000 when Nelson Mandela said ‘sport has the power to change the world’.**
- **Skateboarder Sky Brown won the ‘Comeback of the Year’ award aged 13.**
- **Swiss wheelchair Racer Marcel Hug was named ‘World Sportsman of the Year with a Disability’ for the second time after winning Tokyo Paralympics golds in 800, 1,500, with a world record time.**

143. Consider the following statements regarding **Asian Wrestling Championship**.

1. India finished with a **total tally of 17 medals** — one gold, five silver and 11 bronze at Ulaanbaatar.
2. **Tokyo medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the solitary gold in the men's 57kg weight class.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

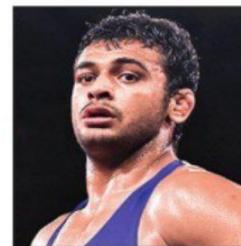
Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia settled for a silver medal in the men's freestyle 86 kg while Vicky bagged a bronze in the 92 kg category on the last day of the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships,

With the two medals on the final day of the meet, India finished with a total tally of 17 medals — one gold, five silver and 11 bronze at Ulaanbaatar. Tokyo medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the solitary gold in the men's 57kg weight class.

India end Asian wrestling meet with 17 medals

Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia settled for silver, while Vicky clinched bronze as Indian grapplers ended their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Mongolia's Ulaanbaatar with 17 medals, with Ravi Dahiya being the lone gold winner, in the men's freestyle 57kg category. The haul included one gold, five silver and 11 bronze medals.



Deepak Punia

On the final day of the event on Sunday, Deepak got the 86kg men's freestyle silver after losing 1-6 to Kazakhstan's Azamat Dauletbekov in the title bout. The Indian's lone point came because of the Kazakh's passivity. It was Deepak's fourth medal at the Asian Championships, having won a silver (2021) and two bronze (2019, 2020) in the earlier editions. Deepak had reached the final without conceding a single point, defeating Iran's Mostafavi Alanjagh 6-0 in the quarters and South Korea's Gwanuk Kim 5-0 in the semis.

In the 92kg division, Vicky secured a bronze after edging past Uzbekistan's Ajiniyaz Saparniyazov 5-3. In the 61kg category, Mangal Kadyan lost his bronze medal bout to his Kyrgyz opponent Ulukbek Zholdobeshkov 4-6 after outsmarting Kuwait's Almohaini 10-0 in the repechage round. The two other Indians in the fray – Yash (74kg) and Anirudh Kumar (125kg) – failed to cross the qualification stage.

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144. Recently in April _____ has received the **Woman Transforming India Award from Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.**

- A. Rajni Kumari
- B. Rajshree Kumari
- C. Geetanjali Shree
- D. Bina Modi

Dr Bina Modi has received the Woman Transforming India Award from Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia presented her the award.

She is chairperson of Modi Enterprises. She is president and managing director of Godfrey Phillips India Ltd.

She had won the Women of the Decade in Business & Leadership 2018 by Women Economic Forum. She also won Achiever's Award in 2019.

In 2020, she won Award for Excellence in Business by Abdelfattah El Sisi, President of Egypt at the Women Economic Forum 2020.

Italy Football Team Captain Giorgio Chiellini plans to retire from the national team after the "Finalissima" match against Argentina in London on June 1.

The 37-year-old Chiellini had planned to continue playing for the national team through the World Cup at the end of this year but he has moved up his plans after the Azzurri failed to qualify for the tournament in Qatar.

Chiellini to retire from intl football

Rome: Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini plans to retire from the national team after the "Finalissima" match against Argentina in London on June 1. "If I'm in form I'll play and bid the national team goodbye at Wembley, where I reached the apex of my career in Azzurro and perhaps of my entire career," Chiellini said, referring to the Italy's European Championship title last summer. The Finalissima match at Wembley Stadium features the champions of Europe and South America.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz youngest to enter ATP top 10 since Nadal in '05

Associated Press

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz moved up to No 9 in the ATP rankings, a little more than a month before he turns 19, making him the youngest man to break into the top 10 since Rafael Nadal did it exactly 17 years ago. Alcaraz rose two spots after winning the Barcelona Open. He beat Pablo Carreño Busta 6-3, 6-2 in the final.

At 18 years, 11 months and 20 days old, Alcaraz is the ninth-youngest man to reach the top 10 since the computer rankings began in 1973. Nadal was about a month younger when he climbed into the top 10 on April 25, 2005, after a title on Barcelona's clay. The youngest man to crack that elite level on the ATP



Carlos Alcaraz (C) dives in after winning the Barcelona Open. AFP

Tour was Aaron Krickstein, who was 11 days past his 17th birthday when he made his debut in the top 10 in August 1984.

Alcaraz is tied with Nadal for the most ATP titles in 2022 with three; his 23 match wins are second behind only Stefanos Tsitsi-

pas, who has 24 this season.

Novak Djokovic remained at No. 1 after finishing as the runner-up to Andrey Rublev in the Serbia Open, with Daniil Medvedev still at No. 2, Alexander Zverev at No. 3 and Nadal at No. 4.

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145. Recently, **Andrey Rublev** of _____ defeated **Novak Djokovic** and **won the Serbia Open**, his third title of the season.

- A. **Russia**
- B. **Spain**
- C. **Poland**
- D. **Australia**

- **Andrey Rublev defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-0 to win the Serbia Open for his third title of the season.**
- **The second-seeded Russian player dug deep to stop Djokovic from mounting another comeback as he prevented the top-ranked Serb from claiming his first title of 2022.**

146. Recently **PSPB's** _____ **bagged his 10th title and** _____ **of RBI Won her maiden crown**, defeating **G. Sathiyam (PSPB)** and **Mouma Das (PSPB)** in the men's and women's finals respectively **at National table tennis championships.**

- A. **K. Sadiyan , Manika Batra**
- B. **Sarath Kamal , Akula Sreeja**
- C. **Anirudh Biswa , PV Sindhu**
- D. **Rahul Parikar , Mouma Das**

- **PSPB's Sharath Kamal bagged his 10th title and Akula Sreeja of RBI her maiden crown, defeating G. Sathiyam (PSPB) and Mouma Das (PSPB) in the men's and women's finals respectively.**
- **The 39-year-old also expressed his wish to win the team and doubles gold with Sathiyam at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.**
- **A special award in memory of the late paddler D. Vishwa was given to 19-year-old Diya Chitale of Maharashtra. Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, gave away the prizes.**

147. Consider the following statements regarding **Archery World Cup 2022.**

1. **India's Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi won the recurve mixed team gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 in Antalya, Turkey.**

Sharath wins record-extending 10th title

Akula Sreeja claims her maiden singles crown and complements it with honours in doubles

TT NATIONALS
 K. KEERTHIVASAN
 SHILLONG

It was the turn of the star veteran and a newbie to bag the crowns in the senior National table tennis championships here on Monday.

PSPB's Sharath Kamal bagged his 10th title and Akula Sreeja of RBI her maiden crown, defeating G. Sathiyam (PSPB) and Mouma Das (PSPB) in the men's and women's finals respectively.

After overcoming Sathiyam 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6, Sharath quickly congratulated one and all and ran halfway around the stadium. He was congratulated by a few officials as the entire crowd rose in unison to cheer the champion.

Sreeja's 11-8, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8, 11-6 victory over five-time champion Mouma Das proved that she has overcome the shackles and fear

of Nationals in all categories and has now come of her own.

Scaling Everest

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sharath said: "Winning the 10th title is like reaching the top of Mount Everest. I am sure someone will beat my mark as records are meant to be broken."

"I would like to dedicate the 'Trophy to D. Vishwa', added Sharath.

The 39-year-old also expressed his wish to win the team and doubles gold with Sathiyam at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Sharath said that he had given a proposal to the CoA for him and the Indian teams to train in Europe – either with the German, French or Portuguese National teams ahead of the CWG.

The 23-year-old Sreeja, who claimed a double, said:



On top: Sharath and Sreeja proudly display their reward for being the best on show. • RITU RAJ KODWAR

"I have always not done well in all the Nationals across age categories.

"This time I was focussed and was prepared for long

pushes of Mouma and did what my coach (Somnath Ghosh) suggested," said Sreeja.

A special award in memo-

ry of the late paddler D. Vishwa was given to 19-year-old Diya Chitale of Maharashtra. Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, gave away the prizes.

Meanwhile, Gita Mittal, chairperson of Committee of Administrators, announced that the National junior & youth championships would be held in Alappuzha from June 17 to 23.

The results (finals): Men: Sharath Kamal (PSPB) bt G. Sathiyam (PSPB) 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6.

Doubles: Sourav Saha & Do Rosario Wesley (Har) bt Soumyajit Ghosh & Jubin Kumar (Har) 11-5, 4-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8.

Women: Akula Sreeja (RBI) bt Mouma Das (PSPB) 11-8, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8, 11-6.

Doubles: Akula Sreeja & Ayhika Mukherjee (RBI) bt Prapti Sen & Takeme Sarkar (RBI) 3-11, 11-9, 11-5, 12-10. **Mixed doubles:** Akash Pal & Prapti Sen (RSPB) bt Soumyajit Ghosh & Suhana Saini (Har) 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.

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2. Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan clinched gold after beating France in the final in mixed compound team.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **India's Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi won the recurve mixed team gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 in Antalya, Turkey after a tense final against Great Britain.**
- **It was India's second medal at the meet in Turkey after the compound men's team, comprising Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan, clinched gold after beating France in the final.**
- **Archery World Cup 2022, Antalya: India medal winners**
- **Compound men's team (Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan) – gold.**
- **Recurve mixed team (Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi) – gold**

India wins compound men's team gold

Rallies to edge past France in a keenly-fought final



Golden trio: Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini and Abhishek Verma. •WORLD ARCHERY

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU

India defeated France 232-231 in the compound men's team final to win the gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 at Antalya, Turkey, on Saturday.

The Indian trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini rallied to beat the French team of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier in a thrilling contest.

India, which trailed 56-57, 113-116 and 173-174 in the first three ends, got past France in the fourth and final end to secure a memorable victory. The Indians scored a perfect 60 in the penultimate end to narrow down the margin and shot 59 against France's 56 in the fourth.

This was India's and Abhishek's second compound men's team gold medal at the event.

Abhishek was also part of the Indian side that won the

first ever gold in Shanghai in 2017. This was the first team gold for both Rajat and Aman.

In the compound mixed team bronze medal match, Abhishek and Muskan Kirar gave the Croatian duo of Domagoj Buden and Amanda Mlinaric a tough fight before losing 157-156.

The Croatians shot a perfect 40 in the opening end and matched the Indians' scores in the next three to hold one to their slim advantage.

Science Tech Environment Defence

148. Consider the following statements regarding 'Urja Pravaha' vessel.

- 1. A new vessel named 'Urja Pravaha' has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Bharuch in Gujarat.**
- 2. It has been designed as a cargo ship to carry fuel, aviation fuel and freshwater with a capacity of 50 tons, 10 tons and 40 tons respectively.**

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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A new vessel named Urja Pravaha has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Bharuch in Gujarat.

It will be under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe).

It has been designed as a cargo ship to carry fuel, aviation fuel and freshwater with a capacity of 50 tons, 10 tons and 40 tons respectively. It will enhance the operations capability of Indian Coast Guard in providing logistics support to ICG ships deployed in the sea. It will be deployed at far-flung areas in the Maritime Operational area including EEZ and Lakshadweep/ Minicoy islands.

Indian Coast Guard: It is headquartered in New Delhi.

149. Recently in April _____ has been designated as the nodal agency by the Union Home Ministry to equip other paramilitary forces and State police departments with anti-drone capabilities.

- A. CRPF
- B. ITBP
- C. NSG
- D. Assam Rifles

NSG to equip paramilitary forces, State police with anti-drone capabilities

DALIP SINGH

New Delhi, April 24

The National Security Guards (NSG) has been designated as the nodal agency by the Home Ministry to equip other paramilitary forces and State police departments with anti-drone capabilities.

Ministry sources said the NSG, the elite contingency force, was tasked early this month with providing training and other support to police organisations in dealing with drones which are increasingly being weaponised across the globe.

It is learnt that States are reaching out to the NSG for training their police force in counter-drone measures which are still evolving in India. The NSG, which has acquired specialised skillsets domestically, has already trained police forces from Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in anti-



drone warfare. Indian security establishment woke up to the serious threat posed by drone when two bombs were dropped at a Jammu airbase last June. Other than that, Pakistan has been using drones to air-drop consignments of arms and contraband, mainly in Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab.

Counter-drone systems

The armed forces – Army, Air Force and Navy – are developing their own capabilities and have lined up to purchase counter-drone systems, essen-

tially developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The counter-drone system – available in static and mobile versions – are a combination of technologies that are used for detection, deterrence and destruction of incoming flying object.

According to the DRDO, the counter-drone system consists of the following components: Radar and day-and-night camera to detect and track; communication channel for detection and jamming sensors; GPS jamming/spoofing system; laser-directed energy weapon system for destroying; and a command and control centre. While jamming and spoofing are used for 'soft kill' which means making drones ineffective, laser weapon system is used for 'hard kill' ie, destroying the object.

- **National Security Guards (NSG) has been designated as the nodal agency by the Union Home Ministry to equip other paramilitary forces and State police departments with anti-drone capabilities.**
- **Ministry sources said the NSG, the elite contingency force, was tasked early this month with providing training and other support to police organisations in dealing with drones which are increasingly being weaponized across the globe, posing serious security threat.**
- **It is learnt that States are reaching out to the NSG for training of its policemen in counter drone measures which are still evolving in India. NSG, which has acquired specialised skill sets domestically, has already trained police forces from Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in anti-drone warfare.**
- **The National Security Guard is an elite counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Founded: 22 September 1986 Headquarters: New Delhi , M A Ganapathy Director General of NSG**

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150. Consider the following statements regarding the *amendment in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020*.

1. The amendments in *DAP 2020* have been done on the basis of approvals given by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).
2. All modernization requirements of the three services and the Indian Coast Guard will be met indigenously.
3. For all acquisition cases with Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) cost of over Rs 100 crore, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be used as bid security.

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 amendments in DAP 2020 have been done on the basis of approvals given by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

All modernization requirements of the three services and the Indian Coast Guard will be met indigenously.

Government has discontinued the requirement of Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee to reduce the financial burden on Indian defence industry. For all acquisition cases with Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) cost of over Rs 100 crore, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be used as bid security.

EMD is not needed from Micro and Small Enterprises (mses). Government has simplified procurement process under iDEX procedure of DAP 2020. This will lower the time taken from the grant of AoN to the signing of contracts to 22 weeks.

The services will issue certificates to the vendors who will not be awarded contracts. The certificate will facilitate vendors to explore other markets.

151. Recently, Engineering and construction conglomerate *Larsen & Toubro (L&T)* entered into a pact with _____ to carry out a joint research and develop the green hydrogen technology.

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Ropar

Engineering and construction conglomerate *Larsen & Toubro (L&T)* entered into a pact with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to carry out a joint research and develop the green hydrogen technology.

Hydrogen when produced through electrolysis process using renewable energy is known as green hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. Both the organisations have come together to contribute towards the green hydrogen industry in the country and develop a next-generation technology.

152. Recently in April _____, a wholly owned subsidiary of public sector *Cochin Shipyard Limited* has signed an agreement with *Ocean Sparkle Limited (OSL)* to build two 62-tonne *Bollard Pull Tugs*.

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A. Tebma Shipyards Limited

B. Larsen & Turbo

C. Goa Shipyard Limited

D. Kandala Port

Apr 21, 2022, 9:16PM

Tebma Shipyards Ltd signs agreement with OSL to build two 62-tonne Bollard Pull Tugs

Tebma Shipyards Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of public sector Cochin Shipyard Limited has signed an agreement with Ocean Sparkle Limited (OSL) to build two 62-tonne Bollard Pull Tugs.

The vessels will be built at Tebma Shipyards facility at Malpe in Karnataka. The vessels will have a length of 33 metres and a breadth of 11.9 metres. The tugs can reach a speed of 12.5 knots and a Bollard pull capacity of 62 tonnes.

Ocean Sparkle Ltd, is a leading service provider in the Comprehensive Port Operations and Management Sector in the country.

Cochin Shipyard Limited recently took over Tebma Shipyards Ltd for the dedicated construction of tugs, specialised vessels such as dredgers, ferries and coastal vessels to cater to the market needs.



- **Tebma Shipyards Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of public sector Cochin Shipyard Limited has signed an agreement with Ocean Sparkle Limited (OSL) to build two 62-tonne Bollard Pull Tugs.**

- **The vessels will be built at Tebma Shipyards facility at Malpe in Karnataka.**
- **The vessels will have a length of 33 metres and a breadth of 11.9 metres. The tugs can reach a speed of 12.5 knots and a Bollard pull capacity of 62 tonnes.**
- **Ocean Sparkle Ltd is a leading service provider in the Comprehensive Port Operations and Management Sector in the country.**
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited recently took over Tebma Shipyards Ltd for the dedicated construction of tugs, specialised vessels such as dredgers, ferries and coastal vessels to cater to the market needs.**

153. Recently in April Bharat Electronics signed a deal with _____ for the development of Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

- A. DRDO**
- B. HAL**
- C. New Space India**
- D. ISRO**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) deal has been signed under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The proposed IRST system will be a high-end strategic technology product in the field of defence avionics.

IRST system is equipped with features like Television Day Camera and Infrared & LASER sensors for air-to-air and air-to-ground target tracking.

It will enhance the Indian Air Force's strength and gives impetus to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector. It will also pave the path for the manufacturing of high-end strategic technology products of IRST for various platforms.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): It was formed on 1 October 1964. Its headquarters is located in Bengaluru.

154. What is the name of the national-level Logistics seminar organized by Indian Air Force on 28th April in New Delhi?

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- A. LOGISEM VAYU - 2022**
- B. YOGASEIM VAYU - 2022
- C. ANIRUDH VAYU - 2022
- D. LOGAN VAYU - 2022

A national-level Logistics seminar, “LOGISEM VAYU 2022” will be organized by Indian Air Force on 28th April in New Delhi.

The theme of the seminar is 'Orchestrating Logistics Support for Air Combat Operations'.

The Chief of Air Staff will inaugurate the seminar and will also deliver the keynote address during the inaugural session.

A session on logistics diplomacy will be also organized in this seminar, which can give a boost to supply chain and

155. As per the release from [UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#), _____ (equal to the size of India and Pakistan) of land will be restored by 2050.

- A. 2 million square kilometres
- B. 4 million square kilometres**
- C. 6 million square kilometres
- D. 8 million square kilometres

According to a press release from UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 4 million square kilometres (equal to the size of India and Pakistan) of land will be restored by 2050.

It will be the highest land restoration in South and Southeast Asia and Latin America.

This report has been released in the UNCCD's 2nd edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO).

The report has also highlighted that around 40% of the earth's land has been degraded. It is affecting around half of humankind directly.

According to this report, an additional 69 GG tonnes of carbon emission happened between 2015 to 2050 due to changes in Land usage, slow growth in agriculture yields and soil degradation.

The economic returns of restoring land and reducing degradation could be around \$125-140 trillion every year.

As per this report, if things continue as they are then further 16 million square kilometres of land will be degraded by 2050, which is equal to the area of South America.

This report has come just ahead of the UNCCD's 15th session of the Conference of Parties to be held in Abidjan

156. Recently _____ as part of “Mission SAGAR IX” transhipped medical kit aid to Shri Lanka.

- A. INS TABAR**

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- B. INS GARIHAL**
- C. INS RUDRA
- D. INS SHIVAJI

- With the overarching aim of providing critical medical aid to Sri Lanka during the ongoing crisis, INS Gharial as part of Mission SAGAR IX arrived at Colombo on 29 Apr 22 and delivered over 760 kgs of 107 types of critical lifesaving medicines.
- The shipment was received by Health Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Channa Jayasumana, and would be supplied to the University of Peradeniya Hospital.
- In line with Gol's vision of SAGAR – Security And Growth for All in the Region – the Indian Navy undertakes several deployments titled 'Mission SAGAR' to assist friendly IOR littorals.

157. Recently _____ has commenced the Main Airframe Fatigue Test (MAFT) of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1 airframe at the Ground Test Centre of the Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC), Bengaluru.

- A. DRDO
- B. BEML
- C. HAL**
- D. ISRO

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has commenced the Main Airframe Fatigue Test (MAFT) of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1 airframe at the Ground Test Centre of the Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC), Bengaluru. These tests will be carried out over a period of eight to nine years. The successful completion of the MAFT will qualify the LCA [Air Force] Mk1 airframe for its full service life. As per the military airworthiness requirements, the MAFT had to demonstrate the capability of the airframe to withstand four times the service life. The airframe is the same for the LCA Mk1 in service and the more capable LCA-Mk1A, 83 of which the IAF has contracted for. The MK1A is expected to roll out in the next couple of months.

The test plan and schedule for the MAFT has been jointly arrived at by the designers from the HAL and scientists from the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in coordination with the Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (RCMA), CEMILAC.

HAL begins airframe fatigue test on light combat aircraft

They are to be carried out over a period of 8-9 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has commenced the Main Airframe Fatigue Test (MAFT) of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1 airframe at the Ground Test Centre of the Aircraft Research and Design Centre (ARDC), Bengaluru, the firm said on Wednesday.

"These tests will be carried out over a period of eight to nine years. The successful completion of the MAFT will qualify the LCA [Air Force] Mk1 airframe for its full service life," it stated.

Capability test

As per the military airworthiness requirements, the fatigue test had to demonstrate the capability of the



A Tejas aircraft performing at Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru. *FILE PHOTO

airframe to withstand four times the service life, it noted. The airframe is the same for the LCA Mk1 in service and the more capable LCA-Mk1A, 83 of which the IAF has contracted for.

The MK1A is expected to roll out in the next couple of

months. "Despite the setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the HAL has been able to commence the MAFT testing within the timelines planned", Arup Chatterjee, Director (Engineering and R&D), HAL, said.

Air Vice Marshal K.V.R. Raju, Director of the Indian Air Force project management team, stressed the importance of the commencement of the testing towards clearance of the full life of LCA fleet.

The test plan and schedule for the test has been jointly arrived at by the designers from the HAL and scientists from the Aeronautical Development Agency in coordination with the Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness, CEMILAC.

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158. Recently Indian Air Force has carried out extensive resurfacing work on the runway of *Bagdogra airfield* enabling civil aircraft to resume operations. Where is Bagdogra Airfield located?

- A. West Bengal**
- B. Assam**
- C. Madhya Pradesh**
- D. Uttar Pradesh**

The Indian Air Force has carried out extensive resurfacing work on the runway of Bagdogra airfield enabling civil aircraft to resume operations from the morning of 26 April 2022.

The work was executed with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) as the implementing agency.

Bagdogra is the second busiest airport of West Bengal and is a joint user international airport with a civil terminal attached to the IAF airfield.

The Bagdogra airfield is not only important from a strategic point of view but is also a major international hub for promoting tourism and economy. The airfield is an important node for connecting Darjeeling and Siliguri to the rest of the country and the world.

Govt sells 51% stake in Pawan Hans to Star9 for ₹211 crore

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 29 April

After three failed attempts to disinvest, the Centre has finally found a suitor for loss-making Pawan Hans. The government will sell its 51 per cent stake in Pawan Hans to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd for ₹211 crore.

The alternative mechanism, comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, approved the highest bid placed by Star9. The Centre will also transfer management control to Star9.

This is the second successful privatisation in the civil aviation space after the Air India sale. This is also the third instance of privatization post Nilachal Ispat Nigam after the Centre announced the new Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) policy in February 2021.

Star9 Mobility is a consortium of Big Charter Pvt Ltd, Maharaja Aviation Pvt Ltd and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC. Star9 Mobility was incorporated on October 29, 2021, and registered at Registrar of Companies, Mumbai. The company has an authorized share capital of ₹1,00,000 and paid up capital of ₹1,00,000. It is involved in auxiliary transport activities and activities of travel agencies, among



DEAL TAKES OFF

- ▶ **Star9 is a consortium of Big Charter, Maharaja Aviation, and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC**
- ▶ **Reserve price for sale of Centre's 51% shareholding in Pawan Hans was set at ₹199.9 crore**
- ▶ **7 EoIs received;** 4 shortlisted as qualified bidders; 3 placed financial bids
- ▶ **Centre to issue letter of award to Star9, sign the share purchase agreement**

others. Ramen Raymandal, Sumit Sawhney and Vipul Rashmikant Dave are the company directors.

The reserve price for sale of Centre's 51 per cent shareholding in the helicopter service provider was fixed at ₹199.9 crore based on valuation carried out by transaction adviser and asset valuer. Turn to Page 15 ▶