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Course Name	No. of sets	No. of ques
CHL - Data Interpretation	410	2050
CHL - Puzzle & Seating	400	2000
CPL - Data Interpretation	330	1650
CPL - Puzzle & Seating	340	1700
CHL - Arithmetic	85	850
CPL - Arithmetic	195	1950
CHL - Quantitative Aptitude	90	900
CPL - Quantitative Aptitude	140	1400
CHL - Logical Reasoning	80	800
CPL - Logical Reasoning	185	1850
Total	2255	15150
CPL: Crack Prelims Level (Preliminary Exam Focused) CHL: Crack High Level (Mains Exam Focused)		

Best wishes for your exams, keep working hard and you are sure to be successful.

Current Affairs Weekly PDF – January 2022 1st Week (1-8)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

TRIFED Signs MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini for Development of Tribal Population

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed a MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini- Nation First Policy Research Centre (RMP-NFPRC) to leverage knowledge, expertise and institutional strengths.

- ✓ **Aim** - To assess and review several government schemes like Van Dhan Yojana. The Van Dhan programme is spearheading in 25 States and 307 Districts with the availability of Minor Forest Produces (MFP) and forest-dwelling tribal population.

DoT sets up Six Task Forces to Explore 6G Development

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) of the Ministry of Communication formed a task force under the Technology Innovation Group (TIG) on 6G (6th Generation) technology to explore technological innovations and various commercial uses. The task forces will enable research and development, manufacturing, prepare pre-standardisation and market readiness framework. Under the 6G TIG, the Six task forces will be set up to provide research and development support in the form of inputs.

MoPNG Formed Energy Transition Advisory Committee headed by Tarun Kapoor

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC) headed by the former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor, who resigned from the office, to draft the strategy. The committee tasked to prepare a step-by-step plan for complete transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy has been given 6 months (middle of 2022) time to prepare and submit the roadmap.

- ✓ The advisory committee will consist of Joint Secretary level officers from MoPNG and representatives of all public-sector oil and gas companies.

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor

wafer fabrication facilities in India. The companies that are interested are invited by the Centre for the development of the semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India. ISM is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Announces 27 Border Infrastructure Projects

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh listed the development of critical border infrastructure as a key priority to boost India's overall defence and security system. He announced 24 bridge projects and 3 road projects implemented and managed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in four states and two union territories.

PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in UP

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi laid the foundation stone of Rs 700 Crore Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh (UP). It will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut. The Governor of UP Anandiben Patel and its Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath were also present at the event.

- ✓ This initiative linked sports with employment along with initiatives like Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) which provide all support to top sportspersons to compete at the highest level; Khelo India Abhiyan recognizes talent at a very young age.

Ladakh Celebrates 'Losar Festival' the traditional new year of Tibetan Buddhist

The Losar Festival in Ladakh is celebrated at the onset of the New Year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan Buddhism. It is celebrated by the Buddhist Community in the Ladakh region. The Losar is a 15 days festival, from the start of the Tibetan Lunar calendar, marking the 1st day of the 11 month in Tibetan Calendar. Losar is a Tibetan word which means 'New Year'.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 100-day Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, launched a 100-day reading campaign "Padhe Bharat" to encourage the reading habit among students and to

improve the learning levels of the students with a focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8. The 100 days (14 weeks) reading campaign will be organised from January 2022 to April 2022.

- ✓ The campaign is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which promotes joyful reading culture among students.
- ✓ It is also aligned with the vision and goals of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy mission.

PGCIL Celebrates First anniversary of One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) celebrated the first anniversary of 'One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency' on 31st December, 2021. On behalf of the occasion, 70 Sub-stations across India along with Regional Headquarters have been lit up in tricolour to mark this momentous achievement.

MoE launches NEAT 3.0 and AICTE prescribed Technical Books in Regional Languages

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE) launched NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students. He also launched AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) prescribed technical books in regional languages.

- ✓ Under NEAT 3.0, more than 12 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged students received free ed-tech course coupons worth over Rs 253 crore.

Ministry of Culture & CSC to undertake India's 1st-ever Cultural Survey of Villages

Ministry of Culture has partnered with the Common Services Centres (CSC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) to undertake India's first-ever cultural survey of its villages titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar' through a mobile application. It will document the cultural identity at village level.

- ✓ As per the agreement, CSC will develop a mobile application and train Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in conducting the survey.

Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st LPG enabled & smoke free Indian state

Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) enabled and smoke free Indian state. This success is backed by the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme and HP Government's Mukhya Mantri Grihini

Suvidha Yojana (GSY). While the PMUY scheme aims to get rid of the diseases caused by smoke and freeing women of the country from indoor pollution, the GSY objective is to cover those families which are not covered under PMUY.

Azure Power Commissions 600 MW SECI Project in Rajasthan

Azure Power Global, a leading independent sustainable energy solutions provider in India, commissioned a 600 Megawatts (MWs) Interstate Transmission System (ISTS) connected solar project allocated by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in Bikaner, Rajasthan. This is the largest solar power project in India, owned and operated at a single location by any developer.

PM Narendra Modi visited Manipur & Tripura; Inaugurated & laid Foundation Stone of Developmental Projects

Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi, visited the states of Manipur and Tripura. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 22 Developmental Projects worth over Rs.4800 crores in Imphal, Manipur. After that, in Agartala, Tripura he inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport and will also launch two key development initiatives.

- ✓ In Manipur, the PM inaugurated 13 Projects worth Rs 1850 crores and laid the foundation stone of 9 projects worth ~Rs 2950 crore. These projects related to Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban Development, Housing, Information Technology, Skill Development, Art and Culture, among others.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Launches the 75th Platinum Jubilee Year Of CSIR-NPL

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology (S&T), Dr Jitendra Singh released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75th Platinum Jubilee year of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) -National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi. It is one of the earliest CSIR laboratories that was set up during independence that the celebration coincides with 75th year of India's independence and also highlights the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

WFP & TAPF Partners to Enhance PM

POSHAN Scheme

United Nations(UN)'s World Food Programme (WFP) in India, has partnered with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF), a not-for-profit organisation, to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri – Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools).

- ✓ The partnership aims to enhance food safety and hygiene projects, capacity building of cooks-cum-helpers and nutritional quality of school meals.

UJALA Completes 7 years; Saves ~48 Bn kWh Energy Every Year

Power Ministry successfully completed 7 years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme. UJALA initiative is the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav Chaired the 19th Meeting of NTCA; 14 Tiger Reserves got CA|TS Accreditation

19th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav. Currently, there are 51 Tiger Reserves in India and more than 35 rivers originate from those areas which are crucial for water security. As per the statement of the environment minister, Tiger continues to be an endangered species and the tiger population need to be managed actively.

MoHUA-NIUA & 15 Academic Institutes launches Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)

As part of the nationwide Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and 15 leading Indian academic institutions has launched a 'Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)' programme. Firstly, there will be preparation of a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects under SCM.

- ✓ These 75 projects in the compendium cover 47 Smart Cities.
- ✓ The compendium will be launched in June 2022.

Telecommunication Engineering Centre releases Report on to secure Consumer IoT devices

A Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, has released a report 'Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)' a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices to secure Consumer IoT devices. It is released for the use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc. As per the projections, there may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026.

Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Theme of National Science Day 2022

On 5th January 2022 Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) Dr Jitendra Singh launched the theme of National Science Day (NSD) 2022 in New Delhi raising public appreciation of the scientific issues. NSD is observed every year on 28th February to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.

- ✓ Theme – 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology (S&T) for Sustainable Future'.
- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) presents the National Awards for Science every year starting from 1987 and Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), that supports basic research in science and engineering presents SERB women excellence award.

Telangana Tops in Highest Number of ODF Villages under SBM Phase II

Telangana has stood first among other states in India in the list of the highest number of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021. Telangana is followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages, next by Karnataka with 1,511 villages and Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45 percent).

- ✓ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) – Grameen (G) Phase-II was approved in February 2020 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25 in a mission mode with an outlay of Rs 1,40,881 crores.

Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First 'Open Rock Museum' at Hyderabad

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first & unique 'Open Rock Museum' at the campus of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad, Telangana & later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at CSIR-NGRI. The Open Rock Museum displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.

Cabinet approval on January 6, 2022

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the following proposals which were detailed by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

- ✓ Cabinet approves Intra-State Transmission System – GEC Phase-II worth Rs 12,031.33cr in 7 states.
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Disaster Management.
- ✓ Cabinet approves agreement between India and Spain on Cooperation in Customs Matters.
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali River...[Click here for more detail](#).....

MoFPI Launches Six Food products of ODOP Brands

Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras and Minister of State, MoFPI Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and senior officials of NAFED launched six food products of One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ✓ The six food brands are Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.

Sikkim Celebrated Losoong/Namsoong Festival

Losoong (Namsoong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Sikkim on the 18th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar, which also marks the beginning of the harvest season. The Namsoong festival begins on the 1st day of the new moon phase Kurneet Lovo, as per the Lepcha lunisolar Calendar known as Dungkit Karchu. The losoong festival is celebrated as Sonam Losoong, by the Sikkimese Bhutia and as Namsoong by the Lepchas.

- ✓ This year, the Losoong (Namsoong) kick starts on 3rd January 2022.
- ✓ The festival is also celebrated in Nepal and Bhutan.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Shanghai Opened 2 Driverless Metro Lines; Becomes Longest Metro Line in the World

Shanghai, the biggest city in China, has opened 2 new driverless metro lines (Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18) and retained its title as the World's longest Metro line. With the inclusion of the 2 new driverless lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network is extended to 831 km.

- ✓ Shanghai is followed by Beijing(China) and Delhi(India) in the 2nd and 3rd spot on the list of cities with the largest metro network.

Antigua & Barbuda Becomes 102nd Member of International Solar Alliance

The Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 102nd member by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, the India-led global green energy initiative. The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High

Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

New Coronavirus Variant Named IHU, Discovered in France

Scientists of France have discovered a new variant of the Coronavirus, named IHU – B.1.640.2 variant. The new variant named IHU was discovered by the academics at the institute IHU Mediterranee Infection, Marseille, France.

IHU variant contains 46 mutations (more than the Omicron) and 37 deletions resulting in 30 amino acid substitutions and 12 deletions.

- ✓ It is named for the University Hospital Institute Mediterranean Infection, or IHU, in the port city of Marseille in France.

Sri Lanka, India Inks Deal to Redevelop Strategic Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex

Sri Lanka signed an agreement with India to jointly redevelop the strategic World War II-era Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex, commonly known as the Trinco Oil

Tank Farm in Srilanka's eastern port district of Trincomalee for a lease period of 50 years.

- ✓ The 85 tanks out of the 99 tanks will now be under the Sri Lankan control which was previously under the control of India.

Japan & Australia Signed Defence Agreement to counter China

Japan and Australia signed a 'landmark' defence treaty named the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) to counter China's expansionary military and economic policies. The treaty or RAA will enhance the interoperability and cooperation between the two countries. It is the second deal signed between Japan & Australia after Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).

India and 5 Other Nations Begin Anti-Submarine Exercise 'Sea Dragon 22' with US Navy

United States (US) Navy Seventh Fleet announced the beginning of the multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise, 'Sea Dragon 22' in Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the western Pacific. The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the US, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.

- ✓ **Note** – India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the Quad, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.

BANKING & FINANCE

SBICPSL, Paytm join hands for Card Tokenization to Protect Cardholders' Data

SBI (State Bank of India) Cards and Payment Services Limited (SBICPSL) has collaborated with Paytm to enable their cardholders to tokenize their cards on devices and make payments through Paytm. Currently, only cards issued in the Indian Territory are enabled on Paytm network but this partnership enables SBI Cardholders to transact through Paytm network in international locations. The card tokenization facility is available only on Android NFC (near field communication) devices.

LIC, GIC, New India Assurance Continue to be Identified as D-SIIs for 2021-22: IRDAI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance continued to be identified by Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22.

- ✓ They were also consequently subject to enhanced regulatory supervision and IRDAI has asked the three insurers to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

LIC Inaugurated "Digi Zone" To Enhance its Digital Footprint

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has inaugurated "Digi Zone", at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, Maharashtra, as part of its effort to enhance its digital footprint. LIC's Digi Zone can be used by the customers to purchase policies online, pay the premium and avail of other services.

Paisabazaar.com and Axis Bank Launches Pre-Qualified Program for Personal Loans

On 30th December 2021 Paisabazaar.com, the digital marketplace for consumer credit partnered with Axis Bank to launch a pre-qualified program for unsecured loans on its platform. The pre-qualified program involves deep technology and analytics collaboration with banks and non-bank financiers, enabling customers to view customized and pre-qualified lending offers.

SEBI reconstituted Market Data Advisory Committee Chaired by S Sahoo

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reconstituted 20 members Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) to recommend policy measures in areas like securities market data access and privacy. The MDAC will be chaired by S. Sahoo.

- ✓ S Sahoo is a Professor at National Law University, Delhi & former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✓ The previous committee was headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole-time member of SEBI.

Government Retains the Interest Rate of Small Savings Schemes for Q4 of FY22

Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Budget Division), has maintained the status quo and retained the Interest Rate of Small Savings Scheme unchanged for the 4th Quarter (Q4) for the Financial Year 2021-22 (FY22) (i.e. from January 2022 to March 2022) same as Q3 FY22, due to the rising cases of COVID-19 variant Omicron and elevated level of inflation.

- ✓ The interest rates on various small savings instruments such as Public Provident Fund

(PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), term deposits in post offices, etc remain unchanged from Q2 FY21 (around 7 quarters). Click here for [Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q4 FY22](#).

Nippon India MF launches India's first Auto Exchange Traded Fund

In January 2022, Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF) launched a New Fund Offer (NFO) for Nippon India Nifty Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). It is India's First Auto sector ETF.

- ✓ The scheme will provide exposure to top 15 companies of auto sectors such as automobiles 4 wheelers, automobiles 2 & 3 wheelers, auto ancillaries, and tyres.

RBI Approves Fino Payments Bank for Cross Border Remittances

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Fino Payments Bank for commencing international remittance business under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS). The approval will enable the customers of Fino Payments Bank to receive money sent from foreign countries. The money remitted by family members abroad can be directly withdrawn at the nearest micro-ATM or Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Services (AEPS) enabled Fino Bank's neighbourhood merchant point.

- ✓ The headquarters of **Fino Payments Bank – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

RBI Releases Framework for Small-value Offline Digital Payments

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode using cards, wallets, mobile devices, etc, to push digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction was fixed at Rs 200, with a total limit on a payment instrument be at Rs 2,000 at any point in time.

- ✓ **Note** – Offline digital payment is a transaction that does not require internet or telecom connectivity to take effect.

NBBL Launches UPMS to Simplify Recurring Bill Payments

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched a Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS), which will enable users to set up standing instructions on their recurring bill payments across all modes of digital payments.

- ✓ The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.

RBI granted Scheduled Payment Bank Status to Airtel Payments Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted a Scheduled Payment Bank status to Airtel Payments Bank by including it into the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934. With this inclusion, it becomes the 4th payment bank to get this status. This status will help Airtel Payments Bank to explore new central and state government business opportunities, including participation in government-issued Request for Proposals (RFP), and primary auctions, along with participation in government-operated welfare schemes.

RBI Introduces Market Making Scheme to Promote PDs to Trade in RD Scheme

To provide liquidity in the secondary market, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the market-making scheme to promote retail participation in Government Securities (G-Secs) by providing prices/quotes to Retail Direct Gilt Account Holders (RDGAHs) enabling them to buy/sell securities under the RBI Retail Direct (RBI-RD) Scheme.

- ✓ Under the scheme, RBI allowed the Primary Dealers (PDs) to be present on the Negotiated Dealing System- Order Matching (NDS-OM) Platform (odd-lot and Request for Quotes (RFQ) segments) throughout market hours and respond to buy/sell requests from RDGAHs.

RBI Cancels Authorisation Certificates of Two Payment System Operators

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of two Payment System Operators (PSOs) – Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. The CoA was cancelled by RBI on 31st December 2021, in the exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

SBI, ICICI and HDFC Bank continue to be Domestic Systemically Important Banks

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that SBI (State Bank of India), ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) and HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited) banks will continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

- ✓ Therefore, they will have to maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital ratios in the same manner prescribed in 2020.

RBI Releases Eligibility Criteria for Entities to Become 'specified Users' of CICs

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the eligibility criteria for entities to be categorised as 'Specified User' of Credit Information Companies (CICs). The eligible criteria are issued under clause (j) of Regulation 3 of the CICs (Amendment) Regulations, 2021. In November 2021, RBI notified CICs (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to amend the CICs Regulations, 2006.

- ✓ A 'specified user' should be a company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India.

Reliance Jio Introduces UPI Autopay in Collaboration with NPCI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Reliance Jio collaborated to announce the introduction of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Autopay for the telecom industry. Through this collaboration, Reliance Jio has become the 1st telecom company to launch a UPI autopay facility for both prepaid and postpaid subscribers.

- ✓ Jio customers can now autopay for their tariff plans on the MyJio app and avail touch-free auto-recharge and bill payments facility.

SBI General Insurance launches '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' Campaign on Tax Saving

SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance Company Ltd launched a campaign titled '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' to increase awareness around the need to buy health insurance to save tax. It will also highlight the other benefits of opting for health insurance. The campaign is in a quirky Vox Pop format featuring anchor Rudraksh Singh aka Rudy.

RBI Increased Banks' LCR maintenance on Funds Received from Non-Financial Small Business Customers to Rs 7.5 Crore

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the threshold limit for Banks to maintain the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) on deposits and other 'extension of funds' received from non-financial small business customers from Rs 5 crore to Rs 7.5 crore.

- ✓ **Objective:** To better align RBI's guidelines with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standard and enable banks to manage liquidity risk more effectively.

IRDAI – to Set up Hubs on Motor, Property Insurances and Sets Norms for Surety Cover

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has decided to set up two hubs, one on motor insurance at 'Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM)', the other on property insurance at 'National Insurance Academy (NIA)' to promote loss prevention measures in the general insurance industry. IRDAI also decided to form an advisory committee under the chairmanship of the NIA director to create a repository of past risk inspection reports and develop standard survey/inspection report formats.

- ✓ In exercise of the powers conferred under section 14 (2) (i) of IRDA Act, 1999, IRDAI has issued the following guidelines to regulate and develop Surety Insurance business named 'IRDAI (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2022'.

Airtel Payments Bank & Park+ partner on FASTag-based Parking Solutions

Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ have collaborated to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India. This partnership will utilize the reach of Airtel Payments Bank to digitise the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle.

- ✓ Park+ is backed by Sequoia Capital and Matrix Partners, and is engaged in automating parking spaces through FASTag.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Govt Approved 19th Tranche of Electoral Bonds

Ahead of assembly elections in five states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa, the government has approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds through State

Bank of India (SBI) which is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds and it will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022.

India's April-November 2021 Fiscal Deficit narrows to 46.2% of full FY22 target

In accordance with the official data by India's Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the Central Government's fiscal deficit at the end of November 2021 (April-November) decreased to 46.2% due to revenues and rise in tax collections. It was 135.1% in November 2020. In actual terms, the deficit stood at Rs 6.95 lakh crore against the annual estimate of Rs 15.06 lakh crore for FY22 or 6.8% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

India's Q2FY22 CAD is 1.3% of GDP; RBI's BoP Data

In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Balance of Payments (BoP) data for July-September 2021 (Q2FY22), India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) was USD 9.6 billion or 1.3% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

India's current account surplus stood at USD 6.6 billion or 0.9% of GDP in the April-June 2021 quarter (Q1FY22). In the year-ago period the surplus had stood at USD 15.3 billion or 2.4% of the GDP.

CryptoWire launches India's 1st Index of Cryptocurrencies 'IC15'

India's 1st index of cryptocurrencies named 'IC15' was launched by CryptoWire, a global crypto super app, to empower knowledge on the cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem. IC15 Index which is a rule-based broad market index by market capitalization will measure the performance of 15 widely traded liquid cryptocurrencies listed on exchanges across the world.

India Achieves Highest-Ever Export of USD 37.29 Billion in December 2021

As per the data of the Ministry of commerce and industry, India's merchandise export in December 2021 was about USD 37.29 billion, the highest ever monthly exports achievement. The export was increased by 37.0 percent in December 2021 on an annual basis over USD 27.22 billion in December 2020 and an increase of 37.55 percent over USD 27.11 billion in December 2019.

Apple Becomes First Company to Touch \$3 Trillion Market Cap

Apple Inc.'s stock market value raised above USD 3 trillion and became the first company to achieve this milestone. On the first day of trading in 2022 (i.e. On January 03, 2022), the company's shares hit an intraday record high of USD 182.88, putting Apple's market value just above USD 3 trillion. The stock ended the session up 2.5 percent at USD 182.01, with Apple's market capitalization at USD 2.99 trillion.

Airtel Partners with HCIPL to Offer Satellite Broadband Services

Bharti Airtel Limited and Hughes Communications India Private Limited (HCIPL), a majority-owned subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) announced joint venture (JV) to provide satellite broadband services in India. The JV is Operational as HCIPL. HCIPL will hold a 67 percent stake in the joint venture, while Airtel will hold a 33 percent.

Reliance Launches India Inc's Biggest Bond Sale Abroad

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched a mega bond sale as it desired to raise USD 3 to 5 billion from offshore investors. The sale is claimed as the largest-ever foreign currency bond issuance from India and 2022's first fundraising by an Indian company. RIL received bids of about USD 11-12 billion, named as 'order book size' in the market.

MEA Inks Pact with TCS for Second Phase of Passport Seva Program

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) selected Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) for implementing the second phase of the passport seva programme (PSP) – India's largest mission-critical e-governance programme. TCS has been involved as a service provider in the Passport Seva Project for over 10 years. In the second phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions for issuance of e-passports.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 announced

Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, met in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi. The awards recognized books first published

during the five years immediately preceding the year of award i.e., books published between 2015 and 2019 are considered.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2021: Established in 1954, Sahitya Akademi is a literary honour in India for writers of the most outstanding books. These were announced in 20 languages. The winning books include 7 poetry, 2

novels, 5 short stories, 2 Plays, one each of Biography, Autobiography, Criticism and Epic Poetry.

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021: Established in 2011, Yuva Puraskar recognises young writers of the age 35 years and below, with the aim to encourage and promote young writers. The Sahitya Akademi announces 22 winners in this category.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021: Established in 2010, this award acknowledges the outstanding children's book. The book is meant for the target readership of 9 to 16 years age group. The Sahitya Akademi announces 22 winners in this category. [Click here for winners list..](#)

Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes 1st Woman of Colors to make solo trip to South Pole

The Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer, Captain Harpreet Chandi became the 1st woman of colour to make a solo unsupported trek to the earth's South Pole. Captain Harpreet Chandi is a 32 years old physiotherapist, who was popularly known as 'Polar Preet'.

South Indian Bank wins UiPath Automation Excellence awards 2021 for Best Automation

South Indian Bank (SIB) won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for Best Automation under 'Crisis for Business Continuity'. The 2021 edition of the

award recognises contribution of the individuals and organizations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal) for bringing change through transformative automation projects.

Indian Numerologist JC Chaudhry Achieved 1st Guinness World Record on Numerology

JC Chaudhry, India's one of the top numerologists, has achieved the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 by educating about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology joined from the United States, the United Kingdom(UK), Middle East, and India. The Guinness World Record London office has opened a new category, "Numerology" for this achievement.

78th SKOCH Summit: FSL won the Silver SKOCH Award for Governance

Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) – Forensic Service, Delhi, has won the SKOCH Award 2021(Silver) in the Governance category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children. The award was presented during the 78th SKOCH Summit held on 6th January 2022. The summit was organised with the theme "State of Governance". Deepa Verma, Director of Rohini based FSL received the award on behalf of the FSL.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Somalia's President suspended Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble over Corruption Allegations

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, President of Somalia, widely known as Farmaajo, has suspended Prime Minister(PM) Mohamed Hussein Roble over allegations of corruption, misuse of public land and trade allegations over the holding up of parliamentary elections. The president has also suspended Brigadier General Abdihamid Mohamed Dirir, the commander of the Somali Navy.

Vinay Kumar Tripathi Appointed as New Chairman and CEO of Railway Board

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi as a Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board, New Delhi. Tripathi is currently working as the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and has been appointed in place of outgoing Chairman and CEO Suneet Sharma.

Sudan's PM Abdalla Hamdok Resigns amid Political Deadlock

Prime Minister of Sudan, Abdalla Hamdok Al-Kinani announced resignation due to political deadlock and protests in the capital city Khartoum, Sudan. This protest comes amid Sudan's political transition to democracy. Previously, Abdalla Hamdok was appointed as the Prime Minister of Sudan, after the overthrow of Dictator Omar al-Bashir who ruled the country for 30 years.

Govt reappoints Vijay Paul Sharma as Chairman of CACP

Central government has reappointed Vijay Paul Sharma as Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after he resigned in May 2021 completing his five-year term (2016-2021). Vijay Paul Sharma also serves as a professor in the Agriculture department at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) Gujarat.

G Asok Kumar appointed as the new Director

General of NMCG

The Additional Secretary under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. He succeeded Director General, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. He is popularly known as 'the Rain Man of India' for his excellent work in rainwater harvesting under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.

ONGC appoints Alka Mittal as its 1st Woman

CMD

Human Resources (HR) Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Alka Mittal was appointed as the 1st woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC, on additional charge. Alka Mittal succeeded Subhash Kumar who retired on December 31 2021.

- ✓ **Note** – Previously, in January 2021, Soma Mondal became the 1st Women Chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

BoB Appoints cricketer Shafali Verma as

Brand Endorser

Bank of Baroda (BoB) appointed Indian Women's Cricketer Shafali Verma as the Brand Endorser of the bank. A contract was signed between the Bank and the Cricketer Shafali Verma to confirm their association. Shafali Verma is a 17-year-old young cricketer, hails from Rohtak, Haryana. She plays for the Indian women's national cricket team.

Ajay Kumar Choudhary & Deepak Kumar

Appointed as Executive Directors of RBI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar, Chief General Manager, Department of Information Technology, RBI and Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision, RBI, as the new Executive Directors (ED) of RBI with effect from 3rd January 2022.

Veteran Chinese Diplomat Zhang Ming

appointed as new Secretary General of SCO

The senior Chinese diplomat, Zhang Ming was appointed as the new secretary general (SG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Zhang Ming

succeeded the former diplomat from Uzbekistan, Vladimir Norov, who completed his term on 31st December 2021. Zhang Ming will hold the post of SG of the SCO for a term of 3 years.

- ✓ Prior to this appointment, Zhang Ming served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union (EU).

LLC announces All-women Referee team & appoints Jhulan Goswami as Ambassador

Legends League Cricket (LLC) appointed Jhulan

Goswami as an Ambassador to its All Women Match Official Team to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives of the LLC and to increase participation of women in cricket. The LLC set up an All Women Match Official Team for the League. This is the first of its all women official teams that would officiate an entire men's league.

- ✓ In 2021, Indian film actor Amitabh Bachchan appointed the Brand Ambassador Legends League Cricket (LLC) and former head coach Ravi Shastri is officiating as Commissioner of the league.

India's T. S. Tirumurti takes over Chair of UN

Counter Terrorism Committee for 2022

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), TS Tirumurti taken over the Chair of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) for 2022. India will make efforts in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) consisted all 15 members (Permanent and Non-permanent) of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Maria Elisa Quinteros Elected as new

President of Chilean Constitutional

Convention

The members of the Chilean constitutional assembly have elected epidemiologist Maria Elisa Quinteros as the new president of the assembly which is tasked to draft the new Constitution of the Republic of Chile. Maria Elisa Quinteros will replace Indigenous Mapuche professor and activist Elisa Loncon, the inaugural president of the constitutional assembly.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Title - "Mamata: Beyond 2021"

Authored by - political journalist Jayanta Ghosal and

Translated by - Arunava Sinha

Published by - HarperCollins Publishers India

The book explores and examines why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost the 2021 West Bengal Election. The announcement about the release of the book was made on 5th January 2022, the birthday of Mamata

Banerjee, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal and the leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party.

Book Title - "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India"

Authored by - Dharendra K. Jha, a Delhi based journalist,

Published by - Vintage Books.

- ✓ The book explores Godse's relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse's resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russia test-fires New Hypersonic Tsirkon Missiles from Frigate & Submarine

Russia successfully test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and other two missiles from a submarine. The Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles). The deployment of the missiles will elevate the capability of Russia's military power.

Dr. Jitendra Singh launches Web Portal for PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration

Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, launched the Web Portal for PM's (Prime Minister's) Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-

22 (www.pmawards.gov.in). The registration for the awards is initiated on January 3, 2022. The total number of Awards under this will be 18.

Chinese "Artificial Sun" Achieved Continuous High-Temperature Plasma Operation; Set New World Record

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), which is known as the Chinese 'Artificial Sun' has achieved a continuous high-temperature plasma operation for 1056 seconds at a stunning 70 million degrees Celsius. This sets a new world record for the longest time of operation of its kind in the world.

- ✓ The EAST is located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, Anhui Province, China.

SPORTS

South African Cricketer Quinton de Kock Announced Retirement from Test Cricket

South African cricketer (wicketkeeper & batsman) Quinton de Kock (29 years old) has announced his retirement from Test Cricket with immediate effect. He has committed to play international limited-overs cricket (white-ball cricket). Quinton de Kock hails from Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. He has been twice named the South African Cricketer of the Year in 2017 and 2020.

Cricket – Himachal Pradesh Cricket Team won 2021-22 Vijay Hazare Trophy

Himachal Pradesh cricket team won its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021-22 or 20th season of the Vijay Hazare Trophy title after defeating Tamil Nadu in the finals that was held at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Shubham Arora of Himachal Pradesh was adjudged as the Player of the Match for his majestic hundred in the final.

- ✓ It is Himachal's first-ever domestic title. Himachal Pradesh team defeated Tamil Nadu team by 11 Runs and also used VJD method (V Jayadevan system) to win.

Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez announces retirement from International Cricket

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez (41), who captained his national team in every format of the game, has announced his retirement from international cricket. Currently he signed up with Lahore Qalandars for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League and will be available for global franchise cricket.

Sri Lankan Cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa announces Retirement from International Cricket

Sri Lankan Cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa proposed a letter of resignation to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). He announced his retirement from International cricket with immediate effect, due to personal reasons. Bhanuka Rajapaksa is a 30-year-old Sri Lankan cricket player, who has represented the country in 5 ODIs (One Day International) and 18 T20Is, scoring a total of 409 across formats which included three fifties.

Nodirbek Abdusattorov wins 2021 World Rapid Chess Champion

Nodirbek Abdusattorov, from Uzbekistan, won the World Rapid Chess Champion of 2021 by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tiebreaker and dethroning Magnus Carlsen, the current World Number 1. 2020 FIDE Champion was won by Magnus Carlsen.

OBITUARY

Former England Cricket Captain Ray Illingworth Passed Away

Ray Illingworth, a former England cricket captain and the coach of the England Cricket team (1995-1996) has passed away at the age of 89. He was born on 8th June 1932 in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, England. He has also played for the Yorkshire County Cricket Club of England.

Vice Admiral SH Sarma, Indian Navy's 1971 War Veteran, Passed Away

The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral Sree Harilal Sarma (SH Sarma), the senior-most living war veteran has passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born in Orissa, British Raj (now Odisha). Vice Admiral SH Sarma, a Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) awardee, has served as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF) during the 1971 Indo Pakistan War.

Three-time Olympic Gold winning Triple Jump Champion – Viktor Saneyev passed away

The Olympic triple jump – 3 time gold medalist and former world record holder, Viktor Danilovich Saneyev

passed away in Australia at the age of 76 years. Viktor Saneyev was born on October 3, 1945, in Georgia. He was a triple long player who represented the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) in the Olympic games. Later he worked as a coach in Australia.

Social worker & Padma Shri awardee Sindhutai Sapkal passed away

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri recipient Sindhutai Sapkal passed away at the age of 74 years in Pune, Maharashtra. She was popularly known as the 'mother of orphaned children'. Sindhutai Sapkal was born on 14 November 1948 in Wardha, Maharashtra.

- ✓ She was also a social activist, fought against the exploitation of local women.
- ✓ A biographical movie was made on her in Marathi titled 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal'.

Shillong Chamber Choir founder Neil Nongkynrih passed away

On 5 January 2022, the founder of Shillong Chamber Choir (SCC) and renowned Indian concert pianist Neil Nongkynrih, aka Uncle Neil, passed away at the age of 51 years in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Neil Nongkynrih was born on 9 July 1970 in Shillong, Meghalaya.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DRDO Celebrated 64th Foundation Day – 1st January 2022

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Research and development (R&D) wing of Ministry of Defence, celebrated its 64th Foundation Day or 64th Raising Day on 1st January 2022. The DRDO was established on 1st January 1958 by amalgamating the Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

5th POSOCO Day – 3rd January 2022

Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) Day is annually observed on 3rd January to

commemorate the day (3rd January 2017) on which POSOCO stated its independent functioning under the Ministry of Power as one of the Power Public sector undertakings (PSUs). POSOCO was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) till 2 January 2017.

World Braille Day 2022 – January 4

United Nations (UN)'s World Braille Day is annually observed across the globe on 4th January to create awareness about the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people across the globe. 4th January 2022 marks the observance of the 4th World Braille Day and the 213th birth anniversary

of Louis Braille of 19th-century French educator who invented Braille, a universally accepted system of reading and writing used by and for blind persons.

World Day of War Orphans 2022 – January 6

World Day of War Orphans is annually observed across the globe on 6th January to create awareness about the condition of the children who were orphaned as a result of war or other conflicts. The day also highlights the need to protect the human rights of orphaned children.

- ✓ The day offers a platform to address the plight of war orphans and to highlight the emotional,

social, and physical challenges children face while growing up.



75th BIS Foundation Day – 6th January 2022

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India, annually celebrates the BIS Foundation Day on 6th January. The BIS foundation day commemorates the day on which BIS came into existence as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) (6th January 1947). 6th January 2022 marks the observance of the 75th BIS Foundation Day.

- ✓ In December 2021, BIS launched a mobile app “BIS Care” for consumers.

STATE NEWS

Amir Subhani named as new Chief Secretary of Bihar; Succeeds Tripurari Sharan

In accordance with the General Administration Department of Bihar's notification, the 1987 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) topper, Amir Subhani, appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar w.e.f. January 1, 2022 succeeding Tripurari Sharan who retires on December 31, 2021.

- ✓ Prior to this, Amir Subhani was serving as Bihar's development commissioner. He will retire in April 2024.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary of the social welfare department Atul Prasad, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has been appointed as new development commissioner.

cooperate in the areas of green hydrogen, green ammonia and renewable energy (solar/wind).

NHPC, GEDCOL to form JV for setting up 500-MW floating Solar Power Projects

NHPC (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Limited has signed a promoter's agreement with Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Ltd (GEDCOL) to form a JV for setting up a 500-megawatt (MW) floating solar power projects in Odisha.

HP CM Jai Ram Thakur Launched UNNATI portal & Mobile app of HPSIDC

Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has launched the UNNATI portal and the mobile application (app) of the Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (HPSIDC). He also launched the website of the HPSIDC. The UNNATI portal will allow the user to work in collaboration with others and focus on individual projects.

Syntizen Partners with the Odisha Govt to Provide Life Certificates to Pensioners

Syntizen, a Digital Identity Solutions provider, has partnered with the Odisha government to provide a Video KYC solution in offering life certificates to 5 lakh pension seekers. Odisha is the first State in India to implement a digital process which includes Aadhaar Validation for simplifying the process of obtaining a life certificate.

J&K govt signs pact with LuLu Group to set up Food Processing & Logistics hub in Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LuLu Group International to establish the Food Processing and Logistics hub in Srinagar (Summer Capital of J&K). The LG inaugurated the Jammu and Kashmir

Jharkhand Govt Partners with ISB to Boost Forest Economy

The Jharkhand Government partners with premier city-based B-school, Indian School of Business (ISB) to empower Jharkhand's forest economy and create jobs and wealth through a sustainable development model. Under the partnership, a MoU has been signed by the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, the Department of Forests, Jharkhand, along with Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) at Indian School of Business (ISB).

Odisha govt, GAIL India sign MoU for Clean Energy Projects in Odisha; NHPC, GEDCOL to form JV

On January 5, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and GAIL India (Formerly known as Gas Authority Of India Ltd) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) for the production of eco-friendly fuels in Odisha. Both entities will

promotion week at the LuLu Hypermarket in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- ✓ The GI-tagged saffron of J&K was launched at LuLu Hypermarket.

Ganjam Declared itself as Odisha's 1st Child Marriage Free District

Ganjam district of Odisha has declared itself as the 1st child marriage free district of Odisha. The declaration has been made after collecting detailed information on all weddings that took place in 2020 and 2021. The best practice in the district has been to register each and every marriage.

Karnataka & LNG Alliance Signed MoU to Setup Karnataka's 1st LNG terminal in Mangaluru

The government of Karnataka and the Singapore based LNG Alliance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up Karnataka's 1st Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal in Mangaluru, Karnataka. The terminal will be developed in association with the New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) with an investment of Rs 2250 crore.

- ✓ This is a part of the Government of India's plan to strengthen the alternative fuel sector to reach net-zero carbon by 2070.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI Approves Acquisition of 96.42% Stake in JPL By Worldone Private Limited

Acquisition b/w – Worldone Private Ltd & Jindal Power Limited (JPL).

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a 96.42% stake in Jindal Power Limited (JPL), a subsidiary of Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL), by Worldone Private Limited.
- ✓ JSPL is a part of the OP Jindal Group that works in steel, power, mining and infrastructure sectors.

Reliance New Energy Solar Acquires 100% Stake in Faradion

Acquisition b/w – Reliance New Energy Solar Limited (RNESSL) & Faradion Ltd.

- ✓ **RNESSL**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire **100 percent** shareholding in Faradion Ltd. through secondary transactions for a total value of British Pound Sterling (GBP) 94.42 million based on an enterprise value of £100 million.

SBI to Acquire Around 10% stake in IICC

State Bank of India (SBI) is set to acquire around 10% stake in the **India International Clearing Corporation (IICC)**, the first international clearing corporation set up at GIFT-IFSC that acts as a central counterparty providing clearing and settlement and risk management services.

- ✓ SBI is expected to complete up to a 9.95% stake subject to a maximum investment of Rs 34.03 crore, in IICC by March 2022.

Tech Mahindra acquires 100% stake in Allyis India & Green Investments LLC

Tech Mahindra announced that its subsidiary, Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc. is set to acquire 100 % equity shares in Allyis India Private Ltd and Green Investments LLC, a holding company for United States (US) based Allyis Group. According to the proposal, Tech Mahindra will pay USD 125 million (~INR 900 crore) including employment and performance earnout.

NTPC Limited to Acquire 5% Equity Stake in PXIL

NTPC Limited (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited,) is set to acquire up to 5% of the equity stake in Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL). PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, that provides electricity trading solutions and connects buyers as well as sellers.

- ✓ This acquisition is in line with the intention of the government to increase the share of the spot power market to 25% of the total electricity supply in India by 2023- 2024.

Reliance Retail Picked up a 25.8% Stake in Dunzo for USD 200 Million

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (**RRVL**), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has purchased a 25.8% stake in Bengaluru-based startup Dunzo (Dunzo Digital Private Limited), an Indian company, with an investment of USD 200 Million (~ Rs 1489 crore). Dunzo has raised USD 240 million in a round of funding where the investment was led by RRVL.

ENVIRONMENT

Two New Species of Rare Wasp Discovered:

Monoceromyia flavoscutata, M. nigra

Researchers have discovered two new species of very rare wasp-like flower flies such as Monoceromyia

flavoscutata and M. nigra from north-eastern India and the Western Ghats. Two new plant species Fimbristylis sunilii and Neanotis prabhuii have been discovered in Western Ghats regions of Thiruvananthapuram (Ponmudi hills), and Wayanad (Chembra Peak), Kerala.

GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [GA Questions asked RRB PO Mains Exam – Sept 25](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS Clerk Mains Exam – Feb 28](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam – Feb 20](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS PO Mains Exam – Feb 4](#)
- [GA Questions asked in RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Jan 30](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 – Jan 29](#)
- [SBI Clerk Mains 2020](#)
- [IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020](#)
- [RBI Assistant Mains 2020](#)
- [GA Questions Asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2020 – 90% Questions Covered by AC](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO 2019 Main Exam](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI Clerk Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS PO Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in RBI Grade B Prelims Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB PO Mains Exam 2019](#)

All The Best for Your Exams!!!

Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

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