

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding **National Health Authority revamped ABHA mobile app**.
1. National Health Authority under its **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** has launched revamped **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** mobile application for managing the health records.
 2. The ABHA app was earlier known as the **NDHM Health Records app**.
 3. ABHA mobile application has new functionalities such as **edit profile, link, and unlink ABHA number (14 digits) with ABHA address**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

National Health Authority under its Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has launched revamped Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application for managing the health records.

The ABHA app was earlier known as the NDHM Health Records app. It allows users self-uploading of physical health records and sharing of digital health records.

It helps users to link health records created at ABDM compliant health facilities and view them on their smartphones.

Now, the patients can get their health records anywhere with the help of their ABHA address.

ABHA mobile application has new functionalities such as edit profile, link and unlink ABHA number (14 digit) with ABHA address.

This digitization of health records will help in better clinical decision making.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.

Ayushman Bharat Health Account app relaunched

New user interface, more utilities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority (NHA), under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), on Tuesday announced the launch of a revamped Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application.

The ABHA app, previously known as the NDHM Health Records app, is available on the Google Play Store and already has over four lakh downloads.

The updated version of the app has a new user interface (UI) and added functionalities that enable individuals to access their health records anytime and anywhere. The existing ABHA app users can also update their previous app versions to the latest one.

Allows self-uploading

The ABHA app enables an individual to create an ABHA address (username@abdm), an easy-to-remember username that can be linked with the 14-digit randomly generated AB-

HA number. It also enables users to link their health records created at an ABDM-compliant health facility and view them on their smartphones.

It allows self-uploading of physical health records in the ABDM-compliant health lockers, along with sharing of digital health records such as diagnostic reports, prescriptions and CoWIN vaccination certificate after the consent of an individual through the ABDM network.

In addition to this, the app has new functionalities such as edit profile and link and unlink ABHA number (14 digit) with ABHA address. Other functionalities such as login via face and fingerprint authentication and ability to scan QR code at the counter compliant facility. e. press registration shall also be released soon.

R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority (NHA), said: "The ABHA app will be instrumental in helping citizens to create their longitudinal health records."

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2. Recently _____ State Government has inked pacts with 23 companies worth an investment of \$4 billion (Rs 30,379 crore) to bring investment in different sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food processing, packaging, etc.
- A. Odisha
 - B. Tamil Nadu
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Uttar Pradesh

Maharashtra, India's largest state in terms of GDP, has inked pacts with 23 companies to bring investment in different sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food processing, packaging, etc.

These MoU will bring an investment of \$4 billion (Rs 30,379 crore) to Maharashtra.

Out of these deals, more than 55 percent of investment would come from Singapore, Indonesia, USA, and Japan.

Microsoft will establish its Data Centre in Pune with an investment of 3,200 crore rupees.

The Maharashtra government has recently launched the 10th edition of the Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 program. The program aims to attract investment into the state.

In the last two years, Maharashtra received 26% of total FDI which is the highest in India.

3. Recently _____ State Government launched the 'Sambhav' portal to resolve public grievances related to energy and urban development.
- A. Bihar
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. Maharashtra

- UP government launched the 'Sambhav' portal to resolve public grievances related to energy and urban development.
- Minister for Energy and Urban Development Arvind Sharma has launched the 'SAMBHAV' (Systemic Administration Mechanism for Bringing Happiness and Value) portal.

Maha inks \$4-bn investments at WEF Davos



AT ITS 10TH edition of Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0, the state has signed 23 MoUs at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Of these, over 55% investments are FDI from countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, the US and Japan. A total of \$ 4 billion (₹30,379 crore) in investments were signed.

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- The portal has been launched to monitor public grievances, programs, schemes, projects, and policies of the Urban Development and Energy Departments of Uttar Pradesh.
 - ‘SAMBHAV’ will help in resolving public grievances swiftly and effectively.
 - The Portal also has the facility of videoconferencing and teleconferencing for dialogue with the concerned officers
4. Consider the following statement regarding **BHASHINI - India's AI-led language translation platform**.
1. A Bhashini Platform will make Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups, and Individual Innovators in the public domain
 2. The Full form stands for Mission Digital India **BHASHINI - [BHASHa INterface for India]** - the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

MeitY holds Brainstorming with Researchers & Startups to shape strategy for Digital India BHASHINI - India's AI led language translation platform

Digital India BHASHINI is important part of PM Narendra Modi's vision & Goal to make Internet available to all

Government wants to integrate Startups in the innovation, development & consumption of Technology : Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Posted On: 24 MAY 2022 6:27PM by PIB Delhi

"We see the role of Startups in the Innovation, Development as well as Consumption of Technology", said Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, while speaking to 73 Startups in the field of Artificial Intelligence and language technology in brainstorming session organized by MeitY on Mission Digital India BHASHINI - [BHASHa INterface for India] - the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology organised a brainstorming session with more than 80 startups and other researchers to discuss India's strategy in the field of Artificial Intelligence and language technology.

The meeting was chaired by Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

The new initiative, named Digital India BHASHINI or BHASHa INterface for India- is a part of the National Language Translation Mission.

A Bhashini Platform will make Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups and Individual Innovators in the public domain.

The Indian Government launched the Digital India campaign to make government services available to citizens electronically by online infrastructure improvement and also by enhancing internet connectivity.

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5. Consider the following statement regarding **Swachh Survekshan 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**.
1. Shri Manoj Joshi has launched the **eighth edition** of Swachh Survekshan (SS) – **SS 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**
 2. **Designed with the theme of 'Waste to Wealth'** as its driving philosophy, SS 2023 is curated towards achieving circularity in waste management.
 3. The survey would give **priority to the principle of 3Rs – Reduce, Recycle and Reuse**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Shri Manoj Joshi has launched the **eighth edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) – SS 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**
- Designed with the **theme of 'Waste to Wealth'** as its driving philosophy, SS 2023 is curated towards achieving circularity in waste management.
- The survey would give priority to the principle of 3Rs – Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.
- **Swachh Survekshan has emerged as the largest Urban sanitation survey in the world. The seventh edition of Swachh Survekshan - 'Azadi @ 75 Swachh Survekshan 2022' was a landmark Survekshan as it coincided with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- The Prime Minister launched the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 on 1st October 2021, with a vision of Garbage Free Cities. The theme of SS 2023, which is 'Waste to Wealth', is aligned to SBMU 2.0's commitment to promoting circularity in waste management,
- The ranking of Wards within the cities is also being promoted through Swachh Survekshan 2023.
- **Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large-scale citizen participation.**

Centre launches annual sanitation survey of cities

NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday launched the annual sanitation survey of cities with the theme of 'waste to wealth'. The Swachh Survekshan 2023 under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 will be the eighth edition of the national survey of cleanliness in cities. With the theme 'Waste to Wealth' as its philosophy, it is curated towards achieving circularity in waste management.

6. Consider the following statement regarding **Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF)**.
1. Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) **completes 5 years since the Union Cabinet's decision to abolish Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)**

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- 2. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was made the nodal Department.**
- 3. FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion was reported during the FY 2021-22 despite the COVID-19 pandemic and recent Russia-Ukraine conflict. During FY 2021-22 FDI has been reported from 101 countries.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) completes 5 years since Union Cabinet decision to abolish FIPB

853 FDI proposals disposed off in the last 5 years; FDI jumped by 39% since FIF came into being

Posted On: 24 MAY 2022 2:48PM by PIB Delhi

853 FDI proposals have been disposed off through the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) since abolishment of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The proposal for abolition of FIPB was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting on 24th May, 2017. Subsequent to abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), granting of government approval for foreign investment under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA Regulations was entrusted to the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was made the nodal Department.

The FDI proposals were, thereafter, required to be filed only on Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF Portal) at <https://fifp.gov.in>, which is managed by DPIIT. The proposals filed on FIF Portal are forwarded to the concerned Administrative Ministry and are also simultaneously marked to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for comments and to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for necessary security clearance, wherever required as per the FDI Policy/ FEM Regulations.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing of FDI proposals, including documents to be filed, through FIF Portal was framed and laid down by DPIIT on 29th June, 2017 with amendment on 09th Jan, 2020.

Since then, not only the FDI has increased so have the number of countries bringing in FDI into India. In FY 2014-15, FDI inflow in India stood at mere USD 45.15 billion, which increased to USD 60.22 billion in 2016-17 and further to the highest ever annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion reported during the FY 2021-22 despite COVID-19 pandemic and recent Russia-Ukraine conflict. During FY 2021-22 FDI has been reported from 101 countries, whereas, it was reported from 97 countries during previous financial year (2020-21).

- 853 FDI proposals have been disposed of through the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF) since the abolishment of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The proposal for the abolition of FIPB was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting on 24th May 2017.**
- After the abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), granting of government approval for foreign investment under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA Regulations was entrusted to the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was made the nodal Department.**
- Highest ever annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion was reported during the FY 2021-22 despite the COVID-19 pandemic and recent Russia-Ukraine conflict. During FY 2021-22 FDI has been reported from 101 countries, whereas, it was reported from 97 countries during the previous financial year (2020-21).**

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7. Consider the following statement regarding *Inter-State Council*.

1. The *Inter-State Council* is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will comprise chief ministers of all states and UTs with the legislature and 16 Union ministers as its members
2. The center has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Council, which is headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
3. The *Inter-State Council* was set up through a Presidential Order on May 28, 1990, under Article 263 of the Constitution of India.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The central government reconstituted the *Inter-State Council*, which works to promote cooperative federalism, on May 23, 2022.
- The council is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises chief ministers of all states and UTs with the legislature and six Union ministers as its members.
- The council will now also comprise 10 Union Ministers as permanent invitees, instead of four as earlier.
- The center has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Council, which is headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The standing committee members include four Union ministers and CMs of eight states.
- The constitution of India has made an elaborate distribution of powers between the Union and the State government and classified the legislative powers into three lists- Union List, State List, and the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution
- The center had constituted a Commission in 1988 under the Chairmanship of Justice RS Sarkaria to review the existing power-sharing arrangements between the center and the states
- The *Inter-State Council* was set up through a Presidential Order on May 28, 1990, under Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
- The role of the standing committee is to conduct continuous consultations and process matters about the Centre-state relations before they are taken up for consideration in the inter-state council.

Centre reconstitutes Inter-State Council

Amit Shah to be chief of committee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Inter-State Council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers as members.

Ten Union Ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council, according to an official notification.

The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Inter-State Council with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman. The Union Ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S. Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pral-



Amit Shah

had Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupender Yadav.

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are also members of the standing committee of the Inter-State Council.

It will have continuous consultations and process matters for consideration of the council, process all matters pertaining to centre-state relations before they are taken up in the council.

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8. _____ will be hosting the 4th State Level Shirui Lily Festival which will start on May 25 and end on May 28, 2022.

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

May 24, 2022, 8:17PM

4th edition of state-level Shirui Lily Festival 2022 to begin from May 25 in Manipur

In Manipur, the 4th Edition of State-Level Shirui Lily Festival 2022 will begin from tomorrow. This annual festival is organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur in an aim to create and raise awareness on Shirui Lily flower which is also the State Flower of Manipur.

The four-day long festival will be inaugurated by the Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan and the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tomorrow at Shirui Village Ground in Ukhrul district. Different events including traditional dances, songs and music, trekking, beauty contests, indigenous games and sports will be organised at different sites in Ukhrul district. The festival is held around April and May as it is the blooming season of Shirui Lily. The flower is found in Ukhrul district of Manipur only and cannot be replanted anywhere in the world.

This year, some of the international rock bands will perform in the festival. Every year, tourists both domestic and international attend the function.



This annual festival is organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur in an aim to create and raise awareness on Shirui Lily flower which is also the State Flower of Manipur.

The four-day long festival will be inaugurated by the Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan and the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tomorrow at Shirui Village Ground in Ukhrul district.

The festival is held around April and May as it is the blooming season of Shirui Lily. The flower is found in Ukhrul district of Manipur only and cannot be replanted anywhere in the world.

This year, some of the international rock bands will perform in the festival. Every year, tourists both domestic and international attend the function.

9. Consider the following statement regarding the recently released **draft for electronic waste management by Environment Ministry**.

1. India has a formal set of rules for electronic waste management, **first announced these rules in 2016 and amended them in 2018**. The latest rules are expected to come into effect by August.
2. According to it, Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods **have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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D. None of the above

- **The Environment Ministry released the draft notification for electronic waste management for public feedback.**
- **India has a formal set of rules for electronic waste management, first announced these rules in 2016 and amended them in 2018. The latest rules are expected to come into effect by August.**

60% e-waste recycling likely by 2023

Draft notification says companies will have to pay 'environmental compensation' for missed targets

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023 with targets to increase them to 70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025, respectively, according to a draft notification by the Environment Ministry made public this week.

The rules bring into effect a system of trading in certificates, akin to carbon credits, that will allow companies to temporarily bridge shortfalls.

A wide range of electronic goods, including laptops, landline and mobile phones, cameras, recorders, music systems, microwaves, refrigerators and medical equipment, have been specified in the notification.

Public feedback

India, which is unique among South Asian countries in that it has a formal set of rules for electronic waste management, first announced these rules in 2016 and amended them in 2018.



All aboard: Electronic goods such as laptops and phones will come within the ambit of the new rules. • FILE PHOTO

The latest rules, which have been put up for public feedback, are expected to come into effect by August.

Along with specifying targets, the rules lay out a system of companies securing extended producer responsibility (EPR) certificates.

These certificates certify the quantity of e-waste collected and recycled in a particular year by a company and an organisation may sell surplus quantities to another company to help it meet its obligations.

"The earlier rules stressed collection targets. Now we are emphasising the EPR, recycling and trading. This follows from the government's objective to promote a circular economy," Naresh Gangwar, Additional Secretary, Environment Ministry, told *The Hindu*.

Companies will have to register on an online portal and specify their annual production and e-waste collection targets.

The chief entity that will coordinate the trade of EPR

certificates and monitor if companies are meeting their targets is the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Dealing with delays

Specifically, a steering committee to be headed by the Chairman of the CPCB will oversee the overall implementation of these regulations. Companies that don't meet their annual targets will have to pay a fine or an "environmental compensation", but the draft doesn't specify the quantum of these fines. In fact, companies that fall short can meet a year's target, even after three years. Those that meet their targets with a year's delay will be refunded 85% of their fine, and 60% and 30% after the second and third year, respectively.

In March 2020, the government said it more than doubled the electronic waste (e-waste) it recycled in 2018-19 over 2017-18. This translated to a 10% recycling rate in 2017-18 rising to a little over 20% in 2018-19.

The EPR requires producers to set up e-waste exchange facilities to facilitate

collection and recycling, and assign specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal.

The State governments have been entrusted with the responsibility of earmarking industrial space for e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities, undertaking industrial skill development and establishing measures for protecting the health and safety of workers engaged in the dismantling and recycling facilities for e-waste.

The e-waste produced in India as per the data provided by the government is lower than estimates by international agencies.

According to the Global E-Waste Monitor 2017, India generates about 2 million tonnes (MT) of e-waste annually and ranks fifth among e-waste producing countries, after the U.S., China, Japan and Germany.

Most of India's e-waste is recycled by the informal sector and under hazardous conditions and a thrust of the e-waste rules is to have more of this waste handled by the formal sector.

- **According to it, Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023 with targets to increase them to 70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025, respectively.**
- **Along with specifying targets, the rules lay out a system for companies securing extended producer responsibility (EPR) certificates.**
- **The chief entity that will coordinate the trade of EPR certificates and monitor if companies are meeting their targets is the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).**

10. Recently Central Government has capped sugar exports at _____ in the current marketing season ending September.

A. 20 million tonnes

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- B. 50 million tonnes
- C. 10 million tonnes
- D. 15 million tonnes

- The central government has capped sugar exports at 10 million tonnes in the current marketing season ending September.
- The government has taken this decision to maintain price stability and domestic availability in the middle of historically highest exports.
- As per the notification issued by the Directorate of General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), sugar exports will be allowed from June 1 after permission of the Directorate of Sugar under the Food Ministry.
- The government has placed the export of sugar (raw, refined, and white sugar) under the restricted category from June 1, 2022, onwards. Approximately 7.8 million tonnes of sugar have been exported in the current sugar marketing year (October-September).
- In 2020-21, sugar exports stood at 7 million tonnes. In 2019-20, sugar exports stood at 5.96 million tonnes.
- India is the highest producer and the second-largest exporter of sugar in the world in the current year.

Sugar exports capped at 10 mt to ensure ample supplies during festivals: Food Secretary

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, May 25

A day after capping sugar export at 10 million tonnes (mt) for the current sugar season, the Government on Wednesday said unlike wheat shipments that were prohibited, the policy with regard to sugar is to monitor the movement of the commodity out of the country so that there is no problem with regard to domestic availability.

Briefing media on the necessity of putting the curb, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said: "Please take it out of mind that it is any kind of curb. The idea is to prevent undue spike and make prices stable, besides ensuring the requisite availability during festival. If there are no sugar left during October-November, what do you do?"

The Centre on Tuesday announced that sugar (raw, refined and white sugar) exports from June 1 would be



Sudhanshu Pandey, Food Secretary KAMAL NARANG

allowed only through permits and fixed a maximum quantity of 10 mt for this season (October-September). The order, issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) late night, will be valid until October 31.

However, sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and tariff rate quota (TRQ), respectively, is exempt from these curbs.

Export deals

In the current season, about 8.2 mt have been dispatched from sugar mills of which a record 7.8 mt have been

already shipped so far, whereas a record 9 mt has been contracted.

Sugar mills and exporters need to take approvals in the form of an export Release Order (RO) from the Directorate of Sugar in the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution.

While mills need to dispatch sugar within 30 days of issuance of RO, exporters need to complete shipments within 90 days.

The Food Ministry has asked all sugar mills to submit online information about dispatches for export to determine the quantity for issuance of ROs.

In case of exports through bulk or break-bulk vessels, if the shipping bill is filed and vessels have already berthed or arrived and anchored in Indian ports and their rotation number has been allocated as on May 31, such vessels shall continue to proceed for the loading without any approval or RO,

an official said. Highlighting that India has emerged this year as the world's largest sugar producer, ahead of Brazil and also the second biggest exporter, Pandey said the closing stock at end of this season would be 6.2 mt (after factoring 10 mt exports), enough to take care of demand in the lean period of October-December.

New season

Crushing in new season starts in the last week of October in Karnataka and by the first week of November in Maharashtra, whereas it is post-Diwali in Uttar Pradesh. During the start of a new season, supply takes place from the previous season for at least first two months.

While ex-mill prices of sugar are ruling at ₹32-33 per kg, the retail prices are hovering between ₹33 and ₹44 per kg depending on the region, Pandey said.

[Also see p10](#)

11. Recently _____ state government **launched Kalaigharin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam**, aimed at increasing the cultivable area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation, augmenting water resources, increasing productivity to benefit the farmers
- A. Tamil Nadu
 - B. Andhra Pradesh
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Uttar Pradesh

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Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin launched the DMK government's flagship programme, Kalaignarin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam, aimed at increasing the cultivable area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation, augmenting water resources, increasing productivity to benefit the farmers.

The plan is to implement the programme in 12,525 village panchayats in five years.

The scheme is implemented at Rs 227 crore in 1,997 in the first year, and 3,204 villages in the second year at Rs 300 crore.

12. Consider the following statement regarding **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report**.

1. Ministry of Education today released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report which assesses the health of the school education system in **the country in classes III, V, VIII, and X** with a cycle period of three years.
2. The **last NAS was held in 2017**.
3. The survey was managed through **the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education today released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report which assesses the health of school education system in the country by conducting comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. It reflects the overall assessment of school education system. The last NAS was held in 2017.

About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021. The National Report Card has been released and placed in the public domain on nas.gov.in.

The achievement tests along with the questionnaires, i.e., pupil questionnaire, teacher questionnaire and school questionnaire were developed and translated in 22 different languages by NCERT.

This nation-wide survey was administered by the CBSE in one single day at the same time.

The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

13. Recently National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) signed two quadripartite agreements for the development of sewage infrastructure, including a 35 MLD STP, for Maheshtala in _____ under Hybrid Annuity Mode at a total cost of Rs. 273.52 crore.

- A. Odisha
- B. West Bengal
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

- **The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) today signed two quadripartite agreements for the development of sewage infrastructure, including a 35 MLD STP, for Maheshtala in West Bengal under Hybrid Annuity Mode at a total cost of Rs. 273.52 crore**
- **One agreement is an Escrow Agreement between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), and M/s. Maheshtala Waste Water Management Private Limited (MWWMPL) and Union Bank of India.**
- **The other agreement is a Substitution Agreement between NMCG, KMDA, MWWMPL, and Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (Development Bank of Austria).**

TIMES NATION

Scores dip below 2017 levels across subjects, classes: NAS

Punjab, Raj Kids Fare Better Than Nat'l Average: 2021 Survey

Manash.Gohain
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New Delhi: The academic disruptions due to the Covid-19 situation, with nearly a quarter of school children not having access to any digital devices, led to further deepening of the learning crisis in the country. When compared to the previous survey conducted in 2017, the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 of over 34 lakh students from classes III, V, VIII and X indicated that the worst hit are those studying in state-government run schools. The significant drop in national average scores across subjects and classes in this period points towards students struggling, especially in mathematics and science in higher classes.

Government-schools
Analysing the overall performance of the state government-run schools and private schools in NAS 2021 showed that while the performances of both sets of schools are almost similar at class III stage, the gap increases in higher classes in favour of the private schools. For example, while the school-wise performance in language in class III for government schools is at 323, for private school it is comparable at 324. However, the same in class V is 302 and 319 respectively and widens significantly by class VIII to 285 and 331.

State-wise government schools in Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have performed better, scoring significantly higher than the national score. The states which performed poorly here are Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

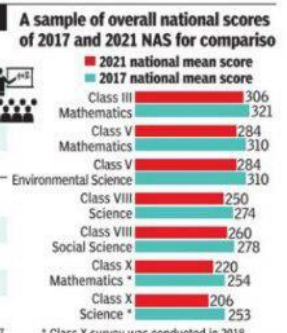
A comparison between NAS 2021 and 2018 (NAS for class X) showed that the academic performance, especially in science and mathematics, have gone south. In mathematics at class X level, the national average of state government-run schools in 2017 was 252, which slipped

LEARNING CRISIS

Sample of school management-wise performance

	Class III language	Class V mathematics	VIII science
State govt	323	280	240
Govt aided	315	275	241
Private	324	284	269
Central govt	309	285	263

	Class VIII social science	Class X mathematics	Class X English
State govt	247	210/ 252	267/ 244
Govt-aided	246	209/ 249	281/ 250
Private	267	228/ 263	321/ 271
Central-govt	257	235	322



TOP & BOTTOM 3 STATE-GOVT SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Class III language	Class V mathematics	Class VIII science	Class X social science
Best 3 state	Best 3 state	Best 3 state	Best 3 state
Punjab 387	Punjab 346	Punjab 313	Punjab 273
MP 347	Rajasthan 315	Rajasthan 280	Rajasthan 263
Rajasthan 345	MP 313	Chandigarh 270	Chandigarh 251
Bottom 3 state	Bottom 3 state	Bottom 3 state	Bottom 3 state
D&N Haveli 284	Arunachal/Sikkim 254	Goa 215	D&N Haveli 205
Delhi 285	Delhi 256	Meghalaya 219	J&K 206
Arunachal 294	Goa 257	Tamil Nadu 222	Ladakh 207

to 210 in 2021. Similarly, private schools slipped from 263 to 228. Similarly, in science, state-government schools slipped from 251 to 195 out of a total assessment score of 500, while the pri-

Punjab tops in 11 of the 15 subject-wise performances across classes. In the bottom three performances, Telangana appears seven times, Tamil Nadu appears four times and Uttar Pradesh thrice

private schools' performance dipped from 259 to 229.

State-wise
In overall achievement, barring Punjab and Rajasthan, UT Chandigarh and in a couple of instances Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, learning achievements dipped significantly in others below the 2017 mark. States like Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh and Tamil Na-

du are mentioned multiple times in the bottom three in terms of overall performance compared to the national average.

Punjab tops in 11 of the 15 subject-wise performances across classes, while it is in top two in two other lists. In the bottom three performances, Telangana appears seven times, Tamil Nadu appears four times and Uttar Pradesh thrice (mostly in higher classes).

Gender-wise

Though there was no significant difference in the national average of the performance of boys and girls since the last survey, the number of states and UTs in which performance of girls was better than boys increased significantly this year in comparison with the 2017 survey. For example, in language, girls in class III performed better than boys in 33 states and UTs against 18 states in the 2017 survey. Similarly, in class V, girls in 33 states and UTs performed better than boys in language, while girls perform-

ed significantly better than boys in 16 states and UTs, in the last survey.

In mathematics, girls in class III performed better than boys in 16 states and UTs as against six states previously. Overall, girls seemed to have matched or outdone boys in all subjects except for the widening gap seen in mathematics as students reached progressively higher classes. In class X, boys outperformed girls in mathematics in 28 states signifying a gap in learning outcomes, which becomes most stark by class X when boys significantly outperformed girls in the subjects.

Category-wise

In terms of social-group wise performance, the average performance of SC/ST/OBC students remained low in almost all classes across the states, in comparison to the general category students. For instance, in class X's English, the national average score of general students stood at 308 while it was 283 for SC students, 280 for ST and 289 for OBC students.

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- Maheshtala is situated on the east bank of River Ganga. This project aims to stop the flow of sewerage into River Ganga from the town.

14. Consider the following statement regarding **PM Modi's Visit to Chennai**.

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday is all set to launch 11 projects worth over ₹31,00 crores in Chennai,
2. PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate 1,152 houses constructed under the 'Light House Project Chennai' and built for ₹116 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.
3. The 75 km long Madurai-Teni, the railway gauge conversion project, built at a cost of over ₹500 crore

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday is all set to launch 11 projects worth over ₹31,400 crore in Chennai.

The redevelopment of the railway stations project is expected to be completed at a cost of over ₹1,800 crore.

Additionally, PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate 1,152 houses constructed under the 'Light House Project Chennai' and built at a cost of ₹116 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.

Overall,

The 75 km long Madurai-Teni, the railway gauge conversion project, built at a cost of over ₹500 crore,

It is important to note that the Prime Minister had launched the Lighthouse projects on January 1, 2021 to use new technology to complete housing projects faster while making them more resilient.

15. As Per Central Government India is working on building _____ hydropower projects totaling 6.8 gigawatts (GW) in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to fully utilize its share of waters under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan

- A. 10
- B. 8

emerged as the cleanest state for the third consecutive year.

PM to visit Chennai on May 26, lay foundation of projects worth Rs 31,400 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will lay the foundation of 11 projects worth more than Rs 31,400 crore at JLN Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Thursday.

The projects will significantly improve socio-economic prosperity in the region, have a transformative impact on several sectors and also help create employment opportunities, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Modi will dedicate to the nation five projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore, the statement said. They include the 75 km Madurai-Teni (Railway Gauge Conversion Project), built at a project cost of over Rs 500 crore, which will facilitate access and give a boost to tourism in the region, it said.

The other projects include the 30-km third railway line between

Tambaram and Chengalpattu; 115-km Ennore-Chengalpattu section and 271-km Thiruvallur-Bengaluru section of ETBPNMT natural gas pipeline, built at a project cost of around Rs 850 crore and Rs 910 crore, respectively.

The programme will also witness inauguration of 1,152 houses constructed as part of Light House Project-Chennai, built at a cost of Rs 116 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, the statement said.

Six other projects, being built at a cost of over Rs 28,500 crore, include the 262-km Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway. Built at a cost of over Rs 14,870 crore, it will pass through Andhra Pradesh. A 21-km four-lane elevated road connecting Chennai Port to Maduravoyal (NH-4) will be built at a cost of Rs 5,850 crore.

The foundation for redevelopment of five railway stations will also be laid during the programme, the PMO said.

C. 15
 D. 16

India is working on building 10 hydropower projects totalling 6.8 gigawatts (GW) in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to fully utilize its share of waters under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

The projects being undertaken at an investment of ₹68,000 crore by state-run NHPC Ltd are part of India's plan to exercise its rights to stop excess water from flowing into Pakistan.

These projects assume strategic importance against the backdrop of China developing the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

India has adopted a similar approach on its eastern borders and plans to construct the country's second-largest dam at Yingkiong in Arunachal Pradesh to counter China's ambitious scheme to divert water from the river that feeds downstream into the Brahmaputra.

According to the Indus Waters Treaty, whoever builds a project first will have the first rights on the river waters. The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of six rivers—Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

India plans 10 hydro plants to utilize water treaty with Pak

The projects totalling 6.8 gigawatts is being undertaken at an investment of ₹68,000 crore

Rituraj Baruah & Utpal Bhaskar
 NEW DELHI

India is working on building 10 hydropower projects totalling 6.8 gigawatts (GW) in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to fully utilize its share of waters under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

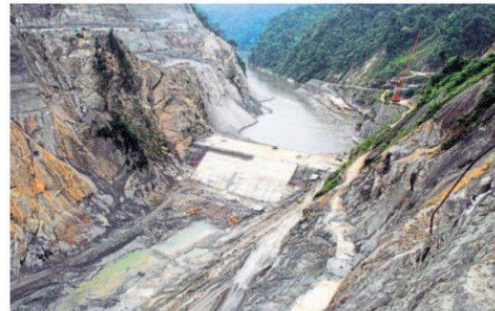
The projects being undertaken at an investment of ₹68,000 crore by state-run NHPC Ltd are part of India's plan to exercise its rights to stop excess water from flowing into Pakistan.

These projects assume strategic importance against the backdrop of China developing the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, given that control over river water flow acts as a force multiplier during times of aggression.

India has adopted a similar approach on its eastern borders and plans to construct the country's second-largest dam at Yingkiong in Arunachal Pradesh to counter China's ambitious scheme to divert water from the river that feeds downstream into the Brahmaputra.

The projects being constructed by the public sector undertaking are the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul project, 850 MW Ratle project, 624 MW Kiru project and 540 MW Kwar project, all in Jammu and Kashmir, according to NHPC chairman and managing director Abhay Kumar Singh.

In addition, India's largest power gen-



The hydropower projects being undertaken by NHPC are part of India's plan to exercise its rights to stop excess water from flowing into Pakistan. REPRESENTATIONAL

eration firm also plans to build 1,856 MW Sawalkot (J&K), 930 MW Kirthai-II (J&K), 500 MW Dugar (HP), 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II (J&K), and 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II (J&K).

Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. India is also working on a plan to divert the waters of Ujh, which is one of the main tributaries of the Ravi that flows into Pakistan.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

THE projects assume importance against the backdrop of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

SIMILAR method has been adopted on eastern borders as India plans to build its second-largest dam

CONTROL over river water flow acts as a force multiplier during times of aggression

Mint earlier reported about the union government's plan to expedite strategically important hydropower projects in J&K after the reorganization of the terror-hit state into two Union territories—

said. According to the Indus Waters Treaty, whoever builds a project first will have the first rights on the river waters. The treaty sets out a mechanism

for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of six rivers—Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

The move comes four years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated NHPC Ltd's Kishanganga hydropower project to the nation. The 330 MW project on the river Kishanganga, a tributary of the Jhelum, has significant strategic importance. Pakistan had challenged the project under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, but the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled in India's favour in 2013. Apart from Kishanganga, Pakistan had also raised objections to the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric projects on the Chenab.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs last month cleared the construction of the 540MW Kwar project by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt. Ltd, a joint venture between NHPC Ltd and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corp. Ltd.

"The construction activities of the project will result in direct and indirect employment to around 2500 people and will contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Union Territory of J&K. Further, UT of J&K will be benefited with free power of around ₹4,548.59 crore and ₹4,941.46 crore with Water Usage Charges from Kwar Hydro Electric Project, during the project life cycle of 40 years," the power ministry said in a 27 April statement post the CCEA's approval.

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

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16. Recently _____ became the *first metro city in the country to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity*.
- A. Pune
 - B. Kolkata**
 - C. Delhi
 - D. Bangalore

Kolkata is the first metro city in the country to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity

Kolkata Municipal Corporation released the People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR), a document with details about the floral and faunal varieties in the city as well as its land use and human activities,

The document is prepared by the biodiversity management committee (BMC) of the civic body under the supervision of the state biodiversity board and with help from NGOs.

“On the eve of UN International Biodiversity Day (22 May), we released the People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR) for the city, the first-of-its-kind report of any Indian metro, Recently, the National Forest Report pointed out that Kolkata had the least greenery among all metros

17. Recently in May _____ *state government and the United Kingdom have agreed to collaborate in the areas of agriculture, food processing, information technology, sports, higher education, biomass, and public transport.*
- A. Karanataka
 - B. Tamil Nadu
 - C. Punjab**
 - D. Haryana

Punjab and the United Kingdom have agreed to collaborate in the areas of agriculture, food processing, information technology, sports, higher education, biomass and public transport.

The decision was taken during the meeting of the Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann with British High Commissioner Alex Ellis.

During the meeting, it was agreed that there is a huge potential for collaboration between the UK and Punjab in these sectors.

The Chief Minister assured that the State government will ensure that the investors will get a smooth and hassle-free mechanism in the state

18. Consider the following statement regarding *State Level Steering Committees for Energy Transition*.
1. These Steering Committees will work *under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretaries of the States and Union Territories.*

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2. States to make efforts for zero diesel in agriculture by 2024 by limiting the consumption of diesel in the agriculture sector.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Union Power Minister R. K. Singh has asked the Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories to set up State Level Steering Committees for Energy Transition.

These Steering Committees will work under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretaries of the States and Union Territories.

The Principal Secretaries of Power and New and Renewable Energy Departments, Transport, Industries, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development and Public Works Departments will act as members of these Committees.

The States and Union Territories will work on the annual strategy of energy transition under the mandate of the committee.

Some states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have already constituted such committees.

He added that the energy transition is the only means of reducing carbon emissions and fulfilling our commitments made at international forums. He also urged the States to make efforts for zero diesel in agriculture by 2024 by limiting the consumption of diesel in the agriculture sector.

States told to set up steering panels for energy transition

AP, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Uttarakhand have already constituted such committees

forums, Singh said that Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have already constituted such committees.

He highlighted that for energy transition, States and Union Territories have to work together on multiple tracks. The first track is addition of Renewables (renewable energy) to the electricity generation mix to meet the nation's ever-increasing demand for electricity.

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 25

Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh has asked the Chief Ministers of all States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories to set up State Level Steering Committees for Energy Transition.

These Steering Committees will work under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries of the respective States and Union Territories. The Principal Secretaries of Power and New and Renewable Energy Departments, Transport, Industries, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development and Public Works Departments, etc. will act as members of these Committees, Power Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.



RK Singh

Energy efficiency

The second track would be promotion of energy efficiency, while the third one would be to increase use of biomass and green hydrogen, he added.

"The Minister urged the States to make efforts for zero diesel in agriculture by 2024 by limiting the consumption of diesel in the

agriculture sector. In this regard, financial assistance through RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) may be availed for adopting solar energy for separate agricultural feeders and agricultural feeders under the PM-KUSUM scheme," the Ministry said. Singh stressed that the role of State Governments is significant for the successful implementation of the reduction in emission intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 as compared to the 2005 level.

Annual strategy

The States and Union Territories will work on the annual strategy of energy transition under the mandate of the committee, it added. Emphasising that energy transition is the only means of reducing carbon emissions and fulfilling India's commitments made at international

19. Consider the following statement regarding the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting.

- 1. Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi participated in the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting hosted by China.**
- 2. Under the theme "Establishing a Cultural Partnership Featuring Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning among**

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BRICS”, member countries held discussions on the expansion of cultural activities amongst BRICS countries.

3. Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022–2026) among BRICS nations to further strengthen the cultural cooperation and implement the BRICS Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in 2015.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi participated in the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meeting hosted by China.

Under the theme “Establishing a Cultural Partnership Featuring Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning among BRICS”, member countries held discussions on the expansion of cultural activities amongst BRICS countries.

The discussion was focused on promoting cooperation on cultural digitalization, strengthening cooperation on cultural heritage protection, and advancing the building of cultural exchange platforms for BRICS countries.

At the end of the meeting, member countries agreed on the Action Plan for Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022–2026) among BRICS nations to further strengthen the cultural cooperation and implement the BRICS Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in 2015. It is a grouping of five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

On January 1, China officially took over the BRICS chairmanship and it will host the 14th BRICS Summit in June 2022. Sanjay Bhattacharyya is the current BRICS Sherpa from India.

20. Recently in May Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates India’s ‘First Lavender Festival’ in _____ .

- A. Srinagar*
- B. Angkul*
- C. Bharderwah*
- D. Angtang*

- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates India’s ‘First Lavender Festival’ in Bharderwah*
- After Inaugurating the country’s first ‘Lavender Festival’ here, the Union Minister described Bharderwah as the birthplace of India’s Purple Revolution.*
- Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the country’s first lavender festival in Bharderwah has been possible today only by the progressive thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who after taking the oath as PM in 2014 stressed*

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that the regions which have been disconnected from mainstream India must be connected to the mainstream through development.

- *The country's first National Institute of High Altitude Medicine is being built in Baderwah which will attract scholars and researchers not only from India but across the globe generating employment opportunities for the region.*
- *Agriculturist Sh. Bharat Bhushan called the Brand Ambassador of Purple Revolution in India is an inspiration for youth in J&K towards Start-up culture.*

21. Recently in May Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated **North India's first industrial Biotech Park** at _____ village of Jammu and Kashmir.

- A. Pillai
- B. Ghatti**
- C. Angtang
- D. Srinagar

North India's first industrial Biotech Park has been inaugurated at Ghatti, Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the park.

He said Biotechnology Park at Kathua has the potential to produce 25 startups in a year. He said work on two Industrial Biotech Parks was started in February 2019.

One is at Ghatti in Kathua and the other is in Handwara in north Kashmir.

They are jointly funded by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council

He said the Indian biotech industry ranks second in Asia after China.

He said that the Biotech Parks of J&K are among 9 Biotechnology Parks that are being supported by the Department of Biotechnology in various states.

22. Consider the following statement regarding '**Road accidents in India – 2020**', prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

- 1.. *Total accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 percent, the number of persons killed decreased by 12.84 percent and the number of injures decreased by 22.84 percent over the previous year's average*
2. *A total of 3,66,138 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3, 48,279 injuries.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Road accidents parameters register a significant decline in 2020 , Total accidents decrease on an average by 18.46 per cent, number of persons killed decrease by 12.84 per cent

Posted On: 26 MAY 2022 12:07PM by PIB Delhi

Road accidents parameters registered a significant decline in 2020 compared to 2019. Total accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 per cent, the number of persons killed decreased by 12.84 per cent and the number of injuries decreased by 22.84 per cent over previous year's average. A total of 3,66,138 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3, 48,279 injuries.

As per report 'Road accidents in India — 2020', prepared by Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the number of road accidents has been on decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase of 0.46 per cent in 2018. For the second consecutive year, the total number of road accidents fatalities has declined in 2020. Similarly, the number of persons injured has been on the decline since 2015.

For the third consecutive year in 2020, the fatal road accident victims largely constitute young people in the productive age groups. Young adults in the age group of 18 - 45 years accounted for 69 per cent of victims during 2020. People in the working age group of 18 – 60 years share 87.4 per cent of total road accident fatalities.

The present volume of 'Road accidents in India — 2020' provides information on various facets of road accidents in the country during the calendar year 2020. It has ten sections and covers information relating to road accidents in the context of road length and vehicular population. Data/information provided in this report is sourced from police departments of States/Union Territories collected on calendar year basis in standardized formats as provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project.

- **As per the report 'Road accidents in India — 2020', prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH),**
- **Road accident parameters registered a significant decline in 2020 compared to 2019. Total accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 percent, the number of persons killed decreased by 12.84 percent and the number of injuries decreased by 22.84 percent over the previous year's average.**
- **A total of 3,66,138 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3, 48,279 injuries.**
- **Data/information provided in this report is sourced from police departments of States/Union Territories collected on a calendar year basis in standardized formats as provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project.**

23. Recently **Delhi Customs** launched the _____ project which aims at container tracking and monitoring timely clearances to ensure **Ease of Doing Business**.

- A. Project AVSAR
- B. Project YANTRAK
- C. Project Sambhav
- D. Project NIGAH

- **Chief Commissioner, Delhi Customs Zone, Shri Surjit Bhujabal inaugurated project 'NIGAH' at ICD Garhi Harsaru, Gurugram,**

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- **Project NIGAH is an initiative to track containers by using ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module) which will help in better visibility of the container movement inside the ICD.**
- **It will help Customs to expedite long standing containers and monitor timely clearances, thereby enhancing Ease of Doing Business along with ensuring lead preventive checks**
- **ICTM has been developed in collaboration with the Custodian M/s. GRFL.**

24. Recently in May _____ has launched a portal to streamline the process of recognition of teacher education programs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).

- A. National Council of Educational Research and Training**
- B. University Grants Commission**
- C. All India Council for Technical Education**
- D. National Council for Teacher Education**

- **National Council for Teacher Education has launched a portal to streamline the process of recognition of teacher education programs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).**

National Council for Teacher Education launches portal to streamline the process of recognition of teacher education programs of HEIs/TEIs

Newly launched 4 Year ITEP will be processed on this portal

The portal aims to provide an automated robust framework thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and ease of doing business

Posted On: 29 MAY 2022 3:49PM by PIB Delhi

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under Ministry of Education has launched an online portal to streamline the entire process of recognition of teacher education programs of HEIs/TEIs - right from the time of inviting application for courses till the stage of issue of recognition orders including the inspection of institutions. The applications for the recently launched 4 Year ITEP applications will be processed on this portal.

This portal will bring a paradigm shift in the functioning of NCTE. It aims to provide an automated robust framework thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and ease of doing business.

Online applications for ITEP will be processed by NCTE through 'Admin Login' of the website

(https://ncte.gov.in/Website/admin_Panel.aspx). All communication from HEIs/TEIs regarding deficiencies/SCN will correspondingly have to be sent on the ITEP portal. For online inspections, stakeholders have to access the VT portal on NCTE website.

- **This portal will bring about a paradigm shift in the National Council for Teacher Education's functions.**
- **The portal aims to provide a robust, automated framework that improves accountability, transparency, and simplicity of doing business.**
- **This portal will be used to process applications for the recently launched four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programs (ITEP).**

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- **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE):** It is an Indian government statutory body established in 1995 under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 to formally monitor standards, and processes in the Indian education system. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its chairperson is Dinesh Prasad Saklani.

25. Recently in May _____ has overtaken Uttar Pradesh to regain its position as India's top sugar producer.

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

After a five-year gap, Maharashtra has overtaken Uttar Pradesh to regain its position as India's top sugar producer. The state's output for the 2021-22 crushing year (October-September) is expected at 138 lakh tonnes (lt). That is an all-time-high, beating the previous 107.21 lt of 2018-19.

How Maharashtra overtook UP to re-emerge as top sugar producer

PARTHASARATHI BISWAS & HARISH DAMODARAN
 PUNE, NEW DELHI, MAY 30

AFTER A five-year gap, Maharashtra has overtaken Uttar Pradesh to regain its position as India's top sugar producer. Shekhar Gaikwad, sugar commissioner of Maharashtra, expects the state's output for the 2021-22 crushing year (October-September) at 138 lakh tonnes (lt). That is an all-time-high, beating the previous 107.21 lt of 2018-19.

Prakash Naiknaware, managing director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, attributes the record production to three factors.

The first is the bountiful rainfall since the 2019 southwest monsoon. The filling up of reservoirs and recharged groundwater aquifers has induced farmer to plant more area under sugarcane, which is a 12-18 months duration crop. The benefits of abundant water and expanded acreage accrued fully in 2021-22.

The second is higher yields from farmers taking extra care of their crop. Vinod

Momale, who cultivates sugarcane on 11 out of his total 40-acre holding in Gurdhal village of Latur district's Deoni taluka, has harvested an average per-acre cane yield of 60 tonnes this year, as against 50 tonnes in 2020-21.

Underreported cane

The third factor for Maharashtra's sugar production scaling a new peak has to do with a huge jump in "unregistered" cane cultivation. In 2020-21, the state reported a total 11.42 lakh hectares (lh) planted under cane. While the sugar commissioner's office has estimated this year's area at 12.4 lh, millers peg it at least 1 lh higher – and all this is cane that farmers haven't "registered" for supplying to any factory.

The large "unregistered" area has meant that there is un-harvested cane still in the fields and mills will continue to crush till the first week of June. In normal years, crushing is over by April-end, rarely extending beyond mid-May. This time, the excess cane has led the state government to announce a Rs 20/quintal subsidy to compensate mills for lower sugar recovery (from cane crushed in extreme summer heat) and also requisition the services of mechanical

TOP SUGAR PRODUCING STATES (IN LAKH TONNES)					
YEAR (OCT-SEP)	MAHARASHTRA	UTTAR PRADESH	KARNATAKA	GUJARAT	ALL-INDIA
2013-14	76.85	64.87	41.77	11.77	243.60
2014-15	105.07	71.01	49.35	11.54	283.13
2015-16	84.24	68.55	40.49	11.68	251.25
2016-17	42.38	87.73	21.44	8.85	202.62
2017-18	107.05	120.50	36.58	10.67	323.28
2018-19	107.21	118.22	44.29	11.23	331.62
2019-20	61.70	126.37	35.00	9.30	273.85
2020-21	106.30	110.59	44.65	10.50	311.20
2021-22*	138.00	104.00	60.00	12.00	355.50

*Projected

harvesters (including from other states).

"The government claims Maharashtra's average cane yield to have hit a historical high of 105 tonnes per hectare, from 85 tonnes in 2020-21. But yields cannot shoot up so much in one year... The truth is the area is itself being underreported by 1 lh-plus and showing

up in the unregistered cane coming to us," said a leading Ahmednagar-based miller.

UP's decline

It isn't Maharashtra alone. Karnataka, too, is poised to produce a record 60 lt sugar this year, while Gujarat's 12 lt would be its best

since the 12.35 lt of 2010-11. As the table shows, output in all the three states have staged a remarkable rebound from the drought-affected levels of 2019-20, a year that actually saw UP touching a high of 126.37 lt.

Bakshi Ram, former director of the Sugarcane Breeding Institute at Coimbatore, gives three reasons for UP's sugar production declining after 2019-20.

The first is an estimated 12.60 lt equivalent of sugar from cane crushed by mills getting diverted for making ethanol this year, compared to 7.19 lt in 2020-21, 4.81 lt in 2019-20 and 0.31 lt in 2018-19. UP has become India's largest ethanol producer, while also achieving the highest blending-in-petrol ratio among all states.

The second is crop loss from excess rains and water-logging in many low-lying cane-growing areas of eastern UP. The third reason is about 87% of UP's cane area being planted under a single variety, Co-0238, which has become susceptible to red rot fungal disease.

Bumper production

UP's sugar output falling to a five-year low in 2021-22 has, however, been more than offset by Maharashtra's and Karnataka's

soaring to all-time highs translated into a record 126.37 lt for India, according to the government.

Yet this has not dented the "Ex-factory price" of sugar in Maharashtra, which is 32.5-33 per kg (medium size) government-subsidized.

In all previous years, the price has been 31. In all previous years, the price has been 31. In all previous years, the price has been 31.

The reason for this is that the government is exporting surplus sugar. The government is exporting surplus sugar.

Given the situation last week, the government is likely to cap it at 100 lt by surprise.

26. Recently in May, The ten-day Gen Next Democracy Network program was organized by which organization?

- A. Indian Council of Medical Research**
- B. Indian Council of Historical Research**
- C. Indian Council for Cultural Relations**
- D. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**

- **Indian Council for Cultural Relations's (ICCR) ten days program Gen Next Democracy Network concluded.**

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- **Youth from democratic countries come to India under the Gen Next Democracy Network program. During the program, they get acquainted with India's heritage, culture, and functioning of Indian democracy.**
- **In the closing ceremony, 27 delegates from six countries- Ghana, Bangladesh, Peru, Nepal, Brunei, and Norway shared their experiences of visiting India.**
- **The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is an autonomous organization of the Government of India. The ICCR Headquarters is situated in New Delhi.**
- **It was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India. It is involved in India's global cultural relations, through cultural exchange with other countries and their people.**
- **The council also operates missions internationally, with established cultural centers in various countries. It also administers the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, established by the Government of India in 1965, whose last award was in 2009.**

27. Consider the following statement regarding the **PM CARES for Children Scheme**.

1. **Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for its execution at the central level.**
2. **It was launched to help children who have lost both their parents to the Covid-19 pandemic from 11 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.**
3. **The objective of the 'PM CARES for Children' Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children with the financial support of Rs. 10 lakh upon attaining 23 years of age.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **PM Modi released benefits under PM CARES for Children Scheme on 30 May 2022.**
- **PM CARES kits were handed over to 6 children in Goa.**
- **PM CARES kit includes a passbook of PM CARES for Children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- **The objective of the 'PM CARES for Children Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of**

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Modi releases PM CARES benefits for 'COVID orphans'

A total of 4,439 children identified; no poor person will be left out, says PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Maa Bharati is with all of you," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told children orphaned by COVID-19 who received their benefits under the PM CARES scheme on Monday.

"Today, the poorest of the poor is confident that they will receive benefits from government schemes. No poor person should be left out of government schemes, that is our utmost priority," Mr. Modi told the beneficiaries across various districts who joined the programme through teleconference.

A total of 4,439 children have been approved for the scheme. Children who lost both their parents or a primary caregiver between March 11, 2020 and February 28, 2022 are eligible for the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the release of benefits under the PM Cares for Children scheme through a video conference in New Delhi. •PTI

scheme. The PM also wrote an emotional personal letter to the beneficiaries. "A century ago, when the entire world was in the grip of a terrible pandemic like today, my mother lost her mother, i.e. my maternal grandmother. My mother was so young that today she doesn't remember her mother's face.

She spent an entire life in the absence of her mother, without her affection. Therefore, today, I can very well understand the anguish in your mind, the conflict in your heart," he wrote.

The scheme offers a lump-sum amount of ₹10 lakh when children turn 23 years old as well as a monthly sti-

pend from the age of 18 to 23.

School-going children will receive free education, textbooks and uniforms in the nearest government schools.

Those in private schools may avail themselves of fee reimbursement. Students can also take loans for professional courses and higher education.

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children with the financial support of Rs. 10 lakh upon attaining 23 years of age.

- *The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for its execution at the central level.*
- *'PM CARES for Children' Scheme: It was launched by PM Modi on 29 May 2021. It was launched to help children who have lost both their parents to the Covid-19 pandemic from 11 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.*
- *It also covers children who have lost legal guardians or adoptive parents to the Covid-19 pandemic from 11 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.*
- *The child should not have completed 18 years of age on the date of death of the parents.*

28. Recently **Government of India** has set a target to achieve 100 Million Tonnes of Coal Gasification by _____.
- A. 2025
 - B. 2030**
 - C. 2027
 - D. 2032

- **The Ministry of Coal organized the National Mineral Congress in Bhubaneswar today with the support of the Power Ministry, Steel Ministry, and Mines Ministry. Addressing the Congress through virtual mode**



Government of India has set a target to achieve 100 Million Tonnes Coal Gasification by 2030: Additional Secretary, Coal Ministry

Technology adoption is the key in coal and mining sector to meet the future demand: Addl Secretary

Ministry of Coal with the support of Power, Steel and Mines Ministries organizes National Mineral Congress in Bhubaneswar

Posted On: 27 MAY 2022 6:06PM by PIB Delhi

- **Addressing the National Mineral Congress as the Chief Guest, Shri VK Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, said that the Ministry has prepared a National Mission document to achieve 100 MT Coal Gasification by 2030.**
- *The additional secretary talked about the roadmap from coal to hydrogen and said that India's hydrogen demand is likely to increase to 11.7 million tonnes by 2030 from 6.7 million tonnes per year as of now.*

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29. Consider the following statement regarding Jal Jeevan Mission.

1. Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves 50% Completion Milestone

2. 9.6 Crore (50%) Rural Households Now Have Access To Tap Water Connections Within Their Premises

3. Goa, Telangana, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Puducherry, and Haryana have already achieved 100% household connections.

Which of the following statement is correct?

A. Only 1 & 2

B. Only 2 & 3

C. Only 1 & 3

D. All of the above

- Keeping in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to provide every rural home with safe drinking water, the country has achieved the milestone of 50% of rural households having access to tap water connections.
- Goa, Telangana, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Puducherry, and Haryana have already achieved 100% household connections.
- Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Bihar have coverage of more than 90% and are progressing fast towards attaining the status of 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- Over 9.59 Crore rural households spread across States/ UTs are getting water within their premises.
- 'Har Ghar Jal' is a **Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves 50% Completion Milestone**
flagship program of **9.6 Crore (50%) Rural Households Now Have Access To Tap Water Connections**
the Union **Within Their Premises**
Government, **Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh & Bihar With Over 90% Coverage Are**
implemented by Jal **Progressing Fast Towards Becoming 'Har Ghar Jal' States**
Jeevan Mission **6 States/UTs, 108 Districts, 1,222 Blocks, 71,667 Gram Panchayats & 1,51,171**
under the Ministry **Villages Have Become "Har Ghar Jal"**
of Jal Shakti, in
partnership with
States/ UTs to
ensure tap water
connection in every
rural household by
2024.

Posted On: 28 MAY 2022 2:00PM by PIB Delhi

Keeping in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to provide every rural home with safe drinking water, the country has achieved the milestone of 50% rural households having access to tap water connections. Goa, Telangana, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry and Haryana have already achieved 100% household connections. Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar have coverage of more than 90% and are progressing fast towards attaining the status of 'Har Ghar Jal'.

In a move to attain "Gram Swarajya", the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, Jal Jeevan Mission aims to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions and communities by engaging them in water supply schemes from the very beginning. Over 9.59 Crore rural households spread across States/ UTs are getting water within their premises. Women and girls these households are now free from the century old drudgery of walking long distances in scorching heat, rain and snow in search of water. 'Har Ghar Jal' is a flagship programme of the Union Government, implemented by Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in partnership with States/ UTs to ensure tap water connection in every rural household by 2024.

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- At the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, only 3.23 Crore households i.e. 17% of the rural population had access to drinking water through taps.
- As of 27.05.2022, 108 districts, 1,222 blocks, 71,667 Gram Panchayats, and 1,51,171 villages have become “Har Ghar Jal”, wherein all rural households have been provided with drinking water through taps.

30. Consider the following statement regarding *Jan Samarth’s* portal.

1. The government is going to launch the ‘Jan Samarth’ portal to make its different schemes available on a single platform.
2. Initially 15 credit-linked government schemes will be covered from this portal.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The government is going to launch the ‘Jan Samarth’ portal to make its different schemes available on a single platform.
- According to sources, initially, 15 credit-linked government schemes will be covered from this portal.
- This decision is being seen as a vision related to the Minimum Government Maximum Governance of the Narendra Modi government.
- This facility will be gradually expanded as some schemes of the Center involve the participation of several departments.

western regions has grown ANRaju, Deputy Managing rashtra and Gujarat, was

Government to soon launch common portal ‘Jan Samarth’

Pilot testing is being done by SBI and other lenders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29

To improve access to various support schemes, the government will launch a common portal, ‘Jan Samarth’.

The new portal will initially have 15 credit-linked government schemes, sources said.

The offerings will be gradually expanded, based on compatibility, as some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Credit Linked Capital

Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) are being administered by different ministries.

Single platform

The proposed portal will consolidate these schemes on a single platform so that beneficiaries can easily access them.

Pilot testing is being done, they said, adding that the testing is being carried

out by State Bank of India and other lenders. In 2018, the government had launched a portal, <https://psbloansin59minutes.com> for borrowers to access MSME, home, auto and personal loans.

The portal facilitates in-principle approval of loans for MSMEs and other borrowers in 59 minutes by various State-owned banks compared to the earlier turnaround time of 20-25 days.

In the first two months of the launch of the portal, State-owned banks had given in-principle approval to 1.12 lakh loan applications of micro, small and medium enterprises, totalling ₹37,412 crore.

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- There are schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), which are being run by different ministries. It is currently being tested by SBI and other banks.
- According to sources, this portal will have an open architecture, so that state governments and other institutions will also be able to incorporate their plans on this platform in the future.
- For the convenience of those who take loans from banks, the government launched a portal named psbloansin59minutes.com in the year 2018. In-principle loan approval was done on this portal in 59 minutes. Earlier this whole process used to take 20 to 25 days.
- Through this website, an MSME can get a business loan ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 crore through www.psbloansin59minutes.com after in-principle approval.

31. Consider the following statement regarding the **National Health Authority dashboard for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.

1. The dashboard will display information about Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), and Health Facility Registry (HFR).
2. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **National Health Authority launched an online dashboard for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.**
- **The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) public dashboard will display real-time information on the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission scheme.**

NHA launches online public dashboard for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

The ABDM public dashboard is a one-stop solution for information on the mission's progress up to state/UT level

Posted On: 30 MAY 2022 1:33PM by PIB Delhi

The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has launched a public dashboard for near real-time information on the scheme. The ABDM public dashboard displays detailed information on the core registries under the mission – Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR).

As per the dashboard, as on 30th May 2022, the total number of ABHA (earlier known as health ID) created are 22.1 crore, over 16.6 thousand healthcare professionals have registered in the HPR, over 69.4 thousand health facilities have been registered in the HFR, over 1.8 lakh health records already linked by users and the recently revamped ABHA app has crossed over 5.1 lakh downloads.

All stakeholders can easily access the ABDM public dashboard from the ABDM website or directly here: <https://dashboard.abdm.gov.in/abdm/>. The dashboard captures data related to the number of ABHA generated, number of healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses etc. registered, digital health records linked with ABHA. The dashboard also has granular details in relation to number of health facilities like hospitals, laboratories etc. registered on a daily basis as well as cumulative till date. Also, partner-wise data of ABHA generation created and digital health records linked are made available on the dashboard in real time. This data is further broken down into several key components that gives updates on the scheme's progress in specific areas.

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- The dashboard will display information about **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), and Health Facility Registry (HFR).**
- Health Facility Registry is a repository of all health facilities in the country.
- The dashboard will also provide information on the number of health facilities like hospitals, laboratories, etc.
- It will also give detail about ABHA (earlier known as health ID) and the number of healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses, etc. on national as well as state/ UT levels.
- It will also present a clear picture of the progress made by ABDM ecosystem partners.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.**

32. Recently in May, the **Central Government has approved the continuation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of _____.**

- A. Rs.15554.42 Crore
- B. Rs.16554.42 Crore
- C. Rs.13554.42 Crore**
- D. Rs.14554.42 Crore

- **Ministry of MSME, Government of India is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), to facilitate the generation of employment opportunities for unemployed youth across the country by assisting in setting up of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector**

- **KVIC is a national-level nodal agency.**
- **Since its inception in 2008-09, about 7.8 lakh micro enterprises have been assisted with a subsidy of Rs 19,995 Crore generating estimated sustainable employment for 64 lakh persons**

PMEGP Extended till FY26 with ₹13K-cr Outlay

New Delhi: The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme has been approved for continuation till 2025-26 with the total outlay of ₹13,554.42 crore, the government said on Monday. The scheme will create sustainable employment opportunities for about 40 lakh persons in five financial years, the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises said.

The extension of the scheme is over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

PMEGP seeks to facilitate generation of employment opportunities for youth across the country by assisting them in setting up of micro



enterprises in non-farm sectors.

Along with the extension of the time frame, some major modifications have been made in the existing scheme.

These include increase in the maximum project cost from existing ₹25 lakh to ₹50 lakh for manufacturing units and from existing ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh for service units.

The definition of village industry and rural area has also been modified for PMEGP, with areas falling under Panchayati Raj institutions to be accounted under rural area, whereas areas under municipal corporations to be treated as urban areas. **PTI**

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- Following major modifications/improvements have been made to the existing Scheme:
- Increasing the maximum project cost from the existing Rs.25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for manufacturing units and from existing Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh for service units.
- Modify the definition of village industry and Rural Area for PMEGP. Areas falling under Panchayati Raj institutions to be accounted for under rural areas, whereas areas under Municipality to be treated as urban areas.

33. Recently **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**, the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has for the first time crossed Rs. 100 Crore sales in the month of _____ 2022.

- A. April
- B. May**
- C. February
- D. January

- With a vision to provide quality medicines at an affordable rate for the common man, especially the poor, Govt. has set a target to increase the number of

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has for the first time ever crossed Rs. 100 Crore sales in the month of May, 2022

Govt. has set a target to increase the number of JanAushadhi Kendras to 10,000 by March 2024

More than 15,000 Crore Rs. have been saved of the general public under this Pariyojana in last 5 years

Posted On: 31 MAY 2022 1:59PM by PIB Delhi

With a vision to provide quality medicines at an affordable rate for the common man especially the poor, Govt. has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10000 by the of March 2024. Till 31.05.2022, the number of stores has increased to 8735. Under the PMBJP, 739 districts of the country have been covered.

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10000 by March 2024.**

- Till 31.05.2022, the number of stores has increased to 8735. Under the PMBJP, 739 districts of the country have been covered.
- PMBI has clocked its highest monthly sales turnover of Rs. 100 Crore in May 2022 which in turn has saved around Rs. 600 crore of citizens of the country.

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- *The scheme provides an incentive of Rs. 5.00 lakh and special incentives of up to Rs. 2.00 lakh for various categories including women, SC/ST, Hill districts, Island districts, and the North-Eastern States.*

34. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate **India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022** in _____ .

- A. Delhi
- B. Indore
- C. Karnal
- D. Hyderabad

PM to inaugurate India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 - on 27 May at Pragati Maidan

Posted On: 26 MAY 2022 10:10AM by PIB Delhi

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 - on 27 May 2022 at 10 AM at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 - on 27 May 2022 at 10 AM at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Prime Minister will also interact with kisan drone pilots, witness open-air drone demonstrations and interact with startups in the drone exhibition centre.

Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 is a two day event and is being held on 27th and 28th May. Over 1600 delegates comprising government officials, foreign diplomats, armed forces, central armed police forces, PSUs, private companies and drone startups etc. will participate in the Mahotsav. More than 70 exhibitors will display various use cases of drones at the exhibition. Mahotsav will also witness a virtual award of drone pilot certificates, product launches, panel discussions, flying demonstrations, display of a Made in India Drone Taxi prototype, among others.

- **Prime Minister will also interact with Kisan drone pilots, witness open-air drone demonstrations, and interact with startups in the drone exhibition center.**
- **More than 70 exhibitors will display various use cases of drones at the exhibition. Mahotsav will also witness a virtual award of drone pilot certificates, product launches, panel discussions, flying demonstrations, display of a Made in India Drone Taxi prototype, among others.**

35. Recently in May _____ **state government has launched a new health and wellness app AAYU to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation.**

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

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Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday launched a new health and wellness app AAYU to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation.

The app has been developed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in partnership with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform.

"The app will aim to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through right approach to yoga and meditation.

The app is available in multiple languages and aims to reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients within a span of five years,

AAYU addresses the root-cause of the diseases going beyond temporary care and helps restore lost health and aims to cure diseases borne out of lifestyle disorders that have plagued people over the past decades.

36. Recently In May **Radio Jockey Umar Nisar (RJ Umar)** from _____ has been awarded the '**01 Best Content Award**' and the **Immunization Champion award by UNICEF** at the annual **Radio4Child 2022 Awards** in Mumbai.
- A. Uttar Pradesh
 - B. Haryana
 - C. Jammu & Kashmir**
 - D. Madhya Pradesh

Radio Jockey Umar Nisar (RJ Umar), who hails from south Kashmir, has been awarded the '01 Best Content Award' and the Immunization Champion award by UNICEF at the annual Radio4Child 2022 Awards in Mumbai.

The Radio4Child felicitated radio professionals from private FM and All India Radio from across the country for their commendable work during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as for routine vaccination. These radio professionals highlighted the importance of routine vaccination among people

37. Consider the following statement regarding **North East India Development Project at Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)**” conclave.
1. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre is implementing various rail, road, and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India
 2. The Centre is carrying out 20 railway projects worth ₹74,000 crores for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast.
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2

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C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India.

Addressing the “Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)” conclave here, she said the Union government had been pumping in huge money to develop a number of infrastructure projects throughout the region.

The Centre is carrying out 20 railway projects worth ₹74,000 crore for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast.

The Centre is also developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of ₹58,000 crore.

There are 15 ongoing air connectivity projects in the northeast, costing around ₹2,200 crore.

India and Bangladesh had 50 riverine systems which could be leveraged for all types of transportation as the cost of travel through water was the least when compared to air, road and rail networks.

The government is further developing the National Waterways (NW)-1 on the Ganga, NW-2 on the Brahmaputra and NW-16 on the Barak. The entire area between Sadiya and Dhubri in Assam along the Brahmaputra was being developed for better connectivity.

The Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid, once completed, will offer seamless connectivity not only between the northeast and the rest of India but also on the subcontinent.



Ambitious future: Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during the third Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) conclave, in Guwahati on Sunday. •PTI

‘Projects worth ₹1.34 lakh cr. to boost northeast connectivity’

Pumping money to develop rail, road, air networks: Nirmala

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUAHATI**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India. Addressing the “Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)” conclave here, she said the Union government had been pumping in huge money to develop a number of infrastructure projects throughout the region.

“We are carrying out 20 railway projects worth ₹74,000 crore for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Centre is also developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of ₹58,000 crore, she added.

“There are 15 ongoing air connectivity projects in the northeast, costing around ₹2,200 crore,” the Finance Minister said. However, she did not mention the completion period for these projects. Ms. Sitharaman said the number of ‘Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Routes’ had been increased to 10 from the existing eight.

“These Protocol Routes are reviewed every five years. There was a review in May 2022,” she said.

Improved connectivity

The Union Minister said the national waterways on the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Barak were being developed. She said India and Bangladesh had 50 riverine systems which could be leveraged for all types of transportation as the cost of travel through water was the

least when compared to air, road and rail networks.

“The government is further developing the National Waterways (NW)-1 on the Ganga, NW-2 on the Brahmaputra and NW-16 on the Barak,” Ms. Sitharaman said. She said the entire area between Sadiya and Dhubri in Assam along the Brahmaputra was being developed for better connectivity.

The Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid, once completed, will offer seamless connectivity not only between the northeast and the rest of India but also on the subcontinent, she said.

The Central government is developing several projects focusing on power transmission and distribution, mobile networks, and broadband connectivity in the region, she said.

38. Recently in May _____ is the first state in the country going to institutionalize health accounts which will help in estimating the amount spent on the health sector and its impact.

A. Andhra Pradesh

B. Rajasthan

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- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Rajasthan is the first state in the country going to institutionalise health accounts which will help in estimating the amount spent on the health sector and its impact.

The data or facts available from these accounts would be used in future for policy making, and technical and financial assistance will be provided by the WHO to create health accounts

WHO India's Technical Officer (health funding), Grace Achangura in a presentation to the officials of the Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department, said through state health accounts, regular monitoring and tracking of health expenditure can be done and they can act as an important tool in evidence-based policy making.

The government has allocated more than 7 per cent of the total budget for health, which is higher than the national average.

39. Recently in May _____ state government has launched the country's first rural tribal technical training under the 'Parliamentary Complex Project' for tribal youth.

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the country's first rural tribal technical training in Bhopal under the 'Parliamentary Complex Project' for tribal youth.

In the 'Parliamentary Complex Project', technical training will be imparted to rural tribal youth. This training programme has been first started in Madhya Pradesh as an experiment.

Under this, two-month training will provide employment opportunities to the youth to start their own business and employment opportunities in other sectors.

The first phase will cover about 250 beneficiaries from 17 clusters of 17 selected districts from 6 states of India namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Odisha as a 'pilot project'.

40. Consider the following statement regarding Uttar Pradesh Budget.

1. UP Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented a budget of Rs 6,15,518.97 crore for the financial year 2022-23 in the state assembly.
2. The government allocated Rs 1000 crore for CM laghu sinchai yojna for providing free irrigation facilities to the farmers.
3. UP government has proposed ₹276.66 crores for the state's special security force for the security of courts and historical and religious places.

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **UP Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented a budget of Rs 6,15,518.97 crore for the financial year 2022-23 in the state assembly.**
- **For the fiscal year 2021-22, Adityanath's government had earlier presented a Budget of ₹5,50,270.78 crore.**
- **The government allocated Rs 1000 crore for CM laghu sinchai yojna for providing free irrigation facilities to the farmers.**
- **500 crore rupees have been allocated for MBBS and PG seats to improve the medical education system in the state.**
- **Rs 380 crore has been allocated for the opening of new sugar mills and maintenance of old mills.**
- **523 crore rupees have been allocated for the safe city project for women's security in 6 cities.**
- **UP government has proposed ₹276.66 crores for the state's special security force for the security of courts and historical and religious places.**
- **The government proposed ₹650 crores for the farmers' accident scheme.**
- **The government will install 15,000 solar pumps in the current fiscal year and it will also distribute more than two crore smartphones/tablets to the youth.**
- **The government aims to establish a total of 100 incubators and 10,000 startups in the next five years.**
- **₹30 crores have been proposed for the implementation of the Abhyudaya Yojana.**

U.P.'s special security force gets ₹266 cr.

Unemployment rate has dropped from 18% to 2.9%, says Finance Minister

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

With funds allocated for a stability fund for minimum support price for perishable crops as well as for the development and beautification of tourism facilities in Varanasi and Ayodhya, the Yogi Adityanath government on Friday tabled a budget of ₹6.15 lakh crore.

Mr. Adityanath said the budget, his sixth since 2017, kept in mind the "overall development" of the State and of all sections.

The budget was reflected the philosophy of the BJP's Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra, its election manifesto, he said. Out of the 130 resolutions, 97 were addressed in the budget, he said.

In the last six years, the unemployment rate in Uttar Pradesh dropped from 18% to 2.9%, State Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said as he presented the budget for the year 2022-2023. The unem-



U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna on Thursday. ■SANDEEP SAXENA

ployment rate dropped from 18% in June 2016 to 18% in April, 2022, said Mr. Khanna in the State Assembly.

Govt. target

Mr. Khanna said that the government had provided employment to 1.61 crore youth in the private sector through private investment.

More than 60 lakh youth were linked to self-employment, the government said, adding that it had provided

government jobs to 4.5 lakh youth over the last five years.

The government has set itself a target of creating 32 crore man-days for 2022-2023 under MNREGA. In 2021-22, the State had created 26 crore man-days, the government said.

The budget has proposed ₹100 crore each for the development and beautification of tourism facilities in Varanasi and Ayodhya. The

budget also proposed ₹300 crore for the construction of an approach road to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

It also proposed ₹266 crore for the special security force entrusted with the security of courts, airports, banks, financial institutions, historical and religious places, including those in Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura and the Taj Mahal.

The budget also included several announcements for farmers, including the setting up of 15,000 solar pumps in the year 2022-2023.

It also proposed two free LPG cylinder refills for the beneficiaries of the Ujjawala Scheme as well as ₹266 crore for the state's special security force entrusted with the security of courts, airports, banks, financial institutions, historical and religious places, including those in Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura and the Taj Mahal.

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41. Recently in May _____ state government *has won 'Star of Governance-SKOCH Award in Education'* .
- A. Delhi
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. West Bengal**

West Bengal has won 'Star of Governance-SKOCH Award in Education'.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that West Bengal has topped in the Education sector nationally in the 'SKOCH State of Governance Report 2021'.

The award will be conferred to West Bengal on 18 June 2022 as a part of 'India Governance Forum'.

SKOCH Awards were started in 2003. They were started by SKOCH Group, a consulting firm. SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

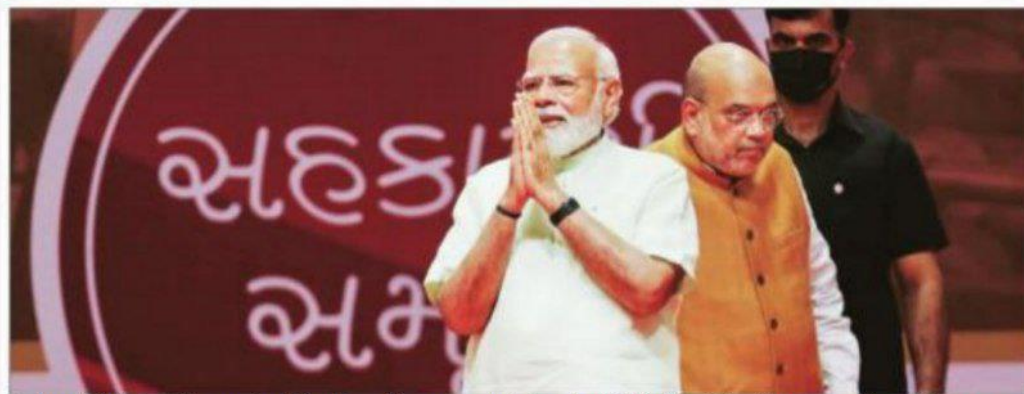
42. Recently in May *World's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant* was inaugurated in _____ by PM Narendra Modi.
- A. Kalol**
 - B. Antang
 - C. Vadodra
 - D. Surat

- *World's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant inaugurated by PM in Gujarat.*
- *He inaugurated **the world's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant at the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) in Kalol.***
- *At Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a Seminar of Leaders of Various Cooperative Institutions on 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi.'*
- *The "Sahakar Se Samriddhi" seminar for leaders of cooperative institutions is another step toward strengthening the cooperative movement in the state.*
- *More than 7,000 delegates from several cooperative institutions of the state attend the Seminar.*
- *Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant at Kalol: **The Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant has been constructed at a cost of approximately 175 crore rupees to provide farmers with more tools to increase productivity and profitability.***
- *The cutting-edge Nano Fertilizer Plant has been built to increase crop yields through the use of Nano Urea.*
- *The plant will produce approximately 1.5 lakh 500 ml bottles each day.*

43. Recently in May _____
state government has given local bodies powers to cull wild boars that create a threat to crops or human life.
- A. Kerala
 B. Punjab
 C. Odisha
 D. Bihar
- Kerala government has given local bodies powers to cull wild boars that create a threat to crops or human life.
 - The state cabinet has decided to appoint the chairpersons of local bodies as honorary wildlife wardens.
 - The central government earlier rejected a suggestion by the State to declare wild boars as vermin.
 - Under Section 11-B (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) has powers to issue special orders to kill wild animals.
 - For issuing an order, CWW must be satisfied that a particular animal has become dangerous for human life or property.
 - Using this provision of WPA 1972, all the local bodies have been given special powers to take appropriate decisions about managing the menace created by wild boars.

● INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

PM inaugurates world's first nano urea plant



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah at the inauguration of a urea plant in Gandhinagar on Saturday

NAYAN DAVE
 Gandhinagar, May 28

IN VIEW OF seamless supply of fertilisers at affordable prices, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed on the innovation and use of newer technology while inaugurating the world's first nano urea (liquid) plant of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) virtually during a seminar on 'Prosperity through Co-operation' at Gandhinagar.

Addressing a gathering of co-operative leaders post inauguration at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Modi said that a small bottle (500 ml) of nano urea is equivalent to one 50 kg bag of granular urea currently used by farmers. Terming the innovation as revolutionary, the Prime Minister said that it would bring the logistic cost of urea to almost zero.

"Eight more such nano urea plants will be set up across the

8 urea units to produce 2 lakh bottles daily

AS MANY AS eight units to be set up by IFFCO at Aonla, Phulpur, Kalol (expansion), Bengaluru and Paradeep, Kandla, Deoghar (Bihar) and Guwahati units for production of nano urea, nano DAP and nano micro nutrients at different locations will have capacity to produce 2 lakh bottles (500 ml per bottle) a day. A total investment for these units will be around ₹3,000 cr of which ₹720 is already committed. **FE BUREAU**

country. The innovation should not be limited to urea only, our scientists are also working to develop other nano fertilisers to

ensure easy availability of important agriculture inputs," he said in a seminar on Sahakar th Samruddhi (Prosperity through Co-operation).

Though India is the second largest consumer of urea across the globe, the country is third in production of urea and hence a large quantity is being imported to pacify the need of agriculture sector, he said, adding that with a view to make the nation self-reliant in urea, the government has decided to restart five shut factories in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Telangana. Factories in Uttar Pradesh and Telangana have become operational and remaining three will start in coming days, he added. Prime Minister Modi had also inaugurated a 200-bed multi-speciality hospital in Atkot town of Gujarat's Rajkot district in the morning.

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- *The ban on killing the animal through other methods such as electrocution or poisoning will continue.*
- *The decision is applicable across all municipalities and panchayats in the State.*

44. Consider the following statement regarding the **new reconstituted Central Advisory Board on Archaeology**.
1. **Culture Minister will be the chairperson of this Board while officials from the Culture Ministry and ASI, MPs, and nominees of State.**
 2. **A Standing Committee of the board will be set up under the chairmanship of ASI DG.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Government reconstituted Central Advisory Board on Archaeology. Culture Minister will be the chairperson of this Board while officials from the Culture Ministry and ASI, MPs, nominees of State governments, representatives of universities, and experts on Indus Valley script will be members of this board.

The board will meet once a year and it will advise the government on matters related to archaeology.

A Standing Committee of the board will be set up under the chairmanship of ASI DG.

The last meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Archaeology was held on 17 October 2014.

The Central Advisory Board on Archeology (CABA) has been constituted to strengthen linkages between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and universuniversities and other institutions conducting regional archaeological research.

45. Consider the following statement regarding a report by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Political parties of India**.
1. **The DMK had the highest income and expenditure among the 31 regional parties analyzed in 2020-2021, followed by the YSR Congress Party and the Biju Janata Dal**
 2. **The 31 parties analyzed had a total income of ₹529.41 crores while the parties declared a total expenditure of ₹414.02 crores.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

- The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had the highest income and expenditure among the 31 regional parties analyzed in 2020-2021 at Rs 149.95 crore followed by YSR-Congress with an income of Rs 107.98 crore, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).**
- DMK's earning of Rs 149.95 crore forms 28.324% of the total income of all the parties analyzed, followed by YSR-Congress with an income of Rs 107.99 crore or 20.398%, and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) whose income was Rs 73.347 crore or 13.854% of the total income of the 31 regional parties analyzed in this report.**
- Out of a total of 29 parties of the 31 political parties whose**

'DMK top earning regional party in FY21'

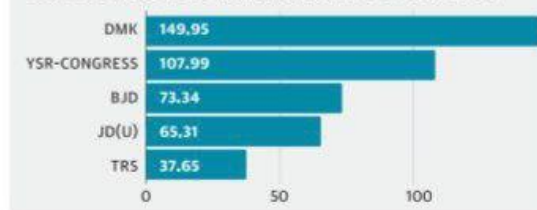
YSRCP comes second, as per ADR report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The DMK had the highest income and expenditure among the 31 regional parties analysed in 2020-2021, with its spending accounting for over half of the total income, a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released on Friday said.

The ADR report analysed the annual income declarations submitted by regional parties to the Election Commission, though the reports of 23 out of the 54 regional parties were not available on the EC's website as on Friday

Income profile | The chart shows the total income declared by top five regional parties in FY20-21 (₹ crore)



despite the deadline for submission being October 31, 2021. Among the parties whose annual audited accounts were unavailable were the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Party and the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference.

The 31 parties analysed had a total income of ₹529.41 crore, of which the DMK declared ₹149.95 crore, fol-

lowed by the YSR Congress Party (₹107.99 crore), the Biju Janata Dal (₹73.34 crore), the Janata Dal(United) (₹65.31 crore) and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (₹37.65 crore), the report said.

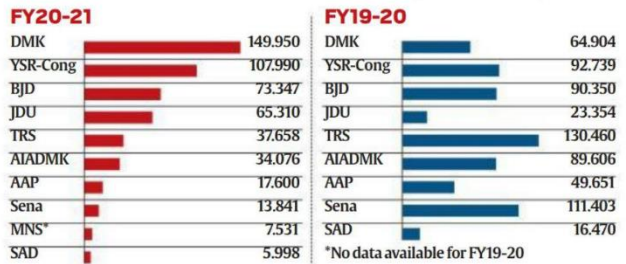
At the same time, the parties declared a total expenditure of ₹414.02 crore, of which the DMK accounted for 52.77% (₹218.49 crore). The Telugu Desam Party de-

clared ₹54.76 crore in spending, followed by the AIADMK (₹42.36 crore).

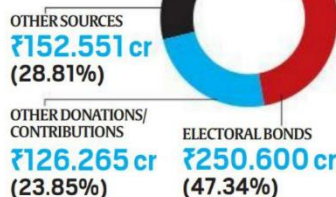
The 31 parties declared that electoral bonds were the source of 47.34% of their income. In 2019-2020, more than 62% of the income of seven national parties came from electoral bonds, the report said.

Among its recommendations, the ADR said the reporting of financial information should be improved. "To ensure that there is transparency and accountability on the part of the political parties, there must be a strict mechanism with respect to reporting of financial information, so as to ensure that a true picture of the financial position of the political parties is revealed to the public," the report said.

REGIONAL PARTIES: TOP EARNERS (IN Rs CRORE)



SOURCES OF INCOME OF 31 REGIONAL PARTIES



*Data for both FY20-21 and FY19-20 available for only 29 of 31 parties. Source: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

10 parties saw increased income**
19 parties saw a decrease in income**

₹529.416 cr total income of 31 regional parties in FY20-21
82.03% of the total income went to the top 5 parties
34.96% decrease in total earnings of 29 parties – from Rs 800.264 cr in FY19-20 to Rs 520.492 cr in FY20-21

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data is available for both the years, 10 parties have shown an increase in their income from FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21 while 19 parties have shown a decline in their income during this period.

- The 31 parties analyzed had a total income of ₹529.41 crores, of which the DMK declared ₹149.95 crores, followed by the YSR Congress Party (₹107.99 crores) and the Biju Janata Dal (₹73.34 crores), the report said.
- At the same time, the parties declared a total expenditure of ₹414.02 crores, of which the DMK accounted for 52.77% (₹218.49 crores). The Telugu Desam Party declared ₹54.76 crores in spending, followed by the AIADMK (₹42.36 crores).

46. Consider the following statement regarding the **Maitree Express train**.

1. The Bangladesh-India passenger train services resumed after two years with the flagging off of the Maitree Express train from Dhaka.
2. The newly introduced train Mitali Express will run between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Bangladesh-India passenger train services resumed after two years with the flagging off of the Maitree Express train from Dhaka.
- The Bandhan Express between Kolkata and Khulna was also resumed with the flagging off of the train at Kolkata. It reached Benapole railway station around 9.45 a.m. local time.

at the Hanu- ter 10.00 p.m.



Passengers disembark the Maitree Express train in Kolkata on Sunday. •PTI

India-Bangladesh train services resume after 2 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh resumed on Sunday after an over two-year gap due to the pandemic with the flagging off the Bandhan Express from Kolkata station on way to Khulna in the neighbouring country, an Eastern Railway (ER) official said here.

Maitree Express is also scheduled to resume services between Kolkata and Dhaka on Sunday and will travel to the Bangladesh capital on Monday morning on the first journey from here since March 2020, he said.

“Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh, which were stopped for over two years due to the pandemic, resumed with the flagging off the Bandhan Express from Kolkata station at 7.10 a.m.,” ER spokesperson Ekalavya Chakraborty said.

While the Bandhan Express between Kolkata and Khulna runs two days a week, Maitree Express connecting Kolkata with Dhaka is a five-day service.

Comfortable, affordable

Mr. Chakraborty said people on both sides of the border are excited about the resumption of the train services, which are fully booked for the next few days. “With the comfort of train travel and a convenient time schedule along with affordability, people prefer this mode of transport over others such as bus and air,” he said.

The trains have a capacity of around 450 passengers and have air-conditioned chair car and executive class categories, he said.

India-Bangladesh train connectivity through West Bengal will receive another boost from June 1 with the inauguration of Mitali Express between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka, Mr. Chakraborty said.

The new service will also boost tourism in northern West Bengal as many travellers from Bangladesh show a keen interest in exploring the Darjeeling Hills and the forests and tea gardens of Dooars in the foothills, he said.

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- The newly introduced train *Mitali Express* between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka will be flagged off jointly by the Railway Ministers of India and Bangladesh on June 1. The train will not have any commercial stoppage between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri.
- Passenger train services between the two countries had remained suspended for over two years after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

47. *Thanjavur Doll* recently seen in news is Geographical Indication tag an item of which of the following state?

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

Addressing the nation in his Mann Ki Baat programme's on All India Radio, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recounted how he received an interesting gift by a Self-Help Group from Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

The gift was a special Thanjavur Doll, which is scripting a new saga of women empowerment as Women's Self-Help Groups' stores and kiosks are opening up in Thanjavur.

The Thanjavur doll is a type of traditional Indian bobblehead or roly-poly toy made of terracotta material.

48. Recently in May, The **Central government** has extended the **Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)** for students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for _____ years in the wake of the encouraging response it has received.

- A. 2 Years
- B. 5 Years
- C. 3 Years
- D. 7 Years

Centre extends scholarship for J&K, Ladakh students

UPA gov't. introduced scheme in 2011 to give funds to 5,000 students and promote job opportunities

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union government has extended a scholarship scheme from the United Progressive Alliance era for students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for another five years in the wake of the encouraging response it has received. The government wants to continue the scholarship along with a simultaneous focus on opening new educational institutes in the newly created Union Territories.

The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) was introduced by the Congress-led UPA government in 2011 to provide funding to 5,000 meritorious students each year to study in private and government educational institutions across the country. Aimed at promoting employment opportunities for students from J&K and Ladakh, the scheme, with an annual budget of ₹180 crore to ₹190 crore, is implemented by the



Future prospects: The scheme offers 4,500 seats for general education courses and 250 seats each for engineering and medical courses. •NISSAR AHMAD

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

According to AICTE data, there was a substantial increase in the number of applications received in the academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22, following a dip in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The rise was recorded after J&K's special status granted under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by Parliament in August 2019.

Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE, told *The Hindu* that the term of the scheme was due to end last year, but the Central government decided to extend it for another five years for the benefit of students.

Mr. Sahasrabudhe said the scheme offers 4,500 seats for general education courses (Bachelor's in Arts, Commerce and Science), and 250 each for engineer-

ing and medical degrees. While the scholarship offered for general education courses is ₹1.3 lakh, including a ₹1 lakh maintenance fee to cover hostel and mess charges, it is ₹2.25 lakh for engineering and ₹4 lakh for medical degrees.

'Few takers'

"There are not many takers for general education seats. When these seats are not filled, they are converted on a pro rata basis into engineering and medical seats, raising the 500-seat limit. The ₹1 lakh maintenance fee is common for all courses. So, three unoccupied general education seats are equivalent to one medical seat and 1.8 engineering seats," Mr. Sahasrabudhe said. He added that the conversion rate is different each year and that is why all 5,000 seats are never filled.

However, data showed that in the past six years, the 250 allotted medical seats were not filled. In 2020-21,

only 113 students joined the medical stream through the PMSSS. In 2019-20, only 95 students opted for medicine under the scheme.

While there were 25,970 and 24,455 applicants for the scholarship in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively, and 23,234 and 22,538 of them met the eligibility criteria, only 4,780 and 4,095 students finally joined colleges under the scheme.

Opting out

He said the reasons for students opting out of the scheme include securing admission in a college of their choice in J&K or Ladakh, feeling homesick, and concerns over the language barrier. However, he said such seats do not remain vacant as they are opened for diploma holders in the following academic year. "If after Class 10, a student has pursued a diploma, then he or she may gain admission directly to the second year of engineering," Mr. Sahasrabudhe said.



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The Central government has extended the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for another five years in the wake of the encouraging response it has received.

The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) was introduced by the Central government

Under the scheme, funding is provided to 5,000 meritorious students each year to study in private and government educational institutions across the country.

The scheme offers 4,500 seats for general education courses (Bachelor's in Arts, Commerce and Science), and 250 each for engineering and medical degrees.

Budget: Rs 180-190 crore annually. Implementing Agency: All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

49. Consider the following statement regarding **India's first semi-high speed freight train.**

1. Based on the Vande Bharat platform, the 16-coach 'Gati Shakti' train will be able to run at 160 km/hour and will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
2. India had become the 8th largest market for e-commerce.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **To tap the growing freight sector, Railways is aiming to introduce the country's first semi-high speed freight train by December 2022.**
- **Based on the Vande Bharat platform, the 16-coach 'Gati Shakti' train will be able to run at 160 km/hour and will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.**

10 NEWS

India to get semi-high speed freight train

The 'Gati Shakti' train will run from December

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
CHENNAI

To tap the growing freight sector in the country, the Railways is aiming to introduce the country's first semi-high speed freight train by December 2022.

Based on the Vande Bharat platform, the 16-coach 'Gati Shakti' train will be able to run at 160 km/hour, and will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

"The design work for these trains has already started. We have also given the order for material...By December this year, we will be able to manufacture two of these trains," ICF General Manager A.K. Agarwal said.

Mr. Agarwal added that



New features: A view of a Vande Bharat train cabin under production at the Integral Coach Factory. **WR. RAGU**

the overall target of 25 such trains had been set.

The final number of trains would depend on how the initial trains will be received by market, he said.

Focus on e-commerce

With these trains, the Railways plans to target the e-commerce and courier par-

cel segment.

Quoting data from IBEF, an ICF official added that with the turnover of \$50 billion in 2020, India had become the 8th largest market for e-commerce.

"India's e-commerce market is expected to reach \$111 billion by 2024, \$200 billion by 2026 and expected to

Upgraded Vande Bharat trains to have more safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Even though the 75 new upgraded Vande Bharat trains, which were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August last year, will be loaded with additional security features and

passenger amenities, the manufacturing cost of the train is not expected to rise significantly, according to a senior Railways official.

The new trains will be manufactured at a cost of about ₹110-120 crore each, as against the earlier cost of ₹106 crore each.

reach \$350 billion by 2030," the official said.

The official added that the Railways has planned to capture the small size parcel shipments by running dedicated high speed freight trains.

Additionally, each train would have two refrigerated wagons - the first and last

cars in the train, to ferry perishable items such as fruits and vegetables.

The Railways is aiming to increase its share in freight transportation from the present 27% to 45% by 2030 through better infrastructure and business development plans, according to the National Rail Plan.

Assam flood situation

AKRITI to take roots in Kudu

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- *With these trains, Railways plans to target the e-commerce and courier parcel segment. Quoting data from IBEF, an ICF official added that with a turnover of \$50 billion in 2020, India had become the 8th largest market for e-commerce.*
- *India's eCommerce market is expected to reach \$111 billion by 2024 and \$200 billion by 2026 and expected to reach \$350 billion by 2030,*
- *Additionally, each train would have two refrigerated wagons — the first and last cars, to ferry perishable items such as fruits and vegetables.*

International / Report News

50. Recently in May _____ have **launched a new initiative to boost the flow of digital foreign direct investments** .

- A. Digital Cooperation Organization and World Economic Forum (WEF)**
- B. World Economic Forum and World Bank**
- C. Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund**
- D. International Monetary Fund and Digital Cooperation Organization**

- *DCO and WEF launch a **new initiative to promote digital FDI flow worldwide.***
- *The **Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) announced a new initiative to boost the flow of digital foreign direct investments.***
- *This initiative was announced by **WEF President Borge Brende, and DCO Secretary-General Deemah AlYahya.***
- *Both organizations will identify methods to increase digital adoption, investment in new digital activities, and investment in digital infrastructure.*
- *The **DCO and WEF will launch Digital FDI Enabling Projects to help countries in implementing policies and increase investment in the digital economy.***
- *It is estimated that **70 percent of future economic growth is set to be digital.***
- ***Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO):***
- ***It was established in 2020 by seven countries.***
- ***Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria Oman, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia are the founding members of DCO.***
- ***It focuses on digital economy initiatives for youth, startup entrepreneurs, and women.***

51. Recently in May _____ surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22 at \$119.42 billion in 2021-22 .

- A. Russia
- B. USA**
- C. Japan
- D. Bangladesh

US overtakes China, becomes India's top trading partner in FY22

Bilateral trade between US and India stood at \$119 b, against \$81 b in 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 29

The US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

According to Commerce Ministry data, in 2021-22, bilateral trade between the US and India stood at \$119.42 billion against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21.

Exports to the US increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion (\$29 billion).

During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China

stood at \$115.42 billion (\$86.4 billion), the data showed.

Exports to China marginally increased to \$21.25 billion (\$21.18 billion), while imports jumped to \$94.16 billion (\$65.21 billion). Trade gap rose to \$72.91 billion (\$44 billion).

Strengthening ties

Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the US will continue in the coming years as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations Vice-Pres-



Exports to the US increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion a year ago

ident Khalid Khan said India is emerging as a trusted trading partner and global firms are reducing their dependence only on China for their supplies and are diversifying business into other countries like India.

"In the coming years, the bilateral trade between India

and the US will continue to grow. India has joined a US-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further," Khan said.

Items of trade

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bangalore, said: "the major export items from India to the US include petroleum polished diamonds, pharmaceutical products, jewellery, light oils and petroleum, frozen shrimp, made ups etc. whereas major imports from the US include petroleum, rough diamonds, liquefied natural gas, gold, coal, waste and scrap, almonds etc.".

- **The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.**
- **The bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at \$119.42 billion in 2021-22 as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21.**

- **Exports to the U.S. increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion from about \$29 billion.**
- **India has joined a U.S.-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further.**

52. Recently seen in the news *Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile* is developed by which of the following country?

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

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- **Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from the Barents Sea.**

May 28, 2022, 8:50PM

Russia conducts test-launch of Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile

Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from the Barents Sea today, Russia's Defense Ministry said. The missile hit a naval target about 1,000 kms away in the White Sea and the flight of the projectile corresponded to the designed parameters, it added. The Tsirkon missile has been test-fired several times from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate and a nuclear-powered submarine. Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Tsirkon missile is capable of flying at Mach 9 or nine times the speed of sound and striking a target over 1,000 kms away.



- *The missile hit a naval target about 1,000 km away in the White Sea and the flight of the projectile corresponded to the designed parameters.*
- *The Tsirkon missile is capable of flying at Mach 9 or nine times the speed of sound and striking a target over 1,000 km away.*

53. Recently in May _____ announced to start building the world's largest petroleum research center by the end of the year.

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Kuwait

- *Kuwait plans to start building the world's largest petroleum research center by the end of the year*
- *The Middle East Economic Digest said the project had stalled because of budget pressure, estimating its cost at \$120 million.*
- *The center, to be built in al-Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City, will have 28 laboratories.*

54. Recently in May India and _____ have signed an MoU to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.

- A. Japan
- B. Russia

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C. UAE

D. Bangladesh

- India and the United Arab Emirates have signed an MoU to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.
- The basic objective of this MoU is to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action and also contribute toward implementing the Paris Agreement 2015.

- **The Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 at the end of the annual climate change conference for global collective efforts at reducing carbon emissions to restrict global temperature rise to preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial area**

May 27, 2022, 9:12AM

India, UAE sign MoU to establish framework to facilitate & enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action

India and United Arab Emirates have signed an MoU to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.

The agreement was signed between Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav and UAE Climate Envoy and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al Jaber in New Delhi yesterday. The basic objective of this MoU is to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action, and also contributes towards implementing the Paris Agreement.



Mr Yadav also hold a bilateral meeting with Dr Sultan Al Jaber. In the meeting, they discussed issues relating to climate change, hosting of COP 28 and other related matters. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Yadav stressed that the issues of climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, need more focus in the road beyond COP26. He acknowledged and appreciated the UAE's climate actions, and also shared India's concrete climate actions.

55. Consider the following statement regarding the India chapter of the **Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders**
1. India chapter of the Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders **has been launched by World Economic Forum.**
 2. **Sumant Sinha is Co-Chair of the Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India. He is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ReNew Power.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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D. None of the above

India chapter of the Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders has been launched by World Economic Forum. The alliance brings together chief executives from leading businesses in India. It is a collaboration between Kearney and Observer Research Foundation.

It is part of the World Economic Forum's Climate Action Platform.

The Alliance will serve as a high-level platform for business leaders to design and implement climate-related plans and programmes.

Sumant Sinha is Co-Chair of Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India. He is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ReNew Power.

Anish Shah is co-chair of the Alliance and Mahindra Group's Managing Director.

Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders was founded in 2014. It is a global community of Chief Executive Officers.

55. Consider the following statement regarding WEF's Travel & Tourism Development

- 1. India grabbed the 54th spot in the overall rankings, down from 46th in 2019.**
- 2. this year's index — which consists of five subindexes, 17 pillars, and 112 individual indicators**
- 3. Japan took the number one spot, followed by the US, Spain, France, and Germany among the top five.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- After two years of slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, India's travel and tourism sector has shown "signs of recovery" and is the top performer in South Asia, according to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) latest study.**
- Titled 'Travel & Tourism Development Index 2021: Rebuilding for a Sustainable and Resilient Future', the study measured**
- India grabbed the 54th spot in the overall rankings, down from 46th in 2019. The travel and tourism development index assessed a total of 117 countries for the study**



India still tops in global travel and tourism development index within South Asia. AFP

India at 54th place on tourism index

India was on Tuesday ranked at the 54th place in a global travel and tourism development index, down from 46th in 2019, but still remained on the top within South Asia.

Japan has topped the global charts, followed by the US, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Singapore and Italy in the top ten.

The World Economic Forum (WEF)'s biennial travel and tourism study also showed a recovering sector following pandemic lows, though the recovery has been uneven and challenges remain.

The travel and tourism development index assesses 117 economies, identifying key factors in enabling the sustainable and resilient growth of travel and tourism economies.

"Covid-19 shutdowns have re-emphasised the important contribution travel and tourism makes to many economies around the world," Lauren Uppink, head of aviation, travel and tourism at the WEF, said.

"As the world emerges from the pandemic, economies must invest in building a strong and resilient environment to deliver the travel and tourism experience and services for many decades to come," Uppink added. PTI

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- In this year's index — which consists of five subindexes, 17 pillars, and 112 individual indicators — Japan took the number one spot, followed by the US, Spain, France, and Germany among the top five.
- The study further revealed that while international tourist arrivals globally have increased by 18 million in January this year as compared to the same period in 2021, they were still 67 percent below 2019 levels.

56. Consider the following statement regarding **First Movers Coalition**.

1. India joined the 'First Movers Coalition' to make heavy industries carbon emission-free.
2. 'First Mover's Coalition' is a global initiative launched for decarbonizing heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors. Heavy industries sectors contribute 30 percent to global emissions.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

India joined the 'First Movers Coalition' to make heavy industries carbon emission-free. 'First Movers Coalition' is a global initiative launched for decarbonising heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors. Heavy industries sectors contribute 30 per cent to global emissions.

It was launched by US President Joe Biden and the WEF at COP26. It is a public-private partnership initiative to decarbonize carbon-intensive sectors.

India along with Denmark, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom have joined this Coalition.

First Movers Coalition mainly target aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking sector.

Coalition members agreed to purchase a certain percentage of industrial materials from suppliers using zero-carbon solutions.

India, Japan and Sweden are part of the Steering Board of the Coalition. Denmark, Italy, Norway, Singapore and the United Kingdom are government partners.

AT WEF India joins coalition to decarbonise sectors

BARUN JHA
Davos, 25 May

India has joined the First Movers Coalition, a global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30 per cent of global emissions, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry announced on Wednesday.

Launched by US President Joe Biden and the WEF at COP26 as a flagship public-private partnership to clean up the most carbon-intensive sectors, also saw 50 new corporate members with collective market cap of \$8.5 trillion joining the force.

Besides India, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom have also joined the US as government partners to create early markets for clean technologies through policy measures and private sector engagements. India, along with Japan and Sweden, has also joined the steering board of the coalition. Kerry made the announcement alongside Bill Gates, founder, Breakthrough Energy, at a press briefing hosted by the World Economic Forum here. PFI

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57. Consider the following statement regarding the 4th Quad leaders summit in Tokyo.

1. They announced the **formation of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**, which will build a “faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters.”
2. The summit announced the **establishment of the "Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific"**.
3. They decided to initiate the **first-ever Quad Cybersecurity Day to help individual internet users to better protect themselves from cyber threats.**
4. The summit launched the **"Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with mitigation and adaptation as its two themes.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **PM Modi participated in the second in-person Quad Leaders’ Summit The second in-person Quad summit took place in Tokyo, Japan. The summit saw the participation of leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.**
- **They welcomed the progress on the expansion of J&J vaccine production at the Biological E facility in India under the Quad Vaccine Partnership.**
- **In March 2021, Quad leaders launched the Quad Vaccine Partnership for enhancing equitable access to vaccines.**
- **Quad leaders promised to extend more than 50 billion USD of infrastructure assistance and investment in the Indo-Pacific, over the next five years.**
- **This includes the Quad Debt Management Resource Portal, which consists of multiple bilateral and multilateral capacity-building assistance.**
- **The summit launched the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with mitigation and adaptation as its two themes.**
- **The leaders decided to coordinate capacity-building programs in the Indo-Pacific region under the Quad Cybersecurity Partnership.**
- **They also decided to initiate the first-ever Quad Cybersecurity Day to help individual internet users to better protect themselves from cyber threats.**
- **The Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains was launched on the occasion of this Summit.**
- **This advances the cooperation among Quad countries on semiconductors and other critical technologies.**
- **The Quad Fellowship was officially launched.**

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- *The Fellowship will bring 100 students from Quad countries to the United States each year to pursue graduate degrees in STEM fields.*
- *Quad countries decided to share space-based civil Earth observation data, along with providing a "Quad Satellite Data Portal" that aggregates links to their respective national satellite data resources.*
- *A new maritime domain awareness initiative, the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), was launched.*
- *The IPMDA would offer a near-real-time, integrated, and cost-effective maritime domain awareness picture.*
- *The summit also announced the establishment of the "Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific".*
- *This Partnership will further strengthen the collaboration to effectively respond to disasters in the region.*

**ANNOUNCED
BY THE QUAD**

\$50bn

in infra aid and investment in Indo-Pacific over the next five years, by the four nations

They committed to working closely with partners and the region to drive public and pvt investment to bridge gaps

The leaders stressed on their improved coordination in spheres of vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response and economic cooperation

Quad is a 'force for good', says Modi

This common operating picture will integrate three critical regions – the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region – in the Indo-Pacific. In close consultations with regional partners, the IPMDA would offer a near-real-time, integrated, and cost-effective maritime domain awareness picture, it stated, adding this initiative would transform the ability of partners in the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean

region to fully monitor the waters on their shores and, in turn, to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The grouping would enhance the sharing of data as a part of the "Quad Satellite Data Portal" that would enhance cooperation among the satellites of the member countries. The summit welcomed the progress made regarding the J&J vaccine production at the Biological E labs in India under the Quad Vaccine Partnership.

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Quad has emerged a ‘force for good’, says Modi

‘The collective objective is to create an inclusive Indo-Pacific region’

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 24

The Quad alliance has emerged as a ‘force for good’ and has been successful in coordinating actions in the areas of vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response, and economic cooperation despite the adverse circumstances created by Covid-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

“Quad nations, through their mutual cooperation, are encouraging the creation of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, which has been our collective objective to begin with,” Modi said at the

Quad Summit in Tokyo on Tuesday. Leaders of the three other Quad nations — US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the newly-elected Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese — attended the summit.

The Quad four welcomed the progress on the expansion of J&J vaccine production at the Biological E facility in India under the Quad Vaccine Partnership. “...we look forward to the grant of WHO’s EUL approvals regarding the aforementioned vaccines in India. We celebrate the donation by the Quad to Cambodia and Thailand of WHO approved Made in India vaccines, together with Quad members’ other vaccine related support,” read a Quad Joint Leaders’ Statement issued after the meet.

Significantly, while the joint statement raised deep con-



(from left) Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at the Quad summit in Tokyo AP

cerns about the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing “tragic humanitarian crisis”, it did not mention Russia, in a possible accommodation to India’s neutral stand on the matter.

Biden slams Russia

Biden, however, gave a strong

statement against the Russian invasion in his speech at the Quad emphasising that countries were navigating a “dark hour” in their shared history as Russia’s “brutal and unprovoked war” against Ukraine had triggered a humanitarian catastrophe. “This is more than

just a European issue... As long as Russia continues this war, we are going to be partners and lead a global response,” Biden added. The US President also underlined the importance of the Quad in responding to Covid-19, partnering on 5G supply chains and launching the Quad fellowship programme.

Japan PM for free Indo-Pacific

Japanese Premier Kishida said it was important for the leaders to get together to make a “firm commitment” to a free and open Indo-Pacific and spoke about climate change countermeasures, maritime issues and technology.

Albanese said Australia would take ambitious action on climate change, including fixing a new target to reduce emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, he added.

[Also read p10](#)

Key takeaways from Quad

- Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness
- Sharing of space-based civil Earth observation data; Quad Satellite Data Portal
- Condemnation of 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks by Pak-based groups
- Quad Debt Management Resource Portal
- Capacity building under Quad Cybersecurity Partnership; first-ever Quad Cybersecurity Day
- Fellowships in STEM varisities in US for 25 students from each Quad country



PM Modi speaks at the Quad Leaders’ Summit. PTI

MODI-KISHIDA MEETING

- Reviewed progress of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.
- Welcomed the signing of exchange of notes of the 3rd tranche of loan for project
- Quarantine-free entry into Japan for Indians carrying Covaxin or Covishield certificates

MODI-BIDEN MEETING

- The two sides announced a major partnership to boost cooperation in critical and emerging technologies between their leading security agencies
- White House announced India joining the Combined Military Forces-Bahrain as an associate member

MODI-ALBANESE MEETING

- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including in trade & investment, defence manufacturing, renewable energy including green hydrogen, education, science and technology, agricultural research and sports
- First meeting since Aus elections, invitation to Albanese to visit India

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58. Consider the following statement regarding **"Profiting from Pain"** published by Oxfam at World Economic Forum.

1. Pandemic creates a **new billionaire every 30 hours**
2. The brief shows that **573 people became new billionaires during the pandemic,**
3. This year that **263 million more people will crash into extreme poverty, at a rate of a million people every 33 hours.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

As the rich and powerful from across the globe gather here for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2022, Oxfam International on Monday Releasing a report titled 'Profiting from Pain' here in Davos, said the COVID-19 pandemic has seen one new billionaire emerging every 30 hours, while nearly one million people could be pushed into extreme poverty every 33 hours this year.

The report showed that 573 people became new billionaires during the pandemic, at the rate of one every 30 hours.

"We expect this year that 263 million more people will crash into extreme poverty, at a rate of a million people every 33 hours,"

The total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9% of global GDP, marking a three-fold increase from 4.4% in 2000.

A new billionaire every 30 hours during the pandemic

A million people could face extreme poverty in 2022: Oxfam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic created a new billionaire every 30 hours, and it is expected that a million people could be pushed into extreme poverty at the same rate in 2022, according to a new Oxfam brief released on Monday.

The brief titled "Profiting from Pain" is published for the World Economic Forum 2022 for its annual meeting for a five-day event at Davos.

The brief shows that 573 people became new billionaires during the pandemic, at the rate of one every 30 hours. Oxfam expects that 263 million more people will crash into extreme poverty this year, at a rate of a million people every 33 hours.

The wealth of billionaires in the world has also risen more in the first 24 months of COVID-19 than in 23 years combined. The total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9% of the global GDP. This is a three-fold increase from 4.4% in 2000.

"Billionaires' fortunes have not increased because



The wealth of billionaires in the world has risen more in the first 24 months of COVID-19 than in 23 years combined. **AFP**

they are now smarter or working harder. Workers are working harder, for less pay and in worse conditions. The super-rich have rigged the system with impunity for decades and they are now reaping the benefits. They have seized a shocking amount of the world's wealth as a result of privatisation and monopolies, gutting regulation and workers' rights while stashing their cash in tax havens—all with the complicity of governments," said Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam International.

The pandemic has created 40 new pharma billionaires. Pharmaceutical corporations like Moderna and

Pfizer are making \$1,000 profit every second just from their monopoly control of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Gender inequalities have also deepened as women were disproportionately pushed out of employment. In 2021, there were 13 million fewer women in employment compared with 2019, while men's employment recovered to 2019 levels. The gender pay gap too is forecast to take 136 years to close up from 100 years before the pandemic.

Oxfam recommends several tax measures to stop deepening income disparities, including a one-off solidarity taxes on billionaires' pandemic windfalls and permanent wealth taxes.

59. Consider the following statement regarding the **World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022.**

1. **Shri Devusinh Chauhan, attended the opening ceremony of the World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022, being organized by International Telecommunications Unions (ITU) at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland**
2. **The participation comes with India contesting the re-election to the ITU Council, for the term 2023-2026. India has been a member of ITU, since 1869.**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Shri Devusinh Chauhan leads Indian delegation to World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022

Holds bilateral meeting with Secretary General of ITU, Mr Haolin Zhou

Posted On: 31 MAY 2022 7:07PM by PIB Delhi

Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, attended the opening ceremony of World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022, being organized by International Telecommunications Unions (ITU) at its headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland from 30th May to 3rd June, 2022. It's beginning of 4 days event where India will showcase its telecom prowess during multilateral & bilateral engagements.

Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, attended the opening ceremony of World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022, being organized by International Telecommunications Unions (ITU) at its headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland from 30th May to 3rd June, 2022.

It's beginning of 4 days event where India will showcase its telecom prowess during multilateral & bilateral engagements.

The participation comes with India contesting the re-election to the ITU Council, for the term 2023-2026. India has been a member of ITU, since 1869 and has been continuously participating, actively in the works, and activities of the Union. Recently in an event, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the 5G Test Bed for startups at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at IIT Madras and successfully test tested a 5G call on an indigenously-developed network.

Banking / Economy News

60. Consider the following statement regarding *Time's 100 Most Influential People 2022*.

1. Business tycoon *Gautam Adani*, Supreme Court lawyer *Karuna Nandy* and Kashmiri Human Rights Activist *Khurram Parvez* have been named among the 100 most influential people of 2022 by Time Magazine.
2. The list of 100 most influential is divided into 6 categories- *Pioneers, Icons, Artists, Titans, Leaders, and Innovators*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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D. None of the above

- **Business tycoon Gautam Adani, Supreme Court lawyer Karuna Nandy, and Kashmiri Human Rights Activist Khurram Parvez have been named among the 100 most influential people of 2022 by Time Magazine.**

- **The list of 100 most influential is divided into 6 categories- Pioneers, Icons, Artists, Titans, Leaders, and Innovators. While Gautam Adani is named under the Titans category along with American host Oprah Winfrey and Apple CEO Tim Cook, Khurram Parvez and Karuna Nandy have found a place under the Leaders category of Times’s 100 most influential People 2022.**

Adani among TIME’s 100 most influential people

YOSHITA SINGH
New York, May 23

INDUSTRIALIST GAUTAM ADANI and advocate Karuna Nundy were named by *TIME* magazine on Monday among the 100 most influential people of 2022.

The list includes US President Joe Biden, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, tennis icon Rafael Nadal, Apple CEO Tim Cook and media mogul Oprah Winfrey.

Adani’s profile says his “once regional business now spans airports, private ports, solar and thermal power, and consumer



Apart from Gautam Adani, advocate Karuna Nundy also figured on the list

goods. Adani Group is now a national behemoth in the world’s sixth largest economy, though Adani stays out of the public eye, quietly building his empire.”

On Nundy, it says she is not just a lawyer but also a “public activist who ably—and bravely—uses her voice both inside and outside the courtroom to bring about change.” She is a champion of women’s rights who has advocated for reform of anti-rape laws and fought cases relating to sexual harassment in the workplace. Most recently, she is litigating a challenge to India’s rape law that contains a legal exemption for marital rape.

Also on the list is Khurram Parvez, chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances. — PTI

- **Time 100 is an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world which is assembled by the American news magazine Time. It was first published in 1999 as the result of a debate among the American academics, journalists, and politicians, however, the list is now a publicized annual event**

61. Recently in May Bob Financial, the card-issuing company under Bank of Baroda, has tied up with the fuel company _____ to launch a new fuel credit card named ENERGIE Credit Card.

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

BOB Financial, HPCL launch RuPay credit card

BOB FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, launched a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have launched HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay credit card.

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Bob Financial, the card-issuing company under Bank of Baroda, has tied up with the fuel company HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) to launch a new fuel credit card named HPCL Bank of Baroda ENERGIE Credit Card. Earlier, only the ICICI Bank was issuing three HPCL co-branded credit cards, of which the ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Card is the most popular one.

By launching this ENERGIE Credit Card, BoB Financial has set a direct competition with this card issued by the ICICI Bank.

The new HPCL BoB ENERGIE Credit Card seems to be very beneficial for frequent fuel buyers, especially for those who are loyal to Hindustan Petroleum Limited.

62. Recently _____ has signed an agreement with HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) to launch a first of its kind program Huh. , ‘Invest-verse: An introduction to the world of investing’.

- A. NSE Academy
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. State Bank Of India
- D. ICICI Bank

- NSE Academy Limited (NAL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), signed an agreement with HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) to launch a first of its kind program Huh. , ‘Invest-verse: An introduction to the world of investing’. The program will be offered to college students across India.
- The initiative will help reach out to the next wave of first-time investors through a nine-hour course, which will also be made available on HDFC Mutual Fund’s MFbeats application.
- The programs will be delivered online and through application-based training which will be co-certified by both the institutions.

NSE Academy, HDFC MF tie up to spread awareness



NSE ACADEMY HAS signed an agreement with HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFCAMC), the investment manager to HDFC Mutual Fund, to launch a programme called ‘Invest-verse: An Introduction to the World of Investing’. It shall be offered to college students across India, to help increase their financial awareness.

63. Recently in May ReNew Power has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the _____ state government to invest ₹50,000 crore over the next seven years.

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

- **Renewable energy firm**
ReNew Power has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to invest ₹50,000 crores over the next seven years.
- **The investment is expected to generate 30,000 jobs in the state. The company intends to set up production units in renewable energy, battery storage, and green hydrogen in two phases.**

ReNew Power inks MoU with Karnataka to invest ₹50K crore

Bengaluru: ReNew Power on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the World Economic Forum meet in Davos, to invest Rs 50,000 crore in the state over the next seven years.

ReNew Power intends to set up production units in Renewable Energy, Battery Storage and Green Hydrogen with potential to create employment opportunities for 30,000 people, the Chief

Investment to be over 7 years

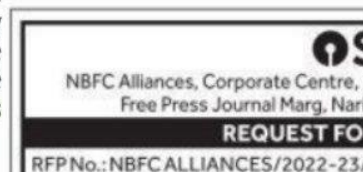
Minister's office said.

Stating that the company intends to set up production units over the next 7 years in two phases, it said, in the first phase Rs 11,900 crore would be invested on the ongoing projects and they would be operationalised in the next 2 years. In the second phase the company plans to invest Rs

37,500 crore to set up renewable energy and green hydrogen units over the next 5 years.

During the day, Bommai met Chairman and CEO of Bharti Enterprises Sunil Bharti Mittal.

Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani group, called on Bommai and discussed investment opportunities in Karnataka. PTI



- **In the first phase, ₹11,900 crores would be spent on the state's ongoing projects, which will be operationalized over the next two years. Later, over the next five years, the company intends to invest ₹37,500 crores in renewable energy and green hydrogen facilities.**
- **The deal was signed by EV Ramana Reddy, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, and Sumant Sinha, Chairman, ReNew Power at the World Economic Forum Summit in Davos in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Bommai has termed the deal as,**
- **On the second day at the Karnataka pavilion at Davos, Bommai held more talks to bring in investments to the State. He met with Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairperson, Bharti Enterprises. Mittal has shown interest to set up a Mega Data Centre in the State.**

64. Consider the following statement regarding **FDI equity inflows in FY 22.**

1. The Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in the Indian equity market declined marginally by 1% to **\$58.77 billion for the financial year FY22**
2. the foreign direct investment in India reached its highest ever at **\$ 83.57 billion in FY22.**
3. In terms of top investor countries of FDI Equity inflow - **Singapore is at the apex with 27%, followed by the USA (18%) and Mauritius (16%) for the FY 2021-22.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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

The Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in the Indian equity market declined marginally by 1% to \$58.77 billion for the financial year FY22, the data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

On the contrary, the foreign direct investment in India reached its highest ever at \$ 83.57 billion in FY22

FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing Sectors has increased by 76% to \$21.34 billion in FY22 compared to \$12.09 billion in FY21.

In terms of top investor countries of FDI Equity inflow - Singapore is at the apex with 27%, followed by the USA (18%) and Mauritius (16%) for the FY 2021-22.

Karnataka is the top recipient state with a 38% share of the total FDI Equity inflow reported during the FY 2021-22 followed by Maharashtra (26%) and Delhi (14%)

FDI equity inflows fell 1% in FY22: DPIIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted marginally, by 1%, to \$58.77 billion in FY22, according to official data. Inflows had stood at ₹59.63 billion during FY21, data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed.

However, total foreign direct investment into India rose by 2% to the 'highest ever' \$83.57 billion in 2021-22. Total FDI inflows include equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.

In FY22, Singapore topped the list with \$15.87 billion in investments.

65. Consider the following statement regarding **Credit Card Data As of March By the Reserve Bank of India**

1. According to data from the Reserve Bank of India, the value of transactions on credit cards in March 2022 was ₹1.07 lakh crore.
2. The overall credit card spending in 2021-22 of ₹ 9.72 lakh crore.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

March data shows spends topped ₹1 lakh crore . Credit card spending closed the fiscal year 2021-22 on a high of over ₹1 lakh crore in March and is expected to rise further with opening up of sectors like travel and hospitality.

According to data with the Reserve Bank of India, the value of transactions on credit cards in March 2022 was ₹1.07 lakh crore as against ₹86,304.76 crore in February.

Credit card spends to remain on a high

Spends in March topped ₹1-lakh crore, up 47% y-o-y as travel, hospitality opened

SURABHI

Mumbai, May 24

Credit card spending closed FY22 on a high of over ₹1-lakh crore in March, and is expected to rise further with opening up of sectors such as travel and hospitality.

Positive outlook

According to data with the Reserve Bank of India, the value of transactions on credit cards in March 2022 was ₹1.07-lakh crore against ₹86,304.76 crore in February, and a 47 per cent jump from ₹72,625.4 crore in March 2021.

"As per trends, April and

May 2022 spending seems likely to further increase to ₹1.02-lakh crore and ₹1.1-lakh crore," said a report by ICICI Securities, adding that a revival in air travel, the hospitality sector and increasing inflation outlook set a positive backdrop to credit card spends as well as receivables.

Overall credit card spend in FY22 was ₹9.72-lakh crore, a steep jump from ₹7.3 lakh crore in FY20 and ₹6.3-lakh crore in FY21, it added.

E-commerce growth

Motilal Oswal also noted that credit card spends grew 24 per cent on a



Overall credit card spend in FY22 was ₹9.72-lakh crore

month-on-month basis.

"Spending has continued with healthy momentum over March 2022, led by a rising share of e-commerce transactions that will keep the growth buoyant," it

said. In March 2022, monthly spending per card for the industry increased 21 per cent month-on-month to ₹14,600 crore, much higher than pre-Covid levels, it noted.

Ticket size too increased to ₹4,800, with the number of transactions per card rising 16 per cent month-on-month to three transactions.

Beats out point-of-sale

Significantly, the RBI data indicates that the value of credit cards for e-commerce transactions at ₹68,327.7 crore is much higher than point-of-sale transactions worth ₹38,773.42 crore in March.

Most banks remain bullish about their credit card business, and issuances too have increased, the RBI data showed.

There were 7.36 crore credit cards outstanding by March-end 2022, compared to 7.17 lakh by February-end.

66. Recently _____ has introduced a new online investment awareness program for students called "Market ka Eklavya – Express." to clarify simple concepts of investing, such as rules for investment and expense management, and when, where, and how to invest.
- A. State Bank Of India
 - B. IRCTC
 - C. National Securities Depository Limited
 - D. Indian Airforce

The National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) has introduced a new online investment awareness program for students called "Market ka Eklavya – Express." This program has been introduced in 75 locations, including Delhi. The program will be conducted in eight different languages, including Hindi.

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67. Recently _____ will be the first Japanese bank to open a branch at Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT City) in a bid to offer a wide range of banking services to both domestic and global clients.
- A. Shinhan Bank
 - B. MUFG Bank
 - C. People's Bank Of Japan
 - D. KEB Hana Bank

MUFG Bank will be the first Japanese bank to open a branch at Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT City) in a bid to offer a wide range of banking services to both domestic and global clients.

MUFG Bank has obtained necessary approvals from the International Financial Services Centre Authority in India and the Financial Services Agency in Japan, to open a branch at GIFT City. MUFG had opened its first branch in Mumbai in 1953.

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG)'s MUFG Bank has received approval from International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

The branch is scheduled to open in the first half of fiscal 2022.

MUFG Bank has five branches in India. GIFT Branch will be its sixth branch in India.

In March 2022, MUFG Bank has announced setting up of a \$300-million investment fund MUFG Ganesha Fund for startups in India

68. Consider the following statement regarding the latest edition of State Bank of India's (SBI) research report Ecowrap.
1. The report has projected growth at 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter of FY 2022.
 2. India's GDP growth rate has been projected at 8.2-8.5 percent for FY 2022.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

MUFG Bank gets nod to open branch at GIFT City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26

MUFG Bank will be the first Japanese Bank to open branch at Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT City), in a bid to offer a wide range of banking services to both domestic and global clients.

MUFG Bank has obtained necessary approvals from the International Financial Services Centre Authority in India and the Financial Services Agency in Japan to open a branch at GIFT City.

MUFG had opened its first branch in Mumbai in 1953.

"With the set up of a GIFT Branch, MUFG can support its domestic as well as global clients with an expanded suite of financial services and responding to their needs in carrying out international transactions," said the bank.

MUFG plans to open this branch for operations by the first half of FY22.

GIFT City in Gujarat was established as a special economic zone as an International Financial Services Centre for offshore transactions as part of the government's vision to make India a hub for international financial services.



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- **India's GDP growth rate has been projected at 8.2-8.5 percent for FY 2022, as per the latest edition of State Bank of India's (SBI) research report Ecowrap.**
- **The report has projected growth at 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter of FY 2022.**

69. Consider the following statement

regarding dividends to be paid by PSBs to the Centre.

- 1. The government will be the largest recipient of generous payments from the banks and is expected to be almost net ₹SEK 8,000 million. State-run banks,**
- 2. Central Bank of India, which is still under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) restrictive framework for rapid corrective action (PCA) will be the exception.**
- 3. The highest payment to the government comes from the country's largest lender State Bank of India, which will pay a dividend of ₹SEK 3,600 million.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

SBI economists see Q4 GDP growth slowing to under 3%

Omicron, geopolitical issues seen dragging FY22 growth down to 8.2%-8.5% pace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021-22 could be as low as 2.5%, State Bank of India (SBI) economists have estimated, a pace that would be almost half the 4.8% projected earlier by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The NSO is set to release official GDP estimates on May 31.

While the NSO's second advance estimate had pegged FY22 GDP growth at 8.9%, SBI's group chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a report on Thursday that growth will likely range between 8.2% and 8.5%, with the pace of economic activity slackening



Outlook sober: 'As the war in Ukraine prolongs, withdrawal of accommodation is quickening, risking capital outflows'. • AFP

in Q4 owing to the Omicron wave and 'geopolitical conflagrations' since February. "Economic activity, which gained strength in Q2... with the ebbing of the second wave, has lost pace since Q3," Mr. Ghosh said. "The Q4

GDP numbers are expected to be much lower than Q3 [when GDP grew 5.4%] indicating a continuous deceleration in growth since the starting of the year," he noted, adding that Q4 also marked the resurgence of re-

tail inflation beyond the tolerance threshold of 6%.

The NSO had projected Q4 GDP at ₹41.04 lakh crore, 1.7% higher than pre-pandemic levels, but an SBI model using high-frequency indicators suggested this may be closer to ₹40 lakh crore. "As per our 'Nowcasting Model', the forecasted GDP growth for Q4 would be 2.7%, with a downward bias," the economists said.

Earlier this week, ICRA estimated Q4 growth at 3.5%.

While the global growth outlook is grim as the war in Ukraine lingers on, withdrawal of monetary accommodation is quickening raising capital outflow risks for emerging markets, they said.

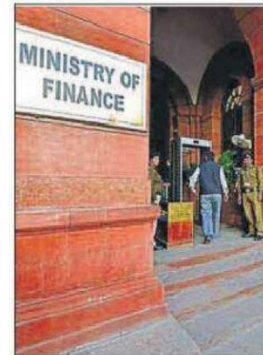
State-run banks to pay ₹8,000 cr dividend to govt

Gopika Gopakumar
gopika.g@livemint.com

MUMBAI: State-run banks have paid substantial dividends to their shareholders, many of them after a gap of nearly six years, as credit growth accelerated and asset quality improved.

The government stands to be the biggest beneficiary of the generous payouts by the banks and is expected to net nearly ₹8,000 crore. State-run banks, barring Central Bank of India, which is still under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) restrictive prompt corrective action framework (PCA) for weak banks, reported improved performance in the year ended March 31.

The payouts by state-run banks come as a minor relief to the government, which is struggling to generate resources amid higher spending on subsidies and tax cuts to cool inflation. The RBI also approved a lower-than-expected ₹30,307 crore as dividend to the government for the year ended March 2022, upsetting the government's bud-



The Centre stands to be the biggest beneficiary of generous payouts by the banks. MINT

get maths.

The highest payout to the government is from the country's largest lender State Bank of India, which will pay a dividend of ₹3,600 crore. Union Bank will pay ₹1,084 crore, followed by Canara Bank at ₹742 crore and over ₹600 crore each by Indian Bank and Bank of India.

However, some banks, includ-

ing Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and IDBI Bank, did not announce any dividend this time, despite reporting a full-year profit. Uco Bank has, however, sought regulatory approval for declaring dividends as the lender just exited the PCA framework, while Central Bank is barred from announcing any payout because of the RBI restrictions. Bank of Maharashtra's board will decide on a dividend payout on Wednesday.

"As per Banking Regulation Act, no banking company shall pay any dividend on its shares until all its capitalized expenses, including carry-forward losses, have been completely written off. Although IOB has doubled its profit (Rs 1,710 crore from Rs 831 crore the previous year), we could not declare a dividend as we incurred annual losses from 2015 to 2020, the years the bank was under PCA. From last year onwards, we have started building up reserves," said Partha Pratim Sengupta, managing director and chief executive of Indian Overseas Bank.

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State-owned banks have paid out significant dividends to their shareholders, many of them after a gap of almost six years, as credit growth accelerated and asset quality improved.

The government will be the largest recipient of the generous payments from the banks and is expected to be almost net ₹SEK 8,000 million. State-run banks, with the exception of the Central Bank of India, which is still under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) restrictive framework for rapid corrective action (PCA) for weak banks, reported improved results during the year ended 31 March.

RBI also approved a lower than expected ₹30,307 crore as a dividend to the government for the year ended March 2022, which upsets the government's budget mathematics.

The highest payment to the government comes from the country's largest lender State Bank of India, which will pay a dividend of ₹SEK 3,600 million. Union Bank will pay ₹1,084 crore, followed by Canara Bank at ₹SEK 742 million and over ₹600 crore each by Indian Bank and Bank of India.

As of FY16, state-owned banks stopped paying dividends due to their weak financial position after RBI's quality

70. Recently **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM))** Signed an MOU With which country **National University Ho Chi Minh** for survey documentation, conservation, digitization, and online dissemination of manuscripts of Indian origin?
- A. Thailand
 - B. Vietnam**
 - C. Japan
 - D. Singapore

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)), New Delhi and University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh city and for Survey, documentation, conservation, digitization and online dissemination of manuscripts of Indian origin

This is the second International MoU signed between Vietnam and India. The first MOU on the same line was signed between India and Thailand on 24th April 2022. Apart from this National Mission for Manuscripts, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, has printed 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur till 31st March 2022 for different monasteries in Mongolia.

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71. Recently _____ has launched a Robo-advisory platform that will offer investors mutual fund schemes and other financial offerings.
- HDFC Securities
 - Bharti Axa General Insurance
 - Axis Bank
 - ICICI Bank

Broking house HDFC Securities has launched a robo-advisory platform that will offer investors mutual fund schemes and other financial offerings.

Dubbed HDFC Money, the new platform allows users to invest in mutual funds and access other products without a demat account.

HDFC Money will allow investors to “plan and execute with a more defined objective keeping risk and tenure in consideration”. HDFC Securities Limited is a financial services intermediary and a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, a private sector bank in India. HDFC securities was founded in the year 2000 and is headquartered in Mumbai.

72. Consider the following statement regarding the **cancelation of the certificate of registration NBFCs By RBI.**

- The Reserve Bank has canceled the certificate of registration issued to five Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) – **UMB Securities and Anashri Finvest (both Bengaluru-based), Chadha Finance (New Delhi), Alexcy Tracon (Kolkata), and Jhuria Financial Services (Guwahati) – due to irregular lending practices.**
- The central bank added that the above companies shall not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI), as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Reserve Bank cancels registrations of 5 NBFCs

Says they engaged in irregularities, flouted norms in digital lending

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, May 25

The Reserve Bank has cancelled the certificate of registration of five Non-Banking Financial Companies – UMB Securities and Anashri Finvest (both Bengaluru-based), Chadha Finance (New Delhi), Alexcy Tracon (Kolkata) and Jhuria Financial Services (Guwahati) – for irregular lending practices.

Fair practices code

The certificates were cancelled on account of violation of RBI's guidelines on

outsourcing and fair practices code in digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps; this was considered detrimental to public interest, said the Central bank's statement.

Excessive interest

“These companies were also not complying with the extant regulations pertaining to charging of excessive interest and had resorted to undue harassment of customers for loan recovery,” RBI said.

As such, the above companies shall not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI), as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934, the Central bank said.



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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday said that it has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) issued to the following five Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) due to irregular lending practices. These NBFCs are: UMB Securities Limited, Anashri Finvest Limited, Chadha Finance Private Limited (now known as Chadha Finance Limited), Alexcy Tracon Pvt Ltd and Jhuria Financial Services Private Limited.

The central bank added that above companies shall not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI), as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934.

Elaborating further RBI said that the CoR of NBFCs have been cancelled on account of violation of RBI guidelines on outsourcing and Fair Practices Code in their digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps which was considered detrimental to public interest.

73. Consider the following statement *RBI annual report*.

1. The total exposure of banks to *NBFCs* was Rs 10.54 lakh crore as of March 25
2. The *Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's)* balance sheet increased 8.46 percent during FY22 to Rs 1,60,112.13 crore

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) **balance sheet increased 8.46 percent during FY22**, reflecting mainly its liquidity and foreign exchange operations.
- While **income increased 20.14 percent**, **expenditure went up 280.13 percent**, according to the *RBI's Annual Report for FY22*.
- The last financial year was the first full year of the April-March accounting cycle. Earlier the RBI followed the July-June financial year.
- **Income for FY22 rose to more than Rs 1.60 trillion** from about Rs 1.34 trillion in FY21. However, **expenditure shot up to about Rs 1.3 trillion** due to provisions of Rs 1.15 trillion for the *Contingency Fund* and Rs 100 crore for the *asset development fund*, leading to a dip in surplus.

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- The size of the **balance sheet of the RBI increased by Rs 4,82,633.14 crore (8.46 percent) from Rs 57,07,669.13 crore as of March 31, 2021, to Rs 61,90,302.27 crore as of March 31, 2022.**
- The central bank has been closely watching the top 50 NBFCs after the collapse of financial entities like IL&FS group, DHFL, and Srei Infrastructure Finance in the past few years. It has strengthened on-site supervision and compliance as it believes the failure of banks to NBFCs was Rs 10.54 lakh croi

SHADOW BANKS FACE TIGHTER SUPERVISION

RBI's red flag for NBFCs

74. Consider the following statement regarding Bank frauds as per RBI Annual Report.

1. The total amount involved in frauds in 2021-22 declined to Rs 60,414 crore, from over Rs 1.38 lakh crore in 2020-21
2. PSBs reported 3,078 frauds in 2021-22, with the total amount involved at Rs 40,282 crore
3. Private sector lenders, reported 5,334 frauds in 2021-22 total amount involved in these frauds was Rs 17,588 cr.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Asset quality in the sector deteriorated, says central bank

SHRITAMA BOSE
Mumbai, May 27

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) intends to tighten the supervisory architecture for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in view of the systemic risks emerging from their size and interconnectedness.

“Higher risk appetite of NBFCs has...contributed over time to their size, complexity, and interconnectedness, thus, making some of the entities systemically significant that pose potential threat to financial stability,” the RBI said in its annual report for FY22. “The balance sheet of NBFCs expanded in 2021-22, but asset quality in the sector deteriorated,” the report observed.

Considering the significant share of funding absorbed by NBFCs at the system level, continued attention to their financial health is warranted from the viewpoint of financial stability, the report added.

Continued on Page 2

RBI rolls out digital-heavy agenda and other related stories **PAGE 7**

WHY RBI TRANSFERRED LESS

SHRITAMA BOSE

■ **Contingency fund**

While RBI's income increased in FY22, it transferred a smaller surplus to the Centre at ₹30,307 crore compared with ₹99,122 crore in FY21. That's because of bigger provisions in the contingency fund – ₹1.15 trillion, much higher than the ₹20,710 crore provided in FY21. The RBI also transferred ₹100 crore to the asset development fund. The RBI Act, 1934 mandates that it must pay the balance of the profits, after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contribution to staff and superannuation funds and other matters, to the Centre.



■ **RBI's earnings**

The RBI earns interest income on rupee and foreign securities and income on forex transactions. In FY22, forex gains rose 36% from the previous year to ₹68,990 crore. Interest income from foreign securities rose 37% to ₹31,559 crore. Interest on rupee securities increased 61% to ₹96,396 crore, as the central bank had a higher holding during FY22.

Balance sheet
₹61.9 trillion

Transfer to contingency fund
₹1.15 trillion

Transfer to asset development fund
₹100 crore

Surplus payable to central govt
₹30,307 crore

■ **Balance sheet**

RBI's balance sheet expanded 8.5% to ₹61.9 trillion in FY22. On the asset side, foreign investments rose 4.28%, domestic investments (11.67%), gold (30.07%) and loans and advances (54.53%).

■ **Risk provisions**

The contingency fund is used for depreciation in the value of securities or risks from monetary or exchange rate operations. ADF provisions are for investments in subsidiaries etc.

- According to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report, the number of frauds reported by banks and financial institutions rose 23 percent in 2021-22. At the same time, the total amount involved in fraud fell by more than half, showed the report.
- As per the annual report, banks (including state-owned banks, private banks, foreign banks, financial institutions, small finance banks, payment banks, and local area banks) reported a total of 9,103 frauds in the

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year ended March 2022. In comparison, banks had reported 7,359 frauds in 2020-21 and 8,703 frauds in 2019-20.

- **At the same time, the total amount involved in frauds in 2021-22 declined to Rs 60,414 crore, from over Rs 1.38 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.85 lakh crore in 2019-20.**
- **PSBs reported 3,078 frauds in 2021-22, with the total amount involved at Rs 40,282 crore. In 2020-21 the state-owned lenders had reported 2,901 frauds with the total amount involved at Rs 81,901 crore.**
- **Private sector lenders, meanwhile, reported 5,334 frauds in 2021-22, sharply higher than the 3,710 frauds they had reported a year earlier. However, the total amount involved in these frauds was much lower at Rs 17,588 crore last year, compared with Rs 46,335 crore reported in the year before that.**

75. Recently in May, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it will come out with its Payment System Vision _____ Document this fiscal that would aim to further develop the digital payments landscape.

- A. 2025**
- B. 2030**
- C. 2050**
- D. 2047**

- **Recently in May, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it will come out with its Payment System Vision 2025 Document this fiscal that would aim to further develop the digital payments landscape.**

Amount of money involved in bank frauds falls 56% in FY22

DATA FOCUS

PARVATHI BENU

Chennai, May 27

The amount of money involved in bank frauds last financial year came down by more than half, compared to the previous financial year.

This is according to the Re-

serve Bank of India's Annual Report for Financial Year 2021-22, which was released on Friday.

While a whopping ₹1,38,211 crore was involved in fraudulent banking activities in FY21, it was just ₹60,414 crore in FY22.

Fraud reported by public sector banks account for

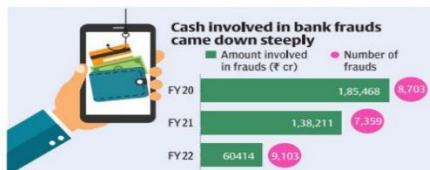
₹40,282 crore, which is 67 per cent of the total money involved.

Incidents of fraud up

That being said, the amount of money involved in frauds in public sector banks, has been reducing since FY20. It was ₹1,48,224 crore and ₹81,901 crore in FY20 and FY21, respectively. While we saw that the amount involved in frauds has come down steeply, the number of incidents of fraud has increased by 1,744, compared to FY21. At that time, a total of 7,359 frauds were reported by banks across the country. However, in FY22, the number shot up to 9,103. A majority of these incidents (5,334) were reported in private sector banks.

Over a third, or 3,308 incidents, were reported by public sector banks. This time, too, like the previous financial years, 97 per cent of the money related to frauds in advances (₹58,328 crore) was involved.

However, 3,839 incidents of fraud occurred in this category. While cards and Internet transactions amounted for a total of 3,596 frauds, only ₹155 crore was involved.



While private banks had more number of frauds, value of frauds was more in public sector banks

	Number of frauds		Amount involved in frauds (₹ cr)	
	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Public Sector Banks	2,901	3,078	81,901	40,282
Private Sector Banks	3,710	5,334	46,335	17,588
Foreign banks	520	494	3,280	1,206
Financial Institutions	24	10	6,663	1,305
Small finance banks	114	155	30	30
Payment banks	88	30	2	1
Local area banks	2	2	Nil	2

Source: RBI Annual Report

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- “With the achievement of the intended outcomes and completion of identified actions in Vision 2021, the Reserve Bank shall come out with its Vision for the payments ecosystem in the coming years to ensure continuous development of the payments landscape,” it said in the Annual Report 2021-22.
- Other focus areas for the current fiscal 2022-23 would include implementation of a framework of geo-tagging of payment acceptance infrastructure; making NEFT compliant to global messaging standards; strengthening IT and cyber security; setting up enterprise data center and enterprise computing and cybersecurity training center.
- To enhance consumer experience and provide greater insights into payment trends, the RBI would publish a payments dashboard with a pictorial representation of trends in payment systems.
- The report also highlighted the robust growth of 63.6 percent in payment systems in terms of volume during 2021-22 on top of the expansion of 26.7 percent in the previous year. In value terms, the growth was 23.1 percent against a decline of 13.4 percent in the previous year, mainly due to hefty growth observed in the large-value payment system -- RTGS.
- The share of digital transactions in the total volume of non-cash retail payments increased to 99.3 percent during 2021-22, up from 98.8 percent in the previous year.

76. Consider the following statement regarding RBI Initiative in digital, fintech space as per the annual report for the financial year 2021-22

1. For the financial year 2022-23, the apex bank aims to frame a policy for digital banking, in addition to the phased implementation of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
2. Taking Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s budget declaration forward, the bank plans to open 75 digital banking units in 75 districts.
3. Working Group on Digital Lending (November 18, 2021) is another exercise to enable the creation of a comprehensive regulatory framework for the digital space.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

RBI to bring out payment system vision document

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 27

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will come out with its Payment System Vision 2025 Document this fiscal to further develop the digital payments landscape.

“With the achievement of the intended outcomes and completion of identified actions in Vision 2021, the Reserve Bank shall come out with its vision for the payments ecosystem in the coming years to ensure continuous development of the payments landscape,” it said in the Annual Report 2021-22.

Focus areas

Other focus areas for the current fiscal 2022-23 would include implementation of framework of geo-tagging of payment acceptance infrastructure; making NEFT compliant to global messaging standards; strengthening IT and cyber security; setting up enterprise data centre and enterprise computing and cybersecurity training centre.

To enhance consumer experience and provide

greater insights into payment trends, the RBI will publish a payments dashboard with pictorial representation of trends in payment systems.

The RBI Annual Report, which was released on Friday, noted that the central bank continued its efforts to develop state-of-the-art payment and settlement systems in the country for building less cash society, along with a focus on increasing efficiency, improving customer convenience, expanding outreach and ensuring safety and security of payment systems as considered in the vision document.

The report also highlighted the robust growth of 63.6 per cent in payment systems in terms of volume during 2021-22 on top of the expansion of 26.7 per cent in the previous year.

In value terms, the growth was 23.1 per cent against a decline of 13.4 per cent in the previous year, mainly due to hefty robust growth observed in the large value payment system – RTGS – it further said.

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- **The apex bank’s annual report for the financial year 2021-22 states that cyber security is of great concern especially when the use of technology has increased so exponentially. The report stated that the fintech segment, which thrives on innovation, is mostly unregulated in areas like neo-banking and digital lending, recommending legislation for long-term growth.**
- **For the financial year 2022-23, the apex bank aims to frame a policy for digital banking, in addition to the phased implementation of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).**
- **Taking Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s budget declaration forward, the bank plans to open 75 digital banking units in 75 districts.**
- **Last year, a special committee made recommendations for structuring guidelines for the digital lending segment with emphasis on restricting lending from only RBI-regulated entities, legislation for preventing illegal activities in the space and setting up a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO), among other things.**
- **In the annual report, RBI stated: “Working Group on Digital Lending (November 18, 2021) is another exercise to enable the creation of a comprehensive regulatory framework for the digital space. The implementation framework would require close inter-agency coordination, including the government.”**
- **“The Reserve Bank has also assumed non-conventional central banking role through its initiatives such as regulatory sandbox, the establishment of the Reserve Bank**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

RBI moots major reforms in digital, fintech space

SHASHANK DIDMISHE
Mumbai, May 27

THE RESERVE BANK of India’s agenda for 2022-23 is digital-heavy. The central bank announced lending norms for digital platforms, roll out a central bank digital currency, facilitate setting up of 75 digital banks and implement a geo-tagging framework. It has proposed several measures to bring about structural reforms in the digital payments and fintech space.

To implement norms on prudential lending by digital platforms, the RBI said it would have to work with other agencies, including the government. The central bank had in November issued a consultation paper on lending through online platforms. The recommendations include restricting balance-sheet lending by digital lending apps only to the regulated entities, rules to prevent illegal digital lending activities and treating ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ (BNPL) as part of balance-sheet lending.

With regard to the central bank digital currency (CBDC), the RBI is planning to adopt a graded approach such as proof of concept, pilot and the final launch. “The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability and efficient operations of currency and payment systems,” the RBI said.

The RBI will also facilitate setting up of 75 digital banking units in 75 districts, the report said. All public sector banks, 10 private

■ Issuance of norms for prudential digital lending

■ Graded approach for Central Bank Digital Currency

■ Facilitate setting up of 75 digital banking units

■ UPI-PayNow linkage completion seen in H2 2022

■ Release of Payment System Vision 2025

■ Initiation of geo-tagging framework



■ Internal application of Robotic Process Automation	■ To make ‘RBI Retail Direct Scheme’ popular	■ Basel-III final guidelines by Sept 2022	■ Papers on NPA securitisation and expected loss provisioning
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banks and a small finance bank are working to operationalise digital banks by July 2022, the Indian Banks Association had said earlier.

In the payments space, the linkage between Unified Payments Interface and Singapore’s payments system PayNow is expected to be operationalised in the second half of 2022. The linkage will enable users of the two systems to make instant fund transfers without the need to get on-boarded on the other system.

The RBI said it will initiate the process to implement the geo-tagging framework, which will provide locations of existing pay-

ment touch points. The banks and other payments related entities can get insights on regional penetration of digital payments by monitoring infrastructure density across different locations.

The central bank will come out with a document ‘Formulation and Release of Payment System Vision 2025’ with its vision for the payments ecosystem. The RBI will internally implement a Robotic Process Automation solution for automation of routine and repetitive tasks. The regulator will also upgrade e-Kuber based on newer technologies with wider flexibility and stability.

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Innovation Hub, conducting hackathon, among others

- *In the payments space, the linkage between Unified Payments Interface and Singapore's payments system PayNow is expected to be operationalized in the second half of 2022*
- *The regulator will also upgrade e-Kuber based on newer technologies with wider flexibility and stability.*
- *The RBI is expected to issue further draft guidelines on the other risk categories and output floor by June 2022, while the final guidelines will be issued by September 2022.*

77. Recently in May For the **first time, a mail has been delivered by using a drone** in _____ by the **Department of Posts**.

- A. **Kutch**
- B. Vadodra
- C. Surat
- D. Kolkata

- *For the first time, a mail has been delivered by using a drone in Kutch, Gujarat by the Department of Posts.*
- *The mail has been sent by **drone from Habay village in Bhuj to Ner village in the Kutch district.***
- *The Drone successfully delivered the medicine parcel covering an aerial distance of **46 Km in 25 minutes.***
- *The mail has been sent as a part of the pilot project in Gujarat.*
- *Indian Post Office was established in 1837. India Post has the world's largest postal network.*

78. Recently The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** cleared the government's _____ percent stake sale in HZL, which could fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer.

- A. 15.8 %
- B. 25.9 %
- C. **29.5 %**
- D. 51.45 %

In a first, India Post delivers mail using drone



Under the pilot, India Post delivered the mail to a destination 46 km away in 25 minutes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Ahmedabad, May 29

THE DEPARTMENT OF Posts has, for the first time, delivered mail using a drone as part of a pilot project in Gujarat's Kutch district, covering a distance of 46 km in 25 minutes, officials said on Sunday.

The mail was sent by the drone from Habay village in Bhuj taluka to Ner village in Bhachau taluka of Kutch district by the postal department under the guidance of the Ministry of Communications, a release issued by the Press Information Bureau (in Ahmedabad said). "With the success of this pilot project, it will now be possible to make

postal deliveries by drone in future," it said.

"Keeping pace with modern technology, the Indian Postal Department has successfully tested for the first time in the country's postal history a pilot project to deliver mail with the help of drone technology in Kutch district of Gujarat," the PIB said.

It was a medical parcel, as per information shared on Twitter by Union minister of state for communications Devusinh Chauhan.

The pilot studied the cost of delivery by drones and the geographical location between the two centres, and possible coordination among staff, the release said.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) cleared the government's 29.5 percent stake sale in HZL, which could fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer.
- The decision would give a push to the government's disinvestment drive in the current fiscal. The government has budgeted Rs 65,000 crore for PSU disinvestment and strategic sale.
- Hindustan Zinc was a government-owned company till 2002. In April 2002, the government offloaded a 26 percent stake in HZL to Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Ltd (SOVL) for Rs 445 crore— thereby giving Vedanta group management control in HZL.
- Vedanta group later bought 20 percent from the market and another 18.92 percent from the government in November 2003, raising its ownership in Hindustan Zinc to 64.92 percent.
- Vedanta, led by mining magnate Anil Agarwal, recently said the company can buy just a 5 percent additional stake in the HZL considering the price of the shares on offer.

79. Consider the following statement regarding RBI's new norms for facilitating the physical import of gold.
1. The RBI came up with norms for facilitating the physical import of gold through India International Bullion Exchange IFSC (IIBX).
 2. Banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for the import of gold through IIBX in compliance with the extant Foreign Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Cabinet clears sale of residual stake in Hindustan Zinc

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, May 25

The Centre will divest its entire residual stake in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to mop up ₹36,000 crore. At present, the government owns 29.54 per cent in the company, while Vedanta group holds 64.92 per cent share.

After the announcement, share of Hindustan Zinc rose by around ₹12 to close at ₹307.50 on the BSE. A senior government official confirmed to *BusinessLine* that the Union Cabinet, at a meeting on Wednesday, gave the approval for stake sale. Now the process will be taken forward according to rules and regulations, he added.

SC ruling

This decision follows Supreme Court ruling on November 18, which allowed the Centre to disinvest its residual stake in HZL in the open market. The apex court allowed the sale as HZL ceased to remain a government company since sale of its majority stake in 2002.

The Court had taken objection to the closure of preliminary inquiry (PE) by the CBI in HZL disinvestment

during 1997-2003, and directed registration of a regular case by the CBI and to fully investigate the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government's decision in 2002 to disinvest its majority shareholding in HZL.

Incorporated in 1996, Hindustan Zinc was a majority government-owned company. In 2002, the government sold 26 per cent of its equity in the company through a strategic sale to Vedanta.

After the initial stake purchase, the Anil Agarwal-led group acquired 20 per cent in the firm from the open market through mandatory open offer. Later, in August 2003, Vedanta Group bought an additional 18.92 per cent stake in Hindustan Zinc, and currently owns nearly 65 per cent in the company.

In an interview to a news channel recently, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal had said he was waiting for a government announcement.

"We are not the buyer, it will come to the market, and the market will buy. We can't buy more than an additional 5 per cent stake in the Hindustan Zinc out of the remaining," he had said.



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- The RBI came up with norms for facilitating the physical import of gold through **India International Bullion Exchange IFSC (IIBX) or similar authorized exchange by Qualified Jewellers in India.**

Gift City gold imports: Jewellers can make advance payment

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed qualified jewellers, as notified by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), to remit advance payment for 11 days for import of gold through the India International Bullion Exchange — IFSC (IIBX), in GIFT City, Gujarat, or any other exchanges authorised by IFSCA. Banks have been asked to carry out all the due diligence and ensure remittances sent are only for the bona fide import transactions through exchange/s authorised by IFSCA. "The advance remittance for import of gold should not be leveraged in what-so-ever form for importing gold worth more than the advance remittance made," a notification from the central bank said.

BS REPORTER

- In addition to agencies nominated by the RBI and by DGFT, Qualified Jewellers (QJ) as approved by International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) were permitted to import gold in January.
- The RBI issued the guidelines to enable resident Qualified Jewellers to import gold through IIBX or any other exchange approved by IFSCA and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- As per the guidelines, banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for the import of gold through IIBX in compliance with the extant Foreign Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act.
- Gold imports dipped by about 72 percent to USD 1.72 billion during April, from USD 6.23 billion in the year-ago month.

80. Recently in May _____ announced the launch of LIFEY - Lifestage Investments for You An innovative new tool aimed at helping customers to accomplish their "life stage" milestones.
- A. Axis Direct
 - B. ICICI Direct
 - C. HDFC Securities
 - D. HDFC Ergo

ICICIdirect, an online platform for investments, protection and loan products, announced the launch of LIFEY - Lifestage Investments for You.

This is an innovative new tool aimed at helping customers to accomplish their "lifestage" milestones

ICICIdirect, through the launch of this new tool - LIFEY, will help customers take a well-planned step forward in this direction."

81. Consider the following statement regarding the top 50 Global Engineering and Construction (E&C) companies – by Brand Finance, a global brand valuation consultancy.
1. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has been named as the 'Second Strongest Brand' among the top 50 Global Engineering and Construction (E&C) companies.

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2. CSCEC retains its title as the world's most valuable engineering and construction brand valued at US\$27.4 billion

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T), has been named as the 'Second Strongest Brand' among the top 50 Global Engineering and Construction (E&C) companies – by Brand Finance, a global brand valuation consultancy.**
- **L&T has also been ranked as the 'Third Fastest Growing Brand' by the London-based consultancy in its 'Engineering & Construction 50 – 2022' report.**
- **It is the only Indian company among the 'Most Valuable Global E&C Firms'. L&T with its footprint across 50 countries has gained 44% in its Brand Value over the last year.**
- **In its sixth consecutive study, Brand Finance has covered 36 countries and 29 sectors with over 100,000 respondents surveyed annually.**
- **Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T, is an Indian multinational conglomerate company, CEO: S N Subrahmanyam (Jul 2017–) Headquarters: Mumbai, Founded: 7 February 1946, Mumbai.**



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- **CSCEC retains its title as the world's most valuable engineering and construction brand valued at US\$27.4 billion**
- **John Deere is the world's strongest engineering brand with an AAA rating**

82. Recently in May _____ announced the launch of a systematic investment plan (SIP) to invest in gold so that Users can invest in 24K gold, the metal in its highest purity, for a specific amount every month and accumulate their assets.

- A. Paytm
- B. Phone Pe**
- C. Google Pay
- D. Amazon Pay

- **Flipkart-owned PhonePe on Wednesday announced the launch of a systematic investment plan (SIP) to invest in gold. Users can now invest in 24K gold, the metal in its highest purity, for a specific amount every month and accumulate their assets.**
- **These investments will be insured in bank-grade lockers maintained by PhonePe's partners MMTC-PAMP and SafeGold.**
- **Investors will have complete control of their gold and can sell it at any time to get direct credit to their bank accounts. Should they choose to redeem this investment in the form of coins and bars, it will be delivered to their doorsteps**

PhonePe launches Gold SIP



PhonePe said the advantage of starting a Gold SIP is the convenience of UPI. BLOOMBERG

PhonePe on Wednesday announced the launch of gold Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) on its platform to allow its users to invest in the highest purity 24K gold of a specified amount every month. The gold will accumulate in insured bank-grade lockers maintained by

PhonePe's partners MMTC-PAMP and SafeGold. PhonePe said the advantage of starting a Gold SIP on the platform is the convenience of UPI. "The user has to just select the gold provider, mention the monthly investment amount, authenticate with the UPI PIN and it's done! Setting up a Gold SIP is a one-time, hassle-free process and all subsequent investments are completely automated," it said in its statement.

Users can sell their gold holdings at any time and get direct credit in their bank account and they can also redeem it in the form of gold coins and bars and get it delivered on their doorstep. Through this feature users can invest as low as ₹100 per month.

"Since Gold SIP is a periodic investment, users don't need to continuously track Gold prices in order to make an investment decision," the company said in its statement. STAFF WRITER

83. Recently **AU Small Finance Bank** has launched two new products under its affluent banking program, _____ and _____ to cater to the everyday banking requirements of the affluent segment.

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- A. AU Royale – ‘AU Royale Salary
- B. AU Royale Business
- C. AU Speed Business
- D. Both A & B**
- E. Both B & C

AU Small Finance Bank has launched two new products under its affluent banking program, AU Royale – ‘AU Royale Salary’ and ‘AU Royale Business’ current account.

According to the bank, it had launched the Royale program designed to cater to the everyday banking requirements of the affluent segment. While the bank has been already offering customized premium products for HNIs and NRIs, now it has launched niche products, ‘AU Royale Salary’ and ‘AU Royale Business’, specially curated for the salaried and business class respectively.

the AU Royale Business Current Account offers family banking, which allows the grouping of business and family accounts. The account is said to offer a card called – Rich Royale Business Signature Debit Card. Other offers include merchant solutions (QR, PoS, Payment gateway

■ BANKING

AU Bank extends AU Royale programme

AU SMALL FINANCE Bank has launched two products under its affluent banking programme AU Royale – AU Royale Salary and AU Royale Business Current Account. The AU Royale Business Current Account offers family banking, allowing grouping of business and family accounts. Customers can avail benefits offered by Rich Royale Business Signature Debit Card. The AU Royale Salary Savings account offers family banking for up to five family members and cash-back of up to 1% on Signature Debit Card spends. Customers get benefits like complimentary movie tickets on BookMyShow; low currency mark-up on international transactions and 75% discount on lockers.

84. Recently _____ has introduced two liquidity options for senior citizen customers of erstwhile Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank whereby they can either encash the balances in their accounts at a discounted rate or opt for an overdraft facility.

- A. Jana Small Finance Bank
- B. Unity Small Finance Bank**
- C. Ujjivan Small Finance
- D. Equitas Small Finance Bank

Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) has introduced two liquidity options for senior citizen customers of the erstwhile Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank whereby they can either encash the balances in their accounts at a discounted rate or opt for an overdraft facility.

This is aimed at alleviating the liquidity issues that some of the senior citizen depositors (of erstwhile PMC Bank who still have balances in Unity SFB after the deposit insurance payout) are facing.

The Bank emphasised that both liquidity options are purely voluntary and customers have the option of continuing with the scheduled payouts as per the Amalgamation Scheme (of PMC Bank with Unity SFB).

Under the Amalgamation Scheme, a retail depositor with the erstwhile PMC Bank with a deposit of, say, ₹15 lakh, would have already received the deposit insurance amount of ₹5 lakh.

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85. Recently Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said primary cooperative banks can now extend loans of up to _____ to individuals for repair or alterations of their dwelling units in metropolitan centers.

- A. Rs 10 Lakh
- B. Rs 1 Lakh
- C. Rs 5 Lakh
- D. Rs 3 Lakh

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said primary cooperative banks can now extend loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to individuals for repair or alterations of their dwelling units in metropolitan centres.

The ceiling on loans by such banks to individuals for carrying out repairs/additions/alterations to their dwelling units was revised upwards to Rs 2 lakh in rural and semi-urban areas and Rs 5 lakh in urban areas in September 2013.

The ceiling on such loans is now revised to Rs 10 lakh in metropolitan centres (those centres with population of 10 lakh and above) and Rs 6 lakh in other centres.

86. Recently India scaled its highest ever exports tally at _____ in Textiles and Apparel (T&A) including Handicrafts in FY 2021-22

- A. US\$ 48 Bn
- B. US\$ 44 Bn
- C. US\$ 42 Bn
- D. US\$ 46 Bn

- India scaled its highest ever exports tally at US\$ 44.4 Bn in Textiles and Apparel (T&A) including Handicrafts in FY 2021-22, indicating a substantial increase of 41% and 26% over corresponding figures in FY 2020-21

Textiles, apparel exports up 41% to \$44.4 b

US, EU, Bangladesh, UAE top four export destinations

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 31

India's textile and apparel exports grew 41 per cent to \$44.4 billion in 2021-22 compared to the previous fiscal, and met the annual target set by the government.

The US was the top export destination, accounting for 27 per cent of total exports of textiles and garments, followed by the EU (18 per cent), Bangladesh (12 per cent) and the UAE (6 per cent), according to a Textiles Ministry release on Tuesday. Exports of textiles and ap-



Exports of textiles and apparel were 26 per cent higher than in FY20

parel in 2021-22 were 26 per cent higher than exports in 2019-20. This was the highest ever export for the sector.

"In terms of product cat-

egories, exports of cotton textiles were \$17.2 billion, with a 39 per cent share registering a growth of 54 per cent over FY21 and 67 per cent over FY20, respectively,"

the statement said. The export of readymade garments in 2021-22 was \$16 billion with a 36 per cent share, registering a growth of 31 per cent over 2020-21 and 3 per cent over 2019-20.

Man-made textile exports were \$6.3 billion, with a 14 per cent share, posting a growth of 51 per cent over 2020-21 and 18 per cent over 2019-20.

Handicraft exports

Handicraft exports, at \$2.1 billion in 2021-22, accounted for 5 per cent of total textile exports and registered an increase of 22 per cent and 16 per cent over 2020-21 and 2019-20, respectively, the statement noted.

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and FY 2019-20, respectively.

- **USA was the top export destination accounting for 27% share, followed by the EU (18%), Bangladesh (12%), and UAE (6%).**

87. Recently In May _____ has announced that it has introduced issuer charges for the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System(AePS).

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

The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has announced that it has introduced issuer charges for the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System(AePS). These charges will come into effect from June 15, 2022. The India Post Payments Bank is a division of Indian Post, which is administered by the Department of Post.

According to the National Payments Corporation India (NPCI), "AePS is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial inclusion transaction at PoS (MicroATM) through the Business correspondent of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication. AePS allows you to do six types of transactions."

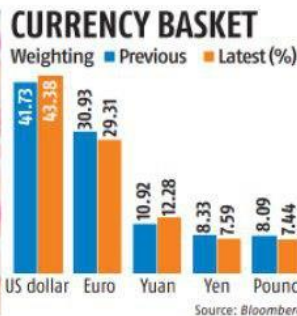
The first three AEPS transactions, such as AEPS cash withdrawal, AEPS cash deposit, and AEPS mini statement, will be free per month. Following the free transactions, each transaction (cash withdrawal or cash deposit) will cost Rs 20 plus GST, while a ministatement transaction would cost Rs 5 plus GST per transaction.

IMF increases weighting of dollar, yuan in SDR basket

BLOOMBERG
15 May

The International Monetary Fund lifted the yuan's weighting in the Special Drawing Rights currency basket, prompting the Chinese central bank to pledge to push for a further opening of its financial markets.

The IMF raised the yuan's weighting to 12.28 per cent from 10.92 in its first regular review of the SDR evaluation since the Chinese currency was included in the basket in 2016, the People's Bank of China said in a statement Sunday. The weighting of the US dollar rose to 43.38 per cent from 41.73 per cent, while those of euro, Japanese yen and



British pound declined.

The PBOC and other regulators "will continue to resolutely push for the opening up of China's financial

markets and further simplify the process of overseas investors coming into the Chinese market," it said in the statement.

SDRs are an international reserve asset that can be converted into five currencies. The yuan's entry into the SDR signaled it became one of the five global reserve currencies in 2016, after years of effort by Chinese authorities to promote its global use.

The change came amid a sharp depreciation of the yuan since late April, as it faces a double whammy of slowing domestic growth because of Covid-induced lockdowns and capital outflows due to its widening monetary policy divergence with the US. The PBOC set its reference rate for the yuan at a stronger-than-expected level for a ninth straight day on Friday, underpinning its support for the currency.

In its statement on Sunday, the

PBOC vowed to extend the interbank foreign exchange trading time, make more types of assets available and improve information disclosure in order to provide better investment conditions to global institutions.

The ranking of the currencies' weighting remains the same after the review, according to an IMF statement released late Saturday, with the yuan continuing to be in third place. The change will be effective Aug 1, and the next review will be in 2027.

IMF's executive directors concurred that neither the pandemic nor developments in financial technology have had any major impact on the relative role of currencies in the SDR basket so far.

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88. Recently _____ introduces *Project Volterra, an Arm-based mini PC with NPU for developers.*

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

Microsoft took to its annual developer conference stage at Build 2022 to unveil a mini PC, aimed at developers. Called Project Volterra, the mini PC is based on Arm processors, and interestingly comes with a neural processing unit (NPU) integrated into its chipset. The move has offered two key indicators as to what Microsoft expects in the future, and how it seeks to evolve the Windows ecosystem

Project Volterra is not a consumer project, which means that it can't quite be called a direct competitor to Apple's M1-powered Mac Mini compact PC.

Microsoft introduces Project Volterra aimed at developers



New Delhi: Microsoft took to its annual developer conference stage at Build 2022 to unveil a mini PC, aimed at developers. Called Project Volterra, the mini PC is based on Arm processors, and interestingly comes with a neural processing unit (NPU) integrated into its chipset. The move has offered two key indicators as to what Microsoft expects in the future, and how it seeks to evolve the Windows ecosystem.

TECHCIRCLE

Almo raises \$2 mn in pre-Series A

89. Recently _____ has signed a co-lending agreement with NBFC Paisalo Digital Limited for agriculture business to capitalize on the huge Rs 8 lakh crore market of small-ticket loans for the 365 million underbanked and under-serviced population.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. **UCO Bank**
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Rbl Bank

UCO Bank signed a co-lending agreement with NBFC Paisalo Digital Limited for agriculture business to capitalize on the huge Rs 8 lakh crore market of small-ticket loans for the 365 million underbanked and under-serviced population.

Co-lending is an emerging area in priority sector financing and due focus is given by the Government of India to help agriculture and other small borrowers who are the backbone of the Indian economy.

UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank, established in 1943 in Kolkata, CEO: Shri Soma Sankara Prasad.

90. Recently GIC, is acquiring _____ % equity stake in Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) for Rs 2,195 crore.

- A. 4.99 %
- B. **7.5 %**
- C. 9.91 %
- D. 8.49 %

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Fourth Week of May (24th May – 31st May 2022)

- **GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, is acquiring a 7.5% equity stake in Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) for Rs 2,195 crore,**
- **In the first tranche, GIC will invest Rs 770 crore, while the remaining Rs 1,425 crore would be infused within 18 months. After the investment, Aditya Birla Group will hold a controlling stake of 51.9% in the company.**
- **Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group**

91. Consider the following statement regarding Indian Business Portal.

- 1. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, unveiled the Indian Business Portal in New Delhi.**
- 2. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), in collaboration with GlobalLinker, built the "Indian Business Portal," an International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, unveiled the Indian Business Portal in New Delhi.**
- **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), in collaboration with GlobalLinker, built the "Indian Business Portal," an International**

Aditya Birla Fashion raises ₹2,195 crore from GIC

Post investment, GIC will own 7.5% equity in ABFRL



Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

FORUM GANDHI

Mumbai, May 24

The board of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL), in its meeting on Tuesday, approved raising of up to ₹2,195 crore by way of preferential issuance of equity and warrants to an affiliate of GIC.

GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, will invest ₹770 crore now towards subscription of equity and warrants, followed by up to ₹1,425 crore in one or more tranches within 18 months upon exercise of warrants. Post the entire investment, GIC will own 7.5 per cent equity stake in ABFRL. Aditya Birla Group will hold around 51.9 per cent stake in the company post the completion of this transaction.

Strong brand presence

ABFRL plans to use this capital to accelerate its growth engine built around the strength of its current businesses along with

evolving play in emerging high-growth business models. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, said, "The Indian apparel industry is set for robust long-term growth due to strong fundamentals of a large and growing middle class, favourable demographics, rising disposable incomes and aspiration for brands. ABFRL has become one of the leading players in this market and is well-positioned to benefit from this opportunity. I am delighted to welcome GIC as a long-term partner in the company's exciting growth journey."

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL, said, "In the last few years, ABFRL has built a strong presence across all large and attractive segments of the Indian fashion market. This capital infusion will allow us to accelerate the growth of this platform of strong brands and well-established retail formats and fortify our position as one of the leading players in the industry. We plan to expand our presence and enhance our digital play to benefit from rapidly evolving consumer habits".

Choo Yong Cheen, Chief Investment Officer of Private Equity for GIC, said, "We are delighted to partner with Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail to bring our long-term capital and resources to support its next phase of growth."

Pankaj Sood, Head of Direct Investments, India and Africa, GIC said "Branded apparel is a large market, and we believe that ABFRL is well-positioned for capturing the next phase of digital-led growth."

The transaction is subject to regulatory and other customary approvals.

Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers.

- The portal is a business-to-business digital marketplace designed to help small and medium-sized businesses, artists, and farmers to identify new markets for their products and boost their global sales.
- The portal offers a varied product mix, including Consumer & Lifestyle Products, Industrial Products, Business Services, and Geographical Indication (GI) products.
- The Indian Business Portal is the first marketplace dedicated solely to exporters registered in India.
- Indian Business Portal's strategic objectives are as follows:
 - Digitizing Indian Exporters and helping them become discoverable online
 - Promoting exports from all Indian States
 - Showcasing India's strength in a wide range of Products & Services
 - Encouraging virtual meetings between buyers and sellers
 - Providing a trusted network of Indian Exporters to Foreign Buyers

Govt launches e-commerce marketplace for driving exports

Indian Business Portal to empower MSME exporters to reach out to new markets, buyers



FIEO in partnership with GlobalLinker, has designed and developed Indian Business Portal, a B2B digital marketplace. "FIEO will promote the marketplace worldwide to help Indian exporters, SMEs and artisans promote their products and services globally," said A Sakthivel, President, FIEO.

Tech-enabled governance will play a key role in determining India's growth and competitiveness, said Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade. "The government is focused on paperless, automated processing systems, simple procedures for trade players, online data exchange between departments, digital payments and acknowledgements," he said.

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 27

Indian Business Portal, an online global trade hub for exporters and foreign buyers, was launched on Friday to empower MSMEs to identify new markets, according to a statement issued by exporters' body FIEO.

Union Minister Anupriya Patel, who officially launched the portal on Friday, said it would support MSMEs and encourage greater exports of products 'Made in India'. During the

pandemic, e-commerce has shown immense potential in supporting millions of businesses to sustain themselves.

"Indian Business Portal will be a big encouragement to start-ups, SMEs, artisans and farmers (of GI tagged products) and service providers to take their first step toward exports. I hope more exporters will engage on the portal and would provide their valued feedback to FIEO," she said.

92. Recently In May As Per RBI 38th Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves October - March 2021-22 Stands At _____.

- A. USD 479.73 Bn
- B. USD 617.43 Bn
- C. USD 597.73 Bn
- D. USD 511.48 Bn

- 38th Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves:
- October - March 2021-22

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- The Reserve Bank of India has today released the 38th half-yearly report on management of foreign exchange reserves regarding end-March 2022.
- It may be recalled that in February 2004, the Reserve Bank had started a process of compiling half-yearly reports and placing them in the public domain for bringing about more transparency and enhancing the level of disclosure about management of the country's foreign exchange reserves.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
 वेबसाइट : www.rbi.org.in/hindi
 Website : www.rbi.org.in
 ई-मेल/email : helpdoc@rbi.org.in

संचार विभाग, केंद्रीय कार्यालय, एस.बी.एस. मार्ग, फोर्ट, मुंबई - 400 001
Department of Communication, Central Office, S.B.S. Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001
 फोन/Phone: 022 - 2266 0502

May 12, 2022

**38th Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves:
 October - March, 2021-22**

The Reserve Bank of India has today released the [38th half-yearly report on management of foreign exchange reserves](#) with reference to end-March 2022.

The position of foreign exchange reserves as on April 29, 2022 is as under:

	US \$ Billion
Foreign Exchange Reserves (i+ii+iii+iv)	597.73
i) Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)	532.82
ii) Gold	41.60
iii) Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)	18.30
iv) Reserve Tranche Position (RTP)	5.00
*Difference, if any, is due to rounding-off.	

It may be recalled that in February 2004, the Reserve Bank had started a process of compiling half yearly reports and placing them in the public domain for bringing about more transparency and enhancing the level of disclosure in relation to management of the country's foreign exchange reserves.

93. Consider the following statement regarding **National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD)**.

1. The NFGFHD has been set up **at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune**
2. It has been built by **IISER Pune and is supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD) was inaugurated in Pune by **Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education**.

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- *The NFGFHD has been set up at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. It has been built by IISER Pune and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).*
- *This will be a one-of-its-kind large facility providing a timely supply of animal models to researchers studying a range of diseases from cancer to diabetes.*

94. Recently in May *Northern Arc has entered a strategic partnership with _____ to help both institutions leverage synergies and offer customer-centric financial solutions to retail borrowers.*

- A. Indian Bank**
- B. Bank Of India
- C. Axis Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

Northern Arc, a financial services platform, announced that it has entered a strategic partnership with Indian Bank. The partnership will help both institutions leverage synergies and offer customer-centric financial solutions to retail borrowers.

The customers will be served through a completely online and seamless journey, helping them experience high-quality service.

The partnership will enable Indian Bank to access Northern Arc's 'n-POS platform', which helps NBFCs, fintech, digital lenders, and investors co-lend to retail borrowers.

Ashish Mehrotra, MD & CEO, Northern Arc Capital

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.

95. Consider the following statement regarding *India's first integrated wind and solar power hybrid generation plant.*
- 1. Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited, a subsidiary of Adani Hybrid Energy, commissioned a 390 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Jaisalmer.*
 - 2. This new plant has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited, a subsidiary of Adani Hybrid Energy, commissioned a 390 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Jaisalmer.

It will be India's first integrated wind and solar power hybrid generation plant. This new plant has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

The commissioning of this hybrid plant is another step toward achieving India's sustainable energy goals.

This project is a part of the first construction facility by international banks in Adani Green. Now, AGEL has an operational capacity of 5.8 GW.

Adani Green Energy Limited: It is an energy company headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

96. Recently In May The RBI eased norms for non-bank entities to set up Bharat Bill Payment operating units by reducing the net-worth requirement to _____.

- A. Rs 100 Cr**
- B. Rs 50 Cr**
- C. Rs 25 Cr**
- D. Rs 10 Cr**

- **The RBI eased norms for non-bank entities to set up Bharat Bill Payment operating units by reducing the net-worth requirement to Rs 25 crore, to encourage more players in the segment.**
- **At present, a net worth of Rs 100 crore is required to obtain authorization for a non-bank BBPOU (Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units).**
- **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an interoperable platform for bill payments and the scope and coverage of BBPS extend to all categories of billers who raise recurring bills.**

Bharat Bill payment: RBI lowers networth bar for non-bank units

Move is aimed at facilitating more bill payments through the BBPS

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 26

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the minimum networth requirement for non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs) from ₹100 crore to ₹25 crore.

This move is aimed at facilitating more bill payments through Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and to encourage participation of non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs) in BBPS.

BBPS is an RBI-conceptualised system driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that offers interoperable and accessible bill payment service to consumers via digital (bank channels), as well as through a network of agents and bank branches.

Objective of BBPS

The objective of the BBPS is to implement an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable and ac-



cessible bill payment services to customers through a network of agents, enabling

multiple payment modes, and providing instant confirmation of payment.

Updated guidelines

In its updated guidelines on the implementation of BBPS, the RBI said BBPS will include activities to facilitate collection of repetitive (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) payments for

everyday utility services provided by utility service providers.

Gradually, the scope of BBPS could be extended to include services facilitating the collection of other types of repetitive payments, such as school/university fees, municipal taxes/payments, as decided from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India.

Norms issued for gold import by qualified jewellers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 26

The RBI has come up with norms for facilitating physical import of gold through the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) or similar authorised exchange by Qualified Jewellers in India.

In addition to agencies nominated by the RBI and DGFT, Qualified Jewellers (QJ) - approved by International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) - were permitted to import gold in January.

The RBI issued the guidelines in order to enable resident Qualified Jewellers to import gold through IIBX or any other exchange approved by IF-



not be leveraged in whatsoever form for importing gold worth more than the advance remittance made," said the RBI.

In case the import of gold through the IFSCA-authorised exchange, for which advance remittance has been made, does not materialise, or the advance remittance made for the purpose is more than the amount required, the unutilised advance remittance shall be remitted back to the same bank within the specified time limit of 11 days.

The RBI also said all payments by qualified jewellers for imports of gold through IIBX, shall be made through exchange mechanism as approved by IFSCA.

SCA and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

According to the guidelines, banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for import of gold through the IIBX, in compliance to the extant Foreign Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act.

"The advance remittance for import of gold should

Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent for 2022 from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation. In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggests that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year.

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97. Recently in May _____ has become the first crypto firm to enter the prestigious Fortune 500 list.

- A. Bitcoin
- B. CoinDCX
- C. **Coinbase**
- D. Erethrium

Coinbase has become the first crypto firm to enter the prestigious Fortune 500 list. After posting revenue of over \$7.8 billion (₹60,728 cr) in fiscal 2021 it has grabbed the 437th position in the recently released list.

Retail giant Walmart topped the ranking for the 10th straight year, with revenue of around \$573 billion, followed by Amazon and Apple, with figures of almost \$470 billion and \$365 billion, respectively.

98. Recently in May Meghmani Finechem Ltd (MFL) has inked pacts with Renew Green Energy Solutions for setting up a wind-solar hybrid power project in _____ .

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

Meghmani Finechem to set up wind-solar project in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, May 28

MEGHMANI FINECHEM (MFL) on Saturday said it has inked pacts with Renew Green Energy Solutions for setting up a wind-solar hybrid power project in Gujarat.

The collaboration marks the entry of MFL into the renewable energy space and highlights its unwavering commitment towards promoting green energy and reducing carbon footprint, a company statement said. MFL is a leading manufacturer of Chlor-Alkali and its value-added derivatives.

It has executed an energy subscription agreement and share subscription and shareholder agreement (SSSHA) with Renew Green for setting up a 18.34 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Gujarat under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). MFL will hold 26% stake in the SPV for a con-

tribution of ₹20.54 crore and Renew Green will contribute ₹58.46 crore for a 74% stake. This hybrid power plant is expected to be commissioned in December quarter of 2022-23.

As per the terms of the agreements, the power generated from the plant will be supplied exclusively to MFL under the captive status for a tenure of 25 years. This hybrid power plant will help MFL meet the energy requirement of its existing as well as future projects.

The cost per unit of electricity through this plant will be lower than the power procured from the electricity grid, it stated. Maulik Patel, chairman and managing director – MFL, said, “The hybrid power plant will help us to meet our additional electricity demand and will also allow us to produce green hydrogen, supporting Government of India’s initiative of Green Energy and Green Hydrogen.”

Meghmani Finechem Ltd (MFL) on Saturday said it has inked pacts with Renew Green Energy Solutions for setting up a wind-solar hybrid power project in Gujarat

The collaboration marks the entry of MFL into the renewable energy space and highlights its unwavering commitment towards promoting green energy

MFL is a leading manufacturer of Chlor-Alkali and its value-added derivatives

It has executed an Energy Subscription Agreement and Share Subscription and Shareholder Agreement (SSSHA) with Renew Green for setting up a 18.34 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Gujarat under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

MFL will hold 26 per cent stake in the SPV for a contribution of Rs 20.54 crore and Renew Green will contribute Rs 58.46 crore for a 74 per cent stake.

99. Recently in May *Government has withdrawn its decision to sell _____ stake in BPCL.*

- A. 49 %
- B. 53 %
- C. 74 %
- D. 45 %

+ BPCL's strategic disinvestment called off

Govt says bidders backed off with oil/gas sector hit by the geopolitical situation

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, May 26

The government has called off the strategic disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), citing lack of bidders. This is the third strategic disinvestment to be called off or put on hold in the current fiscal.

The government wanted to sell the entire 52.98 per cent it owns in BPCL along with management control.

Eoi withdrawn

In an update, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said: "Based on the decisions of the alternative mechanism (empowered group of ministers), the Government of India has decided to call off the present Eoi (expression of interest) process for strategic disinvestment of BPCL, and the Eois received

from QIP (qualified interested parties) shall stand cancelled."

It said a decision on the re-initiation of the process will be taken in due course based on review of situations.

The government on November 20, 2019, gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment of BPCL, excluding the company's shareholding in Numaligarh Refinery (NRL). Further, per the above approval, BPCL's shareholding in NRL had to be divested to a Central Public Sector Unit, following which a global invitation for Eoi was issued on March 7, 2020.

DIPAM said multiple Eois were received and they had initiated due diligence of BPCL. "However, the multiple Covid-19 waves and geopolitical conditions affected industries globally, particularly oil and



The Centre wanted to sell its 52.98% stake in the oil major

gas. Owing to prevailing conditions in the global energy market, most of the QIPs have expressed their inability to continue in the current process of disinvestment of BPCL," DIPAM said.

There are unconfirmed reports that just one QIP was left in the fray and the government did not want to take any chance, so it preferred to call off. In FY21, BPCL sold its entire investment in NRL to a consortium of Oil India Limited and Engineers India Limited, as also to the government of Assam for a total consideration of

₹9,875.96 crore. The government hoped to use the resources unlocked by the BPCL disinvestment to finance social sector/developmental programmes benefiting the people.

Other sale held up

The calling off of the BPCL comes on the heels of the strategic disinvestment of helicopter service provider Pawan Hans being put on hold as the government wants to legally examine an order against key consortium member of successful bidder. Before that, the transaction for Central Electronics Limited was deferred because of a legal issue.

Now, the government plans to sell its residual stake in Hindustan Zinc for which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its in-principle approval on Wednesday. Since, it has ceased to be a Central PSU, officials do not see any problem in this transaction.

- **The Government has decided to call off the present Expressions of Interest process for the strategic disinvestment of BPCL.**
- **This is 3rd strategic disinvestment proposal, which has been called off in the current fiscal.**
- **Earlier, the strategic disinvestment of Pawan Hans was put on hold, and the transaction for Central Electronics (CE) was deferred.**
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is the second-largest oil company in India and it has the third-largest refining capacity.**

100. Consider the following statement regarding *RBI's annual report 2021-22, value, and volume of banknotes.*

1. *The value and volume of banknotes in circulation grew by 16.8% and 7.2%, respectively, from 2020-to 21.*
2. *The value and volume of ₹2,000 banknotes declined. RBI has not printed ₹2,000 banknotes for the fourth year.*
3. *In terms of volume, the ₹500 denomination accounted for the highest share at 34.9% of the total banknotes in circulation as of March 31, 2022.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- As per RBI's annual report 2021-22, the value and volume of banknotes in circulation grew by 9.9% and 5%, respectively, during 2021-22.
- The value and volume of banknotes in circulation grew by 16.8% and 7.2%, respectively, from 2020- to 21.
- The value and volume of ₹2,000 banknotes declined. RBI has not printed ₹2,000 banknotes for the fourth year.
- In 2021-22, banknotes in circulation totaled 13.05 lakh in volume terms and ₹31,05,721 crore in value.
- The report said that in value terms, the share of ₹500 and ₹2,000 banknotes is 87.1% of the total value of banknotes in circulation as of March 31, 2022.
- In terms of volume, the ₹500 denomination accounted for the highest share at 34.9% of the total banknotes in circulation as of March 31, 2022.
- ₹10 denomination banknotes accounted for the second-highest share at 21.3 % of the total banknotes in circulation as of March 31, 2022.
- RBI conducted a banknote survey of consumers, which found that among banknotes, ₹100 was the most preferred, while ₹2,000 was the least-preferred denomination.
- The report says that among coins, the denomination of ₹5 was the most preferred, whereas ₹1 was the least preferred.
- The most recognized security features are the Watermark of Mahatma Gandhi's image followed by a windowed security thread.

₹2K note circulation falls 12.6% in FY22

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MAY 27

THE CIRCULATION of the Rs 2,000 banknote, introduced in 2016, is declining in the financial system, with the number of this note falling 12.60 per cent to 21,420 lakh pieces in the year ended March 2022 as against 24,510 lakh pieces in 2021 and 27,398 lakh in 2020, as per latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

The number of Rs 2,000 note in circulation has fallen by 21.81 per cent in the last two years. The RBI has not supplied new Rs 2,000 notes in the last four years.

Meanwhile, as per an RBI survey, among banknotes, Rs 100 was the most preferred while Rs 2,000 was the least preferred denomination.



File

Counterfeit notes

The RBI said a rise of 16.4 per cent, 16.5 per cent, 11.7 per cent, 101.9 per cent and 54.6 per cent was seen in counterfeit notes detected in denominations of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 200, Rs 500 (new design) and Rs 2,000, respectively. Counterfeit notes detected in denominations of Rs 50 and Rs 100 fell by 28.7 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively, it said in the Annual Report.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Cash Count



Value and volume of bank notes in circulation rose 9.9% and 5%, respectively

Indent of notes for FY22 was marginally lower by 1.8%

Value of ₹500 notes rose to 73.3% of total value of banknotes in circulation

Share of ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes together accounted for 87.1% of the total value of currency in circulation



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101. Consider the following statement regarding **new guidelines for the Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)**.

1. **Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).**
2. **The government will give grants up to 70% for the 5 crores to Rs 10 crore projects while grants up to 60% will be given for the Rs 10 crore to Rs 30 crore projects.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

New Guidelines of Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) approved

Posted On: 27 MAY 2022 4:16PM by PIB Delhi

The Government has approved New Guidelines of Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), which will be implemented during 15th Finance Commission Cycle(2021-22 to 2025-26). The scheme aims at enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of Micro & Small Enterprises by undertaking interventions such as:

- i. **Common Facility Centers (CFCs):** The central government grant will be restricted to 70% of the cost of project from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 10.00 crore and 60% of the cost of project from Rs. 10.00 crore to Rs. 30.00 crore. In case of NE & Hill States, Island territories, Aspirational Districts, government grant will be 80% of the cost of project from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 10.00 crore and 70% of the cost of project from Rs. 10.00 crore to Rs. 30.00 crore. The project for CFC with project cost more than Rs. 30.00 crore shall also be considered but the Government assistance would be calculated by taking into account the maximum eligible project cost of Rs.30.00 crore.
- ii. **Infrastructure Development:** The central government grant will be restricted to 60% of the cost of project from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 15.00 crore for setting up of new Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex and grant will be 50% of the cost of project from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 10.00 crore for up-gradation of existing Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex. In case of NE & Hill States, Island territories, Aspirational Districts, grant will be 70% of the cost of project from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 15.00 crore for setting up of new Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex and 60% of the cost of project cost from Rs. 5.00 crore to Rs. 10.00 crore for up-gradation of existing Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex. The project for ID with project cost more than Rs. 10.00 crore/15.00 crore can also be considered but the government assistance would be calculated by taking into account the maximum eligible project cost of Rs. 10.00 crore/15.00 crore.

The New guidelines of MSE-CDP are available on the website of the Office of DC(MSME).

- **Government approves new guidelines for the Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).**
- **Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).**
- **The main aim of the Programme is to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of Micro & Small Enterprises with the help of Common Facility Centres and Infrastructure Development.**
- **The government will give grants up to 70% for the 5 crores to Rs 10 crore projects while grants up to 60% will be given for the Rs 10 crore to Rs 30 crore projects.**
- **CFCs project costing more than Rs 30 crore will also be considered.**
- **The government will give a grant of 60% of the cost of the project costing Rs 5 crore to Rs 15 crore for the setting up of a new Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex.**
- **Grant will be 50% for up-gradation of existing Industrial Estate / Flatted Factory Complex project.**
- **Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme Objective:**
- **To create/upgrade infrastructural facilities in the new/existing industrial areas/ clusters of MSEs.**
- **To set up common facility centers for testing, effluent treatment, training, etc.**

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- To build the capacity of MSEs through the formation of self-help groups, consortia, up-gradation of associations, etc.

102. Consider the following statement regarding the **highest-paid CEO as per Fortune List**.

- Elon Musk, is also number one in terms of getting the highest salary among the world's Fortune-500 companies.
- Apple's Tim Cook comes second among the highest-paid CEOs. In 2021, he got USD 77.05 million

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Elon Musk, the owner of companies like Tesla and SpaceX and the world's richest person, is also number one in terms of getting the highest salary among the world's Fortune-500 companies. According to the Fortune list, Elon Musk gets more salary than the CEO of any company in the world.
- On April 14, 2022, Elon Musk proposed to buy American social media platform Twitter for USD 43 billion.
- In the year 2021, Elon Musk got USD 23.5 billion which is Rs 1.82 lakh crore in Indian rupees as his salary. Musk's electric car company Tesla is ranked 65th among Fortune 500 companies.
- Apple's Tim Cook comes second among the highest-paid CEOs. In 2021, he got USD 77.05 million which is about Rs 6,000 crore as salary. Apple ranks third in the list of Fortune 500 companies.
- Microsoft's Satya Nadella secured seventh place on the list with \$309.4 million in compensation last year. He was also voted the "The most Underrated" CEO in 2021, allowing him to hold the title for six years in a row. Nadella has been at the helm of Microsoft since 2017.

IN BRIEF

Musk highest-paid CEO; Cook follows

The world's richest person also received the highest CEO compensation in 2021. The chief executive office (CEO) of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon Musk has topped the list of the most highly compensated CEOs on the Fortune 500 in 2021, taking home a record \$23.5 billion, according to calculations made by *Fortune*. Head of Apple, Tim Cook follows Musk with an earning of \$770.5 million in 2021. Third on the list is NVIDIA co-founder Jensen Huang, who earned \$561 million. Reed Hastings of Netflix comes next, who took 453.5 million home in 2021, and is closely followed by Regeneron co-founder and CEO Leonard Schleifer, who earned \$452.9 million. Marc Benioff of Salesforce is sixth with \$439.4-million income and tech mogul and Microsoft boss Satya Nadella

AT THE TOP

\$23.5 bn
ELON MUSK,
CEO, SpaceX
and Tesla



\$770.5 mn
TIM COOK,
CEO,
Apple

stands at the seventh position, courtesy \$309.4 million in earnings last year. Robert A Kotick of Activision Blizzard, Hock E Tan of Broadcom and Safra A Catz of Oracle are at the eighth, ninth and tenth position, respectively, in the list. AGENCIES

Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Varanasi

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103. Recently in May LIC launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan called _____ which offers a combination of protection and savings

- A. Policy Ratan
- B. Bima Ratan**
- C. Jeevan Ratan
- D. Jeevan Raksha

The largest insurer in India, LIC launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan called Bima Ratna which offers a combination of protection and savings. The new product was launched to cater domestic market.

The product can be purchased through Corporate Agents, Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF), Brokers, CPSC-SPV, and POSP-LI engaged by these intermediaries viz.

LIC offers a minimum basic sum assured to the tune of ₹5 lakh. There is no limit on the maximum basic sum assured, however, it will be in multiples of ₹25,000.

104. Consider the following statement regarding Public Sector Banks' profit in the financial year 2021-22.

1. The combined profit of 12 Public Sector Banks stood at Rs 66,539 crore during the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 110 percent from the previous year.
2. SBI's net profit was the highest at Rs 31,675 crore, 55 percent higher than the previous year followed by Bank of Baroda & Canara Bank in 2nd and third position respectively
3. HDFC Bank (Rs 36,961 crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 23,339 crore), and Axis Bank (Rs 13,025 crore) are the top three most profitable banks in the private sector.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The combined profit of 12 Public Sector Banks stood at Rs 66,539 crore during the financial year 2021-22, an increase of 110 percent from the previous year.
- The collective profit of the state-owned banks was Rs 31,816 crore in FY21.
- After many years, all 12 state-owned banks reported net profit.

- The profitability of the Bank has improved after the clean-up of bad loans and the merger of 10 state-owned banks.
- The easy liquidity provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and growth segments like retail loans played a key role in increasing the profitability of Banks.
- SBI's net profit was the highest at Rs 31,675 crore, 55 percent higher than the previous year.
- Bank of Baroda with a net profit of Rs 7,272 crore is in the second spot, and Canara Bank is in the third position.
- Private banks registered a net profit of over Rs 91,000 crore, which is 29 percent more than the previous year.
- HDFC Bank (Rs 36,961 crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 23,339 crore), and Axis Bank (Rs 13,025 crore) are the top three most profitable banks in the private sector.
- The Bank of Maharashtra recorded less than 1 percent NPA.

PSU banks double net profit to record ₹66.5k cr in FY22

All 12 PSBs In Green, But Still Lag Pvt Lenders' ₹91K Cr Net

Mayur.Shetty
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Mumbai: Public sector banks (PSBs) have doubled their net profit during financial year 2021-22. The collective profit of 12 state-owned banks during 2021-22 worked out to Rs 66,539 crore, an increase of 110% over Rs 31,816 crore in FY21.

Profitability has improved on the back of completion of clean-up of bad loans and economies of scale after amalgamation of 10 state-owned banks. Easy liquidity provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and growth segments like retail loans are some other reasons.

All 12 state-owned banks reported a net profit for the first time in several years. It was also a sharp turnaround from FY18, when only two out of 21 PSBs reported a profit. In FY21, only two PSBs reported losses — Central Bank and Punjab & Sind



Bank — which dragged down the collective net profit.

Despite the record performance, PSBs continue to lag behind their private peers, which reported a net profit of over Rs 91,000 crore, 29% higher than previous year's Rs 70,435 crore.

SBI's net profit was the highest at Rs 31,675 crore — an increase of 55% over the previous year. The country's

largest bank accounted for 47% of the total profits of the PSBs. After SBI, Bank of Baroda, with a net profit of Rs 7,272 crore, generated 10% of PSBs' profits, followed by Canara Bank, which at Rs 5,678 crore was at 8%.

Besides the two banks that turned around during the year, the highest revenue growth was reported by Bank of Baroda, follo-

wed by UCO Bank. The higher profits have enabled PSBs to contribute more toward dividends, which will help the government, which has had to contend with lower receipts by way of dividends from the RBI. The collective dividend of PSBs is over Rs 8,000 crore.

Private banks were led by HDFC Bank (Rs 36,961 crore), ICICI Bank (Rs 23,339 crore), Axis Bank (Rs 13,025 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (Rs 8,572 crore), IndusInd Bank (Rs 4,611 crore) and Federal Bank (Rs 1889 crore).

According to an analysis of key financial parameters of PSBs done by bank unions, Bank of Maharashtra has shown the highest improvement in deposits & advances and is the only PSB to have net non-performing assets (NPAs) below 1%. It has also recorded the highest growth in advances of 25%, driven by retail segment, which grew 23%.

105. Recently Coal India Limited, will import the fuel for the first time since _____ .

- A. 2015**
- B. 2017**
- C. 2009**
- D. 2018**

The world's largest coal miner, Coal India Limited, will import the fuel for the first time since 2015, to avoid a repeat of April, when India faced its worst power cuts in more than six years.

The Union power ministry said that the decision to import coal via Coal India was taken after nearly all states suggested that multiple coal import tenders by states would lead to a confusion.

A report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) said that India is expected to face a wider coal shortage from July to September, due to expectations of higher electricity demand.

- *India is the world's second largest consumer, producer and importer of coal, and the fuel accounts for nearly 75% of annual electricity generation. It is also the world's third largest greenhouse gas emitter, which is currently 37% short of its end-2022 green energy target .*

106. Recently In May, The government has allocated a project worth _____ for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages of aspirational districts.

- A. Rs 5,683 crore**
- B. Rs 2,683 crore**
- C. Rs 3,683 crore**
- D. Rs 4,683 crore**

- **The government has allocated a project worth Rs 3,683 crore for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages of aspirational districts,**

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POWER SHORTAGES

Coal India to import for first time in years

REUTERS
New Delhi, May 28

STATE-RUN COAL India, the world's largest coal miner, will import the fuel for use by utilities, a power ministry letter seen by Reuters showed on Saturday, as shortages raise concerns about renewed power outages.

It would be the first time since 2015 that Coal India has imported the fuel, highlighting efforts by state and federal officials to stock up to avoid a repeat of April, when India faced its worst power cuts in more than six years.

"Coal India would import coal for blending on government-to-government (G2G) basis and supply... to thermal power plants of state generators and independent power producers (IPPs)," the Union power ministry said in the letter dated May 28.

The letter was sent to all utilities, top federal and state energy officials, including the federal coal secretary and the chairman of Coal India.

India is expected to face a wider coal shortage during the third quarter of 2022 due to expectations of higher electricity demand, stoking fears of widespread power outages.

The power ministry said in the letter that the decision was taken after nearly all states suggested that multiple coal import tenders by states would lead to confusion and sought centralised procurement through Coal India.

The government stepped up pressure on utilities to increase imports to blend with local coal in recent days, warning of cuts to the supply



MINISTRY DIRECTIVE

- **Power ministry sends letter to all utilities, top officials**
- **It would be first time since 2015 that Coal India imports fuel**

- **Ministry has asked states to suspend tenders for import, possibly to await price discovery by Coal India through G2G route**

of domestically mined coal if power plants did not build up coal inventories through imports.

But the power ministry on Saturday asked states to suspend tenders that are "under process".

"The tenders under process by state generators and IPPs for importing coal for blending may be kept in abeyance to await the price discovery by Coal India through G2G route, so as to procure coal at least possible rates," the ministry said.

Coal inventories at power plants have declined by about 13% since April to pre-summer leve

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- Under the project, Bharti Airtel will install 1,083 mobile towers with an expenditure of Rs 847.95 crore in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, and Reliance Jio will roll out 3,696 towers for Rs 2,836 crore
- The project was allocated to the companies in May.
- "The project to provide 4G coverage in uncovered villages of the aspirational district of five states was approved by the Cabinet last year. Airtel and Jio have been given 18 months to roll out 4G services in the identified villages.
- The project envisages providing 4 G-based mobile services in 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts across five states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Odisha at an estimated cost of implementation of about Rs 6,466 crore including operational expenses for five years.
- The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and is likely to be completed by November 2023.

107. Recently In May *State Bank of India* is set to sell its _____ Cr outstanding loan from *KSK Mahanadi Power to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company*
- A. Rs 3815 Cr
 B. Rs 4400 Cr
 C. Rs 1300 Cr
 D. Rs 1700 Cr

State Bank of India is set to sell its ₹3,815 crore outstanding loan from *KSK Mahanadi Power to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company*, which will help the bank shore up its earnings for the June quarter.

The bank declared *Aditya Birla ARC's* bid of ₹1,544 crore as the highest at an auction held on Monday, they said.

This will be the single biggest distressed loan sale on an upfront payment basis by any bank, equating to a recovery of 40%

Aditya Birla ARC's bid was supported by its joint venture partner, *Varde Partners*.

Govt allots ₹3,683-cr project to Jio, Airtel for 4G services in uncovered villages



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30

The government has allocated a project worth ₹3,683 crore for providing 4G mobile services in uncovered villages of aspirational districts, an official source said on Monday.

Under the project, Bharti Airtel will install 1,083 mobile towers with an expenditure of ₹847.95 crore in Jharkhand and Maharashtra and Reliance Jio will roll out 3,696 towers for ₹2,836 crore, the source said.

The project was allocated to the companies in May.

"The project to provide 4G coverage in uncovered villages of aspirational district of five states was approved by the Cabinet last year. Airtel and Jio have been given 18 months to roll out 4G services in the identified villages," the source said.

4G services

The project envisages to provide 4G-based mobile services in 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 aspirational districts across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha at an estimated cost of implementation about ₹6,466 crore including operational expenses for five years.

The project would be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and is likely to be completed by November 2023.

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108. Recently in May *Adani Defence and Aerospace* has entered into definitive agreements for acquiring _____ percent equity stake in agricultural drone startup *General Aeronautics*.

- A. 40 %
- B. 10 %
- C. 50 %
- D. 35 %

- *Adani Defence and Aerospace* have entered into definitive agreements for acquiring a 50 percent equity stake in agricultural drone startup *General Aeronautics*.
- *General Aeronautics*, a Bangalore-based startup specializes in developing robotic drones to offer tech-enabled crop protection services, crop health monitoring, precision farming, and yield monitoring using artificial intelligence and data analytics while working very closely with the farmers and agricultural chemical companies.
- The acquisition aligns with the objectives of *Adani Defence & Aerospace* in providing a platform to startups and MSMEs for rapid growth and scalability of innovative technologies.
- The drone and drone services market in India is expected to grow rapidly and can reach INR 30,000 crores by 2026 driven by the evolving policy framework,

Adani Defence to acquire 50% stake in drone firm

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, May 27

ADANI DEFENCE SYSTEMS and Technologies, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has signed definitive agreement to acquire a 50% stake in Bengaluru-based *General Aeronautics* in a cash deal. *General Aeronautics* provides robotic drones and drone-based solutions for crop protection services, crop health, precision farming and yield monitoring using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and analytics for the agricultural sector, the company said in a statement.

The financial details of the transaction were not immediately disclosed.

“The cross-industry application of drones is nearly limitless and continues to make great strides. It offers countries like ours the opportunity to leapfrog generations of infrastructure, healthcare, logistics, agriculture and defence advancements and break several process barriers. When combined with next generation imaging technologies, longer battery life, edge based artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities, the possibilities are endless,” said Adani Defence & Aerospace chief executive officer Ashish Rajvanshi said.

The drone and drone services market in India is expected to grow rapidly to reach ₹30,000 crore by 2026.

F I M J S D 2 ₹ S ₹ t c i r si r o: le se ti ci v: e: a: li p: si ir p: b: r: d

SALE TO HELP BANK SHORE UP Q1 EARNINGS

SBI Sells ₹3,815-Cr KSK Mahanadi Loan to Aditya Birla ARC

Sangita.Mehta
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Mumbai: State Bank of India is set to sell its ₹3,815 crore outstanding loan from KSK Mahanadi Power to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company, which will help the bank shore up its earnings for the June quarter, said two people aware of the plan.

The bank declared Aditya Birla ARC's bid of ₹1,544 crore as the highest at an auction held on Monday, they said.

This will be the single biggest distressed loan sale on an up-front payment basis by any bank, equating to a recovery of 40%. So far, most big-ticket distressed loan sales were structured deals involving part payment in the form of security receipts that would be redeemed upon recovery from defaulting borrowers.

Aditya Birla ARC's bid was supported by its joint venture partner, Varde Partners, the people said.

“The bank has fully provided for this loan, which will reflect in the recovery and earnings numbers,” said a bank official who did not want to be named.

SBI and Aditya Birla ARC did not respond to ET's request for comment.

SBI's move to exit the power company comes when the government has asked lenders to support distressed power producers to improve production.

Upon acquiring SBI loans, Aditya Birla ARC would gain control over 34% of KSK Mahanadi Power's loans, a critical level needed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). A resolution would not get approved

The Deal

Aditya Birla ARC will hold 34% of total KSK Mahanadi Power debt

Under IBC, 34% is a critical level - it gives lender veto power

Aditya Birla ARC's bid was supported by its joint venture partner, Varde Partners

Aditya Birla ARC has purchased loans from Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda and PNB in last 2 years

The RP of KSK Mahanadi has invited firm bids by July 8

Claims of ₹29,501 from lenders have been admitted



if 34% of lenders voted against it.

The ARC's 34% share of loans would include 18% it would gain upon acquiring SBI loans and 16% it already has on its books after buying loans from Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Punjab National Bank in the last two years.

“The timing of SBI's proposed loan sale of KSK Mahanadi indicates that lenders are no longer confident of timely resolution under the IBC-driven process,” said a lender.

KSK Mahanadi Power has been undergoing insolvency proceedings for over two and a half years. The resolution professional, Sumit Binani, backed by PricewaterhouseCoopers, has extended the deadline to submit a firm bid for the company to July 8 from April 29. The RP has received ₹29,501 crore of claims from financial creditors.

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PLI incentives, and the recent ban on imports of drones.

109. Recently in May _____ received the go-ahead from the Gujarat government to take over Ford's Sanand plant near Ahmedabad.

- A. Maruti Suzuki
- B. Tata Motors**
- C. Hyundai
- D. Hero

- **Tata Motors has got permission to take over US auto major Ford Motor Company's passenger car manufacturing plant in Sanand, Gujarat.**
- **Earlier this week, the Gujarat cabinet cleared a proposal to take the deal forward, which was submitted by the two carmakers.**
- **Ford Motor Company announced its decision to leave India late last year due to various factors like wrong-reading of the market/product**
- **Ford India was amongst 20 different companies that were selected under the Government of India's Production Linked Incentive Scheme announced in February 2022. But it may withdraw its application now, as it will no longer invest in the country.**
- **After announcing the exit in September of 2021, the US carmaker did apply to participate in the Government of India's PLI scheme.**

Tata Motors gets Guj nod to take over Ford's Sanand plant

Kapil Dave and Niyati Parikh | TNN

Gandhinagar: The decks are clear for automaker Tata Motors to take over Ford India's passenger car manufacturing plant in Sanand, near Ahmedabad. Earlier this week, the Gujarat cabinet cleared a proposal submitted by the two companies to take the deal forward, top government officials confirmed. With the state's green signal, Tata Motors will also be able to reap the benefits and incentives extended to Ford at the time the plant was launched. The cabinet has issued a no-objection certificate to the companies' proposal, sources added.

Officials privy to the development confirmed Tata Motors and Ford Motor Company would sign an MoU in the presence of CM Bhupendra Patel on Monday.

Ford Motor Company an-



Getty Images

REBOOT

nounced its exit from its India operations late last year and its passenger vehicle manufacturing plant in Sanand stopped manufacturing operations by April this year.

In 2018, the state had formed a high powered committee (HPC) chaired by the chief minister to address and resolve issues pertaining to execution of large projects. The two automobile giants, therefore, had submitted before the HPC a proposal for Tata Motors' takeover of Ford's plant.

"The Gujarat cabinet's approval is only a green signal... The companies are still in talks to work out the nitty-gritties with regard to the deal size, labour issues, financials, and duties and benefits involved in the takeover. Once the two firms agree, a definitive agreement may be inked between the two automakers," an official said.

"A formal ceremony for the MoU signing is being planned for May 30, wherein representatives of both companies will be present. The state government has agreed to pass on all benefits offered to Ford to Tata Motors for the remaining period of the concession agreement," an official told **TOI**. Sources confirmed Tata Motors' plans to manufacture electric vehicles at the new plant after making fresh investments to recalibrate Ford's existing infrastructure.

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110. Consider the following statement regarding the gold reserve in India.

1. The Bihar government has decided to accord permission for exploration of the "country's largest" gold reserve in Jamui district,
2. Bihar has 222.885 million tonnes of gold medals, which amounts to 44 percent of the total gold reserves in the country.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Bihar to authorise exploration of country's 'largest' gold reserve

Jamui district has 222 million tonnes, says a GSI survey

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA**

The Bihar government has decided to accord permission for exploration of the "country's largest" gold reserve in Jamui district, a senior official said on Saturday.

As per a Geological Survey of India (GSI) survey, around 222.88 million tonnes of gold reserve, including 37.6 tonnes of the mineral-rich ore, are present in the district.

"The State Mines and Geology Department is in consultation with agencies engaged in exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation, for exploration



Bihar has 44% of the total gold reserves in the country. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

of gold reserves in Jamui," Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner Harjot Kaur Bambrah said.

"The consultation started after analysing the GSI findings that indicated the pre-

sence of gold in areas such as Karmatia, Jhajha and Sono in Jamui district."

She said the government is likely to sign an MoU with a central agency or agencies for G3 (preliminary) stage exploration within a month. In certain areas, G2 (general) exploration could also be done, Ms. Bambrah said.

Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi had last year informed the Lok Sabha that Bihar holds the highest share of India's gold reserves.

In a written reply, he had said that Bihar has 222.885 million tonnes of gold metal, which amounts to 44% of the total gold reserves in the country.

- The Bihar government permitted exploration of India's largest gold reserve in the Jamui district.
- According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI) survey, around 222.88 million tonnes of the gold reserve is present in the Jamui district.
- The state government can sign an MoU with a central agency or agencies for G3 (preliminary) stage exploration.
- The survey findings indicated the presence of gold in Karmatia, Jhajha, and Sono in the Jamui district.
- The State Mines and Geology Department has received proposals from National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Mines Exploration Corporation Ltd (MCEL) for gold exploration.
- As per the National Mineral Inventory, as of 1.4.2015, the total resource of primary gold ore is estimated to be 501.83 million tonnes.
- Out of these, 17.22 million tonnes are under the reserves category and the remaining 484.61 million tonnes are under the remaining resources category.
- The largest reserve of gold ore (primary) is present in Bihar (44%), followed by Rajasthan (25%), and Karnataka (21%).
- Karnataka is the largest gold-producing state in India. Kolar and Hutti are two major goldfields in Karnataka.

111. Recently in May CoinDCX has launched a new feature called _____ to help customers can earn interest on their crypto assets.

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- A. Earn**
- B. Invest**
- C. Treds**
- D. Github**

CoinDCX has launched a new feature called 'Earn'. Earn is a feature through which customers can earn interest on their crypto assets.

It has no lock-in-period. It allows withdrawals at any time. Registration and KYC compliance are needed to use the product.

Recently, CoinDCX launched its Crypto Investment Plan (CIP). In CIP, one can invest a fixed amount in crypto at regular intervals.

CoinTracker has started operations in India. It is crypto tax compliance and portfolio tracking firm.

112. Consider the following statement regarding AAROHAN 4.0.

- 1. AAROHAN 4.0 is a two-day-long meeting of senior functionaries of the Postal Department and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).**
- 2. AAROHAN 4.0 started on 26 May 2022 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Aarohan 4.0: Two days meet of senior functionaries of Postal Department and India Post payments Bank (IPPB) begins today

Postal Department discuss ways to deepen Financial Inclusion drive and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of India

Posted On: 26 MAY 2022 8:56PM by PIB Delhi

Two days meet of senior functionaries of Postal Department and India Post payments Bank (IPPB), AAROHAN 4.0 started today in Shimla. The agenda of the meeting is to discuss and deliberate ways to further deepen Financial Inclusion drive in the country and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of India. Postal Department along with IPPB is working on the vision of Prime Minister Digital India initiative to promote the digital payments and bring digital banking services to every nook and corner of the country in a customer friendly manner. IPPB leverages upon the world's largest postal network of Department of Posts to offer inter operable banking services at door step benefiting senior citizens, farmers, migrant labourers and women amongst others. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri. Alok Sharma, Director General Postal Services in presence of Shri J Venkatramu, MD & CEO of IPPB, Chief PMG of 23 Postal Circles and other senior functionaries of the Department and IPPB. Discussions were held today to further strengthen the synergy between the post office and IPPB operations.

About India Post Payments Bank India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. IPPB was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 1, 2018. The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India. The fundamental mandate of IPPB is to remove barriers for the unbanked and under-banked and reach the last mile leveraging a network comprising 160,000 post offices (145,000 in rural areas) and 400,000 postal employees. IPPB's reach and its operating model is built on the key pillars of India Stack - enabling Paperless, Cashless and Presence-less banking in a simple and secure manner at the customers' doorstep, through a CBS-integrated smartphone and biometric device. Leveraging frugal innovation and with a high focus on ease of banking for the masses, IPPB delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in 13 languages. IPPB is committed to provide a fillip to a less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India. India will prosper when every citizen will have equal opportunity to become financially secure and empowered. Our motto stands true - Every customer is

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- *India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.*
- *IPPB was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 1, 2018.*

113. Recently in May which of the following has been recognized as the best days in covering media at the **NCDEX Commodities Award 2022**?

- A. Zee Business
- B. The Hindu BusinessLine**
- C. Economic Times
- D. CNBC Awaaz

NCDEX recognized The Hindu BusinessLine as the best daily in covering commodities in the print media at the NCDEX Commodities Award 2022.

In the regional category, Agrowon Sakal and NafaNuksaan were given award for their news coverage in the commodity section.

Zee Business and CNBC Awaaz won the award in television category.

At NCDEX Commodities Award 2022, Kotak Bank was awarded for its significant contribution to the exchange business.

In the electronic negotiable warehouse receipts area, Punjab National Bank and ICICI Bank were recognized as emerging banks.

ITC, Ruchi Soya and Rajasthan Gums were recognised for their best price risk management policy among corporates.

Total 58 entities and individuals won awards in different categories.

Tata Mutual Fund and Alpha Alternatives were the winners for contribution in helping Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs).

114. Recently in May _____ becomes second state to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in a national park.

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Chattisgarh**

BusinessLine bags NCDEX award for best commodities coverage

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 27

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange of India (NCDEX), the country's largest agriculture-based commodity exchange, recognised *The Hindu BusinessLine* as the best daily in covering commodities in the print media at the NCDEX Commodities Award 2022 in Mumbai on Thursday.

In the regional category, Agrowon Sakal and NafaNuksaan were awarded for their news coverage. In the television category, Zee Business and CNBC Awaaz won the accolade.

While Kotak Bank was awarded for its contribution to the exchange business, Punjab National Bank and ICICI Bank were recognised as emerging banks in the electronic negotiable warehouse receipts space. Among corporates, ITC, Ruchi Soya and Rajasthan Gums were recognised for their best price risk management policy.

Four FPOs, one each from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, were felicitated for incorporating best farming and agri-marketing practices for significant contribution in helping farmers. A total of 58 entities and individuals were given awards in various categories.

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Chhattisgarh becomes second state to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in a national park.

Chattisgarh Government has approved the CFR claims of Gudiypadar and Nagalsar villages in Kanger Ghati National Park.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel handed over the CFR certificates to villagers during his ‘Bhent Mulakat’ programme.

Gudiypadar hamlet becomes the first village to get CFR rights in Chattisgarh.

Odisha is the first state to recognize the Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights in a national park.

Odisha had recognise Community Forest Resources (CFRs) inside the Simlipal National Park in 2016.

Community forest resource (CFR) rights: Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers act 2006 has the provision of CFR rights.

[GAZETTE NOTIFICATION]

Railways merges 8 cadres into one

Neha LM Tripathi
neha.tripathi@btlive.com

NEW DELHI: Railway officers will now be promoted solely on merit and not seniority, the national transporter has decided while merging its eight service cadre into the new Indian Railways Management Service, according to a gazette notification issued on Friday.

"In the existing system, officers were promoted based on their seniority level (considering their date of joining), but in the new method, promotion to officers will be given purely on the basis of merit," a railway official said, requesting anonymity.

"This will help in faster and professional decisionmaking and implementation."



The decision aims at bringing uniformity in the appointment system, and reducing interdepartmental processes. PH

"This is a better system," said Shree Prakash, a former railway official. "It is the resumption of the old method that will boost officers to take up challenging positions, thus benefit-

ing railways and people at large. It will improve the railways."

The decision to merge the eight service cadres into one — notified in the gazette on May

27 — aims at bringing uniformity in the appointment system, and reducing interdepartmental and elaborate processes, besides expediting coordinated and fast decisionmaking, said a second railways official, who declined to be named.

The eight services fall under the central civil services. According to the gazette notification, the existing Indian Railway Services of Engineering, the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering, the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineering, the Indian Railways Service of Signal Engineers, the Indian Railway Store Services, the Indian Railway Traffic Services, the Indian Railway Account Service and the Indian Railway Personnel Service will be merged into the

Indian Railway Management Service. The Union cabinet on December 24, 2019, approved the merger based on the recommendations of the Bibek Debroy committee report of 2015, in which suggestions were made to restructure the railway board and ministry.

The unification, will mean that railways is left with just two departments, namely the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Medical Service Department (MSD). Proposed under then railway minister Piyush Goyal, the reform will be carried out at all levels, from Junior Scale to Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) plus.

Under this, as many as 27 General Manager (GM) posts have been upgraded to 'apex' grade.

CIL to divest 25% stake in BCCL; plans listing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26

Coal India Limited on Thursday said it is planning to divest 25 per cent stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd and will subsequently list the subsidiary on stock exchanges.

A meeting of the board of directors to this effect was held on March 10, 2022, Coal India said in a regulatory filing.

Clearances awaited

Stating that the company's board had given only "in principle" approval to the proposal, CIL said that only after getting further clearance from the government, subsequent action would be initiated. "On receipt of further clearance from Ministry of Coal, the same would be placed to CIL board and the decision of CIL board would be promptly disseminated to stock exchanges," the filing said.

19 SOLDIERS WHO | No duty for women from 7am to 6am | TWO TERRORISTS

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Appointment News

115. Recently _____ *has been appointed the chairperson of a key committee at the 75th World Health Assembly which primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the global health body.*

- A. Dr. Harshvardhan
- B. V Murlidharan
- C. Rajesh Bhushan**
- D. Ajay Bhushan Pandey

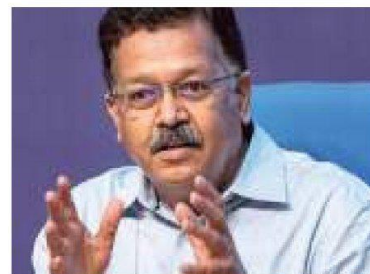
Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed the chairperson of a key committee at the 75th World Health Assembly that primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the global health body.

Convened by 194 member states, the annual WHO assembly is being held from May 22 to 28 in Geneva, Switzerland. Each year, the World Health Assembly (WHA) reviews a long list of health challenges and responses.

The WHA functions through two types of committees - Committee A and Committee B.

Committee B mainly discusses administrative and financial matters of the WHA, while Committee A meets to debate technical and health matters.

IN BRIEF



Health Secretary to head key World Health panel

NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed chairperson of the Committee B at the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA). The Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organization. This year, the panel will discuss and prepare report on many important issues which includes budget for the WHO, prevention of sexual exploitation and reforms.

116. Recently _____ *has been re-elected for a second term as Director-General of the World Health Organization.*

- A. Tedros Ghebreyesus**
- B. Kristilina Gergieva
- C. Jim Yong Kim
- D. Antonio Guterres

- *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has been re-elected for a second term.*
- *His new term officially begins on August 16, 2022.*
- *During the 75th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, his re-election was confirmed.*
- *Dr. Tedros was elected as Director-General of the World Health Organization for the first time in 2017.*
- *World Health Organization (WHO) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established on 7 April 1948.*

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117. In May 2022 _____ has become the *first Indian representative to chair the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade after a gap of 10 years.*

- A. TS Trimurti
- B. Anwar Hussain Shaikh**
- C. Puneet Chhatwal
- D. NV Ravindran

Mr. Shaik is an Indian Government Officer. Mr. Shaik will succeed Mexico's Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro in this post.

The aim of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement is to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory.

The TBT Agreement also aims to ensure that they do not create unnecessary trade barriers.

The TBT Committee's work is divided into two categories: reviewing specific measures and strengthening the TBT Agreement's implementation.

This committee is used by WTO members to discuss specific trade concerns, laws, regulations, or procedures.

World Trade Organization: It is a 164-member multinational organisation that develops rules for worldwide exports and imports and settles trade disputes between countries.

Since 1995, India is a member of the World Trade Organization.

It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was founded on 1 January 1995.

Indian officer Shaik is new chair of a WTO panel



AFTER A GAP of ten years, an Indian government officer —

Anwar Hussain Shaik — has been made the chair of the WTO's committee on Technical Barriers on Trade, an official said. He will take this role from Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico.

118. Recently the *Central Government* has appointed _____ as a *part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)* in the place of erstwhile DFS Additional Secretary Vandita Kaul.

- A. Navneet Manoot
- B. Pankaj Sharma**
- C. Vaidehi Naryan
- D. Rajesh Kumar

- The Center has **appointed Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) as a part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).**

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- In the PFRDA Board, Sharma has come in the place of erstwhile DFS Additional Secretary Vandita Kaul, who was repatriated to her parent cadre in March this year
- Pension regulator PFRDA has a Chairman besides three full-time members and three part-time members (only two are filled up posts). Anne George Matthew, Additional Secretary in Finance Ministry is the other part-time member of the PFRDA Board.
- Of the three full-time members, the posts of two members – Law and Economics— are falling vacant on May 31. The Finance Ministry has already invited applications for these two posts.

119. Recently in May **Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was proclaimed as the new President** of which of the following country?

- A. Cameron
- B. Algeria
- C. Albania
- D. Philippines

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was proclaimed the next president of the Philippines by a joint session of Congress following a landslide election triumph 36 years after his dictator father was ousted in a pro-democracy uprising.

The Senate and House of Representatives also declared that his separately elected vice presidential running mate, Sara Duterte, had won by a wide margin. She is the daughter of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, whose turbulent six-year term ends on June 30.

Manila is the country's capital, Currency - Philippine peso

120. Recently in May The **Uttarakhand government on announced an expert committee** under _____ to examine **ways the implementation of a uniform civil code.**

- A. Ranjana Prakash Desai
- B. Manu Gaur
- C. Pramod Kohli
- D. Shatrughan Singh

Pankaj Sharma named PFRDA part-time member

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, May 28

The Centre has appointed Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) as part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).

Sharma has come in the place of erstwhile DFS Additional Secretary Vandita Kaul, who was repatriated to her parent cadre in March, sources said.

Pension regulator PFRDA has a Chairman besides three whole-time members and three part-time members (only two are filled up posts). Anne George Matthew, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry, is the other part-time member on the PFRDA board.

The Uttarakhand government announced an expert committee to examine ways for the implementation of a uniform civil code, including a review of laws governing marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption and other personal laws.

Retired judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, who is also the current head of the delimitation commission, will head the committee. It comprises retired judge Justice Pramod Kohli, social worker Manu Gaur (heading Taxpayers Association of Bharat), retired IAS officer Shatrughan Singh and Vice Chancellor of Doon University Surekha Dangwal.

The move comes after Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had, two days before polling in the State in February, declared that if re-elected, his government would set in motion efforts to implement a uniform civil code.

The term of the committee has not been mentioned in the notification.

Goa already has a uniform civil code but it dates back to the 1870s when the State was under Portuguese rule and not a part of the Indian Union.

121. Recently In May _____ has been elevated to the position of Deputy Managing Director and Chief Business Officer by SBI Funds Management.

- A. Ashwini Bhatia
- B. Nitin Chugh
- C. DP Singh
- D. Maninder Goyal

- DP Singh has been elevated to the position of Deputy Managing Director and Chief Business Officer by SBI Funds Management. Before this, DP was the Chief Business Officer at the fund house.
- DP has over 3 decades of experience in the banking and financial services industry. He has been associated with the SBI group since 1984.
- SBI Mutual Fund is a payment system introduced by the State Bank of India and incorporated in 1987 with its corporate head office located in Mumbai, India. SBIFMPL is a joint venture between the State Bank of India, an Indian public sector bank, and Amundi, a European asset management company

Dhami sets up uniform civil code panel

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand government on Friday announced the formation of an expert committee to examine ways for the implementation of a uniform civil code, including a review of laws governing marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption and other personal laws.

Retired judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, who is also the current head of the delimitation commission, will head the committee. It comprises retired judge Justice Pramod Kohli, social worker Manu Gaur (heading Taxpayers Association of Bharat), retired IAS officer Shatrughan Singh and Vice Chancellor of Doon University Surekha Dangwal.

The committee would examine all laws and matters related to personal law across communities, and draft a uniform civil code. The term of the committee has not been mentioned in the notification.

Two days ahead of the Assembly polls in February, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had declared that if re-elected, his government would set in motion efforts to implement a uniform civil code.

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122. Recently _____ has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps of the Indian Army as a combat pilot.

- A. Anupriya Goel
- B. Abhilasha Barak**
- C. Rhythm Mamaia
- D. Geetanjali Shree

Captain Abhilasha Barak became the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps of the Indian Army as a combat pilot.

Captain Abhilasha was awarded the coveted wings along with 36 Army pilots

Captain Abhilasha Barak hails from Haryana and was commissioned in the Army Air Defence Corps in September 2018.

The Army Aviation Corps became an independent Corps of the Indian Army on 1 November 1986.

The Corps is headed by a Lt Gen rank officer known as Director General of Army Aviation.

Over the years, the corps has expanded exponentially with addition of new units and state of the art equipment like Cheetah Dhruv, Rudra, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and remotely piloted aircraft.

With the motto "Swift and Sure", the youngest corps of the Indian Army is set to further grow in its tactical importance in the battlefield to take forward its role of force multiplier.

Abhilasha Barak becomes first woman combat aviator of AAC

Opens up avenues for other women to become pilots of Army Aviation Corps

ording to the Army. Captain Barak was commissioned in Army Air Defence Corps on September 8, 2018, and later she completed Combat Army Aviation Course to become the aviator, the Army stated.

The daughter of retired Colonel S Om Singh, she did a number of professional military courses before joining the ACC. She belongs to Panchkula in Haryana.

Over the years, the ACC, formed in 1986 as a component of the Indian Army, has expanded exponentially with the addition of new units and state-of-the-art equipment such as Cheetah, Dhruv, Rudra and Light Combat Helicopters.

The youngest corps of the Indian Army is set to grow in tactical importance in the battlefield to take further the role of force multiplier.

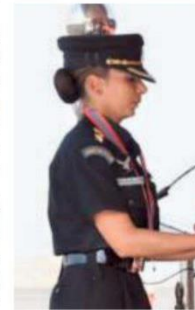
In the IAF, 16 women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after the Defence Ministry institutionalised their entry, which started as an experimental scheme in 2016.

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 25

Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman officer to join Army Aviation Corps (AAC) as a combat aviator to fly a fleet of choppers.

This is not only a Golden Letter Day in the history of Indian Army aviation, it also opens up avenues for other women to become pilots of ACC, replicating similar flying roles available in the Indian Air Force (IAF).



Coveted Wings

She was awarded the Coveted Wings, along with 36 Army Pilots, by the Director General & Colonel Commandant Army Aviation, during a valedictory ceremony held on Wednesday at the Combat Army Aviation Training School in Nashik, ac-

123. Recently in May President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed _____ as Lokpal Chairperson after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term.

- A. Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty**
- B. Justice Dr. L. M. Singhvi
- C. Justice Shashibhushan Kumar
- D. Justice Ramesh Chand

• **President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty as Lokpal Chairperson after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term.**

• **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is the first Chairperson of the Lokpal.**

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- Lokpal is a statutory anti-corruption authority or body.
- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 has provided the Lokpal for the Union and the Lokayukta for the states.
- Dr. L. M. Singhvi coined the term Lokpal and Lokayukta.
- Maharashtra is the first state to establish Lokayukta.
- The Lokpal can have eight members and is headed by a chairperson. Currently, there are six members in the Lokpal.
- Lokpal chairperson and members are appointed for a term of five years or until attaining the age of 70 years.
- The chairperson and members of Lokpal are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a selection committee.

124. Recently _____ has become the first female mayor of a local London Council belonging to the Dalit Community.

- A. Swati Dhingara
- B. Abhialasha Barak
- C. Anjali Pandey
- D. Mohinder K Midha

Councillor Mohinder K Midha, an Indian-Origin Politician from the UK's Opposition Labour Party has been elected mayor of the Ealing Council in West London.

She has become the first female mayor of a local London Council belonging to the Dalit Community.

Mohinder K Midha was elected for the next year's term of 2022-23 at a council meeting on May 24, 2022.

The Labour Party in Ealing said in a statement that they are proud that Clls Mohinder Midha has been elected the Mayor Ealing for next year.

The election of Midha as the first dalit female mayor is being celebrated by the British Dalit Community as a proud moment.

125. Recently Jack Dorsey has stepped down from the board of directors Of which of the following company?

- A. Meta
- B. Apple
- C. Amazon
- D. Twitter

- Former Twitter Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey has stepped down from the Twitter board of directors.
- His exit from the Twitter board marks his complete exit from the company.

- Jack Dorsey had planned to leave the Twitter board as well since he had stepped down as CEO in November 2021.
- It comes amid Twitter's USD 44 billion takeover deal with Elon Musk, which is currently on hold due to various reasons.
- Dorsey had taken over as the Twitter CEO in 2005.
- Indian-origin Parag Agarwal, an IIT Bombay Alumni, was named the new Chief Executive Officer of Twitter after Dorsey's resignation.

126. Recently in May Pope Francis elevated the Archbishops of _____ and Goa to the rank of cardinals.

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

2 from India among 21 new cardinals named by Pope

Francis puts stamp on Church's future

REUTERS
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis announced on Sunday that he would appoint 21 new cardinals in August, including two from India, again putting his stamp on the future of Catholicism.

The two cardinals to be appointed from India are the Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri António Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão, and the Archbishop of Hyderabad, Anthony Poola.

Of the 21, 16 are cardinal electors younger than 80 and thus eligible to enter a conclave to elect his successor. After the August 27 ceremony to officially install them, known as a consistory, Pope Francis will have appointed about 83 of the

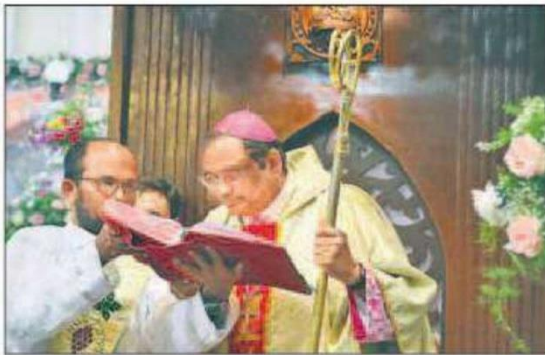
some 133 electors, increasing the possibility his successor will be a man reflecting his position on key issues.

The new electors include Archbishop Giorgio Marengo, an Italian who is currently the Catholic Church's administrator in Mongolia. The country borders with China, where the Vatican is trying to improve the situation for Catholics. The other cardinal electors come from France, Nigeria, Brazil, India, the United States, East Timor, Italy, Ghana, Singapore, and Paraguay.

Once again, Pope Francis passed over archbishops of major cities, preferring to appoint men in far-flung places where the Church is small or growing.

{ MY INDIA } BISHOP ANTHONY POOLA

India gets first Dalit Christian cardinal



Archbishop of Hyderabad, Anthony Poola, on Sunday became the first Dalit Christian in the country to become a cardinal as Pope Francis gave the title to two churchmen from India. Filipe Neri Antonio Sebastao di Rosario Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, was also given the prestigious red hat. Poola is also the first Telugu in the history of the Catholic Church to get the title, the second biggest after Pope, in the world, said Father S Bernard, Vicar General, Hyderabad. "It is an honour and recognition for the oppressed sections of Christianity." →P7

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Pope Francis will elevate the Archbishops of Hyderabad and Goa to the rank of cardinals. He has announced that on 27 August 21 new Cardinals will be created including two from India.

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa and Archbishop Poola Anthony of Hyderabad have been selected as Cardinal from India.

These cardinals represent the Church worldwide and reflect cultures, contexts and pastoral ministries.

Ferrao became a priest in 1979 and Bishop in 1954. He establish Archbishop Patriarch of Goa and Daman in March 2004.

Ferrao is the first-ever Archbishop of Goa to be elevated to the cardinalate. Archbishop Anthony is the first Telugu priest to get selected as cardinal.

Currently, the Catholic Church has four serving cardinals in India — Cleemis Catholicos (Trivandrum), Telesphore Toppo (Ranchi), Oswald Gracias (Mumbai) and George Alencherry (Ernakulam).

Days and Obituary News

127. Every year, **World Thyroid Day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about the symptoms, prevention, and treatments of thyroid diseases.

- A. 21ST May
- B. 22nd May
- C. 25th May
- D. 24th May

Every year, World Thyroid Day is observed on 25 May.

It was first observed in 2008 by the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and the European Thyroid Association (ETA).

This year, the key message of the day is "Thyroid and Communication".

It is observed to raise awareness about the symptoms, prevention, and treatments of thyroid diseases.

128. Every Year **International Missing Children's Day** is observed on _____ to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, and educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children.

- A. 23rd May
- B. 24th May
- C. 25th May

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D. 26th May

International Missing Children’s Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25th May. The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children and also honour those who have never been found and celebrate those who have.

Missing Children’s Day began as an observance in the USA in 1983

129. Every Year *International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories* is observed from _____.

- A. 25-30 May**
- B. 24-31 May**
- C. 24-30 May**
- D. 25-31 May**

United Nations is observing “International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories” from May 25 to 31.

According to the UN Charter, a non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a Territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

In 1946, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States had identified 72 non-self-governing territories.

54 Territories attained self-government between 1960 to 2002. At present, there are 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories in the world.

130. Every year *World Hunger Day* is observed globally on _____ to call attention to the global food crisis.

- A. 27th May**
- B. 28th May**
- C. 29th May**
- D. 30th May**

World Hunger Day is observed globally every year on May 28. The day is commemorated to raise awareness about the substantial rise in hunger in recent years.

World Hunger Day was founded by The Hunger Project in 2011 to call attention to the global food crisis.

As per the United Nations, in 2019, about 690 million people were malnourished, mostly in Asia and Africa

By 2030, an estimated 840 million people would be hungry if current trends continue. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation is expected to worsen even further. Every year the theme changes, and this year the theme for World Hunger Day is 'Youth Ending Hunger'.

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131. Every Year **World Menstrual Hygiene Day** is celebrated on _____ all over the world to create awareness about menstruation.

- A. 20th May
- B. 21st May
- C. 28TH May
- D. 29th May

World Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated on May 28 all over the world to create awareness about menstruation.

As per United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), May 28 signifies the menstrual cycle of females.

The theme for World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 is 'making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030'.

132. Every year on _____ **International Day of UN Peacekeepers** is celebrated to honor the contributions of both uniformed and civilian people to peacekeeping.

- A. 28TH May
- B. 29th May
- C. 30th May
- D. 31ST May

Every year on May 29, International Day of UN Peacekeepers is celebrated to honour the contributions of both uniformed and civilian people to peacekeeping.

The theme of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2022 is 'People Peace Progress: The Power of Partnerships'.

UNGA passed a resolution to designate 29 May as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers to mark the establishment of the first UN Peacekeeping mission in 1948.

On this day for the past two decades, UN peacekeepers, also known as the Blue Helmets, are remembered by the world for their role in promoting security, peace, and stability.

Captain Abdelrazakh Hamit Bahar of Chad has received the highest award in UN peacekeeping, the 'Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage.'

Major Winnet Zharare, a Zimbabwean peacekeeper, has been selected for the prestigious Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2021.

More than 1,100 Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were awarded UN medals, honouring them for their exceptional service in the strife-torn East African country.

133. Recently in May **Goa** celebrated its _____ **foundation day on 30 May.**

- A. 31ST
- B. 35th

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- C. 48th
- D. 50th

- Goa celebrated its 35th foundation day on 30 May.
- Goa got its full statehood on 30 May 1987. Portuguese ruled over Goa even after 14 years of Independence.
- Goa become independent from the Portuguese on 19th December 1961. The Chief Minister of the state is Pramod Sawant and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

134. Every year on _____ **World No Tobacco Day** is observed to raise awareness about the dangers of using tobacco.
- A. 30th May
 - B. 31st May
 - C. 29th May
 - D. 28th May

Every year on May 31, World No Tobacco Day is observed.

It is celebrated in order to raise awareness about the dangers of using tobacco.

The day's major aim is to raise global awareness about the epidemic of tobacco and the needless death and disease it causes.

The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2022 is Tobacco : Threat to our environment .'

In 1987, the World Health Assembly started World No Tobacco Day by passing a resolution.

About 80 to 90% of people with lung cancer have a history of tobacco smoking.

135. Recently PM Modi announced the theme of **The 8th International Yoga Day will be celebrated across the world with _____.**
- A. **Yoga for Humanity**
 - B. Yoga for Wellness
 - C. Yoga for Heart
 - D. Yoga for Peace

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The 8th International Yoga Day will be celebrated across the world with the theme 'Yoga for Humanity'. The theme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Maan Ki Baat' address on May 30, 2022.

The International Yoga Day 2022 Theme was chosen by Ministry of Ayush after much deliberation and consultation to be observed in India and across the globe on June 21, 2022. The main event of International Yoga Day 2022 will be held at Mysuru, Karnataka.

The theme also focus on how human values are an integral part of Yoga education in schools.

This year, millions of villagers are expected to participate in the International Yoga Day 2022.

The 8th edition of International Day of Yoga will see many new initiatives including an innovative programme called "Guardian Ring" that will showcase the movement of the sun and people from different countries will participate in performing yoga along with the movement of the sun, beginning from east and marching towards west. The first International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21, 2015. The day was formally established by United Nations General Assembly in 2014.

136. Recently In May _____ has been selected for World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022 by the World Health Organisation. for its efforts in controlling tobacco consumption.
- A. Madhya Pradesh
 - B. Jharkhand**
 - C. Odisha
 - D. Tamil Nadu

Jharkhand has been selected for World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022 by the World Health Organisation. The Indian State is being recognized by the global health body for its efforts in controlling tobacco consumption.

WHO Award for Tobacco Control will be received by the State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day in Delhi on May 31, 2022.

The National Tobacco Control Programme was launched in Jharkhand in 2012 when the tobacco prevalence rate in the state was 51.1 per cent, of which 48% were smokeless users.

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) report published in 2018 said that the tobacco users in Jharkhand came down to 38.9 per cent, of which 35.4 per cent were smokeless users.

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Sports Award Books News

137. Recently in May _____ has been elected as chairman and voting member on the Board of Directors for the IBA's Athletes Committee,

- A. MArrykom
- B. Nikhat Zareen
- C. Sarita Devi
- D. Lovlina Borgohain



Lovlina Borgohain elected to IBA post

NEW DELHI
Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as the chair and a voting member on the Board of Directors for the Athletes' Committee, the International Boxing Association (IBA) said on Thursday. PTI

India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as chairman and voting member on the Board of Directors for the IBA's Athletes Committee, the International Boxing Association (IBA) has announced

Indian male boxer Shiva Thapa has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee, during the corresponding elections held during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur has congratulated both Lovlina and Shiva, who are under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS, and have accepted the roles.

138. Recently _____ Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit was awarded the Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022, named after the former Foreign Affairs Minister.

- A. Delhi University
- B. Banaras Hindu University
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru University
- D. Hindu University

- **Jawaharlal Nehru University's Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit was on Tuesday awarded the Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022, named after the former Foreign Affairs Minister.**
- **Pandit was extended this award for rising through the ranks to "assume the top academic leadership at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University as its first feminine Vice Chancellor presenting a unique promise," according to Re-**

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

Fourth Week of May (24th May – 31st May 2022)

Think India Institute, an action-cum-advocacy platform that instituted the awards.

- The institute presented the awards to some women luminaries to commemorate the International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament.

139-987. Recently in May _____ has received the award for Excellence in Cinema at the French Riviera Film Festival.

- A. Deepika Podukone
- B. Disha Patani
- C. **Nawazuddin Siddiqui**
- D. Manoj Bajpayee

- Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui received the award for Excellence in Cinema at the French Riviera Film Festival.
- American actor-producer, Vincent De Paul presented the award to Nawazuddin Siddiqui.
- Nawazuddin Siddiqui was one of the first confirmed attendees at the Cannes Film Festival.
- He is the only actor in the world whose eight films have been officially selected and screened at the Cannes Film Festival.
- The fourth annual French Riviera Film Festival held from May 20 – 21, 2022 in Cannes.
- French Riviera Film Festival: It was launched in 2019. It recognizes the best short-form content created for film, television, web, and digital platforms.

140. Recently A pilot project on **Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)**, which aims to disseminate a principles-based curriculum to help children become active, healthy, and responsible citizens has been launched in _____.

- A. Delhi
- B. **Odisha**
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

JNU V-C gets Sushma Swaraj award

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit was on Tuesday awarded the Shrimati Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman-2022, named after the former Foreign Affairs Minister.

Prof. Dhulipudi was extended this award for rising through the ranks to “assume the top academic leadership at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University as its first feminine Vice Chancellor presenting a unique promise,” according to Re-Think India Institute, an action-cum-advocacy platform which instituted the awards.

- A pilot project on Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), which aims to disseminate a principles-based curriculum to help children become active, healthy, and responsible citizens has been launched in Odisha
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)
- **Odisha is the first state in the country to launch the OVEP**
- The Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) is based on the Olympic philosophy that learning takes place through the balanced development of body and mind.
- The inaugural pilot project seeks to impact 32,000 children enrolled in 90 schools in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in the first year
- The program, which will be integrated into the school syllabus, is being developed in partnership with the School and Mass Education (SME) Department of Odisha and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust.

OVEP launched in Odisha

CM Patnaik, Olympian Bindra & IOC's Nita Ambani attend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was launched in Odisha by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in collaboration with the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust (ABFT) on Tuesday.

In a virtual launch, which also had the IOA president Narinder Batra, IOC member Nita Ambani, Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, ministers and officials of Odisha, apart from officials of IOC, the Odisha Chief Minister stated that sports was an important part of the vision for education and personality development.

Values based

It will be a values-based curriculum, to be implemented initially in 90 schools of Rourkela and Bhubaneswar, catering to about 32,000 children.

"We have always strived to achieve excellence in education as well as sports," said



New venture: The Olympic Values Education Programme launch by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Abhinav Bindra via video conference. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Odisha chief minister, happy to integrate both in the curriculum.

"The practical implementation of Olympic values is the way forward. In future, we will have better citizens than us," said Abhinav Bindra at the launch.

The IOC Education Commission Chair, Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski recalled that the OVEP was developed in 2006.

The IOA president Narinder Batra congratulated Odisha for taking the lead in

blending Olympic values into the school curriculum.

"Only a small number of children in the world may become Olympians. But every child can be touched by the power of the Olympic movement. That is the mission of OVEP, and makes it a huge opportunity for India," said Nita Ambani.

The OVEP aims to address the challenges of sedentary lifestyles, lack of concentration and adolescents dropping out of school.

141. Recently in May _____ written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, has won the 2022 International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction.

- Tomb Of Water
- Tomb Of Sand**
- Tomb Of Fire
- Tomb Of Light

- Tomb of Sand, written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, has won the 2022 International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction.
- Tomb of Sand is the first book originally written in any Indian language to win the International Booker Prize, and the first novel translated from Hindi to be recognized by the award.
- Set in northern India, the novel follows the adventures of an 80-year-old woman who unexpectedly

gains a new, and highly unconventional, lease on life.

Shree and Rockwell will split the £50,000 prize money, giving the author and translator equal recognition. This book has also won the English PEN translation award.

In 2005, the International Booker Prize opened for English translations of foreign language books and from 2016 onwards, it equally recognized the work of both author and translator.

1st International Booker for Hindi novel by Indian

Tannu Jain

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: "I feel a sense of wonderment about my own work, that so many people, sitting so far away, have read the book and liked it," Geetanjali Shree told HT when her Hindi novel, *Ret Samadhi*, was long-listed for the International Booker Prize in March.

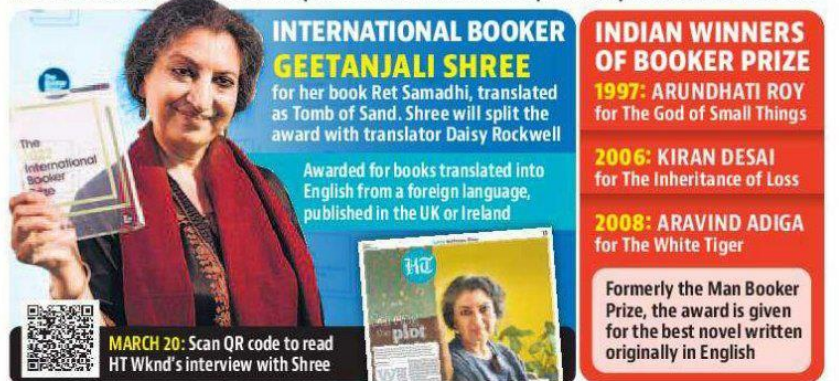
The book, Shree's fifth and translated into English as *Tomb of Sand*, was awarded the prize on Thursday, making her the first Indian author to win the International Booker, which started in 2005 for a book translated into English from a foreign language.

Three other Indians have won the Booker Prize (formerly the Man Booker prize) for the best novel written originally in English — Arundhati Roy in 1997, Kiran Desai in 2006, and Aravind Adiga in 2008.

At a ceremony in London, the 64-year-old New Delhi-based writer said she was "completely overwhelmed" as she accepted her £50,000 prize. The prize is split between the author, and the

Joins elite list of Indian authors

Geetanjali Shree's *Tomb of Sand* was awarded the prize, making her the first Indian author to win the International Booker. Only three other Indians have previously won the Booker Prize



INTERNATIONAL BOOKER
GEETANJALI SHREE
for her book *Ret Samadhi*, translated as *Tomb of Sand*. Shree will split the award with translator Daisy Rockwell

Awarded for books translated into English from a foreign language, published in the UK or Ireland

INDIAN WINNERS OF BOOKER PRIZE
1997: ARUNDHATI ROY for *The God of Small Things*
2006: KIRAN DESAI for *The Inheritance of Loss*
2008: ARAVIND ADIGA for *The White Tiger*

Formerly the Man Booker Prize, the award is given for the best novel written originally in English

MARCH 20: Scan QR code to read HT Wknd's interview with Shree

translator, Daisy Rockwell, equally.

Set in northern India, *Tomb of Sand* follows an 80-year-old widow as she travels to Pakistan, to confront her pre-Partition past, and tries to re-evaluate what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a woman, and a feminist.

Amazed and delighted while accepting the award, Shree said, "I never dreamt of the Booker, I never thought I could. What a huge recognition, I'm honoured and humbled."

Describing her book as an "elegy for the world we inhabit", Shree said, "there is a melan-

choly satisfaction in the award going to it."

But, the author added, "This is not just about me... I represent a language and culture and this recognition brings into larger purview the entire world of Hindi literature in particular and

continued on → 13

- *The award is given every year to a book translated into English and published in Britain or Ireland.*
- *It's distinct from the Booker Prize, which has been won by Indian writers like Arundhati Roy and Aravind Adiga in the past.*

142. Consider the following statement regarding Cannes Films Fest.

1. Ruben Ostlund's social satire "*Triangle of Sadness*" won the *Palme d'Or* at the 75th Cannes Film Festival.
2. Best actress went to Zar Amir Ebrahimi for her performance as a journalist in Ali Abbasi's "*Holy Spider*,"
3. The festival also named Korean star Song Kang Ho best actor for his performance in Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-meda's film "*Broker*."

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2

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

- Ruben Ostlund’s social satire “Triangle of Sadness” won the Palme d’Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday (28 May 2022), handing Ostlund one of cinema’s most prestigious prizes for the second time.

is top prize at Cannes 2022

THE HONOURS LIST

PALME D’OR:

Triangle of Sadness by Ruben Östlund

GRAND PRIX:

Close by Lukas Dhont and *Stars at Noon* by Claire Denis

SPECIAL PRIZE FOR CANNES’ 75TH ANNIVERSARY:

Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardennes, *Tori and Lokita*

JURY PRIZE:

Eo and *Le Otto Montagne*

BEST ACTOR:

Song Kang Ho, *Broker*

SHORT FILM PALME D’OR:

The Water Murmurs

BEST DIRECTOR:

Park Chan-wook, *Decision to Leave*

BEST SCREENPLAY:

Boy from Heaven

CAMERA D’OR:

War Pony directed by Gina Gammell and Riley Keough

BEST ACTRESS:

Zar Amir Ebrahimi, *Holy Spider*

THE BEST ACTOR

Korean star Song Kang-ho won Best Actor honours for his performance in *Broker* by Kore-Eda Hirokazu, just two years after *Parasite*, in which Song also starred, took the Palme d’Or

THE JURY

Jury President Vincent Lindon (centre) poses with jury members (from left) Ladj Ly, Jeff Nichols, Rebecca Hall, Jasmine Trinca, Joachim Trier, Deepika Padukone, and Asghar Farhadi for photographers at the awards ceremony of the 75th international film festival, Cannes



‘SCREAM OF JOY’

Ruben Östlund celebrated his *The Triangle of Sadness* Palme win as he did his first, for *The Square*, getting the audience to join him in a “primal scream of joy”

INDIA HONOURED

Filmmaker Shaunak Sen’s documentary *All That Breathes* has been honoured with the 2022 L’Oeil d’Or award. The L’Oeil d’Or documentary award, also known as The Golden Eye award, was created in 2015 by French-speaking authors’ society LaScam in collaboration with the Cannes Film Festival



- The best actress went to Zar Amir Ebrahimi for her performance as a journalist in Ali Abbasi’s “Holy Spider,” a true-crime thriller about a serial killer targeting sex workers in the Iranian religious city of Mashhad.
- The festival also named Korean star Song Kang Ho best actor for his performance in Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-media’s film “Broker,” about a Korean family seeking a home for an abandoned baby

143. Recently In May English soccer club, Chelsea was sold by Roman Abramovich to a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly at _____ Billion.

- A. 5.2 Bn
- B. 3.2 Bn
- C. 6.2 Bn
- D. 5.5 Bn

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

Fourth Week of May (24th May – 31st May 2022)

- *The fast-tracked purchase of English soccer club Chelsea for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.2 billion US) — the highest price ever paid for a sports team — was completed Monday by a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers' part-owner Todd Boehly.*
- *It marked the end of the trophy-filled, 19-year tenure of Roman Abramovich, the Russian oligarch who was forced to sell the club in March after being sanctioned by the British government for what it called his enabling of Russian President Vladimir Putin's "brutal and barbaric invasion" of Ukraine.*
- *Chelsea has been operating under a government license since Abramovich's assets were frozen in March.*
- *Funded by Abramovich's lavish investment, Chelsea's men's team won 21 trophies during his ownership, including the Champions League in 2012 and 2021, and is the reigning Club World Cup champion. The women's team won a league-and-cup double this season.*

144. Recently in May _____ won his first Formula One race of the season and the third of his career in a chaotic Monaco Grand Prix.

- A. Charles Leclerc
- B. Sergio Perez
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. Lewis Hamilton

- *Sergio Perez earned his first win of the 2022 Formula One season in a weather-shortened Monaco Grand Prix.*
- *Sunday's race was delayed by rain, allowing the drivers to finish just 64 of the 77 scheduled laps before the two-hour time limit expired.*
- *Ferrari's Carlos Sainz finished just behind the leader for second place,*

Roman Abramovich Completes Chelsea Sale to Boehly-led Consortium



London: Roman Abramovich has completed the sale of Chelsea and related companies to an investment group led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, the Premier League club said on Monday, ending a three-month process to sell the club.

The consortium, which won the bid to acquire the London side earlier this month, received approval from the Premier League and the British government last week for the sale to go ahead. A final agreement was reached on Saturday.

Russian owner Abramovich put the club up for sale in early March following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation". Sanctions on Abramovich had also complicated the sale process. "In selling the club, Mr. Abramovich stipulated that the new owner must be a good steward of the club, the net proceeds of the sale must be donated to charity, and that he would not seek the repayment of loans made to affiliates of the club," Chelsea said in a statement. **Reuters**

{ SPORT } LECLERC FINISHES 4TH

Sergio Perez wins Monaco Grand Prix



Sergio Perez rebounded from Red Bull team orders that denied him a chance to race for the win one week ago to pick up his first Formula One win of the season in the rain-marred Monaco Grand Prix, with Charles Leclerc coming an agonising fourth in his home race despite starting on pole. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was second, while Perez's teammate and reigning world champion Max Verstappen stood third. "You dream of winning this, and after your home race, there is no place more special to win," Perez said after waving the Mexican flag.

HTC

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while teammate and pole winner Charles Leclerc ended up fourth. Max Verstappen finished in third place to break his streak of three straight wins.

145. Consider the following statement regarding IPL.

1. Gujarat Titans defeated Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to win their maiden IPL trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
2. The Player of the Match was given to Hardik Pandya for his all-rounder performance.
3. The 2022 Indian Premier League was the 15th edition of the IPL.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Debutant Gujarat Titans won the IPL final in Ahmedabad.
- Gujarat Titans defeated Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to win their maiden IPL trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
- Rajasthan Royals scored 130 runs in 20 overs while Gujarat Titans made 133 runs in 18.1 overs to win.
- The Player of the Match was given to Hardik Pandya for his all-rounder performance.
- Jos Buttler (863 runs) has become the second-highest run-scorer in an IPL season after Virat Kohli (973 runs).
- The 2022 Indian Premier League was the 15th edition of the IPL.
- Orange Cap Winner 2022 IPL: Jos Buttler has won the Orange Cap with his exceptional performance throughout the season. The opener scored four centuries

Gujarat Titans Win IPL

Beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets

Gujarat Titans won the Indian Premier League title in their maiden season as they beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in the final here on Sunday. Opting to bat after winning the toss, Rajasthan Royals were restricted to 130 for nine by the Gujarat bowlers at a packed Narendra Modi Stadium.

The tournament's top scorer, Jos Buttler, got out to GT skipper Hardik Pandya after making 39 off 35 balls.

Hardik bowled brilliantly to finish with figures of 3/17 in

his four overs, while Rashid Khan too had an excellent outing, taking 1/18 in his full quota of overs.

In reply, GT lost two early wickets but eventually chased down the target of 131 with 11 balls to spare.

Brief scores:

Rajasthan Royals: 130/9 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 39; Rashid Khan 1/18, Hardik Pandya 3/17).

Gujarat Titans: 133/3 in 18.1 overs (Hardik Pandya 34, Shubman Gill 45 not out).



... And the caps go to

ORANGE CAP

JOS BUTTLER (RR)

Matches: 17 | Runs: 863

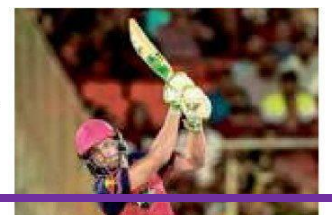
HS: 116 | SR: 149.05

PURPLE CAP

YUZVENDRA CHAHAL (RR)

Matches: 17 | Wickets: 27

BB: 5/40 | Econ: 7.75



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for Rajasthan Royals, playing a major role in leading his team to the IPL 2022 Final. He scored a total of 863 runs in 17 matches in IPL 2022, which includes 4 centuries and 4 half-centuries. The other high scorers of the IPL 2022 Tournament include KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Hardik Pandya, and Shubman Gill.

- *Purple Cap Winner 2022 IPL: Yuzvendra Chahal is the winner of the Purple Cap in IPL 2022 after taking a total of 27 wickets in 17 matches. The Rajasthan Royals also tops the list of most wickets taken by spinners in an IPL season. The top 5 highest wicket-takers of IPL 2022 include Chahal, Wanindu Hasaranga, Kagiso Rabada, Umran Malik, and Kuldeep Yadav.*
- *During the closing ceremony, a giant jersey with the logos of all ten teams was put on display. The jersey, which is 66 x 44 meters set the Guinness World record for the largest white jersey. The white jersey which had the logos of ten teams also had the number 15 embossed on it, marking the 15 seasons of the Indian Premier League*

146. Recently In May, The *Indian Men's Hockey team has slipped to the _____ spot in FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022 while the Indian women's hockey team has made the country proud by rising to the _____ position in the world rankings.*
- A. 3rd, 4th
 - B. 4th, 6th**
 - C. 5th, 2nd
 - D. 6th, 3rd

The Indian Men's Hockey team has slipped to the fourth spot in FIH World Hockey Rankings 2022. On the other hand, in a first-ever, Indian women's hockey team has made the country proud by rising to the 6th position in the world rankings. With this, the team has achieved their best ever FIH World Ranking.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team, with 2029.396 points, now has been placed in the World Hockey Rankings above Spain, who lost both their FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 matches to Argentina and lost one each to England and Belgium as well. In men's Hockey rankings, the Netherlands has replaced India in the third position on the basis of their impressive results in the FIH Pro League. In women's hockey world rankings, Australia, England and Germany remain in third, fourth, and fifth place, respectively.

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147. Recently in May An airplane that will act as a *flying museum in honor of the late soccer icon Diego Maradona* named _____ has been unveiled in Argentina.

- A. **Tango D10S**
- B. Maradona C105
- C. Dieago D001
- D. Frozo D005

An airplane that will act as a flying museum in honor of the late soccer icon Diego Maradona has been unveiled in Argentina.

The Tango D10S, which has been financed by an Argentine fintech company, is to fly around his home country before eventually traveling to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup in November.

It will also visit Barcelona and Naples, where Maradona led Napoli to its only two Italian league titles in 1987 and 1990.

The plane features a picture of Maradona, who died of a heart attack in November 2020, kissing the World Cup trophy on the fuselage, while his face is also on the tail.

Now a flying museum in honour of Diego Maradona

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BUENOS AIRES

A flying museum in honor of soccer great Diego Maradona is set to take to the skies.

The "Tango D10S" plane was introduced on Wednesday night before it flies around Argentina for fans of Maradona to visit on the ground.

The plane's exterior is adorned with images of Maradona – who died in 2020 of a heart attack at the age of 60 after having brain surgery – including one where he wears the Argentina jersey and kisses the World Cup trophy he lifted in 1986.

The plane will also visit Barcelona and Naples, where Maradona led Napoli to its only two Italian league titles in 1987 and 1990. Qatar, which hosts the World Cup later



Flying high: Diego Maradona's daughters, Dalma and Yanina, pose during the presentation of the aircraft. • AP

this year, will be the aircraft's final stop in the tour.

England fans may not want to visit wherever it goes. Drawings on the wings make reference to the two goals Maradona scored in the quarterfinals against England in the 1986 World Cup – the controversial "Hand of God" goal followed by a

sublime individual effort waltzing through the England team.

Inside the plane, there are memorabilia items that belonged to Maradona.

"We cannot believe or understand this craziness," said Dalma Maradona, one of Maradona's daughters. "The love people have for him goes beyond anything you can imagine."

148. Consider the following statement regarding *My11Circle Women's IPL*.

1. *Supernovas won the Women's T20 Challenge 2022 with a four-run victory over Velocity in the title clash*
2. *It was the third title for Supernovas after they won it earlier in 2018 and 2019.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *West Indian all-rounder Deandra Dottin's impressive performance with both bat and ball powered Supernovas to the 2022 Women's T20*

Challenge title with a four-run win over Velocity in a thrilling final at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium

- **It was the third title for Harmanpreet Kaur-led Supernovas, who had earlier won the first two editions of the tournament in 2018 and 2019 before losing to Trailblazers in the final in 2020. The tournament was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

149. Consider the following statement regarding Sangita Kalanidhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 and match the following.

- 1. Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan - 2020**
- 2. Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam - 2021**
- 3. GJR Krishnan and his sister GJR Vijayalakshmi - 2022.**
- 4. All of the above is correct**

- **The Music Academy on Sunday announced Sangita Kalanidhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The physical festival could not be conducted in the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Supernovas shines the brightest

Velocity, despite Wolvaardt's effort, falls agonisingly short



Ruling the roost: Supernovas clinched a third title in four editions. •SPORTSPICS/IPL

T20 CHALLENGE

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
PUNE

This sprawling city may have hosted the country's first-ever Nationals in women's cricket nearly half-a-century ago, but it didn't seem too excited about the Women's T20 Challenge. Until Saturday night, that is.

An excellent crowd turned up at the MCA Stadium for the final. Supernovas won a memorable game by four runs.

It was the third title in four editions for Supernovas. If Velocity came so close, chasing 166, that was because of a stunning fight-back staged by Laura Wolvaardt (65 n.o., 40b, 5x4, 3x6) and Simran Bahadur (20 n.o., 10b, 3x4, 1x6), with

their unbroken stand of 44 for the ninth wicket.

When the duo came together, the match was all but over at 117 for eight with just 3.1 overs to go. After Simran hit Pooja Vastrakar for four fours, including three in succession, in the penultimate over which produced 17 runs, exactly as many were required in the final one.

Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, who had earlier broken Velocity's top-order, gave away only 12. The target had come down to six off the last ball, but Simran's ambitious swing only ended up in the bat flying out of her hands.

Ecclestone had taken two wickets in her first spell. One of her victims was Kiran Navgire, who had caught everyone's attention with her

stunning 69 off 34 balls in her first innings in the tournament on Thursday.

On this night, she could not score a single run off her first 12 balls. On the 13th, she stepped out, only to be bowled by Ecclestone.

The main feature of the Supernovas innings was some fabulous hitting from opener Deandra Dottin 62, 44b, 1x4, 4x6) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (43, 29b, 1x4, 3x6), two of the finest strokemakers in the women's game. Dottin and Harmanpreet had added 58 for the second wicket.

That was after Dottin and Priya Punia (28, 29b, 2x6) put on 73 for the first wicket. The West Indian was brilliant, of course, but she benefited from some poor catching.

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- **Noted vocalist and teacher Neyveli R. Santhanagopal an have been selected for the award for 2020, mridangam maestro Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam for 2021, and violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and his sister GJR Vijayalakshmi for 2022.**

Sangita Kalandhi awards announced

Music Academy to give away awards for three years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The Music Academy on Sunday announced Sangita Kalandhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The physical festival could not be conducted in the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The executive committee of the Music Academy has decided to give the Sangita Kalandhi and other awards for the two missed years along with the current year’s awards,” said N. Murali, President of the Academy.

Noted vocalist and teacher Neyveli R. Santhanagopal



Special recognition: (from left) Neyveli R. Santhanagopal has been selected for the award for 2020, Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam for 2021 and Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan and G.J.R. Vijayalakshmi for 2022. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lan has been selected for the award for 2020, mridangam maestro Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam for 2021 and violinists Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan and his sister G.J.R. Vijayalakshmi for 2022.

CM to inaugurate

Mr. Murali said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

had consented to be the chief guest and inaugurate the 96th annual conference and concerts of the Academy on December 15, 2022.

Nagaswaram player Kizhvelur G. Ganesan has been selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya award for 2020, vocalist and musicologist Ritha Rajan for 2021 and musicologist

gist Vainika R.S. Jayalakshmi for 2022.

The TTK award for 2020 goes to vocalist Thamarakad Govindan Namboothiri. Mridhangam and jalatarangam player Nemani Somayajulu will get the award for 2021 and kanjira artist A.V. Anand for 2022.

Musicologist award for

2022 goes to V. Premalatha.

The awardees belong to four southern States.

Mr. Murali said the dance festival will be held between January 3 and 9, 2023. The Nriyaya Kalandhi awardees are Rama Vaidhyathanan (2020), Narthaki Nataraj (2021) and Bragha Bessell (2022).

are guarantee and one seats ly.

Huge demand

The Congress that the list of will be released day as there is mand from a la of party leader

Speaking to sons on Sunday sident D.K. said the par ceived applic over 100 asp the State unit give its opini party high would decide.

“We only names. But w high command ic names,” he s

Rajya Sabha e

When asked if Leader of the Siddaramaiah mended name

- **Mr. Murali said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had consented to be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the 96th annual conference and concerts of the Academy on December 15, 2022.**
- **Nagaswaram player Kizhvelur G. Ganesan has been selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya award for 2020, vocalist and musicologist Ritha Rajan for 2021, and musicologist Vainika R.S. Jayalakshmi for 2022.**

150. Recently _____ has won the prestigious VASVIK (Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award for the year 2020 in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

- A. Anjali Pandey
- B. Dr A Gopalakrishnan
- C. Dr K Radhakrishnan
- D. Abhilasha Barak

Dr Gopalakrishnan Receives VASVIK Industrial Research Award

Posted On: 24 MAY 2022 5:37PM by PIB Thiruvananthapuram

Kochi: Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has won the prestigious VASVIK (Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award for the year 2020 in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1.51 lakh and citation, is in recognition of his significant contribution towards the research works related to fish genetics which is relevant for conserving many commercially important and endangered species. The VASVIK research award is presented to scientists and researchers who have excelled in various fields including agricultural sciences.

His research works include the Genetic Stock Identification (GSI), species inventory, taxonomy, breeding and seed production of threatened and commercially important species for mariculture which has helped in improving scientific knowledge on Indian fishery and the conservative measures. The award committee observed that Dr Gopalakrishnan’s genetic studies conducted and the technologies developed have served to produce molecular markers for many endangered fishes which is crucial for biodiversity conservation. Broodstock development techniques and mariculture technologies formulated and standardised by him have helped in the economic upliftment of the society by providing alternate livelihoods.

- **Dr. A Gopalakrishnan, Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has won the prestigious VASVIK**

*(Vividhlaxi Audyogik
Samshodhan Vikas Kendra)
Industrial Research Award
for the year 2020 in the
category of Agricultural
Sciences and Technology.*

- *The award, which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1.51 lakh and citation, is in recognition of his significant contribution towards the research works related to fish genetics which is relevant for conserving many commercially important and endangered species.*
- *The VASVIK research award is presented to scientists and researchers who have excelled in various fields including agricultural sciences.*

151. Recently _____ was conferred with the prestigious Honorary Award at the World's Children's Prize (WCP) 'Child Rights Hero' ceremony held in Sweden.

- A. Abhilasha Barak
- B. Anjali Pandey
- C. Dr. A Gopalakrishnan
- D. Ashok Dyalchand

- *City-based Ashok Dyalchand, who has been tirelessly campaigning against child marriages and for girls' rights in India for more than four decades, was conferred with the prestigious Honorary Award at the World's Children's Prize (WCP) 'Child Rights Hero' ceremony held in Sweden on May 23*
- *Dr. Dyalchand, a crusader for the rights of adolescent women through his Aurangabad-based Institute of Health Management Pachod (IHMP), was, along with Ghana's James Kofi Annan and Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai among the eight nominees for the prestigious WCP 'Child Rights Hero of the Decade' award given by the World's Children's Prize Foundation (WCPF).*

Narinder Batra resigned as the President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on May 25, 2022.

Narinder Batra is also the President of the International Hockey Federation.

Narinder Batra's decision to step down as IOA President means that his membership of International Olympic Committee will also end as the coveted position was linked to his IOA presidency.

Activist honoured

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

City-based Ashok Dyalchand, who has been tirelessly campaigning against child marriages and for girls' rights in India for more than four decades, was conferred with the prestigious Honorary Award at the World's Children's Prize (WCP) Child Rights Hero ceremony held in Sweden on May 23.

Dr. Dyalchand, a crusader for the rights of adolescent women through his Aurangabad-based Institute of Health Management Pachod, was, along with Ghana's James Kofi Annan and Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai among the eight nominees for the prestigious WCP Child Rights Hero of the Decade award given by the World's Children's Prize Foundation.

While Dr. Dyalchand and Mr. Annan were conferred with honorary awards, Ms. Yousafzai was voted as the WCP Child Rights Hero of the Decade.

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152. Recently in May, *All That Breathes*, directed by _____ has won the golden eye award for documentary films at the Cannes Film Festival.

- A. Pankaj Sharma
- B. Shaunak Sen**
- C. Mohammad Saud
- D. Nadeem Shehzad

- **All That Breathes**, directed by Shaunak Sen, wins the top prize for documentary films at the Cannes Film Festival.
- The documentary was India’s only entry to Cannes and has done the nation proud as it won the prestigious award.
- The award also includes a cash prize of 5,000 euros, which is approximately 4.16 lakhs in Indian rupees
- The documentary highlights the lives of siblings Mohammad Saud and Nadeem Shehzad, who devote their lives to rescuing and treating injured birds, especially the Black Kite.
- The jury was composed of Agnieszka Holland, Iryna Tsilyk, Pierre Deladonchamps, Alex Vicente, and Hicham Falah.
- The movie had previously won the grand jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival that was held earlier this year.

Shaunak’s *All That Breathes* grabs Cannes Golden Eye award

Film is about two brothers taking care of migratory birds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CANNES

Shaunak Sen’s “All That Breathes”, an audience favourite here from the outset, won the 2022 *L’Oeil d’Or* (Golden Eye) for the best documentary at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, making it two in succession for India.

“All That Breathes” is about two Delhi brothers Nadeem and Saud who, amid the city’s worsening air and deteriorating social fabric, devote their lives to saving migratory black kites that are at the mercy of mankind’s unthinking ways. The film was screened as part of the festival’s Special Screenings line-up.

The award was announced by a jury chaired by veteran Polish filmmaker Agnieszka Holland.

The citation read: “The 2022 *L’Oeil d’Or* goes to a film that, in a world of destruction, reminds us that ev-



Shaunak Sen. •REUTERS

ery life matters, and every small action matters. You can grab your camera, you can save a bird, you can hunt for some moments of stealing beauty, it matters.” The citation described All That Breathes as “an inspirational journey in observation of three Don Quijotes who may not save the whole world but do save their world.” Sen’s win is India’s second in Cannes in two years. In 2021, Payal Kapadia’s “A Night of Knowing Nothing”, which played in the parallel Se-

main de la Critique (Cannes Critics’ Week) took home the *L’Oeil d’Or*. “All That Breathes” was competing with ace Chilean documentarian Patricio Guzman’s “My Imaginary Country”, Ethan Coen’s “Jerry Lee Lewis: Trouble in Mind” and Sergei Loznitsa’s “The Natural History of Destruction”, among other films.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday congratulated filmmaker Shaunak Sen for winning the 2022 *L’Oeil d’Or* (Golden Eye) for the best documentary at the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

“Congratulations to Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen for the conferment of ‘*L’Oeil d’Or*’ award for his documentary ‘*All That Breathes*’ at Cannes Film Festival. I am sure, this will inspire other Indian documentary makers to make it big on the world stage,” he tweeted.

Science Technology And Environment

153. Consider the following statement regarding **Qutub Minar** which is making in news recently. which of the following statement is incorrect

1. **The Qutub Minar complexes are monuments and buildings from the Mughal Dynasty at Mehrauli in Delhi.**
2. it is named after the religious figure Sufi Saint Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki,
3. Qutb-ud-din Aibak began the work on the construction of Qutub Minar.
4. It was completed by his successor Iltutmish.

- **The Qutub Minar complex is not a place of worship when it was first notified as a protected monument in 1914 and its character cannot be changed now, the Archaeological Survey of India submitted in a Delhi court.**
- **The original suit, which claimed that 27 temples were demolished to build the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque at the Qutub Minar complex, was dismissed last year under the provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.**
- **The Qutub Minar complexes are monuments and buildings from the Delhi Sultanate at Mehrauli in Delhi. Construction of the Qutub Minar "victory tower" in the complex, named after the religious figure Sufi Saint Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, was begun by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who later became the first Sultan of Delhi of the Mamluk dynasty.**
- **It was continued by his successor Iltutmish and finally completed much later by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, a Sultan of Delhi from the Tughlaq dynasty (1320-1412) in 1368 AD.**
- **The iron pillar of Delhi was constructed by Chandragupta II (reigned c. 375–415 CE). It is famous for the rust-resistant composition of the metals used in its construction.**

Qutub Minar not a place of worship: ASI

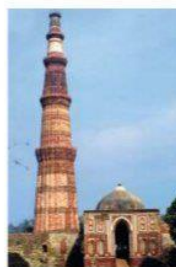
It opposes appeal against dismissal of civil suit seeking 'restoration' of 27 temples

ABHINAV LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

The Qutub Minar complex is not a place of worship and its character cannot be changed now, the Archaeological Survey of India submitted in a Delhi court on Tuesday while opposing a plea challenging the dismissal of a civil suit seeking "restoration" of Hindu and Jain temples on the premises.

The original suit, which claimed that 27 temples were demolished to build the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque at the Qutub Minar complex, was dismissed last year under the provisions of Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

Court reserves order
Additional District Judge (ADJ) Nikhil Chopra has reserved the order on the plea for June 9.



The Qutub Minar complex in Delhi • FILE PHOTO

Arguing before the ADJ at a Saket court, petitioner Hari Shankar Jain said the dismissal of the original suit based on the 1991 Act was wrong as the Qutub Minar complex comes under the purview of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Re-

mains (AMASR) Act of 1958. The ASI, however, submitted that the Qutub Minar complex was not a place of worship when it was first notified as a protected monument in 1914.

Advocate S. Gupta, appearing for the ASI, explained that the character of a monument is decided on the date when it comes under protection. Following this, objections from the public are invited for two months. This is how several places where religious practices were being conducted came to be protected under the AMASR Act, the ASI explained, adding that the petitioner cannot at this juncture seek to change the character of the monument.

While hearing the arguments, ADJ Chopra noted that the central question appears to revolve around the

character of the monument. Mr. Jain cited the Ayodhya Ram Jannabhoomi judgment to argue that the character of the area remained that of a temple as the structure was built by allegedly demolishing Hindu and Jain temples.

In its submissions, the ASI said remains of 27 temples were procured for the mosque by spending 2,00,000 Deliwals (coins) on each. It added that nowhere in the records does it mention that these remains were retrieved by demolishing temples.

The court said that the petitioner is seeking to turn the monument into a place of worship based on a claim that a temple complex existed there 800 years ago. "Deity has survived without worship for 800 years, why not let it survive like that?" the court said on a lighter note.

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154. Recently The _____ edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise ‘Bongosagar’ commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on 24 May 22

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

The third edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise ‘Bongosagar’ commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on 24 May 22.

The Harbour Phase of exercise is scheduled from 24-25 May which will be followed by a Sea Phase in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 26-27 May.

Exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

Indian Naval Ships Kora, an indigenously built Guided Missile Corvette, and Sumedha, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel are participating in the Exercise. Bangladesh Navy is being represented by BNS Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both Guided Missile Frigates

154. Recently _____ a state-of-the-art Supercomputer was inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

- A. PARAM PORUL
- B. PARAM SHAKTI
- C. PARAM VEDA
- D. PARAM VISHWAS

PARAM PORUL Supercomputer inaugurated at NIT, Tiruchirappalli

PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of National Supercomputing Mission to Facilitate Computational Research

Posted On: 25 MAY 2022 1:11PM by PIB Delhi

PARAM PORUL, a state-of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), was inaugurated on May 25, 2022 by Shri Bhaskar Bhat, Chairperson Board of Governors, Tiruchirappalli in gracious presence of Prof. G. Aghila, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli; Shri E Magesh, Director General, C-DAC, Shri Naveen Kumar, NSM- HPC Division, MeitY; Shri S A Kumar, Advisor, NSM, MeitY, Dr. Hemant Darbari, Mission Director- NSM, Dr Namrata Pathak, DST; Dr. Nagaboopathy Mohan, DST, Shri Sanjay Wandhekar, Senior Director, C-DAC, along with senior officials from MeitY, DST, NIT Tiruchirappalli and C-DAC. PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the NSM, where in majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within the country, along with an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NIT Tiruchirappalli and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM. The system is equipped with a mix of CPU nodes, GPU nodes, High Memory nodes, High throughput storage and high performance Infiniband interconnect to cater the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications. PARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost. Multiple applications from various scientific domains such as Weather and Climate, Bioinformatics, Computational Chemistry, Molecular Dynamics, Material Sciences, Computational Fluid Dynamics etc. has been installed on the system for the benefit of researchers. This high end computing system will be a great value addition for the research community.

- **PARAM PORUL, a state of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli dedicated to the nation under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information**

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Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), was inaugurated

- *A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NIT Tiruchirappalli and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM.*
- *ARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reduce the operational cost.*
- *Under NSM, to date 15 supercomputers have been installed across the nation with compute capacity of 24 petaflops. All these supercomputers have been manufactured in India and operate with an indigenously developed software stack.*

155. Consider the following statement regarding the *Global Air Powers Ranking of 2022* by the *World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)*.

- 1. The Indian *Air Force* has emerged as the third strongest *Air Force* in the world after America and Russia.**
- 2. The highest attainable *TvR* score is 242.9 held by the *United States Air Force (USAF)* followed by Russia, whose *TvR* score stands at 114.2, followed by the *Indian Air Force* with a *TvR* score of 69.4.**
- 3. According to the report, the *Indian Air Force (IAF)* now has 1,645 active aircraft in its inventory.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **According to the *Global Air Powers Ranking of 2022* by the *World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)*, the *Indian Air Force* has emerged as the third strongest *Air Force* in the world after America and Russia.**
- **The *Indian Air Force* has not only overtaken the *Chinese Air Force* but also the *Japan Air Self-Defense Force*, the *Israeli Air Force*, and the *French Air and Space Force* in terms of strength, as per the report.**
- **Presently, the *WDMMA* tracks 98 countries, covering 124 air services and following a total of 47,840 aircraft.**
- **The formula generates the '*TrueValueRating*' (*TvR*), which helps *WDMMA* separate powers based on their overall strength**

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- *The highest attainable TvR score is 242.9 held by the United States Air Force (USAF) followed by Russia, whose TvR score stands at 114.2, followed by the Indian Air Force with a TvR score of 69.4.*
- *According to the report, the Indian Air Force (IAF) now has 1,645 active aircraft in its inventory.*



155. Recently _____ and Harvard University researchers have developed a machine-learning algorithm named 'CombSGPO' (Combined Security Game Policy Optimization) that can help in saving wildlife from poaching.

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Mumbai

- *Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, and Harvard University researchers have developed a machine-learning algorithm named 'CombSGPO' (Combined Security Game Policy Optimization) that can help in saving wildlife from poaching.*
- *According to officials, the researchers found that the combined and coordinated use of forest rangers and drones was a good way to protect wildlife from poaching. As the resources (rangers and drones) are limited, the researchers developed this algorithm which provides a good strategy to protect wildlife with the resources available.*
- *This developed algorithm utilizes a Game Theory-based model created by the researchers. Game theory is a theoretical framework for conceiving social situations among competing players.*

156. Recently _____ announced to redevelop Indian heritage palace for over £700 million.

- A. Tata Group

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- B. Adani Group
- C. Reliance Ltd
- D. Hinduja Group**

- **After successfully redeveloping the iconic Old War Office (OWO) building in the United Kingdom, the Hinduja Group is in the process of undertaking similar projects in India and other parts of the world.**
- **Two more heritage properties for £700 million to £1 billion each in London and India respectively would be announced over the next 2-3 months.**
- **The Hinduja group has created a new business vertical to undertake similar development projects in different parts of the world**

Hinduja group set to redevelop heritage palace in India for over £700 million

FORUM GANDHI

Mumbai, May 25

After successfully redeveloping the iconic Old War Office building in the United Kingdom, the Hinduja Group is in the process of undertaking similar projects in India and other parts of the world.

Gopichand P Hinduja, Co-Chairman of the Hinduja Group, told *BusinessLine* that two more heritage properties for £700 million to £1 billion each in London and India, respectively, will be announced over the next 2-3 months.

"The first announcement that you will hear next week is from London. It's a very unique one. More unique than the one we're working on (Old War Office). The property in India will take 2-3 months," Hinduja said. "Those are all historical properties, we don't want to go in



Gopichand P Hinduja, Co-Chairman, Hinduja Group

for anything modern... we prefer historical and heritage. We want to leave a legacy behind. Each of the projects that we negotiate is above 700 million to a billion pound," he added.

The Hinduja group has created a new business vertical to undertake similar development projects in different parts of the world.

Eight years after acquiring UK's iconic Old War Office (OWO) building that was once

occupied by the country's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the Hinduja Group is set to launch it this year around Diwali. The OWO has now been redeveloped into a 120-room luxury hotel and 85 branded residences by the Hinduja group.

Situated at one of London's most historically important and powerful addresses, the OWO, originally completed in 1906 and designed by British architect William Young, is steeped in history.

Formerly the site of the original Palace of Whitehall, home to Henry VIII and other monarchs, the building has witnessed world-shaping events whilst influential political and military leaders including Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George held office.

Interview p3

- **Eight years after acquiring the U.K.'s iconic OWO building, which was once occupied by the country's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the Hinduja Group is set to unveil it this year around Deepavali.**
- **Situated at one of London's most historically important addresses, the Old War Office, originally completed in 1906 and designed by British architect William Young, is steeped in history.**

157. Consider the following statement regarding **Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project**.

1. **'Nirdeshak**, the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) projects being built by GRSE in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai.
2. **The first of class ship 'Sandhayak'** was launched on 05 Dec 21 at GRSE, Kolkata.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- ***Nirdeshak, the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) projects being built by GRSE in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for the Indian Navy was launched on 26 May 22 at Kattupalli, Chennai.***

LAUNCH OF 'NIRDESHAK' (YARD 3026) SECOND VESSEL OF SURVEY VESSEL (LARGE) PROJECT

Posted On: 26 MAY 2022 4:45PM by PIB Delhi

'Nirdeshak', the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project being built by GRSE in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for Indian Navy was launched on 26 May 22 at Kattupalli, Chennai. She made her first contact with water of Bay of Bengal at 1038 hrs at the Launch Ceremony graced by the *Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command*. In keeping with the Naval maritime tradition, *Smt Sarbani Dasgupta*, launched the ship to the chanting of invocation from Atharva Veda. The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service in Dec 2014. Part construction of three out of four ships of SVL is being undertaken at L&T, Kattupalli as part of collaborative approach between GRSE and L&T shipbuilding. This model of Public Private Partnership shall be harbinger of future successful collaboration for Warship construction in India.

The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on 30 Oct 18. The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 05 Dec 21 at GRSE, Kolkata.

The SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data. The Survey Vessel (Large) ships have a deep displacement of about 3400 tons and a complement of 235 personnel. The ship is designed to operate at cruise speed of 14 knots and maximum speed of 18 knots. Bow & Stern Thrusters have been catered for better manoeuvring at low speeds required during shallow water survey operations. The hull of these ships is made from indigenously developed DMR 249-A steel manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited.

With a capability to carry four Survey Motor Boats and an integral helicopter, the primary role of the ships would be to undertake full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of Ports and navigational channels. The ships would also be deployed for collecting oceanographic and geophysical data for defence as well as civil applications. In their secondary role, the ships are capable of providing limited defence, besides serving as Hospital ships during emergencies.

- ***The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service in Dec 2014.***
- ***Part construction of three out of four ships of SVL is being undertaken at L&T, Kattupalli as part of a collaborative approach between GRSE and L&T shipbuilding***
- ***The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on 30 Oct 18. The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 05 Dec 21 at GRSE, Kolkata.***
- ***The SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.***
- ***GRSE has made substantial progress and aims to deliver Sandhayak, the first ship of SVL by Jan 2023. The delivery of the second ship Nirdeshak is likely by Apr 2023.***

158. Recently Seen In news true random number generator (TRNG) was developed by _____ .

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IISc
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Madras

- ***A team at the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering (ECE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a true random number generator (TRNG).***
- ***Cryptographic keys are typically generated in computers using pseudorandom number generators, which rely on mathematical formulae or pre-programmed tables to produce numbers that appear random but are not. In contrast, a TRNG extracts random numbers from inherently random physical processes, making it more secure.***

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- *In IISc’s TRNG device, random numbers are generated using the random motion of electrons.*
- *It consists of an artificial electron trap constructed by stacking atomically-thin layers of materials like black phosphorus and graphene.*

would also be responsible. rious illness and he was a bond of ₹50,000. er the south Arabian Sea and

IISc develops device to improve data security

‘This will provide protection for digital data like credit card details, passwords’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A team at the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering (ECE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a true random number generator (TRNG), which, the team says, can improve data encryption and provide improved security for sensitive digital data such as credit card details, passwords and other personal information. The study describing the device has been published in the journal *ACS Nano*.

“Almost everything we do on the internet is encrypted for security. The strength of this encryption depends on the quality of random number generation,” explained Nithin Abraham, a PhD student who is a part of a team led by Kausik Majumdar, Associate Professor at ECE, which has developed the



Internet operations can be made more secure with the new technology: IISc team.

device. Encrypted information can be decoded only by authorised users who have access to a cryptographic ‘key’. But the key needs to be unpredictable and, therefore, randomly generated to resist hacking. Cryptographic keys are typically generated in computers using pseudorandom number generators, which rely on mathematical formulae or pre-programmed tables to pro-

duce numbers that appear random but are not. In contrast, a TRNG extracts random numbers from inherently random physical processes, making it more secure, the IISc release explained.

In IISc’s TRNG device, random numbers are generated using the random motion of electrons. “It consists of an artificial electron trap constructed by stacking atomically-thin layers of materials like black phosphorus and graphene. The current measured from the device increases when an electron is trapped, and decreases when it is released. Since electrons move in and out of the trap in a random manner, the measured current also changes randomly. The timing of this change determines the generated random number,” it added.

“You cannot predict ex-

actly at what time the electron is going to enter the trap. So, there is an inherent randomness that is embedded in this process,” explained Prof. Majumdar.

The performance of the device on the standard tests for cryptographic applications designed by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has exceeded their expectations. “Min-entropy is a parameter used to measure the performance of TRNGs. Its value ranges from 0 (completely predictable) to 1 (completely random). The device from Majumdar’s lab showed a record-high min-entropy of 0.98, a significant improvement over previously reported values, which were around 0.89,” the release said, adding that the team’s electronic TRNG is also more compact than its clunkier counterparts.

159. Recently In May, A new species of Monkey which has been named Sela macaque (Macaca selai) was founded which of the following state?

- A. Assam
- B. Sikkim
- C. Arunachal Pradesh**
- D. Mizoram

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New Arunachal monkey named after mountain pass

Sela macaque was identified and analysed by a team from the ZSI and the University of Calcutta

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A new species of old world monkey recorded from Arunachal Pradesh has been named after a strategic mountain pass at 13,700 ft above sea level.

Sela macaque (*Macaca selai*), the new-to-science primate was identified and analysed by a team of experts from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta. Their study has been published in the latest edition of *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*.

Phylogenetics relate to the evolutionary development and

diversification of a species or group of organisms.

The phylogenetic analysis revealed that the Sela macaque was geographically separated from the Arunachal macaque (*Macaca munzala*) of Tawang district by Sela. This mountain pass acted as a barrier by restricting the migration of individuals of these two species for approximately two million years, the study said.

Sela is situated between Dirang and Tawang towns in western Arunachal Pradesh.

"We found the new macaque species in western and central Arunachal Pradesh while exploring the



Sela macaque

Arunachal macaque's wild population for genetic insights. It was found to be genetically different from the other species of monkeys reported from this region," ZSI's Mukesh

Thakur, one of the authors of the study said.

Major cause for crop loss

The study describes the Sela macaque as genetically closer to the Arunachal macaque. The two have some similar physical characteristics such as heavy-build shape and long dorsal body hair.

The zoologists identified some distinct morphological traits to differentiate the two species. While the Sela macaque has a pale face and brown coat, the Arunachal macaque has a dark face and dark brown coat.

"According to the villagers, the Sela macaque

is a major cause of crop loss in the West Kameng district of the State," Mr. Thakur said.

The study says the Sela macaque has a tail longer than the Tibetan macaque, Assamese macaque, Arunachal macaque and the white-cheeked macaque but shorter than the bonnet macaque and toque macaque. Sela macaque belongs to the *sinica* species-group of

11/18 members of this through attributes such as brown collar hair and muzzle, and the absence of chin whiskers, the study says.

- **The new species of Monkey has been named Sela macaque (Macaca selai). It belongs to the Sinica species group of Macaque.**
- **It has been identified by a team of experts from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta.**
- **This research has been published in the latest edition of Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution.**
- **Sela pass is situated between the Dirang and Tawang towns of Arunachal Pradesh. It has an elevation of 4170 m and connects Tawang to Dirang and Guwahati.**

160. Consider the following statement regarding INS Gomati.

1. **INS Gomati was decommissioned on 28 May 2022 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.**
2. **It was commissioned on 16 April 1988 at Mazagon Dock Limited.**
3. **It is the third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- **INS Gomati was decommissioned on 28 May 2022 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.**
- **The ship was decommissioned under the command of Captain Sudip Malik.**
- **The name of INS Gomati is derived from the river Gomati.**
- **It was commissioned on 16 April 1988 at Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay by the then Defense Minister Shri KC Pant.**
- **It is the third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates.**
- **It was the oldest warrior of the Western Fleet at the time of decommissioning.**
- **During the service, it took part in Operations Cactus, Parakram, and Indradhanush.**
- **It was twice awarded Unit Citation, once in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20.**

161. Recently in May Supercomputer **PARAM ANANTA with a capability of 838 teraflops was installed at**

- A. IIT Ropar**
- B. IIT Gandhinagar**
- C. IIT Kanpur**
- D. IIT Delhi**

PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer commissioned at IIT, Gandhinagar

Supercomputer established under Phase 2 of National Supercomputing Mission to Facilitate Computational Research

Posted On: 30 MAY 2022 6:03PM by PIB Delhi

PARAM ANANTA, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), was commissioned on May 30, 2022 by Smt. Sunita Verma, Group Coordinator & Scientist 'G', MeitY in gracious presence of Prof. Amit Prashant, officiating Director, IIT Gandhinagar; Col. A.K Nath (Retd.), Executive Director, C-DAC, Pune; Shri Naveen Kumar, NSM- HPC Division, MeitY; Dr. Hemant Darbari, Mission Director- NSM, Dr Namrata Pathak, Associate Head / Scientist F, DST; Shri Sanjay Wandhekar, Senior Director, C-DAC, Shri Prashant Dinde, Associate Director, CDAC, Shri B S V Ramesh, Joint Director, CDAC along with senior officials from MeitY, DST, IIT Gandhinagar and C-DAC. PARAM ANANTA supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the NSM, where in majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within the country, along with an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IIT Gandhinagar and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM. The system is equipped with a mix of CPU nodes, GPU nodes, High Memory nodes, High throughput storage and high performance Infiniband interconnect to cater the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications.

PARAM ANANTA system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost. Multiple applications from various scientific domains such as Weather and Climate, Bioinformatics, Computational Chemistry, Molecular Dynamics, Material Sciences, Computational Fluid Dynamics etc. have been installed on the system for the benefit of researchers. This high end computing system will be a great value addition for the research community.

- **Under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), PARAM ANANTA, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar, has been dedicated to the nation.**
- **It is a collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).**
- **The PARAM ANANTA supercomputing facility has been constructed under Phase 2 of the NSM, with the majority of the components used to build this system being made and installed in India.**
- **It is coupled with an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC.**
- **On October 12, 2020, IIT Gandhinagar and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed an MoU to develop this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM.**

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- The PARAM ANANTA system uses Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to achieve excellent power efficiency while lowering operational costs.
- National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): It was launched in 2015. Under NSM, 15 supercomputers with a computing capacity of 24 petaflops will be installed across India.
- In 2019, the first Supercomputer “PARAM Shivay” was designed and built under NSM by C-DAC at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Varanasi.

162. Recently in May MoD signed over _____ contract with BDL for procurement of ASTRA Mk I Beyond Visual Range Air to Air Missile System & Associated Equipment for Indian Air Force & Indian Navy.
- A. Rs 2,571 crore
 - B. Rs 2,700 crore
 - C. Rs 2,971 crore
 - D. Rs 2,891 crore

- In a major boost to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the Ministry of Defence, on May 31, 2022, signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of ASTRA MK-I Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air to Air Missile (AAM) and associated equipment for the Indian Air Force & Indian Navy at Rs

Bharat Dynamics bags ₹2,971-cr deal to make air-to-air missiles

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 31

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of indigenously built beyond visual range air-to-air missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Air Force and the at a cost of ₹2,971 crore.

The ASTRA MK-I air-to-air missile, which was designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is economically viable and technologically superior to many such imported missile systems, said the Defence Ministry.

Step towards self reliance

The missile is fully integrated onto the Su-30 MK-I fighter aircraft. Subsequently, it will be integrated with other fighter aircraft in a phased manner, including the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas), the ministry said. The Indian Navy will integrate



Officials of the Ministry of Defence and Bharat Dynamics at the signing of the contract for the procurement of the ASTRA MK-I, in New Delhi

the missile on the MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

The supply of ASTRA MK-I missile to the two forces under the buy (Indian-IDDMM) category is a significant step in the direction of atmanirbhar Bharat since the technology to manufacture missile of this class was not available with the domestic manufacturers, said the Defence Ministry.

The DRDO, said the Ministry, developed it to meet the IAF requirements for beyond visual range as well as close combat engagement, reducing the dependency on foreign sources.

"Air-to-air missile with BVR capability provides stand-off ranges to own fighter aircraft which can neutralise the adversary aircraft without exposing itself to adversary air defence measures," the ministry explained.

The transfer of technology from the DRDO to the BDL for production of the missile and all associated systems has been completed.

The production at BDL is in progress. This project will create opportunities for several MSMEs in aerospace technology for a period of at least 25 years.

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2,971 crore under Buy (Indian-IDD) category.

- **The technology to manufacture missiles of this class indigenously was not available. ASTRA MK-I BVR AAM has been Indigenously Designed & Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- **ASTRA MK-I missile and all associated systems for its launch, ground handling & testing have been developed by DRDO in coordination with the IAF.**

163. Recently in May **US-built supercomputer** titled _____ **dethroned Japan's 'Fugaku' (developed by the Riken Institute and Fujitsu), as the world's fastest machine with 1.1 exaflops of performance**

- A. **Frontier**
- B. **Vogue**
- C. **Aguyua**
- D. **Calida**

- **US-built supercomputer titled 'Frontier' on Monday dethroned Japan's 'Fugaku' (developed by the Riken Institute and Fujitsu), as the world's fastest machine with 1.1 exaflops of performance**

US-built Frontier now World's Fastest Supercomputer

US-built supercomputer titled Frontier on Monday dethroned Japan's Fugaku (developed by the Riken Institute and Fujitsu), as the world's fastest machine with 1.1 exaflops of performance on the 59th TOP500 list published by an international conference of computer experts. The Frontier supercomputer at the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is the first to achieve an unprecedented level of computing performance known as exascale, a threshold of a quintillion calculations per



second. Frontier features a theoretical peak performance of 2 exaflops, or two quintillion calculations per second, making it 10 times more powerful than ORNL's Summit system. Frontier leverages ORNL's extensive expertise in accelerated computing and will enable scientists to develop critically needed technologies for the country's energy, economic and national security, helping researchers address problems of national importance that were impossible to solve just five years ago. IANS

- **The Frontier supercomputer at the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory is the first to achieve an unprecedented level of computing performance known as exascale, a threshold of a quintillion calculations per second.**
- **Frontier, an HPE Cray EX supercomputer, also claimed the number one spot on the Green500 list.**

164. Recently in May **India finalized the release of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in _____ district of Madhya Pradesh.**

- A. Bhopal
- B. Indore
- C. Jabalpur
- D. Sheopur

- **India will release cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, possibly by the end of this year, officials said, as the government has finalized deals to get the planet's fastest animals that became extinct in the country in the middle of last century.**

- **This would initiate India's ambitious plan of transcontinental relocation of cheetahs. To begin with, there will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and eight from Namibia**

- **The project to translocate cheetahs from Africa to India is a long-term, one-time project being implemented by the environment ministry with the help of the Wildlife Institute of India to reintroduce the cheetah into the wild, which became extinct in India in the 1950s.**

- **The Supreme Court had appointed an expert panel, which approved Kuno Palpur as the possible location for cheetah relocation. In the past six months, the Madhya Pradesh forest department has prepared a 10 sq km enclosure with round-the-clock surveillance for the reintroduction of cheetahs.**

Govt finalises deals for cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia

Shruti Tomar

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BHOPAL: India will release cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, possibly by the end of this year, officials said, as the government has finalised deals to get the planet's fastest animals that became extinct in the country in the middle of last century.

The "finer details" of the deals were worked out during an April visit by environment ministry officials to Namibia and South Africa, and the agreements are being sent for political and diplomatic approvals, a central government official said, seeking anonymity.

This would initiate India's ambitious plan of transcontinental relocation of cheetahs. To begin with, there will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and eight from Namibia. More would follow in subsequent years.

Namibia is "positively" working on the agreement, according to Romeo Mayundu, spokesperson of the Namibian environment ministry. The agreement was heading in the right direc-



To begin with, there will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and 8 from Namibia. GETTY/IMAGES

tion in South Africa, said Albi Modise, spokesperson of South African environment and fisheries ministry.

There were some disagreements between India and Namibia on a contentious proposal of Namibia seeking India's help in allowing trade of its wildlife at the meeting of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) held in March this year, the international regulatory body, another official said, declining to be named.

India was not happy with the wildlife utilisation terms in the agreement and suggested conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity instead, the official

said. "Namibia agreed to India's proposal," he added.

Explaining the difference, Madhya Pradesh principal chief conservator of forest JS Chauhan said, as per CITES, sustainable use of biodiversity means to contribute to tangible benefits for local people, and ensures that no species entering into international trade was threatened with extinction.

"It basically stops unsustainable exploitation of wildlife," Chauhan said.

The insistence of Namibia to seek sustainable wildlife utilization in the agreement had stalled the project for some time. Namibia was keen in India's support as it wants export of 22 elephants to the United Arab Emirates. The CITES had put the proposal on hold and wanted assurance that it will not impact elephant conservation.

In the agreement that will be signed between South Africa and India, the two governments talked about cooperation on conservation of the cheetah for improved ecosystem services, community livelihood options, transfer of technology and science, said an officer of the Madhya Pradesh forest department.