

National /State News

1. Recently in June _____ state government has announced caste-based Census will be carried out in state and has approved _____ amount for its implementation .
- A. Jharkhand , Rs 100 Cr
 - B. Bihar , Rs 500 Cr**
 - C. Rajasthan , Rs 300 Cr
 - D. Uttar Pradesh , Rs 200 Cr
 - E. None of these

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has announced that caste-based counting will be carried out in Bihar.

He chaired an all-party meeting on caste census. The meeting was attended by all parties which have representation in Bihar legislature.

Consensus was reached in the meeting and unanimous decision was taken to start caste-based counting.

CM Nitish Kumar said the state government will bear the cost of the caste census exercise.

Caste-based census would be a time-bound exercise. Bihar legislature has earlier passed resolutions twice for caste-based census.

The first decadal census was carried out in 1881; it included data on caste. 1931 Socio Economic and Caste Census was the last caste census data that was made public

₹500 crore allocated for caste survey

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA**

The Bihar Cabinet on Thursday gave its nod for a headcount of all castes in the State, allocating a budgetary outlay of ₹500 crore for the mammoth exercise and setting deadline of February 23 next for completion of the survey.

Talking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Chief Secretary Amir Subhani said work will begin as soon as the requisite notification was issued by the general administration department.

“The general administration department shall be the nodal authority for the survey of castes. The notification shall be issued at the earliest,” Mr. Subhani said at a press conference.

The State government has embarked on the exercise in the wake of the Centre expressing its inability to undertake headcount of castes other than the SCs and STs as part of the Dalits.

Caste-based census to be held in Bihar

**AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA**

A multi-party meeting held in Bihar on Wednesday unanimously decided to start the caste-based census very soon.

All parties which have representation in the legislature attended the meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Three parties – the Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) led by Mukesh Sahani, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) led by Chirag Paswan and his estranged uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras-led Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party – were not invited for the meeting as they have no representation in the legislature.

“It was unanimously decided to conduct caste-based census and it will be done very soon after the proposal was placed in the Cabinet. Proper training of those involved in such a mega exercise too will be given,” Mr. Kumar told presspersons. The Chief Minister said it would be a “time-bound exercise and each and every detail of caste, sub-castes, community and religion will be taken care of for the development of all people”. He said the “census report will be published so that no one is left out and media too will be briefed about it from time to time”.

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2. Consider the following statement regarding **National AI Portal**.

- National AI Portal Launched in 2020, it is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies)**
- The second-year anniversary of National AI Portal was celebrated on 30th May, 2022.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

National AI Portal (INDIAai.gov.in) celebrates its second anniversary

Booklet 'AI for Everyone' Released

Fireside Chat held on the topic 'How do we ensure that India's AI adoption benefits the bottom of the pyramid'

Posted On: 30 MAY 2022 6:23PM by PIB Delhi

The second-year anniversary of 'National AI Portal (<https://indiaai.gov.in>)' is celebrated on May 30, 2022. The National AI Portal is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM. The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem in the country to drive excellence and leadership in knowledge creation to develop an AI-ready robust workforce for the future and use AI to foster economic growth.

The portal was launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Electronics and IT and Communications on May 30, 2020. Since its inauguration, the portal has been visited by more than 4.5 lakh users with 1.2 million page views. The portal currently has an impressive repository of 1151 articles on AI, 701 news stories, 98 reports, 95 case studies and 213 videos. It also has one of the best databases on India's AI ecosystem featuring details of 121 government initiatives and 281 startups.

Over the past two years, the portal has played a crucial role in evangelising and nurturing the AI ecosystem through numerous impactful initiatives such as the lab2market, Women in AI Roundtable, AI patent report, Responsible AI handbook for startups, Responsible AI Startups survey, podcasts, and the AI Standards.

One of the main focuses of INDIAai's upcoming efforts is on AI Literacy. INDIAai released a book on the basics of AI titled 'AI for Everyone'. The booklet aims to provide free and open AI literacy to the community of young minds and new learners to enable them in their aspirations beyond the digital divide.

The anniversary event covered INDIAai's past year's achievements and plans for the coming year. The virtual event featured a fireside chat between Ms Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM and Shri Abhishek Singh, President and CEO, National eGovernance Division (NeGD).

The second-year anniversary of National AI Portal was celebrated on 30th May, 2022.

National AI Portal Launched in 2020, it is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies).

The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem in the country to drive excellence and leadership in knowledge creation to develop an AI-ready robust workforce for the future and use AI to foster economic growth.

It describes the action of machines accomplishing tasks that have historically required human intelligence.

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3. Consider the following statement regarding **PM-KISAN**.

1. Under the scheme, eligible landowning farmer families get a financial support of Rs 6,000 per year, which is paid in three installments of Rs 2,000.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 11th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi disbursing over Rs 20,000 crore to more than 10 crore farmers' families.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today virtually interacted with beneficiaries of different Government schemes at the event to mark the eighth anniversary of the BJP govt at the Centre. **The event was held at Ridge Maidan in Shimla.**
- The Prime Minister also released the 11th instalment of financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. This will enable the transfer of an amount of around ₹21,000 crore to more than 10 crore beneficiary farmer families. On this occasion.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Centre-sponsored scheme that provides income support to all landholding farmer families in the country to help them meet their agricultural, financial as well as home needs. Under the scheme, eligible landowning farmer families get a financial support of Rs 6,000 per year, which is paid in three installments of Rs 2,000.

IN BRIEF

PM releases ₹21,000 cr in 11th instalment of PM-KISAN



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted virtually with beneficiaries of various Central schemes and released ₹21,000 crore as the 11th instalment of the Kisan Samman Nidhi after arriving in Shimla for a rally to mark the eighth anniversary of his government. Sama Devi from Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur told the prime minister that she got ₹1 lakh for building a 'pucca' house under the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) and that she got ₹6,000 in three instalments in a

year under the Kisan Samman Nidhi.

PTI

4. Consider the following statement regarding proposed **amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021**.

1. It proposes to create government-appointed appeal committees. It will be empowered to veto content-moderation decisions taken by social media intermediaries.

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2. The draft proposes to create a Grievance Appellate Committee. It will consist of a Chairperson and other members.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued a draft of amendments to the IT Rules, 2021.

It proposes to create government-appointed appeal committees. It will be empowered to veto content-moderation decisions taken by social media intermediaries.

The draft proposes to create a Grievance Appellate Committee. It will consist of a Chairperson and other members.

Any user who is not satisfied with the content moderation decision taken by social media intermediaries can appeal against the decision before the government-appointed appeal committees.

It also recommends giving additional responsibilities to grievance officers appointed by social media companies.

It has also proposed a change in the grievance redressal mechanism. Social media intermediaries will have to address grievances regarding content removal from platforms within 72 hours.

5. Consider the following statement regarding ‘Bhavishya’ software.

1. Bhavishya is an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System implemented by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

2. Digi Locker is flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under the Digital India programme. It is the national Digital Locker System.

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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Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that at the behest of the Prime Minister, the Department also started a portal entitled “Anubhav” to show-case the experiences in Government of retiring officials which has now become a huge resource base for us. The Department not only introduced the concept of Pension Adalats but has leveraged technology to hold digital Adalats through video-conferencing. He informed that since 2017, some 22,494 pensioners’ grievances have been taken up and 16,061 matters resolved on the spot in Pension Adalats. The Minister said, the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has ensured end-to-end digitization of the Pension payment process by making BHAVISHYA software mandatory for all the Ministries to process their pension cases. He stated that this software has laid out dead-lines for every stakeholder to complete the Pension processing so that pension is started on time.

- **The Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has ensured end-to-end digitization of the Pension payment process by making BHAVISHYA software mandatory for all the Ministries to process their pension cases.**
 - **This software has laid out dead-lines for every stakeholder to complete the Pension processing so that pension is started on time.**
 - **Bhavishya is an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System implemented by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.**
 - **Pension tracking can be done by the individual as well as the administrative authorities for all actions preparatory to grant of pension and other retirement benefits as well as monthly pension paid after retirement.**
 - **The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has decided to integrate the electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) with Digi Locker.**
 - **This initiative will create a permanent record of pensioners' respective Pension Payment Order in their Digi Locker and eliminate the necessity of handing over a physical copy.**
 - **Digilocker - It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under the Digital India programme. It is the national Digital Locker System.**
 - **It aims at ‘Digital Empowerment’ of citizens by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen’s digital document wallet.**
6. Recently in June _____ state government has announced to institutionalize of Shaheed Bhagat Singh State Environment Award for outstanding contribution towards environment protection and conservation of the state’s precious natural resources.
- A. Punjab
 - B. Haryana
 - C. Bihar
 - D. Uttar Pradesh
 - E. None of these

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- **In a bid to reduce carbon emissions for making the state greener and healthier, Punjab Government on announced to impose a ban on single used plastic from coming July.**
- **Taking another step towards the same, the Government also announced to institutionalize of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Punjab State Environment Award for outstanding contribution towards environment protection and conservation of the state's precious natural resources.**
- **In addition, the government also announced to set up 55 STPs across the state. "These ultra-modern plants will reduce water pollution level to a certain extent as well as using the treated water for cultivation and other allied activities,**
- **Announcing institutionalizing the environment awards in another path-breaking initiative, Tewari said that this award will be in recognition to the outstanding hard work made by individuals or organizations for the preservation of natural resources.**
- **This award will be named after the great son of the soil and legendary martyr Bhagat Singh, who laid down his life for the emancipation of the country from the clutches of foreign imperialism, he said.**
- **On the occasion, the Secretary also dedicated 50 MLDS capacity Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Ludhiana, and the gallery of Pushpa Gujral Science City to showcase salient features of Tandrust Punjab Mission, to the people of the State.**

Ban on single-use plastic from July

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Punjab State Environment Award to be institutionalised

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

To reduce carbon emissions, the Punjab Government on Sunday announced a ban on single-use plastic from next month. Rahul Tewari, Secretary, Science, Technology and Environment, announced the decision during a virtual state-level function to mark the World Environment Day.

Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serveware such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags.

"The ban on single-use plastic will be imposed from July to make Punjab greener and healthier. The state government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is committed to making the state clean, green and pollution-free by walking on the path shown by our revered Gurus," he said.

The Secretary also announced 55 sewage treatment plants (STPs) across the state. "The ultra-modern plants will reduce water pollution to a certain extent, and use treated water for cultivation and other



USED FOR PACKAGING

Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serveware such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags.

1.20 CRORE SAPPLINGS TO BE PLANTED

The government has set a target of planting 1.20 crore saplings this year. The state is ready with the Climate Action Plan 2.0 to reduce carbon emissions. Rahul Tewari, SECRETARY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

allied activities," he said.

Tewari also talked about the government's initiatives to convert fossil-fuel-based industrial units into natural-gas-based units. "The government has started online monitoring of industrial units by installing state-of-the-art meters, while online monitoring stations to check water and air pollution levels have been installed," he said.

The government had set a

target of planting 1.20 crore saplings this year, Tewari said, adding the state was ready with the Climate Action Plan 2.0 to reduce carbon emissions.

The Secretary also announced the decision to institutionalise Shaheed Bhagat Singh Punjab State Environment Award for outstanding contribution towards environment protection and conservation of natural resources.

Tewari dedicated 50 millions

of litre (MLD) Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Ludhiana, and Gallery of Pushpa Gujral Science City to showcase features of the Tandrust Punjab Mission, to the people of state.

He also released a coffee table book titled "Threatened Flora and Fauna of Punjab" published by the Punjab Biodiversity Board and Punjab State Council for Science and Technology.

7. Recently in June **The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to monetise highway stretches with combined length of _____ Km in 2022-23, a move which help it raise around Rs 20,000 crore.**
- A. 1750 Km**
B. 1800 Km

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- C. 1850 Km
- D. 1900 Km
- E. None of these

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has decided to monetise highway stretches with combined length of 1,750 km in 2022-23, a move which help it raise around Rs 20,000 crore. It has prepared an “indicative” list of road assets to be monetised in the current fiscal which includes 14 stretches with length between 6.49 km and 280 km in different parts of the country.

- Asset monetisation is central to NHA’s plan to mitigate its debt burden, which stood at a worrisome Rs 3.5 trillion at the end of last financial year.
- The NHA will not borrow from the market in 2022-23. The budgetary outlay for the agency this year is estimated at Rs 1.34 trillion, much higher than the level in recent years
- Replying to a question in Lok Sabha on December 2, 2021, minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari had said the authority has identified a total of 21,700 km highway length for monetisation in three years starting from FY23. In FY23, 5,500 km was to be monetised, 7,300 km in FY24 and 8,900 km in FY25. However, in the Budget for FY23, the monetisation target was set at Rs 20,000 crore, indicating that just around 1,800 km stretches would be on offer.

8. Consider the following statement regarding India's 1st Vertical Lift Sea Bridge .
1. Indian Railways began the construction work on the new 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge in Mandapam, which will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.
 2. The more than two-kilometre-long bridge, which is likely to cost ₹250 crore, will have a 63-metre stretch.

● ASSET MONETISATION

NHA sets 1,750-km target for 2022-23, may mop up ₹20,000 crore

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, June 5

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS Authority of India (NHA) has decided to monetise highway stretches with combined length of 1,750 km in 2022-23, a move which help it raise around ₹20,000 crore.

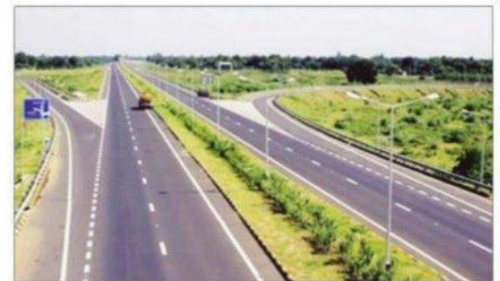
It has prepared an “indicative” list of road assets to be monetised in the current fiscal which includes 14 stretches with length between 6.49 km and 280 km in different parts of the country.

Asset monetisation is central to NHA’s plan to mitigate its debt burden, which stood at a worrisome ₹3.5 trillion at the end of last financial year.

Monetisation of operational assets will be through the toll-operate-transfer (TOT), infrastructure investment trusts (InvIT) and toll securitisation modes.

Recently, the NHA cancelled the bidding processes for two TOT bundles — sixth and eighth — as the highest bids did not match up to its expectations.

The NHA will not borrow from the market in 2022-23. The budgetary outlay for the agency this year is estimated at ₹1.34 trillion, much higher than



the level in recent years.

Crisil’s Jagannarayan Padmanabhan said the authority to sail through the revised target for the current fiscal comfortably given the current level of investors’ appetite.

Replying to a question in Lok Sabha on December 2, 2021, minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari had said the authority has identified a total of 21,700 km highway length for monetisation in three years starting from FY23.

In FY23, 5,500 km was to be monetised, 7,300 km in FY24 and 8,900 km in FY25.

However, in the Budget for FY23, the monetisation target was set at ₹20,000 crore, indicating that just around 1,800 km stretches would be on offer.

The rise in NHA’s debt level is mainly because of the steady rise in highway construction. From 1,901 km in 2013-14, construction increased to 4,325 km in 2021-22. Debt servicing is already a huge burden for NHA.

As reported by FE earlier, a little less than Re one out of every Rs five expenditure by the NHA in 2022-23 will go towards debt servicing.

According to the estimates of the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) presented to a parliamentary standing committee, NHA has to spend ₹31,049 crore on servicing debt in 2022-23. The amount will go up to ₹31,735 crore in 2023-24. In 2021-22, NHA spent ₹40,337 crore on debt servicing.

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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

- **Indian Railways began the construction work on the new 2.05 km Pamban railway bridge in Mandapam, which will connect Rameswaram to the mainland in Tamil Nadu.**
- **The new bridge will help the railways to operate trains at higher speed, carry more weight and increase the volume of traffic between Pamban and Rameswaram**
- **The more than two-kilometre-long bridge, which is likely to cost ₹250 crore, will have a 63-metre stretch, which will lift up while remaining parallel to the deck to allow access to the ships.**
- **"The old Pamban bridge was commissioned on February 24, 1914. The existing bridge structure has a total length of 2,058 metres comprising 146 spans of steel girders.**
- **The navigational span is also known as Scherzer rolling lift span after the name of railroad engineer William Scherzer who invented it.**

9. **What is the name given to first electric bus service of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) that was launched on the Pune-Ahmednagar route ?**

- A. Durga
- B. Shivaee
- C. Shakti
- D. Toofan
- E. None of these

- **The first electric bus service of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) was launched on Wednesday on the Pune-Ahmednagar route. The new e-bus christened 'Shivaee', was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at the corporation's regional office premises in Pune.**

1st e-bus for MSRTC in its diamond jubilee year

KAMAL MISHRA / Mumbai

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), shaken by months-long, state-wide strike by its employees, will celebrate its 74th anniversary on Wednesday and enter into the diamond jubilee year. On June 1, 1948, the first bus service of MSRTC was launched on the Pune-Ahmednagar route. To celebrate the historical day, the corporation will launch its first-ever electric bus on Wednesday on the same route (Pune-Ahmednagar).

Laxman Kevate, the conductor of the first bus, will flag-off the maiden e-bus service of the corporation. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and other dignitaries are likely to be present at the corporation's regional office in Pune on this occasion. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is likely to join the function through video link.

Initially, the transport body will operate six daily services with a 12-metre long e-bus with a seating capacity of 43, on the Pune-Ahmednagar route. In one charge, these e-buses can go up to 200-250 km as per the load factor and the number of passengers travelling.

"In the next couple of months, the e-bus service will be introduced on other prominent intercity routes of the state such as Pune-Mumbai, Pune-Kolhapur and Pune-Aurangabad in a phased manner," said officials. The



Laxman Kevate, the conductor of the first bus, will flag-off the maiden e-bus service of the corporation

MSRTC will get 1,000 e-buses and 2,000 CNG buses in a phased manner in the near future. As part of this, the corporation is expected to get the first lot of 150 e-buses by the end of July 2022. These zero emission and zero noise buses are equipped with GPS devices, ramps for the differently-abled, panic buttons, CCTV cameras and other security related facilities.

Since 1948, the MSRTC has grown across the state and currently has nearly 1 lakh employees working at 248 depots across Maharashtra. Since October last year it was shaken by the state wide protest by its employees largely over the demand to be merged with the state government, to which the authorities didn't relent.



The MSRTC will get 1,000 e-buses and 2,000 CNG buses in a phased manner in the near future.

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- A charging station was also *inaugurated at MSRTC's Shankarsheth Road headquarters.*
- The MSRTC plans to operate six daily services between Pune and Ahmednagar with 'Shivaae', a 12-metre-long bus with a seating capacity of 43 that can go up to speeds of 80 kmph.

11 . Recently In June 2022, the Union Cabinet expanded the mandate of the Government e-Marketplace and allowed procurement by which of the following as buyers on it?

- A. Public sector enterprises
- B. Local bodies
- C. Cooperatives
- D. Private sector buyers
- E. None of these

- Union Cabinet has expanded the mandate of Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- Union Cabinet has allowed procurement by cooperatives as buyers on GeM.
- The decision would help cooperatives in getting competitive prices through open and transparent process.
- Ministry of Cooperatives will decide on the validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on GeM.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched Government e-Marketplace on August 9, 2016.
- It was launched to create an open and transparent procurement platform for Government buyers
- At present, there are about 8.54 lakh cooperatives in India with about 29 crore membership.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has been set up as a National Procurement Portal to provide an end-to-end online market place for Central and State Government Ministries/ Departments, and PSUs etc. for procurement of common-use goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner..

10. Recently in June _____ State Government has announced Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be started in state for sportspersons.

- A. Rajasthan

Cabinet allows co-operatives to procure through GeM platform

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 1

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for expanding the mandate of the government's online public procurement platform, Government e-Market (GeM), by allowing procurement by co-operatives.

"More than 8.54 lakh registered co-operatives and their 27 crore members would benefit from this initiative," according to an official release issued by the government after the meeting on Wednesday.

Allowing co-operative societies to register on GeM as buyers would help them in getting competitive prices through an open and, transparent process, it added.

The GeM was launched on August 9, 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.

The Ministry of Cooperation, in consultation with the GeM SPV, will prepare the validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on GeM for pilot as well as subsequent scale up.

"This will ensure that technical capacity and logistics requirement of the GeM system are taken into account while deciding the pace of on boarding of co-operative as buyers on GeM," the release said.

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- B. Bihar
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Odisha
- E. None of these

- *Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be started in Rajasthan for sportspersons.*
- *Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot made this announcement recently while addressing a ceremony at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.*
- *CM inaugurated Rajasthan High Performance Sports and Rehabilitation Centre, Renovated Synthetic Hockey Astro Turf and Badminton Indoor Hall, Olympic.*
- *He also awarded medalists of Para Olympic and players of Asian Games-2022 and Commonwealth Games-2022.*
- *He said that Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics will begin on August 29, 2022.*

11. Recently in June _____ *launched "Beach Vigil App" which is designed to keep a vigil on beaches with an aim to ensure the holistic management of beaches.*

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Goa**
- C. Odisha
- D. Tamil Nadu
- E. None of these

- *Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched "Beach Vigil App" which is designed to keep a vigil on beaches with an aim to ensure the holistic management of beaches.*
- *With this app, users can report violations along the state's beaches directly to the tourism department.*
- *It will benefit the institutions working in beach tourism sector and tourists.*

12. Recently in June *India's first private spacecraft manufacturing facility has been launched by Ananth Technologies Private Limited, in _____ .*

- A. Hyderabad

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- B. **Bengluru**
- C. Pune
- D. Noida
- E. None of these

- In Bengaluru, Ananth Technologies Private Limited, the leading aerospace, and defence manufacturer in India has launched India's largest private spacecraft production facility.
- The launched spacecraft production facility will provide facilitation for private spacecraft manufacturing in India.
- **S.Somanath, Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), officially launched the state-of-the-art facility.**
- Four spacecraft can be assembled, integrated, and tested at the same time with four independent modules existing within the 15,000 sqm facility.
- The facility is located at the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board's Aerospace Park. **Ananth Technologies Private Limited: In 1992, Ananth was established with the aim of facilitating the growth of the Indian economy by utilizing aerospace technologies. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.**

13. Recently in June _____ **“SHRESHTA”- Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas** to be beneficial for the Scheduled Caste students who have not yet had access to high-quality education.

- A. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
- B. Ministry of Cultre
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. **Minister of Social Justice and empowerment**
- E. None of these

- **“SHRESHTA”- Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas has been launched.**
- **Union Minister of Social Justice and empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched it.**
- **This scheme will prove to be very beneficial for the Scheduled Caste students who have not yet had access to high-quality education.**
- **SHRESHTA provides high quality education for meritorious but poor SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools.**

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- **The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme.**
- **Students from the marginalized low income group belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, whose parents' annual income is up to or less than Rs 2.5 lakh, are eligible.**
- **The Social Justice and Empowerment Department shall bear the total cost of the school fee and hostel charges till the completion of their academics up to class 12th.**

14. Consider the following statement regarding 'eSanjeevani'.

1. It is a **Telemedicine service available**

2. 'eSanjeevani' service is available in **two variants: eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre and eSanjeevani OPD scheme.**

3. It has been **integrated with the NHA's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

• **Telemedicine service 'eSanjeevani' has been integrated with the NHA's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**

• **The integration will help users of eSanjeevani to easily create an Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) and use it to manage**

'eSanjeevani', Govt. of India's free Telemedicine service integrated with NHA's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

The users of eSanjeevani can create their 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) and use it to link their existing health records

Posted On: 03 JUN 2022 1:05PM by PIB Delhi

The National Health Authority (NHA) announces the successful integration of eSanjeevani with its flagship scheme – Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). This integration allows the existing users of eSanjeevani, the telemedicine service of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to easily create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) and use it to link and manage their existing health records like prescriptions, lab reports, etc. The users would also be able to share their health records with doctors on eSanjeevani which will help in better clinical decision making and ensuring the continuum of care.

Speaking about the significance of this integration, Dr. R. S. Sharma, CEO, NHA said – "ABDM aims to build digital highways to bridge the gaps in existing digital health solutions and stakeholders in India. The integration of eSanjeevani with ABDM is one such example where the 22 crore ABHA holders can link and store their health records created via eSanjeevani directly in the health lockers of their choice. The users can also share their previously linked health records with the doctors on eSanjeevani making the entire consultation process paper-less."

eSanjeevani service is available in two variants. The first one is eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC) – the Doctor-to-Doctor telemedicine service through which the beneficiaries visiting a HWC can virtually connect to doctors/ specialists in the Hub that could be at tertiary healthcare facility/hospital/medical college. This enables the government to provide general and specialised health services in rural areas and isolated communities. The second variant, eSanjeevani OPD is serving patients across the country, connecting them directly to doctors from the comforts of their homes. Both versions – eSanjeevani AB-HWC and eSanjeevani OPD have been integrated with ABDM platform.

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their
existing
health
records.

- Now, the users can also share their health records with doctors on eSanjeevani. It will help in making better clinical decisions and ensure the continuum of care.
- 'eSanjeevani' service is available in two variants: eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre and eSanjeevani OPD scheme.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):
- It was launched in August 2020 for developing an integrated digital health infrastructure in the country.
- It helps in bridging the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem.

15. Recently in June _____ state government launched *Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal'* for pregnant women in the Karauli district.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Goa
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- Rajasthan Government launched *Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal'* for pregnant women in the Karauli district.
- Under this campaign, haemoglobin levels of 13,144 pregnant women were tested out of which 11,202 were found to be anemic.
- This unique campaign has been started to provide all necessary medical aid to pregnant women at the pre and post-natal stage.
- Its main aim is to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.
- Under this campaign, the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers of the district will provide counselling and treatment to pregnant women in their respective areas. Around 13 thousand women will get the benefit of this campaign.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of Rajasthan has come down to 30 from 41 in 2017-18. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Rajasthan is 141.

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16. Recently in June _____ has launched the 'Clean and Green' campaign on World Environment Day to make the country free from single-use plastic and to protect the environment.
- A. Ministry Of Tribal Affairs
 - B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
 - C. Ministry of Education
 - D. Minister of Social Justice and empowerment
 - E. None of these

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the 'Clean and Green' campaign on World Environment Day.
- Under this campaign, Urban Local Bodies will organize awareness programmes to make the country free from single-use plastic and to protect the environment.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has instructed to ban Single-Use Plastic by 30 June.
- As part of the campaign, a part of the plastic waste generated will be used either as an alternative fuel in cement plants or for road construction purposes.
- State government and local bodies have to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with nearby cement plants or other industrial units for the implementation of the campaign.
- Every ULB is required to adopt 100% source segregation of waste for reducing plastic waste.
- Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Its aim is to create "Garbage Free Cities" through comprehensive sanitation and waste management.

17. Consider the following statement regarding ICMR guidelines for using drones in healthcare.
1. The scientists from ICMR collaborated with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airport Authority of India (AAI) to produce this document in compliance with the New Drone Rules-2021 .
 2. The drones, according to the guidance document by ICMR, can be used to transfer a payload, ranging from 500 grams to 6 kg of medical supplies, in far-flung areas.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

- A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. Both 1 & 2**
 - D. None of the above
-
- After successfully using drones for delivering COVID-19 vaccines in the north-eastern states, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

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has come out with a guidance document for using drones for medical supplies in far-flung areas.

- The drones, according to the guidance document by ICMR, can be used to transfer a payload, ranging from 500 grams to 6 kg of medical supplies, in far-flung areas.
- Medical supplies like BCG, measles and COVID-19 vaccines, which can be stored between 2°C and 8°C, along with tablets, capsules, syrups in bottles, gloves and syringes can only be transported safely by drones
- The scientists from ICMR collaborated with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Government of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airport Authority of India (AAI) to produce this document in compliance with the New Drone Rules-2021 which highlights the ways of selecting drones, choosing takeoffs and landing sites etc.

ICMR issues guidance documents streamlining UAV services for health

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Following success of its pilot projects envisaging usage of drones to deliver medicines in the country's inaccessible and remote terrains during Covid-19 crisis, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has now issued guidance documents to streamline services of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for healthcare.

Medical supplies load up to 6 kg including BCG, measles and Covid-19 vaccines, which can be stored between 2°C and 8°C, along with tablets, capsules, syrups in bottles, gloves and syringes can be transported safely by drones, as per the document.

The ICMR took to Twitter to announce the release of their 'Guidance Document for use of Drones in Healthcare'. The guidebook was released during the Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 that was held on May 27 and May 28.

The ICMR said they had conducted field research in Healthcare delivery by drones from Manipur to Nagaland. This field experience formed the basis of the guidance doc-

ument.

Following the success of the same exercise, wherein the medical supplies delivered under i-Drone project included Covid-19 vaccines, vaccines used routine immunisation programs, antenatal care medicines, multi-vitamins, syringes and gloves, the guidance book has been released, said an official from the ICMR.

The document emulates the regulatory approvals required from competent authorities and the air space related issues are highlighted. The book also talks about selecting drones and choosing their take-off and landing sites. Step-by-step preparation of carrier boxes and loading and unloading procedures are also described.

The study which was conducted in Manipur, Nagaland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands provided promising results, on the basis of which the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other regulatory authorities granted permission to fly drones beyond the Visual Line Of Sight, said the official.

18. Recently in June Government has planed to replace 58,000- million units (MU) thermal power with 30-gigawatts (GW) renewable energy (RE) by _____ .

- A. 2025
- B. 2026
- C. 2030
- D. 2028
- E. None of these

Govt to replace 58,000-MU thermal power with 30-GW RE by FY26

Expected to save 34.7 MT of coal, reduce carbon emissions by 60.2 MT

RISHI RANJAN KALIA
New Delhi, June 1

The government has floated a scheme to replace around 58,000 million units (MU) of thermal power with 30,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy (RE) by FY26. The move, which is aimed at speeding up the utilisation of RE power in the country's energy mix to meet COP 26 commitments, will save 34.7 million tonnes (MT) of coal and reduce carbon emissions by 60.2 MT.

The existing regulations of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) define a technical minimum of 55 per cent up to which thermal power plants (TPPs) can be operated. Reduction in generation from TPPs is feasible to

lower levels of technical minimum of 40 per cent in two-three years, Power Ministry said.

An exercise was carried to assess the amount of energy from TPPs that can be replaced. Thermal energy from those TPPs with high tariffs is proposed to be replaced to optimise the costs of power delivered to the consumer.

"It was found that about 58,000 MU of thermal generation in Central, State and private sector can be substituted with RE generation. A RE capacity of about 30,000 MW at 22 per cent capacity utilisation factor would be required," the ministry said.

As per the plan, 20 per cent of the targeted thermal capacity will be replaced with RE power in FY24, followed by 35 per cent in FY25 and 45 per cent in FY26.

Flexible scheme
Even though station-wise targets have been worked out, a

Trajectory to replace thermal power with renewables

Sector	Thermal power (MU)	RE power (MW)	FY24			FY25			FY26		
			%	MU	MW	%	MU	MW	%	MU	MW
Central	33,260	17,258	20	6,652	3,452	35	11,641	6,040	45	14,967	7,766
State	12,386	6,427	20	2,477	1,285	35	4,335	2,249	45	5,574	2,892
Private	12,224	6,343	20	2,245	1,269	35	4,278	2,220	45	5,501	2,854
Total	57,869	30,028		9,129	4,737		15,976	8,290		20,541	10,658

Source: Ministry of Power

thermal generating station can substitute larger amounts of thermal power with RE power over and above the targets fixed here, the ministry said. The targets fixed for thermal power stations are the lowest minimum that can be achieved. Besides, thermal plants, not in the list, are also eligible to replace their thermal capacity with RE.

Hydro plants can also explore opportunities for bundling RE power with their existing power and participate in the scheme.

Hydro plants can also explore opportunities for bundling RE power with their existing power and participate in the scheme.

Revised scheme
In April 2018, the ministry issued a detailed mechanism for allowing flexibility in the generation and scheduling of thermal power stations. The flexibility was provided to gen-

erators to increase RE generation, reduce emissions, enable compliance with RPOs and enhance RE capacity. In April 2022, the ministry issued a revised scheme for flexibility in generation and scheduling of thermal/hydro power stations through bundling with RE and storage power.

Accordingly, to increase the uptake of RE utilisation under the scheme and in furtherance of the national goal of achieving 500 gigawatts (GW) of non-fossil fuel based capacity by 2030, about 58,000 MU is fixed as target at national level by end of 2025-26.

- Government plans to replace 58,000-million units (MU) thermal power with 30-gigawatts

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(GW)
renewable
energy (RE) by
FY26.

- The plan will save 34.7 million tonnes (MT) of coal and reduce carbon emissions by 60.2 MT.
- As per the plan, 20% of the targeted thermal capacity will be replaced with RE power in FY24. This will be followed by 35% in FY25 and 45% in FY26.
- The thermal power generating station-wise targets have been fixed.
- However, the thermal generating station can substitute larger amounts of thermal power with RE power.

19. *Valley of Flowers* a UNESCO world heritage site recently seen in news is located in which of the following state ?

- A. Haryana
- B. Jammu & Kashmir
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Punjab
- E. None of these

- Tourists were greeted by a floral landscape bathed in a splash of colours as the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO world heritage site, nestled in the Himalayas in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district was opened for visitors .
- A total of 75 tourists including one foreigner visited the valley located at a height of over 10,000 feet on the opening day, Divisional Forest Officer Nanda Ballabh Joshi said.
- Flowers of 12 varieties are in full bloom these days in the valley spread over an area of 87.5 square km where 500 species of flowers grow between June-October. The Valley of Flowers will remain open till October 31.

20. Recently According to the latest government data, overall coal production has increased by 61 MT during the financial year 2021-22 and stands at _____ India's coal import has declined to _____ in 2021-22.

- A. 771 MT , 245 MT
- B. 670 MT , 250 MT
- C. 777 MT , 209 MT

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- D. 580 MT , 300 MT
 E. None of these

- According to the latest government data, overall coal production has increased by 61 MT during the financial year 2021-22.
- The coal production has increased from 716 MT in 2020-21 to 777 MT in 2021-22.
- Coal imports had reached a peak of 248 MT in 2019-20. After that, Coal import has declined to 215 MT in 2020-21 and 209 MT in 2021-22.
- The main reason for the decline in coal imports is the decrease in imports by the power sector.
- The power sector imported 27 MT in 2021-22, which is almost 40% less than the previous fiscal.
- The demand for coal has increased from 956 MT in 2019-20 to 1,027 MT in 2021-22.

Coal Imports decline to 209 million tonnes in 2021-22

Despite a steep rise in actual demand in 2021-22, coal imports have not increased

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, 2 JUNE

Coal imports, which had reached a peak of 248 Million Tonnes (MT) in 2019-20, declined continuously during the next two years to 215 MT in 2020-21 and further to 209 MT in 2021-22.

Despite a steep rise in actual demand for coal from 956 MT in 2019-20 to 1027 MT in 2021-22, coal imports have not increased.

Coal imports grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.86% during the period 2009-10 to 2013-14. At this CAGR, coal imports would have reached 705 MT in 2020-21 and further to 866 MT in 2021-22. The import of coal could be checked only by



sustaining increased domestic supply over the years.

All India coal production has increased from 716 MT in 2020-21 to 777 MT in 2021-22 resulting in an increase of 61 MT. Therefore, despite a steep rise in actual demand for coal from 906 MT in 2020-

21 to 1027 MT in 2021-22, coal imports could be contained due to increased domestic dispatch from 691 MT in 2020-21 to 818 MT in 2021-22.

Domestic dispatch has not only increased to the power sector but also to the non-power sector by 101 MT in

2020-21 to 104 MT in 2021-22.

The decline in coal imports during 2021-22 is largely due to a decrease in imports by the power sector which came down from 45 MT in 2020-21 to 27 MT in 2021-22, a decline of almost 40%. The decline is steeper when compared with coal imports by the power sector in 2021-22 to the pre-Covid year of 2019-20 when such import was 69 MT. This is despite the fact that total thermal power generation in the country increased to 1115 BU in 2021-22 from 1032 BU in 2020-21, an increase of 83 BU in absolute terms and almost 8% in percentage terms.

Coking Coal import was 57 MT with a growth of 11.65% during 2021-22 which is largely used in the Steel Sector. However, as compared to the pre-

Covid year of 2019-20, the growth in coking coal import is around 10%. Coal imported by Non-regulated sectors (Cement, Sponge Iron & Paper etc) increased to 125 MT in 2021-22 from 119 MT in 2020-21 an increase of 5.23%. Compared to the pre-Covid year of 2019-22, when imports by the non-regulated sector were 127 MT, imports by this sector have actually declined in 2021-22. Thus, the increase in import of coal by the non-power sector during 2021-22 is largely on account of growth in import of coking coal and import of coal by the non-regulated sector which largely imports high-grade thermal coal.

The supply of both these categories of coal is limited in the country.

21. Recently in June _____ state government has declared *the Blue Duke* as its official state butterfly.

- A. Tripura
 B. Assam
 C. Sikkim
 D. Mizoram
 E. None of these

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- On the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang declared Blue Duke the state butterfly.
- In a recent online poll conducted by the Forest Department, the Blue Duke, one of the 720 species of butterflies found in Sikkim, has been chosen as the state butterfly with 57% of the vote.
- The Blue Duke, scientifically known as *Bassarona durga*, is only found in Sikkim and the eastern Himalayas. It was discovered in 1858 in the state.
- The Blue Duke is a protected species in the Himalayas, listed in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- In the online polls, Krishna Peacock (*Papilio Krishna*) received 43% of the votes and secured the second position.
- The Chief Minister also awarded Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha for discovering a new butterfly species in 2021.
- The new butterfly species is called *Zographeta dzonguensis* and is also known as the chocolate-border flutter.

22. Consider the following statement regarding amended to the **rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next CDS**

1. **Three-star officers can be appointed CDS if considered necessary in the public interest.**
2. **The officers should not have attained the age of 62 years.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

NOTIFICATION OUT, SELECTION LIKELY SOON

ELIGIBILITY AGE CAPPED AT 62 YEARS



- Serving or retd Lt General, Air Marshal & Vice Admiral under 62 yrs to be eligible for CDS post
- These officers can be considered for top post along with serving chiefs of tri-services
- Post vacant since the death of **Gen Bipin Rawat** in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year
- Government issued separate notifications as part of Air Force Act, Army Act and Navy Act

AGE CRITERIA RULES OUT RECENTLY RETIRED CHIEFS

- Govt can extend the service of CDS maximum till 65 years of age
- Tenure of 3 service Chiefs is 3 years of service or till they turn 62, whichever is earlier
- The 3 Chiefs who retired recently – Gen MM Naravane, Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria – will not be eligible as they are over 62

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- **Government has amended the rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next CDS. Ministry of Defence has issued three separate notifications amending the rules.**
- **Serving three-star officers Lieutenant General in Army, Air Marshal in Air Force and Vice-Admiral in Navy or retired Service Chiefs or three-star officers can be appointed CDS if considered necessary in the public interest.**
- **The officers should not have attained the age of 62 years.**
- **The service of CDS may be extended by the government for such period as it may deem necessary subject to a maximum age of 65 years.**
- **The post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has been lying vacant since the passing away of General Bipin Rawat.**
- **General Bipin Rawat lost his life in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu on 8th December 2021.**

23. Recently in June _____ has become the first city in the country to introduce the concept of 'faceless services' at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) inspiring other states to launch similar initiatives.

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow
- E. None of these

New rules allow ex-officers to hold CDS post

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Setting the stage for appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the government has amended Service Rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force, allowing retired Service Chiefs and three-star officers eligible for consideration for the country's top military post.

However, with an age li-

mit that the retired officer should not have attained 62 years on the date of appointment, retired Service chiefs are largely ruled out, especially so for the present consideration.

"The Central Government may, if considered necessary, in public interest, appoint as CDS, an officer who is serving as Lieutenant General or General or an officer

who has retired in the rank of Lieutenant General or General but has not attained the age of 62 on the date of appointment," the amendment in the Service Rules of the Army says in the gazette dated June 6, 2022. Similar amendment was made in the service rules of Navy and Air Force as well.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Delhi first city to introduce 'faceless' transport services

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 2 JUNE

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said Delhi is paving the way for new-age governance through initiatives like Faceless Services and Automated Driving Test Track.

Kejriwal, who inspected the Sarai Kale Khan RTO, said, "Delhi's first and only state in India to offer Faceless Services; kicked off the initiative through the Transport Department last year." Kejriwal said less than 100 people visit the RTO each day whereas 2,000 used to come earlier. He said about 16 lakh Delhiites have benefited from Faceless Services in the last 9-10 months.

"RTO offices had become havens for corruption; there used to be a saying that the collection starts at the bottom and

RTO offices had become havens for corruption; there used to be a saying that the collection starts at the bottom and goes to the top

goes to the top," the Delhi Chief Minister said.

"We run a highly honest government, which is why we are making it easier for the public to access the system," he said.

Kejriwal said other states have picked up the initiative learning from Delhi; all states must learn from each other's good works, that's only how the country can progress.

"Sarai Kale Khan is Delhi's first automated driving test track, which was built in 2018. Since then 12 other automated tracks have been built all

over Delhi," Kejriwal said.

Evening shifts have been started to help working professionals; they can come take the test from 5:00PM to 7:00PM, he said.

Kejriwal tweeted, "Delhi is the first and only state to start faceless services in the country. We started them in the Transport Department last year. I inspected the Sarai Kale Khan office today. Earlier 2000 people used to come here daily. Now less than 100 do. Everyone's work is done while sitting at home. Bribery has been completely stopped."

On the occasion, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "CM Arvind Kejriwal inspected the ADTT at Sarai Kale Khan today; he interacted with the people who had come to give the test and received very positive feedback."

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- **Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal said that Delhi has become the first city in the country to introduce the concept of 'faceless services' at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) inspiring other states to launch similar initiatives.**
- **Under the 'faceless services', people do not have to come to offices taking leave from their work as they can get their work done online.'**
- **Delhi last year, launched 33 faceless services of the transport department.**
- **According to the CM, till now 16 lakh people have got the benefit of 'faceless services' at RTOs and other states like Karnataka are also following its example.**

24. Recently in June _____ government **launched e-stamping and eliminates all physical stamp papers of all denominations.**

- A. Delhi
- B. Punjab**
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- **The Punjab government has discontinued physical stamp papers in order to improve efficiency and prevent evasion of state revenue**
- **Now stamp papers of any denomination will be available in the form of e-stamp (computerised print-out) at stamp vendors or state-approved banks.**
- **Earlier, e-stamping was only available for values above 20,000 rupees and now it's available for all denominations starting at one rupee.**
- **The Punjab Government's decision will save at least 35 crore rupees a year, which was spent on printing stamp papers.**

To avert frauds, govt launches e-stamping facility in Punjab

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 1 JUNE

In a decision to bring more efficiency and check the pilferage of state revenue, the Punjab government has abolished physical stamp papers. The stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via e-stamp (computerized print-out) from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the state government.

After launching the facility, Punjab revenue minister Bram Shanker Jimpa said earlier the e-stamping facility was applicable only to values of above Rs.20,000. "We are extending this facility to stamp papers for all

denominations starting from Rs One," he said.

The minister said this decision taken by the Punjab government led by chief minister Bhagwant Mann will at least save Rs 35 Crore annually, which is incurred on printing of stamp papers, besides facilitating the common public to obtain stamp papers in a hassle-free manner.

He said that most of the time the general public had to face difficulty in getting the stamp paper when it was not available with the stamp vendor or had to purchase at higher prices. Jimpa said on 27 May a notification has been issued for the implementation of the e-stamp system.

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- On e-stamps ranging from Rs 1 to Rs 19,999, the Punjab government would pay a 2% commission to stamp vendors.
- In addition, the department has launched five new e-services, including Loan/Hypothecation Agreement, Agreement of Pledge, Affidavit & Declaration, Demand Promissory Note, and Indemnity Bond.
- This service has been launched with the assistance of the Union government's National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL).

25. In June 2022, Union Cabinet has **approved signing of MoU between which of the following to contribute toward the development of new biomedical technologies to treat HIV, TB, COVID-19?**

1. Government of India's Department of Biotechnology.
2. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
3. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA

Which of the following statement is correct ?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

- Union Cabinet approves the **signing of the MoU between the Department of Biotechnology, ICMR and IAVI, USA.**
- The MoU is to contribute toward the development of new biomedical technologies to treat HIV, TB, COVID-19 and other emerging infectious and neglected diseases.
- The proposal for signing a bilateral MoU between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also been approved by Union Cabinet.
- This proposal is on Cooperation in the field of Industries and Advanced Technologies.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body for biomedical research in India.
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) is a global not-for-profit, public-private partnership organization headquartered in USA.

26. Recently in June _____ has **signed an agreement with VVDN Technologies and WiSig Networks to develop 5G Open RAN.**

- A. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

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- B. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing**
- C. Centre for Development of Telematics**
- D. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**
- E. None of these**

Jun 02, 2022, 7:18PM

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), WiSig Networks Private Limited, and VVDN Technologies Private Limited have signed a collaboration agreement in the field of Open RAN-based Radio Networks for 5G solutions.**

C-DOT signs agreement with VVDN Technologies and WiSig Networks to develop 5G Open RAN

The Centre for Development of Telematics has signed an agreement with WiSig Networks Private Limited and VVDN Technologies Private Limited for collaboration in the area of Open RAN-based Radio Network for 5G solution. The Ministry of Communications said that it is a major step for Indigenous development of 5G Open RAN under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative.

The Ministry informed that this collaboration aims to leverage the technical competencies and complementary strengths of Indian Research and Development and industry in evolving a mutually productive alliance leading to indigenous design, development, manufacturing and deployment of cost-effective 5G products and solutions.

The Ministry further informed that this engagement will augment the indigenous Intellectual Property and create new avenues for wider adoption and monetization of home-grown 5G products and solutions.



File Pic

- This collaboration aims to leverage Indian R&D and industry's expertise and skills to design, develop, and produce cost-effective 5G products and solutions.**
- Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT): It is the R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. It was founded in August 1984. It is headquartered in Delhi.**
- WiSig Networks Private Limited: It is an emerging company involved in the business of developing, marketing, and offering various communications solutions including 5G Mobile Communication Products and Solutions. It was founded in 2016. It is headquartered in Hyderabad.**
- VVDN Technologies Private Limited: It is a leading product engineering and manufacturing company with expertise in 5G, networking and Wi-Fi, IoT, and cloud storage services.**

27. Consider the following statement regarding Rashtriya Puruskar Portal .

- 1. This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards under one digital platform.**

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2. The Portal aims to facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards instituted by the Government of India.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- **The Union Government has launched the Rashtriya Puruskar Portal for inviting nominations for various awards of the various Ministries, Departments and agencies to ensure transparency and public partnership.**
- **This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards under one digital platform.**
- **The Portal aims to facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards instituted by the Government of India.**

28. Consider the following statement regarding NHAI new Guinness World Record .

- 1. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that NHAI has created a new Guinness World Record by laying 75 km of bituminous concrete road on NH53 in 105 hours and 33 minutes.**
- 2. The 75-km long single lane highway has been laid between Amravati to Akola Districts.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- **NHAI sets a new Guinness World Record by constructing a 75-km long highway in 105 hrs.**
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that NHAI has created a new Guinness World Record by laying 75 km of**

NHAI's road-laying feat enters Guinness

75-km road laid continuously in Maharashtra in 105 hours and 33 minutes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Highway Authority of India has entered the Guinness World Records for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 km in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the National Highway between Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra.

Mentioning the record, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said the project was implemented by



In one shot: Part of the 75-km bituminous single-lane road laid in 105 hours, 33 minutes. ■ANI

720 workers, including a team of independent consultants, who worked day and night. The total length of the 75 km of single lane continuous bituminous concrete

road is equivalent to 37.5 km of a two-lane paved shoulder road and the work started at 7.27 a.m. on June 3 and was completed at 5 p.m. on June 7, the Minister said in a video message.

The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.27 km of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar, in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days, Mr. Gadkari said.

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bituminous concrete road on NH53 in 105 hours and 33 minutes.

- *The 75-km long single lane highway has been laid between Amrawati to Akola Districts.*
- *The project has been implemented by 720 workers including a team of independent consultants.*
- *Earlier, the world record for constructing the longest bituminous road was set by Qatar in Feb 2019.*
- *National Highway Authority of India (NHAI):Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. Alka Upadhyaya is the current chairperson of NHAI.*

29. Recently In June _____ become *the first state to give approval to the drone policy.*

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh**
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- *Himachal Pradesh become the first state to give approval to the drone policy.*
- *Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has approved the 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022'. It mainly focuses on creating drone-enabled technology, the creation of manpower through training schools, and startup and innovation schemes.*
- *It will promote drone-enabled technology in different sectors such as defence, transport, health, agriculture, etc.*
- *The drone manufacturing industry can create more than 10,000 direct jobs in the state in the next three years.*
- *Himachal Pradesh government has designated ITI Shahpur to provide training to personnel using drones.*
- *The Department of Information Technology of the state has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with drone companies such as Skye Air and TechEagle.*

30. Recently in June _____ state *government launched the app named '14400' that will help people in registering corruption-related complaints against the officials in the state.*

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- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Assam
- E. None of these

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan launched the app named '14400'.
- It will help people in registering corruption-related complaints against the officials in the state.
- It has been developed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for curbing corruption.
- The evidence can be sent in audio, video, and photo format. It gives the facility to attach evidence with the complaint.
- After the Complaint is lodged, ACB authorities will take the appropriate action based on the contents of the Complaint.

31. Recently in June *Sital Sasthi* is being celebrated in which of the following state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of these

- 'Sital Sasthi' is a Hindu festival in Odisha. It is observed to celebrate the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
- It is observed on the sixth day of the Jyestha month during the Shukla Paksha.
- The most famous Sheetla Shashthi Yatra is taken out in Sambalpur in western Odisha.
- 'Sital Sasthi' is celebrated every year in a form of a grand carnival. More than 6,000 artists from across Odisha as well as other states participated in the celebration.

32. Recently in June An '*IAF Heritage Centre*' will be set up by the Indian Air force at _____ that will showcase the role of the Indian Air Force in various wars and its overall functioning.

- A. Pune
- B. Hyderabad

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- C. Chandigarh
 D. Bengaluru
 E. None of these

- An 'IAF Heritage Centre' will be set up jointly by the Indian Air force and the Chandigarh administration.
- Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF have signed an MoU setting this centre.
- It will have artefacts, simulators and interactive boards to highlight various facets of IAF.
- The heritage centre will showcase the role of the Indian Air Force in various wars and its overall functioning.
- It is expected to be completed by October 2022. The Chief of the Air Staff is Vivek Ram Chaudhari

33. Recently in June The Supreme Court directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum _____ km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

- A. 5 Km
 B. 1 Km
 C. 2 Km
 D. 7 Km
 E. None of these

Keep ESZ of 1 km around forests: SC

Court directs govt. to maintain eco-sensitive zone to protect natural resources

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

Environment Ministry guidelines show that the purpose of declaring ESZs around national parks, forests and sanctuaries is to create some kind of a “shock absorber” for the protected areas.

These zones would act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.



Mining is not permitted within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

government should not confine its role to that of a “facilitator” of economic activities for the “immediate upliftment of the fortunes of the State”.

The State also has to act as a trustee for the benefit of the general public in relation to the natural resources so that sustainable development could be achieved in the long term.

“Such a role of the State is more relevant today, than, possibly, at any point of time in history with the threat of climate catastrophe resulting from global warming looming large,” Justice Bose wrote for the Bench.

The judgment came on a petition instituted for the protection of forest lands in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, the scope of that writ petition was enlarged by the court so as to protect such natural resources throughout the country.

In a series of directions, the court held that in case any national park or protected forest already has a buffer zone extending beyond one km, that would prevail. In case the question of the extent of buffer zone was pending a statutory decision, then the court’s direction to maintain the one-km safety zone would be applicable until a final decision is arrived. The court directed that “mining within the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall not be permitted”.

A three-judge Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, B.R. Gavai and Aniruddha Bose, in a 60-page judgment, highlighted how the nation’s natural resources have been for years ravaged by mining and other activities. The judgment, by Justice Bose, observed that the

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- **The Supreme Court directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.**
- **Environment Ministry guidelines show that the purpose of declaring ESZs around national parks, forests and sanctuaries is to create some kind of a “shock absorber” for the protected areas.**
- **These zones would act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.**
- **The judgment observed that the government should not confine its role to that of a “facilitator” of economic activities for the “immediate upliftment of the fortunes of the State”.**
- **In case the question of the extent of buffer zone was pending a statutory decision, then the court’s direction to maintain the one-km safety zone would be applicable until a final decision is arrived. The court directed that “mining within the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall not be permitted”.**

34. Recently In June Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition Proposals of the **Armed Forces** amounting to _____ under ‘Buy (Indian)’, ‘Buy & Make (Indian)’ and ‘Buy (Indian-IDDMM)’ categories.
- Rs 36,000 crore.
 - Rs 76,390 crore**
 - Rs 96,180 crore
 - Rs 26,390 crore
 - None of these

₹76,390-cr. defence projects get nod

The proposals include manufacture of Dornier aircraft and Su-30 MKI engines by HAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday accorded preliminary approval, the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), for capital acquisition proposals of the armed forces amounting to ₹76,390 crore.

“This will provide substantial boost to the Indian defence industry and reduce foreign spending significantly,” a Defence Ministry statement said.

“For the Army, the DAC



accorded fresh AoNs for procurement of rough terrain fork lift trucks, bridge-laying tanks, wheeled armoured fighting vehicles with anti-tank guided missiles and weapon-locating radars through domestic sources

with emphasis on indigenous design and development,” it said.

For the Navy, the AoN was accorded for the procurement of next-generation corvettes (NGCs) at an estimated cost of approximately

₹36,000 crore.

“These NGCs will be versatile platforms for variety of roles viz. surveillance missions, escort operations, deterrence, surface action group operations, search & attack and coastal defence,” the Ministry said.

These NGCs would be constructed based on the Navy’s new in-house design using the latest technology in shipbuilding and would contribute to further the government’s SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region) initiative, it noted.

The DAC also accorded

AoNs for the manufacture of Dornier aircraft and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. focused on enhancing indigenisation, particularly in indigenising aero-engine material.

A Digital Coast Guard project under “Buy (Indian) category” has also been approved by the DAC. Under this project, a secure pan-India network for digitising various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance and human resources processes in the Coast Guard will be established, the statement added.

- **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in a meeting chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on June 06, 2022, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Armed Forces amounting to Rs 76,390 crore under ‘Buy (Indian)’, ‘Buy & Make (Indian)’ and ‘Buy**

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(Indian-IDDM)' categories.

- This will provide substantial boost to the Indian Defence Industry and reduce foreign spending significantly.
- For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) at an estimated cost of approx. Rs 36,000 crore.
- The DAC accorded AoNs for manufacture of Dornier Aircrafts and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by the Navratna CPSE M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with focus on enhancing indigenisation particularly in indigenising aero-engine material.
- In pursuance of the Government's vision for digital transformation in Defence, 'Digital Coast Guard' project under 'Buy (Indian) Category has been approved by the DAC. Under this project, a pan India secure network for digitising of various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance and HR processes in Coast Guard will be established.

35. Consider the following statement regarding 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI).

1. SFSI was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
2. This year, among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
3. The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

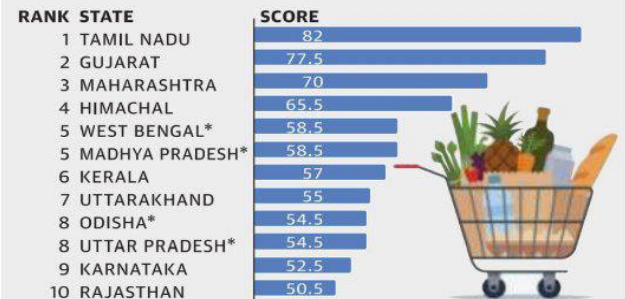
Which of the following statement is correct?

- Only 1 & 2
- Only 2 & 3
- Only 1 & 3
- All of the above
- None of these

Tamil Nadu tops food safety index

Gujarat, Maharashtra take top slots

Safety check | Tamil Nadu topped 20 large States in terms of food safety, according to the 4th State Food Safety Index. A look at the top 10 States



*Ranks 5 and 8 were shared by two States each

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu topped the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) this year, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra. Among the smaller States, Goa stood first, followed by Manipur and Sikkim.

Among the Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured the first, second and third ranks.

Winners felicitated

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the winners on Tuesday.

The SFSI measures the performance of States on the basis of five parameters

set by the Health Ministry. The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Speaking on the occasion of World Food Safety Day, Dr. Mandaviya said the States had an important role in ensuring food safety and healthy food practices. "We should come together to build a healthy nation."

Dr. Mandaviya further launched various innovative initiatives by the FSSAI, including the 'Eat Right Research Awards and Grants - Phase II', Eat Right Creativity Challenge - Phase III, a school-level competition, and the logo for AyurvedaAahar.

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- *On the occasion of World Food Safety Day Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya released the 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) for the year 2021-22.*
- *SFSI was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.*
- *The SFSI measures the performance of States on the basis of five parameters of food safety set by the Health Ministry.*
- *The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).*
- *This year, among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.*
- *Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.*
- *Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.*
- *The Health Minister also felicitated 11 winning smart cities of the EatSmart Cities Challenge, launched by FSSAI last year in association with the Smart Cities Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).*
- *FSSAI's State Food Safety Index measures performance of States across five parameters of food safety. State Food Safety Index was started in 2018-19.*
- *The five parameters are:*
- *Human Resources and Institutional Data (20% weightage)*
- *Compliance (30% weightage)*
- *Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance (20% weightage)*
- *Training and Capacity Building (10% weightage)*
- *Consumer Empowerment (20% weightage)*

36. Consider the following statement regarding India- Vietnam relations .

Rajnath to hand over 12 speed boats to Vietnam

He will discuss defence ties during visit

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Vietnam from June 8 to 10 during which he will preside over the handing-over ceremony of 12 High Speed Guard Boats constructed under the Government of India's \$100 million defence Line of Credit (LoC).

He will hold bilateral talks with General Phan Van Giang, during which both the Ministers will review defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new initiatives to further strengthen the defence engagements, a Defence Ministry said in a statement. "The two Ministers will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest."

Mr. Singh is visiting at the invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart Gen. Phan and will start his visit by paying respects to late President Ho Chi Minh at his Mausoleum in Hanoi.

He is also scheduled to call on Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.



Rajnath Singh

He will also visit the training institutions of Vietnam at Nha Trang, including the Telecommunication University where an Army Software Park is being established with a \$5 million grant from India.

Hanoi is procuring 12 high speed patrol boats for the Vietnamese border guard force under the LoC extended in September 2014. In 2016, India extended another \$500 million defence LoC to Vietnam and discussions are under way to identify the equipment.

The Defence Minister's visit will further consolidate the bilateral defence cooperation and the comprehensive strategic partnership, the Ministry added.

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1. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh handed over 12 High Speed Guard Boats to Vietnam during his visit to Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Phong on June 09, 2022.

2. The boats have been constructed under the Government of India's \$US 100 million Defence Line of Credit to Vietnam.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh handed over 12 High Speed Guard Boats to Vietnam during his visit to Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Phong on June 09, 2022.**
- **The boats have been constructed under the Government of India's \$US 100 million Defence Line of Credit to Vietnam.**
- **The initial five boats were built in the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard in India and the other seven in Hong Ha Shipyard.**
- **The Raksha Mantri is on a three-day official visit to Vietnam. Both sides signed a 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' to enhance defence cooperation.**
- **An MoU to simplify procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support was also inked between the two countries.**

37. Consider the following statements regarding Single Nodal Agency Dashboard.

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard.

2. The SNA Dashboard is part of a major public financial management reform that was launched in 2021 with regard to the way funds are released, distributed, and monitored for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav of the Ministry of Finance's Iconic Week Celebrations in New Delhi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard.
- **The SNA Dashboard is part of a major public financial management reform that was launched in 2021 with regard to the way funds are released, distributed, and monitored for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).**
- **This revised procedure, now known as the SNA model, requires each state to identify and designate a Single Nodal Agency for each scheme.**
- **All funding for that State in a specific scheme will be credited to this account, and all expenses will be paid from this account by all other Implementing Agencies involved.**
- **The SNA model ensures that money for centrally sponsored schemes is allocated to states in a timely manner and after meeting various stipulations.**
- **The Union Finance Minister has also unveiled the Department of Expenditure's Training Modules.**

Single Nodal Agency launch: FM bats for transparent governance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

LAUNCHING THE Single Nodal Agency (SNA) dashboard, a system which tracks transfer of funds to states for Centrally sponsored schemes and utilisation of funds by central agencies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said it will make governance more transparent and realise better value for every rupee sent by the Centre by 'just-in-time' money release.

The SNA dashboard of Public Financial Management System (PFMS), launched by the Minister as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav iconic week celebrations, was put in place in July 2021 and all states got on board by March this year. The SNA provides information about what the state has spent, and Centre releases



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in New Delhi. PTI

send the money only when it sees it getting utilised. Ministry officials spoke about another system for cash management, the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system, for autonomous bodies like Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said this system would help cut down on the interest expenditure as money would be released at the stage where it is needed. "... So the SNA and TSA help us to minimise the interest costs borne by GoI and that is not a trivial cost. That actually helps us a lot, particularly in a difficult year like the current financial year. These are extremely helpful in containing fiscal deficit within what is possible," he said.

'Regulators should be well advanced on digitisation'

At a separate event, Sitharaman said regulators and other entities should be well advanced and ahead of the curve regarding digitisation. "14/20 at there is no missing mechanism. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

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38. Consider the following statement regarding ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management’ Program.

1. The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India jointly launched the ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management (LCCM)’ program.
2. The LCCM program has been designed and implemented in partnership with the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Indian School of Business (ISB).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management’ Program.
- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India jointly launched the ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management (LCCM)’ program.



Puri launches ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management’ programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday launched the ‘Leaders in Climate Change Management’ (LCCM) programme aimed at building capacity among urban professionals to lead climate action across sectors and geographies in the country.

In a statement, the Ministry said to facilitate the face-to-face learning programme, the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru has also signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the WRI India, becoming the first delivery partner of the LCCM programme.

LCCM envisions capacitating 5,000 professionals, including mid to junior-level government officials and front-line workers, and preparing them to champion climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions towards a coordinated effort to achieve India’s climate commitments, according to the statement.

At the event, Puri said the Narendra Modi government has taken many concrete steps in pushing the sustainability agenda forward. At COP26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Modi announced India’s aggressive agenda on climate change through the Panch Amrit action plan, which envisages India becoming a net-zero emission country by 2070, the minister pointed out.

“The LCCM programme seeks to not only identify hundreds of climate leaders but also focus on how these leaders can be oriented in terms of their training and how they will move forward. The very fact that we are thinking about this is a revolutionary step,” Puri said.

Presenting the LCCM programme, its structure and aim to upskill urban climate leadership in the country, WRI India CEO OP Agarwal said the key challenge in building capacity for mid-career professionals is using the right kind of pedagogy -- a teaching style that encourages learning by doing, rather than by just listening to lectures.

Agarwal also said LCCM has fully recognised this and adopted this kind of teaching style. The online learning will be hosted on the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP), the capacity building arm of the NIUA. It will also be hosted and supported by ATI, Mysuru. The programme aims to sign similar MoUs with ATIs across the country over the next few months, the ministry said.

- Its main objective is building capacity among urban professionals to lead climate action initiatives.
- The Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru, signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIUA and WRI India for this face-to-face learning program.

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- The LCCM program has been designed and implemented in partnership with the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Indian School of Business (ISB).
- The online learning will be hosted on the National Urban Learning Platform (NULP). The LCCM program has four phases.

39. Recently **Government launched Jan Samarth Portal** which is a unique digital portal linking _____ credit linked government schemes on a single platform.

- A. 15
- B. 17
- C. 12
- D. 20
- E. None of these



SPECIAL COINS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases a special coin series during the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of the finance ministry on Monday, as FM Nirmala Sitharaman looks on. The ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10 and ₹20 coins, also 'visually-impaired friendly', will have the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav design. The PM also launched 'Jan Samarth' portal — a one-stop portal for 12 government schemes

■ Report on Page 2

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged bank chiefs to make it easier for people to get loans through the new Jan Samarth portal, a repository of a dozen credit-linked government schemes.

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- *Jan Samarth Portal, an initiative by Government of India, is a unique digital portal linking thirteen credit linked government schemes on a single platform.*
- *It is intended to provide ease of access to all the beneficiaries and related stakeholders.*

• *Objective: To promote inclusive growth and development of various sectors by guiding and providing beneficiaries to the right type of Government benefits through simple and easy digital processes.*

• *The portal ensures end-to-end coverage of all the processes and activities of all the linked schemes.*

• *Beneficiaries can digitally check eligibility in few simple steps, apply online under eligible*

EXPLAINER

A ONE-STOP PORTAL FOR LOANS UNDER GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled a single window national portal – www.jansamarth.in – for credit-linked government schemes. Prasanta Sahu explains how the portal will help people to secure loans in a hassle-free manner.

■ How to apply for loans through the portal?
 Currently, there are four loan categories and under each loan category there are various schemes listed. For a preferred category, one needs to check eligibility by answering a few questions. Once eligible is confirmed, the applicant may select to proceed to “apply online” to receive digital approval.

■ Why JanSamarth portal?
 JanSamarth is a digital portal linking 13 credit-linked schemes run by the government to a single platform. A beneficiary can digitally check eligibility in few simple steps, apply online under the scheme she is eligible for and receive approvals digitally. No need to visit separate websites for each scheme. The portal will check eligibility, give in-principle sanction and send the application to the selected bank. It will also keep the beneficiaries updated at each stage of the journey and help avoid multiple visit to bank branches.

Mudra loans
 (Disbursement in ₹ trillion)

Year	Disbursement (₹ trillion)
2017-18	2.46
2018-19	3.12
2019-20	3.29
2020-21	3.12
2021-22	3.03

■ Who can apply?
 Anyone can apply online for loan after checking eligibility under required loan category.

₹18.6 trillion

Loans sanctioned under Mudra Yojana since April, 2015

₹1 trillion

Agriculture infrastructure fund available for investment in viable projects

■ Which credit-linked schemes are covered?

Stand Up India, Weavers Credit card, Mudra Loans, Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure Scheme, Agriculture infrastructure fund, agri clinics and agribusiness centres scheme, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-

National Rural Livelihood Mission, central scheme for interest subsidy on education loans for economically weaker sections, padho pardesh scheme, Dr Amedkar central sector scheme of interest subsidy on education loan

for overseas studies for OBCs and EBCs, PM employment generation programme, PM street vendor’s atma nirbhar nidhi (PM-Svanidhi) and self-employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

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scheme and receive digital approval.

40. Consider the following statement regarding **National Air Sport Policy 2022**.

1. NASP 2022 lays out the vision of making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.
2. Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The Minister of Civil Aviation launched National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). NASP 2022 lays out the vision of making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.**
- **Under the new policy, there will be four-tier governance structure for air sports in India namely**
- **Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body**
- **National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate**
- **Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the**

Air sports in the country to have an oversight body

Minister for Civil Aviation unveils national air sports policy

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

For the first time in India, air sports such as paragliding or hot-air ballooning will come under a four-tier governance structure with the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex body which will oversee aspects such as regulation, certification, accidents and penalties.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation, on Tuesday unveiled the national air sports policy. "Air sports is one area which has the ability to transform into a huge industry," he said.

He said that the air sports industry in the country was today worth ₹80-100 crore, with nearly 5,000 providers, which could grow 10 times in terms of revenue and yield 1 lakh direct jobs apart from a multiplier impact on the economy.

Four-tier structure

The policy lays down a four-tier governance structure with the ASFI at the top, followed by national associations for individual sports and their regional and district-level units.

The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Mi-



Floating fun: The air sports industry in the country is worth ₹80-100 crore. ■ NIVEDITA GANGULY

nistry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) which will represent India at global platforms related to air sports such as the World Air Sports Federation and will also conduct competitions across the country through different national air sports associations.

The ASFI will provide governance over different aspects such as regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties, and will publish its draft guidelines within a period of six months. It will be chaired by the Secretary, MoCA, who will nominate up to three eminent experts related to air sports as members of the ASFI governing council.

Sports that will come

within its ambit are aeromodelling, model rocketry, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, powered gliding, parachuting, paramotoring, powered aircraft and rotorcraft.

"Initially, these bodies will receive financial support from MoCA. It is a virtuous cycle, because once we have our teams participating in international events, more funds will flow in," said Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary (MoCA).

The government will also look at various incentives to encourage the sport such as reducing GST on air sports equipment from 18%-28% to 5% or less, Mr. Scindia said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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national air sports associations, as appropriate; and

- *District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.*

41. Recently in June _____ has launched the latest phase of its nationwide flagship campaign ‘Puneet Sagar Abhiyan’ on 30 May 2022 and it will continue till 5th June 2022, the World Environment Day.

- A. **National Cadet Corps**
- B. **Seema Darshan Project**
- C. **Border Rakhsa Project**
- D. **Shatra Raksha Project**
- E. **None of these**

NCC'S PUNEET SAGAR CAMPAIGN TO CULMINATE ON JUNE 5, 2022

Posted On: 03 JUN 2022 6:20PM by PIB Delhi

NCC has launched the latest phase of its nationwide flagship campaign ‘Puneet Sagar Abhiyan’ on 30 May 2022 and it will continue till 5th June 2022, the World Environment Day.

About 74,000 cadets from 10 States and 4 Union Territories will participate in the campaign during this phase. The NCC cadets shall also be joined in by NCC Alumni, locals and tourists in several places across the country. The waste collected during the campaign will be disposed of in an environment friendly manner in cooperation with Government/Private agencies.

Puneet Sagar Abhiyan was launched by NCC to clean Sea Shores/Beaches and other water bodies including rivers & lakes, of plastic & other waste and increase awareness amongst the local population about importance of keeping the beaches and river fronts clean. The purpose of the Abhiyan is to educate locals and sensitise them about ‘Swachh Bharat’.

The campaign has continued unabated with full fervour since its launch in December 2021. Drawing, poster making, essay writing, poetry, article writing, debate, etc are also being conducted at various locations during the campaign.

- **National Cadet Corps (NCC) has launched the latest phase of its nationwide flagship campaign ‘Puneet Sagar Abhiyan’ on 30 May 2022 and it will continue till 5th June 2022, the World Environment Day.**

- **Puneet Sagar Abhiyan was launched by NCC to clean Sea Shores/Beaches and other water bodies including rivers & lakes, of plastic & other waste and increase awareness amongst the local population about importance of keeping the beaches and river fronts clean.**
- **The purpose of the Abhiyan is to educate locals and sensitise them about ‘Swachh Bharat’.**
- **About 74,000 cadets from 10 States and 4 Union Territories will participate in the campaign during this phase. The NCC cadets shall also be joined in by NCC Alumni, locals and tourists in several places across the country.**
- **The waste collected during the campaign will be disposed of in an environment friendly manner in cooperation with Government/Private agencies.**

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42. Consider the following statement regarding 'Save Soil Movement' .

1. Save Soil Movement is a global movement to *increase awareness about deteriorating soil health and bring about a conscious response to improve soil.*
2. The movement *was started by Sadhguru in March this year, who embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey passing through 27 countries.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a programme on 'Save Soil Movement' in New Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- *Save Soil Movement is a global movement to increase awareness about deteriorating soil health and bring about a conscious response to improve soil.*
- *The movement was started by Sadhguru in March this year, who embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey passing through 27 countries.*
- *The Save Soil movement strives to rally the environmentally-conscious around soil conservation, advocating the power of individual actions for policy change and public engagement.*
- *Prime Minister's participation in the programme will be reflective of the shared concerns and commitment towards improving the health of soil in the country.*

43. Consider the following statement regarding 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement,.

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi *launched a global initiative 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement, on the occasion of World Environment Day.*
2. *The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow last year.*

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a global initiative ‘Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement, on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The launch will initiate ‘LiFE Global Call for Papers’ inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities & research institutions etc to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment conscious lifestyle.
- The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow last year.
- The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilisation instead of mindless and destructive consumption.

44. Consider the following statement regarding ethanol blending in petrol.

1. The 10% blending target was to be achieved in November 2022.

2. Road map for ethanol blending in India, 2020-25”, which laid out a pathway for achieving 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India has achieved the target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol, five months ahead of schedule, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
- This, he claimed, had led to a reduction of 27 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions and saved foreign exchange worth ₹41,000 crore. Farmers earned ₹40,600 crore in the past eight years due to increase in ethanol blending, Mr. Modi said.
- Last June, Mr. Modi made public the “Road map for ethanol blending in India, 2020-25”, which laid out a pathway for achieving 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26.
- The 10% blending target was to be achieved in November 2022.

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45. Consider the following statement regarding report by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) titled 'State of India's Environment 2022.

1. Twenty-five glacial lakes and water bodies in India, China and Nepal have recorded over 40% rise in their water spread areas since 2009, posing a grave threat to five Indian states and two Union territories.
2. The report said 45 to 64% of India's forest cover is likely to become climate hotspots by 2030.
3. The report revealed that India recycled 12% and burnt 20% of the 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste it generated in 2019-20.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- As the world celebrates Environment day on 5 June, a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) titled 'State of India's Environment 2022: In Figures' has painted a harsh reality of its coastline.
- The report from CSE has only brought the nightmare true, which shows that twenty-five glacial lakes and water bodies in India, China and Nepal have recorded over 40% rise in their water spread areas since 2009, posing a

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

10% ethanol blending target achieved, says PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 5

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi announced on Sunday that India has achieved the target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol five months before deadline.

Speaking at a programme on the 'Save Soil Movement', which coincided with World Environment Day, Modi also cited a number of measures taken by his government to protect the environment, saying its efforts have been multi-dimensional despite the country having a negligible role in climate change.

The rise in ethanol blending in petrol from 1.5% in 2014 to 10% now has reduced carbon emission by 27 lakh tonne and saved ₹41,000 crore of forex reserve. This has also brought ₹40,000 crore of income to farmers, he said, adding the feat was achieved on Sunday.

The prime minister said India has also reached its goal of having 40% of its installed power generation from non-fossil fuel-based sources nine years before the deadline.

Modi said India's forest cover had grown by over 20,000 sq km in the last eight years, with wildlife numbers also seeing a record growth. Solar energy capacity has increased 18 times and initiatives like the Hydrogen Mission, circular economy and scrapping policy are examples of the commitment to environment protection, he said.

He expressed satisfaction that his government's key programmes of the last eight years have an angle of environment protection, citing the Swachh Bharat Mission, waste-to-wealth-related programme, reduction of single use plastic, one Sun one earth or ethanol blending programme, as examples of multi-dimensional efforts for preservation of environment.

Taking a jibe at the developed world, he said it had not only exploited more and more resources of the earth, but also contributed most to carbon emissions. While the average



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering on Save Soil Movement on Sunday, marked as World Environment Day, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi PTI

Modi launches global green initiative 'LiFE movement'

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Sunday launched the 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement', a global initiative, and said its vision is to live a lifestyle in tune with the planet and does not harm it. Those who live such a lifestyle are called "pro-planet people", he said in a

video address. Giving the slogan of "one earth, many efforts", he said India is ready to support to actions to make environment better and improve global wellness. Bill Gates, co-chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was among dignitaries in attendance. — PTI

carbon footprint of the world is about four tonne per person per annum, it is only 0.5 tonne per person per annum in India.

He said India is working on a long-term vision in collaboration with the international community and established organisations like Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and International Solar Alliance. He reiterated India's goal to be net-zero by 2070.

To save soil, India has focused on five main things, he said, citing efforts to make the soil chemical-free, save organisms that live in the soil, maintain soil moisture, increase the availability of water and remove the damage happening to soil due to less groundwater, and to stop the continuous erosion of soil due to the reduction of forests.

Farmers earlier lacked information about the types of and deficiency in soil and the quantity of water, he said, noting that his government launched a campaign to provide them soil health cards.

A campaign to conserve 13 big rivers has also started, and along with reducing pollution in water, work is also being done to plant forests on the banks of rivers, he said, noting that this will add forest cover of 7,400 sq km.

Modi said natural farming offers solution to some of the country's biggest problems. The government has decided to encourage natural farming in villages on the banks of Ganga, he said. This will not only make farms chemical-free but the Namami Gange campaign will also gain strength.

grave threat to five Indian states and two Union territories.

- The states and union territories include, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- It said that over a third of India's coastline witnessed some degree of erosion between 1990 and 2018. West Bengal is the worst hit with over 60% of its shoreline under erosion.
- Citing government data, the report said three out of every four river-monitoring stations in India have recorded alarming levels of heavy toxic metals — lead, iron, nickel, cadmium, arsenic, chromium and copper.
- In one-fourth of the monitoring stations, spread across 117 rivers and tributaries, high levels of two or more toxic metals have been reported.
- Of the 33 monitoring stations in the Ganga river, contaminant levels in 10 are high.
- The report said 45 to 64% of India's forest cover is likely to become climate hotspots by 2030. By 2050, almost the entire forest cover of the country is likely to become a climate hotspot.
- "The severity, in terms of damage due to climate change, is set to increase in 2085.
- The report revealed that India recycled 12% and burnt 20% of the 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste it generated in 2019-20. There is no information on the remaining 68% of plastic waste, which most likely would have ended up in dumpsites and landfills.

71% cannot afford healthy diet: Report

AGENCIES / New Delhi

Seventy-one per cent Indians cannot afford a healthy diet and 1.7 million die every year due to diseases attributable to poor diet, according to a report released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down to Earth magazine.

The diseases attributable to dietary risk factors include respiratory ailments, diabetes, cancer, strokes and coronary heart disease, the report 'State of India's Environment 2022: In Figures' said.

The report refers to diets low in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and diets high in processed meat, red meat, and sugary drinks.

"Seventy-one percent of Indians cannot afford a healthy diet. The global average is 42 percent," it said citing the Global Nutrition Report,



Adults aged 20 and above have only 35.8g of fruit per day as against the recommended 200g per day.

They 168.7g of vegetables per day as against the minimum 300g per day.

2021.

The diet of an average Indian lacks in fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains. The consumption of fish, dairy and red meat is within target, it said.

A healthy diet is considered unaffordable when its cost exceeds 63 per cent of a person's income, according to the

Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The report also presents an analysis of food prices. It says that the consumer food price index (CFPI) inflation has seen a 327 per cent increase in the past year, while the consumer price index (CPI) - which includes CFPI - has seen an 84 per cent jump.

Rivers facing heavy pollution: CSE

Heavy toxic metals such as lead, iron, nickel present at alarming levels, says NGO

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Three of every four river monitoring stations in India posted alarming levels of heavy toxic metals such as lead, iron, nickel, cadmium, arsenic, chromium and copper.

In about a fourth of the stations, which are spread across 117 rivers and tributaries, high levels of two or more toxic metals were reported.

Of the 33 monitoring stations in the Ganga, 10 had high levels of contaminants. The river, which is the focus of the Centre's Namami Gange mission, has high levels of lead, iron, nickel, cadmium and arsenic, according to the State of Environment Report, 2022 from the environmental NGO, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The report is an annual compendium of environment-development data and is derived from public sources.

India has 764 river quality monitoring stations across



High pollution: Of the 33 monitoring stations on the Ganga, 10 had high levels of contaminants. *R.V. MOORTHY

28 States. Of these, the Central Water Commission tested water samples from 688 stations for heavy metals between August 2018 and December 2020.

Of the 588 water quality stations monitored for pollution, total coliform and biochemical oxygen demand was high in 239 and 88 stations across 21 States - an indicator of poor wastewater treatment from industry, agriculture and domestic households.

India dumps 72% of its sewage without treatment. Ten States do not treat their

sewage at all, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

Coastline erosion

Over a third of India's coastline that is spread across 6,907 km saw some degree of erosion between 1990 and 2018. West Bengal is the worst hit with over 60% of its shoreline under erosion.

The reasons for coastal erosion include increase in frequency of cyclones and sea level rise and activities such as construction of harbours, beach mining and building of dams.

While the global average

of the Ocean Health Index, a measure that looks at how sustainably humans are exploiting ocean resources, has improved between 2012 and 2021, India's score in the index has declined over the same period, the CSE report underlines. India's total forest cover has registered a little over a 0.5% increase between 2017 and 2021 though most of the increase has taken place in the open forest category, which includes commercial plantations. This has happened at the cost of moderately dense forest, which is normally the area closest to human habitations. At the same time, very dense forests, which absorb maximum carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, occupy just 3% of total forest cover.

India has a forest cover of 77.53 million hectares. But recorded forests - the area under the forest department - are only 51.66 million. This gap of 25.87 million hectares - a size bigger than U.P. - remains unaccounted, the organisation noted.

46. Recently Government Announced to set which school that will aim to prepare students for future and will work as laboratory for national education policy?

- A. PM Shri school
- B. PM Mathan School
- C. PM Yoga School
- D. PM Samarth School

- The union government is working on a plan to set-up PM Shri Schools which will be aimed at preparing students for future
- PM Shri schools which will be fully equipped to prepare students for the future. These state-of-the-art schools will be the laboratory of NEP 2020".
- Active participation from all stakeholders for developing our National Curriculum Framework as well as developing quality e-content for expanding the reach of digital education and for universalising education.
- The education minister added that the 5+3+3+4 approach as mentioned in the the NEP 2020 covering pre-school to secondary school, puts emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). It also focusses on teacher training & adult education, integration of skill development with school education and prioritising learning in the mother tongue are steps for preparing global citizens of the 21st century.

'Centre to set up PM Shri Schools'

AGENCIES / New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday said the Central government has been in the process to establish "PM Shri schools" which aim to prepare students for the future and will be a laboratory for new National Education Policy (NEP).

The Union Minister addressed the inaugural session on the second day of the National School Education Ministers' Conference in Gujarat.

The Minister informed, "The Government is in the process of establishing PM Shri schools which will be fully equipped to prepare students for the future. These state-of-the-art schools will be the laboratory of NEP 2020." He solicited suggestions and feedback from all our states/UTs and the entire ed-

The next 25 years are crucial to establishing India as a knowledge economy that is committed to global welfare

ucation ecosystem for creating a futuristic benchmark model in the form of PM Shri schools.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said that school education is the foundation of a knowledge-based society and NEP is a knowledge document that aims to promote all-around development and make education accessible to everyone.

The Minister said, "We are in the age of Amrit Kaal. The next 25 years are crucial to establishing India as a knowl-

edge economy that is committed to global welfare." "We are a civilisation which believes in Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam and we must realise that we have not only responsibilities of our nation but also that of the world," he added.

The Minister urged that as "We prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, we must leverage technology to strengthen our education and skilling ecosystem."

The Minister highlighted the 5+3+3+4 approach of NEP covering pre-school to secondary, emphasis on ECCE, teacher training and adult education, integration of skill development with school education and prioritising learning in mother tongue which are steps for preparing global citizens of the 21st century.

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International / Report News

47. Consider the following statement regarding *Environmental Performance Index prepared by US researchers*.
1. *India ranked 180th on the Environmental Performance Index due to its poor policies and its implementation.*
 2. *Denmark is on the top of the Index and emerging as the most sustainable country.*

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

Foul air pulls India to bottom of green performance index

However, Govt Doesn't Fully Accept Such Findings, Rankings

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has figured at the bottom of the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranking of 180 countries, released by US-based institutions last week.

The US, the largest historical polluter is ranked 43rd, while the current biggest emitter China has been ranked at the 160th position. Denmark, the UK, Finland, Malta and Sweden occupy the top five slots, with countries from south and southeast Asia are placed at the bottom five.

The ranking is based on an assessment of 40 performance indicators, including climate change, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, environmental public health and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. India's lowest rank is attributed to its air pollution and rapidly rising GHG emissions.

WHO STANDS WHERE

Top five performers

Denmark	1	Rank
United Kingdom	2	
Finland	3	
Malta	4	
Sweden	5	

Bottom five

Pakistan	176
Bangladesh	177
Vietnam	178
Myanmar	179
India	180



Status of other big countries

US	43
Brazil	81
Russia	112
South Africa	116
China	160

The EPI has been prepared by researchers of the Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy and the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network Earth Institute, Columbia University.

"These indicators measure how close countries are to meeting internationally

established sustainability targets for specific environmental issues," said the report carrying 2022 EPI.

Although the researchers claimed that most of the data used by them, were verified by a third party, the findings or such ranking practices are not fully accepted by the environ-

ment ministry in India, citing extrapolation of data and generalisation of conclusions that don't factor in national circumstances. The authors of the rankings claimed that they do not accept data that comes directly from the government.

Referring to low-scoring countries such as India, Myanmar, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the report said, "Most low scoring countries are those that have prioritised economic growth over sustainability, or those that are struggling with civil unrest and other crises. "India, with increasingly dangerous air quality and rising greenhouse gas emissions, falls to the bottom of rankings for the first time... China and India are projected to be the largest and second-largest emitters of GHG in 2050, despite recently promising to curb emissions growth rates."



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- **India ranked 180th on the Environmental Performance Index due to its poor policies and its implementation.**
- **Denmark is on the top of the Index and emerging as the most sustainable country.**
- **The United States is on 43rd place in the index.**
- **The Index predicted that the United States will be among the four largest greenhouse gas emitters in 2050. China, India, and Russia will be the other three countries.**
- **The United Kingdom and Denmark are on the track to achieve their net-zero emissions target by 2050.**
- **The Environmental Performance Index prepared by Yale and Columbia University researchers gives ranking to 180 countries on 40 indicators.**

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48. Recently In May _____ and the United Arab Emirates signed a free trade agreement, the first of its kind that Israel has concluded with an Arab country.

- A. Iran
- B. Israel**
- C. Jordan
- D. Germany
- E. None of these

Israel signs UAE free trade deal, its first in Arab world

Duty to be scrapped on 96% of products

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Israel signed a free trade deal with the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, its first with an Arab country, building on their U.S.-brokered normalisation of diplomatic relations in 2020.

Israel's Ambassador to the oil-rich UAE, Amir Hayek, tweeted *mabruk* – congratulations in Arabic – with a photo of Emirati and Israeli officials holding documents at a signing ceremony in Dubai.

The Emirati envoy to Israel, Mohamed Al Khaja, hailed as an “unprecedented achievement” the deal that, according to the Israeli side, scraps customs duties on 96% of all products traded.

“Businesses in both countries will benefit from faster access to markets and lower



The Ministers of Israel and the UAE signing the pact on Tuesday. •AFP

tariffs as our nations work together to increase trade, create jobs, promote new skills and deepen cooperation,” Mr. Khaja tweeted.

The 2020 deal was part of the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords that also saw Israel establish diplomatic ties with Bahrain and Morocco.

Two-way trade between Israel and the UAE last year totalled some \$900 million dollars, according to Israeli figures.

ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE INDEX

NEIGHBOURHOOD: WHERE INDIA STANDS

Afghanistan	81	Pakistan	176
Sri Lanka	132	Bangladesh	177
China	160	India	180
Nepal	162		



TOP 5: Denmark, UK, Finland, Malta, Sweden

SOME KEY INDICATORS, AND INDIA

■ Biodiversity	179	■ Green House Gas emissions	171
■ Protected Areas	177	■ Biodiversity habitat index	170
■ Species Protection Index	175	■ PM 2.5	174
■ Air Quality	179	■ Waste management	151
■ Climate Policy	165		
■ Ecosystem vitality	178		

- **Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a free trade agreement, the first of its kind that Israel has concluded with an Arab country.**
- **In September 2020, the UAE and Israel have signed an agreement to normalise their relationship.**
- **The deal, known as Abraham Accord, was brokered by the United States of America.**

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- After Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979, followed by Jordan's in 1994, this makes the UAE only the third Arab country to normalise relations with Israel.
 - The deal promises to establish normal relations between the two countries
49. Consider the following statement regarding **United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) foreign direct investment (FDI) report**.

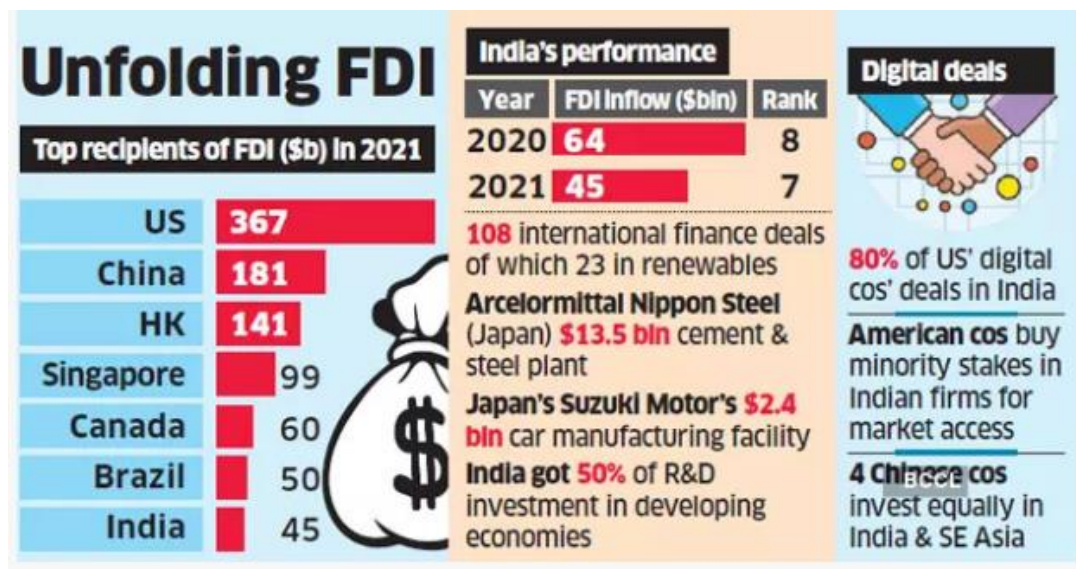
1. India's rank jumped one notch to 7th position among top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the 2021 calendar year.
- 2.. The headquarters is located in London.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India's rank jumped one notch to 7th position among top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the 2021 calendar year, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- United nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD)
- UNCTAD is a permanent inter-governmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

- It is responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- The largest number of projects announced with foreign funding in India was in renewables at 23. Other large projects include construction of a steel and cement plant for \$13.5 billion by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (Japan) and a new car manufacturing facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2.4 billion,



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- The top 10 economies for FDI inflows in 2021 were the US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, Brazil, India, South Africa, Russia and Mexico.
 - India's FDI flow has declined from \$64 billion in 2020 to \$45 billion in 2021. FDI outflow from India has increased by 43 per cent to \$15.5 billion in 2021.
50. Consider the following statement regarding **Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM)**.
1. This will be the first meeting organized by India in **New Delhi** and will also be accompanied by the 12th edition of the **Delhi Dialogue**.
 2. The **Delhi Dialogue's** theme is "**Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific**."
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. **Both 1 & 2**
 - D. None of the above

- India will host a **Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM)** on 16th and 17th June. This will be the first meeting organized by India in **New Delhi** and will also be accompanied by the 12th edition of the **Delhi Dialogue**.
- The **Delhi Dialogue's** theme is "**Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific**."
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** and **ASEAN countries Ministers** will attend the **Ministerial Session**.
- **The year 2022 has been designated as a "Friendship Year between ASEAN and India"**.
- The 30th anniversary of dialogue relations between **ASEAN and India**, as well as the 10th anniversary of the strategic partnership with **ASEAN**, will be commemorated during the **SAIFMM**.
- **ASEAN** is part of India's **Act East policy** and its vision for the wider **Indo-Pacific**.
- The **ASEAN-India dialogue relationship** began in 1992 with the formation of a sectoral collaboration, which progressed to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995, a **Summit level partnership** in 2002, and a strategic partnership in 2012.

51. Consider the following statement regarding **World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022** .
1. **Union Minister for Communications Devashish Chouhan** attended the opening ceremony of **World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022**, being organized by **International Telecommunications Unions (ITU)** .
 2. Theme for this year is **ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1

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

- **Union Minister for Communications 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.**
- **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.**

- **The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community.**

India is poised to play a leadership role in global digital revolution: Shri Devusinh Chauhan at World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022

He 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 progress during multilateral & bilateral engagements.

Speaking about India's focus on inclusive development during the event, Shri Devusinh Chauhan said that the Digital inclusion is at the heart of financial inclusion and inclusive economic development. The government is putting conscious and consistent efforts to provide reliable ICT infrastructure in this endeavor. Over six hundred villages are being connected on Optical Fibre cable, with nearly 175,000 already connected. Villages left out of 4G connectivity are being covered through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Shri Devusinh Chauhan, further added, "Given the difficulty in laying optical fibre networks in hilly and mountainous terrains, our focus is on the use of technologies that can accelerate development and bridge this divide, like using E band wireless carriers, LEO and MEO satellite connectivity among others." He said that we have issued the first service license for LEO/MEO connectivity and hope to harness the technology to enable digital inclusion in remote areas.

Elaborating the role of new technologies in bridging digital divide, the Minister said that affordable broadband accessibility is the essence of digital inclusion. Developing 5G test bed, indigenous 4G and 5G stack, development of Indian 5G standards and setting up of 6G innovation forum are the initiatives to reduce cost, facilitate faster 5G spread in rural area and eliminate dependency on specific vendor. He further said that India is a vast country with large rural and remote areas. The Telecom Standards Development Society of India – India's Standards Development Organisation, along with IITs have developed the Low mobility Large Coverage Standard (earlier called 5Gi) using a new waveform that enables 5G towers to cover wider areas in rural and remote areas. These standards were among the first 5G standards, which have been approved by the ITU and have also become part of Globally harmonized 3GPP Release 17 standards. These will be immensely helpful for countries with similar

- **The WSIS Forum 2022 started from 15 March onwards in a virtual format with the final week being held physically with enhanced remote participation from 30 May to 3 June 2022 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Theme for this year is ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs.**
- **The WSIS Forum is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

52. Recently According to the new Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), global plastic waste production is projected to nearly triple by _____ .

- A. 2050
- B. 2030
- C. 2060
- D. 2070
- E. None of these

- According to the new Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), global plastic waste production is projected to nearly triple by 2060.
- The report further elaborates that the increase will be primarily driven by economic and population growth, with significant increases expected from the developing nations of the sub- African and Asian regions.
- The report observes that even with radical action to curb demand and improve efficiencies, plastic production would nearly double in the next 40 years or less.
- The report (available as a preliminary version ahead of its full publication later this year) projects global plastics consumption rising from 460 million tonnes (Mt) in 2019 to 1,231 Mt in 2060 in the absence of bold new policies, a faster rise than most raw materials. Growth will be fastest in developing and emerging countries in Africa and Asia, although OECD countries will still produce much more plastic waste per person (238 kg per year on average) in 2060 than non-OECD countries (77 kg).
- UN member states have pledged to negotiate a legally binding international agreement by 2024 to end plastic pollution.

53. Recently in May _____ to construct the world's largest buildings in a mostly unpopulated part of the country.

- A. Kuwait
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. UAE
- D. Dubai
- E. None of these

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

First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

- Saudi Arabia is planning the world's largest buildings in a mostly unpopulated part of the country as part of an entirely new \$500 billion development called Neom,
- **Neom, the brainchild of Saudi Crown Prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman, aims to build twin skyscrapers about 500 meters (1,640 feet) tall that stretch horizontally for dozens of miles,**
- The skyscrapers would house a mix of residential, retail and office space running from the Red Sea coast into the desert,
- Announced in 2017, Neom is Prince Mohammed's plan to turn a remote region of the country into a high-tech semi-autonomous state that re-imagines urban life.
- The Middle East is already home to the world's tallest building, Dubai's Burj Khalifa. Long before the rise of Prince Mohammed, Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal had announced plans to build the world's tallest building near Jeddah. The skyscraper remains only partially completed.

Saudi Arabia's \$500-billion project of skyscrapers

Saudi Arabia is planning the world's largest buildings in a mostly unpopulated part of the country as part of an entirely new \$500 billion development called Neom, according to people familiar with the matter. Neom, the brainchild of Saudi Crown Prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman, aims to build twin skyscrapers about 500 meters tall that stretch horizontally for dozens of miles. The skyscrapers would house a mix of residential, retail and office space running from the Red Sea coast into the desert.

BLOOMBERG

54. Recently in June India and _____ signed MOU to further strengthen their defence and strategic ties and also adopted a 'vision statement' to expand their defence and military co-operation.

- A. Israel
- B. Japan
- C. Senegal
- D. Hungry
- E. None of these

- India and Israel resolved to further strengthen their defence and strategic ties during the talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Benjamin Gantz.
- The two sides also adopted a 'vision statement' to expand their defence and military co-operation.
- Besides reviewing regional security scenario and the situation in Ukraine and the Gulf region, the two ministers also deliberated on the co-development and co-production of military equipment in sync with growing India-Israel strategic ties.

India, Israel to strengthen cooperation in defence sector

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 2

India and Israel on Thursday adopted a 'vision' statement to further strengthen existing framework of the defence cooperation between the two nations. They also exchanged a "letter of intent" on boosting cooperation in futuristic defence technologies as well. The steps were a fallout of the bilateral meeting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had with his visiting Israeli counterpart Benjamin Gantz in the national capital. There was, however, no announcement on any defence deal post bilateral talks.

Describing the meeting as "warm and productive", Singh tweeted: "Discussed issues pertaining to defence cooperation and global and regional scenarios." Officials said development and production of military equipment also came up for deliberations.

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- *Israel has emerged as one of the major defence equipment exporters to India since diplomatic ties were established between the two nations 30 years ago.*

55. Recently in June India signed three MoUs with _____ for cultural exchange, cooperation in youth affairs, and a visa-free regime for officials.

- A. Hungry
- B. Senegal**
- C. Israel
- D. Turkey
- E. None of these

India and Senegal sign MoUs for cultural exchange, cooperation in youth matters and visa free regime for officials

India and Senegal have signed three MoUs for cultural exchange, cooperation in youth matters and visa-free regime for officials. The MoUs were signed after delegation-level talks between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and President of Senegal Macky Sall in the capital city of Dakar.

During the meeting, Mr. Naidu assured Senegal of India's continued commitment to support the socio-economic development of that country through all means, bilateral, regional and international frameworks.

Complimenting Senegal for positioning itself as one of Africa's model democracies, the Vice President said that India, as the world's largest democracy appreciates Senegal's success in this regard.

He added that these shared values of democracy and secularism form the basis of warm and friendly relations between the two countries.

Mr. Naidu expressed happiness over the fact that the Indo-Senegalese trade saw a 37 percent increase to 1.5 billion dollars during the last one year despite Covid-19 pandemic.



- *India signed three MoUs with Senegal for cultural exchange, cooperation in youth affairs, and a visa-free regime for officials.*

- *The MoUs were signed in Dakar, Senegal's capital, following delegation-level talks between Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and President Macky Sall.*
- *India assured Senegal of continuing its commitment to support socio-economic development through bilateral, regional, and international frameworks.*
- *This is the first high-level Indian visit to Senegal, and it is taking place at a time when the two countries are celebrating 60 years of their diplomatic ties.*

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- The first MoU is related to a visa-free regime for holders of diplomatic and official passports, which will promote bilateral cooperation by allowing officials and diplomats to travel freely between the two nations.
- The second agreement is related to the renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) for the period 2022-26.
- The third MoU aims to enhance bilateral cooperation in youth affairs.
- Its currency is the West African CFA franc (XOF).

56. Consider the following statement regarding *Turkiye* .

1. *Turkey* will now be **officially known as *Turkiye*** at the United Nations after it agreed to officially recognise the name change on June 1, 2022
2. *Ankara* is the **capital of *Turkiye***

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Turkey* will now be **officially known as *Turkiye*** at the United Nations after it agreed to officially recognise the name change on June 1, 2022 following a request from the Turkish government.
- The Cambridge English Dictionary's definition of *Turkey* is also reportedly one of the reasons as one of the meanings of the word *Turkey* has been given as "something that fails badly" or "a stupid or silly person"
- In 2020, The Netherlands dropped *Holland* in a rebranding move. And before that, *Macedonia* changed its name to *North Macedonia* due to a political dispute with *Greece*, and *Swaziland* became *Eswatini* in 2018.
- Further back in history, *Iran* used to be called *Persia*, *Siam* is now *Thailand*, and *Rhodesia* was changed to *Zimbabwe*.in December 2021.

No more Turkey: Country pushes to be known as Türkiye

ANKARA, 2 JUNE

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has sent a letter to the United Nations formally requesting that his country be referred to as "Türkiye," the state-run news agency reported. The move is seen as part of a push by Ankara to rebrand the country and dissociate its name from the bird, turkey, and some negative connotations that are associated with it.

Anadolu Agency said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, confirmed receipt of the letter. The agency quoted Dujarric as saying that the name change had become effective "from the moment" the letter was received.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has been pressing for the internationally recognized name Turkey to be changed to "Türkiye" (tur-key-YAY) as it is spelled and pronounced in Turkish. The country called itself "Türkiye" in 1923 after its declaration of independence.

In December, Erdogan ordered the use of "Türkiye" to better represent Turkish culture and values, including demanding that "Made in Türkiye" be used instead of "Made in Turkey" on exported products. Turkish ministries began using "Türkiye" in official documents. Earlier this year, the government also released a promotional video as part of its attempts to change its name in English. The video shows tourists from across the world saying "Hello Türkiye" at famous destinations. AP

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Banking / Economy News

57. Consider the following statement regarding **GDP growth estimates released recently by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

1. India's gross domestic product (GDP) for financial year 2021-22 expanded to 8.7%, highest in 22 years in terms of back series data.
2. India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to a four-quarter low of 4.1% during the January-March period,
3. Fiscal deficit stands at 6.7% of GDP, compared to the 6.9% target for 2021-22.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- According to the provisional estimates released recently by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's gross domestic product (GDP) for financial year 2021-22 expanded to 8.7%, highest in 22 years in terms of back series data.
- The data also showed that the Gross Value Added (GVA) - another measure of national income, grew by 8.1% in FY22.
- Buoyant tax collections and higher nominal GDP growth (including inflation) assisted the Centre in keeping its fiscal deficit at 6.7% of GDP, compared to the 6.9% target for 2021-22.

ECONOMY EXPANDED 8.7% IN 2021-22

Growth slows to 4.1% in Q4

Private consumption just 1.4% above pre-pandemic level

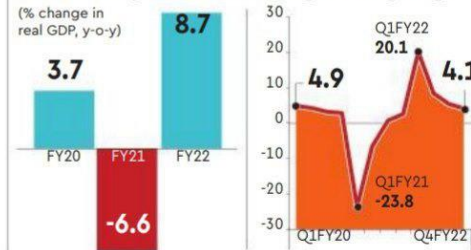
KG NARENDRANATH
New Delhi, May 31

INDIA'S GROWTH RATE slipped to a four-quarter low of 4.1% in the January-March period as a resilient post-pandemic rebound was disrupted by the Russia-Ukraine war that inflated prices of oil and other key commodities, and impeded the global supply chains.

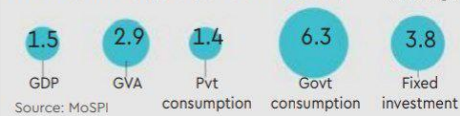
Yet, in 2021-22, the country re-captured the fastest-growing major economy tag from China after a five-year gap, by reporting a gross domestic product (GDP) expansion of 8.7% in real terms, according to the data released by National Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday.

The GDP in 2021-22 came in at 1.5% bigger than in

India recaptures fastest-growing tag



FY22 vs FY20 (pre-pandemic year) (% change)



2019-20, the year immediately before the pandemic, as few sectors other than "trade hotels and transport" lagged behind. The economic recovery was helped by a nascent pick-up in the long-elusive

investment demand, a fleeting consumption binge and an eagerness of the manufacturing and construction sectors to be back on foot.

Continued on Page 17



Stagflationary risk to India is quite low compared to other countries.

Interest rates becoming normal need not be anti-growth move.

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN
CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

Higher revenues, nominal GDP moderate fiscal deficit to 6.71%

WITH ITS NET tax and non-tax revenue being 4.3% higher than the revised estimate (RE) presented in February, the Centre managed to narrow its fiscal deficit moderately to 6.71% of the GDP in FY22, against RE of 6.9%, reports **fe Bureau in New Delhi.** A higher nominal GDP size also helped. ■ Page 2

Core sector output rises to 6-month high of 8.4% in April

INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES GREW to a six-month high 8.4% on year in April, reports **fe Bureau in New Delhi.** The core sector had witnessed an exceptionally high growth of 62.6% in April 2021 mainly due to the low base effect as Covid had disrupted economic activities in the year ago month. ■ Page 2

GDP to hit record double-digit growth in Q1 on base effect

Manufacturing falters but agri shines despite heatwave

● ALSO SEE, PAGE 2

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- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** It is defined as the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period
- **Fiscal deficit:** A fiscal deficit is a shortfall in a government's income compared with its spending.
- **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth** slowed to a four-quarter low of 4.1% during the January-March period, from 5.4% in the preceding quarter, as manufacturing output shrank, provisional national income estimates show.
- **The GDP had shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, while the GVA had contracted 4.8% in the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns.**

58. Recently in June _____ has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

- A. **BOB Financial Solutions Limited**
- B. SBI General Insurance
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (Bank) that issues and manages Bank of Baroda Credit Cards, has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark.**
- **As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank of Baroda Credit Cards have grown 9X over the last four years – from 0.12 million cards in March 2018 to over 1.1 million cards in March 2022. Further, the monthly spends on credit cards have grown 10X over the same period – from Rs. 80 crore in March 2018 to Rs. 830 crore in March 2022.**
- **In CY2022, cobranding with IRCTC, HPCL, Defence Services, and partnerships with fintechs have been some of the key initiatives in the ongoing transformation journey.**
- **Mr. Shailendra Singh, MD & CEO, BFSL.**

59. Consider the following statement regarding **premium rates for flagship insurance schemes.**

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1. **PMJJBY premium rates have been raised to 436 rupees per annum, up from 330 rupees per annum previously.**

2. **The new premium for the PMSBY will be 20 rupees per annum, up from the current 12 rupees per annum.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The premium rates for the government's two main social security schemes- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), have been revised.**
- **PMJJBY premium rates have been raised to 436 rupees per annum, up from 330 rupees per annum previously.**
- **The new premium for the PMSBY will be 20 rupees per annum, up from the current 12 rupees per annum.**
- **The new premium rates will become effective from June 1, 2022.**
- **This is the first time the premium rates have been revised since the start of both schemes in 2015.**
- **According to the Union Finance Ministry, a target has been set to increase coverage from 6.4 crores to 15 crores under PMJJBY and from 22 crores to 37 crores under PMSBY during the next five years.**

Insurance premium for PMJJBY, PMSBY hiked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, May 31

THE GOVERNMENT ON Tuesday raised the premium for its flagship insurance schemes, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), in order to make them economically viable.

The premium rate of PMJJBY has been revised upward to ₹1.25 per day, translating into an increase from ₹330 to ₹436 annually.

The annual premium for PMSBY has been hiked from ₹12 to ₹20, an official statement said. The new premium rates are effective from June 1, 2022. In percentage terms, the premium increase is 32% in case of PMJJBY and 67% for PMSBY. The decision has been

taken in view of the long-standing adverse claims experience of the schemes, it added.

The number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY and PMSBY as on March 31, 2022 were 640 million and 220 million, respectively. Since the launch of the PMSBY, an amount of ₹1,134 crore has been collected by the implementing insurers towards premium and claims of ₹2,513 crore have been paid as on March 31, 2022.

Further, an amount of ₹9,737 crore has been collected by the implementing insurers towards premium and claims of ₹14,144 crore have been paid under PMJJBY as on March 31, 2022.

Claims under both the schemes have been deposited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.



- **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):**
- **It was launched on 9 May 2015. The age limit for this scheme is 18-50 years.**
- **It provides life cover of Rs 2 lakhs in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.**
- **The scheme is offered by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurance companies.**

- **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):**

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- It was launched on 9 May 2015 to provide affordable insurance for poor & underprivileged people of 18 to 70 years.
- Risk coverage under scheme is Rs 2 lakh for accidental death & full disability and Rs 1 lakh for partial disability.
- The scheme is offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company.

60. Recently in May The Centre has released _____ to States as Goods & Services Tax (GST) compensation as it clears entire dues .

- A. Rs 85000 Cr
- B. Rs 86912 Cr**
- C. Rs 82000 Cr
- D. Rs 90000 Cr

Centre releases ₹87,000 crore to States, clears entire GST compensation dues till May 31

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 31

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said that the Centre has released around ₹87,000 crore to States as Goods & Services Tax (GST) compensation. With this, entire dues till Tuesday have been paid, it claimed.

"This decision was taken to assist the States in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes especially the expenditure on capital is carried out successfully during the financial year," Finance Ministry said in a statement. Further, it said this decision has been taken despite the fact that only about ₹25,000 crore is available in the GST Compensation Fund. "The balance is being released by the Centre from its own resources pending collec-

GST Compensation (₹ cr)

Dues for April and May 2022	17,973
Dues for February and March 2022	21,322
Balance of compensation payable up to January 2022	47,617
Total	86,912

tion of Cess," the ministry said.

Now, only June payment is due and it would be the last one as compensation payment period is going to end on June 30, as prescribed under law. However, next meeting of GST Council may consider alternative to this as States are pressing for extending the compensation beyond June.

Assured compensation

With the introduction of GST, States were assured for compensation for loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST as per the provisions of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 for five years. For providing compensation to States, Cess is being levied on certain goods and the amount of Cess collected is being credited to Compensation Fund. Compensation to States is being paid out of the Compensation Fund w.e.f. July 1, 2017.

Bi-monthly GST compensation to States for 2017-18, 2018-19 was released on time out of the

Compensation Fund. As the States' protected revenue has been growing at 14 per cent compounded growth whereas the Cess collection did not increase in the same proportion, Covid-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipt including reduction in cess collection.

In order to meet the resource gap of the States due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released ₹1.1-lakh crore in 2020-21 and ₹1.59-lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection. Now, cess collection would continue for some more time, but amount collected would be used for payment of principal and interest.

- Of this, Rs 25,000 crore is released from the GST compensation fund and the balance Rs 61,912 crore is being released by the Centre from its own resources pending collection of cess.
- Of the total compensation released, Rs 17,973 crore is towards April and May dues, Rs 21,322 crore towards February-March dues and Rs 47,617 crore is the balance of compensation payable up to January 2022.
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017 and states were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for a period of five years.

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61. Recently The **combined Index of Eight Core Industries** stood at _____ in April 2022, which is an increase of 8.4 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of April 2021

- A. 149.2
- B. 143.2**
- C. 159.2
- D. 173.2

Core industries grow 8.4% in April, a six-month high

Six of the 8 core industries remained in growth territory; strong show by coal and electricity sectors

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, May 31

Aided by strong show in coal and electricity sectors, the output of eight core industries grew 8.4 per cent in April, a six-month peak, much higher than the revised 4.9 per cent output growth recorded in March.

The latest print was, however, lower than 62.6 per cent growth seen in April 2021.

For the month under review, six of the eight core industries remained in growth territory. Only two sectors – crude oil (-0.9 per cent) and steel (-0.7 per cent) saw contraction. The other six industries that saw positive growth rate are coal (28.8 per cent); natural gas (6.4 per cent); refinery products (9.2

per cent); fertilisers (8.7 per cent); cement (8 per cent); and electricity (10.7 per cent).

The eight core industries have a weightage of 40.27 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Meanwhile, the Commerce and Industry Ministry has revised upwards the final growth rate of core industries for January 2022 to 4 per cent from 3.7 per cent. Last month, the growth output of the core industries for December 2021 was revised upwards to 4.1 per cent, from 3.8 per cent.

Commenting on the latest numbers, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda, told *BusinessLine* that core sector growth at 8.4 per cent for April is quite im-



pressive as it comes on a high base of 62.6 per cent.

"IIP growth (for April), too, can be expected to be in the higher single digit range of 6-8 per cent based on these growth rates for core sector," he added.

Some of the numbers are impressive like coal, which grew 28.8 per cent and power by 10.7 per cent, he said. This

is difficult to reconcile with the power crisis that was there in April with shortage of coal and power being reported, according to Sabnavis. Evidently, this was not the case, he added.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said: "While the core sector growth rose to a 6-month high 8.4 per cent in April from 4.9 per cent in

March, benefiting from the constrained base of the second wave of Covid-19 in India, it trailed our forecast of 11-12 per cent by a wide margin, dampened by a contraction in steel and crude oil."

Weak recovery

Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, India Ratings and Research, said though coal and fertilisers recorded impressive annual growth in April, when compared against the pre-Covid level (February 2020), they still have some ground to cover as they are only 85.4 per cent and 89 per cent of the pre-Covid level, respectively. Production of other core segments also just crossed the pre-Covid level indicating weak recovery across various infrastructure sectors. Ind-Ra expects the IIP growth at around mid single digits in April, he added.

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 143.2 in April 2022, which is an increase of 8.4 per cent (provisional) as compared to the Index of April 2021. The production of Coal, Electricity, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Cement and Natural Gas industries increased in April 2022 over the corresponding period of last year.
- The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of April, 2022.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

62. Recently in May _____ has launched a industry first 'Smart Value Income Plan', a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments.

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

- Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life), a joint venture company established by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA), has launched a 'Smart Value Income Plan', a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments.

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- This plan includes first-in-industry features such as the option to accumulate cash bonuses which will earn rewards in the form of loyalty bonuses in the sub wallet and favourable interest rates on loans for MSMEs and women entrepreneurs.
- CEO: Naveen Tahilyani (23 Jul 2020–)
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 23 August 2000

63. Recently in May The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is ₹1,40,885 crore which is _____ time since inception of GST the monthly GST collection crossed ₹1.40 lakh crore mark

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

- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is ₹1,40,885 crore of which CGST is ₹25,036 crore, SGST is ₹32,001 crore,
- This is only the fourth time the monthly GST collection crossed ₹1.40 lakh crore mark since inception of GST and third month at a stretch since March 2022.
- The collection in the month of May, which pertains to the returns for April, the first month of the financial year, has always been lesser than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year.
- GST was introduced through the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016. It has a 4-tier tax structure for all goods and services under the slabs- 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

GST mop-up dips 16% to ₹1.41 trn from April high

May numbers 44% higher than ₹97,821 crore seen a year ago

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 1 June

The collection of goods and services tax (GST) fell short of the expected ₹1.5-trillion level in May, a month after hitting a record. The mop-up of ₹1.41 trillion in May is 16 per cent (₹26,655 crore) lower than the record collection of ₹1.68 trillion in April.

However, the latest figure is 44 per cent higher than ₹97,821 crore a year ago. Also, the mop-up in May is still the fourth-highest since the inception of GST in July 2017.

The finance ministry released the provisional data on GST for May on Wednesday.

The sequential dip in the GST inflows in May was on expected lines, as the April GST collection was enhanced by year-end flows. At the same time, the high YoY growth reflects the low base of the second wave.

“The collections in May, which pertains to the returns for April — the first month of the financial year—has always been lesser than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year,” the ministry said.

“However, it is encouraging to see that despite being the first month of the fiscal, gross GST revenues have crossed ₹1.40 trillion — the third straight month since March,” it added.

The newly-released GST figures pertain to transactions in April but tax collected in May.

Of the total mop-up in May, Central GST (CGST) stood at ₹25,036 crore, State GST (SGST) was ₹32,001 crore and Integrated GST (IGST) was ₹73,345 crore. This includes ₹37,469 crore from import of goods

GST MOP-UP TREND



Source: Finance Ministry

and cess mop-up of ₹10,502 crore (including ₹931 crore from import of goods).

During the month, revenue from imports of goods were 43 per cent higher than the corresponding month last year. Collections from domestic transactions (including imports of services) was 44 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources in May 2021.

The number of e-way bills (one of the high frequency indicators) generated in April was 74 million, which is 4 per cent lower than 77 million e-way bills generated in the month of March.

Experts feels that a sustained momentum in the collection trend is likely to continue and may even exceed the budget estimates (BE).

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64. Recently in June _____ launched its new health insurance vertical to leverage the expansive footprint to further entrench health insurance penetration in Tier 3 and 4 markets across India.

- A. Bank of Baroda
- B. SBI General Insurance
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

- In yet another step towards scaling up its healthcare business, SBI General Insurance launched its new health insurance vertical
- The company said that it aims to leverage the expansive footprint and network of its parent company State Bank of India (SBI) to further entrench health insurance penetration in Tier 3 and 4 markets across India,
- Through the vertical, it will manage inhouse servicing of all health insurance claims to deliver a superior and hassle-free customer experience,
- PC Kandpal, MD & CEO, SBI General.

SBI General launches new health vertical

IN A BID to improve the ease of doing business, Irdai on Wednesday allowed insurers to offer health and most of the general insurance products to customers without its prior approval. Irdai has tweaked the 'Use and File' procedure for all the health insurance products and almost all the general insurance products in line with the reform agenda taken up towards having a fully insured India. Irdai said it is envisaged that the initiatives will enable the industry in launching suitable products in a timely manner.

65. Consider the following statement regarding Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022.

1. India is the third most-represented country in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022, with 71 of its institutes figuring in the list, up from 63 last year.
2. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is the top-ranked Indian institute in the 42nd place.
3. Japan is the most-represented nation again this year, with 118 institutions, up from 116 last year.

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 Times Higher Education (THE) on Wednesday released the latest edition of Asia University Rankings.*
- *The 2022 edition comprises 616 universities from 31 countries and territories with India being the third most-represented country, with 71 institutions.*

71 Indian Institutes in Times Asia Varsity Rankings for 2022

India is third most represented country in the list and has four institutes in top 100

Our Bureau

Bengaluru: India is the third most-represented country in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022, with 71 of its institutes figuring on the list, up from 63 last year.

At the 42nd place, Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore is the top-ranked Indian institute — it has slipped three places from the 37th rank last year.

Besides IISc, the country has three other institutes in the top 100: Mysore-based JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, which makes its debut in 65th place, IIT-Ropar (68) and IIT-Indore (87).

There are 17 Indian universities in the top 200, down from 18 last year. Of the 14 that were ranked in both years, eight have a higher ranking this year.

Others in the top 200 include IIT-



Gandhinagar, Alagappa University, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Saveetha University, Mahatma Gandhi University, Delhi Technological University, Banaras Hindu University, Institute of Chemical Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, International

Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi and Panjab University.

The seven first-generation Indian Institutes of Technology including Delhi, Bombay, Kharagpur and Madras continue to stay out of the list as they took a decision in

2020 not to participate in the global rankings, citing data discrepancy and lack of transparency.

The Asia University Rankings 2022 comprises 616 universities from 31 countries and territories.

China is home to the continent's top two universities for the third consecutive year, with Tsinghua and Peking universities holding on to first and second places, respectively. Japan is the most-represented nation again this year, with 118 institutions, up from 116 last year.

Phil Baty, chief knowledge officer, Times Higher Education, said in a statement: "This new dataset shows the extraordinarily diverse range of excellence across the Asian continent — with 31 Asian nations/regions making the list. The data demonstrates that Asia is perhaps the most exciting and most dynamic continent for higher education, research and innovation in the world today."

- *Last year, a total of 62 Indian institutions participated in the rankings.*
- *The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, is the only institute to make the top-50 list with 42 rank. The JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research makes its debut in 65th place, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar at 68 and IIT Indore at 87 rank, respectively. As compared to last year's positions, all the Indian institutes in top-100 have slipped down.*
- *There are 17 Indian universities in the top 200, down from 18 last year. Of the 14 that were ranked in both years, eight have risen.*
- *Meanwhile, Japan is the most-represented nation again this year, with 118 institutions, up from 116 last year.*
- *China is home to the continent's top two universities for the third consecutive year, with Tsinghua and Peking universities holding on to first and second place, respectively.*
- *Elsewhere, a Palestinian university is ranked for the first time and Saudi Arabia has increased its representation in the top 100 from four to six institutions.*

66. Recently in June State-owned PFC raised its maiden green bonds of _____ million Euros and have been listed on Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LSE).

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- A. 400 million euros
- B. 300 million euros
- C. 200 million euros
- D. 100 million euro

- State-owned PFC raised its maiden green bonds of 300 million euros have been listed on Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LSE).
- PFC C&MD RS Dhillon rang the bell at the listing ceremony held in GIFT IFSC Gujarat
- PFC has successfully listed its maiden 300 million euro 1.841 per cent euro green bonds on LSE, which is the largest green bond listing platform.
- The listing has been done under the co-operation agreement signed between India INX and LSE, which encompasses areas of mutual interest in Green bonds and ESG space,"
- In 2021, PFC had announced issuing bonds worth 300 million euros for seven years, with which it forayed into the European markets for the first time

PFC lists €300-million green bonds on LGX

LuxSE, IndiaINX ink pact to facilitate green finance in India

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, June 1

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) on Wednesday listed its €300-million green bonds on the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX) under the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE).

The listing of the Indian green bonds marks the beginning of the admission of Indian securities on LuxSE.

A cooperation agreement was signed between LuxSE and the India International Exchange (IFSC) Limited (India INX) on Wednesday at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City to bridge the gap between India and international capital markets and strengthen cross-border

cooperation in sustainable finance.

Earlier in 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for the purpose between the two exchanges with specific focus on advancing green finance in India.

The PFC's green bonds are already listed on IndiaINX will now also be registered on LuxSE's Securities Official List and displayed on the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX), the world's leading platform for sustainable securities.

IFSC as hub

Injeti Srinivas, Chairman of the IFSC's regulatory body International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), said the cooperation agreement between India INX and LuxSE is another step towards developing IFSC as the hub for sustainable finance.

67. Recently In June _____ & *Thaicom sign pact for broadband-over-satellite services to form a strategic partnership to enter the broadband-over-satellite market and related services in India.*

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Bahrti Airtel
- C. Vodafone Idea
- D. NXTDIGITAL

- *Hinduja group firm NXTDIGITAL, Thaicom sign pact for broadband-over-satellite services and Thaicom have signed a memorandum of understanding to form a strategic partnership to enter the broadband-over-satellite market and related services in India.*
- *The agreement envisages a partnership that includes deployment of broadband-over-satellite (BoS) systems on India-focused capacity.*
- *The BoS systems could be enhanced to provide additional capacity on a software-defined high throughput satellite, augmenting the existing IPSTAR-1 the first broadband satellite in the world which has been operational over India for the past several years.*

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- The pact includes a discussion on possible partnership in broadband subsidiary of NDL — OneOTT Intertainment Limited (OIL) — which is India's fourth largest private internet service provider with over 1 million customers and a presence in over 150 cities and towns, according to a joint statement by the two companies .

68. Recently India's merchandise export rises 15.46% to _____ in May, 2022 recording highest ever exports in the month of May 2022.

- A. USD 77.08 billion
- B. USD 37.3 billion**
- C. USD 32.30 billion
- D. USD 63.05 billion

- India has achieved monthly value of merchandise export in May 2022 amounting USD 37.29 billion, an increase of 15.46% over USD 32.30 billion in May 2021. India's merchandise export in April -May 2022-23 was USD 77.08 billion
- India's merchandise import in May 2022 was USD 60.62 billion
- India's merchandise imports in April -May 2022-23 was USD 120.81 billion
- Export merchandising is a method offering retail goods for sale in a foreign consumer market.

Exports rise 15% to \$37.29 b in May

Trade deficit widens to \$23.3 billion as imports increase 56.14% to \$60.62 billion



OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 2

India's goods exports in May increased 15.46 per cent to \$37.29 billion (year-on-year) driven by petroleum products, electronic goods and readymade garments, according to preliminary trade data released by the Commerce Department on Thursday.

The country's trade deficit more than trebled to \$23.3 billion in May, compared to a trade deficit of \$6.53 billion in May 2021, as imports during the month spiked 56.14 per cent to \$60.62 billion.

The increase in imports was fuelled by a sharp rise in inflow of petroleum products, gold, electronic goods and coal

Value of non-petroleum exports increased 8.13 per cent to \$29.18 billion, indicating an increase in exports beyond petroleum items.

Value of non-petroleum

imports at \$42.48 billion was 44.7 per cent higher over the same month last year.

FY23 export target

India's goods export in April-May 2022-23 increased 22.26 per cent to \$ 77.08 billion while imports in the first two months increased 42.35 per cent to \$120.81 billion. Trade deficit for the period doubled to \$43.73 billion.

The Commerce Department has not yet set an export target for FY23 due to an uncertain environment created by the Russian-Ukraine war. "In the short and medium term, there are fears of demand slowdown in advanced economies which could potentially dent the ongoing momentum," said Mahesh Desai, Chairman, EEPIC India.

69. Consider the following statement regarding RBI's first global hackathon Harbinger 2021.

- The Reserve Bank had launched its first global hackathon - "Harbinger 2021 - Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' in November 2021.
- Tone Tag, a brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt Ltd, has been declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon Harbinger 2021
- There were total 4 Categories

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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

- *Tone Tag, a brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt Ltd, has been declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon Harbinger 2021, organised to encourage entrepreneurs to suggest innovative solutions for smarter digital payments.*
- *The Reserve Bank had launched its first global hackathon - "Harbinger 2021 - Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' in November 2021.*
- *The RBI said the hackathon had received an encouraging response with 363 proposals submitted by teams from within India and 22 other countries, including the US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines and Israel.*
- *The hackathon ran in three phases, with shortlisting of proposals in the first phase, solution development in the second phase and the final evaluation in the third phase.*
- *India-based Tone Tag has been declared the winner in two segments -- 'Innovative, easy-to-use, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode' and 'Context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment'.*
- *In all, there were four categories.*
- *napID Cybersec Pvt Ltd (INDIA) and TrustCheckr (INDIA) were the winners of the other two categories. Alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments and Social Media Analysis and Monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption respectively*

70. Recently in June *The union government has approved _____ % rate of interest on employee provident fund or EPF deposits for 2021-22.*

- A. 8.1 %
- B. 8.5 %
- C. 7.7 %
- D. 7.9 %

- *The union government has approved 8.1% rate of interest on employee provident fund or EPF deposits for 2021-22,. The interest rate is notified after the approval of the Union Finance Ministry, following*

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which interest is credited into its subscribers' accounts.

- In March, retirement fund body EPFO or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation had cut interest rate on employees' provident fund deposits to a four-decade low of 8.1% for the 2021-22 fiscal, from 8.5% in the previous year.
- This is the lowest interest rate since 1977-78 on deposits that employees make towards their retirement fund. Interest rate on employees provident fund that year stood at 8%.

71. Recently in June The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty _____ on Punjab & Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'External Benchmark Based Lending'.
- Rs 50 Lakh
 - Rs 45 Lakh
 - Rs 27.50 Lakh
 - Rs 90 Lakh

EPF deposits: FinMin approves 8.1% interest

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 3

The Finance Ministry has given its nod for 8.1 per cent rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for fiscal year 2021-22. Now, this interest will be credited to accounts of over 6 crore RPF subscribers.

8.1 per cent rate of interest is lowest since 1977-78, when it stood at 8 per cent. In March, Central Board of Trustee (CBT), the apex body of EPFO recommended lowering the interest rate to 8.1 per cent from 8.5 per cent.

An office order, issued by the EPFO on Friday, said: "The Ministry of Labour and Employment has conveyed approval of the Central government to credit 8.1 per cent rate of interest for 2021-22 to each member of the EPF scheme."

Approval of Central government here refers to the



nod by the Finance Ministry. Now, after ratification, the EPFO would start crediting the fixed rate of interest for the fiscal into the EPF accounts.

In March 2020, the EPFO had lowered the interest rate on provident fund deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 per cent for 2019-20, from 8.65 per cent in 2018-19.

The EPF interest rate provided for 2019-20 was the lowest since 2012-13, when it was brought down to 8.5 per cent.

RBI slaps ₹27.5-lakh penalty on Punjab & Sind Bank

THE RESERVE BANK of India on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of ₹27.5 lakh on Punjab & Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by it on 'external benchmark-based lending'. A statutory examination of Punjab & Sind Bank revealed non-compliance with the directions, inter-alia, to the extent that the bank linked certain floating rate retail loans and floating rate loans to micro and small enterprises, extended by it after October 1, 2019, to MCLR, instead of an external benchmark, the RBI said. A show cause notice was issued to the bank by the regulator.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated June 01, 2022, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹27.50 lakh (Rupees Twenty-seven lakh and fifty thousand only) on Punjab & Sind Bank (the bank) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'External Benchmark Based Lending'.

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- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).
- Punjab & Sind Bank is an Indian nationalised bank with its head office located in New Delhi.

72. Consider the following statement regarding RBI All-India House Price Index (HPI) for Q4:2021-22

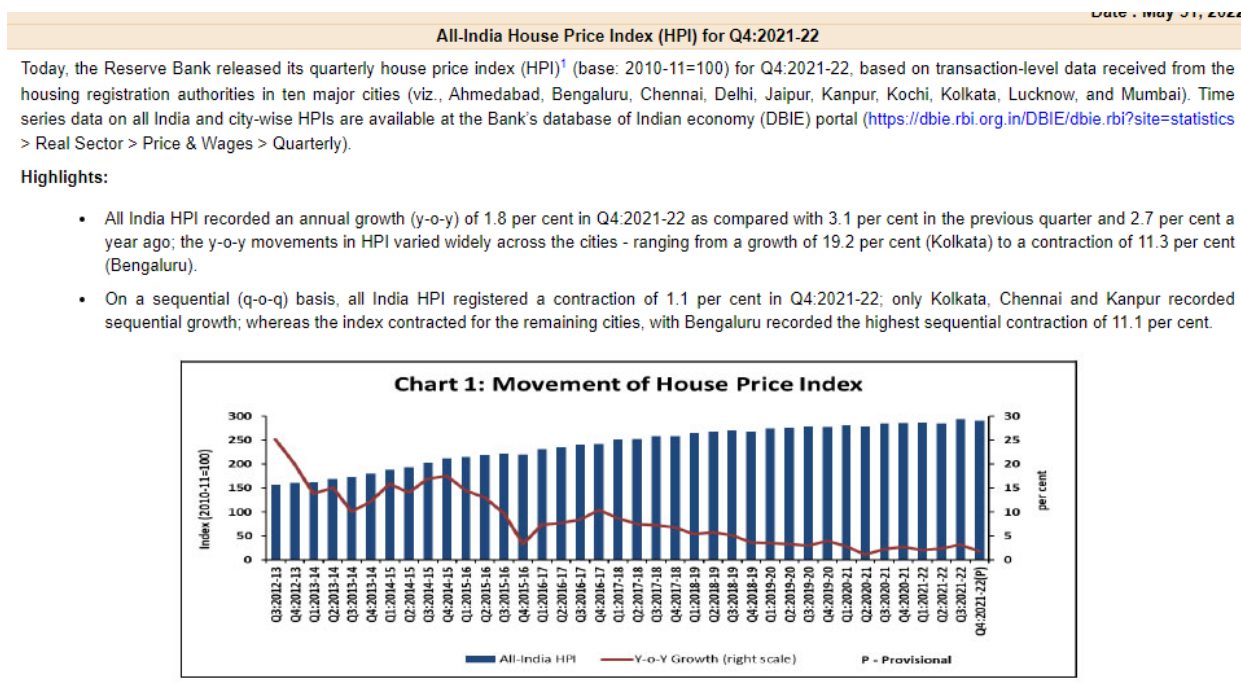
1. All India HPI recorded an annual growth (y-o-y) of 1.8 per cent in Q4:2021-22
2. Bengaluru recorded the highest sequential contraction of 11.1 per cent.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- Reserve Bank released its quarterly house price index (HPI)1 (base: 2010-11=100) for Q4:2021-22, based on transaction-level data received from the housing registration authorities in ten major cities

- All India HPI recorded an annual growth (y-o-y) of 1.8 per cent in Q4:2021-22 as compared with 3.1 per cent in the previous quarter and 2.7 per cent a year ago; the y-o-y movements in HPI varied widely across the cities
- On a sequential (q-o-q) basis, all India HPI registered a contraction of 1.1 per cent in Q4:2021-22; only Kolkata, Chennai and Kanpur recorded sequential growth; whereas the index contracted for the remaining cities, with Bengaluru recorded the highest sequential contraction of 11.1 per cent.



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73. Recently in May The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed, a monetary penalty of _____ on MUFG Bank Ltd. (the bank), for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on “Time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls” .

- A. Rs 45 Lakh
- B. Rs 50 Lakh
- C. Rs 30 Lakh
- D. Rs 90 Lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed, by an order dated May 25, 2022, a monetary penalty of ₹45 Lakh (Rupees Forty-five lakh only) on MUFG Bank Ltd. (the bank), for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on “Time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls” dated February 20, 2018. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).
- MUFG Bank, Ltd. is the largest bank in Japan. It was established on January 1, 2006, following the merger of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd. and UFJ Bank Ltd. MUFG is one of the three so-called Japanese “megabanks”.

74. Recently in June _____ state government signed an MoU with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining the life certificate from the pensioners through the doorstep services of the postal department.

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

IIM-A agri land price index for six states: Karnataka costliest

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, June 2

AGRICULTURE LAND IN Karnataka is the most expensive followed by Telangana, according to a new Agri Land Price Index (ALPI) launched for six states, including the two launched by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on Thursday.

The index, a prelude to a nationwide gauge to monitor farm land prices, was developed for 107 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, benchmarking land prices for rural and semi-urban areas.

The index is aimed at removing uncertainty in the agricultural land valuation.

IIM-A, in collaboration with digital agri-land market place SFarmsIndia, would record and monitor the data of prices of agricultural land in India. The index would act as a reliable source in terms of benchmarking land prices and help in potential conversion of agricultural land into real estate or for industrial use.

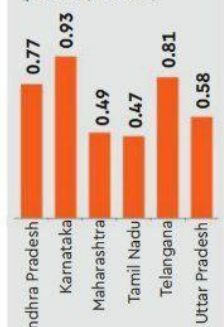
According to Prasant Das of IIM-A, the index would help the government in adopting more scientific measures for providing compensation for land acquisition besides helping financial institutions in underwriting of loan and insurance contracts. It would also ensure visibility in movement of agricultural land prices across the country.

As per the index, 34 districts in the six states are considered ‘most expensive’ while land prices in 32 districts are referred to as ‘median’ and prices in the rest of the 41 districts are ‘least expensive’.

According to the samples collected for developing ALPI, average agricultural land prices in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, are reported at ₹0.93 crore, ₹0.81 crore and ₹0.77 crore per acre, respectively, while prices in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are ₹0.58



Average price of agri land
(per acre/₹ crore)



Source: IIM (Ahmedabad)

₹0.49 crore and ₹0.47 crore, respectively.

ALPI based on samples from at least 18 states will be developed in the next one year. This agricultural index is expected to offer better representation of the national context as well as offer a more granular index at regional levels.

“There is a surge in entrepreneurial interest in agricultural land and allied professions, this index will help in project planning,” Das said. He also said that investors could use information in the index to assess the historical risk and return in the past and predict these metrics for the future to decide on their investment positions.

The Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy at IIM-A will host the index on its official website.

The country has around 200 million hectares of agricultural land and land acquisition for industrial use has become quite contentious because of lack of information of land prices in rural areas.

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- *Tamil Nadu government signed an MoU with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining the life certificate from the pensioners through the doorstep services of the postal department.*
- *IPPB will obtain a digital life certificate through Jeevan Pramaan Portal. IPPB will offer doorstep services at Rs 70 per digital life certificate.*
- *In Tamil Nadu, around 715761 State government pensioners, including family pensioners, submit their life certificates every year.*
- *At present, submission of the life certificate can only be done by pensioners either through physical appearance or through post, or through Jeevan Pramaan Portal by using a biometric device.*
- *India Post Payments Bank (IPPB): It was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 1, 2018.*
- *It has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.*

75. Consider the following statement *regarding agriculture land price index.*

1. *IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has joined hands with an e-marketplace for agricultural land, SFarms India, to develop a farm land price index based on the sales and purchases done on the platform.*
2. *Currently, ISALPI is based on land listing data from six states: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *In a unique initiative, IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has joined hands with an e-marketplace for agricultural land, SFarms India, to develop a farm land price index based on the sales and purchases done on the platform.*
- *The index has been designed to record and present the “quality-controlled” data on prices of agricultural land in the country.*
- *The Misra Centre for Financial Markets and Economy at IIM-A, under which this index is being launched, will host this on its official website and it will be called IIM-Ahmedabad SFarmsIndia Land Price Index (ISALPI).*

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- *SFarms India is an agricultural-land discovery platform, having more than 25,000 registered buyers and sellers. The platform has over 7,000 land listings, which are growing at around 15 per cent a month, according to its website.*
- *Currently ISALPI is based on land listing data from six states: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. With the arrival of more data from other states of India, the index could be more valuable in two ways. First, it will offer superior representation of the national context. Second, it will offer a more granular index at regional levels.*

76. Recently in June _____ has partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold loans.

- A. **Airtel Payment Bank**
- B. State Bank Of India
- C. Indian Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

- *Airtel Payments Bank on Thursday said it has partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold loans through Airtel Thanks app.*
- *There will be no-processing charge on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to 75 per cent of the pledged gold value as a loan,*
- *Gold Loans are secured loans that can be availed to cater to a variety of needs, from personal to professional.*
- *"The partnership will give access to secured and affordable credit to customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.*

77. Recently in June **HDFC Ltd** has collaborated with _____ to digitally transform its lending business.

- A. Wipro
- B. Inhosys
- C. **Accenture**
- D. Paisalo

- *Housing finance company HDFC Ltd on Thursday said it has collaborated with Accenture to digitally transform its lending business.*
- *The transformation exercise is aimed at making the mortgage financier's lending lifecycle paper-less and nimble*

Airtel Payments Bank partners Muthoot Fin to offer gold loans

AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK on Thursday said it has partnered with Muthoot Finance to offer gold loans through Airtel Thanks app. There will be no-processing charge on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to 75% of the pledged gold value as a loan, the payments bank said. The loan facility will also be available at the 5 lakh banking points for Airtel Payments Bank. —PTI

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- *The collaboration -- powered by cloud-native applications, machine learning, automation and advanced analytics -- will revamp the HDFC's customer experience and business processes to provide greater operational agility and efficiency, and drive business growth*

78. Consider the following statement regarding International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights currency basket.

1. The IMF raised the yuan's weighting to 12.28 per cent from 10.92 in its first regular review of the SDR evaluation
2. The weighting of the US dollar rose to 43.38 per cent from 41.73 per cent.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- *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 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.*
- *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 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.*
- *Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership. India joined in December 1945.*

HDFC partners with Accenture for digital transformation

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 2

HDFC Ltd has partnered with Accenture to digitally transform its lending business.

The collaboration will revamp HDFC's customer experience and business processes to provide greater operational agility and efficiency, and drive business growth, the two companies said in a statement on Thursday.

"The transformation exercise is aimed at making HDFC's lending lifecycle paper-less and nimble.

A key element of the programme is a cloud-native lending platform with digital workflows for every step of the customer journey including application, loan processing, credit underwriting and decisioning, disbursement and loan servicing," it said.

The platform includes a user-friendly mobile applica-

tion and web-based portal for customers.

Renu Sud Karnad, Managing Director, HDFC Ltd, said, "The ongoing market disruption in the mortgage industry calls for a focused commitment to digital-led reinvention of customer experiences, which we believe will be pivotal to driving future growth."

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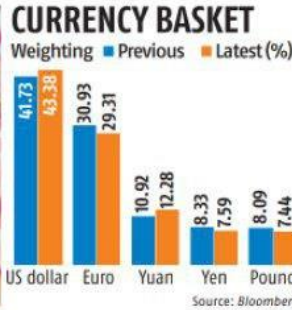


IMF increases weighting of dollar, yuan in SDR basket

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.



79. Recently in May _____ announced to launch India's first air taxi provider using e-planes, named as "e200" which was showcased at Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022.

- A. JetsetGo
- B. ePlane
- C. Switch Mobility
- D. GoJet

- **Electric flying taxis to Indian skies** The ePlane Company hopes to achieve in two years, The company, founded by Indian Institute of Technology Madras looks to revolutionise urban mobility with its fleet of compact electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.
- **ePlane claims that its electric flying taxi, dubbed "e200", will make door-to-door travel 10 times faster at twice the price of a comparable Uber ride**
- **ePlane claims that its electric flying taxi, dubbed "e200", will make door-to-door travel 10 times faster at twice the price of a comparable Uber ride**
- **The plane is an eVTOL with a five-metre wingspan and five-metre from nose to tail and is a 2-seater that will include a pilot and one passenger,"**

m urban mobility

al take offs and landing aircraft) to ferry passengers

car," IEEE Spectrum wrote in an article on its website.

The fact is that it is closer to becoming a reality. According to various reports, Embraer Eve Air Mobility is learnt to have signed contracts with 17 companies for over 1,700 eVTOLs valued at \$5 billion in January this year. In June, Vertical Aerospace is learnt to have announced pre-orders for 1,000 eVTOLs from American Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and aircraft lessor, Avalon Holdings. The Chennai-based ePlane company recently announced a \$5 million pre-series A funding from a consortium of investors.

How do eVTOLs work

"The ePlane e200 is an electric VTOL i.e. it takes off and lands vertically like a drone/helicopter and travels through the air like an airplane at an altitude of 500m agl (above ground level). It will pick and drop passengers from their rooftop(s)/terrace(s) with no additional infrastructure requisites," explains Satyanarayanan Chakravarty, the co-founder of ePlane.

He said the company has tested a scaled-down prototype and expects to have its first cargo plane ready as early as next year. The cargo carrier is expected to be rolled out by February

2023, and the passenger version is expected by December 2024.

According to eVTOL.com, unlike conventional helicopters, which rely on internal combustion engines and mechanical transmissions to drive their large main rotors, eVTOL aircraft typically have multiple smaller propulsion units driven by electric motors. These propulsion units can be placed almost anywhere on an aircraft, a concept called distributed electric propulsion (DEP) or "power-by-wire." DEP enables tremendous design flexibility and unconventional configurations that were never possible before, eVTOL.com's note to investors said.

Beta Technologies' Alia, uses four overhead propellers for vertical take-offs and landings and a rear-mounted pusher propeller for forward flight. In cruise flight, the lift is provided entirely by the wing and the overhead propellers are stowed in a fixed position for aerodynamic efficiency.

With the Indian government backing the introduction of eVTOLs, more manufacturers are expected to show interest in setting up a base here and a further policy push in terms of opening up airspace for such electric aircraft will certainly be a game-changer for the urban transport mobility.

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- *ePlane plans to start setting up a plant in 2023 with an initial annual production capacity of 100 planes, with Bengaluru and Mumbai as its entry markets. It also wants to enter the logistics segment eventually.*

80. Recently in June _____ has launched its flagship programme *My Pad My Right* in Leh .

- A. RBI
- B. **NABARD**
- C. SEBI
- D. SIDBI

Jun 01, 2022, 5:57PM

NABARD Chairman launches My Pad My Right programme in Leh

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD, Chairman Dr GR Chintala launched My Pad My Right programme, in Leh today.

The programme launched by Nabard's NabFoundation with machinery and materials of a cost of Seven and half Lakh rupees. Dr GR Chintala announced to sanction One more lakh to upgrade the machinery to make sanitary pads suitable to the demands of women of different age groups.

Speaking on the occasion, NABARD Chairman GR Chintala said, efforts are on for economic empowerment of rural women through menstrual hygiene.

He said, this will help women to participate in country's economic development.



- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD, Chairman Dr GR Chintala launched My Pad My Right programme, in Leh**

- *The programme launched by Nabard's NabFoundation with machinery and materials of a cost of Seven and half Lakh rupees.*
- *Dr GR Chintala announced to sanction One more lakh to upgrade the machinery to make sanitary pads suitable to the demands of women of different age groups.*
- *National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India. It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance.*
- *NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.*

81. Consider the following statement regarding **Biotech Startup Expo-2022**

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1. It is being organized by the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

2. 'Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat' is the theme of the Biotech Startup Expo.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- **Biotech Startup Expo – 2022 will be organized on 9-10 June at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**
- **It is being organized by the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**
- **'Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat' is the theme of the Biotech Startup Expo.**
- **It will bring entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, scientists, researchers, bio-incubators, etc. to one platform.**
- **Around 300 stalls will be set up at this expo to showcase the applications of biotechnology in various fields.**
- **Biotech Startup Expo 2022 will also mark the 10th anniversary**
- **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC): It is a public sector enterprise under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). It has set a target to support more than 10,000 biotechnology start-ups by 2024.**

82. Recently in June World Bank reduced its forecast for India economic growth in 2022 at _____ while global economy is expected to grow by _____ percent this year.

- A. 6.3 % , 4.3 %
- B. 4.5 % , 5.7 %
- C. 7.5 % & , 2.9 %
- D. 7.1 % , 3.3 %

World Bank trims India growth to 7.5%

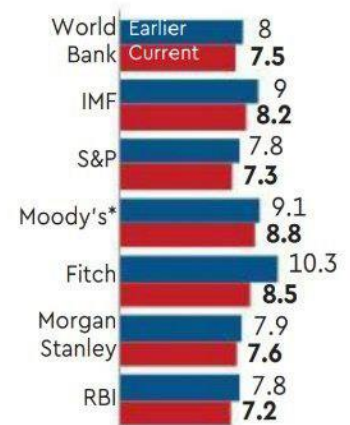
FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 7

THE WORLD BANK on Tuesday scaled down its FY23 growth forecast for India to 7.5% from 8% predicted in April, citing the damaging impact of rising inflation, supply-chain disruptions and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These headwinds would offset "buoyancy in the recovery of services consumption from the pandemic", it said.

With this, the multilateral body has revised down its India growth projection for a second time since the Ukraine war began — it had cut its forecast by 70 basis points in April.

Continued on Page 2

Forecasts for India (% growth, y-o-y, FY23)



*For calendar year 2022

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- *The World Bank cut its 2022-23 (FY23) real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 7.5 per cent, from 8 per cent, on the back of inflationary pressures, supply-chain pressures, and geopolitical tensions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.*
- *According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report, the global economy undergoes its sharpest deceleration in more than 80 years after the initial recovery from the global recession.*
- *The global economy is expected to grow by 2.9 percent this year, according to forecasts.*
- *It will be lower than last year's global growth of 5.7 percent and the 4.1 percent it predicted for this year in January.*
- *Global growth rate is being hammered by the war in Ukraine, Chinese lockdowns, supply-chain disruptions, and the threat of stagflation.*

83. Recently union cabinet has given *approval to increase authorized share capital of New Space India Limited (NSIL) from 1,000 crore rupees to _____.*

- A. 5,500 crore rupees
- B. 6,500 crore rupees
- C. 7,500 crore rupees
- D. 8,500 crore rupees

- *The transfer of 10 in-orbit communication satellites from the Government of India to NSIL has been approved by Union Cabinet.*
- *Further, the cabinet has given the approval to increase the authorized share capital of NSIL from 1,000 crore rupees to 7,500 crore rupees.*
- *NSIL is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).*
- *New Space India Limited (NSIL):*
- *It is a wholly-owned Public Sector Enterprise of the Centre under the administrative control of the Department of Space.*
- *It is a Schedule 'A' Category Company. It is headquartered in Bengaluru. It was incorporated in March 2019.*

84. Consider the following statement *regarding Crypto Rupee Index CRE8.*

1. *Indian crypto exchange CoinSwitch launched CRE8, a crypto rupee-based index*
2. *It will track the performance of eight cryptocurrencies (traded on CoinSwitch).*

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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

- **Crypto investing app CoinSwitch has launched the cryptocurrency rupee Index (CRE8), a benchmark index to measure the performance of the Indian rupee-based crypto market.**
- **CRE8 tracks the performance of eight crypto assets representing over 85 per cent of the total market capitalisation of cryptos traded in Indian rupee. The index is based on real trades on the CoinSwitch app.**
- **Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), Binance Coin (BNB), Ripple (XRP), Cardano (ADA), Solana (SOL), Polkadot (DOT) and Dogecoin (DOGE) will be the eight tokens constituting the index.**
- **Ashish Singhal, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CoinSwitch, The index will be rebalanced monthly and reconstituted every quarter to stay up to date with the market.**
- **Founded in 2017 as a single-window to purchase crypto from global exchanges, CoinSwitch expanded to INR-crypto trading in June 2020. It is backed by investors such as Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), Coinbase Ventures, Tiger Global, Sequoia Capital, Ribbit Capital, and Paradigm, the company is valued at \$1.9 billion.**

CoinSwitch launches CRE8, an index for crypto market in Re

The index provides real-time insight into the crypto market based on actual transactions on CoinSwitch



Ashish Singhal, Co-founder and CEO, CoinSwitch

HARIPRIYA SUREBAN
Bengaluru, June 2

Crypto investing app CoinSwitch has launched the cryptocurrency rupee Index (CRE8), a benchmark index for measuring the performance of the Indian rupee-based crypto market.

CRE8 tracks the performance of eight crypto assets that account for over 85 per cent of the total market capitalisation of cryptos traded in Indian rupees. The index is based on real trades on the CoinSwitch app.

Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum

(ETH), Binance Coin (BNB), Ripple (XRP), Cardano (ADA), Solana (SOL), Polkadot (DOT) and Dogecoin (DOGE) will be the eight tokens constituting the index.

Ashish Singhal, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CoinSwitch, said, "CRE8 is a demonstration of our commitment to bring transparency to the crypto market and equip users with a simple, easy-to-un-

derstand measure of the Indian market."

Real-time view

The index provides a reliable, real-time view of the Indian rupee-denominated crypto market based on actual trades, allowing Indian users to make informed investment decisions, he added.

Real-time insights

The index provides real-time insight into the crypto market based on actual transactions on CoinSwitch. It is refreshed over 1,400 times per day to ensure that it reflects real-time market movement, and is INR-denominated (takes into account currency conversion rates).

The index will be rebalanced monthly and reconstituted every quarter to stay up to date with the market.

85. Recently In June SBI Research has projected the Indian economy to grow at _____ per cent in 2022-23, an upward revision of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate.

- A. 8.5 %
- B. 7.5 %
- C. 6.9 %
- D. 6.4 %

• SBI Research has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2022-23, an upward revision of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate.

• As per official data, the economy grew by 8.7 per cent in FY22, net adding Rs 11.8 lakh crore in the year to Rs 147 lakh crore, the report said, adding this was however only 1.5 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic year of FY20.

• Nominal GDP expanded by Rs 38.6 lakh crore in the first half, inflation remains elevated in the first half, nominal GDP will grow 16.1 per cent to Rs 275 lakh crore.

• On rising corporate growth, the report notes that in FY22, around 2,000 listed companies reported 29 per cent top line growth and 52 per cent jump in net profit over the previous year.

SBI revises economic growth forecast to 7.5%

Says elevated inflation in H1FY23 will mean nominal GDP growth of 16%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2

SBI Research has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2022-23, an upward revision of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate.

As per official data, the economy grew by 8.7 per cent in FY22, net adding ₹11.8-lakh crore in the year to ₹147-lakh crore, the report said, adding this was however, only 1.5 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic year.

“Given the high inflation and the subsequent upcoming rate hikes, we believe real GDP will incrementally increase by ₹11.1-lakh crore in FY23,” SBI chief economist Soumyakanti Ghosh said in a note on Thursday.

Nominal GDP expanded by ₹38.6-lakh crore to ₹237-lakh crore, or 19.5 per cent annualised.



The report expects RBI to be supportive of growth by gradually hiking repo rates

In FY23 also, as inflation remains elevated in the first half, nominal GDP will grow 16.1 per cent to ₹275-lakh crore, he said.

Corporate growth

The report basis its optimism on the rising corporate revenue and profit and the growing bank credit coupled with ample liquidity in the system.

The report notes that in FY22, around 2,000 listed companies reported 29 per cent top line growth and 52 per cent jump in net profit over the previous year.

Similarly, the sector-wise data for April indicate credit offtake has happened in almost all sec-

tors, led by personal loans registering 14.7 per cent demand spike and contributing around 90 per cent of the incremental credit. On the liquidity front, the report expects the central bank to be supportive of growth by only gradually hiking repo rates, but mostly frontload it in June and August with a 50 bps repo hike and 25 bps CRR hike in the forthcoming June policy.

Rate hike scenario

Core systemwide liquidity declined from ₹8.3-lakh crore in the beginning of the year to ₹6.8-lakh crore now while net LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) absorption declined from ₹7.5-lakh crore to ₹3.3-lakh crore. The RBI is likely to raise the repo rate cumulatively by 125-150 bps over the pandemic level of 4 per cent.

RBI may also increase the CRR cumulatively by another 50 bps, which will lead to absorption of ₹1.74-lakh crore on durable basis.

Given the higher crude prices, the report sees inflation averaging at 6.5-6.7 per cent in FY23.

86. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vasai for non-compliance with its directions.

- A. Rs 90 Lakh
- B. Rs 49 Lakh
- C. Rs 55 Lakh
- D. Rs 20 Lakh

RBI imposes Rs 49 lakh penalty on Bassein Catholic Co-op Bank, Vasai

Reserve Bank of India on Monday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 49 lakh on Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Vasai for non-compliance with prudential norms. In a statement, the RBI said the penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with the directions issued by it on 'Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters' (IRAC norms).

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- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 49 lakh on Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vasai for non-compliance with its directions. The central bank has imposed the penalty for non-compliance with the directions issued by it on “Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters’ (IRAC norms)”.*
- *This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act).*

87. Recently In June _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of East London to impart world-class sports education to Indian athletes.

- A. IISc Bangalore
- B. Delhi Sports University**
- C. IIM Ahmedabad
- D. IIT Delhi

- *Delhi Sports University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of East London to impart world-class sports education to Indian athletes.*
- *The universities will cooperate in exchange of knowledge, explore research and innovation opportunities in the fields of sports science, staff and student exchange.*
- *This will help develop new courses and careers for sports, thereby improving the sports ecosystem in both the countries.*
- *The MoU was signed during the ongoing visit of the largest education delegation from the UK comprising representatives of 22 universities and higher education leaders to scout for new National Education Policy (NEP) aligned collaborations.*

Delhi Sports University signs MoU with U.K. varsity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a bid to impart “world-class sports education” to Indian athletes and achieve the country’s dreams in this regard, Delhi Sports University on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of East London.

The memorandum, which was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at an event in Chanakyaपुरi here, aims to build cooperation between both the universities in exchange of knowledge, research and innovation opportunities in the fields of sports science and staff and student exchange, the government said.

This will help develop new courses and careers for sports, thereby improving the sports ecosystem in both the countries, the government added.

“There’s a nagging feeling in every Indian’s heart that despite being a country of 130 crore people we’ve only won a handful of medals. Delhi Sports Policy aims to nurture a culture of sports that can catapult underprivileged children to the global arena,” Mr. Kejriwal said.

“The Delhi government will ensure that talent from across the country makes it to Delhi Sports University; we’ll scout talent all across India,” he added.

‘University only on paper’

The BJP opposition, meanwhile, accused the CM dealing only in promises and alleged that the university only existed on paper. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said Mr. Kejriwal had boasted of setting up a sports university at Mundka in October, 2019, but nobody knew its whereabouts.

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88. Consider the following statement regarding **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)**.

- 1.NARCL is set up in the mould of an asset reconstruction company incorporated to take over and dispose of the stressed assets of commercial banks.
- 2.NARCL has been registered under the Companies Act, 2013. Public sector banks will have 51% ownership in it.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- In her Budget 2021-22 speech, the Finance Minister had announced that the government intends to set up a bad bank.
- NARCL is set up in the mould of an asset reconstruction company incorporated to take over and dispose of the stressed assets of commercial banks.
- NARCL has been registered under the Companies Act, 2013. Public sector banks will have 51% ownership in it.
- IDRCL is a service company/operational entity which will manage the asset and engage market professionals and turnaround experts.
- Public sector banks and Public financial institutions will hold a maximum of 49% stake in IDRCL, and the rest will be with private sector lenders.
- Bad banks are not involved in lending and taking deposits. Technically, it is an ARC or an AMC (Asset Management Company) that takes over the bad loans of commercial banks.
- The takeover of bad loans is normally below the book value of the loan and the bad bank tries to recover as much as possible.
- Asset reconstruction is the purchase of title or rights of the banks or financial institutions in loans, bonds etc., for the sole purpose of its recovery.

NARCL may rejig accounts on 1st list

ABHIJIT LELE
Mumbai, 6 June

National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) may reshuffle its list of accounts for making binding offers because some of them may be nearing settlement or now have less visibility for resolution in a changing economic climate like price volatility.

While work related to the indicated amount (about ₹50,000 crore) remains on course, five-six accounts being considered for the first list may not be eligible for transfer, public sector bank executives said.

The situation is changing, especially in the light of volatility in metals.

An asset reconstruction company bases its calculations on the current situation and the potential for recovery.

NARCL has picked up five more accounts from the list of 50 for due diligence before deciding on making firm offers. The entity has missed the first deadline of March 31, 2022, for phase 1, where about 15 accounts, totalling ₹50,335 crore, were expected to be transferred.

A total of 38 non-performing accounts, worth ₹82,845 crore, were identified for transfer to NARCL in phases.

Under the revised timelines, the company will make a binding offer in the first quarter, which ends on June 30, 2022 (Q1FY23). Together

First tranche of NPA transfer to NARCL in July

The first set of non-performing assets (NPAs) of about ₹50,000 crore are expected to be transferred to the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) in July with account-wise due diligence nearing completion. The remaining accounts are proposed to be taken over by NARCL by October-December. The details about the functioning of NARCL were discussed in a review by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. The NARCL had identified 38 NPA accounts worth ₹82,845 crore, of which 15 NPAs worth ₹50,000 crore were to be transferred by March. **BS REPORTER**

with India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL), NARCL is engaged in completing the financial and legal due diligence.

A senior bank executive looking after corporate accounts said wherever a bank was stuck with any account or progress was not up to expectations, it could keep the account aside. It is also likely that some accounts may be settled at banks level due to the time taken for transfer. In such circumstances they can pick an account from a list of 50.

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89. Recently **India Trade deficit widened to a monthly record of _____** in May.

- A. **\$23.33 billion**
- B. \$60.62 billion
- C. \$40.19 billion
- D. \$36.18 billion

- **India's trade deficit widened to a record \$23.33 billion in May as imports grew at a faster pace compared to exports amid high commodity prices owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the preliminary data released by the commerce and industry ministry showed**
- **The previous highest monthly trade deficit was \$22.91 billion in November 2021. The deficit stood at \$6.28 billion in May last year**
- **Imports surged 56.14 per cent to \$60.62 billion in May**
- **India's merchandise exports grew 15.46 per cent YoY to \$37.29 billion in May**

90. Recently in June _____ **has announced the launch of India's first-ever Banking Metaverse – Kiyaverse.**

- A. **Kiya.ai**
- B. Meta
- C. JP Morgan
- D. Bank.ai

- **Kiya.ai, has announced the launch of India's first-ever Banking Metaverse – Kiyaverse.**
- **Kiyaverse merges real-world banking with Metaverse banking through an avatar based interactions. In the first phase, Kiyaverse will allow banks to extend their own Metaverse for clients, partners, and employees, through services that will include Relationship Manager & Peer Avatars and Robo-advisors.**
- **Kiyaverse plans to have tokens as NFTs and support CBDC to enable open finance in a Web3.0 environment.**

Trade deficit widens to a record \$23.3 bn

Imports surge 56%; exports up 15.46% in May

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 2 June

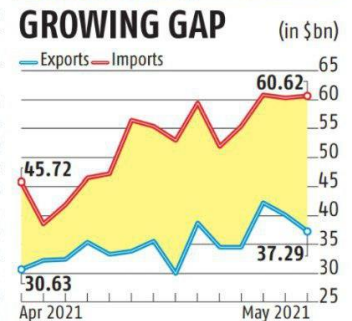
India's trade deficit widened to a record \$23.33 billion in May as imports grew at a faster pace compared to exports amid high commodity prices owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the preliminary data released by the commerce and industry ministry showed on Thursday.

The previous highest monthly trade deficit was \$22.91 billion in November 2021. The deficit stood at \$6.28 billion in May last year.

Imports surged 56.14 per cent to \$60.62 billion in May on the back of a sharp jump in petroleum products amid rising global crude oil prices. The share of petroleum products in India's total imports was 30 per cent in May, growing 91.6 per cent year-on-year to \$18.1 billion. Gold imports witnessed a 759 per cent jump to \$5.8 billion; electronic goods rose 28.5 per cent to \$5.44 billion; and coal imports grew by 2.6 times to \$5.3 billion in May.

India's merchandise exports grew 15.46 per cent YoY to \$37.29 billion in May. Export growth fell by 7.2 per cent compared to last month, after witnessing record outbound shipments of over \$40 billion in March and April.

Of the top 10 major commodity



Source: Commerce and industry ministry

groups covering 81 per cent of the total exports in May, all sectors except plastics, cotton yarns, and fabrics continued to rise. Engineering goods, petroleum products, gems and jewellery, organic and inorganic chemicals were top exported products. Turn to Page 13 ▶

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- *The platform will interface its Open API connectors with Aggregators, and Gateways to enable a Super-App and Marketplace on the metaverse. With the introduction of Haptics enabled Headsets, providing a near real-world interaction using the internet of senses.*
91. Recently In June _____ has announced that it has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to provide tokenization solutions on RuPay cards for its merchants.
- A. Slice
 - B. Cashfree Payment**
 - C. Paisalo
 - D. Pay5
- *Cashfree Payments, a payments and API banking solutions company, has announced that it has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to provide tokenization solutions on RuPay cards for its merchants. Cashfree Payments' tokenization solution 'Token Vault' helps merchants to provide their customers the option to save cards on the merchant website or app and process card payments securely while being RBI compliant.*
 - *With this partnership, Cashfree Payments becomes a certified and compliant payment tokenization service provider across key card networks like RuPay, Mastercard, and Visa.*
 - *Akash Sinha, CEO and Co-Founder, Cashfree Payments*
 - *As per RBI guidelines, with effect from 1st July 2022, neither businesses nor payment aggregators can save customer card details on their platforms. The card details can only be saved by the card networks or issuing banks.*
 - *Card tokenization is the process of replacing sensitive card information like card number, and card expiry with a cryptographically generated random string, referred to as the card token.*
92. Recently in June _____ become first bank to offer instant video KYC to on-board users on a money remitting platform on its online outward remittances platform, 'Money2World' (M2W), to provide improved convenience to users including those who do not have accounts with the Bank.
- A. HDFC Bank
 - B. ICICI Bank**
 - C. Axis Bank
 - D. IDBI Bank

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- **ICICI Bank announced the launch of an array of new facilities on its online outward remittances platform, 'Money2World' (M2W), to provide improved convenience to users including those who do not have accounts with the Bank**
- **First bank to offer instant video KYC to on-board users on a money re mitting platform**
- **Customers of other banks can remit up to USD 250,000 a year**
- **Integrates the remittance platform with its mobile banking app enabling customers to remit fund anytime, on the go**



ICICI Bank Limited
ICICI Bank Towers
Bandra-Kurla Complex
Bandra (E) Mumbai-400051.

Press release
For immediate release

June 2, 2022

ICICI Bank introduces a slew of new digital facilities on its 'Money2World' platform

- **First bank to offer instant video KYC to on-board users on a money remitting platform**
- **Customers of other banks can remit up to USD 250,000 a year**
- **Integrates the remittance platform with its mobile banking app enabling customers to remit fund anytime, on the go**

Mumbai: ICICI Bank today announced the launch of an array of new facilities on its online outward remittances platform, 'Money2World' (M2W), to provide improved convenience to users including those who do not have accounts with the Bank.

One of the new services empower customers of other banks to complete the KYC (Know Your Customer) process via video conferencing to register themselves on M2W, an industry-first initiative. Another new facility enables customers, having account with any other bank, to remit upto USD 250,000 in a financial year under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), 10 times of their previous limit. Further, ICICI Bank has integrated its mobile banking app 'iMobile Pay' with the M2W platform. This integration enables its customers to send money overseas, choose and set their desired exchange rate, and enter a one-time instruction to schedule recurring payments through 'iMobile Pay'.

Users of 'Money2World' can remit funds in 21 currencies for a host of purposes including education, maintenance of close relatives, gift and travel.

- **Further, ICICI Bank has integrated its mobile banking app 'iMobile Pay' with the M2W platform. This integration enables its customers to send money overseas, choose and set their desired exchange rate, and enter a one-time instruction to schedule recurring payments through 'iMobile Pay'.**

93. Recently in June **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) relaxed capital requirement norms by _____ % for insurers to encourage their participation in the government's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).**

- A. 40 %
- B. 50 %**
- C. 60 %
- D. 30 %

- **After the recent hike in the premium rate, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)**

relaxed capital requirement norms significantly for insurers to encourage their participation in the government's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

- The regulator has reduced the capital required to be held by insurers offering PMJJBY by almost 50 per cent.
- The government has recently hiked the premium rates for the two flagship schemes, PMJJBY and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, to make these schemes viable.
- The PMJJBY offers life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh in case of death due to any reason to people in the age group of 18-50 years having a bank or post office account, who give their consent to join or enable auto-debit of premium

94. Recently In June _____ has set up Asia's largest carport type solar plant at its Manesar facility.

- TVS
- Maruti Suzuki
- Ford
- Hero

- Asia's largest carport type solar plant has been set up by Maruti Suzuki at its Manesar facility.
- The plant set up by Maruti Suzuki India Limited has a 20 MWp solar power capacity.

Insurers' capital needs under PMJJBY eased 50%

SUBRATA PANDA
Mumbai, 3 June

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has reduced the capital required by insurance companies offering policies under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) by almost 50 per cent.

This is to enable insurers to offer more policies under the scheme, and provide financial security to the bottom-of-the-pyramid segment in India.

This is, perhaps, one of the first times that the insurance regulator is providing such a dispensation to insurance companies.

"In order to facilitate more participation of insurers under PMJJBY, Irdai has reduced the capital required to be held by insurers offering PMJJBY, by almost 50 per cent," Irdai said in a statement.

The easing of capital requirements by Irdai will accelerate the penetration of life insurance in India. It will support the life insurers in achieving their target set by the government, the regulator further said.

PMJJBY provides life insurance cover worth ₹2 lakh to all account holders aged 18-50 years. According to government data, the number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY as of March 31, 2022, is 64 million. The claims ratio (percentage of amount of claims paid to premium earned) for PMJJBY was 145.24 per cent as of March 31, 2022. About ₹9,737 crore has been collected as premium under the scheme while claims of ₹14,144 crore have been paid.

Earlier this week, the Centre increased the premium rates for PMJJBY and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), for the first time in seven years due to "long-standing adverse claims experience", and to make them economically viable.

The premium for PMJJBY would increase from ₹330 to ₹436 a year effective June 1, and the PMSBY premium would rise from ₹12 to ₹20.

"The PMJJBY has been a loss-making scheme for most life insurance companies. The revision of premium rates is a welcome move and makes PMJJBY a lot more viable. Earlier, life insurance companies earned ₹289 (net of commission) for renewals per-



LENDING SUPPORT

■ Easing of capital requirement will enable insurers to offer more policies under PMJJBY

■ It is expected to accelerate insurance penetration in the country

■ PMJJBY has continued to be a loss-making scheme for most life insurance companies

■ Mortality experience of PMJJBY has also been on the higher side

taining to PMJJBY. Post revision in premiums, companies will earn ₹425 from renewals.

Also, reinsurance support for PMJJBY was muted. Thus, the entire risk was on the life insurance companies' balance sheet. Now, with Irdai reducing the requirement for this scheme, it will free up capital for life insurance companies," said Rushabh Gandhi, Deputy chief executive officer (deputy CEO), IndiaFirst Life Insurance.

The move to reduce capital under PMJJBY is going to free up capital to the tune of over ₹500 crore for the insurance companies, experts pointed out.

According to an expert, for PMJJBY policies, the required solvency margin (RSM) is a sum of 0.1 per cent of sum at risk plus 1 per cent of mathematical reserves. The sum at risk factor has been brought down to 0.05 per cent now.

"The premium increase for PMJJBY will bring the much-needed relief to insurance companies because the mortality experience has been on

the higher side. This is especially in the last two years because of Covid.

Now, with Irdai reducing the capital requirement, it will free up some capital for the insurers. This is because we do not have to block as much capital as we had to earlier," said Vignesh Shahane, managing director (MD) & chief executive officer (CEO), Ageas Federal Life Insurance.

According to Nilesh Sathe, former Irdai member (life), "The increase in premium will help the insurance companies in reducing their losses under PMJJBY. This is because out of ₹330 collected by banks, the amount reaching insurance companies was ₹289 for offering insurance coverage of ₹2 lakh.

The premium was just not enough and insurance companies were bleeding. The relaxation in capital requirement will mean that some of the capital of insurance companies will get freed up and the pressure on solvency will also go down."

"It is unlikely that these products will be marketed aggressively by insurance companies because the sale of these products depends on the banks. Insurance companies, which are promoted by banks or which have ties up with banks, are only selling PMJJBY policies. So, the government should encourage the banks to aggressively sell this product since the buyers of PMJJBY are essentially bank customers," he added.

Experts said that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), SBI Life and IndiaFirst Life Insurance are some big players offering policies under the PMJJBY scheme.

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- In 2020, the company commissioned a 5 MWp carport style photovoltaic solar power plant at its Gurugram factory.
- **With addition of solar plant at the Manesar facility, Maruti Suzuki's total solar power generation capacity, across its plants, is 26.3 MWp.**
- **World's largest solar power plant is Bhadla Solar Park located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**
- **The solar tree installed at the CSIR-CMERI Centre of Excellence for Farm Machinery in Ludhiana is the world's largest solar tree.**

Maruti sets up 20 MWp solar unit at Manesar

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it had set up a 20 MWp solar power plant at its Manesar-based manufacturing facility.

The initiative will contribute 28,000 MW per annum, which is equivalent to the energy required for the production of over 67,000 cars annually.

"Harnessing renewable energy is the need of the hour. We are committed to the Government's vision of making India rich in the use of

renewable energy sources," MSI Managing Director and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said in a statement.

The company's efforts are aligned towards encouraging decarbonisation in a bid to bring down emissions, he added.

"Our company has been committed to the cause of expanding the use of sustainable energy options to optimise our operations. The power generation from this

initiative will constitute over 11.5 per cent of the power requirement of the facility at Manesar," Takeuchi noted.

MSI said it has been harnessing solar energy since 2014 when it installed the first solar power plant of 1 MWp capacity at its Manesar facility, which was later expanded to 1.3 MWp. Maruti Suzuki commissioned a 5 MWp carport style photovoltaic solar power plant at its Gurugram facility in 2020.

PTI

95. Recently in June _____ has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- A. IndiGo
 - B. SpiceJet
 - C. Gofirst
 - D. **Blue Dart**

- **Blue Dart Express has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**
- **The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.**
- **Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to Euro 7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings.**
- **Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050**
- **Blue Dart Express is an Indian logistics company that provides courier delivery services. It is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It has a subsidiary cargo airline, Blue Dart Aviation that operates in South Asian countries.**

96. Recently In June **CarTrade Tech Ltd** it has entered into an alliance with _____ to offer easy and smart financing for used cars.
- A. **IDFC First Bank**

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- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. RBL Bank

- Multi-channel automobile buying and selling platform CarTrade Tech Ltd has entered into an alliance with IDFC First Bank to offer easy and smart financing for used cars.
- Under the partnership, IDFC First Bank will become the preferred financier for customers purchasing used vehicles from CarWale abSure's dealers with customised offerings to suit their needs, the company said in a statement.
- CarWale abSure is the used car platform of CarTrade Tech.

company, however, did not disclose the name of the customer.

CarTrade Tech, IDFC First Bank partner to offer financing solutions for old-cars

Multi-channel automobile buying and selling platform CarTrade Tech Ltd on Tuesday said it has entered into an alliance with IDFC First Bank to offer easy and smart financing for used cars. Under the partnership, IDFC First Bank will become the preferred financier for customers purchasing used vehicles from CarWale abSure's dealers with customised offerings to suit their needs, the company said in a statement.

97. Recently in June _____ has bagged the contract to construct the upcoming Noida International Airport at Greater Noida's Jewar in Uttar Pradesh.

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Adani Group
- C. Tata Projects
- D. Hinduja Group

- Tata Projects, the infrastructure, and construction arm of Tata Group, has bagged the contract to construct the upcoming Noida International Airport at Greater Noida's Jewar in Uttar Pradesh.
- The news was announced by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) which is a 100 percent subsidiary of Swiss Developer Zurich Airport International AG and has been incorporated as a Special Purpose Vehicle for the development of Noida International Airport.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 3

Tata Projects, has bagged the EPC contract for the proposed Noida International Airport at Jewar, in Uttar Pradesh.

The infrastructure and construction arm of the Tata group will construct the terminal, runway, airside infrastructure, roads, utilities, landside facilities and other ancillary buildings at the airport, said a statement from Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, a subsidiary and special purpose vehicle of Swiss developer Zurich Airport International AG to develop Noida International Airport.

In 2019, Zurich Airport International AG won the bid to develop the airport. The Uttar Pradesh government signed the concession agreement with YIAPL on October 7,

2020, to commence the development of the Noida International Airport.

The greenfield facility proposed at an investment of ₹5,700 crore will be spread over 1,334 hectares, will have a single-runway operation in the first phase with a capacity to handle 12-million passengers per annum.

'Ready by 2024'

"YIAPL has selected Tata Projects to undertake the Engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) of Noida International Airport. The company has been selected from three shortlisted teams with demonstrated experience in the design, procurement, and construction of large infrastructure projects," the statement said.

The new airport is expected to be functional by 2024, as per the developer.

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- As per the development, India's largest airport is expected to be functional by 2024.
98. Recently in June **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, through its subsidiary **Kotak Investment Advisors**, launched an investment management app _____ that will provide investment solutions ranging from stocks, bonds, mutual funds etc .
- A. **Kotak Cherry**
 - B. **Kotak Plus**
 - C. **Kotak Xpress**
 - D. **Kotak Credit**
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, through its subsidiary **Kotak Investment Advisors**, launched an investment management app, **Kotak Cherry**. The platform will provide investment solutions ranging from stocks, bonds, mutual funds, fixed deposits and national pension scheme to progressive investment opportunities like exchange traded funds
 - **The app is enabled as a do-it-yourself (DIY) execution platform. The bank plans to add more features to the platform such as stock baskets, robo advisory, life, medical, general insurance and enable international investing.**
 - **In this digital age of automation and one-size-fits all, we at Cherry believe in offering curated solutions that will help de-clutter investment options for our customers.**
100. Recently in June _____ extended the "Use and File" procedure to all health insurance products, facilitating faster customer access to health policies.
- A. **RBI**
 - B. **SEBI**
 - C. **SIDBI**
 - D. **IRDAI**
- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) extended the "Use and File" procedure to all**

Kotak bank launches investment solutions app

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, June 2

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK, through its subsidiary **Kotak Investment Advisors**, on Thursday launched an investment management app, **Kotak Cherry**. The platform will provide investment solutions ranging from stocks, bonds, mutual funds, fixed deposits and national pension scheme to progressive investment opportunities like exchange traded funds.

The app is enabled as a do-it-yourself (DIY) execution platform. The bank plans to add more features to the platform such as stock baskets, robo advisory, life, medical, general insurance and enable international investing. The bank is targeting to build a base of 10 lakh customers in a year. Additional features will be added by October.

"It will truly revolutionise the world of retail investing. We aim to unlock all features, including exhaustive personalisation, open architecture and diverse investment features in a phased manner by October," **KVS Manian**, president – corporate, institutional & investment banking, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** said at the launch.

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health insurance products, facilitating faster customer access to health policies. It was set up as an autonomous body under the IRDA Act, 1999.

- **Objective:** To protect the interests of policyholders, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **IRDA is the apex body that supervises and regulates the insurance sector in India.**

99. Recently in June _____ announced its partnership with neobank Mobisafar to provide banking services through all Mobisafar's franchisees and Business Correspondent networks across India.

- Suryoday Small Finance bank**
- Equitas Small Finance bank**
- Utkarsh Small Finance bank**
- Jana Small Finance bank**

- **Suryoday Small Finance bank, small finance bank, announced its partnership with Mobisafar to provide banking services through all Mobisafar's franchisees and Business Correspondent networks across India.**
- **The partnership is aimed at strengthening financial inclusion by providing key banking services digitally to the underbanked customers even at the remotest parts of the country.**
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank is a new age bank that was converted from a micro finance institution having served over a million customers since 2009.**

100. Consider the following statement regarding norms for standard assets for large NBFCs.

- The provisioning norms for NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) will be effective from October 1, 2022.**
- For individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs), NBFC-UL are required to hold provisions in respect of standard assets at the rate of 0.25%.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- Only 1**

IRDAI allows launch of insurance products without prior approval

'Move will help improve ease of doing business in the sector'

G NAGA SRIDHAR
Hyderabad, June 1

In a significant move, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has permitted general and standalone health insurers to launch products without prior approval.

"The IRDAI has extended the use and file procedure for all health insurance products and almost all general insurance products, in line with the reforms agenda taken up towards having a fully insured India," said the regulator in a release on Wednesday.

"This is a stepping stone towards improving ease of doing business in the insurance sector by moving from the current regime requiring prior approval for launching the products, to a regime where products



The insurance industry, according to the regulator, is expected to use this opportunity for the introduction of customised and innovative products

could be launched without prior approval," said the release.

The initiatives will enable the insurance industry launch suitable products in a timely manner.

Innovative products

The insurance industry, according to the regulator, is expected to use this opportunity for the introduction of customised and innovative products, and expansion of the choices available for

policyholders to address the dynamic needs of the market.

According to the circular sent to insurers, they are required to put in place the board-approved policy of products that are to be offered or modified/revised.

The board-approved policy should also comply with certain norms specified in the circular, and the same should be complied at the time of launching the products or their modification/revision.

The Product Management Committee of the insurer must ensure compliance to the policy of the board while signing of the new products or modification of products, said the circular.

Commenting on the initiative, Tapan Singhel, MD and CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said: "The proactive initiative by the IRDAI will provide some necessary mechanisms to insurance companies that wish to bring out more innovative products in the market at a faster frequency."

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

- RBI has issued provisioning norms for standard assets for large NBFCs.
- The provisioning norms for NBFC-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) will be effective from October 1, 2022.
- For individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs), NBFC-UL are required to hold provisions in respect of standard assets at the rate of 0.25%.
- In case of housing loans extended at teaser rates, the rate of provisioning will be 2%.
- As per RBI, the provisioning will be 0.75% and 1% for Commercial Real Estate – Residential Housing (CRE - RH) and Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Sector (other than CRE-RH) sectors, respectively.
- In October 2021, RBI had issued a framework for scale-based regulation for NBFCs.
- RBI has now specified rates of provision for outstanding loans extended by 'NBFC-Upper Layer'.

Provisioning norms for NBFC-UL specified

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, June 6

THE RESERVE BANK of India on Monday specified the provisioning that non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), classified as the upper layer, must maintain for some categories of standard assets. According to the regulations, these NBFCs will need to make provision of 2% on standard assets for housing loans disbursed at teaser rates. The new norms on standard asset provisioning will come into effect from October 1. Currently, systemically important NBFCs make standard asset provision at a flat rate of 0.4%.

The RBI introduced provisioning for standard assets after 2011 and by March 2015, the provisioning needed to be 0.25% of outstanding assets.

Teaser loans attract lower interest rates in initial years after which rates are reset higher. The rate of provisioning will decline to 0.4% after a year from the date on which the rates are reset.

For commercial real estate loans for projects other than residential ones, provisions on standard assets have been set at 1% of the outstanding amount. Loans disbursed for office buildings, retail space, multi-purpose commercial premises, industrial or warehouse space, hotels or land acquisition will fall under this category.

Loans for which the recovery in the case of a default will depend on cash flows arising from such properties will also be included under this category.

The rate of provision for commercial real estate loans for residential housing stands at 0.75% of the outstanding amount. For projects which have commercial and residential parts, the commercial area must be

Standard asset provisioning for NBFC-ULs

Category of assets	Provision Rate (in %)
Individual housing loans, SMEs loans	0.25
Housing loans extended at teaser rates	2
When housing loan rates are reset	0.4
Advances to commercial real estate (CRE)	1
Advances to commercial real estate – residential housing	0.75
All other loans and advances	0.4

less than 10% of the total floor space index (FSI). For all individual housing loans and loans to small and micro enterprises (SMEs), such NBFCs will have to make provision of 0.25% for standard assets. For all other loans, the rate of provision is 0.4% of the outstanding amount.

The RBI has issued the rules on standard asset provisioning as part of the framework for scale-based regulation for NBFCs. In April, the central bank had tightened capital requirements norms and introduced rules on the large exposure framework. In October 2021, the RBI introduced the scale-based regulatory structure for NBFCs.

101. Consider the following statement regarding Recent **Monetary Policy report** and identify which of the following statement is incorrect .

1. Key lending rate (repo) raised by 50 basis points to 4.9%; 2nd increase in 5 weeks
2. Inflation projection for current fiscal raised to 6.7% from 5.7%
3. GDP growth forecast retained at 7.2% for current financial year
4. Credit cards to be linked with UPI; Visa credit cards to be linked first
5. e-mandates on cards for recurring payments enhanced to ₹15,000 from ₹5,000.

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Soon, credit cards to be linked with UPI

To expand scope of digital payments; adds a credit line to payment channel

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 8

In a move that will add to the growing popularity of the Unified Payments Interface, the Reserve Bank of India has proposed linking of credit cards to UPI.

“To begin with, the RuPay credit cards will be linked to the UPI platform,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday, adding that this will provide additional convenience to users and enhance the scope of digital payments.

At present, UPI facilitates transactions only by linking savings/current accounts or through debit cards. The new facility will allow users to link UPI to their credit cards, too. This feature will be available once the system development is complete, RBI said, adding that instructions will be issued to NPCI separately.

MDR rate unclear

However, it is not clear how the merchant discount rate (MDR) will be charged for UPI transactions through credit cards. At present, there is zero MDR on UPI and RuPay debit card payments.

At the post-MPC press conference, RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said that talking about the pricing structure will be “jumping the gun”.

“The basic objective of linking credit cards to UPI is to provide the customer a wider choice of payments. How the pricing will

work out, we will have to see because pricing is something that banks and other entities will have to do. At this point, we will introduce the arrangement,” he said.

Line of credit

Experts said the linking of UPI to credit cards would introduce a line of credit to the payment channel.

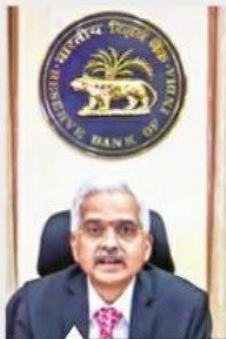
“The addition of RuPay credit cards adds a credit line facility to UPI. Having a choice of payment benefits both the merchant and the customer, as now the UPI payment can be done using a RuPay credit card without the merchant having a card-enabled POS terminal,” said Pranay Jhaveri, Managing Director - India and South Asia, Euronet Worldwide.

“While UPI has allowed a large section of the population to adopt digital payments, credit on UPI hasn’t played out very strongly in the past, despite some attempts being made on it. Since credit cards are the most widely used credit instrument used in India, this new development will boost credit access in the country,” said Shashank Kumar, CTO & Co-founder, Razorpay, adding that this is a significant move for small businesses in tier-II cities and beyond.

“If this takes off, we would have 10x merchants accepting credit cards in India in a few years,” he said. UPI has become the most inclusive mode of payment in India with widespread user adoption. At present, over 26 crore unique users and 5 crore merchants have been onboarded on the UPI platform. In May, 594.63 crore transactions totalling ₹10.40-lakh crore were processed via UPI.



HAWKISH RESERVE BANK TAKES INFLATION HEAD ON



These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for CPI inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth

–RBI Guv Shaktikanta Das

RBI FORECAST	
INFLATION	GDP GROWTH
Q1 7.5%	Q1 16.2%
Q2 7.4%	Q2 6.2%
Q3 6.2%	Q3 4.1%
Q4 5.8%	Q4 4.0%

YIELDS EASE

The 10-year bond settled at Rs 93.54, or 7.49% yield, as against 93.38 rupees, or 7.52% yield, on Tuesday. Gilt yields had risen due to jitters ahead of the policy outcome, but reversed following the repo rate announcement. Traders had already discounted a 50-bps hike in the repo rate, with some even expecting a 75-bps hike.

What RBI said

- To focus on withdrawal of accommodative policy to tame inflation and support growth
 - Inflation projection for current fiscal raised to 6.7 pc from 5.7 pc
 - Edible oil prices remain under pressure on adverse global supply conditions, notwithstanding some recent correction
 - Tense global situation imparts considerable uncertainty to domestic inflation outlook
 - Economic activity gathering strength; normal monsoon to boost rural consumption
- For Housing Sector**
- Lending limits for housing loans by co-op banks doubled
 - Rural co-op banks permitted to lend to commercial Real Estate - Residential Housing sector

RBI retains FY23 GDP growth forecast at 7.2%

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 8

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Wednesday kept unchanged its FY23 real economic growth projection for the country at 7.2%, indicating that risks are more or less evenly balanced since its April forecast.

It now projects the real GDP growth in Q1 at 16.2%; Q2 at 6.2%; Q3 at 4.1%; and Q4 at 4%. The projection seems to have factored in a waning favourable base effect with the passing quarter of this fiscal. The central bank had refrained from revising either its GDP growth projection or inflation forecast in May, when it announced an out-of-cycle repo rate cut of 40 basis points.

Stating that economic activities are gaining traction, the



The central bank suggested that rural consumption would benefit from brightening farm prospects following the forecast of a normal monsoon season

central bank suggested that rural consumption would benefit from brightening farm

prospects following the forecast of a normal monsoon season. Similarly, the on-going recovery in contact-intensive services will likely bolster urban consumption. Investment, too, could be aided by improving capacity utilisation, the government’s capex push and rising credit flow. Growth of both merchandise and services exports is expected to sustain the good momentum.

“(However) spill-overs from prolonged geopolitical tensions (Ukraine war), elevated commodity prices, continued supply bottlenecks and tightening global financial conditions nevertheless weigh on the outlook,” the RBI said on a day when it raised the repo rate by 50 basis points, to curb runaway inflation that hit an eight-year high of 7.79% in April.

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- **RBI has increased repo rate by 50 basis points from 4.4% to 4.9%.**
- **Retail inflation projection has been increased from 5.7% to 6.7%.**
- **Rate on the standing deposit facility and marginal standing facility are now 4.65% (from 4.15% earlier) and 5.15% (4.65% earlier), respectively.**
- **Other highlights of RBI's third monetary policy review of the current financial year announced by Governor Shaktikanta Das are given below.**
- **e-mandates on cards for recurring payments enhanced to ₹15,000 from ₹5,000.**
- **Urban Co-op banks have been allowed to offer door-step banking.**
- **Rural co-op banks have been permitted to lend to commercial Real Estate - Residential Housing (CRE-RH) sector.**
- **Lending limits for housing loans by co-op banks have been doubled.**
- **Credit cards will be linked with UPI. RuPay credit cards will be linked first.**
- **RBI has projected growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal at 16.2%. It will decline to 4% by the fourth quarter.**
- **In April, RBI has cut GDP growth projection for 2022-23 from 7.8% to 7.2%.**
- **On 7 June 2022, World Bank has lowered down India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.5%.**
- **World Bank has for the second time revised its GDP growth forecast for India in current fiscal 2022-23. In April, World Bank cut the forecast from 8.7% to 8%.**

RBI to enhance recurring payment limit to ₹15,000

The system is by and large prepared for tokenisation, says RBI Deputy Governor

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 8

In a boost to customer convenience, the Reserve Bank of India plans to enhance the limit for recurring payments to ₹15,000/transaction from ₹5,000. Hence, recurring payments up to ₹15,000 will not require an additional factor authentication such as OTP.

"Requests have been received from stakeholders to increase the limit under the framework to facilitate payments of larger value like subscriptions, insurance premia, education fee," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday in the monetary policy statement.

The move will further augment customer convenience and lever-

age the benefits available under the framework, he said, adding that necessary instructions to the effect will be issued shortly.

The current framework for on processing of e-mandate-based recurring payments provides for an additional factor of authentication (AFA) during registration, sending a pre-debit notification, enabling subsequent recurring transactions to be executed without AFA, and an easier avenue to withdraw such mandates.

Additional benefits

Benefits of convenience, safety and security are available to users, Das further said, adding that the system, too, also benefits from users' confidence. Till date,



over 6.25 crore mandates have been registered under this framework, including those for over 3,400 international merchants.

International merchants are also working on the framework, but could take some time.

RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said about 3,450 international merchants have registered.

"Some of them, for whom India business is not that significant will take a little longer to make the investments, to adjust their

systems. Some major ones have communicated that to us, that they will adjust but will take a little bit longer," he said at the post MPC press conference.

Experts said the higher limit of ₹15,000 will ensure ease for customers in case of high-value recurring payments.

Card tokenisation

The RBI also expressed satisfaction over the progress made by the industry for card tokenisation, the deadline for which is June 30.

"With about three weeks to go, the progress has been satisfactory. Over the last several months, our teams have been constantly discussing with all stakeholders to ensure that the process of tokenisation is implemented smoothly. The system is by and large prepared," said RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar.

Amit Shah to inaugurate National Tribal Research Institute in Delhi

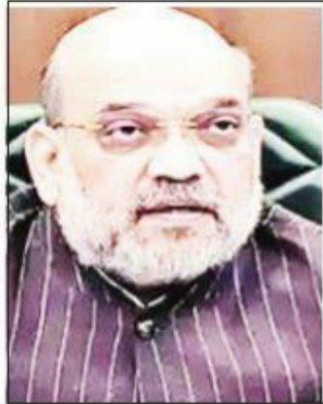
SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) on Tuesday in the national capital.

The ministry of tribal affairs said that the NTRI will be a premier national level institute and become the nerve-centre of tribal concerns, issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields.

It will collaborate and network with reputed research institutes, universities, organisations as well as academic bodies and resource Centres. It will monitor projects of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs), research scholars of NFS and set up norms for improvement in the quality of research and training.

Its other activities would be to provide policy inputs to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as state welfare departments, design studies and programmes that improve or support socio-economic aspects of tribal lifestyles, creating and maintenance of database of PMAGY, provid-



ing guidelines in setting and running of Tribal Museums and showcasing rich tribal cultural heritage of India under one umbrella.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, Law Minister Kiren Rijju, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh Saruta and Bishweswar Tudu, and other Union ministers will also join the inauguration.

An exhibition showcasing the achievements of the tribal affairs ministry under the leadership of the Prime Minister will be displayed. More than 100 tribal artisans and tribal dance troupes across the country will showcase their indigenous products and performances.

RBI hikes limit for real estate loans by co-op banks

SHASHANK DIDMISHE
Mumbai, June 8

THE RESERVE BANK of India on Wednesday doubled the amount of loans that urban cooperative banks (UCBs) can issue for housing. The revision is done in order to factor in the rise in house prices.

The central bank has permitted cooperative banks to extend doorstep banking services to their customers. "This will enable UCBs to meet the needs of their customers, especially senior citizens and differently abled," the RBI said.

Additionally, rural cooperative banks can issue loans for residential housing projects. The cap on loans that these banks can issue is 5% of their total assets. The move measure will improve credit flows from the cooperative banks to the housing sector, the RBI said.

"The big announcement was raising the limit of loans for the State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks to the housing sector. The housing sector is a

CEILING RAISED

■ The revision is done in order to **factor in the rise in house prices**

■ RBI has permitted cooperative banks to **extend doorstep banking services** to their customers

■ Rural cooperative banks **can issue loans for residential housing projects**

capital-intensive business, these measures will address the growing need for affordable housing, providing easy and higher limits with enough funding avenues for the projects," Nitin Bavisi, CFO, Ajmera Realty said.

"It will improve credit flow to the sector and also act as a boost for housing projects in the rural areas, thereby ensuring the recovery in all pockets

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

102. What is the name of *credit line card* launched by neobanking platform Stashfin especially for women?

- A. BoundlessLife
- B. BoundlessWomen
- C. WomenLive
- D. LiveBoundless

- **Stashfin launched LiveBoundless. LiveBoundless is a credit line card especially for women.**
- **It offers cashback rewards, welcome credits, and free ATM withdrawals.**
- **Stashfin is a neobanking platform. Neo Banks are 100% digital (fully digital). They do not have any physical branches.**

LIC Q4 net profit down 18% to ₹2,371 crore

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 30

Life Insurance Corporation of India reported an 18 per cent drop in its standalone net profit to ₹2,371.55 crore in Q4FY22 from ₹2,893.44 crore in the same period last year. While premium income saw a healthy growth, operating expenses and net benefits paid also increased.

On a consolidated basis, its net profit was 17.4 per cent lower at ₹2,409.29 crore for the fourth quarter of the last fiscal compared with ₹2,917.33 crore in Q4FY21. For FY22, its net profit shot up by 39.4 per cent to ₹4,043.12 crore from ₹2,900.56 crore in 2020-21.

Maiden dividend

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹1.50 per equity share for the fiscal 2021-22, subject to shareholders' approval, LIC said in an exchange filing on Monday.

This is the first quarterly result since its ₹21,000-crore IPO earlier this month and the investors were looking forward to a higher dividend payout.

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Appointment News

103. Recently in May Titan Raga made _____ its new ambassador and launch a new TVC campaign.

- A. Alia Bhatt
- B. Deepika Posukone
- C. Disha Patani
- D. John Abrahm

Titan Raga ropes in Alia Bhatt as brand ambassador, unveils new campaign

Conceptualised in partnership with Ogilvy, the film is an ode to young Indian women who aspire to break the societal barriers of inhibitions around self-expression and desires.

BE Staff • ETBrandEquity • May 28, 2022, 14:35 IST



Alia Bhatt in Titan Raga campaign film

Titan Raga has announced Alia Bhatt as its new ambassador. The onboarding of the actor also marks the launch of the brand's new TVC campaign, Boldly Beautiful.

Conceptualised in partnership with Ogilvy, the film is an ode to young Indian women who aspire to break the societal

- Titan Raga has announced Alia Bhatt as its new ambassador. The onboarding of the actor also marks the launch of the brand's new TVC campaign, Boldly Beautiful.
- Electronics brand Swott named Indian cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as its brand ambassador.

Ex-SBI executive Natarajan Sundar appointed NARCL chief

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, May 31

FORMER STATE BANK of India (SBI) executive Natarajan Sundar has been appointed MD & CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from May 30. Another former SBI employee, Karnam Sekar, who also headed Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) till June 30, 2020, has been appointed non-executive chairman of the bad bank.

Sundar retired on April 30 as deputy managing director and chief credit officer at the bank, after having worked there for over 37 years.

"After his name was recommended for the position by NARCL board, the fit and proper approval was granted by the sectoral regulator, RBI on May 24, 2022. The previous incumbent, Mr. Padmakumar Nair, who was on a secondment basis from SBI has since been repatriated to the parent bank," SBI said in a statement on Tuesday.

Malvika Sinha, who retired as executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), also joined the NARCL board as an independent director last week. In addition to the three new appointees, the board has five nominee directors from shareholder banks and another independent director is expected to join the board shortly. "With this the Board will have its full complement of 9 directors," SBI said.

Fifteen Indian banks hold stakes in NARCL, with Canara Bank being the sponsor bank. Together with India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL), NARCL is presently engaged in completing the financial and legal due diligence of the identified stressed accounts for acquisition. The bad bank is expected to make binding financial offers for a few accounts shortly, SBI said.

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104. Recently in June _____ has been appointed MD of SBI as he replaced Ashwani Bhatia with effect from June 7, 2022.

- A. Alok Kumar Choudhary
- B. Swaminathan Janakiraman
- C. CS Setty
- D. Ashwini Kumar Tewari

- Alok Kumar Choudhary has been appointed MD of SBI with effect from June 7, 2022. Alok Kumar Choudhary replaced Ashwani Bhatia as MD of SBI.
- Ashwani Bhatia recently assumed charge as a whole-time member of SEBI.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) now has four MDs. The other three MDs are CS Setty, Swaminathan Janakiraman and Ashwini Kumar Tewari.
- State Bank of India (SBI): It is a nationalized public sector bank. Dinesh Kumar Khara is its chairperson.
- Its headquarters is in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Its tagline is The Banker to Every India

106. Consider the following statement and match them correctly which of the following

- A. Manimekhalai - Union Bank Of India
- B. Swarup Kumar Saha - Punjab & Sind Bank
- C. Ajay Kumar Srivastava - Indian Overseas Bank
- D. All are correct

- Canara Bank ED A Manimekhalai has been appointed as the MD of Union Bank of India. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed as the head of the Mumbai-based bank.
- The government has also named the MDs who will take charge in Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank as recommended by the appointment committee of the Cabinet. Punjab National Bank ED Swarup Kumar Saha has been appointed MD to succeed S Krishnan as MD &

Alok Kumar Choudhary takes charge as MD of SBI

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 7

Alok Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday took charge as the new Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI).

His appointment comes in the wake of the superannuation of Ashwani Bhatia as Managing Director on May 31, 2022.

Choudhary was previously Deputy Managing Director (Finance) at the bank. As the new MD, he will be handling retail business and operations, per SBI's statement.

Per a notification issued by the Department of Financial Services, the new MD's appointment is with effect from the date of assumption of office and up to the date of his superannuation (June 30, 2024), or until further order, whichever is earlier.

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First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank. Krishnan retired in May 2022. In Indian Overseas Bank, Ajay Kumar Srivastava, ED of the bank, has been identified to succeed Partha Pratim Sengupta as MD & CEO who retires at the end of the year.

- **Manimekhalai was appointed to succeed Rajkiran Rai G, whose tenure ended on May 31. Her appointment is for a period of three years or until further orders. The government notification said that she would be available for extension of term by two years or until her retirement date (March 2026).**

105. Recently In May _____ has been appointed as MD & CEO of NARCL.

- A. Subrata Biswas
- B. Diwakar Gupta
- C. Natarajan Sundar
- D. Malvika Sinha

- **Natarajan Sundar has been appointed as MD & CEO of NARCL. Sundar has been appointed with effect from 30 May 2022.**
- **He retired on April 30 as deputy managing director and chief credit officer of the State Bank of India.**
- *Karnam Sekar has been appointed non-executive chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).*
- *Malvika Sinha has joined NARCL Board as an independent director. Sinha retired as executive director of RBI.*
- *The NARCL board has five nominee directors from shareholder banks.*

Appointment of MDs at 3 PSBs gets govt's approval

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 2 June

The Centre has approved the appointment of managing directors (MDs) of Union Bank of India (UBI), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), and Punjab & Sind Bank.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services to appoint A Manimekhalai as MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UBI, Swarup Kumar Saha as MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank, and Ajay Kumar Srivastava as MD and CEO of IOB.

Manimekhalai, currently

executive director at Canara Bank, has been appointed chief of UBI for three years after the superannuation of Rajkiran Rai on May 31. Manimekhalai will also be eligible for extension of two years or until March 31, 2026, after a performance review.

Saha, executive director at Punjab National Bank (PNB), has been appointed MD and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank for three years after the superannuation of S Krishnan on May 31. Saha will also be eligible for a two-year extension or until February 28, 2027, after a review of his performance.

The present executive director at IOB, Ajay Kumar

Srivastava, has been promoted as head of IOB for three years, starting January 1, 2023. The tenure of the incumbent MD and CEO Partha Pratim Sengupta will be completed on December 31. Srivastava will also be eligible for extension of two years or until October 31, 2027, after a review of his performance.

The appointments are in line with the recommendations made by the Banks Board Bureau. The BBB had recommended Manimekhalai, Saha, and Srivastava as chiefs of the three lenders in March. Three of them were shortlisted by BBB after interviewing 15 candidates for the job.

OFFER OPENING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT UNDER REGULATION 18(7) OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD

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106. Recently In May _____ has been roped in for creating the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose to be installed at India Gate.

- A. Arjun Yogiraj
- B. Sushant Raj
- C. Kapil Vasisth
- D. Diwakar Gupta

- Mysore-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj has been roped in for creating the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose to be installed at India Gate. Yogiraj is the man behind the 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath, which was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year.

Yogiraj, man who sculpted Kedarnath Shankara, to make Netaji statue in Delhi

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

MYSORE-BASED sculptor Arun Yogiraj has been roped in for creating the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose to be installed at India Gate. Yogiraj is the man behind the 12-foot statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath,



In April, Arun Yogiraj gave the PM a two-foot statue of Bose.
Twitter/@narendramodi

which was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year.

A 30-foot statue of Bose is to be placed under the Grand Canopy behind the erstwhile Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. A huge black jade granite stone has been selected for the statue, which will be transported to Delhi before the carving work is done.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

- A 30-foot statue of Bose is to be placed under the Grand Canopy behind the erstwhile Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. A huge black jade granite stone has been selected for the statue, which will be transported to Delhi before the carving work is done.
- The design of the statue has been prepared by a team from the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) under the Ministry of Culture, headed by its Director-General Adwaita Gadanayak.

107. Recently in May Capital markets regulator SEBI has restructured its committee, which reviews the risk management framework for the cash and derivatives, including commodity derivatives will now be headed by _____.

- A. Navneet Munoot

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- B. Jayanth R Verma**
- C. Sriram Krishnan**
- D. Anup Bagchi**

- **Capital markets regulator SEBI has restructured its committee, which reviews the risk management framework for the cash and derivatives, including commodity derivatives.**
- **The 14-member committee will be headed by IIM Ahmedabad Professor JR Varma, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed.**
- **The committee has been entrusted with the task of recommending changes if required in the margin system, consider and suggest measures in reducing transmission of risk from other segments and review the investor protection measure in the stock exchanges related to risk management.**

109. Recently In June **Sheryl Sandberg has stepped down as the COO** of which of the following company ?

- A. Meta**
- B. Amazon**
- C. Apple**
- D. Microsoft**

- **Sheryl Sandberg, the No. 2 executive at Facebook owner Meta, who helped turn its business from startup to digital advertising empire while also taking blame for some of its biggest missteps, is stepping down.**
- **Sandberg has served as chief operating officer at the social media giant for 14 years. She joined from Google in 2008, four years before Facebook went public.**
- **Sandberg has led Facebook — now Meta's — advertising business and was responsible for nurturing it from its infancy into an over \$100 billion-a-year powerhouse.**

Meta's Sheryl Sandberg quits; end of an era, says Zuckerberg

She helped build a world-class ad-buying platform

AGENCIES

San Francisco, June 2

Sheryl Sandberg, the No 2 executive at Facebook-owner Meta, who helped turn its business from start up to digital advertising empire while also taking blame for some of its biggest missteps, is stepping down.

Sandberg has served as chief operating officer at the social-media giant for 14 years. She joined from Google in 2008, four years before Facebook went public.

"When I took this job in 2008, I hoped I would be in this role for five years. Fourteen years later, it is time for me to write the next chapter of my life," Sandberg wrote on her Facebook page on Wednesday. Sandberg has led Facebook's advertising business, and was responsible for nurturing it



Sheryl Sandberg

from its infancy into an over \$100 billion-a-year powerhouse. As the company's second most-recognised face—after CEO Mark Zuckerberg—Sandberg has also become a polarising figure amid revelations of how some of her business decisions for Facebook helped propagate misinformation and hate speech.

Not done enough, say some
 As one of the most prominent female executives in the tech industry, she was also often criticised for not doing enough both for women and for others

harmed by Facebook's products.

Reacting to her decision to call it a day, Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page: "It's the end of an era. When Sheryl joined me in 2008, I was only 23 years old and I didn't know anything at the time. She joined our company. She helped create our ads business, hired great people, forged our management culture, and taught me how to run a company. She created opportunities for millions of people around the world, and she deserves the credit for so much of what Meta is today.

"I'm going to miss running this company with Sheryl. But I'm glad that she'll continue to serve on our board of directors. Looking forward, I don't plan to replace Sheryl's role in our existing structure. I'm not sure that would be possible since she's a superstar who defined the COO role in her own unique way."

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- **Javier Olivan, who currently oversees key functions at Meta's four main apps — Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger — will serve as Meta's new COO. But it will be a different job than the one Sandberg held for the past 14 years.**

Veteran Javier Olivan to fill post

META PLATFORMS VETERAN Javier Olivan is taking over as the company's COO after playing a crucial but largely behind-the-scenes role stoking the social media company's explosive growth for 15 years.

The Spaniard will replace Sheryl Sandberg. Olivan, who grew up in

Spain, holds degrees in electrical and industrial engineering from the University of Navarra and a master's in business administration from Stanford University. Before joining Facebook in late 2007 as head of international growth, Olivan, 44, worked at Japan's NTT and Siemens. — REUTERS

Former West Indies captain Darren Sammy was awarded the Sitara-e-Pakistan Award for services to Pakistan during a ceremony. The 38-year-old all-rounder was being recognized for his role in bringing international cricket back to Pakistan. It is the third highest civilian award given by Pakistan.

108. Recently in June _____ had taken charge as a whole-time member (WTM) of The Securities and Exchange Board of India .

- A. Anup Bagchi
- B. Ashwini Bhatia**
- C. Nitin Chugh
- D. Jaynata V Verma

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (India) announced that Ashwani Bhatia – former managing director at the State Bank of India (SBI) – had taken charge as a whole-time member (WTM) on Tuesday.**
- **For the last seven months, the regulator had operated with only two whole-time members, S K Mohanty and Anant Barua.**
- **The tenure of Madhabi Puri Buch and G. Mahalingam as WTMs ended last year.**
- **The government is yet to appoint a fourth member.**
- **Bhatia was appointed as the Sebi member by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in March this year for an initial period of three years from his date of assumption.**

109. Recently in May _____ extend the term of its Managing Director and instead of the earlier proposal for three years.

- A. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- B. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**

Ashwani Bhatia takes charge as SEBI's whole-time member

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 1

Ashwani Bhatia took charge as a whole-time member of Securities and Exchange Board of India in Mumbai on Wednesday.



Ashwani Bhatia

Prior to this, Bhatia held the position of Managing Director in the State Bank of India. Bhatia

will handle the Department of Debt and Hybrid Securities, Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department, Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department, Corporation Finance Investigation Department and Office of Investor Assistance & Education.

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C. Jana Small Finance

D. Equitas Small Finance Bank

- **The board of Equitas Small Finance Bank will seek Reserve Bank of India's permission to extend the term of its Managing Director and CEO PN Vasudevan by a year instead of the earlier proposal for three years.**
- **Vasudevan's recent decision to step down from the post to focus on a charitable trust set up by him and his wife.**
- **Vasudevan tenure as MD and CEO comes to an end on July 23. The board had approved a three-year extension and had applied to the RBI for the same. Now, with the latest developments, the board will be asking for one year extension.**

Equitas SFB to extend MD & CEO tenure by only 1 year

SURABHI

Mumbai, May 31

The board of Equitas Small Finance Bank will seek the RBI's permission to extend the term of its MD and CEO, PN Vasudevan, by only one year instead of the earlier proposal for three years.

This follows Vasudevan's recent decision to step down from the post to focus on a charitable trust set up by him and his wife.

"My tenure as MD and CEO comes to an end on July 23. The board had approved a three-year extension and had applied to the RBI for the same. Now, with the latest developments, the board will be asking for one year extension," Vasudevan told *BusinessLine*.



PN Vasudevan, MD & CEO, Equitas Small Finance Bank

He said he would continue to helm affairs at the bank until a replacement is found.

No fixed timeline

"There really is no timeline for my stepping down, but normally one year is a decent

timeline", he said, adding that it could get completed within one year to 15-months.

The bank's board has begun the process to select a new MD and CEO, and will form a search committee soon.

Vasudevan's announcement on May 19 to step down had surprised analysts and investors.

The bank's scrip has since fallen and touched a 52-week low of ₹40.30 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday.

Because the bank is a listed entity, the moment he informed the board of his intent to step down, it had to be disclosed to the exchanges.

"It is price sensitive information. It can't be held back by the board," he said.

Vasudevan noted that the

situation is unique as he has decided to step down voluntarily.

"If you look at the private sector banks for the last few years, the only time the MD and CEO of a bank left is either because they had completed 70 years of age or there was an issue," he said.

Good position

He further stressed that the bank is in a good position with strong growth plans and that is why he decided to take the plunge at this point of time.

"A change at the top should not have any impact on the bank," he said, adding that the merger of Equitas Holdings with Equitas SFB will not be impacted.

110. Recently in June **NCAER** announced the appointment of _____ as the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPF) Chair Professor at NCAER.**

- A. Jyotiraj Angad
- B. Mridul Saggur
- C. Ashwini Bhatia
- D. Ashish Dixit

- **NCAER is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Mridul Saggur as the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPF) Chair Professor at NCAER.**
- **The Chair has been established with the support of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in the Government of India.**
- **NCAER Director General, Dr Poonam Gupta**
- **National Council of Applied Economic Research is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic policy research think tank. Established in New Delhi in 1956.**

NCAER names ex-RBI ED as IEPF chair professor



ECONOMIC THINK-TANK
National Council of Applied

Economic Research (NCAER) on Wednesday announced the appointment of former RBI executive director (ED) Mridul Saggur as the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPF) chair professor. The chair has been established with the support of the IEPF Authority under the ministry of corporate affairs.

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111. Recently in June _____ has been appointed as the **new Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal.**

- A. S L Thaosen
- B. Zulfiqar Hasan
- C. Pankaj Sharma
- D. Mridul Sagar

- S L Thaosen appointed as new Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal.
- Zulfiqar Hasan has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- He was serving as the special director-general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.
- S L Thaosen was working as special director-general in the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security works under the Ministry of Home affairs. It is responsible for civil aviation security in India.
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB): It was formed in 1963. Headquarters: New Delhi Its motto is “Service, Security and Brotherhood.”

113. Recently in June The Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed _____ as the **state icon for the national Capital**, to promote the voter awareness among the youth of Delhi.

- A. Rishabh Pant
- B. Prithvi Shaw
- C. Yash Dhull
- D. Suryakumar Yadav

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed cricketer Yash Dhull as the state icon for the national Capital, to promote the voter awareness among the youth of Delhi.
- The Chief Election Officer Dr. Ranbir Singh congratulated Dhull for his outstanding performance in cricket at such a young age.
- He made his first class cricket debut for the Delhi Cricket Team in the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy.

Cricketer Yash Dhull is Delhi's brand ambassador, says ECI



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday appoints cricketer Yash Dhull as the state icon for the national Capital, to promote the voter awareness among the youth of Delhi. The Chief Election

Officer Dr. Ranbir Singh congratulated Dhull for his outstanding performance in cricket at such a young age. He made his first class cricket debut for the Delhi Cricket Team in the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy. He was also the captain for India for the 2022 International Cricket

Council (ICC) Under-19 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies. India has won the prestigious World Cup 2022 tournament. During the meeting various issues related were discussed including electoral registration, especially for young voters.

The role of the newly appointed state icon Yash Dhull was also briefed. He will motivate the youngsters to enroll them in electoral roll. Dhull also assured Singh to provide all possible support to increase young electors registration and enhance electoral participative especially amongst college students. Cricketer agreed to participate in college level voter awareness events as well. He also thanked Delhi CEO for choosing him as state icon of the capital city and for making a stronger and inclusive democracy in the country.

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- He was also the captain for India for the 2022 International Cricket Council (ICC) Under-19 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.
- India has won the prestigious World Cup 2022 tournament. During the meeting various issues related were discussed including electoral registration, especially for young voters.
- The role of the newly appointed state icon Yash Dhull was also briefed. He will motivate the youngsters to enroll them in electoral roll.

114. Recently in June _____ has been roped in to be the brand ambassador for Garuda Aerospace, a pioneer in the Indian drone ecosystem.

- A. KL Rahul
- B. Mahendra Singh Dhoni**
- C. Ravindra Jadeja
- D. Rohit Sharma

- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been roped in to be the brand ambassador and shareholder in Garuda Aerospace.
- About his association with Garuda, M S Dhoni said, "I'm happy to be a part of Garuda Aerospace and look forward to witness their growth story with the unique drone solutions they have to offer.
- Equipped with 300 drones & 500 pilots operating in 26 cities, Garuda Aerospace drone manufacturing facilities were recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder CEO of Garuda Aerospace

115. Recently In June _____ has been selected as the ambassador of the Indo-UK culture platform.

- A. AR Rahman**

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MS Dhoni Bats for Chennai Drone Co Garuda Aerospace

Investment by cricketer to be part of a bridge round ahead of \$30m Series A fundraise

Gaurav.Laghate
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Former Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni has invested an undisclosed sum in Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace, India's leading drone-as-a-service (DaaS) provider.

Dhoni will also be the face and brand ambassador of the company. The investment is part of a bridge round, ahead of a \$30-million Series A round, which the company is currently in the process of closing by end-July at a valuation of \$250 million, confirmed founder Agnishwar Jayaprakash.

"Dhoni has decided to join us as an investor and brand ambassador," Jayaprakash told ET. "He has seen what we are trying to achieve, and he completely believes in our vision. We couldn't have asked for a better ambassador and partner."

While he refused to disclose the quantum of investment, Jayaprakash added that Dhoni and a few other investors have come on board in a pre-Series A bridge round.

"We are closing our \$30-million Series A round by the end of July, which will value our company at \$250

million. This is the largest ever Series A round for any drone company. Since our prime minister inaugurated Drone Mahotsav, we have been receiving a lot of interest," he said.

Started in 2015, Garuda Aerospace has made significant inroads into the drone startup ecosystem.

The company provides low-cost drone-based solutions and has designed drones for 38 diverse applications, including sanitisation, agriculture spraying, mapping, industries, security, delivery and surveillance.

Last year, Elon Musk recognised the company's operational expertise on Twitter.

This led to a \$1-million term sheet with a global fund for the Surya drone that could potentially clean solar panels at Singapore's new floating solar farms.

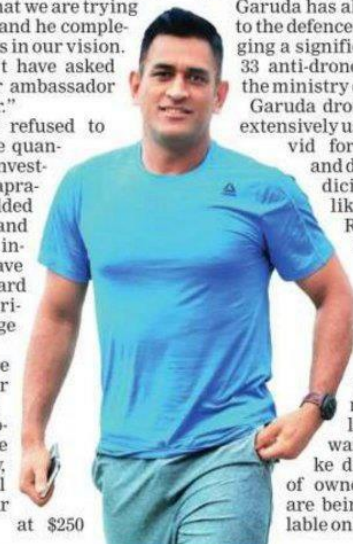
Garuda has also forayed into the defence sector by bagging a significant order for 33 anti-drone systems for the ministry of defence.

Garuda drones were also extensively used during Covid for sanitisation and delivery of medicines in cities like Varanasi, Raipur, Chennai and Hyderabad.

In Uttar Pradesh, under Svamitva, a survey of land was done to map 1,000 villages. This was done to make digital records of ownership, which are being made available online.



Last year, Elon Musk's tweet led to \$1-million term sheet with a global fund for co's Surya drone



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- B. Sonu Nigam
- C. Shreya Ghoshal
- D. Sunidhi Chouhan

- AR Rahman has been selected as the ambassador of the Indo-UK culture platform.
- The Season of Culture is the name of this platform.
- The platform aims to strengthen India and UK's relations in arts, English, and education.
- Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham officially launched the platform.
- The platform marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

116. Recently In June _____ became the first Indian to be named by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) as a global SDG pioneer.

- A. Ramkrishna Mukkavilli
- B. Deepika Podukone
- C. AR Rahman
- D. Disha Patani

- Ramkrishna Mukkavilli became the first Indian to be named by the UNGC as a global SDG pioneer.
- He has been recognized as a Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Pioneer for Water Stewardship by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC).
- The UNGC has named ten new SDG Pioneers, business leaders who are advancing the SDGs by implementing the UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labour, and anti-corruption.
- Ramakrishna Mukkavilli, founder and managing director of Make-in-India company Maitri Aquatech, was previously selected as India's SDG Pioneer by the UN Global Compact Network India (GCNI) earlier this year.
- He was selected for his work in building water security with nature-based water solutions in India and 27 countries spread across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.
- Maithri Aquatech is an ESG company, and their MEGHDOOT product is the only Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG) solution approved by Ministry of Jal Shakti.

117. Recently in june Bajram Begaj has been elected as the new President of _____.

- A. Albania
- B. Belarus

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- C. Tanzania
- D. Turkey

- *Bajram Begaj has been elected as the new President of Albania. Bajram Begaj has held the post of Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF).*
- *Ilir Meta is the name of the outgoing president of Albania. Ilir Meta will be in office until July 22, 2022.*
- *Its capital and largest city is Tirana. Edi Rama is its Prime Minister.*

Shri Rajesh Gera has been appointed Director-General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Shri Rajesh Gera has served as the head of numerous important divisions at NIC during his more than 31-year tenure. National Informatics Centre (NIC): It was established in 1976.

Days and Obituary News

118. *World Milk Day* is celebrated every year on _____ all over the world to mark the contributions of the milk and dairy sector.
- A. 1st June
 - B. 2nd June
 - C. 3rd June
 - D. 4th June

- *World Milk Day is celebrated every year on 1 June all over the world.*
- *It is observed to mark the contributions of the milk and dairy sector.*
- *World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 2001.*
- *The theme for this year's World Milk Day is "Dairy Net Zero".*
- *India is one of the largest producers of milk in the world. Dr Verghese Kurein is known as the "Father of the White Revolution" in India.*

119. Every Year *World Brain Tumour Day* is observed on _____ to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours.

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- A. 5th June
- B. 6th June
- C. 7th June
- D. 8th June

- *World Brain Tumour Day is being observed on June 08, 2022. It is observed to raise awareness and educate people about brain tumours. The day also pays tribute to those affected by brain tumours.*
- *The German Brain Tumor Association started this international commemoration day in the year 2000 as a tribute to all brain tumour patients and their families.*
- *On a global scale, 330,000 children and adults worldwide are diagnosed with cancer of the central nervous system in one year.*

120. *International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression* is observed every year on _____ to highlight the pain suffered by children who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

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

- *International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed every year on 4 June.*
- *This day affirms the United Nations' commitment to protecting the rights of children.*
- *This day is observed to highlight the pain suffered by children who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.*
- *The United Nations adopted 4 June as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression on 19th August 1982.*

121. Recently in June *Anjalai Ponnusamy* passed away at the age of 102 in Malaysia. She was associated with which of the following organization?

- A. *Indian National Army*
- B. *Bengal British India Society*
- C. *Indian National Congress*
- D. *East India Association*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- Indian National Army (INA) veteran Anjalai Ponnusamy passed away at the age of 102 in Malaysia.
- During the Second World War, Anjalai had joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, the women's unit of the INA. She fought for India's freedom from the British.
- She will be remembered for her bravery, determination and dauntlessness.
- **Indian National Army (INA): It is also known as Azad Hid Fauj.**
- **It was formed by Indian nationalists in 1942. It was initially formed under the leadership of Mohan Singh. It was revived by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943 to fight for the freedom of India.**

122. Every year on _____ **World Oceans Day** is celebrated to highlight the role of the oceans in sustaining life on Earth and to inspire action to preserve it.

- A. 6th June
- B. 7th June
- C. 8th June**
- D. 9th June

- Every year on June 8, World Oceans Day is celebrated. The day is celebrated to highlight the role of the oceans in sustaining life on Earth and to inspire action to preserve it.
- **The theme of World Oceans Day 2022 is 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean'.**
- The United Nations (UN) declared 8th June as World Oceans Day in 2008.
- The idea of celebrating World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

123. **World Food Safety Day** is observed every year on _____ to promote awareness about the health hazards associated with unsafe food.

- A. 5th June
- B. 6th June
- C. 7th June**
- D. 8th June

- World Food Safety Day is observed every year on 7 June to promote awareness about the health hazards associated with unsafe food.
- United Nations had declared this day in 2018 to draw global attention to the health consequences of contaminated food and water.
- **The theme of 2022 World Food Safety Day is 'Safer Food, Better Health'.**

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- According to a 2019 report by WHO, more than 600 million cases of foodborne diseases come annually.
- On the occasion of World Food Safety Day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches a logo for 'Ayurveda Aahar'.
- He also released FSSAI 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of states across five parameters of food safety.

124. Recently **BIMSTEC** celebrated its 25th foundation day on _____ in Dhaka.

- A. 6th June
- B. 7th June
- C. 8th June
- D. 9th June

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) acts as a bridge of friendship between South and South-East Asian countries.
- The 25th Founding Day of BIMSTEC was celebrated in Dhaka on 6 June.
- The establishment of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and the adoption of the BIMSTEC charter at the 5th summit are the major achievements of the BIMSTEC.
- **BIMSTEC: It is an international organization of South Asia and Southeast Asian countries.**
- **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are members of BIMSTEC.**
- **It was formed on 6 June 1997 and its headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

125. Recently **Telangana** celebrated its formation day on _____ .

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

- **Telangana is celebrating its formation day on 2 June 2022. The government of India is for the first time celebrating 'Telangana Day' or 'Telangana Formation Day'.**
- **Ministry of Culture is organising Telangana Formation Day celebrations in New Delhi on 2nd June 2022. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah will be the Chief Guest at the program. Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 and the day is celebrated as 'Telangana Day' or 'Telangana Formation Day'.**
- **Telangana became India's 29th state, however, at present, it is the 28th state as Jammu and Kashmir were made UT in 2019.**

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First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

126. Every Year **Global Day of Parents** is a United Nations observance that is celebrated on _____ to honor parents and their commitment to children worldwide.

- A. 1st June
- B. 2nd June
- C. 3RD June
- D. 4TH June

- **Global Parents Day is celebrated every year on June 1 to provide an opportunity for each one to appreciate their parents for their selfless efforts towards their children's well-being and proper development.**
- **The United Nations declared June 1 of each year as Global Day of Parents in 2012.**
- **The theme for this year Global Day of Parents is Appreciate All Parents Throughout the World.**

127. **UN Russian Language Day** is observed annually on _____ to promote equal use of all six of the UN's official working languages throughout the organization.

- A. 5th June
- B. 6th June
- C. 7th June
- D. 8th June

- **UN Russian Language Day is observed annually on June 6.**
- **The event was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.**
- **UN Russian Language Day coincides with the birthday of Alexander Pushkin, a Russian poet who is considered the father of modern Russian language.**
- **The initiative of the UN Language Days was launched in February 2010 in order to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity and to promote equal use of all six of the UN's official working languages throughout the organization**

World Pest Day is celebrated annually on June 6. The international event creates awareness among people and governments about the necessity of pest management.

World Pest Day began as an initiative by the Chinese Pest Control Association, a pest management market, on June 6, 2017, at a hotel in Beijing, China, as noted by the Global Pest management Coalition website.

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First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

128. **World Environment Day** is observed every year on _____ to raise awareness about the conservation of the environment and describe the importance of nature to us.

- A. 4th June
- B. 5th June
- C. 6th June
- D. 7th June

- **World Environment Day** is observed every year on 5th June.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness about the conservation of the environment and describe the importance of nature to us.
- UN General Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972. It was first celebrated in the year 1974.
- In 2022, Sweden is the host of world environment day. The theme of World Environment Day 2022 is 'Only One Earth'.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a programme on 'Save Soil Movement'.
- The day aims to bring the attention of the government and Non-government organizations to environmental issues like marine pollution, global warming, and wildlife crime.
- **SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

129. Every year **World Bicycle Day** is observed all around the world on _____ to encourage and motivate people to adopt Cycling in their daily lives for physical fitness.

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

- Every year World Bicycle Day is observed all around the world on 3 June.
- It is observed to encourage and motivate people to adopt Cycling in their daily lives for physical fitness.
- In 2018, the United Nations adopted 3 June as World Bicycle Day. **this year's theme, "Our Planet, Our Health"**
- On the occasion of World Bicycle Day, Cycle Rallies will be organized across the country.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur will launch a nationwide programme of cycle rallies from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Delhi.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

130. Recently in June Santoor legend Pandit Bhajan Sopori who passed away hailed from which of the following state ?

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

• Santoor legend Pandit Bhajan Sopori (1948-2022), a Padma Shri winner, passes away.

• Known as the Saint of Santoor, Pt.

Sopori composed a collection of prayers and Tarana-e-Watan (patriotic songs), sung by large public choirs as a common prayer in the Valley.

• His vast repertoire has compositions derived from Naats (Islamic devotional songs) and Vedic chants. He drew his inspiration from the fountain of saints like Lalleshwari and Gani Kashmiri.

• Born in Srinagar, Pt. Sopori inherited the Sufiana tradition of santoor from his great grandfather Shankar Pandit and grandfather Samsar Chand Sopori.

Pandit Bhajan Sopori passes away

He envisioned his music as cultural bridge between Valley and rest of India

ANUJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI

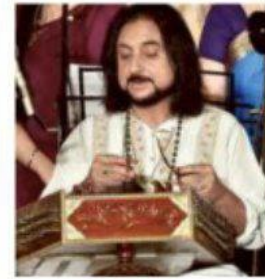
Even as the music world was struggling to come to terms with the passing of Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, the news of the demise of another santoor legend, Pandit Bhajan Sopori (1948-2022), on Thursday came as a rude shock.

Pt. Sopori died of cancer in a Gurugram hospital. He is survived by his wife and two sons. His legacy will be carried forward by his younger son Abhay

Hailing from a musician's

family that nurtured the Shaivite, Sufi, and Hindustani classical traditions in Kashmir for generations, Pt. Sopori led the revival of Sufi and folk music in the State to spread the message of humanism. He remained positive even when the insurgency engulfed his home district of Sopore, and kept organising events at the grassroots.

While the world called him the Saint of Santoor, Pt. Sopori, a Padma Shri winner, often described himself as a cultural bridge between Kashmir and the rest of In-



Pandit Bhajan Sopori

dia, and called santoor a living symbol of national integration.

Using music as a balm to heal the wounds and bring the youth in the Kashmir Valley to the mainstream, Pt. Sopori composed a collection of prayers and Tarana-e-

Watan (patriotic songs), sung by large public choirs as a common prayer in the Valley. His vast repertoire has compositions derived from Naats (Islamic devotional songs) and Vedic chants. He drew his inspiration from the fountain of saints like Lalleshwari and Gani Kashmiri.

Born in Srinagar, Pt. Sopori inherited the Sufiana tradition of santoor from his great grandfather Shankar Pandit and grandfather Samsar Chand Sopori. His father, Shambhu Nath Sopori, who was called the father of music in Jammu & Kashmir introduced Pt. Sopori to the family instrument at a young age.

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First Week of June (1st June –8th June 2022)

Sports Award Books News

130. Recently In May At the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022), _____ has been conferred with the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award.

- A. Nawazuddin Siddiqui
- B. Manoj Bajpayee
- C. Pankaj Tripathi
- D. Sanjit Narwekar

- At the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022), Sanjit Narwekar has been conferred with the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award.
- Sanjit Narwekar is a film historian, author, publisher and documentary filmmaker. He has experience in Journalism, Public Relations, Publishing and Filmmaking.
- He has written more than 20 books on cinema. He has written and directed a number of documentaries on different subjects. V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award: It is instituted in memory of legendary filmmaker V Shantaram. It comprises a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, a trophy and a citation.

131. Recently in June _____ has won the gold medal in the women's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 event at the Para Shooting World Cup

- A. Tejaswini Sawant
- B. Avani Lekhara
- C. Deepa Malik
- D. Apurvi Chandela

- Avani Lekhara bagged gold medal at the Para Shooting World Cup.
- She created a world record by scoring 250.6 in the women's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 event. She broke her own world record of 249.6.
- Emilia Babska won the silver medal with a total score of 247.6 and Anna Normann won the bronze medal with a score of 225.6
- She has secured her spot at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

BRIEFLY

Para WC: Avani wins gold with world record



Chateauroux: Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara won gold at the Para Shooting World Cup with a world record score of 250.6 in women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 in Chateauroux, France on Tuesday. The 20-year-old shooter broke her own world record of 249.6 to secure her a spot at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Poland's Emilia Babska bagged the silver medal with a total of 247.6, while the bronze went to Anna Normann of Sweden after she shot 225.6. SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events. Lekhara bagged the top prize three days after being on the verge of missing the tournament as her coach and escort were initially denied visas.

PTI

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- Sriharsha Devaraddi Ramakrishna won a gold medal in the mixed 10m air rifle SH2 event.
- 13 para shooters from India are taking part in the Para Shooting World Cup in Chateauroux, France.

132. Recently in June India Defeated _____ in final to win inaugural FIH Hockey 5s championship.

- A. Japan
- B. Malaysia
- C. Poland
- D. Germany

- India won FIH Hockey 5s championship in Lausanne in Switzerland on 04 June 2022.
- India's Raheel Mohammed was the tournament's top goal scorer.
- He was awarded the best player award at the Hockey 5s Lausanne 2022.
- The Indian women's team could not make it to the final.
- Hockey 5s is a short format of Hockey.
- The Hockey 5s match was played for the first time at the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games in 2014.
- Hockey 5s Lausanne 2022 was a two-day tournament. It was 1st official senior Hockey 5s competition organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

133. Recently Sachin Tendulkar will continue as UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record _____ year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children.

- A. 15th
- B. 20th
- C. 30th
- D. 10th

Indian men win Hockey 5s title



India were unbeaten in the tournament. HI

LAUSANNE, JUNE 5

The Indian men's team beat Poland 6-4 in the final of the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s tournament here today.

The Indian team fought back from 0-3 down to beat Poland in a thrilling final.

India came into the final with an unbeaten record after dominating wins over Malaysia and Poland today.

India first outplayed Malaysia 7-3, pumping in four goals in the second half in a stunning show before beating Poland 6-2 in the second match of the day.

The Graham Reid-coached side topped the five-team

standings after the round-robin league stage with 10 points from three wins and one draw. India had beaten hosts Switzerland 4-3 and drawn with archrivals Pakistan 2-2 on Saturday. Poland had finished second with six points.

The Indian women's team, however, failed to make it to the final after drawing 4-4 with South Africa in the second match after beating hosts Switzerland 4-3 earlier in the day. The Indian women would have entered the final had they beaten South Africa by a margin of two goals. — PTI

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- *The iconic cricketer has been associated with UNICEF for long for various causes. In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India.*
- *Later in 2008, he was roped in to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities and has been continuing to do so over the years.*
- *In 2013, he was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.*
- *Headquarters - New York City, USA , Head - Catherine M. Russell*

134. Recently in June _____ was declared as the winner of Scripps Nation Spelling Bee 2022 .

- A. Anjali Pandey
- B. Harini Logan**
- C. Swati Sinha
- D. Komal Rani

- *Indian-American Harini Logan from San Antonia, Texas was declared the winner of Scripps National Spelling Bee 2022 in a historic tie-breaker.*
- *The 13-year-old eighth-grader who competed in the last fully in-person spelling bee three years ago and then endured the pandemic to make it back spelled 21 words correctly during a 90-second spell off.*
- *The winner of the National Spelling Bee 2022, Harini Logan has won more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes.*

135 .Recently In June The International Chess Federation and the All India Chess federation strengthen their partnership with _____ to provide a next-generation digital fan experience by leveraging Fan Nxt.

- A. Tata Consultancy
- B. Tech Mahindra**
- C. Reliance Ltd
- D. Infosys

IN BRIEF



Indian-American wins Spelling Bee

HOUSTON

Harini Logan, a 14-year-old Indian-American eighth-grader from Texas, barely took a breath as she correctly spelled 22 words during a marathon, first-of-its-kind 90-second spell-off to win the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee, beating Vikram Raju in the prestigious contest where children of Indian origin have ruled the roost. PTI

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Chess Olympiad to offer next-generation digital experience

International Chess Federation, All India Chess Federation and Tech Mahindra tie up

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 2
 The International Chess Federation and the All India Chess Federation have strengthened their partnership with Tech Mahindra to provide a next-generation digital experience by leveraging Fan Nxt.Now.

As part of this global collaboration, Tech Mahindra has been brought on board as a digital partner for the 44th edition of the FIDE chess Olympiad, which will take place in India for the first time.

TN govt to sponsor

It will be hosted in Chennai from July 28 to August 9, with the Government of Tamil Nadu as host and principal sponsor.

In the Olympiad, five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand will work with Tech Mahindra and advise on the next-generation chess tech and fan engagement.

Arkady Dvorkovich, FIDE President, said: "Throughout history, chess has always been a spearhead when it comes to technology. This agreement between FIDE and Tech Mahindra continues this tradition and will allow fans to enjoy chess through an interactive platform, while giving us innovative ways to promote the game."

"We are very excited to be partnering with such an innovative company, with all the possibilities that this collaboration opens for us."

Tech Mahindra will be the first corporate to come on board for the FIDE chess Olympiad. It will also associate with the FIDE Woman's World Cup and FIDE Wo-



The Olympiad will be hosted in Chennai from July 28 to August 9

man's Grand Prix.

Popularising chess

Bharat Singh Chouhan, Secretary General, All India Chess Federation, said: "We are delighted to welcome Tech Mahindra on board as a digital partner for the historic occasion for chess in India. We are looking forward to working with the team in making the FIDE chess Olympiad a grand success."

Jagdish Mitra, Chief Strategy Officer & Head of Growth, Tech Mahindra, said:

"This is a major step forward in our commitment towards enabling a digitally powered ecosystem that will help us in taking chess to its deserving position globally. With the amalgamation of new-age technologies and digital platform, we believe this game of decision-making can be popularised even more and among a larger audience."

Tech Mahindra will provide various digital technology solutions as part of the partnership. The Fan Nxt.Now solution will help drive hyper-personalised data-driven fan experiences by leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and other technologies.

Viswanathan Anand said: "It is a great moment for Indian chess to stage a historic Olympiad with a great team, and I am looking forward to working with FIDE, AICF and their digital partner – Tech Mahindra. Their expertise in leveraging technology to give the chess fans a unique experience will be the big highlight of the Olympiad."



POLYSPIN EXPORTS LIMITED
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 Email: polyspinexportscs@gmail.com, fibc@polyspin.in, website: www.polyspin.org

NOTICE
 For attention of Equity Shareholders of POLYSPIN EXPORTS LIMITED

TRANSFER OF SHARES HAVING UNCLAIMED DIVIDEND TO INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND (IEPF)

In accordance with Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013, the shares in respect of which, dividend has not been paid or claimed for 7 consecutive years or more shall be transferred by the Company to IEPF. The Government of India has notified Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, (Rules), detailing the procedure for such transfer.

In accordance with that, the Company propose to transfer to IEPF the equity shares in respect of which dividends remain unclaimed for seven consecutive years or more. The Company has sent individual notices through Registered Post to the Shareholders, whose dividends are lying unclaimed for the last seven consecutive years or more, advising them to claim the dividend expeditiously.

In terms of Rule 6 (3) of the Rules, the statement containing, the details of the Shareholders and the shares due for transfer is available on the Company's website: www.polyspin.org for Information and necessary action by the Shareholders.

In case, no valid claim is received for the dividend on or before – **September 28, 2022**, the equity shares in respect of such unclaimed dividend will be transferred to IEPF in accordance with the Rules, on or before – **October 27, 2022**.

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- **The International Chess Federation and the All India Chess federation strengthen their partnership with Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting, and business re-engineering services and solutions, to provide a next-generation digital fan experience by leveraging Fan Nxt.Now. As part of this global tie-up, Tech Mahindra will come on board as a digital partner for the FIDE chess Olympiad which will take place in India for the first time.**
- **Fan Nxt.Now will drive hyper-personalized data-driven fan experiences by leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR) and other cutting-edge technologies to bring fans closer to the game and action real time**
- **This will be the 44th edition of the FIDE chess Olympiad which will be hosted in Chennai from 28th July to 9th August with the Government of Tamil Nadu as host and principal sponsor.**
- **In the Olympiad, Viswanathan Anand, five-time world chess champion and Indian chess legend, will work with Tech Mahindra and advise on next-generation chess tech and fan engagement.**
- **Tech Mahindra will be the first corporate to come on board for the FIDE chess Olympiad.**
- **Arkady Dvorkovich, FIDE President.**

136. The Book titled "Diagnostic Strategied for Covid19 and other Coronavirus" was honoured Fift best book in the field of the medicine and medical sciene by Book Authority is edited by IIT BHU Professor named _____.

- A. **Pranjali Chandra**
- B. **Mridual Sagar**

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- C. Ashwini Kukreja
- D. Soumya Ranjan

The Book titled "Diagnostic Strategies for Covid-19 and other Coronavirus" was honoured Fift best book in the field of the medicine and medical sciene by Book Authority is edited by IIT BHU Professor Pranjol Chandra

137. Who is the author of the new book 'War of Lanka', the fourth book in the "Ram Chandra Series" .

- A. Amitav Ghosh
- B. Amish Tripathi
- C. Meghna Pant
- D. Swati Sen



Top honours for book edited by IIT-BHU teacher



A SPRINGER Nature book titled 'Diagnostic Strategies for Covid-19 and other Coronaviruses', edited by Dr. Pranjol Chandra, assistant professor in the School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT-BHU, has been rated the fifth best in the world in the field of Medicine and Medical Science (Virology) for 2022 by BookAuthority, a leading website for non-fiction book recommendations.

- HarperCollins has acquired author Amish Tripathi's new book 'War of Lanka', the fourth book in the "Ram Chandra Series".
- The first book in the 'Ram Chandra Series' explores the tale of Ram ('Scion of Ikshvaku'), the second the story of Sita ('Warrior of Mithila'), and the third burrows deep into the life of Raavan ('Enemy of Aryavarta'). The three stories now merge from the fourth book onwards into a single narrative.

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138. Recently in May Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand defeated world champion Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the blitz event of the Norway Chess on way to finish on _____ place

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

- Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand defeated world champion Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the blitz event of the Norway Chess on way to a fourth-place finish.
- The former world champion, however, suffered defeats to Anish Giri (the Netherlands) and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) in the fourth and ninth round respectively to finish with 5 points in the 10-player blitz event early on Tuesday.
- American Wesley So finished on top of the Blitz standings with 6.5 points.

Anand beats Carlsen in blitz event in Norway, finishes fourth



Stavenger (Norway): Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand defeated world champion Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the blitz event of the Norway Chess on way to a fourth-place finish. The former world champion, however, suffered defeats to Anish Giri (the Netherlands) and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) in the fourth and ninth round respectively to finish with 5 points in the 10-player blitz event on Tuesday. The Indian GM started with a win over Aryan Tari (Norway) in the blitz before drawing with So in round two. He posted a victory over veteran Veselin Topalov in the

third round before sharing the point with Teimur Radjabov. After a loss to Giri and a draw with Hao Wang (China), Anand scored over Carlsen. However, the draw against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov followed by the loss to Vachier-Lagrave put paid to his chances of a high finish after having started with 2.5 points from the first three rounds. Anand's win over Carlsen comes close on the heels of compatriot and teen sensation R Praggnandhaa defeating the Norwegian world champion in an online blitz tournament recently. The 10 players will play a classical event beginning later. **PTI**

139. Consider the following statement regarding FRENCH OPEN .

1. In French Open tennis, Spaniard Rafael Nadal has won the 14th singles title of the tournament beating Casper Ruud of Norway 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in the final.
2. In women's singles, World Number One Tennis player Iga Swiatek clinched this year's title by beating US teenager Coco Gauf.

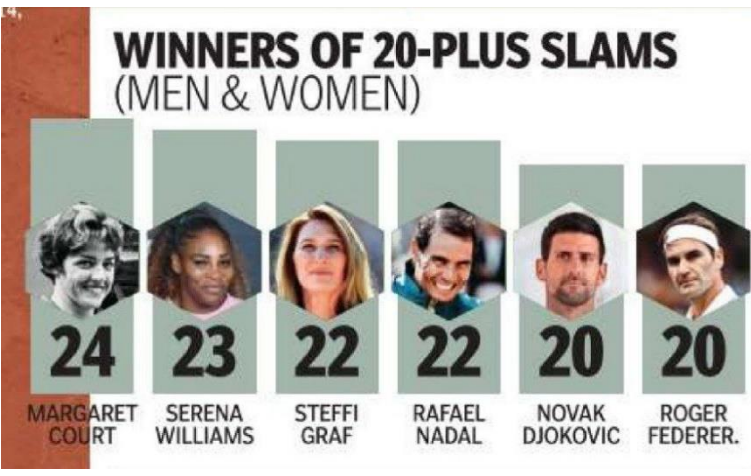
Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

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D. All of the above

- *In French Open tennis, Spaniard Rafael Nadal has won the 14th singles title of the tournament beating Casper Ruud of Norway 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in the final.*
- *With this victory, 36-year-old Nadal has become the oldest champion at Roland Garros. It is his 22nd Grand Slam title.*
- *In women's singles, World Number One Tennis player Iga Swiatek clinched this year's title by beating US teenager Coco Gauff in Paris last evening. The 21-year-old polish player won her second Grand Slam title in straight sets 6-1, 6-3 over Gauff who was making her first final appearance at the clay-court Slam.*

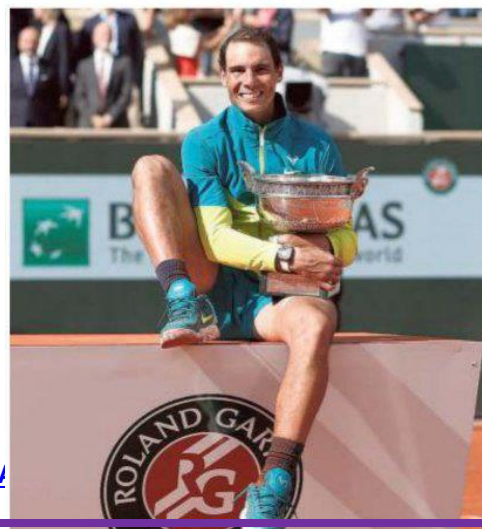



NADAL WINS FRENCH OPEN
 BEATS RUUD 6-3, 6-3, 6-0

22ND GRAND SLAM

14TH FRENCH OPEN TITLE

At age 36, Nadal becomes the oldest French Open champ in history



Day in numbers

- 2** Nadal, with 22 Majors, is now joint-second with Graf in the list of most Slam singles titles in the Open Era. Serena leads with 23
- 3** Nadal is the third man to beat four top-10 players at a Slam. Previous: Federer at 2017 Aus Open and Wilander at 1982 French Open
- 5** Nadal has won his last five Major finals, the second-best streak in his career after the seven he won from Roland-Garros 2008 to Roland-Garros 2011
- 8** Number of Slams Nadal has won after turning 30, joint-top with Djokovic
- 17** The exact number of years between Nadal's first Major (2005 French Open) and the latest (2022 French Open)
- 19** This is the 19th straight year Nadal has won a title on clay
- 36** At 36, Nadal is the oldest men's singles champion in Roland-Garros history, going past Andres Gimeno who won the 1972 edition aged 34 years and 10 months

I can't keep competing

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140. Recently in June The **Indian men’s hockey team won bronze in Hockey Asia Cup 2022 after defeating 1-0 in the third-Place match.**

- A. South Korea
- B. Australia
- C. Japan**
- D. Singapore

- **The Indian men’s hockey team won bronze in Hockey Asia Cup 2022 after defeating Japan 1-0 in the third-Place match. India’s Rajkumar Pal gave the team an early lead in the first quarter of the match itself, which they held on too till the end.**

- **Japan could not manage to score a single goal despite getting seven penalty corners, while India got just two.**
- **The 11th edition of Men's Hockey Asia Cup is held at the GBK Hockey Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.**

India bests Japan to clinch Asia Cup bronze

South Korea wins a record fifth crown

HOCKEY
 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 JAKARTA

The Indian men’s hockey team produced a spirited performance to beat Japan 1-0 and clinch the bronze medal in the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

South Korea clinched a record fifth title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash.

After missing out of a place in the title clash on goal difference, following a 4-4 draw with South Korea on Tuesday, defending champion India came out with purpose and scored a

field goal through Raj Kumar Pal as early as the sixth minute and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

Counter-attack

India, which pushed hard in the first five minutes, broke the deadlock from a brisk counter-attack.

Uttam Singh did all the hardwork on the right flank to set it up for Rajkumar Pal, who neatly pushed it past the Japanese goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa.

The results: Final: South Korea 2 (Manjae Jung 17, Taell Hwang 52) bt Malaysia 1 (Syed Cholan 25). **Third place:** India 1 (Raj Kumar Pal 6) bt Japan 0.



On target: Raj Kumar Pal, second from left, scored the match-winner on Wednesday.

16/18

141. Consider the following statement regarding **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024** .

1. **The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 featuring record 20 teams will take place in the USA and the West Indies.**
2. **Among the total 66 teams in the qualification , three teams - Hungary, Serbia and Romania- will be making their debut at the event.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- **The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 featuring record 20 teams will take place in the USA and the West Indies.**

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- *The ICC T20 World Cup 2024 pathway will begin from June with the first set of qualifying events scheduled to be held in Europe.*
- *A total of 66 countries from across the globe, including 28 teams from Europe, 14 from Africa, 9 from Asia, 8 from the Americas and 7 from the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) regions will compete against each other in the next two years to get a chance to qualify for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.*
- *Among the total 66 teams, three teams - Hungary, Serbia and Romania- will be making their debut at the event.*

142. Consider the following statement regarding ICC Women's Championship .

1. The next edition of the ICC Women's Championship was announced by the ICC with two new teams **Bangladesh and Ireland – ranked 9th and 10th added to the mix, making it a 10-team league.**
2. As a part of the revamped ICC Cricket World Cup pathway, **five Associate women's teams – Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Thailand and the USA – have been given ODI status with immediate effect.**

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- *The next edition of the ICC Women's Championship was announced by the ICC*

Qualification for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 to begin with events in Europe



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
DUBAI, 31 MAY

The road to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2024, scheduled to be held in the US and the West Indies, will kick off in June with the first set of qualifying events emanating from Europe.

This will be the start of the pathway towards the biggest Men's T20 World Cup, which is set to feature a record 20 teams.

The eight top-performing teams at the Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia alongside hosts USA and West Indies will automatically qualify for the 2024 edition of the marquee tournament. The next highest-ranked teams in the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings as of November 14, 2022 will make

up the 12 automatic qualifying spots.

The remaining eight spots will be decided by the regional qualifier events - two teams from each of Africa, Asia and Europe will qualify for the event, while the Americas and EAP regions will each have one team progress to the World Cup. A total of 66 nations from across the globe - 14 teams from Africa (across two events), eight teams from the Americas (across two events), nine teams from Asia (across two events), seven teams from EAP (across two events) and 28 teams from Europe (across three events) - will fight it out over the next two years in the hopes of qualifying for the marquee event in 2024.

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with two new teams added to the mix, making it a 10-team league.

- After the success of the ICC Women's Championship (IWC) 2014-16 and 2017-20, the tournament enters its third iteration for the years 2022-25, with Bangladesh and Ireland – ranked 9th and 10th in the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Team Rankings – added to the mix this time around.
- As a part of the revamped ICC Cricket World Cup pathway, five Associate women's teams – Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Thailand and the USA – have been given ODI status with immediate effect. Their performances in the one-day games will affect their ODI rankings and count towards qualification for the 2025 World Cup.

143. Recently in June _____ has been honoured with the Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding career and dedication to public service.

- A. Raja Krishnamoorthi
- B. Raja Chari
- C. Anita Menon
- D. Shrisha Bhadra

- Indian-origin US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has been honoured with the Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding career and dedication to public service
- Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White presented the award to the 48-year-old Democratic leader who has been serving as the US representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district since 2017.
- "In honour of your outstanding career and dedication to public service, I present you with the one-of-a-kind personalised license plate: 'RAJA'.
- Krishnamoorthi was born into a Tamil-speaking family in New Delhi. His family moved to the US when he was three months old.

144. Recently Billie Jean King who received France's Legion of Honor in recognition of her contributions to women's sports, gender equality and the rights of LGBTQ people in athletics hails from which of the following country ?

- A. America
- B. Germany

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- C. France
- D. Spain

- Tennis legend and LGBTQ rights activist **Billie Jean King** who hails from Armenia received France’s highest civilian honor, the Legion of Honor.
- King, who is in France as the French Open concludes, received the award in recognition of her contributions to women’s sports, gender equality and the rights of LGBTQ people in athletics.

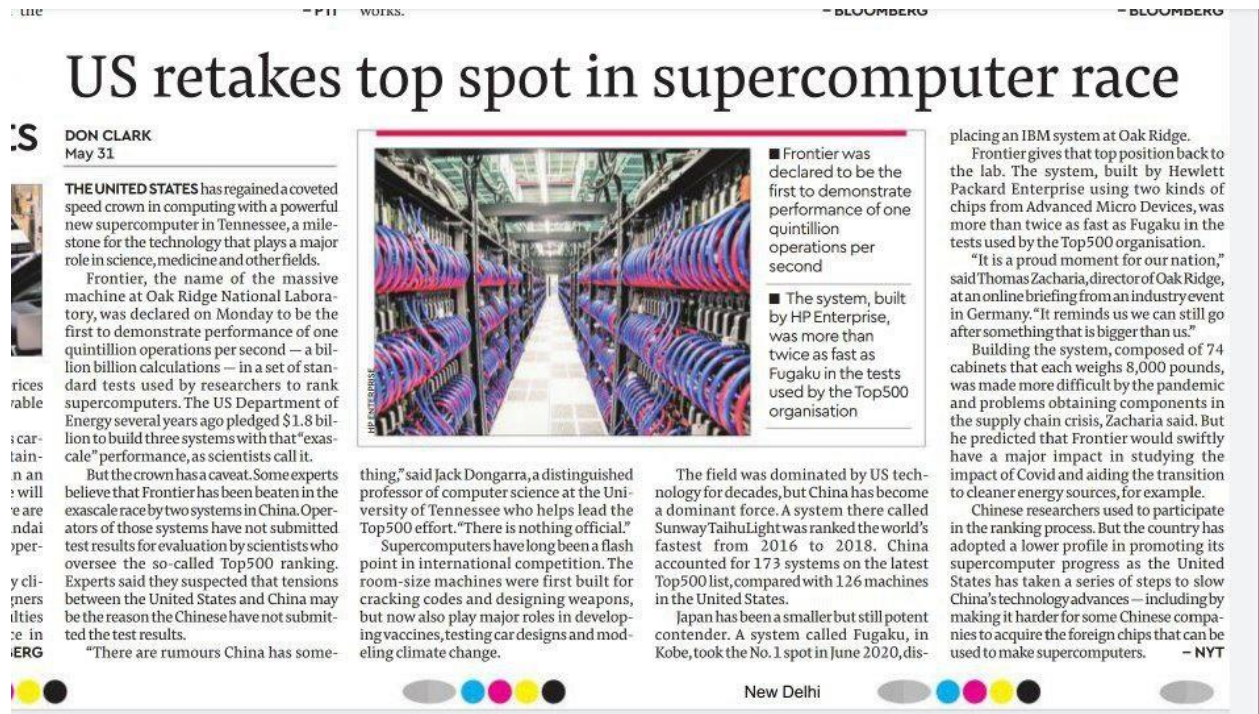
Science Technology And Environment

145. Consider the following statement regarding top 500 List Of Supercomputer

1. The US has retaken the top spot in the world supercomputer rankings with the exascale Frontier system at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee.
2. Three Indian Supercomputer Featured in the list PARAM SIDDHI - 111 , PRATYUSH – 132 , MIHIR – 249

Which of the following statement is correct?

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



US retakes top spot in supercomputer race

BY DON CLARK
May 31

THE UNITED STATES has regained a coveted speed crown in computing with a powerful new supercomputer in Tennessee, a milestone for the technology that plays a major role in science, medicine and other fields.

Frontier, the name of the massive machine at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was declared on Monday to be the first to demonstrate performance of one quintillion operations per second — a billion billion calculations — in a set of standard tests used by researchers to rank supercomputers. The US Department of Energy several years ago pledged \$1.8 billion to build three systems with that “exascale” performance, as scientists call it.

But the crown has a caveat. Some experts believe that Frontier has been beaten in the exascale race by two systems in China. Operators of those systems have not submitted test results for evaluation by scientists who oversee the so-called Top500 ranking. Experts said they suspected that tensions between the United States and China may be the reason the Chinese have not submitted the test results.

“There are rumours China has something,” said Jack Dongarra, a distinguished professor of computer science at the University of Tennessee who helps lead the Top500 effort. “There is nothing official!”

Supercomputers have long been a flash point in international competition. The room-size machines were first built for cracking codes and designing weapons, but now also play major roles in developing vaccines, testing car designs and modeling climate change.

The field was dominated by US technology for decades, but China has become a dominant force. A system there called Sunway TaihuLight was ranked the world’s fastest from 2016 to 2018. China accounted for 173 systems on the latest Top500 list, compared with 126 machines in the United States.

Japan has been a smaller but still potent contender. A system called Fugaku, in Kobe, took the No. 1 spot in June 2020, displacing an IBM system at Oak Ridge.

Frontier gives that top position back to the lab. The system, built by Hewlett Packard Enterprise using two kinds of chips from Advanced Micro Devices, was more than twice as fast as Fugaku in the tests used by the Top500 organisation.

“It is a proud moment for our nation,” said Thomas Zacharia, director of Oak Ridge, at an online briefing from an industry event in Germany. “It reminds us we can still go after something that is bigger than us.”

Building the system, composed of 74 cabinets that each weighs 8,000 pounds, was made more difficult by the pandemic and problems obtaining components in the supply chain crisis, Zacharia said. But he predicted that Frontier would swiftly have a major impact in studying the impact of Covid and aiding the transition to cleaner energy sources, for example.

Chinese researchers used to participate in the ranking process. But the country has adopted a lower profile in promoting its supercomputer progress as the United States has taken a series of steps to slow China’s technology advances — including making it harder for some Chinese companies to acquire the foreign chips that can be used to make supercomputers. — NYT

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111	PARAM Siddhi-AI - NVIDIA DGX A100, AMD EPYC 7742 64C 2.25GHz, NVIDIA A100, Mellanox HDR Infiniband, Atos Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) India	41,664	4.62	5.27
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132	Pratyush - Cray XC40, Xeon E5-2695v4 18C 2.1GHz, Aries interconnect , HPE Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology India	119,232	3.76	4.01	1,353
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249	Mihir - Cray XC40, Xeon E5-2695v4 18C 2.1GHz, Aries interconnect , HPE National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting India	83,592	2.57	2.81	955
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- **The US has retaken the top spot in the world supercomputer rankings with the exascale Frontier system at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee.**
- **The Frontier system's score of 1.102 exaflop/s makes it "the most powerful supercomputer to ever exist" and "the first true exascale machine," the Top 500 project said Monday in the announcement of its latest rankings.**
- **Exaflop/s (or exaflops) is short for 1 quintillion floating-point operations per second.**
- **Frontier was also the second-most efficient supercomputer in the new Green 500 rankings. The top spot in Green 500 was taken by a smaller version of the Frontier system at Oak Ridge, one with 120,832 cores instead of the 8.7 million in the exascale system.**
- **Taking second place in the Top 500 with a score of 442 petaflop/s was the previous top supercomputer, the Fugaku system at the RIKEN Center for Computational Science in Kobe, Japan.**

146. Consider the following statement regarding India's communication satellite GSAT-24.

1. **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a government organisation under Department of Space (DoS), will be undertaking the GSAT-24 satellite mission as its first Demand Driven mission post space reforms**
2. **The GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite that will meet the DTH application needs across the country. The satellite weighs around 4180 kg.**
3. **The satellite will be launched aboard Ariane-V rocket by Arianespace from Kourou in French Guiana**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India's communication satellite GSAT-24 is scheduled for launch on June 22nd, confirmed Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in its mission statement on May 31, 2022.
- The satellite will be launched aboard Ariane-V rocket by Arianespace from Kourou in French Guiana.
- It will be launched aboard Ariane-V VA257 flight on June 22, 2022.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a government organisation under Department of Space (DoS), will be undertaking the GSAT-24 satellite mission as its first Demand Driven mission post space reforms. The company has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.
- The GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite that will meet the DTH application needs across the country. The satellite weighs around 4180 kg.
- GSAT (Geostationary Satellite) satellites are India's indigenously developed communications satellites. The GSAT satellite system has been developed by ISRO to make India self-reliant in broadcasting service.
- The last GSAT satellite to be launched was GSAT-30, which was launched aboard Ariane 5 rocket on January 17, 2020 as a replacement for INSAT-4A.

147. Recently in June _____ issued a **whitepaper on the RFID-enabled baggage tag "BAGG TRAX"** at Airport arrivals.

- A. Indira Gandhi International Airport
- B. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport
- C. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport
- D. Noida International Greenfield Airport

- Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Wednesday issued a whitepaper on the RFID-enabled baggage tag "BAGG TRAX" at Delhi Airport arrivals. Passengers arriving at Indira Gandhi International (IGI)

IGI Airport gets RFID tags for check-in bags



New Delhi: In a first in India, the IGI Airport in Delhi has introduced radio-frequency identification (RFID) enabled baggage tags which will give passengers real-time information about the location of their luggage. The RFID technology will be personalised and help arriving passengers keep track and not lose their check-in luggage. According to Delhi International Airport Limited, the bag tags will be called "Bag Trax". They have been launched for select frequent flyers at Terminal 3 of the airport as part of a pilot project and will soon be provided at all terminals. Passengers can buy it in the departures sections. "Bag Trax will not only help the domestic and international arrival passengers but also those in transit to track their checked-in baggage," said DIAL in a statement.

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Airport in Delhi will soon be getting RFID-enabled baggage tags to track their baggage.

- *DIAL mentioned that the Delhi Airport is the first Indian airport to introduce the facility. IGI airport has introduced Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)-enabled personalized baggage tag "BAGG TRAX", a first-of-its-kind facility in the country that will share details in real-time about when and on which belt a passenger's luggage is arriving. The unique BAGG TRAX tags will soon be commercially launched for flyers at Delhi airport.*
- *Presently, as part of the pilot project, BAGG TRAX tags are given to select frequent flyers at Terminal 3 only. Once commercially launched, flyers can buy it at the Departures, it read. It is yet another passenger-friendly initiative by DIAL that will significantly enhance the passenger experience at the airport.*

148. Recently seen in news [Cyclone Karim](#) which has created a path in the open seas west of Australia was named by

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. **Seychelles**
- C. Oman
- D. Thailand

- *Recent satellite images have Captured Twin Cyclones in the Indian Ocean region, one in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern hemisphere, named cyclone Asani and cyclone Karim respectively.*
- *Cyclone Karim has created a path in the open seas west of Australia.*
- *The name Karim was given by the South African country Seychelles. The name Cyclone Asani was suggested by Sri Lanka.*
- *Asani remains a Severe Cyclonic Storm over the Bay of Bengal, with wind speeds of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph.*
- *Both were formed in the Indian Ocean region.*

149. Recently in June [Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, \(HAL\)](#) will convert _____ [Boeing-767 civilian aircraft](#) into mid-air refuellers for the [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#), for which it had entered into an agreement with [Israel Aerospace Industries \(IAI\)](#) in April.

- A. **6**
- B. 7
- C. 9
- D. 8

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- *Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, (HAL) will convert six Boeing-767 civilian aircraft into mid-air refuellers for the Indian Air Force (IAF), for which it had entered into an agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in April.*
- *The IAI has expertise in undertaking such conversion. The overall process is expected to take at least three or four years. The IAF has been looking to procure mid-air refuellers for some time.*
- *Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets.*
- *It also allows aircraft to stay in the air much beyond their normal limits allowing better exploitation of the platform's capabilities.*

HAL to convert passenger aircraft into fuel tankers

Six Boeing-767s to be repurposed for the Indian Air Force

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, (HAL) will convert six Boeing-767 civilian aircraft into mid-air refuellers for the Indian Air Force (IAF), for which it had entered into an agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in April.

The IAF has been looking to procure mid-air refuellers for some time.

"Six Boeing-767s will be converted from civil to military certification. HAL will float a global tender to purchase second-hand B-767s from the market," an official source said. The overall pro-



HAL will float a global tender to purchase used Boeing-767s. • V.V. KRISHNAN

cess is expected to take at least three or four years, the official said.

In addition, HAL is looking at converting Boeing-747s of Air India for a dedicated cargo role.

The aircraft available with Air India have been recently pulled out from civilian ser-

vice as they completed 20 years. The feasibility of conversion is being ascertained, the official said.

The IAI has expertise in undertaking such conversion, and the HAL too has worked closely with the group earlier on it, so this project can be undertaken and will fulfil a crucial requirement of the IAF, another official said.

Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets. It also allows aircraft to stay in the air much beyond their normal limits allowing better exploitation of the platform's capabilities.

150. Recently in June **World's largest plant** has been discovered in _____ .

- A. Germany
- B. Australia**
- C. India
- D. Bhutan

- *The sprawling seagrass, a marine flowering plant known as Posidonia Australis has been discovered off the West Coast of Australia.*
- *It has a length of 180km and is spread over an area of 20,000 hectares.*
- *It has been discovered in Shark Bay by a group of researchers from Flinders University and The University of Western Australia.*
- *These researchers have also found that the plant is 4,500 years old and it can survive in a volatile atmosphere.*
- *It is so large because it clones itself and creates genetically identical offshoots. It has a double number of chromosomes than similar plants.*

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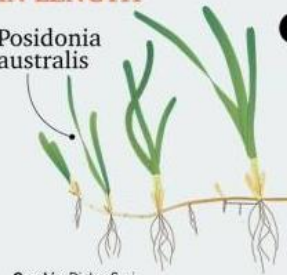
- *The Great Banyan in Howrah’s Botanical Garden is the largest tree in India covers 1.41 hectares.*

A 4,500-YEAR OLD PLANT, SPREAD OVER 20,000 FOOTBALL FIELDS

The world's largest plant has recently been discovered off the West Coast of Australia: a seagrass

180 km
IN LENGTH

Posidonia australis



Graphic: Dinkar Sasi



SHARK BAY

AUSTRALIA

The ribbon weed, Posidonia australis, has been discovered in Shark Bay by a group of researchers from Flinders University and The University of Western Australia

151. Recently in June *Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325, operating the indigenously built ALH MK III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at _____ .*
- INS Hansa
 - INS Utkorsh**
 - INS Durga
 - INS Pratham

- *Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325, operating the indigenously built ALH MK III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, AVSM, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar at an impressive ceremony held at INS Utkorsh, Port Blair*
- *The unit is the second ALH MK III Squadron commissioned into the Indian Navy.*
- *The state-of-the-art multi role helicopter has been developed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL), Bangalore which embodies the mission of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and helps protect our maritime interests in the region to boost India’s strategic presence.*
- *The Squadron derives its name from the nocturnal bird of prey, the ‘Eagle Owl’. The keen sense of observation and tracking of the eagle exemplifies the Sensors and advanced avionics of the helicopter.*

152. Recently in June _____ *became world's oldest person to sail solo non-stop across the Pacific.*
- Kenichi Horie**
 - Kiemi Reeta
 - Yuichiro Miura
 - Yasuka Namba

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- **An 83-year-old Japanese adventurer returned home after successfully completing his solo, nonstop voyage across the Pacific, becoming the oldest person to reach the milestone.**
- **Kenichi Horie arrived in the Kii Strait off Japan’s western coast, completing his trans-Pacific voyage in 69 days after leaving a yacht harbor in San Francisco in March.**
- **It was the latest achievement for the octogenarian adventurer, who in 1962 became the first person in the world to successfully complete a solo nonstop voyage across the Pacific from Japan to San Francisco.**

At 83, Japanese man becomes oldest to sail solo across Pacific

MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO, JUNE 4



Japan's Kenichi Horie

AN 83-YEAR-OLD Japanese adventurer returned home Saturday after successfully completing his solo, nonstop voyage across the Pacific, becoming the oldest person to reach the milestone.

Kenichi Horie arrived in the Kii Strait off Japan's western coast, completing his trans-Pacific voyage in 69 days after leaving a yacht harbor in San Francisco in March. It was the latest achievement for the octogenarian adventurer, who in 1962 became the first person in the world to complete a solo nonstop voyage across Pacific from Japan to San Francisco.

Sixty years later, he traveled the opposite route. "I just crossed the finish line. I'm tired," he wrote in his blog after reaching Japan in the early hours of Saturday.

He said his sailing boat, Suntory Mermaid III, was to be toed after the sunrise for an expected arrival at his home port of Shin Nishinomiya yacht harbor in the evening. Reports said a welcome event will be held Sunday.

His achievement came after three days of struggle with the pushback from a strong tide. He wrote in his blog Friday that he succeeded but was exhausted and took a nap after feeling assured that his yacht was now on the right track to the finish line. Horie's return to Japan makes him the world's oldest person to complete a solo, nonstop crossing of Pacific, as per his sponsors. **AP**

153. Recently in June a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted between india and _____ at Jashore Military Station from 05 June to 16 June 2022.

- A. Nepal
- B. **Bangladesh**
- C. Bhutan
- D. Singapore

INDIA BANGLADESH JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE "EX SAMPRITI-X" TO COMMENCE IN BANGLADESH

Posted On: 05 JUN 2022 7:06PM by PIB Delhi

As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022. Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques. The Indian contingent of company strength is being represented by a Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment and the contingent departed by road for the exercise location on 4 Jun 2022.

During the joint military exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate. The exercise schedule is progressively planned in such a manner that the participants will initially get familiar with each other's organisational structure and tactical drills. As the exercise progresses, joint tactical exercises will be conducted wherein the joint battle drills of both contingents will be practised. The exercise will culminate with a final validation exercise in which troops of both armies will jointly practice a Counter-Terrorism Operation in a simulated environment.

In addition to sharing best practices and understanding each other at the tactical level, this exercise is an opportunity for greater cultural understanding to strengthen trust and cooperation between armies of both the Nations. The exercise will benefit both the armies by gaining from each other's vast experience which will further contribute to peace and stability in the region.

- **As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022.**

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- Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.
- During the joint military exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.

154. Recently in June world's first population estimation of the fishing cat done outside the protected area network has been conducted in _____ .

- A. Sunderban
- B. Chilka Lake**
- C. Dal Lake
- D. Wular Lake

- The Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, has 176 fishing cats, according to a census done by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Project (TFCP). This is the world's first population estimation of the fishing cat done outside the protected area network.

World's first fishing cat census done in Chilika

The lake has 176 of the globally threatened species

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, has 176 fishing cats, according to a census done by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with the Fishing Cat Project (TFCP).

This is the world's first population estimation of the fishing cat done outside the protected area network.

According to the CDA, phase 1 of the estimation was conducted in 2021 in the 115 sq.km marshland in the north and north-eastern section of Chilika and its surrounding areas. Phase 2 was conducted in 2022 in

the Parikud side along the coastal islands of Chilika.

A total of 150 camera traps were deployed in two phases with each fixed in the field for 30 days. Spatially explicit capture recapture method was used to analyse the data, the CDA said in a statement.

'Participatory spirit'

"It was truly participatory in spirit since local fishermen and villagers of Chilika were the primary participants in this exercise. Without their support, the world's first such population estimation outside protected areas on this globally threatened cat, would not have been possible," said Susanta Nanda, Chief Executive Officer, CDA.

"Ten graduate and postgraduate students also



In two phases, 150 camera traps were deployed.

volunteered during the exercise. Chilika Wildlife Division staff actively facilitated and participated in the estimation. Such a participatory effort involving multiple stakeholders for studying this elusive and threatened species sets a wonderful precedent," said Partha Dey, co-founder, TFCP.

The CDA said the globally threatened cats are found in wetlands in major South and

Southeast Asian river basins starting from the Indus in Pakistan till the Mekong in Vietnam and in Sri Lanka and Java. They are found in 10 Asian countries but have stayed undetected in Vietnam and Java since the last decade or so.

"Wetlands in Asia are being lost at alarmingly rapid rates and proper data on their current status or even baseline data are missing. The status of many wetland species remains understudied and highly threatened. Tracking specialist species such as the fishing cat gives us an indication of what might be happening to these ecosystems, which are safeguards against climate change and droughts," said Tiasa Adhya, the co-founder of TFCP.

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- About twice the size of a typical house cat, the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is a feline known to even dive to catch fish. Wetlands are the favorite habitats of the fishing cat.
- They are found in 10 Asian countries but have stayed undetected in Vietnam and Java since the last decade or so.
- In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.
- The fishing cat is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists the fishing cat on Appendix II part of Article IV of CITES. In India, the fishing cat is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

155. Which of the following country is *the host of the BALTOPS 2022' naval exercise?*

- A. Finland
- B. Sweden**
- C. Ukraine
- D. Norway

- 'BALTOPS 2022' naval exercise kicked off in Baltic Sea.
- NATO members along with Finland & Sweden are taking part in this multilateral exercise.
- Sweden is the host of the BALTOPS 22 exercise. More than 7,000 sailors, airmen and marines from 16 countries are taking part in this naval exercise.
- BALTOPS naval exercise was started in 1972. This year, 45 vessels and 75 aircraft will participate in this Naval Exercise.
- Finland and Sweden are participating in this exercise since the mid-1990s.
- This exercise is scheduled to conclude at the German port of Kiel on June 17.

156. Recently In June A multinational joint exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2022" featuring participation from *military contingents* from _____ countries including india commenced in _____.

- A. 15, Bangladesh

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- B. 16, Mongolia
- C. 17, Sweden
- D. 18, Finland

- Indian Army Contingent took part in “Ex Khaan Quest 2022”. It is a multinational joint exercise hosted by Mongolia. It is also a multinational peacekeeping exercise.
- It started in Mongolia on 06 June 2022. Military contingents from 16 countries are taking part in this exercise.
- Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, the Hon’ble President of Mongolia, inaugurated the Exercise.
- The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of participating nations.
- A contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS is representing the Indian Army.
- LADAKH SCOUTS is an infantry regiment of the Indian Army. It is nicknamed the "Snow Warriors" or "Snow Leopards".

Jun 07, 2022, 9:26AM

Multinational Peacekeeping exercise 'Ex Khaan Quest 2022' commences in Mongolia



A multinational peacekeeping exercise- Ex Khaan Quest 2022 featuring participation from military contingents from 16 countries including India commenced in Mongolia yesterday. President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh inaugurated the exercise.

The Defence Ministry said, Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the Ladakh Scouts. The 14-day exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations and

157. Consider the following statement regarding Agni-IV ballistic missile.

1. India conducted a test of the nuclear capable Agni-IV ballistic missile, which has a strike range of 4,000 km.
2. The two-stage Agni-IV surface-to-surface missile was flight-tested for its “entire range” from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island.

Which of the following statement is correct ?

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

- India conducted a test of the nuclear capable Agni-IV ballistic missile, which has a strike range of 4,000 km, as part of a “night user trial in operational configuration” by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

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- The two-stage Agni-IV surface-to-surface missile was flight-tested for its “entire range” from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast, at about 7.30pm.
- The tri-Service SFC already has the Prithvi-II (350-km), Agni-I (700-km), Agni-II (2,000-km), Agni-III (3,000-km) and Agni-IV missile units, while the induction of the country’s first intercontinental ballistic missile Agni-V (over 5,000-km) is currently in an advanced stage.
- The road-mobile Agni-IV and Agni-V are primarily meant for deterrence against China, which can target any Indian city with its formidable inventory of long-range missiles.
- The Agni-V brings the northernmost part of China within its strike envelope. The shorter range Agni missiles, in turn, are designed for Pakistan.

Strategic missile Agni-4 successfully test-fired

All operational parameters validated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Monday successfully tested the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni-4, which met all parameters.

Training launch

“A successful training launch of an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, was carried out at approximately 1930 hours on June 06, 2022 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha,” a Defence Ministry statement said.

The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under

the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, it stated.

Range of 3,500 km

The missile, one of many in the Agni series of strategic missiles, has a range of over 3,500 km.

The statement from the Defence Ministry said that the launch validated all operational parameters and as also the reliability of the system.

The Defence Ministry further added, “The successful test of the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile reaffirms India’s policy of having a ‘Credible Minimum Deterrence’ Capability.”

158. Consider the following statement regarding India's first FSRU (floating, storage and regasification unit) liquefied natural gas port.

1. Nikhil Merchant-owned Swan Energy Ltd is planning to commission India's first FSRU (floating, storage and regasification unit) liquefied natural gas port near Jafrabad in Gujarat
2. The FSRU with a capacity of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) has been built at a cost of around ₹6,500 crore.

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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- **Nikhil Merchant-owned Swan Energy Ltd is planning to commission India's first FSRU (floating, storage and regasification unit) liquefied natural gas port near Jafrabad in Gujarat this year, as the country looks to boost its LNG imports.**
- **The FSRU with a capacity of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) has been built at a cost of around ₹6,500 crore.**
- **LNG terminals to have a capacity of about 60 mmtpa in the next eight to 10 years. India, along with China and other countries, has to move towards a greener source of fuel. LNG, is the future's fuel,"**
- **Swan has signed regasification agreements including with Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation covering the entire 5 mmtpa for 20 years,**
- **FSRU is a vessel that helps in transferring LNG through oceanic channels.**
- **The port which was to be commissioned in 2019 was delayed due to two cyclones - Vayu and Taukate - in the region and Covid-19 pandemic.**

159. Consider the following statement regarding INS Nishank and INS Akshay will be decommissioned on 3rd June.

- 1.INS Nishank is the Veer Class Missile Corvette .It was part of the Killer Squadron, which is known for its heroic action in the 1971 India-Pakistan War.**
- 2.INS Akshay is part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron. It is an Abhay class corvette ship.**

Swan Energy to Commission First Floating LNG Unit

5 mmtpa unit built at cost of around ₹6,500 cr



Kalpana.Pathak
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Nikhil Merchant-owned Swan Energy Ltd is planning to commission India's first FSRU (floating, storage and regasification unit) liquefied natural gas port near Jafrabad in Gujarat this year, as the country looks to boost its LNG imports.

The FSRU with a capacity of 5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) has been built at a cost of around ₹6,500 crore.

"We're expecting the country's LNG terminals to have a capacity of about 60 mmtpa in the next eight to 10 years. India, along with China and other countries, has to move towards a greener source of fuel. LNG, is the future's fuel," said Vivek Merchant, general manager – projects at the company.

Swan has signed regasification agreements including with

Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation covering the entire 5 mmtpa for 20 years, he said.

FSRU is a vessel that helps in transferring LNG through oceanic channels. The natural gas that is transported through the sea in liquid form needs to be reconverted into the original gaseous state before being pumped out into the storage tanks, and the FSRU helps in this process.

The port which was to be commissioned in 2019 was delayed due to two cyclones — Vayu and Taukate — in the region and Covid-19 pandemic.



Swan has inked regasification pacts with GSPC, IOC, BPCL and ONGC covering the entire capacity for 20 yrs

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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

- Indian naval ships INS Nishank and INS Akshay will be decommissioned in the naval dockyard of Mumbai.
- It will be decommissioned after 32 years of service. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar will be the chief guest of the ceremony.
- The pennant marks the commissioning of the ship. The pennant will be hauled down before the decommissioning.
- INS Nishank is the Veer Class Missile Corvette. It was part of the Killer Squadron, which is known for its heroic action in the 1971 India-Pakistan War.
- INS Akshay is part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron. It is an Abhay class corvette ship.

INS Akshay, INS Nishank decommissioned



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A glorious era will come to an end on June 3, when two naval ships INS Nishank and INS Akshay are decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at Naval Dockyard in south Mumbai.

Making an announcement to this effect, the Western Naval Command (WNC) tweeted on Tuesday: “#INSNishank (K43) part of the 22 Missile Vessel Sqn & #INSAkshay (P35) part of the 23 Patrol Vessel Sqn, both under the operational control of Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area, will be decommissioned on #03June 2022 after 32 years of glorious service to the nation”.

A defence spokesperson said here that INS Nishank and INS Akshay were constructed and commissioned at Poti Shipyard in present-day Georgia. “They have been in active naval service for more than 32 years and participated in a number of naval operations including Op Talwar during the Kargil War and

Op Parakram that was launched consequent to the Parliament attack in 2001,” he said. INS Nishank was commissioned into the Indian Navy on September 12, 1989. It is a Veer class corvette ship of a length of 56 meter (184 ft), 10.5 meter (34 ft) beam and 2.5 meter (8.2 ft) draught. It could notch up a speed of 32 knots (59 km/h). It had a displacement capacity of 455 tons (full load). Commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 10, 1990, INS Akshay is Abhay class corvette ship. The 56 meter (183.7 ft) long ship with 10.2 meter (33 ft) beam and 3.3 meter (11 ft) draft, had a displacement capacity of 485 tonnes (full load). Propelled by two diesel motors with 16,184 hp and 2 shafts, the ship could travel at a speed of 28 knots (52 km/h).

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Extract of Audit

SL. No.	PARTICULARS
1	Total income from
2	Net Profit / (Loss) and / or extraordin
3	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Extraordir
4	Net Profit / (Loss)

160. Consider the following statement regarding International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) .

1. The telescope has been built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India.
2. It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district.

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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Liquid mirror telescope in Devasthal sees first light

Once trained using AI tools, the telescope can help track transients such as supernovae, space debris and meteorites

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN
CHENNAI

The four-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) saw the first light recently, gazing out from its vantage on Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand, into the deep sky.

The telescope, staring at the sky overhead, will make sky surveys possible and obtain images that can help observe transient phenomena such as supernovae and record the presence of space debris or meteorites – basically, watch the skies.

The telescope has been

built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India. It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

A large pool of mercury placed in a vessel is spun around so fast that it curves into a parabolic shape. Since mercury is reflective, this shape helps in focusing the



The primary mirror of the International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal.

reflected light. A thin sheet of mylar protects the mercury from the wind.

“It was thrilling to see the formation of the primary mirror. Nearly 50 litres of mercury, weighing close to 700 kilograms, is spun hard to form a paraboloid mirror of just 4 mm thickness and a diameter of about 4 metres,” says Kuntal Misra, Project Investigator at ARIES. She has worked in this project since January 2020.

First image

The first image made by the telescope consisted of several stars and a galaxy, NGC 4274, which is 45 million light years away.

The telescope, having a primary mirror that is liquid, cannot be turned and pointed in any direction. It “stares” at the zenith and watches the sky as the earth rotates, thereby giving a view of different objects.

This property can be used to scan and survey the sky, observe transients and moving objects such as meteorites.

It will work in tandem with the existing 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope.

Once it starts making observations, the telescope will collect gigabytes of data,

which will need to be analysed using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI and ML) tools.

“In a night’s observation, it will make thousands of images which cannot be analysed by just looking at them. We will need to develop and train AI and ML tools to do this,” says Dipankar Banerjee, Director of the ARIES Observatory.

With the monsoon expected soon in the area, the real observations may start only in October, after the rains, according to Dr. Banerjee.

- **The four-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) saw the first light recently, gazing out from its vantage on Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand, into the deep sky.**
- **The telescope has been built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India.**
- **It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.**
- **The first image made by the telescope consisted of several stars and a galaxy, NGC 4274, which is 45 million light years away.**

161. Consider the following statement regarding QS World University Rankings, 2023 .

- 1. The latest edition of QS World University Rankings features 41 Indian universities, of which 12 improved their positions, 12 remained stable, 10 declined and seven are new entries.**
- 2. The IISc ranks 155th globally, and is the global leader in the citations per faculty (CpF) indicator.**
- 3. The IISc is the fastest rising South Asian university among the top-200 universities in the QS rankings, The IISc is the world’s top research university, achieving a perfect score of 100/100 for CpF.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

IISc ranked world's best research varsity

VINAY UMARI
Ahmedabad, 8 June

Regaining the pole position among public and private institutions from the country, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore was ranked at 155th place in the latest QS World University Rankings.

The premier institute also continued to prove its mettle in quality research, as it emerged as the global leader in the citations per faculty (CpF) indicator in the latest rankings. According to the indicator, when universities are adjusted for faculty size, IISc is the world's best research university. It achieved a perfect score of 100/100 on this metric.

Further, as the fastest rising South Asian university on the QS rankings' top 200 list, IISc gained 31 places year-on-year (YoY), up from 186th position last year.

The nineteenth edition of the international university rankings by global higher education analysts QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) featured 41 Indian universities, of which 12 improved their rankings, 12 remained stable, 10 saw a decline and seven were new entrants.

This year's QS World University Rankings is the largest ever, with 1,418 institutions across 100 locations, up from 1,300 last year. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) finished a record-extending 11th consecutive year as world number one. The University of Cambridge rose to second place, while Stanford University remained in the third position.

Following IISc were some of the leading Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), all of whom improved their standing, while IIT Indore debuted at 396th rank (see box).

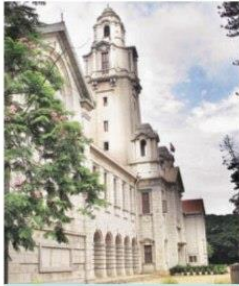
Among declared public institutions of eminence, while IISc, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras and IIT Kharagpur attained a higher rank, University of Delhi and University of Hyderabad saw a decline while Banaras Hindu University's rank remained unchanged. On the other hand, two of the declared private institutions of eminence maintained the same rank — Manipal Academy of Higher Education and Birla

Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) — while O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) rose to the next band of 651-700.

JGU is not only India's top ranked university with a focus solely on social sciences, arts and humanities but also the only Indian non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and non-medicine university to find a place in the QS World University Rankings 2023.

Among new entrants, University of Madras debuted in the 541-550 band, while Chandigarh University debuted in the 801-1,000 bracket as the youngest varsity, having been established less than 10 years ago.

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INDIA'S BEST

Top Indian institutes in QS World University Rankings 2023

2023	Institute	2022
155	IISc Bangalore	186
172	IIT Bombay	177
174	IIT Delhi	185
250	IIT Madras	255
264	IIT Kanpur	277
270	IIT Kharagpur	280
369	IIT Roorkee	400
384	IIT Guwahati	395

Source: QS (<https://www.TopUniversities.com/>)

is the best-performing local institution for the proportion of international faculty, ranking 411th globally, while Amity University (1,001-1,200) is the national leader for the proportion of international students as it ranked 542nd globally.

According to QS Senior Vice President Ben Sower, while the latest edition of the rankings reflects the excellent work that several Indian varsities are doing to improve their research footprint, the dataset also suggests that the Indian higher education sector still struggles to provide adequate teaching capacity.

QS RANKINGS OUT ON THURSDAY

India's score up to 35, IISc among top in world: Kovind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

INDIA'S TALLY in the QS rankings has risen to 35 this year from 29 in 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind said Tuesday. According to the rankings, the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has scored 100 on the research parameter and joined the league of elite global institutions, he added.

The 2023 edition of the QS or Quacquarelli Symonds world university rankings will be released Thursday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day Visitor's Conference of vice-chancellors of central universities and directors of institutions of national importance, Kovind said improving the quality of institutions of higher learning is of vital importance in order to achieve the larger goals in the education sector.

"We should be setting benchmarks for the best in the world. In the top 300, there are six institutions (from India) this year as against four last year (in QS rankings)," Kovind said.

"I am especially happy to note that the Indian Institute of

Science has got a full score of 100 on the research parameter and shares this distinction with eight highly reputed institutions of the world, including Princeton, Harvard, MIT, and Caltech," he added.

QS Ltd CEO and MD, Nunzio Quacquarelli, was present at the launch of the conference, which was also attended by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and UGC chairperson Prof M Jagadesh Kumar.

Prof Kumar made a presentation on the phase-wise roll out of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, including the decision to encourage Indian and foreign universities to tie up for twinning, dual-degree and joint degree programmes from the 2023-24 academic session.

The UGC chairperson said that the commission has reached out to 600 foreign universities and 63 foreign envoys posted in India to achieve greater collaboration in the higher education sector.

He also said that the government was working on a plan to launch a "One Nation One Subscription" scheme for universities to provide students access to high quality journals.

- **The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc) is the new national leader in the QS World University Rankings, 2023 released, which also shows that all Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) improved their standing.**
- **The latest edition of QS World University Rankings features 41 Indian universities, of which 12 improved their positions, 12 remained stable, 10 declined and seven are new entries.**

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- The IISc ranks 155th globally, and is the global leader in the citations per faculty (CpF) indicator, which QS uses to evaluate the impact of the research produced by universities.
- The IISc is the fastest rising South Asian university among the top-200 universities in the QS rankings, having climbed 31 places year on year. The IISc is the world's top research university, achieving a perfect score of 100/100 for CpF.
- The IIT Bombay, which was the top Indian university in QS World University Rankings of the previous edition, is the second best Indian institution this time and climbed five places globally to reach the 172 rank. The third best Indian university is the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD), followed by IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur.

162. Recently in June **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd signed MoU with _____** for sharing innovative ideas and technology in the field of highway engineering.

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

- NHIDCL signed MoU with IIT-Roorkee for sharing innovative ideas and technology in the field of highway engineering.
- The MoU will play a key role in achieving the objectives of the government's GatiShakti and National Master Plan.
- NHIDCL will promote surveys, design and upgrade the National Highway and Strategic Roads.
- National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd:
 - It is a government-owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
 - It is responsible for the management of a network of National Highways.
 - Chanchal Kumar is the Managing Director of NHIDCL.

163. Consider the following statement **regarding DAVINCI (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging) mission.**

1. DAVINCI will be the first mission to study Venus with both through flybys and descent.
2. It will descent into the harsh atmosphere of Venus in 2029. It will reach the surface of the Venus by June 2031.

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

- *NASA will launch DAVINCI (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging) mission.*
- *DAVINCI will be the first mission to study Venus with both through flybys and descent.*
- *It will descent into the harsh atmosphere of Venus in 2029. It will reach the surface of the Venus by June 2031.*
- *Pioneer in 1978 and Magellan in the early '90s are only two missions which visited Venus.*
- *DAVINCI spacecraft will basically serve as a flying chemistry lab. It will detect the composition of Venus' mountain like highlands.*
- *DAVINCI will drop a probe to the surface. The probe will touch down in the Alpha Regio Mountains.*
- *The atmosphere of Venus is 90 times thicker than that of Earth. The surface temperature of Venus reaches 864 degrees Fahrenheit (462 degrees Celsius).*