

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of June (9th June – 16th June 2022)

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding India's *first Covid-19 vaccine for animals*.
1. The vaccine is *called Ancovax*.
 2. It Is Developed *by the Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines*.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Agriculture Minister unveiled Anocovax, the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine for animals.**
- **It is developed by a Haryana-based company- ICAR-National Research Centre for Equines (NRC).**
- **Both the Delta and Omicron versions of SARS-CoV-2 are neutralized by the immunity induced by Anocovax.**
- **The vaccine, which is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits, contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant.**
- **The minister also launched the 'CAN-CoV-2 ELISA kit,' a sensitive and specific nucleocapsid protein-based indirect ELISA kit for antibody detection against SARS-CoV-2 in canines.**
- **Surra ELISA kit was also launched, which is a suitable diagnostic assay for 'Trypanosoma evansi' infection in multiple animal species.**
- **Additionally, an Equine DNA parentage testing kit was also launched, for parentage analysis among horses.**
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR): It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture. It works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- **Its headquarters is in New Delhi.**

ICAR develops Ancovax, India's first Covid job for animals

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi, June 10

Hisar-based National Research Centre on Equines under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed the country's first Covid vaccine - Ancovax - safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits.

"Ancovax is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta vaccine for animals. The immunity induced by Ancovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron Variants of SARS-CoV-2. The vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant. It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits," ICAR spokesman Anil Sharma said.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said scientists of ICAR have made unparalleled contributions as a result of which the country excels in various fields of allied sciences of agriculture.

2. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the *headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)* at _____ .
- A. Surat

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- B. Mornai
- C. Bopal
- D. Doda
- E. None of these

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the headquarters of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) at Bopal, Ahmedabad.
- The establishment of IN-SPACe was announced in June 2020.
- It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement, and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities. It also facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.

Private sector participation can step up India's share in global space industry: PM

'Reforms in space sector will continue; ISRO's space missions will involve private sector'

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, June 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for increased participation of private sector in the country's space programme to enhance India's share in the global space industry.

"Today, the global space industry is worth ₹400 billion, which is set to touch ₹1 trillion by 2040. Our participation is just two per cent in this. We have to increase our share in the global space industry. Private sector has a big role to play here," said Modi after launching the headquarters of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) at Bopal, Ahmedabad.

Modi stated that IN-SPACe will act as a single window independent nodal agency to address the needs of the private sector in space programmes. Modi stated that, fuelled by private entrepreneurship, India

has strong possibilities to emerge a big player in space tourism and space diplomacy.

'Limitless opportunity'

"We have limitless opportunities, but they can't be realised with limited efforts," he said, stating that the past governments did little to tap the zeal and enterprising spirit of Indian youth for the benefit of space sector of the country. "I assure you, the reforms in space sector will continue unconstrained in future," he said. ISRO's (Indian Space Research Organisation) space missions will combine with the passionate private sector, he said.

For start-ups and private entities, ISRO will facilitate transfer of technology, while providing access to its resources for collective good.

So far, IN-SPACe has received 67 proposals in the areas of launch vehicles, satellites, space



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a memento from IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka (right) during the inauguration of the agency's headquarters, in Ahmedabad, on Friday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel are also seen in the picture.

applications, ground systems and research from the entities across industries, MSMEs/start-ups, academia, NGOs and industrial associations and individuals.

Development initiatives

On his day-long visit to Gujarat, the Prime Minister also inaugurated a 500-bed, multi-speciality

and cancer hospitals complex, a part of an eight-acre AM Naik Healthcare Complex in Navsari.

Earlier in the day, Modi inaugurated 'Astol water project' in Valsad district, where water from the Madhuban Dam will be pumped to provide tap water to 4.50 lakh residents of 174 tribal villages and 1,028 hamlets on the hills of Valsad district.

At a public meeting in Navsari, the Prime Minister inaugurated various development initiatives and laid the foundation stone for more totalling about ₹3,050 crore. The tribal region holds social and political significance as Gujarat BJP's heavyweight leader CR Paatil represents this region in the Lok Sabha.

- The program also witnessed the exchange of MoUs between IN-SPACe and private sector companies working in the field of space-based applications and services.

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• The Prime Minister expressed happiness that Gujarat is fast becoming a center of big institutions at national and international levels. He listed WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Rashtriya Raskhsa University, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, National Innovation Foundation, Children’s University, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and geoinformatics-BISAG, and, now, IN-SPACE.

3. Consider the following statement regarding the **AGNIPATH** scheme. Which of the following statement is incorrect.

1. ‘AGNIPATH’ scheme is for the recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces.
2. The youth selected under the ‘AGNIPATH’ scheme will be known as Agniveers.
3. Agniveers will be enrolled under respective Service Acts for Five years.
4. One time ‘Seva Nidhi’ package (Rs 11.71 Lakh) will be paid to Agniveers upon completion of the engagement period of four years.



Short-term recruitment

The government has announced a new model for the induction of soldiers below officer ranks in the 3 forces

The Agnipath scheme

The scheme, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security, seeks to induct new recruits for four years with a provision to retain 25% of them in the regular cadre for 15 more years after another round of screening

17.5 to 21 year old candidates can apply for induction through the scheme but they will need to meet the medical and education eligibility conditions	Remuneration for the recruits The recruits will draw an annual package of ₹4.76 lakh in the first year, ₹6.92 lakh in the fourth, an insurance cover of ₹48 lakh , and ₹11.71 lakh as a Seva Nidhi severance package	Will women be recruited? The government said the new scheme will open the path to induct women in the future to all wings of the armed forces based on service requirements
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A distinct rank
Those recruited will be called Agniveers, a new distinct rank, as opposed to sepoy who joined the army under the legacy model

Indian youth would be granted an opportunity to get inducted into the Armed services. Under the ‘Agnipath’ scheme, efforts are to create a youthful profile of the Armed forces. This scheme will increase employment opportunities with new skills in different sectors – **Rajnath Singh**, defence minister

- Union Cabinet has approved the ‘AGNIPATH’ scheme to recruit ‘Agniveers’ in Armed Forces.
- ‘AGNIPATH’ scheme is for the recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces.

4-YEAR SERVICE SCHEME TO REDUCE AGE, TENURE OF SOLDIERS ANNOUNCED

Agnipath for Agniveers



Indian Army chief Manoj Pandey, Indian Air Force chief VR Chaudhary, defence minister Rajnath Singh and Indian Navy chief R Hari Kumar during a press conference at National Media Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday - PTI

Reform to reduce pension bill, end British-era caste, region based recruitments

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: The Centre has announced its biggest reform for recruitment of soldiers with the Agnipath scheme that will lower the age profile of combatants and end the British-era practice of caste-based recruitment.

All new recruitments for soldiers will be done through the scheme cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security on Tuesday. Combatants will be selected for a service of four years. At the end of the tenure, 25% will be selected into the armed forces while the rest will be given a ₹11.7 lakh on de-induction.

Officials said that the short military service scheme would create a ‘technically adept force’ and lower the age profile of the forces by 4-5 years, besides infusing a ‘skilled, disciplined and motivated manpower into society’. Women would also be progressively recruited through the scheme.

The scheme will be implemented for all personnel except officers. It will substantially reduce the pension bill of the armed forces, which at the moment is ₹1.19 crore a year and is expected to go up considerably in the coming years with implementation of ‘one rank one pension’.

“It is a truly transformative reform which will enhance combat potential of the armed forces, with younger profile and technologically adept soldiers. The infusion of disciplined, motivated

Personnel Below Officer Rank

All recruitments for personnel below officer rank to be done through this scheme, no changes announced for officer entry

Agniveers can be posted to any regiment, unit or establishment, will wear distinctive insignia

Scheme will help cut ballooning pension bill that currently stands at **₹1.19 lakh crore annually**

Agniveers, who finish four-year service, will be given a lump sum package of ₹11.71 lakh which will be tax exempt

Will have a **₹48 lakh life insurance cover during service**

Will have a distinct rank that will distinguish them from regular soldiers; 46,000 to be recruited in the first year

Recruitment age between **17.5 and 21 years**

First year salary will be ₹4.79 lakh and will be increased up to ₹6.92 lakh by fourth year

and skilled Agniveers back into society after military service, would be a great asset for the Nation,” defence minister Rajnath Singh said at an announcement ceremony, where the three service chiefs were present.

In the first year, 46,000 soldiers — to be named as Agniveers — will be recruited through the scheme, on an all-India, all-class basis and give an equal opportunity for any individual to enroll into the armed forces. Agniveers would form a distinct rank in the armed forces, different from any other existing ranks.

‘ADEPT FORCE’

Scheme to create a ‘technically adept force’ and lower the age profile of the forces by 4-5 years

Though 75% of current recruitment is done similarly at the moment, the forces retain the British-era practices for some regiments, where recruitment is done on the basis of a region or caste. An official release said that the scheme will have ‘immense dividends’ for the nation. “This includes inculcation of patriotism, team work, enhancement of physical fitness, ingrained loyalty for the country and availability of trained personnel to boost national security in times of external threats, internal threats and natural disasters,” it read. The eligible age for recruitment will be from 17.5 to 21 years and soldiers will have a life insurance cover of ₹48 lakh throughout their service. The Army is facing a shortage of soldiers, currently pegged at 1.25 lakh, against an authorised strength of 12 lakh soldiers.

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- The youth selected under the 'AGNIPATH' scheme will be known as Agniveers.
- 46,000 Agniveers will be recruited this year. Recruitment rallies will start in 90 days.
- Agniveers will be enrolled under respective Service Acts for four years.
- Agniveers will be given an attractive monthly package along with risk and hardship allowances.
- One time 'Seva Nidhi' package (Rs 11.71 Lakh) will be paid to Agniveers upon completion of the engagement period of four years.

Decoding the new defence recruitment plan

The much-debated reform replaces the legacy system of recruitment. It seeks to recruit soldiers for only four years with a provision to retain 25% of them in the regular cadre . A look at some of its features:

What is the Agnipath scheme?

- The scheme is the armed forces' new short-term recruitment programme for personnel below officer rank (PBOR), a classification that includes sepoy, sailors etc.
- Those hired under this will be called 'Agniveers' and will be recruited for four years, but the new system will have a provision to retain around 25% of them for 15 more years after another round of screening.

Why has the scheme been rolled out?

- The government said the move will help include more youngsters in the military so that the armed forces are at their fighting best at all times.
- It will, the government added, also help attract young talent from the society to effectively adopt and use emerging technologies.
- The scheme will also help youngsters build a better resume, the government said.

What happens to the current recruitment process?

The new scheme replaces the legacy recruitment model for PBOR

Who can enrol under the scheme?

Candidates between the age of 17.5 and 21 years can apply but they will need to meet the specific medical and education eligibility conditions that are laid down for different categories

What is the service duration for recruits under the existing legacy system?

Soldiers recruited through the legacy recruitment system serve the armed forces for about 20 years before they retire in their late 30s, along with a pension.

How large is the military's pension bill?

Pensions account for a fifth of India's defence budget. The country allocated ₹5.25 lakh crore for military spending this year, including a pension outlay of ₹1.19 lakh crore. Asked by how much would the pension bill go down, defence minister Rajnath Singh said that the government did not look at the armed forces from the "savings" point of view. "We will spend more on the armed forces, if needed."



Is the scheme open to women?

At present, the current PBOR recruitment rules will apply in terms of gender eligibility. But the government said that the new scheme will open the path to induct women in the future to all wings of the armed forces.

What will be the remuneration?

Allowances

Risk and hardship, ration, dress, and travel allowances as applicable.

Seva Nidhi

- 30% of monthly emoluments will be set aside from the individual's share
- Equal amount will be contributed by the government
- A corpus of ₹11.71 lakh (approx) tax exempted amount will be paid out as Seva Nidhi after four years

Death compensation

- A non-contributory life insurance cover of ₹48 lakh will apply
- An additional ex gratia of ₹44 lakh will be given if death is attributable to duty
- If death is prior to completing four years, the remaining pay will be given as well as the Seva Nidhi component

Disability compensation

A one-time ex gratia payment of ₹44 lakh, ₹25 lakh or ₹15 lakh will be paid in case of 100%, 75%, or 50% disability, respectively.

An annual pay package of:

₹4.76 lakh

(approx.) for the first year

₹6.92 lakh

Up to ₹6.92 lakh (approx) for the fourth year

Will these soldiers get pension?

The soldiers released after four years will not be entitled to pension, while those retained to serve for another 15 years will get the retirement benefit

What concerns have experts raised?

Several veterans called for the need to carefully monitor its implementation even as some others cautioned that it could adversely affect the morale of the armed forces.

Military affairs expert Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia (ret'd) said that a pilot project should have been launched before the implementation of the scheme to assess its effectiveness. "A veteran's view -- as received. Anyone under the delusion that an 'intern' on a 4 yr tour of duty will match up to the Himalayan challenges & place 'izzat' of the paltan before life & limb is clearly hallucinating. If you think pension is expensive- try defeat," he tweeted.

Former Northern Army commander Lieutenant General DS Hooda (ret'd) said: "While it has its advantages, it also has its challenges. Is the training period for Agniveers adequate? Will their motivation levels be the same as soldiers who serve for longer duration?"

Can Agniveers opt for recruitment in regular cadre?

- After completing their engagement period, all Agniveers will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the regular cadre.
- These applications will be considered by a screening system, which will be based on merit and demonstrated performance during service.
- Up to 25% of the Agniveers will be selected for enrolment in the regular cadre, as per current terms and conditions. Selection of Agniveers for further enrolment into the armed forces will be the exclusive jurisdiction of the government through laid down policies.

Do other countries follow a similar system of recruitment?

- The Russian military follows a hybrid format, combining a tradition cadre-and-reserve conscript system and a contract-profession system.
- The French armed forces enlist soldiers on the bases of renewable contracts



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- *The 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempted from Income Tax. There shall be no entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits.*
- *Upon the completion of four years of service, Agniveers will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment in the Armed Forces.*
- *Agniveers will get a non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakhs for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.*
- *The individuals, selected for enrolment in the Armed Forces as regular cadres, would be required to serve for a further period of a minimum of 15 years.*
- *Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 21 years will be eligible to apply under the Agnipath scheme.*
- *Agniveers will be given an attractive customized monthly package along with Risk and Hardship allowances as applicable in the three services.*
- *Agniveers will be provided a non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakhs for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.*

4. *Consider the following statement and identify which of the following is incorrect.*

1. *The Cabinet approved an agreement among the **SCO member states' authorized bodies on cooperation in the field of youth work.***
2. *The SCO Secretariat's **official working languages are Russian and Chinese.***

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Union Cabinet approved an agreement among the SCO member states' authorized bodies on cooperation in the field of youth work.*
- *The agreement was signed by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, following the adoption of the agreement on 17 September 2021 by the member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on cooperation in the field of youth work.*
- *The SCO Secretariat's official working languages are Russian and Chinese.*
- *The agreement's goal is to increase mutual trust, friendly relations, and collaboration among SCO member states' young people.*

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5. PM Modi inaugurated **Iconic Week Celebrations of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs** is being celebrated as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) from _____.
- 6th to 11th June 2022
 - 8th to 13th June 2022
 - 7th to 11th June 2022
 - 6th to 12th June 2022
 - None of these

- PM Modi inaugurated **Iconic Week Celebrations of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs** on 6th June 2022.
- The iconic week of the **Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs** is being celebrated as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) from 6th to 11th June 2022.
- PM Modi also launched **Jan Samarth Portal**. It is a national portal for credit-linked government schemes.
- PM Modi also inaugurated a **Digital Exhibition**. It traces the journey of the two Ministries over the past eight years.
- He also released special series of ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, and ₹20 coins. These coins are not commemorative coins and will be part of the circulation.
- This special series of coins have the theme of the logo of AKAM.
- The special series of coins will also be easily identifiable to visually impaired persons.

PM Modi to inaugurate the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of Finance, Corporate Affairs ministries

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs today at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.

The "iconic week" is being celebrated as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) from June 6 to June 11, 2022. PM Modi will launch the national portal for credit-linked government schemes - Jan Samarth Portal. It is a one-stop digital portal linking government credit schemes that directly connect beneficiaries to lenders.



According to the Prime Minister's Office, the main purpose of the Jan Samarth portal is to encourage inclusive growth and develop-

ment of various sectors by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital

processes. The portal ensures end-to-end coverage of all the linked schemes

The Prime Minister will inaugurate a digital exhibition that traces the journey of the two ministries Finance and Corporate Affairs, over the past eight years. He will also release a special series of Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20 coins. These special series of coins will have the theme of the logo of AKAM and will also be easily identifiable to visually impaired persons. The program will also be organized simultaneously at 75 locations across the country and each location will be connected through virtual mode with the main venue

6. Recently in June Centre notified **the guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022 under the Consumer Protection Act 2019**. Which of the following type of ads has been prohibited by the government?
- Surrogate Ads

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- B. Free Claim Ads
- C. Bait Ads
- D. Junk food Ads**
- E. None of these

- **The Centre has notified the guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022 under the Consumer Protection Act 2019.**
- **These guidelines also tighten the standards for advertisements that target children, bait ads, and free claim ads.**
- **Ads regarding junk foods and drinks shall not be advertised during a program meant for children or on a kids' channel.**
- **The guidelines prohibit surrogate ads which refers to an advertisement for products or services, whose advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law.**
- **Now, the brand ambassadors disclose their material connection with the brand in terms of shareholding or ownership.**
- **These also specify that a brand shall not provide a false description of a product or service, give false guarantees, mislead the customers about the quality or quantity of a product or conceal information.**

7. Recently in June **WayCool, a Chennai based startup, will establish first ventilated cold storage of India for**

- A. **Onion**
- B. Potato
- C. Tomato
- D. Peas
- E. None of these

- **India's first ventilated cold storage for the onion was established by WayCool.**

WayCool to set up first ventilated cold storage for onion

SUBRAMANI RA MANCOMBU

Chennai, June 9

WayCool, one of the country's leading agri-commerce firms, plans to set up India's first ventilated cold storage for onions by building a pilot plant.

Onion is not stored in cold storage but in warehouses that have ventilation. If it is stored in cold storage and taken out, the bulb rots very fast. The reasons are that water condenses from it fast and the vegetable itself transpires.

"Technology is now available to keep it dry. We will bring and build a pilot plant with a (ventilated) cold storage," said Karthik Jayaraman, Co-founder and Managing Director, WayCool Foods and Products Pvt Ltd.

Tie-up with Dutch firm

The ventilated cold storage for onions will be part of WayCool's efforts to build capability in supply chains.

"We want to bring in such technology for our supply chains," he told *BusinessLine*.

The Chennai-based firm, launched seven years ago, has tied up with Moolj Agro of the Netherlands to convert cold storage to ventilated cold storage to preserve crops such as potatoes.

"This reduces the sprouting of potatoes and improves the shelf life of the produce besides preserving its overall quality," Jayaraman said.

Improving shelf life

As part of its efforts to reduce volatility in the supply chain, WayCool is looking at different options and technologies. One such is its launch of potato flakes for the convenience of chefs.

"Potato flakes have a 2-year shelf life compared to a few months for the potato. It is good for producers as the product is preserved and its retains its value. This will



Karthik Jayaraman, Co-founder and MD, WayCool Foods and Products

also tackle the issue of surplus," Jayaraman said.

WayCool is looking to bring such innovation in the supply chain which will offer sustainable benefits to farmers, besides stability and thus reduce price volatility.

Recently, the firm took over Pune-based SV Agri Pvt Ltd which has interesting capabilities. "It has teamed up with Agrico of the Netherlands and developed seven varieties of potatoes. It is developing another eight more for India that are resilient

ones with low diabetes effects or sugar," the WayCool co-founder said.

The Pune firm also produces "seed potato tubers through aeroponics" which brings another capability of growing the spud throughout the year, Jayaraman said.

On the other hand, WayCool had developed technologies for its own use and there is now demand for its agri stack to be used among farmers in Africa and Europe.

"We are open to selling our technology. We are now forming a technology subsidiary that will offer these technologies as SaaS (software as a solution)," he said.

Using AI, ML

The start-up, which is mainly marketing agricultural produce and milk in South India and Maharashtra besides the United Arab Emirates, is putting to good use the expertise it has developed in artificial intelligence (AI) and

machine learning (ML). Its farmers' advisory platform, Outgrow, uses AI for early disease prediction and detection.

"We use weather data for predicting early diseases in pomegranates, potatoes and grapes. The prediction helps farmers to take action early. We have 85 per cent accuracy in predicting pomegranate blight and a couple of diseases in grapes," Jayaraman said.

The other way of tackling disease using AI is by taking images or pictures of plants for disease detection.

"The image data can help identify 71 diseases in 20 crops with nearly 85 per cent accuracy. We have begun using AI in more areas," he said.

In fact, WayCool has identified 23 types of buying data and is gathering more "to learn better and get better at forecasting", the WayCool official said.

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- *WayCool is a Chennai-based Startup and one of India's leading agri-commerce platforms.*
- *It will initially build a pilot plant.*
- *Onion is currently stored in warehouses with ventilation. If it is stored in cold storage and taken out, the bulb of the onion rots very quickly. But, now technology is available to keep it dry.*
- *way cool has collaborated with Netherlands' Mooji Agro to convert cold storage to ventilated cold storage to preserve crops like potatoes, onion, etc.*
- *The ventilated cold storage reduces sprouting and increases the shelf life of the crop.*
- *Innovation in the supply chain will offer benefits to farmers and reduce price volatility.*
- *Outgrow, the farmer advisory platform of WayCool uses AI for early disease prediction and detection.*
- *Operation Greens: It was announced by the government during Budget 2018-19. The scheme aims to stabilize the supply and price of TOP crops (Tomato, Onion, and Potato). The scheme was expanded to cover 22 perishables including shrimp during budget 2021-22.*

8. Recently in June Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** dedicated to the nation, **Dharohar - the National Museum of Customs and GST** in _____.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Panji**
- C. Pune
- D. Delhi
- E. None of these

- *Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman is dedicated to the nation, Dharohar - the National Museum of Customs and GST in Panaji Goa.*
- *The two-story 'Blue building', which was earlier known as Alfandega, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been*

Goa: Sitharaman inaugurates museum that showcases work that Customs do

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, JUNE 11

ANTIQUE COINS, statues, endangered wildlife, weapons and narcotics seized by Customs are among the exhibits at the 'Dharohar' – the National Museum of Customs and GST, which Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated in Panaji on Saturday.

The two-storey 'Blue building' that houses the museum, which was known as Alfandega, during the Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji is about 400 years old.

The museum showcases not only the artefacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department. It consists of eight galleries – Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well being, Journey of Indirect taxes – Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.

The 'Battle of Wits' gallery showcases the cerebral battle between smugglers and the Customs officers. It contains chronicled seizures of many valuable items. Among its displays are the manuscript of Ain-i-Akbari intercepted at the Indo-Nepal border at Raxaul, replica of Amin pillars from Kaurkshetra and medieval period astronomical instruments.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'Dharohar', the National Museum of Customs and GST. *Express*

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standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.

- *Dharohar is one of its kind museum in the country that showcases not only the artifacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department.*
- *‘Dharohar’ has eight galleries. GST Gallery is a brand new addition to the Dharohar Museum.*
- *A first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, this GST Gallery takes one through the long and arduous journey of GST spanning two decades.*

9. Consider the following statement regarding the self **Certification Portal**.

1. **Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the Self Certification Portal.**
2. **It has been launched for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by individuals, companies, organizations, and government agencies.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the Self Certification Portal.**
- **This is an important step towards liberalizing India's geospatial industry by easing access to geospatial data.**
- **It has been launched for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by individuals, companies, organizations, and government agencies.**
- **On February 15, 2021, the government issued new Geospatial Data Guidelines for bringing improvement in the geospatial industry.**
- **It will reduce the time spent to obtain clearances and approvals for Geospatial companies, researchers, academia, and innovators.**
- **The portal has been developed in association with National Informatics Centre.**

PM Modi launches projects worth ₹3,050 crore in Gujarat

‘We don't work to win elections. We work for people’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Welfare of people is the top-most priority of the government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Gujarat on Friday. Mr. Modi either inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects worth ₹3,050 crore in the poll-bound State.

Mr. Modi said in the past eight years, his government had worked relentlessly for the welfare of people of the country and therefore people had elected him.

“We don't work to win elections. We work for people who elect us. For us, being in power means to serve people,” he said.

On his fourth trip since March to his home State, where the Assembly election is due to be held in December, Mr. Modi is visiting tribal areas of south Gujarat to inaugurate water supply projects, a power transmis-



New facility: The Prime Minister during the inauguration of a multispeciality hospital at Navsari district in Gujarat. •PTI

sion line and a sewage treatment plant.

Tribal outreach

This is Mr. Modi's second tribal outreach in the State. Earlier, he held a tribal convention and rally at Dahod in central Gujarat. On Friday, Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone for a medical college and hospital, and water supply projects in Tapi, Dang and Surat districts.

“He will also perform the bhumi puja of a medical college in Navsari district to be built at the cost of about

₹542 crore, which will help provide affordable and quality medical care to the people of the region,” a government release said.

In Ahmedabad, the Prime Minister inaugurated the headquarters of the National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, which has been set up to promote private investment and innovation in the space sector.

Mr. Modi said the government would soon bring a new policy to encourage ease of doing business in the space sector.

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- *Data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth is called Geospatial data.*

10. Consider the following statement regarding Multiple Development Projects during 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan'

1. Modi inaugurated the Madhuban dam-based Astol regional water supply project.
2. 'Nal Se Jal' projects worth ₹163 crores were inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *PM launched Multiple Development Projects during 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' in Navsari. He inaugurated 7 projects and laid the foundation stone for 12 projects.*
- *These projects will help in improving the water supply in the region. It will boost connectivity in the state.*
- *He inaugurated the Madhuban dam-based Astol regional water supply project.*
- *It will provide adequate drinking water to the residents of the Surat, Navsari, Valsad, and Tapi districts.*
- *He inaugurated the Virpur Vyara substation to provide electricity to residents of the Tapi district.*
- *'Nal Se Jal' projects worth ₹163 crores were inaugurated by the Prime Minister.*
- *A sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 14 MLD was also inaugurated for wastewater treatment in the Valsad district.*

AFTER A BLIP

India, Qatar Launch 'StartUp Bridge' to Link Innovation and Incubation Systems

Earlier, Qatar had summoned Indian envoy to protest against comments by BJP spokespersons

DipanjanRoy.Chaudhury@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India and Qatar have launched 'StartUp Bridge' to link their innovation and incubation systems, as part of a broader push to strengthen bilateral business ties. The agreement was signed between India's investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India, and Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar on Sunday, coinciding with the start of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's official visit of the Persian Gulf nation. Earlier, Qatar had summoned India's envoy to protest against the comments by BJP spokespersons on Prophet Mohammad.

The two countries also reached an understanding to set up an ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) chair of Indian studies at Qatar University.

Naidu assured Qatar of assistance in meeting its food security. He also invited the Qatari side to explore opportunities in India in a range of sectors, including infrastructure, connectivity both physical and digital, energy, defence and hospitality, according to officials. Qatar in turn invited Indian entities to look for opportunities in sectors like education, pharmaceuticals and healthcare in Qatar, the officials said.

On Sunday morning, Naidu called on Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Later, he met the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani. They agreed that high-level engagement should be sustained, including through an early visit of Qatar's Amir to India. Both sides also discussed convening of a joint commission at the foreign minister level later this year. They also agreed to promote bilateral parliamentary exchanges, according to officials.

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2 countries reach an understanding to set up an ICCR chair of Indian studies at Qatar varsity

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11. Recently In June India with _____ launched *Startup Bridge* that will connect the startup ecosystems and help the economies of both countries flourish.

- A. Qatar
- B. UAE
- C. Israel
- D. Nepal
- E. None of these

- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu launched the India-Qatar Startup Bridge at the India-Qatar Business Forum
- The new initiative will connect the startup ecosystems of India and Qatar and help the economies of both countries flourish.
- The three-day India-Qatar Business Forum is organized by FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, and Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Various industrialists from India and Qatar also attended the event.
- Naidu and Qatar's prime minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani also discussed the growing bilateral ties between the two nations in areas such as trade, investment, and economic and security cooperation.

12. Recently in June *Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh* approved the enhancement of funding under the *Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme* of the Ministry of Defence to _____ per project from Rs 10 crore.

- A. Rs 20 Cr
- B. Rs 30 Cr
- C. Rs 50 Cr
- D. Rs 40 Cr
- E. None of these

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Defence

08 JUN 2022 12:55PM by PIB Delhi

Funding under Technology Development Fund scheme of DRDO enhanced to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved enhancement of funding under Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of Ministry of Defence to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore. The TDF scheme, executed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), supports indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups.

It may be recalled that 25 per cent of defence R&D budget was earmarked for private industry, start-ups and academia in Union Budget 2022-23. The enhanced funding is in line with the budget announcement and it will give further boost the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta in defence'.

The TDF Scheme aims to provide a major fillip to the defence manufacturing sector by encouraging the industry to innovate and develop defence technologies in order to place India on the self-reliance trajectory. The scheme facilitates up to 90 per cent of the total project cost and allows industry to work in consortium with another industry/academia. With the enhanced funding, the industry and startups will be able to develop more complex technologies for existing and future weapon systems and platforms. Till date, 56 projects have been sanctioned under TDF scheme.

- *Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh* has approved the enhancement of funding under the *Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme* of the Ministry of Defence

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to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore.

- The TDF scheme, executed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), supports the indigenous development of components, products, systems, and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups.
- The TDF Scheme aims to provide a major fillip to the defense manufacturing sector by encouraging the industry to innovate and develop defense technologies to place India on a self-reliance trajectory.
- The scheme facilitates up to 90 percent of the total project cost and allows the industry to work in consortium with another industry/academia. With the enhanced funding, the industry and startups will be able to develop more complex technologies for existing and future weapon systems and platforms.
- It may be recalled that 25 percent of the defense R&D budget was earmarked for private industry, start-ups, and academia in Union Budget 2022-23. The enhanced funding is in line with the budget announcement.

13. Recently in June, The **Department of Biochemistry and Pathology of National Ayurveda Research Institute for Panchakarma (NARIP)** of _____ got NABL M(EL)T Accreditation for its clinical laboratory services.

- A. Pune
- B. Surat
- C. Thrissur
- D. Mumbai
- E. None of these

- The Department of Biochemistry and Pathology of National Ayurveda Research Institute for Panchakarma (NARIP), Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur, Kerala has got NABL M(EL)T Accreditation for its clinical

Ayush Institute gets NABL Accreditation

A Big Boost to Healthcare Efforts of Ayush through NARIP, CCRAS

Posted On: 08 JUN 2022 1:40PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Biochemistry and Pathology of National Ayurveda Research Institute for Panchakarma (NARIP), Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur, Kerala has got NABL M(EL)T Accreditation for its clinical laboratory services. NARIP is one of the premier research Institute under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. This is the first Institute under CCRAS to get NABL accreditation for its clinical laboratory services. Professor Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS inaugurated the NABL accredited lab during a program held on this occasion in the presence of senior officials of the Council on 7th June, 2022. The programme was presided by Dr. D. Sudhakar, Director, NARIP. All the officials of the NARIP attended the inauguration programme.

While addressing the gathering the Director General informed that the laboratory accreditation is a procedure through which an authoritative body gives formal recognition of technical competence for specific tests/measurements, based on third party assessment and following international standards. The certification is provided by the National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (A Constituent Board of Quality Council of India). While acknowledging the efforts of the NARIP team, Professor Acharya added, "I congratulate all the officers and staff of this institute for their dedication and consistent efforts to achieve NABL accreditation. I hope the team would keep doing great work."

The certificate of 'NABL Medical (Entry Level) Testing Labs' has been issued to NARIP- Department of Biochemistry and Pathology on 14th April, 2022. This accreditation of laboratory ensures that citizens get quality health care service especially for those residing in villages, small towns. As an Ayurveda research institute, the scientific data released from this accredited lab provides trust and confidence for its accuracy and precision among scientific communities. As per the officials, the accreditation is significant considering the large number of about 80,000 individuals attending the OPD/IPD services of NARIP in a year. Apart from this, members of scientific communities including those working on diverse research projects, outreach medical camps etc. also benefit from accredited labs. Dr. N. Thamizh Selvam, Assistant Director -Biochemistry informed that the laboratory is equipped with advanced instruments such as fully automated Biochemistry Analyzer, fully automated Haematology Analyser, FI ISA Systems with periodical calibration

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laboratory services.

- *NARIP is one of the premier research Institutes under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.*
- *This is the first Institute under CCRAS to get NABL accreditation for its clinical laboratory services.*
- *This accreditation of the laboratory ensures that citizens get quality health care service, especially for those residing in villages, and small towns.*

14. Consider the following statement regarding the “CiSS application”.

1. *National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a “CiSS application” under the Baal Swaraj portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations. (CiSS)*
2. *The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a “CiSS application” under the Baal Swaraj portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations. (CiSS)*
- *Baal Swaraj is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.*
- *The portal has two functions- COVID care and CiSS.*
- *COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post-March 2020.*
- *The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process. The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court of India.*
- *National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR): It was set up in March 2007. It is a statutory body. It consists of a chairperson and six members (at least two members are women). Chairperson: Priyank Kanoongo*



Mongolia to get Buddha relics for display

NEW DELHI
 Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju will lead a 25-member delegation to Mongolia carrying Lord Buddha's relics to mark the Mongolian Buddha Day on June 14. The sacred relics will be taken by an Indian Air Force C17 Globemaster transport aircraft in a special casket and will be on display at a monastery for 11 days. Mr. Rijiju told presspersons here that the Kapilavastu relics had “AA stature” and were not moved out of the National Museum here. But on the special request of the Mongolian government, New Delhi decided to send these for exposition. PTI

15. Recently in June _____ **Holy Relics of Lord Buddha are being taken from India to _____ for an 11-day exposition as part of celebrations of Buddha Purnima falling on the 14th of this month.**

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- A. 4, Mongolia**
- B. 5, Nepal
- C. 7, Bhutan
- D. 10, Japan
- E. None of these

- *In a special gesture towards the people of Mongolia, four Holy Relics of Lord Buddha are being taken from India to Mongolia for an 11-day exposition as part of celebrations of Mongolian Buddha Purnima falling on the 14th of this month.*
- *The Holy Relics will be displayed at the Batsagaan Temple within the premises of Gandan Monastery. The Holy Buddha relics, currently housed in the National Museum, are known as the 'Kapilvastu Relics' since they are from a site in Bihar first discovered in 1898 which is believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu.*
- *It is another historic milestone in India-Mongolia relations and will further boost cultural and spiritual relations between the two countries.*
- *Modi was the first-ever Prime Minister of India to visit Mongolia in 2015.*
- *Its capital is Ulaanbaatar and its currency is Mongolian Togrog.*

16. Recently The government said a project investment of _____ crore has been made in the **last two years under Padhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY).**

- A. Rs 5,242.90 crore
- B. Rs 7,242.90 crore**
- C. Rs 6,242.90 crore
- D. Rs 4,242.90 crore
- E. None of these

- *The government said a project investment of Rs 7,242.90 crore has been made in the last two years under Padhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY) while announcing the launch of a dashboard of this flagship scheme.*
- *PMMSY, launched in May 2020, is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore for its implementation during a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.*

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- *A Management Information System (MIS) dashboard for PMMSY has been put in place for aggregating information on one platform.*
 - *The dashboard aims at effective monitoring of PMMSY activities and their progress in all participating states. It also helps strategically utilize the information for informed decision-making.*
17. Recently in June PM Modi inaugurated **Tukaram Temple in Dehu** in which of the following cities?
- A. Chennai
 - B. Mumbai
 - C. Pune**
 - D. Surat
 - E. None of these
- *PM Modi will inaugurate Tukaram Temple in Dehu, Pune. Dehu is the birthplace of 17th-century Bhakti poet-saint Tukaram. This place is highly revered by the warkari sect.*
 - *Tukaram was a worshipper of Lord Vithala. Tukaram is famous for devotional poetry known as abhangas. He is also famous for worshipping through spiritual songs known as kirtans.*
 - *He will also take part in Dwishatabdi Mahotsav (the 200th-anniversary celebrations) of Mumbai Samachar in Mumbai.*
 - *PM Modi will inaugurate the Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhawan in Mumbai.*
 - *The gallery has been developed in the bunker (that was discovered on the Raj Bhavan premises in 2016).*
 - *It has been developed as a museum to commemorate the State's freedom fighters and revolutionaries like Vasudev Balwant Phadke, the Chaphekar brothers, the Savarkar brothers, and Madam Bhikaji Cama.*
18. Recently in June The **Union government will for the first time this year present a unified count** of the _____ populations of the country, according to officials in the Union Environment Ministry.
- A. Tiger
 - B. Leopard
 - C. Elephant
 - D. All of the above**
 - E. None of these

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- **The Union government will for the first time this year present a unified count of the Tiger, Leopard, and Elephant populations of the country, according to officials in the Union Environment Ministry.**
- **A Tiger survey in India is conducted by the NTCA, every four years.**
- **NTCA is a statutory body, constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **It was established in 2005 following the recommendation of the Tiger Task Force.**
- **As per the latest Tiger Census conducted in 2018-19, the tiger population in India has increased to 2967.**
- **India accounts for about 70% of the world's tiger population.**
- **India does have an elephant census(once in 5 years), but this is largely a headcount of elephants in various elephant habitats conducted by state forest departments.**
- **The last census was carried out in 2017 and concluded that India has 29,964 elephants.**
- **In August 2021, the Union government made public the new population estimation protocol to be adopted in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.**
- **Project Tiger: The Project Tiger was launched by the Government of India in 1973. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.**
- **Project Elephant: It is a centrally sponsored scheme and was launched in February 1992.**

Joint count of elephant and big cats

Survey will rely on robust scientific methods to count the animal population

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union government will for the first time this year present a unified count of the tiger, leopard and elephant populations of the country, according to officials in the Union Environment Ministry.

The tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years. According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there are 2,967 tigers in India. According to the last count in 2017, there are 29,964 elephants.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, on



According to the last count in 2017, there are 29,964 elephants in India.

August 12, 2021 made public the population estimation protocol to be adopted in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey in 2022.

Elephant numbers would be estimated by States based on DNA analysis of their dung droppings and statistical techniques.

Tigers are counted by deploying camera traps, identifying individuals based on stripes, as well as statistical analysis.

Obsolete methods

Tiger scat and its DNA analysis is usually used only when camera traps are impractical to deploy say, in difficult terrain, said Y. Jhala, wildlife scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and an expert on wildcat surveys. Because elephants

number more than tigers and are hard to tell apart from camera-trap images alone, it is more economical and feasible to use their dung for identification.

The 'head count' method, or one currently deployed to count elephants, was "obsolete" and frequently led to double-counting, he added.

"Resources, time and energy will be saved from having a common estimate. This is the first time that a robust scientific method based on statistical techniques will be implemented," said S.P. Yadav, Director of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

19. Recently in June, The festival, with the title "Unmesh- a celebration of expression", the biggest international literary festival in the country so far was organized in _____.

- A. Srinagar
- B. Shimla**
- C. Delhi
- D. Pune
- E. None of these

- **In Himachal Pradesh, the three-day international literary festival "Unmesh" was organized at the historic Gaiety Theater in Shimla.**

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- *This festival was organized for the first time by the Union Ministry of Culture and the Sahitya Akademi with the support of the state Department of Art and Culture as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.*
- *The festival, with the title “Unmesh- a celebration of expression”, is the biggest international literary festival in the country so far. Over 425 writers, poets, translators, and critics from 15 countries, representing over 60 languages, attended the event.*

20. Which state government has launched **YSR Yantra Seva Scheme**?

- A. Tamil Nadu government
- B. Odisha government
- C. Andhra Pradesh government**
- D. Karnataka government
- E. None of these

- *Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme.*
- *He distributed 3,800 tractors and 320 combine harvesters to 3,800 Yantra Seva Centres.*
- *YSR Yantra Seva scheme’s main objective is to reduce the cost of farming and increase the income of farmers by providing farm machinery to them at a lower rent.*
- *Under this scheme, the government is planning to establish 10,750 custom hiring centers. Each center will have harvesters worth Rs 25 lakh.*
- *The custom hiring centers will be run by farmer groups. The government will give a subsidy of 40% to purchase farm equipment.*
- *YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also inaugurated the waste-to-energy plant in Kondaveedu.*

21. Consider the following statement regarding an innovative policy 'StartUps for Railways'.

1. 'StartUps for Railways', an innovative policy, was launched by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
2. The innovator can now get a grant of up to Rs 1.5 Crore on an equal-sharing basis, with a provision for milestone payments.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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D. None of the above

- 'StartUps for Railways', an innovative policy, launched by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
- The policy aims to improve scale and efficiency in the areas of operation, maintenance, and infrastructure building by enlisting the help of a big and underserved startup ecosystem.
- The aim is to inspire young entrepreneurs to come up with ideas for enhancing operational efficiency and safety.
- The innovator can now get a grant of up to Rs 1.5 Crore on an equal-sharing basis, with a provision for milestone payments, by the Indian Railways Innovation Policy.
- Under this policy, the innovator will be chosen through a transparent and fair approach that will be handled through the newly launched online portal- the Indian Railway Innovation Portal.

22. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari set a **target to construct _____ kilometers of highway per day.**

- A. 40 Km
- B. 50 Km
- C. 60 Km**
- D. 70 Km
- E. None of these

- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said his target is to construct 60 kilometers of highway per day.
- India's national highway construction slowed to 28.64 km a day in 2021-22 due to COVID-19 pandemic-related disruptions and a longer-than-usual monsoon in some parts of the country.



Ashwini Vaishnav

In a boost to start-ups, Rlys promises Rs 1.5 cr for tech ideas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

TO ENCOURAGE start-ups, Indian Railways on Monday launched a policy to fund innovations and promised to spend Rs 1.5 crore of seed money for innovative technological solutions for the national transporter.

"Indian Railways will follow the ideas through to the product after proof of concept... The annual budget for the policy will be around Rs 40-50 crore and an additional fund for the divisional railway managers so that they can find on-field solutions to the problems. Also, the IPR will remain with innovator," said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.

Under the Indian Railway Innovation Policy, the Railways will invest in start-ups so that they are able to procure innovations directly from the start-ups. The funding mechanism will be on cost-sharing basis in equal proportions, 50:50, by the Indian Railways and an innovator.

"Great innovative solutions may chum out and many technological challenges can be resolved if start-ups collaborate with Indian Railways. We have launched an innovation programme under Startup India today and have undertaken 11 common problems to resolve," Vaishnav said, adding that field officers of railways, RDSO, zonal and railway board officers will support the innovators.

Vaishnav said the selection through open, transparent process, which will entail innovators uploading their concepts with necessary proof on a dedicated portal, the Indian Railway Innovation Portal on web address www.innovation.indianrailways.gov.in.

Gadkari sets target to construct 60 kms of highway per day

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said his target is to construct 60 kilometres of highway per day. India's national highway construction slowed to 28.64 km a day in 2021-22. "My ministry and my team is working hard, and even during COVID-19 pandemic time, our (highway) construction rate was 38 km per day and my ambition is to take it up to 60 km per day, it is a target," Gadkari said at an event.

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- *The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) are primarily responsible for the construction of national highways and expressways across the country.*

23. Recently in June *Ten antiquities (sculptures) retrieved from Australia and the United States* were handed over to the Government of _____ in Delhi last week.
- Andhra Pradesh
 - Tamil Nadu**
 - Telangana
 - Odisha
 - None of these

- *Ten antiquities (sculptures) retrieved from Australia and USA were handed over to the Government of Tamil Nadu*
- *The collection of antiquities handed over to the Tamil Nadu government included figurines named Dwarapala, Nataraja, Kankalamurti Kadayam, Nadikeswara Kadayam, Four-Armed Vishnu, Sri Devi, Siva & Parvati, Standing Child Sambandar, and Child Sambandar.*
- *The Union Minister Shri, G Kishan Reddy lauded the efforts of the Central Government and highlighted the increase in the number of idols that have been repatriated since 2014.*
- *During the visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister to the USA, 157 antiquities were returned to India which is the largest single collection India got back so far. You would be aware that over the last 8 years the Government has brought back 228 heritage objects.*

24. About the I2U2 *group* which of the following country is not a member of the I2U2 group which will hold its first virtual summit in July 2022?
- India
 - Australia**
 - Israel
 - USA
 - None of these

Centre hands over 10 stolen idols to T.N. govt.

Eight bronze, two stone sculptures were retrieved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ten idols dating back to the 10th Century CE that were stolen from Tamil Nadu temples, starting from the 1960s till 2008, were on Wednesday handed over by the Centre to the State government at a ceremony in New Delhi.



Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Arjun Ram Meghwal hand over a retrieved idol to Tamil Nadu DGP C. Sylendra Babu in New Delhi. •PTI

The Union Culture Ministry, which along with the Ministry of External Affairs had retrieved the idols from the United States and Australia in 2020, 2021 and 2022, handed over the antiquities to Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police C. Sylendra Babu. The returned antiquities included two stone sculptures of Dwarapalas dating back to the 15th-16th Century CE that were stolen from a temple in Tirunelveli district in 1994, according to the Culture Ministry. Both the sculptures were retrieved from Australia in 2020. Two metal idols of Kanakalamurti and Nandikeswara stolen from Narasinganadhar Swamy temple in Tirunelveli district in 1985 were retrieved from the U.S.

A bronze sculpture of Nataraja dating back to 11th-12th Century CE that was stolen from the strong room of Punnainallur Arulmigu Mariyamman Temple of Thanjavur district between 1966-77 was found in the Asia Society Museum located in New York, as also the bronze idols of Siva and Parvati belonging to Vanmiganadhar Swamy Temple in Thanjavur district from a museum from

Indiana. The Idol wing, through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), successfully retrieved the idols of four-armed Vishnu and Sri Devi, which were stolen from the Varadharaja Perumal Temple of Suthamally village in Ariyalur district. Both these idols were also kept in a museum in New York.

The two metal idols of saint Sambandar in child form, of which one idol was stolen from Nagapattinam district, and the other for which the source is yet to be identified, were returned by the Australian government. In total, eight bronze and two stone sculptures were returned. Six of the idols were retrieved from the U.S. and four from Australia.

Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the Narendra Modi government had brought back 238 stolen antiquities in its eight years in office, as opposed to 13 in the period from Independence till 2013. He said Mr. Modi's personal relationships and warm ties with world leaders had helped. "All the credit goes to our Prime Minister," Mr. Reddy said.

CM

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- *The new I2U2 grouping of India, Israel, UAE, and the US will hold its first virtual summit in July 2022. I2U2 group has been formed as part of the United States Government's efforts to re-energize and revitalize American alliances all over the world.*
- *The first-ever virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping will be held in July 2022 and it will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett, and the UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The leaders of the four countries will discuss the food security crisis and the other areas of cooperation*
- *I2U2 is the new grouping formed by four nations- India, Israel, UAE, and the US. The countries share various common global issues including food security crisis and defense, which will also be a highlight of the meeting of the four nations.*
- *At that time, the Ambassador of UAE to India Ahmed Albanna had referred to the new grouping as the 'West Asian Quad'.*

THE NEW QUAD

Maiden I2U2 Meet in July, Modi to Attend Virtually

India-Israel-UAE-USA summit to coincide with Biden's west Asia trip from July 13-16

DipanjRoy.Chaudhury @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the maiden virtual summit of the quadrilateral economic forum comprising India, Israel, UAE and the US, described by Washington as 'I2U2'.

During US president Joe Biden's first trip to Israel, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia, from July 13-16, Modi will participate in I2U2 virtual summit along with Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett, UAE president Mohamed bin Zayed, an US official said on Tuesday.

"The visit will also focus on Israel's increasing integration into the region, both through Abraham Accords with UAE, Morocco, and Bahrain; through deepening ties between Israel, Jordan and Egypt; and also, an entirely new groupings of partners, including Israel, India, UAE, and the US, what we call I2U2. Importantly, some of these new partnerships reach beyond the Middle East, and in this regard, the President will hold a virtual summit with I2U2 heads of state for discussions of the food security crisis and other areas of cooperation across hemispheres where UAE and Israel serve as important innovation hubs," the official said, adding, "The President looks forward to this unique engagement with Prime Minister Bennett of Israel, with Prime Minister Modi of India, and President Mohammed bin Zayed of the UAE."

In 2021, the four nations decided to launch this new Quad. The creation of this Quad or Quartet is seen as one of the key dividends of the Abraham accords that saw the normalisation of ties between Israel and the UAE. In the meeting held in hybrid format last year the four foreign ministers



PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of Quad in May

INFRA PITCH

In the meeting held in hybrid format last year, the four foreign ministers explored possibilities for joint infra projects

explored possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in transportation, tech, maritime security, economics and trade, as well as for additional joint projects. The ministers decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation to take forward their maiden dialogue.

Biden will begin his travel in Israel, where he will meet with Israeli leaders to discuss the country's security, prosperity, and increasing integration into the greater region. He will also visit the West Bank to consult with the Palestinian Authority and to reiterate his strong support for a two-state solution, with equal measures of security, freedom, and opportunity for the Palestinian people, the official further added. The US President will then travel to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi King Salman, to attend a Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council plus Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan (known as the GCC+3).

NSAs MEET TODAY

Brics to Talk Trade Amid War Curbs

New Delhi: The economic implications of the Russia-Ukraine war and financial mechanisms to deal with the sanctions as well as cooperation among member countries to fight against the pandemic will be key items on the agenda when PM Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Presidents of 5 Africa and Brazil gather for Brics Summit on June 24.

The use of national currencies of Brics member countries, creation of an independent Brics rating agency, and related issues could also be discussed. NSAs of Brics will meet on Wednesday to discuss counter terrorism and other security challenges. China has proposed expanding Brics but some states, including India, have reservations.

— Our Political Bureau

25. Recently seen in the news '*Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani*' (AZAN), is an initiative of which by the state/ UT government?
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Jammu & Kashmir**
 - Uttarakhand
 - Bihar
 - None of these

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- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Administration is running a unique program to enhance transparency in the land records maintenance system.
- The initiative - 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' (AZAN) - is aimed at facilitating easy online access to the system to view or monitor the status of revenue records.
- Citizens no longer need to visit the offices for obtaining information about their land. AZAN has empowered them to check their land records on CIS Portal - <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/>.
- The initiative is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

26. Recently **Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (MSBWL)** has approved _____ new conservation reserves and _____ wildlife sanctuaries to boost wildlife conservation and environment protection movement .

- A. 12, 2
- B. 15, 5
- C. 16, 2
- D. 9, 3
- E. None of these

12 new conservation reserves, 2 sanctuaries

State also approves extension of Lonar wildlife sanctuary area and 10 endangered wildlife habitats



FILE PHOTO

SANJAY JOG
MUMBAI

The 18th State Wildlife Board meeting on Monday chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray approved 12 new conservation reserves that will cover an area of 692.74 sq km and two new sanctuaries (including a flamingo sanctuary) covering an area of 298.61 sq km. In addition, the board also cleared

the extension of Lonar wildlife sanctuary area and 10 endangered wildlife habitats.

Further, the board also approved construction activity for the water supply scheme to Aurangabad in the Jayakwadi bird sanctuary. This is important when Aurangabad, which is the state's tourism capital, is currently facing acute water shortage as residents are getting potable water once a week.

The CM asked the board to immediately submit the proposal in this regard to the National Wildlife Board for its consent.

Tourism and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray said, "The MVA government has embarked on the agenda of sustainable development in urban and rural areas, along with increasing forest cover and biodiversity protection."

CONTD. ON NATION PAGE

- In a major boost for wildlife conservation and environment protection movement, the Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (MSBWL) has approved 12 new conservation reserves and three wildlife sanctuaries. Put together, these protected areas (PAs) will have an area of almost 1,000 sq km (around 692.74 sq km for conservation reserves and 303 sq km for wildlife sanctuaries), which is twice the size of Mumbai city's 482 sq km.
- The MSBWL held a meeting on Monday chaired by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. The board approved the notification of 12 new conservation reserves, namely Chivatibavari and Alaldari in Dhule; Kalwan, Muragad, Triambakeshwar, and Igatpuri in Nashik; Raigad and Roha in Raigad district; Bhor in Pune; Dare Khurd (Mahadare) in Satara; Masai plateau in Kolhapur and Mogarkasa in Nagpur.
- The state will also get three new wildlife sanctuaries, namely the extension of the Lonar wildlife sanctuary (0.8694 sq km), Kolamarka in Gadchiroli (180.72 sq km), and Muktai Bhawani in Jalgaon (122.74 sq km).
- So far, 15 conservation reserves have been notified in Maharashtra. With new additions, the number will rise to 27.

27. Recently _____ signed with **NLC India Ltd**, a Navratna enterprise, to set up a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for generating 1GW plus solar power on Government land.

- A. Assam

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- B. Nagaland
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram
- E. None of these

- Assam government will set up a Joint Venture Company (JVC) with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (now NLC India Ltd) to produce one GW plus solar power with an investment of Rs 5000 Crore.
- Assam chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma said, “MoU to be signed with NLC India Ltd, a Navratna enterprise, to set up a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for generating 1GW plus solar power on Government land. This will be the first such initiative among PSUs in the energy sector”
- Once the JV project comes up we will have over 1000 MW of power from solar and we will be self-sufficient in power. Already 5000 bighas of land are allotted for the solar power project in Dima Hasao.

28. Consider the following statement regarding the *Second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2021*.

1. Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) constituted NeSDA in 2019.
2. Kerala has secured the highest overall compliance score among all the States and UTs.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Minister released the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2021.
- The NeSDA 2021 report has been prepared covering the assessment of States, and UTs, and focuses Central Ministries on and their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.
- National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)
- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) constituted NeSDA in 2019.
- This drive was part of DARPG's mandate to boost e-government endeavors and drive digital government excellence.

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- *It is a biennial study that assesses States, and UTs and focuses on Central Ministries on the effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery.*
 - *NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen-centric services and shares best practices across the country.*
 - *Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has topped among UTs in e-Governance services delivery.*
 - *Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85% among the remaining states category.*
 - *Kerala has secured the highest overall compliance score among all the States and UTs.*
29. Recently in June Union Cabinet approved an MoU between the **National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)**, _____ and **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, India a Professional Body for joint research on air quality and climate change.
- A. Japan**
 - B. Germany
 - C. France
 - D. Argentina
 - E. None of these
-
- *Union Cabinet approved an MoU between the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan, and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), India a Professional Body for joint research on air quality and climate change.*
 - *No such MoUs were signed by the ARIES, Nainital in similar areas of research with any other foreign bodies in the past.*
 - *Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is an Autonomous Research Institute established under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.*
 - *ARIES is a center of excellence for research in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences. It researches air pollution and climate change on earth, and the formation and evolution of the sun, stars, and galaxies.*
 - *The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) is Japan's only research institute that undertakes a broad range of environmental research in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner.*
30. Recently in June Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the development of **Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat** at an estimated cost of Rs. _____.
- A. Rs 1500 Cr
 - B. Rs 1305 Cr**

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- C. Rs 200 Cr
- D. Rs 1000 Cr
- E. None of these

- **Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the development of Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 1305 crore, to be completed within 48 months.**
- **The project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), which is a Joint Venture Company comprising the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Government of Gujarat (GoG), and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) holding equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.**
- **Dholera Airport is to get Passenger and Cargo traffic from Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region.**
- **This Airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad.**
- **The New Greenfield Airport at Dholera is situated at an aerial distance of 80 Km from Ahmedabad, Airport. The Airport is planned for operationalization from the year 2025-26.**
- **It is a joint venture company that is owned in the proportions of 51:33:16 by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Government of Gujarat (GoG), and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).**
- **The government has given in-principle approval for the setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across India.**

31. Recently in June, The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for **signing a bilateral MoU between India and _____ on Cooperation in the field of Industries and Advanced Technologies.**

- A. Japan
- B. UAE**
- C. Germany
- D. USA
- E. None of these

Cabinet okays ₹1,300-crore airport in Gujarat's Dholera

Expected to become a major cargo hub, says Anurag Thakur

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 14

The Centre on Tuesday approved the construction of a new airport at Dholera in Gujarat. It will serve as the second airport to Ahmedabad.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for development of phase I of the New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat, at an estimated cost of ₹1,305 crore, to be completed within 48 months," a statement issued by the government said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), a JV comprising the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Gujarat government and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) hold-

ing equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.

"Dholera airport is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region. This airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad," said Thakur.

The new airport is likely to be operationalised by 2025-26. The passenger traffic is estimated at three lakh per annum, and will likely grow to 23 lakh over a period of 20 years.

Loan moratorium

In another decision, the CCEA approved moratorium for repayment of loans worth ₹446.83 crore borrowed by the Cochin Port Authority to tide over the Covid-induced financial crisis.

The outstanding amount was to be repaid in 10 instalments commencing 2018-19. However, the Cochin Port Authority could only pay the instalments for 2018-19 and 2019-20. From 2020-21, the traffic was badly impacted due to the pandemic, adversely impacting the cash inflow resulting in non-payment of instalments.

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- *The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for signing a bilateral MoU between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Cooperation in the field of Industries and Advanced Technologies.*
 - *The MoU aims at strengthening and developing industries in both nations through investments, technology transfer, and the deployment of key technologies in industries.*
32. Recently In June _____ ministry has released the draft national policy for Persons with Disabilities.
- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - B. Ministry of Home Affairs
 - C. Ministry of Education
 - D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
 - E. None of these
-
- *The draft policy has been released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is the revision of the existing 2006 policy for PwDs.*
 - *It proposes intervention in certain areas including disability prevention, education, healthcare, social security, and accessibility.*
 - *As per the 2011 census, there are 2.68 crore people (around 2.21% of the total population) that have some form of disability.*
 - *India signed the United Nations Convention on Rights of Person with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007.*
 - *Anjali Bhawra is the head of the Committee formed to come up with the draft policy.*
 - *Highlights of Draft Policy: National level employment portal and disability sports center for PwD will be opened. States and UTs to add a provision on compliance with the RPD act while granting permission or recognition to educational institutions.*
 - *The module on disability is to be included in MBBS and other medical courses.*
 - *Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to issue guidelines for making modifications in the personal vehicles used by PwDs.*
33. Consider the following statement regarding the *First National Conference of Chief Secretaries*.
1. It will be *chaired by Finance Minister*.
 2. It will be conducted from August 1 to 4, 2022 *in New Delhi*.

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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

- **The First National Conference of Chief Secretaries will be chaired by PM Modi. On 16 and 17 June, PM Modi will preside over the First National Conference of Chief Secretaries at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.**
- **This will be an important step toward further strengthening the partnership between the Central and State Governments.**
- **From June 15 to 17, 2022, the National Conference of Chief Secretaries will be held.**
- **The conference will be attended by around 200 persons representing the Central Government, all States/UTs, and domain experts.**
- **The three days conference will focus on how to achieve rapid and sustained economic growth in collaboration with the states.**
- **The conference will create the groundwork for collaborative action for higher growth in agriculture with sustainability, job creation, education, ease of living, and aatmanirbharta.**

34. Recently in June the legislative assembly of **which state has passed a bill that replaces the Governor with the Chief Minister as Chancellor of all state-run universities?**

- A. Bihar
- B. Jharkhand
- C. West Bengal**
- D. Odisha
- E. None of these

- **West Bengal Legislative Assembly passes the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**
- **The bill replaces the Governor with CM Mamata Banerjee as Chancellor of all state-run universities.**
- **The bill was passed with a vote in the 294-member assembly where 182 members voted in favor of the law and 40 against it.**

IN BRIEF



Bill passed to make CM Chancellor in West Bengal

KOLKATA

In an attempt to install the Chief Minister as the chancellor of all State Universities instead of the Governor, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Monday passed the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill seeks to replace Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the Chancellor of all State-run universities. The Bill was passed with 182 members voting in favour of the legislation and 40 against it in the 294-member Assembly.

India will remain on a 22.1% growth trajectory as underlying

PM to chair first chief secretaries' meet from tomorrow

FE BUREAU
New Delhi

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi will chair the first national conference of chief secretaries at Dharamshala on Thursday and Friday to prepare a common development agenda for higher economic growth, ahead of the Governing Council Meeting of Niti Aayog later in the year.

The conference of chief secretaries will be held at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association stadium with more than 200 people in attendance, representing the central government, all states/Union Territories and domain experts.

"Working as Team India, the conference will lay the ground for collaborative action for higher growth with sustainability, creation of jobs, education, ease of living and aatmanirbharta in agriculture. It will emphasise evolution and implementation of a common development agenda and blueprint for cohesive action to achieve the aspirations of the people," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

Three themes have been identified for detailed deliberations in the conference: implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), urban governance, and crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities. Under NEP, both school and higher education would be deliberated upon. Best practices from states/UTs under each of the themes shall be presented at the conference for mutual learning.

A session on aspirational districts programme would discuss the achievements made so far, with successful case studies including on data based governance, presented by the young collectors in specific districts.

The outcomes of the conference will be discussed in the Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, where Chief Ministers and Administrators of all States and Union Territories will be present, the PMO said.

financial.era.epa.in

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- *The bill was introduced by the state education minister. He said why can't CM be the chancellor of state universities if the Prime Minister is the chancellor of a central university-Visva Bharati?*
 - *West Bengal Legislative Assembly is the unicameral legislature of the Indian state of West Bengal. It comprises 294 Members. The Speaker of the West Bengal legislative assembly is Biman Banerjee.*
35. Consider the following statement regarding **Bharat Gaurav Train**.
1. *The first service of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi*
 2. *With this, Southern Railway becomes the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first Registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' Scheme.*
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. Both 1 & 2
 - D. None of the above
- *The first service of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi started its journey on 14-06-2022.*
 - *With this, Southern Railway becomes the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first Registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' Scheme and commence the operations of the maiden service from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi.*
 - *Indian Railways launched the operation of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in November 2021.*
 - *The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains.*
 - *This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals in the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourism potential of India.*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

THE INDIAN Railways began the maiden service of privately-run 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu to Shirdi in Maharashtra.

"The Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi will commence at 18:00 hours on 14th June 2022 (Tuesday) and reach Sainagar Shirdi at 07:25 hours on 16th June 2022 (Thursday) with stoppages at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Yelahanka, Dharmavaram, Mantralayam Road and Wadi," ministry of railways said in a statement on Tuesday.

Around 1100 passengers boarded the maiden round trip service from Coimbatore to Shirdi on Tuesday, the ministry said.

The private service is offered by the registered service provider for an itinerary consisting of five days and it involves a full round trip from Coimbatore to Shirdi and back. South Star Rail is the registered service provider that operates the train and the Coimbatore-based company is registered company and is part of Future Gaming & Hotel Services Pvt. Limited.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL

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36. Which district is ranked first place in the 2nd edition of Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning (DSDP)?

- A. Satara
- B. Cachar
- C. Rajkot**
- D. Kanpur
- E. None of these

- 2nd edition of Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning (DSDP) was held in New Delhi.
- The top 30 districts were awarded for their innovative best practices in skill development in the region.
- Among all participating districts, the top three districts are Rajkot (1st) in Gujarat, Cachar (2nd) in Assam, and Satara (3rd) in Maharashtra.
- Thirty districts were given awards under the following three categories.
- Category I: 8 Awards for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning
- Category II: 13 Certificate for Excellence in District Skill Development Planning
- Category III: 9 Letter of Appreciation for District Skill Development Planning
- District Skill Development Planning (DSDP) award: It was started under Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme in June 2018.
- It was started by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

37. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)?

- A. It was first conceptualized in 2009 after the 26/11 attacks.
- B. It will act as a link between intelligence agencies and investigation agencies.
- C. NATGRID's data recovery center is located in New Delhi.**
- D. It will be available to 11 central agencies such as CBI, ED, IB, RAW, and police of all states.
- E. None of these

- **Ministry of Home Affairs ends the tenure of the CEO of NATGRID. The tenure of the CEO of NATGRID,**

Tenure of NATGRID CEO curtailed: MHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has curtailed the tenure of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and moved him to the Border Security Force (BSF).

The move comes months

before the Central deputation of Ashish Gupta, Indian Police Service officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre comes to an end in September.

A Home Ministry official said nothing much should be read into the order as Mr. Gupta had served eight years in the NATGRID and

his tenure is coming to an end in September. The replacement for Mr. Gupta has not been finalised yet.

Earlier this year, Mr. Gupta was given an extension as NATGRID CEO as the post was upgraded to the rank of Additional Secretary. He is a 1989 batch IPS officer.

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Ashish Gupta, was to end in September 2022. He had served 8 years in NATGRID. He is now moved to the position of Additional Director General in BSF.

- *He was given an extension as NATGRID CEO earlier this year as the post was upgraded to the rank of Additional Secretary.*
- *On 3 May, Home Minister launched NATGRID's data recovery center in Bengaluru.*
- *National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID): It was first conceptualized in 2009 after the 26/11 attacks. It was approved in 2010.*
- *It will act as a single platform for security and intelligence agencies to access the database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details of suspects, air and train travel details, etc.*
- *It will act as a link between intelligence agencies and investigation agencies.*
- *It will be available to 11 central agencies such as CBI, ED, IB, RAW, and police of all states.*

International / Report News

38. Consider the following statement regarding *Special ASEAN-India Foreign Minister's meeting held in New Delhi.*

- 1. It is for the first time that India hosted the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue relations.*
- 2. ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967. Its headquarters are in Jakarta, Indonesia.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- *It is for the first time that India hosted the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue relations.*
- *Dr. S Jaishankar, India's foreign minister, participated in the meeting and said that ASEAN has always stood tall as a beacon of regionalism, multilateralism, and globalization.*
- *The meeting will be accompanied by Delhi Dialogue, a premier Track 1.5 Dialogue. Track 1.5 dialogues are conversations that include a mix of government officials, who participate in an unofficial capacity and non-governmental experts.*
- *ASEAN-Myanmar ties were affected due to a military coup that occurred on 1 February 2021 overthrowing the Aung San Suu Ki's government.*
- *Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).*
- *ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967. Its headquarters are in Jakarta, Indonesia.*
- *ASEAN is central to India's Act East Policy and its vision for the wider Indo-Pacific. The ongoing India-ASEAN collaboration is guided by the Plan of Action 2021-2025 which was adopted in 2020.*

India-ASEAN conclave: Foreign ministers agree on unified response to global issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

AS EXTERNAL Affairs minister S Jaishankar flagged the “geopolitical headwinds” triggered by the Ukraine crisis and its knock-on effects on food, energy security, prices of fertilisers and commodities as well as logistics and supply chains, foreign ministers of India and ASEAN countries on Thursday agreed to uphold multilateralism in jointly responding to the regional and global challenges.

With Myanmar not participating in the India-ASEAN foreign ministers’ meeting, the joint statement issued after the meeting did not mention the situation in the country.

In a statement obliquely referring to China’s assertiveness in the region, the statement said that they reaffirmed the “commitment to multilateralism founded on the principles of the international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the



S Jaishankar at the the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant UN treaties and conventions, maintain an open and inclusive regional cooperation framework, support ASEAN Centrality in the evolving rules-based regional architecture, uphold multilateralism in jointly responding to regional and global challenges”.

Jaishankar said that India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN with a central role in the Indo-Pacific and both sides should identify a new set of priorities while navigating the

“arduous path” arising from developments in Ukraine.

India is hosting the two-day conclave to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The ASEAN comprises Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

Singapore’s Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan criticised Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, saying such actions if unchecked

EXPLAINED
E Ties with region’s key grouping

ASEAN, a 10-nation grouping, is considered one of the most influential groupings in Southeast Asia. India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners. The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992. This graduated to full dialogue partnership in December 1995 and summit-level partnership in 2002.

can threaten the “whole system of peace and stability which we have depended on for the basis of our growth, development and prosperity over many decades”.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

39. Recently in June _____ released a **new comprehensive geologic map of the moon**.

- A. India
- B. America
- C. Japan
- D. China**
- E. None of these

- *Chinese scientists have created a high-resolution topographic map of the moon based on data from the Change project.*
- *The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact basins, 17 rock types, and 14 types of structures.*

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- **The new comprehensive geologic map of the moon is on a scale of 1:2,500,000.**
- **The Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences along with other organizations has led the project.**
- **The new map will help in scientific research, exploration, and landing site selection on the moon.**
- **Previously, the USGS Astrogeology Science Centre released a moon map in the year 2020 on a scale of 1:5,000,000.**

40. Consider the following statement regarding WTO's approved trade agreements on 17 June 2022.

- 1. WTO reached a trade deal at the 12 Ministerial Conference in Geneva, seven years after a deal was reached at Nairobi Ministerial Conference in 2015.**
- 2. WTO committed to carrying out discussions to have a fully functioning dispute settlement system by 2024.**
- 3. Developing countries can authorize the use of a patent for production and supply without the patent holder's consent for Four years.**

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**

WTO seals deal on fishery sops, IP waiver on Covid vax, food security

Experts divided: Some say India gave away too much, others call it a good deal

AMITISEN

New Delhi, June 17

The World Trade Organization (WTO) managed to seal a trade deal at the 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva in the wee hours of Friday, seven years after a deal was last reached at the Nairobi Ministerial in 2015.

India and some other developing countries got no commitments in the areas of the long-sought permanent solution for public stockholding and exports from public stocks. Further, there is no promise on allowing a waiver on therapeutics and diagnostics that India, South Africa and other developing nations have been strongly pushing for.

Some trade experts believe that "India gave away too much" by way of the moratorium on Customs duties on e-commerce up to March 31, 2024, and an exemption from export restrictions for WFP (World Food Programme) sourcing of foodgrains.

'Lowered ambition'

"India lowered its ambition drastically in the final stage. It settled for temporary reprieve from disciplines up to EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) for subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, until a new agreement is negotiated. But, in the process, it left de-



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala after the closing session of the 12th Ministerial Conference at the WTO headquarters in Geneva. REUTERS

veloped countries off the hook. At the same time, India accepted the e-commerce moratorium, a weak TRIPS waiver, a damaging WTO response to the Covid-19 pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics, and a useless food security declaration," said

Ranja Sengupta of the Third World Network.

Other say it was the "best deal possible for India" and important gains were made, especially in fisheries and TRIPS waiver.

In the fisheries subsidies agreement, New Delhi managed

to protect subsidies given to its fishers within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 200 nautical miles. However, this was also extended to rich nations. "One has actually levelled the field. What handholding you were expecting to make your fishers more competitive is now gone," pointed out Biswajit Dhar, Professor, JNU.

R Gopalan, former Secretary in the Department of Financial Services, said India did "extremely well" in the fisheries negotiations by protecting subsidies in the EEZs. "In our EEZs, we have ensured that our rights are not curbed. Other countries like Spain, wanted EEZ to be separated, but we didn't let that happen," he said.

The TRIPS waiver is limited to vaccines, while India, South

Africa and the over 60 countries supporting them had been insisting that it was also needed on therapeutics and diagnostics.

TRIPS waiver

"In fact, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had emphasised that while vaccines were preventive, there was a need to ramp up manufacture of therapeutics and diagnostics to achieve a comprehensive test and treat strategy. The agreement will not be of much use to India in its current form as there is no imperative on rich nations to give a waiver on therapeutics and diagnostics in the specified six months," another Delhi-based expert pointed out. Gopalan said the waiver was beneficial for other developing countries.

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- *WTO's 164 members approved trade agreements on 17 June 2022.*
- *WTO reached a trade deal at the 12 Ministerial Conference in Geneva, seven years after a deal was reached at Nairobi Ministerial Conference in 2015.*
- *The details of the agreements are given next.*

- *E-commerce Moratorium:*
- *The moratorium on placing customs duties on electronic transmissions (from streaming services to financial transactions and corporate data flows) has been extended by WTO members.*
- *The moratorium has been in place since 1998. India had initially opposed the extension.*
- *The moratorium will continue till the next Ministerial Conference but will expire on March 31, 2024.*

- *WTO Reforms:*
- *WTO committed to carrying out discussions to have a fully functioning dispute settlement system by 2024.*
- *All WTO members agreed that it needs reform, although they disagree on what changes are required.*
- *Food Security: WTO members agreed to a binding decision not to curb exports to the World Food Programme (WFP).*

- *Pandemic Response:*
- *Developing countries can authorize the use of a patent for production and supply without the patent holder's consent for five years, subject to a possible extension.*
- *The production need not be predominantly for the domestic market. This means more exports are permitted to ensure equitable access.*
- *Within six months, WTO members are required to think and decided on extending the waiver to therapeutics and diagnostics.*
- *In the area of intellectual property, the TRIPS waiver is limited to only vaccines.*
- *India, South Africa, and the over 60 countries had been insisting that it was also needed for therapeutics and diagnostics.*

- *Fishing:*
- *WTO members reached an agreement to cut down subsidies that contribute to over-fishing.*
- *As per the agreement, no WTO member shall grant any subsidy for vessels or operators engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing or for fishing of an over-fished stock.*
- *The agreement on fisheries is only the second multilateral agreement on new global trade rules that the WTO has agreed upon in its 27-year history.*
- *WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies were launched in 2001 at the Doha Ministerial Conference.*

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- *Developing countries will be exempted for two years. Talks will continue for a more comprehensive agreement at the next Ministerial Conference.*

41. Which of the following country legalized the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks?

- A. India
- B. Thailand**
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan
- E. None of these

- *Thailand becomes the first Asian country to legalize Marijuana.*
- *Thailand legalized the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks, the first Asian country to do so, to boost its agriculture and tourism sectors but smoking pot is still against the law.*
- *Thailand, which has a tradition of using cannabis to relieve pain and fatigue, legalized medicinal marijuana in 2018. The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.*
- *The possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0.2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is not allowed, which will mean smokers of the drug known as “pot”, “weed” and a host of other names, will struggle to get “stoned”.*
- *Those who break the law can still face jail and fines.*

Thailand becomes first Asian country to legalise Marijuana

Move aimed at boosting tourism and agriculture sectors

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Thailand legalised the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks on Thursday, the first Asian country to do so, with the aim of boosting its agriculture and tourism sectors but smoking pot is still against the law.

Shoppers queued up at outlets selling cannabis-infused drinks, sweets and other items as advocates of the plant welcomed the reform in a country that has long had a reputation for strict anti-drug laws.

Among those at the front of the queue at one Bangkok shop was Rittipong Dachkul, 24, waiting since Wednesday evening to buy his first ever



Customers queue up to buy cannabis in Bangkok on Friday. •REUTERS

legal marijuana. “I took a bus here after I got off work,” Mr. Rittipong said.

“We’re now able to find it easily, we don’t have to worry about the source, but I have no idea about the quality,” he said, referring to the strength of the products on offer.

Thailand, which has a tradition of using cannabis to relieve pain and fatigue, legalised medicinal marijuana in 2018.

Restriction in place

The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.

The possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0.2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is not allowed, which will mean smokers of the drug known as “pot”, “weed” and a host of other names, will struggle to get “stoned”.

Those who break the law can still face jail and fines.

42. Recently in June _____ joined hands with Denmark to address the ongoing water scarcity in the city and improve road infrastructure.

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

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- The Delhi government has planned to join hands with Denmark to address the ongoing water scarcity in the city and improve road infrastructure.
- Delhi government is working on a war footing to provide 24x7 water supply to every household in the capital.
- The Delhi government will soon implement state-of-the-art solutions to enhance the city's groundwater recharge and extraction infrastructure. Delhi depends on neighboring states for raw water.

43. In June 2022, UN General Assembly adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions _____ language for the first time.

- A. Hindi
- B. Sanskrit
- C. Odia
- D. Pali
- E. None of these

- UNGA has adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism.
- The resolution mentions the Hindi language for the first time.
- The UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution on 11 June 2022.
- It urges the UN to continue spreading communications and messages in official and non-official languages, including Hindi.
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations TS Trimurti said that for the first time, the Hindi language has been mentioned in such a resolution.
- Apart from this, Bengali and Urdu languages have also been mentioned for the first time in the resolution.

44. Recently in June which of the following countries has been selected as non-permanent members of the UNSC for the two-year term 2023-24?

- A. Ecuador
- B. Japan
- C. Switzerland
- D. All of the above

Delhi, Denmark to collaborate on water, power 2/18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday announced that it will collaborate with Denmark on groundwater recharge and power generation from stubble in the Capital.

A delegation of experts led by Denmark's Ambassador to India, Freddy Swain, met Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to present solutions on the two issues and held an extensive discussion on ways in which they can be adopted in Delhi.

The team also apprised Mr. Kejriwal of modern technologies for recharging groundwater through rain-water.

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E. None of these

- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland will replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway on 1 January next year.
- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland are selected for the two-year term 2023-24.
- India's two-year term as a non-permanent member will end in December 2022.
- Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and the UAE are the other non-permanent members of the UNSC.
- UN Security Council (UNSC): It is one of the six major organs of the United Nations. It was established on 24 October 1945. The headquarters is located in New York, United States.

45. Consider the following statement regarding **World Bank Report On Poverty Line**.

1. According to the new definition of the World Bank, if a person is not earning \$ 2.15 every day, then he will be below the poverty line. (Poverty Line In India) will be considered below.
2. According to the information given by the Government of India, in the year 2011-2012, a total of 21.92 percent of people were living their life below the poverty line.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- According to the new definition of the World Bank, if a person is not earning \$ 2.15 every day, then he will be below the poverty line. (Poverty Line In India) will be considered below. The World Bank will soon change the definition of this poverty line, after which the minimum earning per day will be considered \$2.15. It is being told that the World Bank can adopt the new definition by the end of this year.
- According to the report, keeping in mind the 2017 prices, the new global poverty line has been set at \$2.15. This means that anyone living on less than \$2.15 a day is considered to be living in extreme poverty. These standards may also be implemented by the end of the year.
- If we talk about the current conditions, then the person earning \$ 1.90 per day i.e. 147 rupees per day is considered very poor. This standard was issued keeping in mind the prices and inflation of the year 2011. According to information on the WHO website, the global poverty line is defined as the percentage of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day at the 2011 international prices. Let us inform you that the 'International Poverty Line' has been fixed at \$ 1.90 per day at the international prices of 2011.

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- *There are more than 200 million people in the country who are below the poverty line and are living their life with great difficulty. According to the information given by the Government of India, in the year 2011-2012, a total of 21.92 percent of people were living their life below the poverty line.*

46. Recently in June **Radio technical Systems (RTS)** of _____ signed a large-scale contract with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the supply of radio equipment.

- A. Japan
- B. Germany
- C. Russia**
- D. Bangladesh
- E. None of these

- **Radio technical Systems (RTS) of Russia have signed a large-scale contract with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the supply of radio equipment.**
- **The Russian company will manufacture 34 sets of instrument landing systems (ILS) 734 for the modernization of 24 airports in India. The contract comes amid the war in Ukraine and pressure from the West on India to diversify its dependence on defense needs.**
- **The domestic manufacturer received the right to conclude a contract based on the results of a global tender, in which, in addition to RTS, the world's largest suppliers of radio equipment took part.**
- **According to the contract, the first part of landing systems ILS-734 must be shipped before November. Payments within the transaction will be carried out in national currencies, the statement said, without specifying the contract value.**

India-Russia deal on radio equipment

RTS signs contract with AAI to supply 34 sets of instrument landing system

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Radio technical Systems (RTS) of Russia has signed a large-scale contract with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the supply of radio equipment.

The Russian company will manufacture 34 sets of instrument landing system (ILS) 734 for the modernisation of 24 airports in India, the Russian Embassy in India said. The contract comes amid the war in Ukraine and pressure from the West on India to diversify its dependence for defence needs.

"The domestic manufacturer received the right to conclude a contract based on the results of a global tender, in which, in addition to



Officials of Radio Technical Systems signing deals with Airport Authority of India officials on Friday. • TWITTER/@RUSEMBINDIA

RTS, the world's largest suppliers of radio equipment took part," the Embassy said in a statement, which was put up on its website, on Friday.

"The increased interest of leading manufacturers in the

competition is due to the scale of the project: this lot for the purchase of landing systems has become the largest in the world over the past few years."

According to the contract, the first part of landing sys-

tems ILS-734 must be shipped before November. Payments within the transaction will be carried out in national currencies, the statement said, without specifying the contract value.

"The contract between RTS and AAI has become a breakthrough for Russian business in the highly competitive market of ground-based radio equipment in India. There is no doubt that the successful execution of the contract will open up new opportunities for the implementation of joint projects to modernise Indian airport infrastructure," Russian Ambassador in India Denis Alipov was quoted as saying in the statement.

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47. Recently in June, The Union Cabinet approved a *Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for the establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF)* at _____

- A. Kathmandu
- B. Dhaka
- C. Colombo**
- D. New Delhi
- E. None of these

- *The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for the establishment of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) for the establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Centre at Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
- *This MoA was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 30th March 2022.*
- *The TTF shall have a Governing Board and the overall control of activities of the TTF shall be vested in the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall consist of one nominee from each Member State.*

48. Recently in June *European Parliament voted in favor to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by*

- _____.
- A. 2025
 - B. 2030
 - C. 2035**
 - D. 2050
 - E. None of these

- *European Parliament voted in favor to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035.*
- *Members of the European Parliament have voted in favor of this proposal to fight against climate change.*
- *It will promote the development and adoption of electric vehicles.*
- *EU lawmakers also supported a proposal of a 55% reduction in CO2 from automobiles in 2030 as compared to 2021.*
- *Lawmakers supported a proposal to require a 100% reduction in CO2 emissions from new cars by 2035.*
- *The European Parliament members will have to negotiate the final law from the member countries' national governments.*
- *Currently, cars account for 12 percent of total CO2 emissions in the European Union.*

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- *The European Parliament is the law-making body of the European Union. It has 705 members.*

- 49. Recently in June _____ has passed the *world's first "right to repair" bill for digital electronics.*
 - A. **New York state legislature**
 - B. Japan Parliament
 - C. Alaska state legislature
 - D. French Parliament
 - E. None of these

- *New York state legislature passed the world's first "right to repair" bill for digital electronics.*
- *Under this bill, digital electronics manufacturers will have to inform about parts, tools, and software to consumers and set up independent repair shops.*
- *The "Fair Repair Act" has been proposed after consumers raised their demand for the right to repair and refurbish their purchased goods.*
- *The bill will not include motor vehicle home appliances, medical devices, public safety communications equipment, and off-road equipment.*
- *According to a survey, 59 percent of independent repair shops said they might have to close down if the Act had not come.*
- *This act will help in reducing the e-waste footprint on the environment.*

- 50. Recently in June Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the *signing of the agreement between India and the UN on a 'Way Finding Application'*. Where Is The HQ Of the United Nations?
 - A. Geneva
 - B. **New York**
 - C. Laussane
 - D. Paris
 - E. None of these

- *Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the signing of the agreement between India and the UN on a 'Way Finding Application'.*
- *The Way Finding Application is to be used in the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).*

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- The 'Way Finding Application' development project has been conceptualized as a donation from the Government of India to the UN on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 2020.
- The estimated financial implication for the App is \$ 2 Million.
- The project consists of the development, deployment, and maintenance of a 'Way Finding Application' to facilitate navigation in the Palais des Nations premises of UNOG.
- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) has been made responsible for the development of the App.

51. Recently in June, The **United States Department of State** launched the _____ Initiative which aims at bringing together 20 emerging young civic leaders from India and the United States.

- A. **Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative**
- B. Tagore-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative
- C. Gandhi-Lincoln Scholarly Exchange Initiative
- D. Modi—Biden Scholarly Exchange Initiative
- E. None of these

- The United States Department of State on June 14, 2022, launched Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative. The two great luminaries Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were known as the patrons of civil rights and social justice.
- Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative announced by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs aims at bringing together 20 emerging young civic leaders from India and the United States.
- As per the US State Department, the exchange was championed by the late honorable John Lewis.
- Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative will open on June 15, 2022, with a one-week virtual program and orientation followed by a two-week academic residency hosted at Alabama A&M University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), and the University of Alabama.

52. **Lake Sawa**, which was seen in the news recently is located in which of the following country?

- A. USA
- B. **Iraq**
- C. Israel
- D. Russia
- E. None of these

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- *Lake Sawa of Iraq dries due to the water crisis. This is the first time in centuries that the lake has dried up. It is located in Muthanna near the Euphrates River.*
- *The lake dried owing to mismanagement by local investors, government negligence, and climate change (including low rainfall and back-to-back drought).*
- *The lake is known as the “Pearl of the South”. It was formed over limestone rock and studded with gypsum formation. It has no inlet or outlet.*
- *Some old Islamic texts mention Lake Sawa which was miraculously formed on the day Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 AD.*



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IRAQ'S LAKE SAWA RUNS DRY

This year, for the first time in its centuries-long history, Iraq's Lake Sawa dried up. A combination of mismanagement by local investors, government neglect and climate change has ground down its azure shores to chunks of salt. AP

53. Consider the following statement regarding **SIPRI Yearbook 2022 released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).**

1. *The US, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea are among **the nine nuclear-armed states that are continuing to develop their arsenals.***
2. *India had a total of **160 nuclear warheads as of January 2022** and it still appears to be increasing its nuclear arsenal.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published the findings of SIPRI Yearbook 2022, which evaluate the current state of armaments, disarmament, and the status of international security.*
- *SIPRI: SIPRI is an independent international body which is specialized in research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.*
- *It came up in the year 1966 in Stockholm. It gives the data analysis, and recommendations, which are based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, and media.*
- *Nine nuclear-armed states —that is United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea)—are still modernizing their nuclear arsenals*

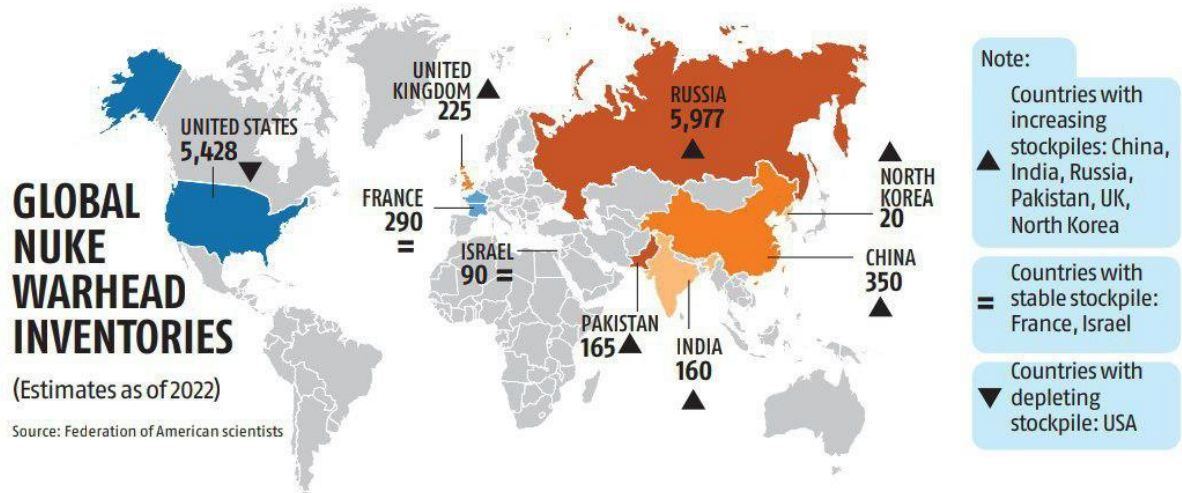
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and although the total number of nuclear weapons decreases slightly between January 2021 and January 2022, the number will increase probably next decade.

- India had a total of 160 nuclear warheads as of January 2022 and it still appears to be increasing its nuclear arsenal.
- China had TOTAL 350 nuclear warheads both in January 2021 and January 2022.
- The top five largest arms importers are Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia, and China, and together they accounted for 36% of total imports.
- Russia and USA possess the 90% of the total nuclear weapon. The largest five suppliers in 2016-20 were the United States, Russia, France, Germany, and China and they accounted for a total of 76% of the volume of exports of major arms.

All nuclear-armed nations upgrading arsenals: SIPRI

Clear indications that reductions since the end of the Cold War have ended



NICLAS ROLANDER
 13 June

The world's nuclear-armed nations are set to boost their arsenals in the next decade, even as the number of such weapons fell last year, according to a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI.

"All of the nuclear-armed states are increasing or upgrading their arsenals and most are sharpening nuclear rhetoric and the role nuclear weapons play in their military strategies," Wilfred Wan, Director of SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, said in a statement on Monday.

That development could reverse a decades-long trend of reduced nuclear stockpiles. By the start of 2022, the global inventory of warheads had declined to 12,705,

from more than 34,000 at the beginning of this century, according to SIPRI. While the number of usable nukes has stabilized, total stockpiles continued shrinking last year, as Russia and the US dismantled long-retired warheads.

The risk of nuclear conflict got renewed attention following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, with Western intelligence officials warning that the Kremlin might turn to tactical or other limited nuclear weapons if its war in Ukraine continues to struggle.

Bilateral Russia-US strategic stability talks have stalled because of the war in Ukraine, and none of the other nuclear-armed states are pursuing arms control negotiations, SIPRI said.

Read More: Military Spending Passes \$2 Trillion as Europe Boosts Defenses

The number of warheads in the usable military stockpiles of Russia and the US -

- which together have over 90% of all nuclear weapons -- remained relatively stable last year. China, with the third biggest arsenal, is in the middle of a "substantial expansion" of its nuclear weapon arsenal, including the construction of over 300 new missile silos, it added.

The nuclear-armed permanent members of the UN Security Council -- which also include France and the UK -- jointly stated in January that "nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," while also reaffirming they remain committed to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control agreements.

"Although there were some significant gains in both nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament in the past year, the risk of nuclear weapons being used seems higher now than at any time since the height of the Cold War," SIPRI Director Dan Smith said.

BLOOMBERG

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54. Recently in June India and _____ signed an agreement to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation.

- A. Israel
- B. Canada**
- C. UAE
- D. Denmark
- E. None of these

- India and Canada have signed an agreement to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection, and conservation.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian counterpart Steven Guilbeault signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the margins of the Stockholm+50 meeting.
- The meeting is being held to commemorate 50 years of the Stockholm Conference the first United Nations conference on the environment.
- Under the pact, the two countries have agreed to collaborate, exchange information and expertise, and support their respective ambition in a wide range of areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity, decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, supporting the sound management of chemicals, and ensuring sustainable consumption.
- The MoU builds on existing cooperation between both countries, such as our common work as members of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which is advocating for world leaders to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to conserve 30 percent of the world's marine and terrestrial areas by 2030 (30 30).

55. Recently Poland became the _____ country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, to help both countries in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, including those related to terrorism.

- A. 50th
- B. 45th**
- C. 49th
- D. 31st
- E. None of these

India, Canada ink pact for stronger co-op

NEW DELHI: India and Canada have signed an agreement to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation.

CLIMATE ACTION

Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian counterpart Steven Guilbeault signed the MoU on the margins of the Stockholm+50 meeting.

The meeting is being held to commemorate 50 years of the Stockholm Conference — the first United Nations conference on environment.

Under the pact, the countries have agreed to collaborate, exchange information and expertise, and support their respective ambition in a wide range of areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity, decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, supporting the sound management of chemicals, and ensuring sustainable consumption.

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- **India and Poland have signed a mutual legal assistance treaty on criminal matters (MLAT) to help both countries in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, including those related to terrorism.**
- **The Union cabinet had, last December, approved the proposal. However, the signing of the formal agreement was delayed due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis, officials added.**
- **For India, the special secretary (internal security), Ministry of Home Affairs, VSK Kaumudi, signed the cooperation agreement while for Poland, its ambassador to India, Adam Burakowski, was the signatory.**
- **Poland became the 45th country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, other others being Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the UK, and the US.**
- **For India, the special secretary (internal security), Ministry of Home Affairs, VSK Kaumudi, signed the cooperation agreement while for Poland, its ambassador to India, Adam Burakowski, was the signatory. Poland became the 45th country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, other others being Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the UK and the US.**

India, Poland Sign Legal Help Treaty on Criminal Matters

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: India and Poland have signed a mutual legal assistance treaty on criminal matters (MLAT) to help both countries in investigation and prosecution of crimes, including those related to terrorism. The Union cabinet had, last December, approved the proposal. However, the signing of the formal agreement was delayed due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis, officials added.

For India, special secretary (internal security), Ministry of Home Affairs, VSK Kaumudi, signed the cooperation agreement while for Poland, its ambassador to India, Adam Burakowski, was the signatory. Poland became the 45th country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, other others being Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the UK and the US.



Poland became the 45th country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters

Poland became the 45th country with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, other others being Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the UK and the US.

“The treaty aims to enhance the effectiveness of both countries in investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters,” an official said.

MHA is the nodal ministry for concluding MLATs in criminal matters which are designed to facilitate the widest measures of mutual assistance in investigation, prosecution and prevention of crime, service of summons and other judicial documents, execution of warrants and other judicial commissions and tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation of proceeds and instruments of crime.

Russia has become India's second-biggest supplier of oil. It has recently overtaken Saudi Arabia. Iraq remained India's biggest supplier of oil in May 2022.

Saudi Arabia is now the third biggest supplier of oil to India.

Indian refiners bought over 16% of all their oil imports from Russia in May.

India is the world's third-biggest oil-importing and consuming nation.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil after US and China. It imports over 85% of its consumption requirement.

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Banking / Economy News

56. Recently in June _____ bank got SEBI's approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

- A. Karur Vysya Bank
- B. Karnataka Bank
- C. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank**
- D. City Union Bank
- E. None of these

- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank gets SEBI's approval to raise funds through IPO.**
- **The bank will use proceeds from the initial public offering (IPO) for augmenting the Tier-I capital base.**
- **The bank filed its draft red herring prospectus with SEBI in September 2021.**
- **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank is a Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)-based private sector lender.**

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank gets SEBI's nod to float IPO

Proceeds to be used for augmenting Tier-I capital base

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, June 6

The Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu)-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd has received SEBI's approval to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of 1.582 crore shares and an offer for sale of 12,505 equity shares by D Prem Palanivel, Priya Rajan, Prabhakar Mahadeo Bobde, Narasimhan Krishnamurthy, M Malliga Rani and Subramanian Venkiteshwaran Iyer. The offer will constitute 10 per cent of the post-offer paid-up equity share capital.

The bank, which filed its draft



red herring prospectus with SEBI in September 2021, obtained its observations on May 30, according to an update. In SEBI's parlance, its observation indicates approval for launching the IPO.

Plans to raise ₹1,000 crore
 The bank said that it plans to mobilise over ₹1,000 crore from the IPO. It also indicated the proceeds will be used for augmenting its Tier-I capital base.

57. Recently RBI has rolled out new provisioning norms for inter-bank exposure of UCBs and valuation of UCB's perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and equity warrants to continue making provisions of _____ % for such exposures.

- A. 10 %
- B. 20 %**
- C. 30 %
- D. 50 %
- E. None of these

- **RBI issued new provisioning norms for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).**

PMC Bank fallout: RBI asks UCBs to make higher provisions

The Reserve Bank on Friday issued fresh provisioning norms for urban cooperative banks' inter-bank **exposure** as well as valuation of their perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and equity warrants, directing them to continue making provisions to the tune of 20 per cent for such **exposures**. The RBI came up with these rules in the wake of the bankruptcy of the corruption-ridden Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) in September 2019 and the subsequent merger with Unity Small Finance Bank.

PTI

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- **RBI has rolled out new provisioning norms for inter-bank exposure of UCBs and valuation of UCB's perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and equity warrants.**
- **RBI directed UCBs to continue making provisions of 20% for such exposures.**
- **The new norms have been issued in the wake of the bankruptcy of Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank in September 2019 and the merger of PMC with Unity Small Finance Bank w.e.f 25 January 2022.**
- **These norms apply to all UCBs and are in force with immediate effect.**
- **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs):**
- **They are primary cooperative banks that may be located in an urban or semi-urban area.**
- **They are classified as scheduled and non-scheduled urban cooperative banks**
- **Until 1996, they could lend money for non-agricultural reasons only. They are governed by RBI and state governments.**

58. Consider the following statement regarding **EASE 5.0 'Common Reforms Agenda' for PSBs.**

1. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched **EASE 5.0** under the **EASENext** program.
2. The focus of **EASE 5.0** will be on the **digital customer experience, as well as integrated and inclusive banking.**
3. **EASENext** consists of 2 key initiatives: **EASE 5.0 (Common PSB Reform Agenda)** and **Bank Specific Strategic 3-Year Roadmap (based on the business priorities of the individual bank).**

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

- **Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman** launched **EASE 5.0** under the **EASENext** program. It lists the common reform agenda for public sector banks.

EASE 5.0

FM launches 'common reforms agenda' for PSBs

KRSRIVATS

New Delhi, June 8

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Wednesday, launched the fifth edition of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 5.0), which spells out the common reforms agenda for public sector banks under the EASENext program.

The launch event was attended virtually by the Managing Directors and CEOs of PSBs.

Three-year roadmap

Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen the ongoing reforms to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition and the technology environment. EASE 5.0 will focus on digital customer experience and integrated and



Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

inclusive banking, with emphasis on supporting small businesses and agriculture. Simultaneously, all PSBs will also create a bank-specific three-year strategic roadmap. It will entail strategic initiatives beyond EASE 5.0. The initiatives will be across diverse themes – business growth, profitability, risk, customer service, operations and capability building. Speaking at the launch event

through videoconferencing, Sitharaman mentioned that EASENext is well-positioned to channel reforms with specific focus on customer-centric initiatives.

She emphasised on the customer-first strategy and focus on employee development. Sitharaman further mentioned that in order to develop customer-centric approach, banks should engage with their customers to understand their needs and expectations. While upgrading technology initiatives, robust security mechanisms should also be developed, she added.

Sitharaman also said EASENext reforms should bring ease for customers as well as for employees.

In his opening remarks, Department of Financial Services

Secretary, Sanjay Malhotra, mentioned that PSBs are now profitable and have stronger balance sheets. It is imperative that PSBs leverage this position of strength to significantly increase their competitiveness.

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- *Till now, four editions of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE) have been launched from FY19 to 22. EASE 4.0 was launched in August 2021.*
- *PSBs will continue to invest in next-generation capabilities and deepen ongoing improvements under EASE 5.0 for changing customer needs, competition, and the technological environment.*
- *The focus of EASE 5.0 will be on the digital customer experience, as well as integrated and inclusive banking.*
- *All PSBs will also create a bank-specific three-year strategic roadmap.*
- *PSB Manthan was conducted in April 2022 with the functional heads of Public Sector Banks, which paved the way to launch the EASENext program.*
- *EASENext consists of 2 key initiatives: EASE 5.0 (Common PSB Reform Agenda) and Bank Specific Strategic 3-Year Roadmap (based on the business priorities of the individual bank). EASENext reforms will ensure ease for customers as well as employees.*

59. Recently in June _____ authorized life insurers to launch their products without prior approval.

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. **IRDAI**
- D. LIC
- E. None of these

- *Life insurers can now launch products without prior approval: IRDAI*
- *IRDAI has allowed life insurers to launch their products without the prior approval of the regulator.*
- *Life insurers should have board-approved product management and pricing policy.*
- *Life insurers can now launch a variety of products promptly as per the market demand, except for individual savings, individual pensions, and annuity.*
- *All insurers can follow the 'use and file' procedure as the authorization has already been granted to health and general insurance products.*

IRDAI allows life insurers to launch products without nod

'Use-and-file' procedure will improve the ease of doing business



OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, June 10

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has authorised life insurers to launch products without prior approval.

"This move will enable life insurers to launch most of the products (except individual savings, individual pensions and annuity) in a timely manner according to the dynamic needs of the market," said IRDAI in a release on Friday.

Conditions attached

The permission to products without pre-approval comes with certain conditions. The insurers were directed

to put in place a board-approved product management and pricing policy, which should duly be informed to the regulator.

The move allows all insurers – life, health and general – follow the 'use-and-file' procedure as the insurance regulator has already extended the provision to health and general insurance products.

According to the IRDAI, the relaxation will result in improving ease of doing business for insurers, and also lead to expansion of the choices available to policyholders.

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- *This step will promote ease of doing business for insurers and increase choices available to policyholders.*
- *Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):*
- *IRDAI is an autonomous statutory body. It was formed under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.*
- *It regulates and promotes both insurance as well as reinsurance industries in India.*
- *It has 10 members, including the chairman, 5 full-time, and four part-time members. The government of India appoints part-time members of IRDAI.*
- *Chairman of IRDAI: Debashish Panda (wef 14 March 2022)*
- *Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana*

60. Consider the following statement regarding the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**

1. It is currently calculated using **2011-2012 as the base year.**
2. **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the IIP data.
3. India's industrial output growth, as per the IIP, **surged to an eight-month high of 7.1 percent in April.**

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

- *India's industrial output growth, as per the IIP, surged to an eight-month high of 7.1 percent in April as compared to 2.2 percent in the previous month.*
- *In absolute terms, the IIP stood at 135.1 in April 2022, up from 126.1 in April 2021, but lower than 148.8 in March 2022.*

Industrial output growth rose to 8-month high of 7.1% in April

Low base helped, mining output lower than expected: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Industrial output expanded 7.1% in April, the fastest pace in eight months, on the back of improved performance by the power and mining sectors, as per government data released on Friday.

The manufacturing sector recorded growth of 6.3% in the first month of the current financial year, data on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed. The earlier high for IIP growth was 13% recorded in August 2021.

However, the NSO added that growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year were to be in-



terpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. "The low base of the second wave of COVID-19 bumped up the IIP growth to an 8-month high of 7.1% in April 2022, although it trailed our expectation (9.2%), led by a weaker-than-

anticipated performance of mining," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA

The power and mining sectors grew 11.8% and 7.8%, respectively, in April.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 14.7%, while consumer durables output expanded 8.5%.

Still, the weak showing of capital goods output relative to the pre-COVID level confirmed the view that the uptick in capacity utilisation in the fourth quarter of FY22 would not trigger a rapid private sector capacity expansion in light of the uncertainties generated by geopolitical developments, Ms. Nayar added.

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- The IIP number measures the industrial production for the period under review, usually a month, as against the reference period.
- It is currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the IIP data.

61. Recently In May 2022, **wholesale price-based inflation** hit a new high of _____ while In May, **retail inflation** was _____, exceeding the RBI's inflation target for the fifth month in a row.

- A. 15.08 % , 8.08 %
- B. 15.88 % , 7.04 %
- C. 14.96 % , 7.29 %
- D. 15.29 % , 6.96 %
- E. None of these

- In May 2022, wholesale price-based inflation hit a new high of 15.88 %, owing to increased food and crude oil prices.
- Since April 2021, WPI inflation has been in double digits for the 14th month in a row and has been in the upper trajectory for three straight months.
- In May, retail inflation was 7.04 %, exceeding the RBI's inflation target for the fifth month in a row. Retail inflation is measured by CPI.
- The RBI has raised the repo rate by 40 basis points in May and 50 basis points in June to deal with high inflation.
- Last week, the central bank boosted its inflation forecast for 2022-23 by 100 basis points to 6.7%.

Retail inflation eases to 7.04% in May

ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 13 June

The consumer price index-based (CPI-based) inflation rate for May 2022 cooled from the eight-year high in April and came in at 7.04 per cent on the back of the base effect and cheaper food prices. It was still the fifth straight month of headline retail inflation being above the Monetary Policy Committee's (of the Reserve Bank of India, or the RBI) medium-term target of 4 (+/-2) per cent, thus justifying the two recent interest rate hikes by the central bank. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office, the CPI rate for April was 7.79 per cent. Consumer food price inflation (CFPI) came in at 7.97 in May compared to 8.09 in April. The latest CPI print is slightly lower than the market expectation of 7.1 per cent, according to a poll of 45 economists by news agency Reuters.

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WPI inflation hits 30-year peak of 15.88% in May

Sharp rise in WPI adds to uncertainties around the overall inflation outlook

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK
New Delhi, June 14

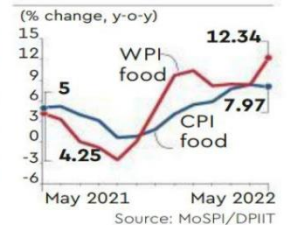
WHOLESALE PRICE INFLATION spiked to 15.88% in May, the highest since September 1991 as a surge in price pressure in food and fuel offset a moderation in manufactured products. In April, the WPI inflation was recorded at 15.08%.

Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) has

remained in double digits for 14 months now, mirroring elevated global commodity prices, especially of oil, according to the official data released on Tuesday.

Analysts expect WPI inflation to remain elevated in June as well, as a waning base effect, further rise in Indian crude oil basket (it hit a 10-year high on June 9) and a weak rupee will likely offset any direct or indirect impact of the government's move to cut fuel taxes and ease supply-side bottlenecks (the first monthly impact will be reflected in the June data). Much will also hinge on the progress and distribution of the monsoon.

Continued on Page 2



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62. Consider the following statement regarding TDS on virtual digital assets (VDA).
1. The Government of India clarified that the TDS on virtual digital assets (VDA) continues to be 1%.
 2. The 1% TDS will be applicable from July 1.
 3. The Centre had set 30% taxation on the gains from the cryptocurrency assets.

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

- The Government of India clarified that the TDS on virtual digital assets (VDA) continues to be 1%.
- The clarification from the Income Tax comes at a time when some media reports mentioned that the TDS rate for virtual digital assets has dropped to 0.1% from 1% as announced earlier in the budget.
- The 1% TDS will be applicable from July 1.
- The Centre had set a 30% taxation on the gains from the cryptocurrency assets.

Technology Development Board to launch ₹1,000-crore start-up fund

HARIPRIYA SUREBAN
Bengaluru, June 8

The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology is set to launch a ₹1,000-crore start-up fund under a public private partnership (PPP) model.

The fund will be launched in two phases and will be live in a month. In the first phase, a corpus of ₹400 crore will be set up, of which ₹200 crore will be contributed by a private company. In the later phase, TDB will partner with more companies to raise and invest money.

Early-stage start-ups
Rajesh Pathak, Secretary, TDB, told *Businessline*, "The new fund will also invest in early stage start-ups rather than just the ones which have reached the commercialisation stage, as it has in the past." The fund is sector agnostic and is expected to invest in start-ups till 10/12 of a problem with strong technical solutions and has a wider use case. The TDB will guide them to improve marketing abilities and provide technical training and skill development.



30% TAX LIKELY ON CRYPTO PAYMENTS TO STAFF

Virtual Digital Assets Clarifications Soon

Industry concerns on applicability of 1% TDS expected to be addressed

Govt may clarify several aspects of VDA tax this week

Tax to be levied on the difference between cost of acquisition of the asset and transfer price to the employee

Some relief expected on the timeline of payment of TDS

Employers may have to pay 30% tax on VDAs they offer to staff

Deepshikha.Sikarwar
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Employers will have to pay 30% tax on virtual digital assets (VDAs) such as cryptocurrencies they offer to their employees as compensation or otherwise. This is among detailed clarifications the government is expected to issue this week on the tax on VDAs announced in the budget, officials told ET. The tax will be levied on the difference between the cost of the acquisition of the asset and the transfer price to the employee. In the case of employees,

the transfer price would be considered the cost of acquisition.

"Norms are being worked out... These will be issued soon," a government official said. ET had earlier reported that credit card rewards points and e-vouchers will not be considered VDAs. The clarification is expected to clearly outline the principles for determining the cost of acquisition of VDAs.

TDS Timeline Under Consideration >> 6

■ Crypto Investors Gear up for More Pain as Market Sinks >> 9

63. Consider the following statement regarding Technology Development Board

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1. *The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology is planning to launch a startup fund of 1000 crore.*
2. *A corpus of ₹400 crores will be set up in the first phase. In the second phase, TDB will collaborate with more companies to raise money.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Technology Development Board to launch ₹1,000-crore start-up fund.*
- *The Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology is planning to launch a startup fund of 1000 crore.*
- *It will be launched in a public-private partnership model in two phases.*
- *A corpus of ₹400 crores will be set up in the first phase. In the second phase, TDB will collaborate with more companies to raise money.*
- *The main objective of the fund is to invest in startups across various sectors.*
- *Technology Development Board was set as a statutory body in 1996 under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.*

64. *The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) recently issued a circular that all “hyper-sensitive” airports in India will have to install a Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) by _____.*
- A. *31st December 2022*
 - B. ***31st December 2023***
 - C. *31st March 2023*
 - D. *31st December 2025*
 - E. *None of these*

- *The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) recently issued a circular saying that all “hyper-sensitive” airports in India will have to install a Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) by December next year.*

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- *The PIDS is a sensor that helps in alerting security agencies of any intrusion through the airport's boundary walls, according to a PTI report. Moreover, Greenfield airports in the country that are not part of the central government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) will install the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System as well.*
- *The airports coming up under the Regional Connectivity Scheme will plan the installation of PIDS at the development stage itself.*
- *According to the statement issued by BCAS, the country's all hyper-sensitive airports shall install the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System by 31 December 2023 as per minimum technical specifications.*
- *further, greenfield airports that are non-RCS shall plan the installation of this system at the design stage itself to get clearance of design stage security vetting in terms of rule 5(3) of the Aircraft Security Rules 2011.*

65. Recently _____ has **partnered with ZestMoney to expand its cardless EMI**, more commonly known as buy now pay later (BNPL), facility for purchases done at retail and e-commerce platforms.

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. DBS Bank
- E. None of these

- *ICICI Bank announced that it has partnered with ZestMoney to expand its cardless EMI, more commonly known as buy now pay later (BNPL), facility for purchases done at retail and e-commerce platforms.*
- *Through this, the bank's customers will have the option to convert transactions up to ₹10 lakh into EMIs by providing their registered mobile number, PAN, and OTP received on the registered mobile number at the time of check-out from an e-commerce platform or at retail outlets, without using cards.*
- *With this partnership, the Bank's customers will be able to use ZestMoney's wide merchant base. They will also be able to use ZestMoney's flagship 'Pay-in-3' offering, where they can split the bill into three EMIs without extra cost.*
- *ZestMoney Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.*

Cardless EMI tie-up



ICICI Bank has tied up with paylater platform ZestMoney to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for

purchases online and offline. The bank customers can use preapproved cardless credit to instantly buy products/services using ZestMoney and pay in EMIs. Customers can convert transactions up to ₹10 lakh into EMIs by entering their registered mobile number, PAN and OTP (received on registered mobile number) at the checkout of the ecommerce website/app or at the PoS machine in retail outlets, without using cards. The facility is live on select e-commsites and will soon be available at retail stores. Also, the bank's customers will be able to use ZestMoney's wide merchant base.

66. Recently _____ has **collaborated with Go Digit General Insurance Limited**, one of India's fastest-growing general insurers, to provide small and medium business owners with shop insurance coverage.

- A. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

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- B. Jio Payment Bank
- C. Fino Payment Bank**
- D. Jana Small Finance Bank
- E. None of these

- **Fino Payments Bank Limited has collaborated with Go Digit General Insurance Limited, one of India's fastest-growing general insurers, to provide small and medium business owners with shop insurance coverage.**
- **Fino serves as a corporate representative for Go Digit**
- **The partnership will allow small and medium businesses to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the case of a catastrophe.**
- **Fino Payments Bank Founded: 4 April 2017;**
- **Fino Payments Bank Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai.**

■ **GENERAL INSURANCE**

Shop insurance from Go Digit-Fino Payments Bank

FINO PAYMENTS BANK has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance as a corporate agent to offer shop insurance policies to small and medium business owners. The shop insurance policy, valid for one year, covers loss or damage to the inventory or stock due to burglary, riots, fire and natural calamities. The policy also includes in-built coverages like money in safe, money in transit, etc. Fino Bank's customers will be able to enroll in the policy offered by Go Digit at an annual premium of ₹550 (for a sum insured of ₹3 lakh), which will go up to ₹2,600 (for a sum insured of ₹15 lakh). Shopkeepers can directly enroll under Digit's My Business Policy (shop insurance policy) in real time through a paperless process.

67. Recently in June **Ather Energy** has partnered _____ to provide customers with vehicle financing.
- A. ICICI Bank
 - B. State bank of India**
 - C. Punjab National Bank
 - D. Bank Of Baroda
 - E. None of these

- **Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy said it has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) for vehicle financing for its customers.**
- **The collaboration will enable Ather Energy's customers, having pre-approved loan offers from SBI to avail of instant loans at low-interest rates starting from 9.55 percent per annum, depending on customer credit profile.**
- **The partnership with the country's largest public sector lender is aimed at leveraging its reach and penetration in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the domestic market.**

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- **Ather Energy is an Indian electric vehicle company, headquartered in Bangalore. It was founded by Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain in 2013.**

68. Recently Chinese technology conglomerate **Tencent** bought a stake worth _____ in **Flipkart** from its co-founder **Binny Bansal** through its European subsidiary.

- A. \$232 million
- B. \$264 million**
- C. \$252 million
- D. \$216 million
- E. None of these

- **Chinese technology conglomerate Tencent has bought a stake worth \$264 million (about Rs 2,060 crore) in Flipkart from its co-founder, Binny Bansal, through its European subsidiary.**
- **Singapore-headquartered e-commerce firm Flipkart has operations in India only.**
- **Bansal holds around a 1.84 percent stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV.**
- **Post the transaction, the Tencent arm holds 0.72 per stake in Flipkart which is valued at around \$264 million, as per the last valuation of \$37.6 billion disclosed by the e-commerce firm in July 2021.**

69. Recently **India's first blockchain-enabled transaction framework company** _____ **has launched its UPI services.**

- A. ZeoCard
- B. XPay.Life**
- C. OmniCard
- D. Amazon Pay
- E. None of these

Tencent acquires stake in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

Bansal holds 1.84% in Flipkart after ₹2,060-cr stake sale

PEERZADA ABRAR
Bengaluru, 12 June

Chinese tech giant Tencent has bought a stake worth \$264 million (about ₹2,060 crore) in Walmart-owned Flipkart from its co-founder Binny Bansal through its European subsidiary, according to sources.

The transaction was completed on October 26, 2021. However, it was shared with government authorities at the beginning of this financial year. Flipkart is registered in Singapore and has operations in India only.

Bansal now holds about 1.84 per cent in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV. The story was first reported by news agency PTI.

"Tencent is an early investor in Flipkart and this transaction happened last year when SoftBank, along with various sovereign funds, invested \$3.6 billion in the e-commerce firm," said a person familiar with the matter. "That time Binny Bansal diluted some of his stake in Tencent."

After this transaction, the Tencent arm holds 0.72 per cent stake in Flipkart, valued at around \$264 million.

A Flipkart spokesperson declined to comment on this development.

The government had brought press-note 3 (2020 series) during the initial days of the pandemic in April 2020. It was an immediate reaction to the concerns of Indian companies being vulnerable to opportunistic takeovers during the pandemic. Press-note 3 requires that all investments from entities, which are based in a land-bordering country, or when the beneficial owner of the investment is based in a land-bordering country, will have to be made under the 'approval route' and will require a security clearance.

However, the Tencent-Bansal deal does not fall under the purview of 'Press



TOP INVESTMENTS OF TENCENT IN INDIAN COMPANIES

Company	Line of business
Bjju's	Edtech
Dream Sports	Gaming
Flipkart	E-commerce
Ola	Mobility
Swiggy	Food delivery
Ibibo Group*	Travel
KhataBook	Fintech
MyGate	Home security
Practo	Digital healthcare
ShareChat	Social media

* Merged with HMT; Source: Various reports

Note 3', according to the sources. "This is because Tencent's stake is less than 1 per cent and also Flipkart has been a Singapore-registered entity," said a person.

Last year in July, Flipkart Group carved a niche for itself in the global league by raising \$3.6 billion, including from SoftBank, which had exited the firm. The fundraise valued the company at \$37.6 billion, which was more than a 50 per cent rise in a year.

In July 2020, Walmart led a \$1.2-billion round in Flipkart, valuing the e-commerce firm at \$24.9 billion. In September 2020, Tencent invested \$62.8 million in Flipkart, according to a report by business intelligence platform Paper.vc.

The investment comes amid Sino-India tensions, including the Chinese app ban, the changes to the foreign direct investment (FDI) norms, and pre-clearance mechanisms on investments from China.

Walmart's acquisition of Flipkart for \$16 billion in 2018 not only provided blockbuster exits to its investors but also turned the founders — Sachin and Binny Bansal — into billionaires. Both Sachin, as well as Binny, are now active in the

Indian start-up ecosystem, backing several of the promising start-ups through their personal funds and family offices.

Chinese investors, such as Alibaba, Tencent, and Xiaomi, are also active in the Indian start-up space, and have collectively invested billions of dollars. Tencent has invested over \$2 billion in Indian start-ups since 2016. Last year, it also invested over \$200 million in the Indian social media platform ShareChat.

India is considering easing scrutiny on certain foreign direct investments, after rules mainly aimed at China created a bottleneck for inflows, according to a Bloomberg report.

The report said the government currently scrutinises all investment proposals from companies that are either based in countries that share a land border with India or have an investor from one of these nations. The also report said the government is now considering exempting proposals where the so-called beneficial ownership is less than 10 per cent, which means the investor may be from a neighbouring country but holds only a small stake in the firm proposing the investment.

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- *Fintech startup XPay.Life, which claims to be India's first blockchain-enabled transaction framework, launched its UPI services targeted at rural India, as it completes three years of operations.*
- *XPay.Life aims to make financial facilities accessible for people in rural areas who need financial support the most.*
- *The launch of its UPI services is expected to benefit XPay.Life's 4 million consumers across more than 15 states and 1 lakh villages.*
- *XPay.Life's major focus has been to reach out to unbanked and financially excluded customers of India; especially those in rural India.*

70. Consider the following statement regarding 'Internet Explorer.'

1. Microsoft announced the retirement of its oldest browser, Internet Explorer after 27 years of service.
2. It was first released in 1995 as an add-on package for Windows 95.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Microsoft announced the retirement of its oldest browser, Internet Explorer after 27 years of service.*
- *It was first released in 1995 as an add-on package for Windows 95. Later, the company began providing the browser for free as part of the package.*
- *As per the company notification, Internet Explorer will be rendered inoperable from June 15, 2022.*

71. Recently _____ has launched India's first multiplex on the Partynite Metaverse platform.

- A. Bharti Airtel
- B. Viacom 18
- C. Sony Liv
- D. Disney Hotstar
- E. None of these

Microsoft signs out of Internet Explorer after 27 years



ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, June 15

Internet Explorer is finally headed out to pasture.

As of Wednesday, Microsoft will no longer support the once-dominant browser that legions of web surfers loved to hate — and a few still claim to adore. The 27-year-old application now joins BlackBerry phones, dial-up modems and Palm Pilots in the dustbin of tech history.

IE's demise was not a surprise. A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on.

"Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Sean Lyndersay, general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise, wrote in a May 2021 blog post.

Users marked Explorer's passing on Twitter, with some referring to it as a "bug-ridden, insecure POS" or the "top browser for installing other browsers." For others, it was a moment for 90's nostalgia memes, while *The Wall Street Journal* quoted a 22-year-old who was sad to see IE go.

First version in 1995

Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator. Its launch signalled the beginning of the end of Navigator: Microsoft went on to tie IE and its ubiquitous Windows operating system together so tightly that many people simply used it by default instead of Navigator.

(https://t.me/RSNEWSPAPER)

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Bharti Airtel launches its metaverse multiplex

Staff Writer
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NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel launched Xstream multiplex, a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading over-the-top (OTT) partners available on its Xstream app.

Users will be able access the multiplex service on a metaverse platform called Partynite Metaverse. "Airtel's Xstream multiplex provides a larger-than-life experience, which brings together Web 3.0 apps and immersive storytelling, and an assortment of content from our partners," said Shashwat Sharma, director of marketing at Airtel. "Through the metaverse, we are looking to tap into a larger audience, giving content enthusiasts an opportunity to sample Airtel's Xstream Premium offering and, thus, aiding in driving higher adoption," he said. The Xstream multiplex is an extension of Airtel's Xstream Premium offering, which recently achieved a 2-million subscriber milestone within 100 days of its launch.

The multiplex has been created by Essence, Airtel's integrated media agency of record, and developed by Gamitronics, the creator of Partynite, a blockchain-powered digital parallel universe.

"Airtel Xstream Premium's multiplex experience is one of the most scalable use case scenarios for the metaverse. Future opportunities here include movies, music, live events and premium sports streaming, said Rajat Ojha, founder of Partynite.

- **Bharti Airtel has launched India's first multiplex on the Partynite Metaverse platform.**
- **The Airtel Xstream multiplex is an extension of Airtel's Xstream Premium offering. It is a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading OTT partners available on the application.**
- **Airtel has released a YouTube video for users to check out the multiplex experience. Users can download the "Partynite Metaplex" app on Windows and Android devices from their respective app stores.**

72. Recently _____ announced SMBSaathi Utsav - an initiative that aims to support small businesses by helping them adopt digital mediums to run their business.

- A. Meta
- B. Google
- C. Amazon
- D. **Whatsapp**
- E. None of these

- **WhatsApp India announced SMBSaathi Utsav - an initiative that aims to support small businesses by helping them adopt digital mediums such as the WhatsApp Business App to run their business.**
- **SMBSaathi Utsav has kicked off with a pilot in Jaipur's Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar where over 500 small businesses are being trained on various aspects of running their business online.**
- **Launched in collaboration with Josh Talks this initiative intends to educate and help small businesses unlock the potential of their business through WhatsApp.**
- **For many of these businesses, WhatsApp was their first digital gateway and an easier and more effective alternative to building and maintaining a website. The SMBSaathi Utsav is the second phase of the SMBSaathi campaign.**

73. Recently _____ has announced a tie-up with Spices Board under its initiative Flavourit Spices Trading Limited to provide national market access and help promote farmers and grassroots organizations working in the spices sector from all regions of the country.

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- A. **Flipkart**
- B. Paytm
- C. Amazon
- D. State Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- *In a major push to spices farmers in India, e-commerce platform Flipkart has announced a partnership through a Terms of Understanding (ToU) with Spices Board in a bid to give spice farmers and grassroots organizations working in the spices sector a national trade platform.*
- *Flipkart signed a ToU with Flavourit Spices Trading Limited (FSTL), an initiative of the Spices Board, under the Flipkart Samarth program, which aims at empowering MSMEs, artisans, entrepreneurs, rural sellers, and farmer communities to sell products associated with the country's rich cultural heritage through the e-commerce platform.*
- *Flipkart has partnered with various farmer-producer organizations to boost local staples and bolster farmer income through its platform.*

Flipkart, Spices Board in pact for national market access to farmers

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, June 9

Flipkart has announced a tie up with Spices Board under its initiative Flavourit Spices Trading Limited to provide national market access and help promote farmers and grassroots organisations working in the spices sector from all regions of the country.

The partnership, through a Terms of Understanding (ToU), will help sustain the passion for Indian spices and farmers and bring online a variety of spices such as black pepper, Kashmiri saffron, honey, cinnamon, cardamom and Lakadong turmeric, to name a few.

The ToU was signed under the Flipkart Samarth programme in the presence of D Sathiyam, Secretary, Spices Board, AB Rema Shree, Director-Research, Spices Board, Neil Christopher Castellino,



Director-Corporate Affairs, Flipkart Group.

Inclusive, sustainable biz
Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said: "the partnership will enable pan-India market access for farmers, and grassroots organisations working in the spices sector while further augmenting the commitment to the social and economic development of our stakeholders."

Flavourit Spices Trading Ltd is an initiative of the Spices Board aimed at the export, organic production, and certification of 52 spices.

74. Recently _____ has been on-boarded as a key Agent Institution (AI) by NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, to provide seamless bill payment solutions to its members.

- A. **CRED**
- B. Fi Money
- C. Pi Phy
- D. Pshyce
- E. None of these

- *CRED has been on-boarded as a key Agent Institution (AI) by NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, to provide seamless bill payment solutions to CRED members.*
- *The collaboration is aimed at providing CRED members with the convenience of making recurring payments across several segments like electricity, telecom, DTH, gas, education fees, water, and municipal taxes, NETC FASTag recharge, loan repayments, insurance, cable, subscription fees, mobile prepaid recharges, and others, just by logging into the CRED app.*

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- CRED is an Indian fintech company, based in Bangalore. Founded in 2018 by Kunal Shah, it is a reward-based credit card payments app.

75. Recently _____ will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.

- A. Ather Energy
- B. Elest
- C. Tableau Software
- D. Salesforce
- E. None of these

- Elest, a subsidiary of gold retailer Rajesh Exports, will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.
- Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao along with Chairman of Rajesh Exports Rajesh Mehta announced the setting up of Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB.
- The Telangana government signed an MoU with Karnataka-based Elest for the proposed fabrication unit which will manufacture next-generation displays for smartphones, tablet computers, and laptops.
- The display fab would be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission program of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.

India's first display fab unit to be in Telangana, worth ₹24,000 crore

Hyderabad: Elest, a subsidiary of gold retailer Rajesh Exports, will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.

Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao along with Chairman of Rajesh Exports Rajesh Mehta announced setting up of Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB, an official release said on Sunday. The Telangana government signed an MoU with Karnataka-based Elest for the proposed fabrication unit which will manufacture next generation displays for smartphones,

tablet computers, and laptops.

The display fab would be set up under the India Semiconductor Mission programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Rama Rao tweeted: "Historic day for Telangana. Rajesh Exports (Elest), a Fortune-500 company, to setup India's first Display FAB to manufacture the most advanced AMOLED displays, with an investment of Rs 24,000 crore, making it one of the largest investments in high-tech manufacturing sector in India." PTI

76. Consider the following statement regarding the housing loan limit in the case of cooperative banks By RBI.

1. RBI has changed the limit for tier-I Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 60 lakh.
2. RBI has changed the limit for Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) with an assessed net worth less than Rs 100 crore from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

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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- **RBI has doubled the housing loan limit in the case of cooperative banks. It has also allowed rural cooperative banks to finance residential real estate projects.**
- **It has permitted urban cooperative banks to provide doorstep banking services to meet the needs of customers, particularly senior citizens and differently-abled persons.**
- **RBI has changed the limit for tier-I Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 60 lakh.**
- **The limit for tier-II UCBs has been raised from Rs 70 lakh to Rs 1.40 crore.**
- **RBI has changed the limit for Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) with an assessed net worth less than Rs 100 crore from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.**
- **For other RCBs, the limit has been raised from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 75 lakh.**

RBI raises limit on housing loans by cooperative banks

Increase in housing prices, need for larger loans spur move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday raised the existing limits on individual housing loans provided by cooperative banks, taking into account the rise in home prices since the limits were last revised and considering borrowers' needs for larger loans.

The limits for tier 1 / tier 2 urban cooperative banks (UCBs) were doubled from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh, respectively, the RBI said. For rural cooperative banks (RCBs) with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore, the limits were raised from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh; and for the rest, it was



revised from ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh. The limits were last revised in 2011 for UCBs and in 2009 for RCBs.

Given the growing need for affordable housing and to realise their potential in providing credit facilities to the housing sector, the RBI decided to allow State cooperative banks (StCBs) and district central cooperative

banks (DCCBs) to extend finance to commercial real estate – residential housing within the existing aggregate housing finance limit of 5% of their total assets.

‘UCBs at your doorstep’
The RBI also permitted UCBs to offer doorstep banking.

“In order to attain harmonisation of regulatory framework across regulated entities and to provide convenience of banking services to customers at their doorstep, it has been decided to permit UCBs to extend doorstep banking services to their customers on par with scheduled commercial banks,” the RBI said in a regulatory statement.

77. Recently in June _____ rating agencies changed India's rating outlook from Stable to Negative after two years in June 2022.

- A. Fitch Ratings
- B. Moody's
- C. ICRA
- D. CRISIL
- E. None of these

- **Fitch Ratings has changed India's rating outlook from Stable to Negative after two years.**
- **It has lowered the economic growth forecast to 7.8% for FY23. It has projected economic growth forecast at 8.5% in March.**
- **The change in outlook from negative to stable means that downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished due to India's rapid economic recovery.**
- **In June 2020, Fitch Ratings changed India's outlook from stable to negative.**
- **Fitch Ratings has kept the rating unchanged at BBB-. India's rating has remained BBB- since August 2006.**

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- It forecast growth of around 7 percent between FY24 and FY27.
- It forecast the debt-to-GDP ratio to decline to 83% in the current fiscal from a peak of 87.6% in 2020-21.

78. Recently in June RBI canceled the license of **Mudhol cooperative bank of Bagalkot** in _____.

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra
- C. West Bengal
- D. Karnataka**
- E. None of these

- RBI has canceled the license of Mudhol cooperative bank, Bagalkot, Karnataka.
- RBI has prohibited it from conducting the business of banking including acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits.
- RBI announced the cancellation of its license and said that the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- Over 99% of depositors of the banks are eligible to receive the full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

79. Recently in June _____ **launched Polyversity (Educational Metaverse) and Bharat Blockchain Network (Academic Blockchain Consortium)** on 6th June 2022.

- A. Microsoft
- B. IDS**
- C. Google
- D. Twitter
- E. None of these

- IDS, a multinational corporation, launched Polyversity (Educational Metaverse) on 6th June 2022.
- IDS also launched a Bharat Blockchain Network (Academic Blockchain Consortium) on 6th June 2022 in presence of Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education.
- IDS is building Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN) - India's nationwide hybrid blockchain Network.
- Polyversity is India's Largest Educational Metaverse, with over 100 Academic Partners.
- These are establishing virtual campuses to make education more accessible, immersive, and meaningful.

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- Both initiatives - Bharat Blockchain Network and Polyversity are supported by AICTE and powered by IDS.
- IDS is a multinational corporation. It is headquartered in Michigan, USA.

80. Recently In June _____ announced a new platform on Twitter called 'Web5'.

- A. Elon Musk
- B. Jack Dorsey**
- C. Jeff Bezos
- D. Gautam Adani
- E. None of these

- Jack Dorsey, the former Twitter CEO, announced a new platform on Twitter called 'Web5'. It is a combination of Web3 and Web2.0 built on the bitcoin blockchain. Web5 promises to fix the issue of securing personal data.
- Web5, the potentially revolutionary technology will be designed to allow the users to take control of their data rather than giving it away to third parties.
- Web5 is developed by The Block Head (TBH) which is one of the Bitcoin Business units at Jack Dorsey's block (formerly square).
- Web5 brings decentralized identity and data storage to applications. As per Twitter, Web 5 lets developers focus on creating delightful user experiences while returning the ownership of data and the identity to individuals.

EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS WEB 5.0, JACK DORSEY'S VISION FOR INTERNET OF THE FUTURE?

FORMER TWITTER CEO Jack Dorsey recently announced his vision for a new, decentralised web platform that is being called Web 5.0.

WEB VERSIONS: Web 1.0 was the first generation of the Internet, made of static web pages that only allowed for passive engagement. Web 2.0, the Internet of today, has created a social web, allowing users to communicate with servers and other users. Web 3.0, the next generation, envisages a digital world built on blockchain technology and driven by artificial intelligence, where people will interact without needing an intermediary.

WEB 5.0: Being developed by Dorsey's Bitcoin business unit, The Block Head (TBH), Web 5.0 is aimed at "building an extra decentralized web that puts you in control of your data and identity". On its website, TBH notes: "On the web today, identity and personal data have become the property of third parties." Both Web 3.0 and Web 5.0 envision an Internet without threat of censorship from governments or big tech. Replying to a question on Twitter if there was any difference, Dorsey argued that Web 3.0 isn't truly decentralised or owned by its users, but is instead controlled by various "venture capitalists and limited partners".

WHAT CHANGES: The TBH website presents two use cases for Web 5.0. About "control of identity", it says: "Alice holds a digital wallet that securely manages her identity, data, and authorizations for external apps and connections. Alice uses her wallet to sign in to a new decentralized social media app. Because Alice has connected to the app with her decentralized identity, she does not need to create a profile, and all the connections, relationships, and posts she creates through the app are stored with her, in her decentralized web node. Now Alice can switch apps whenever she wants, taking her social persona with her."

About control of data, it cites the example of user Bob, a music lover who dislikes having his personal data locked to a single vendor as it forces him to repeatedly create his playlists across different music apps. "Thankfully there's a way out of this maze of vendor-locked silos: Bob can keep this data in his decentralized web node. This way Bob is able to grant any music app access to his settings and preferences, enabling him to take his personalized music experience wherever he chooses," it says.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

81. Recently in June Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of the entire shareholding in Air Asia India by which of the following?

- A. Akasa Air
- B. Air India**
- C. IndiGo

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- D. Jet Airways
- E. None of these

- CCI has approved the acquisition of the entire shareholding in AirAsia (India) Private Limited (Air Asia India) by Air India Ltd (AIL).
- Air India, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of TSPL, will acquire entire the equity share capital of Air Asia India.
- At present, TSPL holds 83.67% of the equity share capital of Air Asia India.
- Air Asia India operates under the brand name "AirAsia". It is a joint venture between TSPL and Air India Investment Limited (AAIL).
- Competition Commission of India (CCI):
- CCI was formed on 14 October 2003 under the Competition Commission Act, 2002. It aims to eliminate practices that affect competition in the Indian market and protect the interests of the consumers. Current Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Gupta

82. _____ has launched its public awareness initiative 'Har Time EMI On Time', a digital campaign to drive awareness around the need and benefits of adopting good financial habits for a healthy financial future.

- A. Bajaj Finance Limited
- B. Sundaram Finance Limited
- C. Magma Fincorp Limited
- D. Balaji Instalments Limited
- E. None of these

- Bajaj Finance Limited, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, a leading conglomerate in financial services, has launched its public awareness initiative 'Har Time EMI on Time' a digital campaign to drive awareness around the need and benefits of adopting good financial habits for a healthy financial future.

Air India's bid to fully acquire AirAsia India gets CCI approval

Tata group raised holding in AirAsia India to 83.67% in 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India on Tuesday approved Air India's proposal to acquire the entire shareholding of the Tata group's low-cost subsidiary AirAsia India. This would help pave the way for the consolidation of various airline entities owned by Tata Sons.

"The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of the entire equity share capital of AirAsia (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Air Asia India) by Air India Ltd., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. (TSPL)," the CCI said in a statement.

TSPL currently "holds 83.67% of the equity share



capital of AirAsia India," it added. AirAsia India was set up in 2014 as a joint venture (JV) between Tata Sons and Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad. The Tata group raised its stake in the JV to 83.67% in December 2020.

The nod comes almost six months after the government transferred the owner-

ship of Air India and Air India Express to Tata Sons.

Air India's integration with Vistara, Tatas' JV with Singapore Airlines, is, however, likely to take time as negotiations are still underway with the JV partner.

The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore had recently expressed concern over the Tatas acquiring Air India as three related entities – Singapore Airlines, Tata Sons and Vistara – have "overlapping passenger routes" between India and the city state, saying it needed to "assess further" whether there was sufficient competition from other unrelated airlines such as IndiGo.

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- *The campaign seeks to educate the public at large about the benefits of paying their monthly loan EMIs on time and the negative side effects of missing their loan payments on their overall financial health in the long run. The campaign also focuses on the importance of adopting a disciplined habit of ensuring to adhere to payment commitments to enjoy the benefits of various financial offerings available in the market.*
- *'Har Time EMI On Time' is an extension of its original educational series, 'ABC of EMI' launched during the observance of the Financial Literacy Week in February 2022, that articulated the simplified meaning of EMI and the various factors associated with it such as interest rate, zero down payment, credit score, etc.*

83. Recently _____ and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** in partnership with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, have launched co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card.

- A. **Axis Bank**
- B. Yes Bank
- C. RBL Bank
- D. DBS Bank
- E. None of these

- *Axis Bank and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have launched a co-branded contactless INDIAN OIL AXIS BANK RuPay Credit Card.*
- *The card offers 100% cashback up to Rs 250 on all fuel spent within the first 30 days of card issuance. It also offers a waiver of a 1% fuel surcharge on fuel spends between Rs 200 to Rs 5000.*
- *Indian Oil Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer, headquartered in New Delhi. It is a public sector undertaking whose operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.*

84. Recently **Easy Home Finance Ltd (EASY)** has partnered _____ for disbursing affordable home loans.

- A. Birla Home Finance Limited
- B. India Home Loans Limited
- C. Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited (MHIL)
- D. **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**
- E. None of these

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- *Easy Home Finance Ltd (EASY), a tech-based mortgage company, has partnered with ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. (ICICI HFC) for disbursing affordable home loans.*
- *This partnership will leverage ICICI HFC's expertise in the affordable housing segment and EASY's tech capabilities to enable quick disbursement of affordable home loans.*
- *Easy Home Finance had earlier announced a MaaS (Mortgage as a Service) partnership with ESAF Bank as it expands as a mortgage tech company. It has a proprietary homeownership technology platform, 'Fox', which will be used throughout all its partnerships.*
- *Anirudh Kamani, Managing Director, and CEO, ICICI Home Finance, Rohit Chokhani, Managing Director, Easy Home Finance Limited.*

85. Recently in June _____ announced the launch of its first-ever credit card in India in partnership with Bajaj Finance Limited, powered by Visa.

- A. **DBS Bank**
- B. RBL Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

- *DBS Bank India announced the launch of its first-ever credit card in India in partnership with Bajaj Finance Limited, co-branded as 'Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard', powered by Visa. Designed to de-clutter customers' wallets, the SuperCard eliminates the need for having multiple credit cards.*
- *Both regular and co-branded credit cards are popular in the market, with customers choosing them for specific benefits. While regular credit cards provide offers and rewards across categories, co-branded cards offer additional benefits on the partners' products or services as well.*
- *The SuperCard, a one-of-its-kind offering, will provide its customers with benefits and rewards across different product categories and exclusive benefits on Bajaj Finserv's range of products and services available across the country.*
- *DBS Bank Limited, often known as DBS, is a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation headquartered at the Marina Bay Financial Centre in the Marina Bay district of Singapore.*

86. Recently _____ has signed MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to boost investment in the state Defense Industrial Corridor.

- A. **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority**

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- B. *Madhya Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority*
- C. *Gujarat Expressways Industrial Development Authority*
- D. *Tamil Nadu Expressways Industrial Development Authority*
- E. *None of these*

- *Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has signed MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to boost investment in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor.*
- *As per the agreement, the bank will provide financial assistance in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor.*
- *These are aimed at assisting the investors desirous of setting up in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor in securing financial assistance as part of Ease of Doing Business. The banks shall be rendering customized financial assistance on a case-to-case basis to these investors to aid them in setting up.*
- *UPEIDA has also signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur Research and Technology Park Foundation (Technopark@iitk) to address the growing R&D requirements and opportunities for collaboration of IIT Kanpur with the domestic Aerospace and Defence ecosystem.*

87. Consider the following statement regarding **Green Open Access Rules 2022**.

1. *The green open access is allowed to any consumer and the limit of open access transactions has been reduced from 1 MW (megawatt) to 100 kW for green energy*
2. *As per the rules, the approvals are to be granted in 15 days or else it will be deemed to have been approved subject to fulfillment of technical requirements.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

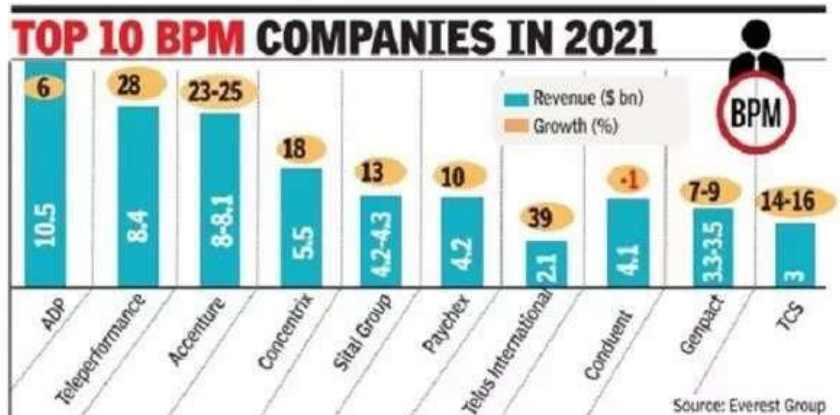
- A. *Only 1*
- B. *Only 2*
- C. ***Both 1 & 2***
- D. *None of the above*

- *The government has notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022 to further accelerate India's renewable energy programs. These rules are notified for promoting the generation, purchase, and consumption of green energy including through waste-to-energy plants. It enables a simplified procedure for open access to green power.*

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- Consumers can now demand green power from discoms (power distribution companies), it said, adding, "Every consumer becomes stakeholder to contribute in achieving India's commitment of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel by 2030."
- As per the rules, green open access is allowed to any consumer and the limit of open access transactions has been reduced from 1 MW (megawatt) to 100 kW for green energy to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access.
- There will be transparency in the approval process of the open access applications. As per the rules, the approvals are to be granted in 15 days or else it will be deemed to have been approved subject to fulfillment of technical requirements. It will be through a national portal.
- Consumers will be given certificates if they consume green power. Cross subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge shall not be applicable if green energy is utilized for the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

88. What is the rank of TCS among the top global BPM (business process management) providers in 2021, as per estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group?



- A. 10th
- B. 9th
- C. 7th
- D. 6th
- E. None of these

- TCS has retained its 10th position among the top global BPM (business process management) providers in 2021, as per estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group.
- The ranking is based on a composite score of revenue, which was over \$3 billion for TCS, and revenue growth, which grew by 14-16% over 2020.
- The top 5 BPM players in terms of revenue were ADP, Teleperformance, Accenture, Concentrix, and Sitel Group. ADP had revenue of \$10.5 billion.
- The top 5 fastest growing companies year-on-year were Tech Mahindra, Telus International, Majorel, Teleperformance, and Comdata. The BPM businesses of Infosys, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra were ranked at 20, 21, and 22 with revenue of \$1.3 billion, \$1.4-\$1.5 billion, and \$675 million respectively.

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89. Recently in June _____ has launched the “Ghar Ke Upar Solar is Super” Pan-India Rooftop Solar Awareness Campaign.

- A. National Solar Energy Federation of India
- B. Coal India Ltd
- C. Indian Oil Corporation
- D. BPCL
- E. None of these

- The National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), one of the leading industry bodies for the sector with a high developer presence, has launched the “Ghar Ke Upar Solar is Super” Pan-India Rooftop Solar Awareness Campaign.
- Starting with Bidar in Karnataka, the campaign was launched by Union Minister of State, MNRE Bhagwant Khuba along with Karnataka Energy Minister V Sunil Kumar.
- Launched on June 4, the event is supported by MNRE and plans to cover 100 cities in 3 years.
- Although led by NSEFI, the pan India solar rooftop campaign is also supported by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), and GESCOM. NSEFI has also found key backers in the German Solar Association (BSW) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Sequa KVP Programme.
- The focus of the campaign will be tier 2 and 3 cities and towns across India. “GHAR KE UPAR SOLAR IS SUPER” will aim at mobilizing local government, citizens, RWAs, Lions/Rotary/Lioness Club, and Municipalities to spread awareness of Solar Rooftop primarily.
- Pranav R Mehta, Chairman, NSEFI

90. Recently _____ and Khan Academy partnered to localize math learning content so that students can learn in their preferred language in Punjab.

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. SBI Foundation
- C. Yes Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- In a recent development, SBI Foundation and Khan Academy partnered to localize math learning content so that students can learn in their preferred language.

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- *The initiation of this partnership took place in Punjab, where SBI Foundation funded the localization project for creating new math lessons.*
- *This is one of the many initiatives by the SBI Foundation toward improving last-mile access to education in India.*

91. Recently *National Statistical Office (NSO) released the fourth annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020 to June 2021* which showed the unemployment rate declined from 4.8% in 2019-20 to _____ now.

- A. 5.1 %
- B. 4.2 %**
- C. 4.9 %
- D. 5.9 %
- E. None of these

- *National Statistical Office (NSO) released its fourth annual report based on PLFS carried out during July 2020-June to 2021.*
- *The annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020 to June 2021 showed the unemployment rate, as per usual status, declined from 4.8% in 2019-20 to 4.2% now.*
- *NSO data released on 14 June 2022 showed labor indicators recorded a sharp, all-around improvement in July 2020-June 2021 compared with the last three years.*
- *As per the current weekly status, the unemployment rate declined from 8.8% to 7.5% in 2020-21.*
- *The unemployment rate was higher for males (3.9%) in rural areas than for females (2.1%).*
- *In urban areas, the unemployment rate for females (8.6%) was higher than for males (6.1%).*
- *About PLFS:*
- *National Statistical Office (NSO) launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.*
- *Three Annual PLFS Reports were released based on data collected in PLFS during July 2017- June 2018, July 2018- June 2019, and July 2019-June 2020.*

92. Recently in June _____ has been *named official banking partner of mRube platform.*

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Federal Bank**
- C. Yes Bank
- D. Punjab National Bank
- E. None of these

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- *Federal Bank has been named the official banking partner of the mRube platform.*
- *'mRube' is the electronic trading platform for the Rubber board. It connects buyers and sellers and enables trade at competitive prices.*
- *The bank will offer an overdraft facility to rubber sellers at no extra charge for the initial six months, to facilitate advance payment.*
- *Federal Bank:*
- *It is an Indian private sector bank with headquarters in Aluva, Kochi.*
- *Federal Bank's CEO is Shyam Srinivasan. Its tagline is your perfect banking partner.*

93. Recently in June _____ has *been recently awarded first Type Certificate (TC) under Drone Rules, 2021.*

- A. *IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd.***
- B. *Paras Defence & Space Technologies*
- C. *New Space India Limited*
- D. *Garuda Aerospace*
- E. *None of these*

- *1st Type Certificate (TC) under Drone Rules, 2021 has been awarded to Gurugram-based company IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd.*
- *First Type Certificate (TC) has been awarded just 34 days after submission of the online application on the DGCA's DigitalSky Platform.*
- *Drone Rules, 2021 gives 60 days to the Quality Council of India (QCI) or the Certification Bodies and 15 days to DGCA for issuing the Type Certificate (a total of 75 days).*
- *QCI has approved three globally-renowned Certification Bodies. They are TQ Cert, UL India, and Bureau Veritas.*
- *Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25 Aug 2021. 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on 26 Jan 2022.*
- *IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd. is one of India's leading manufacturers of Kisan drones.*

94. Recently _____ has become the *largest state in terms of the outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans as per MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22.*

- A. *Kerala*
- B. *Maharashtra*

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- C. Tamil Nadu**
- D. Uttar Pradesh**
- E. None of these**

- **Tamil Nadu has become the largest state in terms of the outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans as per MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22.**
- **Tamil Nadu has replaced West Bengal as the largest state in terms of the outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans.**
- **As per the MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22 report, the gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Tamil Nadu as of March 31, 2022, is ₹36,806 crore.**
- **Tamil Nadu is followed by Bihar (₹35,941 crores) and West Bengal (₹34,016 crores).**
- **At the end of Q3FY22, West Bengal had the highest outstanding portfolio of loans at ₹32,880 crores.**
- **MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22 is a quarterly report. This is the 41st issue of the Micrometer report. It is published by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).**
- **MFIN is an Association of Non-Bank Finance Company Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs).**

95. Recently **PFRDA has allowed NPS subscribers** to change investment choices how many times a year?

- A. 4**
- B. 5**
- C. 8**
- D. 10**
- E. None of these**

- **PFRDA has allowed NPS subscribers to change investment choices four times a year. National Pension System (NPS) subscribers are now allowed to change asset allocation four times in a financial year.**
- **Four changes each will be permitted for both Tier-I and Tier II accounts.**
- **Before this, PFRDA allowed subscribers to change their asset allocation only two times a year.**
- **Under NPS, subscribers can decide their allocation among four asset classes.**
- **These asset classes are equity, government securities, corporate bonds, and alternative assets.**

96. Recently, Union Minister of Steel Ram Chandra Prasad Singh stressed the need for providing the right ecosystem to meet the **target of achieving _____ of steel production capacity by the year 2030**

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- A. 100 million tonnes
- B. 200 million tonnes
- C. 300 million tonnes**
- D. 400 million tonnes
- E. None of these

- **Union Minister of Steel Ram Chandra Prasad Singh participated in an interaction meet held in Surat, Gujarat on 16 June 2022.**
- **This interaction meet was held to understand the challenges faced by the secondary steel sector and steel consumers of Gujarat steel.**
- **During the meeting, the Minister stressed the need for providing the right ecosystem to meet the target of achieving 300 million tonnes of steel production capacity by the year 2030.**
- **The Steel Minister also visited Diamond Bourse. This is World's Largest Business Complex established for all Diamond Business activities under one roof.**

97. The government has set a **target of the country's domestic raw coking coal output to _____ million tonnes (MT) by 2030.**

- A. 120 million tonnes
- B. 140 million tonnes**
- C. 160 million tonnes
- D. 110 million tonnes
- E. None of these

- **The government said the country's domestic raw coking coal output may touch 140 million tonnes (MT) by 2030.**
- **Coking coal is an essential raw material for the production of iron and steel.**
- **The ministry has also identified four coking coal blocks and the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) will also finalize geological reserves (GR) for 4 to 6 new coking coal blocks in the next two months.**
- **To further increase the output of raw coking coal, the Centre has auctioned 10 coking coal blocks to the private sector, with a peak rated capacity (PRC) of 22.5 MT during the last two years. Most of these blocks are expected to start production by 2025.**
- **Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 percent of domestic coal output, has planned to increase raw coking coal**

Govt targets 140 mt coking coal production by FY30

3/12

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 10

The Coal Ministry is targeting to produce 140 million tonnes of coking coal by FY30 to reduce import of the dry fuel. It also aims to increase the supply of washed coking coal for the steel sector to 25.33 mt by FY30.

"Coking Coal Mission has been launched by the ministry for enhancement of coking coal production from 45 mt in FY21 to production of 140 mt of coking coal in FY30 which includes 105 mt from CIL," Coal Ministry said in a statement.

This step will help in reducing the import of coking coal as it can be blended with high grade imported prime coking coal for steel manufacturing.

According to the National Inventory for Coal and Lignite Resources as of April 2021, India's total coking coal resources stood at 35,100.17 mt. The country's domestic reserves are inadequate to meet the demand for coking coal. Domestic raw and washed coking coal production has been around 50 mtpa and around 5 mtpa, respectively.

The ministry also aims to increase the supply of washed

coking coal to the steel sector from 4.42 mt in FY21 to 25.33 mt by FY30. This includes the proposed 8 mt washed coal production from SAIL and Tata Steel.

Under the first phase, out of a total 8 coking coal washeries, two washeries have been constructed and operational, while another three are under construction. Letter of Intent have been issued for two more washeries and the tender for another is to be opened soon.

In the second phase, four more coking coal washeries will be set up, of which one is to be tendered shortly, while three washeries have been conceptualised and the sites are being firming up.

Action plan

These developments form part of the Ministry's action plan for FY23. This is for the second time that an agenda document for the year has been brought out in the form of a compilation and provided to all senior functionaries who have been apportioned the responsibility of steering these focus areas through the year with regular monitoring and appraisals.

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production from existing mines up to 26 MT and identified nine new mines with peak rated capacity of about 20 MT by FY25.

- At present, the domestic raw coking coal washing capacity is about 23 MT per annum.

98. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has agreed to buy a _____ stake in IIFL Home Finance Ltd for Rs 2,200 crore.

- A. 25 %
- B. 20 %**
- C. 15 %
- D. 30 %
- E. None of these

- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority has agreed to pay ₹2,200 crores to acquire a 20% stake in IIFL Home Finance Ltd, one of the largest equity investments in the affordable housing finance segment in India.
- IIFL Home Finance plans to use the primary capital to continue its expansion strategy into new markets to meet the growing demand for housing loans, its parent company, non-bank lender IIFL Finance Ltd.
- ADIA is the second bulge-bracket overseas investor to back an IIFL Group company this year. In March, alternative investment firm Bain Capital agreed to acquire a 24.98% stake in IIFL Wealth Management Ltd from General Atlantic and Fairfax India Holdings Corporation for Rs 3,680 crore (\$485 million).
- IIFL Home Finance was set up in 2006. The affordable housing finance company had assets under management of Rs 23,617 crore as of March 31, 2022. The deal completion is subject to regulatory approvals.

99. The Indian government has decided to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of _____ to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser.

- A. USD 45 million
- B. USD 55 million**
- C. USD 65 million
- D. USD 75 million
- E. None of these

ADIA picks 20% stake in IIFL Home Finance

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 10

IIFL Home Finance Limited has entered into a definitive agreement for raising ₹2,200 crore of primary capital for a 20 per cent stake from a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). The deal completion is subject to regulatory approvals.

This would be one of the largest equity investments in the affordable housing finance segment in India by a financial investor. IIFL Home Finance proposes to use the additional capital to continue its granular expansion strategy into new markets to address the significant and growing demand for housing loans.

'Delighted to partner'

Speaking on the occasion, Nirmal Jain, Founder, IIFL Group, said: "We are delighted to partner with ADIA, which brings to the table long-term commitment and rich experience of supporting grow-

ing businesses. The investment recognises IIFL Home Finance's position as one of India's largest providers of affordable housing loans, and how well it is placed to continue to target the large, resilient housing finance market."

Established in 2006 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of IIFL Finance, IIFL Home Finance has created assets under management of ₹23,617 crore as of March 31, 2022, with an active customer base of 1,68,000 across 16 States and two UTs, with over 200 branches backed by over 3,200 employees.

The company offers small-ticket housing loans, loans against property and construction finance. It also actively supports the construction of green affordable buildings in the country, in collaboration with housing developers and other experts through its proprietary 'Kutumb' platform, in an effort to limit the carbon footprint and provide cost-efficient structures.

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- *The Indian government has decided to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 55 million to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser.*
- *This credit line was extended in response to an urgent request from the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL), amid the ongoing economic crisis.*
- *This credit line will help Sri Lankan government secure urea fertilizer for the ongoing paddy sowing 'Yala' season.*
- *The support from India ranges from economic assistance of close to USD 3.5 billion to helping secure Sri Lanka's food, health, and energy security by supplying essential items like food, medicines, fuel, kerosene, etc.*

101. Consider the following statement regarding REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR).

- 1. India added 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity in 2021 and was the third-largest market globally.**
- 2. China added 136 GW and was topped globally in terms of the total installed capacity of renewable power in 2021.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India's renewable power capacity addition is third-highest globally after China and US as per REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR).*
- *India added 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity in 2021. China added 136 GW. US added 43 GW.*
- *As per the report, India added 843 MW of hydropower capacity. This increased the total capacity to 45.3 GW.*
- *In Asia, India was the second-largest market for new solar photovoltaic capacity. It was the third-largest market globally. India overtook Germany for the first time. India ranked third globally in terms of the total installed capacity of wind power.*

India provides Sri Lanka \$55 m credit line for fertiliser imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 10

India has provided a \$55 million Line of Credit to crisis-hit Sri Lanka to import fertiliser, in a bid to help the island nation tide over its worst economic hardships, the Indian High Commission said on Friday.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had recently warned of a food crisis due to the ongoing economic crisis.

Sri Lanka had requested a credit facility from India for importing 65,000 tonnes of urea to cater to the immediate cultivation requirement, the Indian mission said in a statement "the Government of India has agreed to offer a Dollar Credit Line of \$55 million for procurement of

urea from India," the Indian High Commission said.

Secretary to the Ministry of Finance M Siriwardena signed an agreement with the EXIM Bank of India to obtain the Dollar Credit Line.

United Nations appeal

The United Nations has appealed for \$47.2 million to provide life-saving assistance to Sri Lanka.

The UN team in Sri Lanka and NGOs launched the joint Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan on Thursday, calling for \$47.2 million to provide life-saving assistance to 1.7 million people worst-hit by the economic crisis over a four-month period between June and September.

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- The report provides proof that the overall share of renewables in the world's final energy consumption has stagnated.
- This has increased minimally from 10.6% in 2009 to 11.7% in 2019.
- Additions in renewable power capacity could not meet the overall increase in electricity consumption of 6%.
- In heating and cooling, the share of renewable power in final energy consumption increased.
- For the first time, the GSR 2022 includes a global map of renewable energy shares by country, as well as highlights the progress in leading countries.
- REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR) is the world's only crowd-sourced report on renewable energy. 2022 report is the 17th edition.

India added third highest renewable energy capacity in 2021, says report

Jayashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India added around 15.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity in 2021, the third highest after China (136 GW) and the United States (43 GW), according to a global status report released on Wednesday.

The REN21's renewables 2022 global status report noted that with this growth, India was now the third-largest market in the world for new solar photovoltaics (PV) capacity and ranked fourth in the world for total solar energy installations (60.4 GW) by overtaking Germany at 59.2 GW and following China (305.9 GW), US (121.4 GW) and Japan (78 GW). While this growth has put India in an important position in terms of generation of renewable energy, the report said that last year, aftershock of the Covid-19 pandemic and a rise in commodity prices led to a disruption in renewable energy supply chains and delayed renewable energy projects.



India has allotted ₹18,100 cr for its solar energy schemes. ANI

Though there was a rebound in economic activity, the subsequent 4% increase in global energy demand was mostly met by fossil fuels, the report noted, resulting in record carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

A spike in energy prices in the second half of 2021, followed by the Ukraine crisis early this year, contributed to an unprecedented global energy crisis and commodity shock, the report said, which led the governments to

implement short-term measures to diversify fossil fuel import sources, ramp up domestic production and subsidise energy use. "This situation has exposed the world to ever more pressing climate disasters as well as to geopolitical and economic threats," the report said.

"Although many more governments committed to net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2021, the reality is that, in response to the energy crisis, most countries have gone back to seeking out new sources of fossil fuels and to burning even more coal, oil and natural gas," said Rana Adib, REN21 executive director in a statement on Wednesday.

India has allotted \$24.3 billion (₹18,100 crore) for its solar energy schemes which provide incentives to domestic and international companies to set up battery manufacturing plants. India invested \$11.3 billion in renewables in 2021, equivalent to the GDP of Brunei Darussalam in 2020, the report noted.

- 101. Which of the following has become the first RBI-licensed prepaid payment instrument (PPI) to launch a cash withdrawal facility through a RuPay-powered card from any ATMs across the country?**
- AmazonPay
 - GooglePay
 - Paytm
 - OmniCard**
 - None of these

- OmniCard has launched a facility for cash withdrawal across all ATMs via e-wallet.
- OmniCard has become the first RBI-licensed prepaid payment instrument (PPI) to launch a cash withdrawal facility through a RuPay-powered card from any ATMs across the country.
- RBI has permitted non-bank licensed entities to enable cash withdrawals from the digital wallet.
- Omnicard is a RuPay-powered prepaid card with a mobile app. It is run by Noida-based Enroute Technologies.

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102. In June 2022, RBI has removed restrictions on which of the following?

- A. Visa
- B. Mastercard**
- C. Diners Club International
- D. American Express
- E. None of these

- RBI has removed restrictions on Mastercard on expanding its customer base. RBI has placed restrictions on Mastercard after it failed to comply with RBI's order on storing data locally.
- RBI had restricted Mastercard from onboarding new domestic customers onto its card network from July 22, 2021. RBI had made it mandatory for banks to store all data relating to payment systems in India.
- The data can be stored abroad for the foreign leg of the transaction.
- It is also mandatory for the banks to report compliance to the RBI and submit a Board-approved System Audit Report conducted by a CERT-In empanelled auditor.
- RBI had also imposed restrictions on American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International from onboarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1, 2021.
- Mastercard is an American multinational financial services corporation.

RBI lifts new card ban on Mastercard

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 16

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions imposed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd related to onboarding of new domestic customers.

"In view of the satisfactory compliance demonstrated by Mastercard with the RBI circular dated April 6, 2018 on Storage of Payment System Data, the restrictions imposed, vide order dated July 14, 2021, have been lifted with immediate effect," the RBI said.

The central bank had imposed restrictions on Mastercard from on-boarding new domestic customers (debit, credit or prepaid) onto its card network from July 22,



The RBI, Mumbai File

2021 for non-compliance with the RBI regulations for storage of data in India. The RBI had given almost three years for Mastercard to comply with the regulatory direction; but it was unable to complete the process.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

epaper.indianexpress.com

103. Recently in June RBI released Payments Vision 2025. Which of the following is the core theme of Payments Vision 2025?

- A. 'Accessible and affordable E-payment'
- B. 'E-Payments for Everyone'
- C. 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere'
- D. 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, every time'**
- E. None of these

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- *RBI releases Payments Vision 2025 with the core theme of 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, every time' (4Es).*
- *It aims to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible, and affordable e-payment options.*
- *The activities to be taken up during the period up to 2025 as part of Vision 2025 cover 47 specific initiatives and 10 expected outcomes.*
- *They are captured across five anchor goalposts of Integrity, Inclusion, Innovation, Institutionalisation, and Internationalisation.*
- *RBI said the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system processes more than two-thirds of over 26 crore digital payment transactions processed daily by our payment systems.*
- *Payments Vision 2025 builds on the initiatives of Payments Vision 2019-21.*
- *RBI has been bringing out Payments Vision documents right from the year 2001*

104. Recently in June _____ announced the launch of its Whatsapp-enabled credit line service for customers seeking access to instant credit lines.

- A. CASHe
- B. XPay.Life
- C. OmniCard
- D. Amazon Pay
- E. None of these

- *Mumbai-based personal loan and financial wellness platform CASHe has announced the launch of its Whatsapp-enabled credit line service for customers seeking access to instant credit lines.*
- *The platform will employ the AI-driven Whatsapp Business interface to interact with users seeking instant loans, requiring them to only type in their names, in what it calls an "industry-first" offering.*
- *The company claimed to be the first fintech enterprise to provide instant credit without the need for documentation, app downloads, or the filling of application forms*
- *CASHe is the go-to personal loan app for salaried professionals.*

CASHe launches instant credit line on WhatsApp

CASHE, AN AI-DRIVEN financial wellness platform, has launched credit line service using its AI-powered chat capability on WhatsApp. It will provide customers with a fast, seamless and convenient way to access instant credit lines by typing their name. Any customer can avail of this service by initiating a conversation by just saying a 'Hi' on CASHe's WhatsApp number and the platform will give users access to instant credit in a contactless way to all salaried customers. Underlying this facility is an AI-powered bot that matches the customer's inputs and automatically facilitates a formal application along with a KYC check, and once verified, sets up a credit line.

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105. Consider the following statement regarding the latest report on The 'Hotels 50 2022' annual report from the leading brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance.

1. Hotel Taj ranked the world's strongest hotel
2. In terms of the most valuable hotel brands, Hilton Hotels and Resorts topped the list.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Indian Hotels Company's Taj has been rated the world's strongest hotel brand (brand value up 58 per cent to US\$12.0 billion) has extended its reign as the world's most valuable hotel brand, according to the latest report from the leading brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance.
- The 'Hotels 50 2022' annual report by the world's leading brand valuation consultancy recognizes the most valuable and strongest hotel brands across the globe.
- Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of 88.9 out of 100, with a corresponding AAA rating for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction, and corporate reputation as well as its world-class customer service.
- This is the second year in a row that Taj has been ranked as the world's strongest hotel brand
- In terms of the most valuable hotel brands, Hilton Hotels and Resorts topped the list with a brand value of USD 12 billion followed by Hyatt at USD 5.9 billion and Holiday Inn at USD 4.2 billion.

Taj ranked world's strongest hotel brand by Brand Finance



Indian Hotels Company's Taj has been rated the world's strongest hotel brand while Hilton (brand value up 58 per cent to US\$12.0 billion) has extended its reign as the world's most valuable hotels brand, according to the latest report from the leading brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance. The 'Hotels 50 2022' annual report by the world's leading brand valuation consultancy recognizes the most valuable and strongest hotel brands across the globe. Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of 88.9 out of 100, with a corresponding AAA rating for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction and corporate reputation as well as its world-class customer service. **SHALLY MOHILE**

IFAD partners with Uttarakhand to double rural incomes, build climate resilient state

■ IANS ■ NEW DELHI/ROME

The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of India have signed a US \$ 105 million financing agreement for a project for Uttarakhand that aims to double rural incomes, reaching over half a million families across state, a statement from IFAD said on Monday.

It will be done by supporting smallholder farmers, agricultural labourers, and micro and small agribusinesses to start and expand competitive businesses and focus on food production that is climate-resilient.

The Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project (REAP) project builds on successful Integrated Livelihoods Support Programme (ILSP), which closed in 2021. ILSP helped over 6,50,000 rural people across state to find sustainable livelihood opportunities, by organising producer groups into self-reliant cooperatives known as livelihood collectives.

Because these livelihood collectives work on scale, they are better positioned to ensure a robust value chain, as well as to access information, credit, technology, and markets. "Nearly 60 per cent of households reported that their incomes increased by half or even doubled because of ILSP interventions.

106. Recently The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of India signed a _____ million financing agreement for a project in the northern state of Uttarakhand that aims to double rural incomes, reaching over half a million families across the state.

- A. US\$ 105 million
- B. US\$ 45 million
- C. US\$ 55 million
- D. US\$ 100 million
- E. None of these

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- *The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of India signed a US\$ 105 million financing agreement last week for a project in the northern state of Uttarakhand that aims to double rural incomes, reaching over half a million families across the state.*
- *It will do this by supporting smallholder farmers, agricultural laborers, and micro and small agribusinesses to start and expand competitive businesses and focus on climate-resilient food production.*
- *The Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project (REAP) builds on the successful Integrated Livelihoods Support Programme (ILSP) which closed in 2021.*
- *Based on the ILSP project's success, REAP will leverage livelihood collectives to achieve its objectives and will aim to reduce the risks and impacts of climate change by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, as well as by incorporating measures for efficient use of water.*
- *REAP also aims to address the high rates of migration from Uttarakhand, both seasonal and long-term, because of a lack of job opportunities.*
- *India is a founding member of IFAD, and IFAD has worked in India for more than 40 years.*
- *Since 1978, IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience in specialized United Nations agency based in Rome*

107 .According to the latest study by digital payments firm **PhonePe and Boston Consulting Group (BCG)** India's **digital payment market** is expected to more than triple to **\$10 trillion** by _____ .

- A. 2025
- B. 2026**
- C. 2027
- D. 2030
- E. None of these

- *India's digital payment market is expected to more than triple to \$10 trillion by 2026, according to the latest study by digital payments firm PhonePe and Boston Consulting Group (BCG).*
- *At present, the study said, 40% of all transactions in India are digital, and payments worth \$3 trillion were processed by digital*

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instruments in 2021. This does not include payments made for financial services, corporate business payments, and government payments.

- **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) continues to grow, clocking 5.95 billion transactions worth Rs 10.41 lakh crore last month.**
- **According to the PhonePe-BCG study, UPI has supercharged India's transition to non-cash payments, especially in person-to-person (P2P) fund transfers and low-value merchant (P2M) payments.**

108 .Recently In May 2022, India's merchandise exports were _____

- A. **USD 62.21 Billion.**
- B. USD 38.94 Billion**
- C. **USD 32.30 Billion**
- D. **USD 45.87 Billion.**
- E. **None of these**

- **In May 2022, India's overall exports are estimated to be USD 62.21 Billion.**
- **In May 2022, India's merchandise exports were USD 38.94 Billion Merchandise exports grew by 20%.**
- **In April-May 2022, India's overall exports are estimated to be USD 124.59 Billion.**
- **The overall imports in April-May 2022 are estimated to be USD 151.89 Billion.**

108. Recently in June RBI increased the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from ₹5,000 to _____ per transaction for e-mandates on cards, PPIs, and UPI for recurring transactions.

- A. **Rs 20000**
- B. **Rs 10000**
- C. **Rs 50000**
- D. Rs 15000**
- E. **None of these**

Digital payments in India projected to reach \$10 trillion by 2026: Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

PhonePe in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), today unveiled a report titled, "Digital payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity". The report leverages BCG's industry expertise in payments and the fintech domain, along with PhonePe's deep insights and expertise as the market leader in Indian digital payments and its extensive Pulse database to look at top digital payments trends in India.

India's digital payments landscape has witnessed a phenomenal growth over the past five years. As per the report, India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than threefold from the current US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026. As a result of this unprecedented

growth, digital payments (non-cash) will constitute 2 out of 3 payment transactions by 2026.

The report also talks about how the digital payments ecosystem has been positively disrupted by the entry of multiple new players with diverse offerings driving digital payments adoption at scale. Leading global and Indian fintech players have been key drivers of UPI adoption in India among end users, aided by buildout of a large QR-code based merchant acceptance network, and further supported by user-friendly interfaces, innovative offerings and an open API ecosystem.

The report goes on to list the levers for further growth of digital payments in India which include - simplified customer onboarding, continued push for consumer awareness, expanding merchant acceptance etc.

RBI raises e-mandate limit to ₹15,000

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, prepaid payment instruments and UPI. It implies that AFA would not be needed for payment of a ₹15,000 transaction. Under the e-mandate, an individual can give standing instructions to the bank to debit a specific amount automatically on a recurring basis. PTI

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- *RBI increased the AFA limit for e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), and UPI for recurring transactions.*
- *RBI has increased the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, PPIs, and UPI for recurring transactions.*
- *This means that additional authentication will not be required for payment of ₹15,000 per transaction.*
- *E-mandate allows an individual to give standing instruction to the bank to debit a specific amount automatically repeatedly.*
- *The framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions was issued by RBI in August 2019.*
- *It was initially applicable to cards and wallets. In January 2020, UPI transactions were included in the framework.*

109. The **venue of the GST Council meeting** to be held on 28-29 June 2022 has recently been changed **from Srinagar to Chandigarh**. This meeting will be which of the following meetings of the GST Council?

- A. 46th
- B. 47th**
- C. 48th
- D. 49th
- E. None of these

- *47th meeting of GST Council will be held in Chandigarh on 28-29 June 2022.*
- *The GST Council meeting was earlier to be held in Srinagar on June 28-29.*
- *In June, five year period of guaranteed compensation for revenue losses arising out of the July 2017 rollout of GST is coming to an end.*
- *State governments are seeking an extension of GST compensation.*
- *The Council has previously agreed to extend the compensation cess until 2026.*
- *This was solely to repay the loans taken out during the pandemic and to compensate states.*

TAXING TIMES

GST Council to meet in Srinagar on June 28-29

New Delhi, June 16

The GST Council will be back in Srinagar after five years as next meeting is scheduled to take place there this month-end. "The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28-29 in Srinagar," the office of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted on Thursday. Agenda of the meeting has not been finalised. However, the meeting is expected to be dominated by the issue of compensation to States besides consideration of report by Group of Ministers (GoM) on online gaming, casinos and horse racing, review of some exemptions and rationalisation of inverted duty structure (IDS) on textiles and others. **P3**

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110. Recently in June _____ bank on behalf of the consortium of lenders invited bids for the sale of secured assets of GTL Ltd under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. IDBI Bank**
- C. Axis Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- The IDBI Bank has invited bids on behalf of the consortium of lenders to recover dues aggregating about ₹7,250 crores.
- The bids have been invited for the sale of assets under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act).
- GTL provides various network operations to telecom operators and tower companies.
- IDBI Bank is a subsidiary of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). It was set up in 1964. M. R. Kumar as its Chairman. Rakesh Sharma is its MD & CEO.

111. Recently _____ has become the first accreditation body in the world to have its very own office space in the metaverse.

- A. NPCI
- B. AICTE**
- C. CBSE
- D. NCERT
- E. None of these

- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has become the first accreditation body in the world to have its very own office space in the metaverse.
- Polyversity, an educational metaverse was launched on Monday by Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Government of India.
- The AICTE's metaverse version, which is a simulated digital environment using augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), was launched by IDS.

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112. Recently _____ becomes 1st telco to give 4G mobile services in Ladakh's Pangong Lake.

- A. **Reliance Jio**
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Vodafone Idea
- D. BSNL
- E. None of these

- Reliance Jio launched its 4G voice and data services at Spangmik village near Pangong Lake in Ladakh.
- The telecom operator became the first network to provide 4G mobile connectivity in and around the Pangong area.
- In Ladakh, the Jio network has been connected via 3 fiber routes, Leh-Srinagar, Leh-Manali (Himachal Pradesh), and Leh-Gurez, to build redundancy.
- Jio is the only private network operator to provide services in the Zaskar region and Siachen base camps and has provided fiber media connectivity via Gurez and Manali along with the existing Kashmir-Leh route.

113. Recently in June HSBC India has announced _____ lending support for high- growth tech-led start-ups in India.

- A. \$50-million
- B. \$100-million
- C. **\$250-million**
- D. \$500-million
- E. None of these

- HSBC India has announced \$250-million lending support for high-growth tech-led start-ups in India.
- HSBC India said that lending support will be used to lend to and support the growth aspirations of tech-led startups in India.
- It said that lending will be sector agnostic. It will be used in various industries in the start-up ecosystem.

HSBC to lend \$250 million to tech-led start-ups

Aim is to leverage opportunities across a gamut of industries



OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 13

HSBC India on Monday announced lending support of \$250 million for high growth tech-led start-ups in India.

"This will be used to lend to and support the growth aspirations of tech-led start-ups in India's fast growing start-up ecosystem, pegged as the third-largest in the world," it said in a statement, adding that the lending will be sector agnostic and used to leverage opportunities across a wide gamut of industries in the start-up ecosystem. This lending support will be provided to companies from a growth stage, it further said.

Rajat Verma, Head-Commercial Banking, HSBC India said, "As an ecosystem partner, we recognise the need for start-ups to access finance to support their growth ambitions and scale up their business."

"Given the dynamic nature of the segment and different growth stages of emerging start-ups, HSBC India has carved out a credit model and offerings to suit the specific requirements of a wide spectrum of start-ups and new-age entities, ranging from growth stage to unicorns," the statement said.

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- India's start-up ecosystem is kept at the third-largest level in the world.

Appointment News

114. Recently _____ has joined hands with Class plus, an edtech startup, to promote thousands of educators and content creators by turning them into a brand ambassadors for them.

- A. Sourav Ganguly
- B. MS Dhoni
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. KL Rahul
- E. None of these

- Former Indian cricket team Captain and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly have joined hands with Class plus, an edtech startup, to promote thousands of educators and content creators by turning them into brand ambassadors for them.
- Ganguly took to social media to announce this initiative upon completing 30 years in Indian cricket.
- Class plus helps educators and content creators launch and scale their online coaching business and has partnered with Ganguly to launch this first-of-its-kind initiative for edupreneurs where a prominent celebrity is seen endorsing their local brand.

Sourav Ganguly is brand ambassador of Classplus

Former Indian cricket captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has joined hands with Classplus, the edtech start-up, to promote thousands of educators and content creators by turning into a brand ambassador for them. Ganguly took to the social media to announce this initiative upon completing 30 years in Indian cricket. Classplus helps educators and content creators launch and scale up their online coaching business.

115. Recently Sports Authority of India Director General Sandip Pradhan was granted a tenure extension of more than _____ years in his present capacity by the Government of India.

- A. 2 Years
- B. 1 Year
- C. 3 Years
- D. 4 Years
- E. None of these

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- *Sports Authority of India Director General Sandip Pradhan was on Thursday granted a tenure extension of more than two years in his present capacity by the Government of India.*
- *Pradhan, an Indian Revenue Services officer of the 1990 batch, was to end his current tenure on July 6 but has been granted an extension till September 30, 2024, by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.*
- *It's the second extension granted to Pradhan. In May 2020, his tenure was extended by two years.*
- *The then deputy director general of SAI, Pradhan replaced Neelam Kapoor as DG on August 1, 2019, following the latter's retirement.*

116. Recently In June _____ has been appointed as an ambassador for technology by UN Chief Antonio Guterres.

- A. TS Trimurti
- B. Sachin Tendulkar
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Amandeep Singh Gill**
- E. None of these

Indian diplomat is UN chief's technology envoy

UNITED NATIONS

Senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General as his Envoy on Technology. Mr. Gill, who was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016 to 2018, is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. PTI

- *Amandeep Singh Gill was appointed as an ambassador for technology by UN Chief*
- *Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill succeeded Maria-Francesca Spatolisano.*
- *Gill is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, based at the Graduate Institute of International ar*
- *Amandeep Singh Gill was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to I*
- *in Geneva from 2016 to 2018.*
- *Before this, Gill was Executive Director and Co-Head of the UN Secretary General' Cooperation (2018-2019).*

117. Recently in June _____ has been assigned an additional charge as **Prasar Bharati's CEO.**

- A. Shashi Shekhar
- B. Amandeep Singh Gill
- C. Mayank Agrawal**
- D. Vikas Kumar
- E. None of these

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- **Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Director-General of Doordarshan and Doordarshan News, has been assigned an additional charge as Prasar Bharati's CEO.**
- **Agrawal succeeded Shashi Shekhar Vempati, who completed his five-year tenure as CEO of the Prasar Bharati.**
- **Prasar Bharati was formed in November 1997. It is headquartered in New Delhi.**

118. Recently in June _____ has been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairperson.

- A. Ranjana Prakash Desai**
- B. Navrang Saini**
- C. Ajay Parikar**
- D. Pramod Mittal**
- E. None of these**

SC ex-judge Desai 1st woman judge to head PCI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

The government on Friday notified the appointment of former Supreme Court judge Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai as chairperson of the Press Council of India.

Justice (retd) Desai, 72, is the first woman judge to head the PCI. She succeeds Justice (retd) CK Prasad, who demitted office in November 2021. The PCI

chief's post had since been lying vacant. Justice (retd) Desai was chairperson of the J&K Delimitation Commission and also chairs the five-member committee the Uttarakhand Government constituted to draft the uniform civil code.

She passed Bachelor of Arts from the Elphinstone College in 1970 and Bachelor of Law from Government Law Col-

lege, Bombay, in 1973.

She joined the legal profession on July 30, 1970, and was appointed government pleader in 1979. Later, she rose to become special public prosecutor for preventive detention matters in 1986.

Justice (retd) Desai was elevated to the Bench of the Bombay High Court on April 15, 1996, and as judge of the

SC on September 13, 2011. She retired from the apex court on October 29, 2014.

With her appointment, the mandated three-member search committee for the selection of Prasar Bharati chairman and CEO is now complete. The public broadcaster has not had a regular chairman since previous chairman Surya Prakash exited. —TNS

- **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court, has been selected for the post of the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairperson. She will replace Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad.**
- **Justice Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on J&K which was set up to redraw the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory. The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad (retd.) completed his term in November 2021.**



Mayank Agrawal takes over from Shashi Shekhar Vempati.

Mayank Agrawal is Prasar Bharti CEO

Mayank Kumar Agrawal, director general (DG), Doordarshan and Doordarshan News, Prasar Bharati, has been given additional charge as chief executive officer (CEO), Prasar Bharati. Agrawal takes over from Shashi Shekhar Vempati who completed his five-year tenure as CEO of the public broadcaster.

“These past years have been an enriching experience working with seven ministers at the ministry of information and broadcasting. From late Arun Jaitley, M Venkaiah Naidu, Smriti Irani, Rajyavardhan Rathore, Prakash Javadekar, Anurag Thakur, Dr L Murugan. They have all guided, mentored and supported every step of way,” Vempati tweeted on Thursday calling Doordarshan and All India Radio intrinsic elements of his formative years.

“I feel blessed to have given back to these two vital organisations to the best of my abilities. My sincere wishes to all those who have made them the most trusted media brands in India,” he said.

It was a leap of faith on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shashi Shekhar Vempati added, to entrust responsibility (of the state broadcaster) to a rank outsider from the private sector.

LATA JHA

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- *The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory organization operating under the Press Council Act of 1978. It was formed in 1966. It is the self-regulatory watchdog of the press.*
- *The Council has a chairman – traditionally, a retired Supreme Court judge, and 28 additional members of which 20 are members of the media.*

119. Pramod K Mittal has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) for 2022-23 in place of who among the following?

- A. Anup Bagchi
- B. Ajai Puri**
- C. Uma Shankar
- D. Navrang Saini
- E. None of these

- *Pramod K Mittal has been appointed as the new chairperson of COAI for 2022-23.*
- *He has taken place of Ajai Puri as the COAI Chairperson. P Balaji will be the Vice-Chairperson.*
- *Earlier, Mittal was the Vice-Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India.*
- *P Balaji is the Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer of Vodafone Idea.*
- *Assocham National Digital Communications Council.*
- *Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI):*
- *It was established in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society.*
- *It is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group focused on the interests of the cellular operators.*

120. Who has been appointed as director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) of IMF?

- A. Gita Gopinath
- B. Krishna Srinivasan**
- C. T. S. Tirumurti
- D. Rajiv Kumar
- E. None of these

Pramod K Mittal appointed new COAI chairman



OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 14

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) on Tuesday said it has appointed Pramod K Mittal, President, Reliance Jio Infocomm, as the Chairman and P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer, Vodafone Idea, as the Vice Chairperson of the association.

It said the decision was taken at its annual general body meeting for the Financial Year 2021-22.

Mittal comes with a rich experience of 42 years in telecommunications. Earlier, he served in the Department of Telecommunications, for over 37 years.

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- *Indian national Krishna Srinivasan will take the charge as head of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) of the International Monetary Fund on 22 June.*
- *Krishna Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee, whose retirement was announced on 23 March.*
- *He is currently serving as a Deputy Director in Asia and Pacific Department.*
- *International Monetary Fund: It is an international organization headquartered in Washington and founded in 1945.*
- *Kristalina Georgieva is the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.*
- *It has a total of 17 departments for policy, analytical, and technical work.*



Srinivasan, who is currently a deputy director in APD, will assume charge on 22 June.

New head of IMF's Asia-pacific deptt

Indian economist Krishna Srinivasan has been appointed as the director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) by International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Kristalina Georgieva. According to an IMF announcement, Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee whose retirement from the organization was announced on 23 March.

"Krishna is a highly regarded member of our Fund family and has made many important and innovative contributions to our mission throughout his career at the Fund," Georgieva said on Wednesday.

Srinivasan is currently a deputy director in APD where he oversees the department's surveillance work on a number of large and systemically important countries such as China and Korea, and smaller states in the Pacific such as Fiji and Vanuatu. He will assume charge on 22 June.

PTI

121. Recently _____ has appointed veteran diplomat Choe Son-hui as its first female foreign minister.

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. North Korea
- D. South Korea
- E. None of these

- *North Korea has appointed veteran diplomat Choe Son-hui as its first female foreign minister.*
- *Choe, who formerly served as the North's vice foreign minister, was tapped to lead the foreign ministry at a ruling party meeting overseen by leader Kim Jong Un.*
- *She replaces Ri Son Gwon, a hardline former military official who previously led talks with the South.*

122. Recently _____ has been appointed as ombudsman for a two-year term under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

- A. N J Ojha
- B. Rajesh Gopinathan
- C. Nadan Nilkenni
- D. Rahul Srivastava

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E. None of these

- *N J Ojha has been appointed as ombudsman for a two-year term under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.*
- *Ojha has the power to investigate allegations by MGNREGA staff, consider them, and award awards within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.*
- *An ombudsman has the power to receive complaints from MGNREGA workers, consider such complaints, pass awards within 30 days from the date of receipt of the complaint and issue directions for conducting spot investigation, and also initiate proceedings 'Suo Motu if there is any grievance including on issues related to delayed payment of wages or non-payment of unemployment allowance.*

123. Markets regulator *Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on mutual funds. The 25-member advisory committee will be chaired by _____ .*

- A. *Usha Thorat*
- B. *KV Kamath*
- C. *Nitin Goyal*
- D. *Jeet Tihyalani*
- E. *None of these*

- *Markets regulator Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on mutual funds. The 25-member advisory committee will be chaired by former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Usha Thorat, according to the latest update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).*
- *Earlier, the panel had 24 members.*
- *The regulator has inducted Chairman of NJ India Invest Neeraj Choksi into the advisory committee. Other members include Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund Sunil Gulati and Independent Trustee at DSP Mutual Fund Dharmishta Narendraprasad Raval.*
- *The committee is mandated to advise Sebi on issues related to regulation and development of the mutual fund industry.*

Usha Thorat to head SEBI MF panel

New Delhi, June 6

SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on mutual funds. The 25-member advisory committee will be chaired by former Deputy Governor of the RBI Usha Thorat, according to the latest update with the SEBI. Earlier, the panel had 24 members. The regulator has inducted Chairman of NJ India Invest Neeraj Choksi, Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund Sunil Gulati, Tata Asset Management 6/12 and CEO Prathit D Bhobe, SBI Funds Management MD and CEO Vinay Tonse, Sundaram Asset Management Company MD Sunil Subramaniam, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company MD and CEO Navin Agarwal and AMFI Chairman A Balasubramanian. PTI

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124. Recently In June *International Aluminium Institute (IAI)* announced the appointment of *Satish Pai* as its new *Chairman*. Where is the HQ of the *International Aluminum Institute*?

- A. London
- B. New York
- C. Paris
- D. Rome
- E. None of these

- *International Aluminium Institute (IAI)* announced the appointment of *Satish Pai* as its new *Chairman*. *Pai* is the *Managing Director* at *Hindalco Industries*.
- He succeeds *Ben Kahrs*, *Chief Innovation Officer* of *Alcoa Corporation*.
- The objective of *IAI* is to promote the sustainable development of the aluminum industry and to increase demand for aluminum products by raising awareness of their unique and valuable properties. It represents the global primary aluminum industry.
- The *International Aluminium Institute (IAI)* is the global body for the primary aluminum industry



Satish Pai appointed global aluminium body's chairman

HINDALCO INDUSTRIES MD Satish Pai has been appointed the new chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the body representing the global primary aluminium industry.

125. Who among the following is *not one of the four persons nominated by the central government to the RBI central board*?

- A. Anand Gopal Mahindra
- B. Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel
- C. Venu Srinivasan
- D. Ratan Tata
- E. None of these

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- The *central government has nominated three industrialists and an academician to RBI central board.*
- *The names of the three industrialists are Anand Gopal Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, and Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel.*

Govt clears 4 names for RBI Board

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 14

THE GOVERNMENT has nominated Anand Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra H Dholakia as part-time non-official Directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

As per an official statement, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of appointment for a period of four years from the date of notification of the appointment, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

NON-OFFICIAL DIRs

- Ravindra H Dholakia
- Venu Srinivasan
- Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel
- Anand Mahindra

Dholakia was the Economics Area faculty at IIM Ahmedabad from September 1985 to April

2018 when he superannuated. He was earlier on the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI which decides the policy rates.

Venu Srinivasan is the Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motors. He is also on the board of Tata Sons Ltd.

Patel is the Chairman of Zydus Lifesciences Ltd, as well as the president of FICCI (2016-17).

Mahindra is the chairman of Mahindra group, which has presence across segments such as automobiles to IT, agribusiness and hospitality sectors.



JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer (MM-I)

- *The name of the academician is Ravindra H. Dholakia. They (three industrialists and one academician) have been nominated by the central government as part-time non-official Directors on the Central Board of RBI.*
- *Their nomination is for four years with effect from June 14 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.*
- *After these appointments, RBI's central board now has 15 members.*
- *Anand Gopal Mahindra is part of Mahindra Group.*
- *Venu Srinivasan is Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company.*
- *Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel is Chairman and Managing Director of Zydus Lifesciences.*
- *Ravindra H. Dholakia, a former Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He is also a former member of the Monetary Policy Committee.*

126. Recently in June RBI approved the appointment of *R Subramaniakumar* as MD and CEO of _____.

- A. DBS Bank
- B. RBL Bank**
- C. CSB Bank
- D. Yes Bank
- E. None of these

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- **RBI has approved the appointment of R Subramaniakumar as MD and CEO of RBL Bank.**
- **RBI has approved his appointment for a tenure of three years with effect from the date of his taking charge.**
- **R Subramaniakumar was earlier appointed by RBI as the administrator of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL).**
- **RBL Bank is a Mumbai-based Indian private sector bank. It was earlier known as Ratnakar Bank.**
- **Rajeev Ahuja, Executive Director is serving as Interim MD and CEO of RBL Bank.**

DHFL administrator is RBL Bank chief

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, June 11

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) has cleared the appointment of R Subramaniakumar as managing director and chief executive officer of RBL Bank for a period of three years, the lender said on Saturday. Subramaniakumar has earlier overseen the insolvency process of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) in his capacity as administrator.

“Please note that a meeting of the board of directors of the bank will be convened in due



R Subramaniakumar

course upon the completion of requisite formalities, inter alia to approve the appointment of Mr R Subramaniakumar as an additional director and as the managing director & CEO of the bank

and the approval of the shareholders shall be obtained thereafter as per the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Sebi listing regulations,” RBL Bank said in a communication to the exchanges.

The bank received the communication approving Subramaniakumar’s appointment from the RBI on Friday. Subramaniakumar has 40 years of experience as a banker. He started his career at Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 1980 and went on to head business transformation at the bank for three years. He was later appointed execu-

tive director at Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). He also held the position of MD & CEO of IOB. He is currently independent director on the board of LIC Pension Fund.

At present, RBL Bank is being led by interim MD & CEO Rajeev Ahuja. In December, the bank’s board had constituted a search committee to identify a new CEO. The change in guard was necessitated by the bank’s former CEO Vishwavi Ahuja going on leave on December 25 after the RBI appointed its executive Yogesh Dayal to the bank’s board as an additional director.

127. Recently in June **Saraswat Co-operative Bank** appointed **Abhijit V Prabhu and Arti A Patil** as MDs. It is headquartered in _____.

- A. Lucknow
- B. Chennai
- C. **Mumbai**
- D. Bhopal
- E. None of these

Saraswat Bank names two MDs to manage ‘Business’ and ‘Operations’ verticals

Abhijit V Prabhu and Arti A Patil to ‘bring focussed attention’ to the 2 areas

K RAM KUMAR
Mumbai, June 11

Introducing a new kind of organisational structure in the urban co-operative banking sector, Saraswat Co-operative Bank has created two Managing Director positions following the retirement of Smita Sandhane as MD on March 31, 2022.

India’s biggest urban co-operative bank, which reported about a 7 per cent year-on-year growth in total business (deposits plus advances) at ₹71,573 crore in FY22, now has one MD spearheading Operations (Arti A Patil) and the other in charge of Business (Abhijit V Prabhu).

“...In line with the prevailing Reserve Bank of India norms, the bank approached the RBI four months prior to the expiry of the (five-year) term of office of the incumbent MD for appoint-

Patil and Prabhu were Chief General Managers, heading the bank’s Treasury and Retail Banking verticals, respectively, prior to their elevation as MDs

ment of new Managing Director. “To enable focussed attention to aspects of Business and Operations, a need was felt to appoint two Managing Directors for looking after these verticals,” Saraswat Bank said in its annual report.

Accordingly, a communication was made to the RBI for appointment of two Managing Directors.

The appointment of Patil and Prabhu as MDs is with effect from April 1, 2022. Patil and Prabhu were Chief General Man-

agers, heading the bank’s Treasury and Retail Banking verticals, respectively, prior to their elevation as MDs.

The bank’s senior management tier includes a Joint MD (LR Samant) and a Deputy MD (AM Khot).

Targets 15 lakh SB accounts
Gautam E Thakur, Chairman, observed that the bank has set a target of opening 15 lakh new savings accounts over the next few years – 4 lakh accounts in FY23, 5 lakh accounts in FY24 and 6 lakh accounts in FY25.

Thakur emphasised that the savings accounts thus opened will serve as the foundation for overall business growth.

The proportion of low-cost current account, savings account (CASA) deposits in the overall deposits increased from 30.59 per cent as at March-end

2021 to 31.69 per cent as at March-end 2022, as per the bank’s annual report.

The bank is making sustained efforts to re-engage with customers in cases where accounts have become inoperative, the Chairman said.

Saraswat Bank will focus on retail commercial borrowers (enjoying credit facilities in the ₹10 crore range) by seeking an active dialogue with them, partnering with them (taking care of their credit as well as business needs), giving them guidance to grow their businesses and supporting them with adequate credit at every level of growth.

“In other words we will be handholding these borrowers who are our future SME (small and medium enterprise) clientele, thereby ensuring mutual prosperity in the coming years,” Thakur said.

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*Smita Sandhane as MD on
March 31, 2022.*

- *The bank has appointed Abhijit V Prabhu and Arti A Patil as MDs.*
- *The appointment of Patil and Prabhu as MDs is with effect from April 1, 2022.*
- *Saraswat Co-operative Bank is India's biggest urban cooperative bank. It is headquartered in Mumbai.*

128. Recently in June Ambassador Rabab Fatima has been appointed as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations. She is the Permanent Representative of which of the following countries to the United Nations?

- A. Bangladesh**
- B. Pakistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Myanmar
- E. None of these

- *Ambassador Rabab Fatima has been appointed as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Ambassador Fatima on 09 June 2022.*
- *Ambassador Rabab Fatima is the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations.*
- *She will also be a High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS).*
- *She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica. Courtenay Rattray was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.*
- *She is the first woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post.*
- *She has become the highest-ranking official of Bangladesh under the UN system.*

Days and Obituary News

129. International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on _____ to bring about awareness among the people for the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with Albinism.

- A. 12th June
- B. 13th June**
- C. 14th June

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- D. 15th June
- E. None of these

- *International Albinism Awareness Day is observed every year on June 13 to bring about awareness among the people for the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with Albinism and also about the rights of people with Albinism.*
- *The theme for International Albinism Awareness Day this year is 'United in making our voice heard. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution on the 18th of December in 2014, proclaiming that with effect from 2015, the 13th of June will be observed as International Albinism Awareness Day.*

130. **World Blood Donor Day** is observed every year on _____ to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion.

- A. 14th June
- B. 15th June
- C. 13th June
- D. 16th June
- E. None of these

- *World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on the 14th of June to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and also to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.*
- *The slogan for this year is 'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives.*
- *World Blood Donor Day marks the Birth Anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, who first distinguished human blood into A, B, AB, and O groups.*
- *As per the World Health Organization, blood donation by one percent of the population is generally the bare minimum for meeting a nation's most basic blood needs. According to available data, India fell short of the WHO standard by 1.9 million units or 15 percent.*
- *In 2004, the World Health Organization declared World Blood Donor Day to be observed on June 14.*
- *In 1919, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was established to increase global awareness of the need for healthy persons to donate blood safely.*
- *The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2022 in Mexico.*

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131. Each year, **World Day against Child Labour** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about child labor.

- A. 11th June
- B. 12th June**
- C. 13th June
- D. 14th June
- E. None of these

- Each year, **World Day against Child Labour** is observed on 12 June.
- **International Labour Organization** first started the day in 2002 to raise awareness about child labor.
- Its main objective is to support the worldwide movement against child labor.
- This year, "**Week of Action against Child Labour**" will be observed from 3-12 June.
- This day brings the attention of governments, workers' organizations and civil society to the plight of child laborers.
- **SDG 8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor"**.

132. **Global Wind Day** is observed annually on _____ to attract attention to wind energy- its potential and possibilities in reshaping our energy systems.

- A. 13th June
- B. 14th June
- C. 15th June**
- D. 16th June
- E. None of these

- **Global Wind Day** is observed annually on 15 June. It aims to attract attention to wind energy- its potential and possibilities in reshaping our energy systems.
- It is organized by **WindEurope** and the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)**.
- **Global Wind Day** was first celebrated in 2009.
- **Wind Energy** is non-conventional energy and a clean source that can help in reducing carbon emissions. The wind is used to produce electricity using the kinetic energy created by air in motion.

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133. **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect of older persons.

- A. 15th June
- B. 16th June
- C. 14th June
- D. 13th June
- E. None of these

- The day is observed every year on June 15. It aims to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect of older persons.
- The day was officially recognized by the UNGA in December 2011.
- Elder abuse is a problem that exists in both developing and developed countries.
- According to the UN, the number of persons aged 60 years or above will grow by 38% i.e. from one billion to 1.4 billion between 2019 and 2030, globally outnumbering youth.

134. **World Accreditation Day (WAD)** is celebrated on _____ every year to meet objectives such as increasing trade and addressing environmental, health, and safety concerns.

- A. 9th June
- B. 10th June
- C. 11th June
- D. 12th June
- E. None of these

- World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated on June 9 every year. WAD has been established by the joint efforts of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).
- This year the theme for World Accreditation Day 2022 is “Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment.” The theme aims to draw attention to how accreditation and conformity assessment can find solutions for global issues.
- This year the theme for World Accreditation Day 2022 is “Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment.” The theme aims to draw attention to how accreditation and conformity assessment can find solutions for global issues.

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Sports Award Books News

135. Recently In June Tokyo Olympics gold medalist ace Javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** set a new national record of _____ metres at Paavo Nurmi Games in _____ .

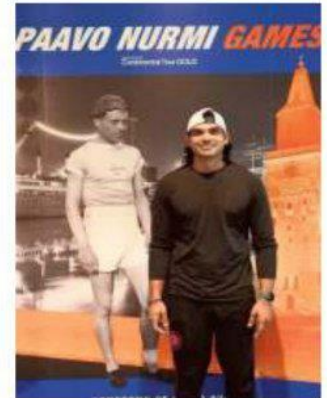
- A. 89.30 m, Finland
- B. 87.58 m, France
- C. 89.30 m, England
- D. 87.58 m, Germany
- E. None of these

- Tokyo Olympics gold medalist ace Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra set a new national record of 89.30 meters at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland.
- Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal with his throw at the event. This was Neeraj's first competitive outing since winning the historic gold medal at the Tokyo Games. Finland's Oliver Helander won the gold medal at the event with a throw of 89.83 meters
- Chopra's earlier national record was 88.07m which he had set in Patiala in March last year. He won the Tokyo Olympics gold with a throw of 87.58m on August 7, 2021.
- Neeraj Chopra is India's first-ever Olympic gold medallist in athletics and only the second individual gold medallist at Olympics.
- In Pavo Nurmi Games 2022, Finland's 25-year-old Oliver Helander won the gold medal with his second throw of 89.83 meters

136. Recently in June The first-ever Squash courts opened by the Sports Authority of India in any center across the country has been inaugurated in _____ .

- A. Pune
- B. Panji
- C. New Delhi
- D. Srinagar
- E. None of these

Neeraj betters National mark, takes silver



Neeraj. ■ INSTAGRAM/
PAAVONURMIGAMESTURKU

PAAVO NURMI GAMES

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra bettered his javelin National record (88.07m) by more than a metre with a massive 89.30m effort at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on Tuesday.

The effort, in Neeraj's second throw in his first competition after winning the Tokyo Olympics gold last year, brought him a silver. Finland's Oliver Helander took the gold with a personal best (89.83m).

Neeraj opened with 86.92, had a big one in the second, and messed up his next three throws. He closed with a throw of 85.85m. Grenada's World champion Anderson Peters, this year's World leader with a 93.07 in Doha last month, was third (86.60).

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- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports inaugurated the Squash Courts at the Major Dhyanchand Stadium in New Delhi.**
- **These are the first-ever Squash courts opened by the Sports Authority of India in any center across the country. The foundation stone of the project was laid in December 2020.**
- **Squash is a racket and ball sport played by two or four players on a four-walled court with a small, hollow rubber ball.**
- **A total of 6 squash courts are made in the stadium, out of which 3 single courts will be convertible to 2 double courts.**
- **The National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) (owned by the Government of India) has completed the project.**
- **Sports Authority of India was set up in 1984 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1980. It is the apex national sports body of India. It aims at promoting sports and achieving sporting excellence at the national and international levels.**

137. _____ won the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** as his world championship rival Charles Leclerc was forced to retire from the lead.

- A. Lewis Hamilton
- B. Max Verstappen**
- C. Carlos Sainz
- D. Sebastian Vettel
- E. None of these

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix as his world championship rival Charles Leclerc was forced to retire from the lead.**
- **This is Verstappen's 25th GP win of his career.**
- **Verstappen had never previously finished on the podium in Baku.**
- **It is Verstappen's 66th podium for Red Bull, breaking Vettel's team record.**

Verstappen pulls ahead with fifth victory


Perez takes second spot; Leclerc done in by engine failure

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAKU

Max Verstappen extended his lead by winning the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday after Charles Leclerc retired from the lead with an engine failure.

Leclerc started from pole but immediately lost the lead to Sergio Perez, Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, in the first corner. The Ferrari driver regained the lead with a smart strategy call to pit under "virtual safety car" speed restrictions while the two Red Bull cars stayed out.

Leclerc seemed poised to challenge for the win, but the Monaco driver's car started spewing smoke on lap 20 of 51 and he had to



Pleased as punch: Verstappen soaks in the triumphant moment. • GETTY IMAGES

pull into the pits. It was his second retirement in three races. "It hurts. We really need to look into that for it to not happen again. I don't really find the right words to describe..." Leclerc said.

Verstappen had passed Perez shortly before Leclerc's failure and the reigning F1 champion cruised to his fifth win of the season.

THE RESULTS

1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:34.05.941; 2. Perez (Red Bull) 20.823; 3. George Russell (Mercedes) 45.995; 4. Hamilton (Mercedes) 1:11.679; 5. Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri) 1:17.299; 6. Vettel (Aston Martin); 1:24.099; 7. Alonso (Alpine) 1:28.596; 8. Ricciardo (McLaren) 1:32.207; 9. Norris (McLaren) 1:32.556; 10. Ocon (Alpine) 1:48.184; +1 lap; Bottas (Alfa Romeo); Albon (Williams); 13. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 14. Schumacher (Haas); 15. Latifi (Williams); 16. Stroll (Aston Martin); **DNF:** Magnussen (Haas); Guanyu (Alfa Romeo); Leclerc (Ferrari); Sainz (Ferrari).

Standings (top-5): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 150; 2. Perez 129; 3. Leclerc 116; 4. Russell 99; 5. Sainz 83.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 279; 2. Ferrari 199; 3. Mercedes 161; 4. McLaren 65; 5. Alpine 47.

138. Recently **Guru Sai Dutt** who announced retirement belongs to which of the following sports?

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- A. Table Tennis
- B. Badminton**
- C. Lawn Tennis
- D. Athlete
- E. None of these

- **Former Commonwealth Games bronze medallist and shuttler R.M.V. Guru Sai Dutt announced retirement from badminton.**
- **The 32-year-old from Hyderabad, who had claimed bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Glasgow, decided after battling multiple injuries in the last few years.**
- **Gurusai Dutt is a 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games gold medallist and also has a world junior bronze medal.**
- **Gurusai Dutt had finished second-best at the 2010 India Open Grand Prix. He represented India at the South Asian Games and won the silver in the singles event besides being part of the gold medal in the team category.**

139. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the official mascot of the 44th Chess Olympiad, named _____.

- A. Neeraj
- B. Thambi**
- C. Kunti
- D. Vajra
- E. None of these

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the official logo and mascot of the event. The leader stated that hosting the competition was an 'absolute honor' for the capital city.**
- **The Olympiad will take place from July 28 to August 10 in Mamallapuram. It is believed that the competition has already received a record 343 teams in the open and women's sections from 187 countries. Such a high global**

Guru Sai Dutt retires

Says he will remain in the sport as a coach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

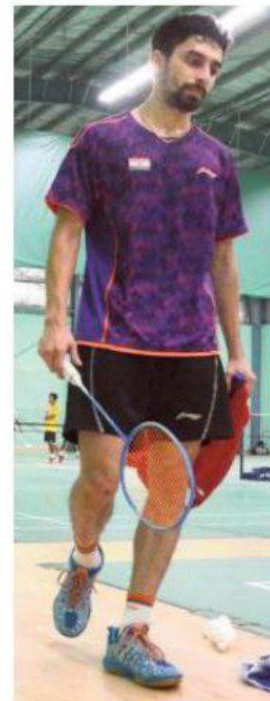
Former Commonwealth Games bronze medallist shuttler R.M.V. Guru Sai Dutt announced his retirement on Monday.

"It is with teary eyes that I type this to share with you all the news that I am retiring from the sport I love the most. I have played for over two decades with utmost discipline and to the best of my abilities each time I got on court," said the 32-year-old who finished third at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

Unconditional support

"It has been an honour to represent the country. I would like to thank my parents, sister Navya Manuri and all the well-wishers for their unconditional love and support over the years," said Guru Sai Dutt, who was also the gold medallist at the 2008 Pune Commonwealth Youth Games.

"However, I am glad that I will still remain with the sport and begin my next phase of the career in



Guru Sai Dutt.

• FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

coaching as a part of the national team. I look forward to this new journey with my life partner Amulya," he said.



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interest in the event is likely to help India reestablish its position in the game all over the world.

- In the run-up to the prestigious 44th Chess Olympiad, Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin released the official logo and mascot 'Thambi' (younger brother in Tamil). The mascot 'Thambi' is a knight dressed in the traditional Tamil attire veshti (Dhoti) with a shirt and is seen with folded hands, apparently extending the Tamil greeting 'Vanakkam'. The words "Chess Believe" are seen on its shirt.
- World Chess body FIDE is planning to have the first Olympic-style Torch Relay in India as they believe there is no place better as this is where the game originated. Five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand confirmed that he would be in attendance.

140. Consider the following statement regarding **Mithali Raj** who announced her retirement from all forms of International Cricket.

1. Mithali Raj made her debut for India in 1999.
2. Mithali Raj is the only female cricketer to surpass the 7,000 run mark in Women's One Day International Matches.
3. She Was awarded Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2021

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

- The legendary Indian cricketer Mithali Raj announced her retirement on June 8, 2022, from all forms of International Cricketer
- The latest decision has brought down the curtain

added to all forms of international cricket via social media announcement

The legendary journey of Mithali Raj



Mithali had the longest ODI career in history (man or woman)

Mithali 22 years 274 days (June 26, 1999 to March 27, 2022)	Tendulkar 22 years 91 days (Dec. 18, 1989 to March 18, 2012)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

1 First woman to play for more than two decades in ODIs

■ Only Indian skipper - male or female - to have taken the side to the summit clash of two 50-over World Cups (2005 and 2017)

■ The only woman to make more



than 6000 runs in ODIs (Edwards, Eng, 5992). The Indian finished with a tally of 7805

2 Mithali (232) and Jhulan (201) are the only woman players to have figured in more than 200 ODIs

17 Her 50-plus scores in women's T20Is is the third-best after Bates (NZ, 22) and Taylor (WI, 21)

50.68 Her ODI average is the second-best among women who have played 100 or more innings (Lanning, Aus: 53.13 avg. in 100 inns)

70 The number of visits to the crease to reach 2000 T20I runs, the second-fastest woman behind West Indies' Taylor (68)

71 She has the most 50-plus scores in women's ODIs (64 50s, 7 100s). Edwards, with 55 (46 50s, 9 100s), is second in the list

89 Her ODI wins as skipper, the most in the women's game

155 The number of times she led the Indian team, the highest in women's ODIs

214 Mithali's knock against England in Taunton in 2002 is the second-best Test innings among women behind Baluch's 242 (Pak vs WI, Karachi, 2004)

10,868 Her run tally across formats is the best in women's international cricket. Mithali and Edwards (10,273) are the only batters to reach the 10,000-run mark

NAMED IN THE ICC WOMEN'S ODI TEAM OF THE DECADE IN 2020

By opponent	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
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on the glittering career of Mithali Raj since she made her debut for India in 1999. Mithali Raj has played 12 Tests, 232 ODIs, and 89 T20Is for India in her 19-year career.

- *Mithali Raj made her One Day International debut in 1999 against Ireland and scored an unbeaten 114 runs*
- *Mithali Raj became the Captain of the Indian women's cricket team in 2005. She is the only player (female) to have captained India in more than one ICC ODI World Cup Final- in 2005 and 2017*
- *Mithali Raj is the only female cricketer to surpass the 7,000 run mark in Women's One Day International Matches.*
- *Mithali Raj is the first player to score 7 consecutive 50s in ODIs. She also holds the record for most half-centuries in WODIs.*
- *In June 2018, Mithali Raj became the first player from India to score 2,000 runs in T20Is, and also became the first woman cricketer to reach 2000 T20Is runs.*

Mithali Raj Awards

Year	Awards
2017	Wisden Leading Woman Cricketer
2003	Arjuna Award
2015	Padma Shri
2021	Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna

141. Recently the *e-auction of media rights for the IPL's 2023-2027 cycle has fetched the BCCI _____ with Disney-Star bagging TV rights for the Indian subcontinent and Viacom18/ Reliance sweeping the digital segment.*
- A. *Rs 48,390 crore*
 - B. *Rs 23,575 crore.*
 - C. *Rs 23,758 crore*
 - D. *Rs 50,038 crore*
 - E. *None of these*

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- **BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Tuesday announced that Star India has won the domestic TV rights for IPL for the 2023-27 cycle with their bid of Rs 23,575 crores, while Viacom18 bagged the digital rights with its winning bid of Rs 23,758 crores. The IPL media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle fetched BCCI a total of 48,390 crores. These media rights are now reserved for 5 years, starting in 2023.**
- **The Package A (of TV) has been sold to Star India at Rs 23,575 crore which is Rs 57.5 crore per match and Package B of Digital Rights as well as Package C for selected 18 games in digital space for India each season has been sold to Viacom-18 at Rs 23,758. Reliance-owned Viacom-18 also won Australia, South Africa, and United Kingdom rights. Times have got MENA (Middle East North Africa) and the United States and the Rest of the World's Rights.**
- **IPL is now the 2nd most valued sporting league in the world in terms of per match value.**
- **The value per IPL match made more than a 100 percent jump from the previous Rs 54.5 crore to above Rs 114 crore (approx). Globally, the per match value (USD 14.61 million) in IPL is second only to NFL where every match is worth USD 17 million.**

● ₹143.34 CRORE PER MATCH IN NEXT 5 YRS

IPL rights fetch BCCI ₹48,390 cr

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
Kolkata, June 14

THE THREE-DAY E-AUCTION of media rights for the IPL's 2023-2027 cycle has fetched the BCCI ₹48,391 crore, with Disney-Star bagging TV rights for the Indian subcontinent and Viacom18/ Reliance sweeping the digital segment.

The bidding was done on a per-game basis, which means the rights holders will collectively pay the cricket board ₹143.34 crore per match for the next five-year cycle. Currently, there are 74 matches in every IPL season, and the number is likely to go up.

Disney-Star, which bagged Package A for ₹23,575 crore, will shell out ₹57.5 crore per game. Viacom18/ Reliance, which picked up Packages B and C, will pay the board ₹23,758 crore or ₹83.24 crore per game. Package B covers digital rights for the Indian subcontinent and C a special bouquet of 18 matches per season with non-

Digital boost

■ BCCI will rake in **₹143.34 crore per match** collectively for the next 5-year cycle from:

■ For 2018-2022, Star India was paying **₹54.5 cr a match**, after getting both TV & digital rights

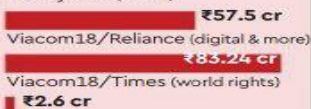
India has seen a digital revolution & the sector has endless potential. The digital landscape has changed the way cricket is watched. It has been a big factor in the growth of the game & the Digital India vision.

— JAY SHAH, BCCI secretary

exclusive digital rights for the same region. Viacom18 and Times shared Package D — world rights for TV and digital — for ₹1,058 crore, or ₹2.6 crore per game.

To put these numbers in per-

Disney-Star (for TV)



■ Splitting the bids helped BCCI net more from the digital segment



spective, Star India had won the IPL rights for the 2018-2022 cycle with a composite bid of ₹16,347.5 crore that included both TV and digital, paying ₹54.5 crore per match.

This time, the IPL media

rights value saw a three-fold increase with digital turning out to be the key component. After setting the combined base price at ₹32,890 crore, the BCCI expected a windfall in excess of ₹45,000 crore — and it wasn't off the mark. Doing away with composite bids, with an eye on higher bids in the digital segment, marked the highlight of its strategy.

"India has seen a digital revolution & the sector has endless potential. The digital landscape has changed the way cricket is watched. It has been a big factor in the growth of the game & the Digital India vision," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted after the auction.

The fourth edition of the Indian OTT Platforms Report 2021 (post-pandemic consumption), published by MICA Ahmedabad this year, showed that digital subscriptions grew by 49%. Consumption was highest among viewers aged 15-34 — an age-group that caters to the IPL's die-hard fan base.

Then again, Disney-Star's digital platform Hotstar was instrumental in bringing about the change, taking the game to consumers' mobile phones. The move was masterminded by Uday Shankar, the erstwhile chairman-cum-CEO of Star India, who had pulled off a Packer-like coup in cricket broadcasting in 2017. Five years down the line, Shankar was on Viacom18/Reliance's side.

"The BCCI will utilise the revenue generated from IPL to strengthen our domestic cricket structure starting from grassroots, to boost infrastructure and spruce up facilities across India and enrich the overall cricket-watching experience," Shah posted.

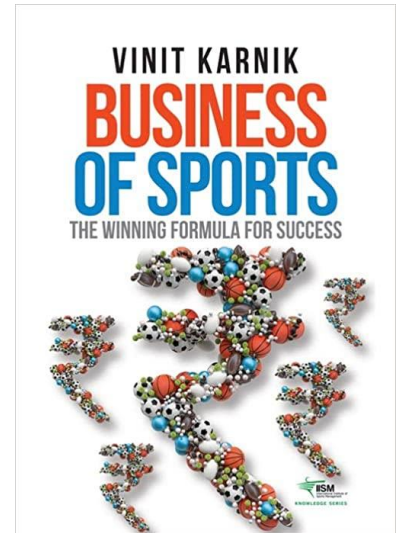
"Now, it's time for state associations, IPL franchises to work together with the IPL to enhance the fan experience and ensure that our biggest stakeholder — 'the cricket fan' is well looked after and enjoys high quality cricket in world-class facilities," he wrote.

142. India's first-ever book on Sports Marketing titled "**Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success**" is authored by _____.

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- A. Vinit Karnik**
- B. Vishal Ahuja
- C. Vikram Messi
- D. Shakshi Ahuja
- E. None of these

- India's leading sports and Management institute, the International Institute of Sports & Management (IISM) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, launched India's first-ever book on Sports Marketing titled "Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success" authored by noted Sports author Vinit Karnik.
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143. Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur o released books 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', having selected speeches of the _____.
- A. Narendra Modi
 - B. Ramnath Kovind**
 - C. Amit Shah
 - D. Mahatma Gandhi
 - E. None of these

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur on Wednesday released the books Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', having selected speeches of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
- This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Ram Nath Kovind. The compilation includes speeches on a wide range of subjects. E-books were also released on the occasion.

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- The Minister highlighted that this book captures the President's thoughts on varied topics such as public service, ethics, education, aspirations of our youth, and contemporary global issues.
- A total of 38 speeches have been selected and categorized into eight sections.

144. Recently During the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in _____, **Rahul Srivatshav P.** of _____ has become India's 74th Grandmaster.

- A. France, Tamil Nadu
- B. Italy, Telangana**
- C. Japan, Andhra Pradesh
- D. Germany, Odisha
- E. None of these

Rahul's dream comes true

CHESS

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

The long wait for P. Rahul Srivatshav has finally ended.

The 19-year-old Rahul got the first three GM norms in 2019 and then had to wait for two years because of the pandemic break to be back in the circuit to finish joint-winner in the 2021 US Masters championship and earn the fourth GM norm.

Now, almost a year later, he earned the stipulated GM title after crossing the magical ELO2500-mark in the on-going Cattolica Chess Festival (he got the fifth GM norm be-



Rahul Srivatshav.

fore in the Festival D Estate event, Italy, recently) on Friday night to be the fourth GM from Telangana and 74th from India.

Once he won the State under-9 title in 2011, his parents P. Srkikanth and mother Vijayalakshmi (homemaker) decided to back him to the hilt.

- **Rahul Srivatshav has become India's 74th Grandmaster. During the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy, Rahul Srivatshav P. of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in life FIDE ratings.**
- **After drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia at the Cattolica event, the 19-year-old player reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark.**
- **Srivastava had already achieved five GM benchmarks and won the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500.**
- **A player has to obtain three GM norms and a live rating of 2,500 Elo points to become a GM.**
- **In January 2022, Bharath Subramaniam became the country's 73rd Grandmaster.**
- **The legendary Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster in 1988.**

145. Consider the following statement regarding the 4th Khelo India Youth Games.

1. **Haryana topped the medal tally with 52 gold, 39 silver, and 46 bronze medals.**
2. **The closing ceremony was held at Indradhanush Stadium, Panchkula.**
3. **Karnataka swimmer Aneesh Gowda won the highest number of medals as he won six gold medals in the swimming competitions.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Haryana topped the medal tally with 52 gold, 39 silver, and 46 bronze medals, Maharashtra could only add four gold medals on the last day to finish with 45 gold, 40 silver, and 40 bronze medals and to be placed second on the table.**
- **Karnataka, which dominated the swimming events with 19 gold medals, finished third in the medals tally with 22 gold, 17 silver, and 28 bronze medals.**
- **In the fourth edition of the games, Karnataka swimmer Aneesh Gowda won the highest number of medals as he won six gold medals in the swimming competitions held at Ambala while Maharashtra swimmer Apeksha Fernandes and gymnast Sanyukta Kale won five gold medals each in the games**
- **The closing ceremony was held at Indradhanush Stadium, Panchkula.**
- **The games were held at five locations - Panchkula, Ambala, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Shahbad.**
- **For the 1st time ever, KIYG roped in sponsors. The State Bank of India (SBI) was the title sponsor of KIYG 2021 while Punjab National Bank (PNB) is the Associate Sponsor.**

146. Recently President **Ram Nath Kovind** launched the book titled '**Sing, Dance and Pray: The inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada**' is authored by whom?

- A. Hindol Sengupta**
- B. Ajay Singh
- C. Shikha Sharma
- D. Shankar Acharya
- E. None of these

{ **KHELO INDIA** } ROAD TO GLORY

Haryana emerge champions

HT Correspondent

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

PANCHKULA: Haryana emerged champions in the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games to dethrone defending champions Maharashtra in Panchkula on Monday.

It was the boxers who packed a punch in their performances on the final day to help Haryana take the final lead, leaving Maharashtra behind in second spot.

The hosts pocketed as many as 10 out of the 20 boxing gold medals on offer to surge past the defending champions.

Haryana ended their campaign with a grand tally of 52

gold, 39 silver and 46 bronze, to reinforce their supremacy in sports.

Maharashtra, who gave a tough fight to the hosts since Day 1, managed 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze.

Karnataka finished third with 22 gold, including a whopping 19 from the swimming pool. Manipur were fourth with 19 gold and Kerala fifth with 18.

medalstally				
STATE	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Haryana	52	39	46	137
Maharashtra	45	40	40	125
Karnataka	22	17	28	67

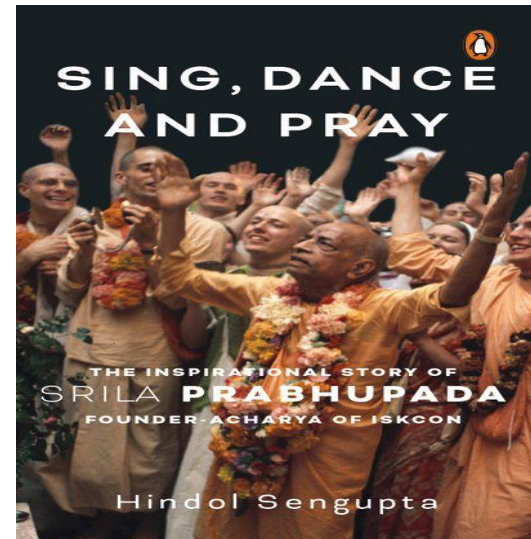
In the end, Haryana's superiority in boxing (10) and wrestling (16) proved to be the difference in the overall equation. Their swimmers and weightlifters contributed a handsome four gold medals each too.

Maharashtra's athletes bagged eight gold medals while their swimmers, gymnasts and yogasana players clinched six each. Their wrestlers and lifters added three each too to the tally.

On the last day of the competition, Mizoram clinched two gold medals with their boys' football team defeating Kerala 5-1 in the final and Jeho Puingheta bagging the table tennis singles crown, beating West Bengal's Ankur Bhattacharjee 4-2.

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- *President Ram Nath Kovind attended the Lokarpana ceremony of Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple at Vaikuntha Hill, Vasanthapura, Bengaluru on 14 June 2022.*
- *Addressing the occasion, the President said that temples have been one of the most important symbols of Hinduism.*
- *President spoke about the contribution of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in spreading the message of the Gita to the world.*
- *A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada is the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).*
- *On this occasion, the President received a copy of the book, titled ‘Sing, Dance and Pray: The inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada’.*
- *The book is written by Senior Vice President of ISKCON Bengaluru, Shri Chanchalpathi Dasa Dr. Hindol Sengupta.*



147. Recently _____ has become *India's first weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico.*

- A. Akanksha Garuda
- B. Gurunaidu Sanapathi**
- C. Rahul Srivastava
- D. Vijay Prajapati
- E. None of these

- *Gurunaidu Sanapathi has become India's first weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico.*
- *The 16-year-old lifted a total of 230kg (104kg in snatch, 126kg in clean and jerk) in the boys' 55kg category*
- *While Sanapathi, the 2020 Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships bronze medallist, stood on top of the podium, Saudi Arabia's Ali Majeed, with 229kg (105kg+124kg), was second and Yerassyl Umrov of Kazakhstan was third with 224kg (100kg+124kg).*

Gurunaidu is Youth World champion

WEIGHTLIFTING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Gurunaidu Sanapathi has become India's first weightlifter to win a gold at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico.

The 16-year-old claimed gold with a total effort of 230kg (104, 126) in the boys' 55kg event late on Sunday night.

Saudi Arabia's Ali Majeed 229kg (105, 124) was second and Yerassyl Umrov of Ka-

zakhstan 224kg (100, 124) third.

Meanwhile, Soumya S. Dalvi, a two-time Khelo India Youth gold medallist, heaved 148kg (65, 83) to claim bronze in the 45kg girls event behind Rose J. Ramos of the Philippines 155kg (70, 85) and Venezuela's Kerlys M. Montilla 153kg (71, 82).

R. Bhavani finished eighth with a best effort of 132kg (57, 75). India's tally at the word event now stands at four medals.

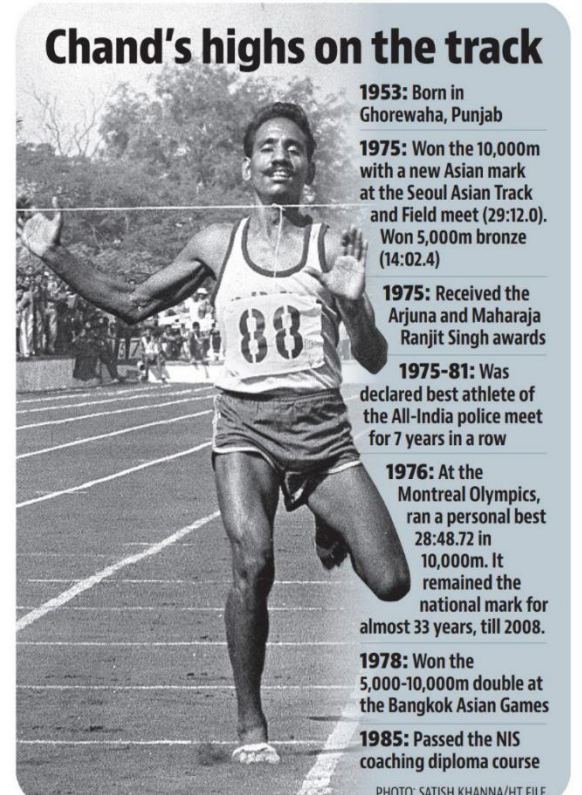
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148. Recently Two-time Olympian and double Asian Games gold medallist, Hari Chand passed away Hari Chand won two gold medals at which Asian Games?

- A. 1982 Birmingham Asian Games
- B. **1978 Bangkok Asian Games**
- C. 1974 Melbourne Asian Games
- D. 1986 Seoul Asian Games
- E. None of these

- Two-time Olympian and double Asian Games gold medallist, Hari Chand passed away.
- One of India's greatest long-distance runners, he belonged to Ghorewah village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district.
- In the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Hari Chand stood eighth in the 10,000 m with a time of 28:48.72, a national record that stood for 32 years, until Surendra Singh broke it.

- He then took part in the 1980 Olympic Men's Marathon where he completed the race with a timing of 2:22:08 at Lenin Stadium in Moscow.
- Hari Chand won two gold medals at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. He was at the top step of the podium in both 5,000 m and 10,000 m events.
- For his contribution to sports, Hari Chand was also conferred with Arjuna Award in 1975.



Science Technology Defence And Environment

149. Consider the following statement regarding **Gaganyaan**.

1. India will achieve the unique distinction of simultaneously launching the first human space mission "Gaganyaan" in the second half of 2024.
2. That will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying "Vyommitra", a spacefaring human-robot developed by ISRO, and finally the first crewed Gaganyaan mission in 2023.

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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

- *Union Space and Earth Sciences minister Jitendra Singh said India will achieve the unique distinction of simultaneously launching the first human space mission “Gaganyaan” as well as the first manned human ocean mission in 2023.*
- *Trials for both the space and ocean manned missions have reached an advanced stage and the unique feat will be achieved, most likely, in the second half of 2023.*
- *Sea trials of the 500-meter rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the early part of 2023, followed by the MATSYA 6000, the deep-water manned submersible that will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.*
- *Similarly, for Gaganyaan, major missions like the test vehicle flight for the validation of crew escape system performance and the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan are scheduled in the second half of 2022.*
- *That will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying “Vyommitra”, a spacefaring human-robot developed by ISRO, and finally the first crewed Gaganyaan mission in 2023.*
- *The Union government will soon unveil the “Blue Economic Policy” and added that an estimated 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.*

150. Recently in June _____ Edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol started in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.

- A. 36th
- B. 37th
- C. 38th**
- D. 39th
- E. None of these

- *38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) involves Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and the Indonesian Navy.*
- *It is being carried out from 13 to 24 June 2022 in the Andaman Sea and the Straits of Malacca.*
- *38th IND-INDO CORPAT is the first post-pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries.*
- *It includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022.*

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- This will be followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and a visit by Indian Navy Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- Indian and Indonesian navies have been conducting CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line since 2002.
- Straits of Malacca is a narrow stretch of water between Peninsular Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

151. Recently, Rosatom State Corporation of Russia provided more efficient fuel for which nuclear power plant in India?

- A. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, Tamil Nadu**
- B. Narora Atomic Power Plant, Uttar Pradesh**
- C. Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant, Gujarat**
- D. Tarapur Atomic Power Station, Maharashtra**
- E. None of these**

- Rosatom State Corporation of Russia provided 1st batch of more efficient nuclear fuel for the Kudankulam Nuclear power plant, Tamil Nadu.
- The TVS-2M nuclear fuel is more efficient and reliable than the existing one.
- Nuclear fuel is a fuel that is used in a nuclear reactor to sustain the chain reaction. Examples- Uranium-235, Plutonium-239
- The TVEL fuel company of Rosatom has fulfilled the agreement with NPCIL on the implementation of a comprehensive engineering project which includes the introduction of TVS-2M fuel and increment of fuel cycle from 12 to 18 months for both VVER-1000 reactors.

- Advantages of TVS-2M nuclear fuel:
Increased uranium capacity, anti-debris filter protecting bundles from debris damage, reliable and cost-efficient.

Russia delivers more efficient nuclear fuel for Kudankulam

After the next refuelling, the reactor will start operations in an 18-month fuel cycle, according to Rosatom State Corporation

DINAKAR PERI
SUDHAKAR P.
NEW DELHI/TRIRUNELVELI

Rosatom State Corporation of Russia has supplied the first batches of more reliable and cost-efficient nuclear fuel over the existing one, the TVS-2M nuclear fuel, to India for the Units 1 and 2 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP), the company said in a statement on Friday.

Once the new TVS-2 M fuel is used in the next refuelling, the reactor will start operations with an 18-month fuel cycle. It means the reactor, which has to be stopped for every 12 months for remov-

ing the spent fuel and inserting the fresh fuel bundles and allied maintenance, will have to be stopped for every 18 months.

"Thus, TVEL has fulfilled the agreement with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) on implementation of a comprehensive engineering project, including introduction of TVS-2M nuclear fuel and elongation of the fuel cycle from 12 to 18 months for both VVER-1000 reactors," it stated.

Compared to the current fuel model, the TVS-2M fuel assemblies have a number of



The economic efficiency of Kudankulam nuclear project is set to increase due to the longer fuel cycles. • A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

advantages making them more reliable and cost-efficient, according to Rosatom. Firstly, it is the rigidity of a bundle. Because of the welded frame, the fuel assemblies

in the reactor core retain their geometry. The spacer grids protect the fuel rod cladding from fretting wear and the additional spacer grid makes the fuel assem-

blies more vibration-resistant.

Secondly, the new fuel has increased uranium capacity – one TVS-2M assembly contains 7.6% more fuel material as compared to the earlier fuel bundles. In addition, the special feature of the Kudankulam fuel in particular is the new generation anti-debris filter protecting bundles from debris damage, which may be caused by small-sized objects in the reactor core, the statement explained.

Operation in longer fuel cycles also enhances the economic efficiency of a plant:

As reactors have to undergo stoppage and refueling less frequently, the power units can produce more electricity. Besides, the plant needs to buy less fuel, and as the result, has to deal with smaller amounts of spent fuel.

Russia is building the KNPP under an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 and follow on agreements in 1998 and 2008. The first stage, consisting of power units No. 1 and No. 2, was commissioned in 2013 and 2017, respectively. Power units No. 3, 4 and No. 5, 6 are currently under construction.

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- *Russia is building the Kudankulam plant under an Inter-governmental agreement of 1988 and following on agreements in 1998 and 2008. The first stage (Unit No. 1 and 2) was commissioned in 2013 and 2017. Unit No. 3 and 4 are the second stages and Unit No. 5 and 6 are the third stages of the nuclear plant. The second and third stages are under construction.*
- *Three- Stage nuclear program of India: It was formulated by Homi Bhabha in the 1950s.*
- *Stage-1: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors are fuelled by natural uranium. The by-product is Plutonium-239. Heavy water is used both as moderator and coolant.*
- *Stage-2: Fast Breeder reactor uses Pu-239 obtained from the first stage. No moderator is used; liquid sodium is used as a coolant. This stage uses fast neutron to produce more nuclear fuel than consumed. Uranium-233 is also formed as a by-product. Currently, India is in the second stage.*
- *Stage-3: Thorium Based reactors or Advanced Nuclear power systems that can be refueled using thorium. KAMINI reactor (in IGCAR) is the only currently operating reactor in the world, which uses 233U as fuel.*

152 .Recently **China announced to launch a solar power plant in space** by the year _____ .

- A. 2027
- B. 2028**
- C. 2029
- D. 2030
- E. None of these

- *China plans to launch a solar power plant in space by the year 2028, which is two years ahead of the original schedule that was initially proposed for the same project. According to a South China Morning Post report, China will reportedly launch a satellite at an altitude of 400 km.*
- *This project will only generate 10 kilowatts, which is only enough to power a few homes. But this proof-of-concept can be scaled up to become a significant power source.*
- *two years after the initial launch in 2028, another more powerful satellite will be sent to a geostationary orbit about 36,000 km from the earth to conduct more experiments. By 2035, a 10-megawatt power plant will start sending energy to some military and civilian users.*
- *China is not the only country proposing such a plan: the United Kingdom plans to have a similar space-based solar power plant orbiting about 36,000 km from the earth by 2035.*
- *Also, the United States Naval Research Laboratory has already tested such a method of solar energy generation by using a Boeing X-37 B space plane, according to a Forbes report. US-based California Institute of Technology (Caltech) is planning to deploy a \$100 million space-based solar power test array by 2023*

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153. Recently in June, The *Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)* has given the *Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)* for procurement of next-generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of _____.

- A. Rs 46,000 crore.
- B. Rs 36,000 crore.**
- C. Rs 76,000 crore.
- D. Rs 66,000 crore.
- E. None of these

- *The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of next-generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs 36,000 crore.*
- *A Corvette is the smallest class of naval ships and it falls below the warship class of a frigate.*
- *These are highly agile ships and are categorized as missile boats, anti-submarine ships, coastal patrol crafts, and fast attack naval vessels.*
- *Modern Corvettes can go up to 2,000 tons in displacement which helps in keeping them agile.*
- *The Indian Navy at present has the Kamorta Class Corvettes, which are also known as Project 28.*
- *These ships have an anti-submarine role and are manufactured at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.*
- *These vessels also have the 'Sanket' electronic warfare systems and 'Kavach' decoy launchers.*
- *The four Kamorta Class Corvettes that the Indian Navy possesses are named INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt, INS Kiltan, and INS Kavaratti. The first of these was commissioned in 2014 and the last one in 2020.*

154. *Mount Annapurna*, recently seen in news, is located in _____ .

- A. Nepal**
- B. Myanmar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Maldives
- E. None of these

- *Skalzung Rigzin, the first Indian Mountaineer to climb Mount Annapurna's peak without supplemental Oxygen, received a warm welcome in Leh.*
- *With 16 days of gap between the climb of Mt Annapurna on April 28 and Mt Lhotse on May 14, Skalzung Rigzin has set a record to summit two peaks without oxygen supplements.*

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- **Annapurna is a mountain situated in the Annapurna mountain range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal. It is the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091 meters above sea level.**
- **Mt Annapurna is one of the most difficult among the 8000 meters height peaks in the world and is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate.**

155. Consider the following statement regarding **Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2022 released by Israeli-based StartupBlink.**

1. **Chennai is widely acknowledged as the 'software as a service capital of India'.**
2. **India ranks number one for start-ups in South Asia. It globally improved its ranking by one place to 19th.**
3. **Bengaluru is ranked at 8th rank, topped among Indian cities**

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

- **Chennai's rank in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2022 increased by 31 places to 102nd rank. Pune is ranked at 90th rank and Hyderabad is ranked at 97th rank. Bengaluru is ranked at 8th rank.**
- **New Delhi and Mumbai are ranked at 13th rank and 17th rank. So, there are 5 cities in the top 100 ranks.**

- **Chennai is widely acknowledged as the 'software as a service capital of India'.**
- **India ranks number one for start-ups in South Asia. It globally improved its ranking by one place to 19th.**
- **India is an ideal place to locate education, transportation, and food tech start-ups.**
- **The highest increase in ranking in India is seen in Goa (an increase of 272 spots to rank at 500th) and Patna (an increase of 218 spots to rank at 522nd).**

Chennai 2 spots from Top 100 'global start-up ecosystems'

TE RAJA SIMHAN
Chennai, June 18

Chennai is very close to breaking into the global Top 100 start-up ecosystem ranking. It has registered a massive jump of 31 places to rank 102nd in the Global Start-up Ecosystem Index 2022.

The vibrant ecosystem created over the last few years has helped the city emerge as a major global destination for start-ups, say industry experts.

Two cities – Pune at 90th and Hyderabad at 97th – have broken into the Top 100 to take the total India count to five. Pune has moved up 14 spots and Hyderabad nine.

Bengaluru at 8 (up two places); New Delhi at 13 (up one) and Mumbai at 17 (down one) are the other three cities in the Top 100 rankings released by Israeli-based StartupBlink, a start-

up ecosystem map and research centre. India's Tier 2 ecosystems have all seen healthy growth, the report said.

A few Asia-Pacific ecosystems such as Brisbane (101st) and Chennai (102nd) are getting close to getting into the Top 100 ecosystem.

Reasons for improvement

The reason for Chennai's improvement is an increase in the quality score that reflects the increase in traction of the ecosystem's entities and high-impact start-ups – unicorns, and exits. This puts Chennai on a trajectory to overtake Pune and Hyderabad if the growth is sustained, the report said.

Arun Natarajan, Founder, Venture Intelligence, a research firm tracking PE-VC and M&A transactions in India, said Chennai is widely acknowledged as the 'SaaS (software as a service) capital of India'. The IIT-Madras In-



cubation Centre is considered among the very best in the country for fostering deep technology start-ups.

Further, deep tech start-ups from IIT-Madras such as speech technology start-up Uniphore; electric vehicle start-up Ather Energy; dairy technology start-up Stelapps; drone start-up Detect, and space tech start-up Agnikul are making waves across the country and even the world, he said. There is healthy co-existence among start-ups and mature companies, thus making the eco-

system more stable, he added.

Agreeing with Natarajan on Chennai's vibrant start-up ecosystem, Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Partner at Catalinca, a tech advisory firm, said Chennai has gained significant momentum. This is because of an ecosystem play at scale – entrepreneurship promotion bodies such as TiE and The Chennai Angels; government support through emerging sector seed fund; enabling policies with funding mechanisms built-in like

the fintech policy; local PE funding from the likes of TVS Capital, and innovation labs and research parks set up by educational institutions.

India – tops the chart

In South Asia, India retained its position as the top country for the start-up ecosystem and globally improved its ranking by one place to 19th. The Indian start-up ecosystem is a regional leader in innovation and shows a positive momentum of three spots since 2020. India also ranks No 1 for start-ups in South Asia.

India is an ideal place to locate education, transportation, and food tech start-ups. As the most popular industries in the country, there is a sample of 1,364 education start-ups in India, 654 transportation start-ups in India, and 507 food tech start-ups in India, on the StartupBlink Map, the report said.

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- In total, 37 Indian cities are ranked in 2022. The report says India is ranked at 7th position globally in the number of ranked ecosystems per capita.
- The rankings are released by Israeli-based StartupBlink, a start-up ecosystem map and research center.

156. Recently China launched _____ spacecraft carrying three astronauts on a six-month mission to complete the construction of its space station currently orbiting the earth.

- A. Shenzhou-14
- B. Ziyuan-14
- C. Guangmu-14
- D. Gaofen-14
- E. None of these

China launches mission to complete space station assembly

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 5 JUNE

China on Sunday launched a new three-person mission to complete assembly work on its permanent orbiting space station.

The Shenzhou 14 crew will spend six months on the Tiangong station, during which they will oversee the addition of two laboratory modules to join the main Tianhe living space that was launched in April 2021.

Their spaceship blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert at 10:44 a.m. (0244 GMT) atop the crewed space flight program's work-



horse Long March 2F rocket. Fifteen minutes later, it reached low Earth orbit and opened its solar panels, drawing applause from ground controllers in Jiuquan and Beijing.

The launch was broadcast live on state television, indicating a rising level of confidence in the capabilities of the space program, which has

been promoted as a sign of China's technological progress and global influence.

Commander Chen Dong and fellow astronauts Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe will assemble the three-module structure joining the existing Tianhe with Wentian and Mengtian, due to arrive in July and October. Another cargo

craft, the Tianzhou-3, remains docked with the station.

The arrival of the new modules will "provide more stability, more powerful functions, more complete equipment," said Chen, 43, who was a member of the Shenzhou 11 mission in 2016, at a press conference Saturday.

Liu, 43, is also a space veteran and was China's first female astronaut to reach space aboard the Shenzhou 9 mission in 2012. Cai, 46, is making his first space trip.

China's space program launched its first astronaut into orbit in 2003, making it only the third country to do so on its own after the former Soviet

Union and the U.S.

It has landed robot rovers on the moon and placed one on Mars last year. China has also returned lunar samples and officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon.

China's space program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, prompting the U.S. to exclude it from the International Space Station. Chen, Liu and Cai will be joined at the end of their mission for three to five days by the crew of the upcoming Shenzhou 15, marking the first time the station will have had six people aboard.

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157. Consider the following statement regarding *The Empress, India's premium cruise*.

1. The first-ever luxury cruise line from the State sailed from Chennai Port.
2. It is Operated by Cordelia Cruises.

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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- *The first-ever luxury cruise line from the State sailed from Chennai Port after the chief minister inaugurated The Empress, India's premium cruise, from Chennai Port.*
- *Operated by Cordelia Cruises, The Empress, began sailing from the Chennai Port. The vessel sailed with 1,800 passengers and 600 crew. It would be an additional tourist attraction for Chennaites.*
- *The Empress has 11 decks with 796 cabins, several food pavilions, a dive-in theatre, a swimming pool, and a marquee theatre.*

158. Consider the following statement regarding Vessel “MV MA LISHA”.

1. It has been constructed by *Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers shipyard, Kolkata.*
2. It has *been built for Guyana.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Guyanese are closer to having a quicker way to travel on the North-Western route of Region One (Barima-Waini) as the country's new cargo and passenger vessel launched.*
- *The "MV MA LISHA" was launched by Joan Edghill, wife of Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill, at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers shipyard in Kolkata, India.*
- *MV MA LISHA can transport 294 passengers, 14 vehicles, two fully-loaded trucks, 10 containers, and 250 tonnes of cargo.*
- *Three wharves are being constructed to accommodate the roll-on roll feature of the MV MA LISHA.*
- *The vessel was constructed for US\$12.7 million, through a loan from the Government of India to Guyana. The 70-meter-long vessel was constructed just over a year after contracts were signed.*

GRSE vessel

New Delhi: Joan Anita Edghill, wife of Guyana's Public Works Minister Juan Edghill, performed launch rituals of 70-m Ocean Going Passenger and Cargo Ferry Vessel 'MV Ma Lisha' being built by GRSE Ltd for Guyana. **ENS**

159 .Recently _____ joined NASA's PACE mission to deliver high-resolution air quality, pollen, and climate data.

- A. Agnikul
- B. **Ambee**
- C. New Space India

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- D. IG Space
- E. None of these

- ***Datair Technology Pvt Ltd (Ambee), a global platform for hyperlocal and geospatial datasets on air quality, weather, pollen, soil, water vapor, fire, and more, has joined NASA's PACE Mission as an early adopter. PACE elongates to the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission developed by NASA to be a low orbit satellite gathering geospatial data.***
- ***The PACE mission, scheduled to launch in 2024, will add to NASA's existing satellite observations of global ocean biology and aerosols, continuing the analysis of global ocean health and atmospheric quality.***
- ***As part of the PACE Early Adopter program, sustainably driven companies like Ambee can integrate valuable PACE data into their offering.***
- ***Ambee's air quality datasets are primed to become more accurate with access to NASA's hyperspectral and polarimetric PACE data.***
- ***Ambee's air quality datasets are primed to become more accurate with access to NASA's hyperspectral and polarimetric PACE data.***