

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Fourth Week of June (24<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

**National /State News**

1. Which of the following state will host the G20 meetings in 2023?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Jammu & Kashmir
- C. New Delhi
- D. Odisha
- E. None of these

- Jammu and Kashmir will host G20 meetings in 2023.
- The J&K government has formed a five-member high-level committee for the overall coordination of G20 meetings.
- In September 2021, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20.
- India will hold the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022. India will convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- G20: It was founded in 1999 as a forum for Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks.
- It was formed after the Asian financial crisis. The G20 summit is held annually since 2011.

2. Recently Mo Bus, the bus service of \_\_\_\_\_ Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognized by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual Public Service Awards for 2022.

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

## J&K forms panel for G20 meetings in 2023

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has constituted an overall coordination committee for meetings to be held in 2023, as India assumes the presidency of the G20.

The committee will be chaired by the UT's Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department with Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, and Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, as its members.

The Principal Secretary to the government, Housing & UD, will also be the UT-level nodal officer to coordinate the arrangements for G20 meetings next year.

With the cancellation of the GST council meetings that were scheduled to be held in Kashmir, this month being moved to Chandigarh, last minute, the G20 meetings are likely to be J&K's first major event since the revocation of the former state's special status in 2019.

As a Troika-member, India is working closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and further strengthening the G20 agenda. India will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023, as per the Ministry of External Affairs.

In September 2021, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20.

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- **Mo Bus, the bus service of Odisha’s Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognized by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual Public Service Awards for 2022**
- **The public transport service has been recognized for its role in “promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)”.**
- **The UN recognition said the “problem” was that “bus services in the city of Bhubaneswar needed improvement”, as a result of which “the majority of people used private vehicles, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaw to commute instead of taking public transportation”.**
- **The Odisha government 2018 “reorganized the public transit services in the city to provide an integrated, reliable and inclusive public bus service system”**
- **The UN describes its Public Service Awards as the “most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service” The first Awards ceremony was held in 2003, and the UN has since received “an increasing number of submissions from all around the world”.**

**THIS WORD MEANS**

**MO BUS**

Bhubaneswar service, recipient of UN Public Service Award

MO BUS, the bus service of Odisha’s Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognised by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual Public Service Awards for 2022, it was reported on Wednesday. It has been recognised for its role in “promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)”.

The UN recognition noted that the Odisha government in 2018 “reorganised the public transit services in the city to provide an integrated, reliable and inclusive public bus service system”. Mo Bus has incorporated “real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing”, and an e-rickshaw system (MoE-Ride) has been introduced as a feeder service.

The “impact” is that 57% of the city’s commuters now use the Mo Bus, the UN said. Mo E-Ride is estimated to reduce pollution by 30-50%. Also, “40 per cent of Mo



The UN recognition is for promoting ‘gender-responsive public services’.

Bus conductors are women and 100 per cent of Mo E-Ride drivers are women, transgender people, and people from disadvantaged communities,” the UN noted.

According to the CRUT website, it plans to introduce 289 buses in three phases , and to extend the service to Cuttack soon.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

3. **Recently on 23 June 2022, the government gave the *first-ever National Logistics Excellence Awards in how many categories?***
- A. 10
  - B. 11
  - C. 12**
  - D. 13
  - E. None of these

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- *The government gave the first-ever National Logistics Excellence Awards in New Delhi on 23 June 2022.*
- *Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, PiyushGoyal gave away the awards in 12 categories.*
- *National Logistics Excellence Awards will be given annually to recognize excellence in logistics within the private sector in India.*
- *The National Logistics Excellence Awards aim to acknowledge the logistics service providers in India.*
- *Important winners of the National Logistics Excellence Awards 2021 are given below.*
- *Best Road Freight Service Provider – DHL Supply Chain India Pvt. Ltd.*
- *Best Rail Freight Service Provider – Adani Logistics Ltd.*
- *Best Port Service Provider – DP World*
- *Best Warehouse service provider – Transport Corporation of India Ltd.*
- *Best Logistics infrastructure and service provider – Adani Logistics Ltd.*
- *Industry Excellence Award – Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.*

4. Consider the following statement regarding **NCAP (New Car Assessment Program)**.

1. In Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), **automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings.**
2. Bharat-NCAP will **serve as a consumer-centric platform.**
3. The new car safety assessment program, **Bharat NCAP, will be rolled out from April 1, 2023.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The new car safety assessment program, Bharat NCAP, which proposes a mechanism of awarding 'Star Ratings' to automobiles based upon their performance in crash tests, will be rolled out from April 1, 2023.*
- *Draft GSR notification to introduce Bharat NCAP for ensuring passengers' safety has been approved by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.*
- *In Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings.*

## Gadkari approves draft car-safety scheme

Country to have its own star ratings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday approved a draft notification that paves the way for the country to have its own crash-linked safety performance star rating system for cars.

The five star-rating system under the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat - NCAP) would assign cars between one to five stars based on how well they perform in crash tests with zero star indicating lowest safety standards.

The overall assessment is based on the vehicle's performance under three categories – adult, child-occupant protection and safety-assist technologies.



Nitin Gadkari

The assessment would be conducted at a higher crash-test speed of 64 kmph compared with 56 kmph required for type rating. The scheme is not mandatory for manufacturers and models would be selected on the basis of their popularity.

When a vehicle is selected based on its popularity the base model would be selected and tested for rating.



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- *The Star Ratings will be based upon their performance in Crash Tests.*
- *Bharat-NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform.*
- *It will allow customers to opt for safer cars based on their star ratings.*
- *It will promote healthy competition among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.*

- *Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols.*

## Bharat NCAP to be rolled out from April 1 next year

**T**HE NEW CAR safety assessment programme, Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP), which proposes a mechanism of awarding 'star ratings' to automobiles based upon their performance in crash tests, will be rolled out from

April 1, 2023, an official statement said on Saturday.

According to the statement, Bharat NCAP is applicable on type approved motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising eight

seats, in addition to driver's seat) with gross vehicle weight less than 3.5 tonne, manufactured or imported in the country.

The standard is aligned with global benchmarks and it is beyond minimum regulatory requirements.

The rating will provide consumers an indication of the level of protection offered to occupants by evaluating the vehicle in the areas of—adult occupant protection, child occupant protection and safety assist technologies, the statement said. — PTI

5. *Which state's MSME department has won first prize in the "National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of MSME Sector" category?*

- A. *Haryana*
- B. *Odisha*
- C. *Madhya Pradesh*
- D. *Rajasthan*
- E. *None of these*

- *Odisha won first prize in National MSME Award 2022.*
- *Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department of Odisha bagged the first prize in the "National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of MSME Sector" category.*
- *Sumeet Mohanty Saferisk Insurance Brokers Private Limited, Bhubaneswar got the first prize in the "Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Small Enterprise (Overall)" category.*
- *Kalahandi received the third prize in the "National MSME Award 2022 to Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of MSME Sector" category.*
- *National MSME Award 2022 has been given in the altogether 44 categories.*
- *National MSME Award has been given to States, UTs, and Aspirational Districts for their sector-specific policies & their performance, Grievance redressal, implementation of the cluster approach, etc.*



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6. Recently The government is planning to move the **administration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to which Ministry?**
- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
  - B. Finance Ministry
  - C. Ministry of Defence
  - D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- The government is planning to transfer NDPS from Finance Ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - The government is planning to move the administration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 from the Finance Ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - At present, the Home Ministry governs the Narcotics Control Bureau so the government is planning to bring all issues related to narcotics under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 prohibit a person from the production/manufacturing/cultivation, and consumption of any narcotic drug.
  - Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, 1988 has provisions for preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
  - Satya Narayan Pradhan is the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

## Govt to move **NDPS** admn to MHA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The government is considering a move to transfer the administration of the two laws — Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985 and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 — from the Finance Ministry to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), sources said.

The sources said the move was intended to bring all issues related to narcotics

under one department, as currently while the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is under the administrative control of the MHA, the Department of Revenue (DoR) in the Finance Ministry administers the two anti-drug laws. — TNS

7. Recently The **electronics and IT ministry have approved a total of 314 applications with proposed investments of \_\_\_\_\_ under a modified special incentive package scheme till May 31, 2022.**
- A. Rs 86,824 crore
  - B. Rs 91,254 crore
  - C. Rs 81,587 crore
  - D. Rs 78,896 crore
  - E. None of these

## Proposals worth ₹86,824 cr cleared for electronics sector

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

The electronics and IT ministry has approved a total of 314 applications with proposed investments of Rs 86,824 crore under a modified special incentive package scheme till May 31, 2022, an official note said.

The proposals that were approved in May included an investment of Rs 596 crore from Bosch Automotive Electronics Private Limited, the official note dated June 24 said.

"As on May 31, 2022, 320 applications with proposed investment of Rs 89,232 crore are under consideration. Out of these 320 applications, 314 applications with proposed investment of approximately Rs 86,824 crore have been approved," the official document said.

M-SIPS (Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme)

### MODIFIED SPECIAL INCENTIVE PACKAGE

■ The proposals include an investment of ₹596 crore from Bosch Automotive

■ The scheme was launched in July 2012. It mainly provides a capex subsidy of 20-25%

■ As on May 31, incentives of ₹1,774.47 crore have been disbursed to 114 applicants



was announced by the government in July 2012. It has been amended twice — in August, 2015 and in January, 2017, and mainly provides a capex subsidy of 20-25%. The application window for M-SIPS was closed on December 31, 2018. "As on May 31, 2022, incentives of Rs 1,774.47 crore have been disbursed to 114 applicants," the document said.

M-SIPS was the first scheme under which the government wooed electronics

manufacturing companies.

Samsung, LG, Bosch, Tejas Networks, Mother-son Sumi Systems, Tata Power SED, Nidec India, Nippon Autotronics, Continental Autotronics, GE BE and Wipro GE healthcare were the initial applicants for the scheme.

The government has now come up with the production-linked incentive schemes in an attempt to woo global mobile device makers. — PTI

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- *The electronics and IT ministry has approved a total of 314 applications with proposed investments of Rs 86,824 crore under a modified special incentive package scheme till May 31, 2022*
  - *The proposals that were approved in May included an investment of Rs 596 crore from Bosch Automotive Electronics Private Limited.*
  - ***M-SIPS (Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme) was announced by the government in July 2012. It has been amended twice – in August 2015 and in January 2017, and mainly provides a CAPEX subsidy of 20-25%. The application window for M-SIPS was closed on December 31, 2018. “As of May 31, 2022, incentives of Rs 1,774.47 crore have been disbursed to 114 applicants.***
8. *Recently **MoS for M/o Food Processing Industries inaugurated the National Conference on Millets** with which theme?*
- A. *'India food for Future needs'*
  - B. *'The Future Super Food for India'***
  - C. *'The food makes India better'*
  - D. *'The life depends on better food'*
  - E. *None of these*
- 
- *The National Conference on Millets has been launched in New Delhi by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.*
  - ***The theme of the conference is 'The Future Super Food for India'.***
  - *It has been organized by the industry body ASSOCHAM in association with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.*
  - *The purpose of the conference is to discuss opportunities to ensure food and nutritional security, as well as challenges in the way.*
  - *The country's coarse cereal production has jumped to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21, up from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16.*
  - *Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has also inaugurated the National Conference on the Development of the Space Start-up Ecosystem in India.*
  - *The Astronautical Society of India, in collaboration with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, New Space India Limited, ISRO, and DRDO, hosted the conference in Bengaluru.*

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9. Recently In June The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the **Honey Testing Laboratory** at \_\_\_\_\_ which will help beekeepers and processors for testing the honey produced.
- Nagaland**
  - Mizoram
  - Manipur
  - Assam
  - None of these

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the Honey Testing Laboratory at Dimapur, Nagaland, which will help beekeepers and processors for testing the honey produced.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, the central government has given more than Rs 2 lakh crore to 11-and-a-half crore farmers so far, each farmer getting Rs. 6,000 rupees every year, this is not a simple matter.

10. Consider the following statement regarding the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- The PGI-D report Graded 725 districts in 2018-19 and 733 districts in 2019-20 across the States / UTs.
- The PGI-D structure comprises of total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

**PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX FOR DISTRICTS**

## Schools poor in digital learning, 180 districts score less than 10%

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

AS INDIA entered the pandemic year, students in around 61 per cent districts of the country had very little exposure to digital learning due to limited availability of computers, internet facilities and teachers trained to handle technological tools in schools, according to a Ministry of Education report released on Monday.

The Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2019-20 shows that schools across India performed poorly under the category of digital learning, which threw up the lowest scores compared to the other parameters which were considered while creating the index.

In the index, as many as 180 districts scored less than 10 per cent on digital learning, 146 districts scored 11 to 20 per cent, while 125 districts had scores between 21 and 30 per cent.

The report also underlines the clear rural-urban divide in the area of digital learning. For instance, while districts in cities like Chandigarh and Delhi scored between 25 and 35 out of 50, places like Bihar's Araria and Kishanganj scored as low as 2.

Backward districts like Assam's South Salmara-Mankachar and Tripura's Dhalai scored 1. The district-wise performance on digital learning was drawn up based on the number of schools with computers/laptops, internet facility, student-to-computer ratio and percentage of teachers trained to use and teach through computers.

In contrast, in terms of learning outcomes, no district scored below 10 per cent, 12 scored between 11 and 20 per cent, while as many as 309 scored between 51 and 60 per cent.

**THE GRADING INDEX**


**PARAMETERS CONSIDERED**  
Learning outcomes, Effective classroom transaction, infrastructure facilities and student's entitlements, school safety and child protection, digital learning and governance process

**OVERALL SCORE**

Percentage	Districts
Over 90%	0
*81-90%	3
71-80%	86
61-70%	276
51-60%	238
41-50%	87
31-40%	39
*21-30%	3
*11-20%	2

**DISTRICT SCORES**

<b>11-20%</b> Shi Yomi (Arunachal Pradesh), Lawngtlai (Mizoram)	<b>21-30%</b> Kra Daadi and Longding (Arunachal Pradesh), Mamit (Mizoram)	<b>81-90%</b> Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Jaipur (all in Rajasthan)
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**DIGITAL LEARNING SCORE**

Percentage	Districts
71-80%	8
61-70%	41
51-60%	71
41-50%	79
31-40%	83
21-30%	125
11-20%	146
Below 10%	180

The Centre had released the state-wise PGI index for the year 2019-20 in June 2021. Chandigarh and the states of Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Kerala were the best performers in the index.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the changes required in our existing system in terms of the adoption of digital learning as part of mainstream learning to continue education

at home... This necessitated a need for a domain on digital learning in PGI-D, which is not there in state PGI.

"Under the digital learning category, 20 districts have shown over 20 per cent improvement in score and 43 districts showed improvement of over 10 per cent in score during 2019-20 as compared to 2018-19, resulting in grade-level progress," states the PGI-D report.



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- *The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education today released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2018-19 and 2019-20 which assesses the performance of the school education system at the District level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.*
- *The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 15 lakh schools, 97 lakh teachers, and nearly 26 crore students from varied socioeconomic backgrounds.*
- *The PGI-D structure comprises of total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under 6 categories viz., Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements, School Safety & Child Protection, Digital Learning and Governance Process.*
- *These categories are further divided into 12 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes and Quality (LO), Access Outcomes (AO), Teacher Availability and Professional Development Outcomes (TAPDO), Learning Management (LM), Learning Enrichment Activities (LEA), Infrastructure, Facilities, Student Entitlements (IF&SE), School Safety and Child Protection (SS&CP), Digital Learning (DL), Funds convergence and utilization (FCV), Enhancing CRCs Performance (CRCP), Attendance Monitoring Systems (AMS) and School Leadership Development (SLD).*
- *PGI-D grades the districts into ten grades viz., Highest achievable Grade is Daksh, which is for Districts scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall.*
- *The lowest grade in PGI-D is called Akanshi-3 which is for scores upto 10% of the total points.*
- *The ultimate objective of PGI-D is to help the districts prioritize areas for intervention in school education and thus improve to reach the highest grade.*

11. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has released a *revised cleanliness certification protocol to maintain Open Defecation Free Status across Urban India.*

- A. *Ministry of home affairs*
- B. *Ministry of housing and urban affairs***
- C. *Ministry of statistics*
- D. *Ministry of Finance*
- E. *None of these*

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- **The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released a revised cleanliness certification protocol intending to sustain open defecation-free status across urban India and move towards achieving new sanitation goals**
- **According to the ministry, seven years since the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), lakhs of citizens, especially women, children, and diving, have been provided dignity and safety.**
- **The Key interventions against each certification are as follows:**
- **ODF - Robust monitoring mechanism by increasing the survey sample size and location types.**
- **ODF+ - Focus is on the functionality of CT/PT and innovative O&M business model for their sustainability in long run.**
- **ODF++ - Emphasis on mechanized cleaning of septic tanks and sewers.**
- **Water+ - The focus is on the collection, transportation, treatment, and reuse of both used water and fecal sludge to prevent environmental pollution.**
- **The revised protocol has been designed to ensure the following parameters:**
- **No untreated used water or fecal sludge will be discharged into the environment.**
- **Maximum reuse of treated used water in cities with less than 1 lakh population.**
- **To sustain open defecation-free status in all statutory towns.**
- **To encourage cities to have a robust infrastructure with reliable Operation & Maintenance (O&M) mechanisms.**

### Revised 'swachh' certification protocol released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 25

THE UNION HOUSING and urban affairs ministry has released a revised cleanliness certification protocol with the aim to sustain open defecation free status across urban India and move towards achieving new sanitation goals, according to a statement on Saturday.

According to the ministry, seven years since the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), lakhs of citizens, especially women, children and divyngs, have been provided dignity and safety.

The need of the hour is to sustain these achievements while steadfastly moving towards new sanitation goals. The revised protocol, launched at an event on Friday, is aligned with the objectives of SBM-2.0. It is designed to ensure that no untreated used water or faecal sludge is discharged into the environment and all used water, including sewerage and septage, greywater and blackwater, is safely contained, transported and treated, along with maximum reuse of treated used water in all cities with less than one lakh population, the statement said. It is also aimed at sustaining open defecation free status in all statutory towns.

The revamped protocol contains provisions to encourage cities to have robust infrastructure with reliable operation and maintenance (O&M) mechanism to achieve the goal of a clean urban India, the ministry said in the statement.

Key interventions against each certification include ODF category—robust monitoring mechanism ensured by increasing the number of survey sample size and location types.

It also includes ODF+—focus on functionality of community and public toilets and innovative O&M business model for their sustainability in the long run.

12. Recently Government has extended levying of GST compensation cess till \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. March 2024
- B. March 2025
- C. March 2026
- D. March 2023
- E. None of these

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**₹8.22 TRN RELEASED TO STATES SO FAR**

**Centre extends GST cess till March 2026**

● Proceeds to be used solely to repay loans taken to bridge shortfall in states' kitty of compensation

**TAXING ISSUES**



Centre argued against extension of compensation to states beyond June 30, 2022, saying the cess proceeds between July 2022 and March 2026 will suffice to service loans

■ Many states are demanding extension of compensation period by 2-3 years due to pandemic weakening their fiscal position

■ Matter likely to be discussed in GST Council meeting on June 28-29 at Chandigarh

**FE BUREAU**  
New Delhi, June 25

**AHEAD OF THE** end of the five-year goods and services tax (GST) shortfall compensation to states on June 30, the Centre has extended the 'compensation cess' till March 31, 2026. The extension, which was earlier approved by the GST Council, is necessary to repay the principal and service the interest cost of the loans taken in FY21 and FY22 to compensate states for the shortfall in guaranteed GST revenues.

The GST Compensation to States Act provides for the release of compensation against 1.4% year-on-year growth over revenues in 2015-16 from taxes subsumed in GST. This compensation cess is credited to the compensation

fund and as per the Act, all compensation is paid out of the fund. Currently, the cess is levied on demerit items like pan masala, tobacco, coal and expensive cars.

The Centre has argued against extension of compensation to states beyond June 30, 2022, saying the cess proceeds between July 2022 and March 2026 will just suffice to service the loans. Many states are demanding extension of the compensation period by 2-3 years in view of the pandemic in the last two years, which have weakened their fiscal position. The matter will likely

be discussed in the upcoming GST Council meeting on June 28-29 at Chandigarh. The Centre has so far released a total of ₹8.22 trillion to the states as GST compensation till May 31, 2022, including ₹1.6 trillion in FY21, even as the collections of cesses for this purpose fell way short of the target.

The Centre arranged back-to-back loans totalling ₹2.6 trillion to bridge the shortfall in the cess pool in FY21 and FY22 under a special low-cost facility offered by the RBI.

Continued on Page 2

- **The government has extended the levying of GST compensation cess till March 2026.**
- **Levying of GST compensation cess was to end on June 30. Finance Ministry has now notified the extension.**
- **The notification said that the period for levy and collection of cess under sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 shall be up to the 31st March 2026.**
- **However, this does not mean States will continue to get compensation for an extended period.**
- **On May 31, the Centre said it released the entire GST compensation payable to States by releasing ₹86,912 cr.**

**13. Consider the following statement regarding Report on India's Gig and Platform Economy.**

- 1. The report was released by NITI Aayog**
- 2. The report estimates that in 2020–21, 77 lakh (7.7 million) workers were engaged in the gig economy.**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

- **NITI Aayog launched a report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy'.**
- **The report is a first-of-its-kind study that presents comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the gig–platform economy in India.**
- **The report provides a scientific methodological approach to estimate the current size and job-generation potential of the sector.**

**● NITI AAYOG PROJECTION**

**Gig workers to grow threefold by FY30**

Estimation only indicative and may not represent the true size of the gig workforce due to limited data, adds report by think tank

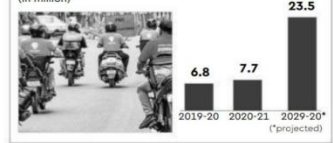
**FE BUREAU**  
New Delhi, June 27

**STATING THAT** the future of work is rapidly changing, Niti Aayog has estimated India's gig workforce will grow more than three-fold to 23.5 million by FY30 from 7.7 million in FY21. Construction, manufacturing, transportation and logistics would be the four prime sectors driving such jobs.

"It is estimated that in 2020-21, 7.7 million workers were engaged in the gig economy. They constituted 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce in India. The gig workforce is expected to expand to 23.5 million workers by 2029-30. They are expected to form 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood in India by 2029-30," the Aayog said in a report.

It, however, said the 'estimation is only indicative and may not represent the true size of the gig workforce' due to limited data availability. The report has

**Niti Aayog's estimates of gig workers (In million)**



been built on assumptions derived from macro and micro studies. The data for the report has been derived from surveying 3,300 platform workers and 1,700 non-platform workers conducted across 12 cities in India in late 2019.

Gig workers are those engaged in livelihoods outside the traditional employer-employee arrangement. A subset of the gig economy, platform workers are those whose work is based on online software apps or digital platforms like Zomato and Swiggy.

A relatively new concept, gig economy got its wings in the country, particularly during the pandemic days when mobility was a constraint. According to Niti Aayog, an estimated 6.8 million gig workers were there in the country in 2019-20, forming 2.4% of the non-farm workforce or 1.3% of the country's total workers.

Niti Aayog report suggests that construction, manufacturing, transportation and logistics have the potential to produce highest number, over 70 million 'gigable' jobs in future. However, the gig economy is fast-expanding and its presence can be seen in other industries such as textiles, banking and financial services, electricity, gas & water, real estate, IT and ITeS, education and personal services.

Currently, more than 75% of the companies have less than 10% gig headcount, but this proportion is bound to rise with multi-national companies turning to flexible hiring options.

The Niti Aayog report said that at present, about 47% of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, about 22% in high skilled, and about 31% in low skilled jobs. "Trend shows the concentration of workers in medium skills is gradually declining and that of the low skilled and high skilled is increasing," it said.



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- *The report estimates that in 2020–21, 77 lakh (7.7 million) workers were engaged in the gig economy.*
  - *They constituted 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce in India.*
  - *The gig workforce is expected to expand to 2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers by 2029–30. Gig workers are expected to form 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood in India by 2029–30.*
  - *At present, about 47% of the gig work is in medium-skilled jobs, about 22% in high skilled, and about 31% in low-skilled jobs.*
14. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ approved the formation of a joint venture company between the state government and the railway ministry to increase the railway network in the state.
- A. Odisha
  - B. Assam**
  - C. Manipur
  - D. Nagaland
  - E. None of these
- 
- *The Assam Cabinet on Saturday approved the formation of a joint venture company between the state government and the railway ministry to increase the railway network in the state.*
  - *In Assam Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (ARIDCL), the state government will hold a share of 51 percent and the ministry the remaining 49 percent.*
  - *The cabinet approved an additional Rs 126.75 crore for the implementation of the relief package for ex-employees of Nagaon and Cachar paper mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL). The Council of Ministers also decided to allow Duliajan Numaligarh Pipeline Limited to undertake pay revisions for its employees.*
  - *It also decided to launch a program, 'Arohan' for classes nine to twelve from 2022-23 with an allocated budget of Rs 5.96 crore to guide talented students in the 13-18 age group and approved the process of transfer of teachers through a portal.*
15. Consider the following statement regarding **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban**.

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1. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** celebrated 7 years of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.
2. It addresses urban housing shortage among the **Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG)** category.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) celebrated 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).
- The seventh-anniversary celebrations highlighted the important initiatives implemented under the PMAY-U Mission, which is one of the largest urban housing programs in the world.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) on 25th June 2015, as a flagship mission of the Government of India.
- It addresses urban housing shortage among the Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG) category including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to eligible urban households.
- An eligible beneficiary family will comprise a husband, wife, unmarried sons, and/or unmarried daughters.

16. Union Cabinet approved an MoU between the Department of Science and Technology, India, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore for cooperation in the field of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Science, Technology, and Innovation
- B. Agriculture
- C. Blue Economy
- D. Renewable energy
- E. None of these

Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Science and Technology, India and Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore on Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation

Posted On: 29 JUN 2022 3:51PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation. The MoU was signed in February 2022.

The MoU will provide a mechanism and help in creating an ecosystem that will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in both countries leading to new technology creation, manpower training, IP generation through collaboration.

The new knowledge and technology development through activities implemented under this cooperation will provide impetus to Atmanirbhar Bharat. The MoU will provide a mechanism and help in creating an ecosystem that will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in both countries leading to new technology creation, manpower training, IP generation through collaboration. The activities envisaged in the MoU will involve product development and technology exchange which may lead to generation of new enterprises and employment.

- Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Singapore for cooperation in the fields

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of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

- **Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Department of Science and Technology, India, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.**
- **The MoU was signed in February 2022 for Cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation.**
- **The MoU will help in creating an ecosystem for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in both countries for new technology creation, manpower training, and IP generation.**
- **The main aim of MoU is to promote innovation and research in Agriculture and food science and technology; Green economy; Data Science and Emerging Technologies.**
- **The MoU will help in product development and technology exchange for generating new enterprises and employment.**

**17. Recently The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with a total budget outlay of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Rs 2516 Cr**
- B. Rs 2896 Cr**
- C. Rs 1500 Cr**
- D. Rs 2000 Cr**
- E. None of these**

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to increase the efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountability in their operations; facilitating PACS to diversify their business and undertake multiple activities/ services.**
- **This project proposes the computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over 5 years with a total budget outlay of Rs. 2516 crore with the Government of India's share of Rs. 1528 crore.**

## PACS to be computerised for ₹2,516 crore

Rituraj Baruah  
 rituraj.baruah@livemint.com  
 NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on economic affairs on Wednesday approved the computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹2,516 crore.

An official statement said the objective of increasing the efficiency of PACS is to bring transparency and accountability in their operations.

"This project proposes computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of 5 years with a total budget outlay of ₹2,516 crore with Government of India share of ₹1,528 crore," it said.

PACS constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier short-term cooperative credit (STCC) system, comprising around 130 million farmers as its members, which is crucial for the development of the rural economy.

"Whether it is the creation of the ministry of cooperation or decisions taken thereafter in the direction of empowering this sector, they show that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' is not just a slogan, rather that



Union Minister of home and cooperation Amit Shah. MINT

the Prime Minister has an unwavering resolve to bring positive change to lives of those associated with the cooperative sector," said Amit Shah, minister of home and cooperation, in a press statement.

PACS account for 41% (30 million farmers) of the kisan credit card (KCC) loans given by all entities in the country.

The other two tiers of the STCC system—State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District

Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)—have already been automated. However, the majority of PACS have so far not been computerized and

are still functioning manually, resulting in inefficiency and trust deficit, said the government. In some states, standalone and partial computerization of PACS has been done.

"There is no uniformity in the software being used by them and they are not interconnected with the DCCBs

and StCBs. Under the able guidance of Amit Shah, minister of home and cooperation, it has been proposed to computerize all the PACS throughout the country and bring them on a common platform at national level and have a Common Accounting System (CAS) for their day to day business," said the official statement.

Computerization of PACS, besides serving the purpose of financial inclusion and strengthening service delivery to farmers, especially small and marginal farmers (SMFs), will also become nodal service delivery point for various services and provision of inputs like fertilizers and seeds.

The project will help in improving the outreach of the PACS as outlets for banking activities as well as non-banking activities apart from improving digitalisation in rural areas.

The project comprises of development of cloud-based common software with cyber security and data storage, providing hardware support, digitization of existing records, including maintenance support, and training. This software will be in vernacular languages having flexibility of customization.



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- *The Primary Agricultural Cooperative credit societies (PACS) constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier Short-term cooperative credit (STCC) in the country comprising of approx.13 Cr. farmers as its members, which is crucial for the development of the rural economy.*
  - *PACS accounts for 41 % (3.01 Cr. farmers) of the KCC loans given by all entities in the Country and 95 % of these KCC loans (2.95 Cr. farmers) through PACS are to the Small and Marginal farmers.*
  - *The other two tiers viz. State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) have already been automated by the NABARD and brought on Common Banking Software (CBS).*
18. Which of the following company has won the **National Highways Excellence Awards-2021 award in the Green Highway category?**
- A. Dhola Infra Projects Ltd
  - B. GR Infra projects Ltd**
  - C. Ceigall India Ltd
  - D. Godhra Expressways Pvt Ltd
  - E. None of these
- 
- *National Highways Excellence Awards-2021 given to the stakeholders and companies involved in the highway construction and maintenance of road assets.*
  - *Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla along with Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari gave away the awards.*
  - *This year, the theme of the awards was “Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction”.*
  - *National Highways Excellence Awards were started in 2018. They were started to incentivize stakeholders in the highway construction and maintenance process.*
  - *1. Excellence in Project Management-PPP - Welspun Enterprises Ltd, KrishnagiriWalajahpetTollwayPvt Ltd*
  - *2. Excellence in Operation and Maintenance – Rigid - Godhra Expressways Pvt Ltd*
  - *3. Excellence in Toll Management - FarakkaRaiganj Highway Ltd (Gold), AshokaBuildcon Ltd (Silver)*
  - *4. Excellence in Highway Safety- Plain - Simhapuri Expressway Ltd (Silver, Chilakaluripet- Nellore section of NH-5) Andhra Pradesh*
  - *5. Green Highway - GR Infra projects Ltd, Special Award, Uttar Pradesh*

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- **6. Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition - 6.1. Dibang Infra Projects Ltd (Dibang river system and the connecting road between Bomjur-Meka (NH-52) and construct a bridge across river Lohit at AlubariGhat and the connecting road between Chowkham- Digaru) Arunachal Pradesh**
  - **6.2. Dhola Infra Projects Ltd (Bridge between Dhola and Sadiaghats along with 2 lane connecting roads from near about Dhola to IslampurTinali) Arunachal Pradesh**
  - **6.3. M/S Ceigall India Ltd (Rehabilitation of Ramdas to Gurdaspur (PKG-V) Project and Construction of Kartarpur Corridor (Indian Territory)), Punjab.**
- 19. Sao Joao is a festival that offers the family and villagers an opportunity to know their newlywed daughters' husbands a little better. This festival is celebrated in which of the following states of India?**
- A. Goa**
  - B. Maharashtra**
  - C. Tamil Nadu**
  - D. Kerala**
  - E. None of these**
- **Sao Joao festival is celebrated in Goa. As part of this festival, people jump into wells and ponds.**
  - **The festival offers the family and villagers an opportunity to know their newlywed daughters' husbands a little better.**
  - **In Goa, Catholics observe all Roman Catholic Church feasts, including the feast of St John the Baptist on June 24.**
  - **Traditional Sao Joao celebrations take place in the villages of Cortalim in South Goa and Harmal, Baga, Siolim, and Terekhol in North Goa.**
  - **In addition to jumping into water bodies, celebrations also include participants wearing Kopel, the crown of fruits, flowers, and leaves.**
  - **People chant, "Sao Joao! Viva Sao Joao". The festival also includes playing the traditional gumott (percussion instrument) and cansaim (cymbal).**
  - **The festival also includes a boat festival and servings of feni, a liquor indigenous to Goa.**
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_ will become the first state to have its red list of birds.**
- A. Karnataka**
  - B. Kerala**
  - C. Goa**
  - D. Manipur**
  - E. None of these**

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**Kerala to have its own regional red list of birds**

There are 35 threatened birds in the State as per the IUCN list

**MEEL MURUNGATHATHI**  
**TRISSUR**

Kerala will soon have its own red list of birds. The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective led by Kerala Agricultural University and the Bird Count India will conduct the regional red list assessment. Once it gets ready, Kerala will be the first State to have a region-specific red list of birds. Assessment will be done on the basis of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines, says P.O. Namer, Head of the Centre for Wildlife Studies, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.



**Endangered species:** Banasura chilappan and, right, white-rumped vulture. **Special arrangement**

"What we have now is the global IUCN red list. But there are limitations for the global assessment as it is a process prepared in a global context. A species seen common at the global level may be a threatened species at the regional level. The regional red list assessment also will be conducted according to the IUCN guidelines,"

says Mr. Namer. The IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list have five main criteria. The population size reduction measured over 10 years or three generations is one of the major guidelines. Geographic range on the basis of extent of occurrence or area of occupancy is another. Small population size and decline,

very small or restricted population, and quantitative analysis indicating the probability of extinction in the wild are the other criteria. According to the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 35 threatened species of birds. In that, Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture are critically endangered, Steppe Eagle, Banasura Chilappan and Nilgiri Chilappan are endangered and 11 species are vulnerable. "This is the list according to the global assessment. There may be changes at the regional level," says Mr. Namer. The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective is planning to prepare the red list for the State in a year. It will be a decentralised process like how the Kerala Bird Atlas was prepared. "We already have a good

amount of data on the basis of the Kerala Bird Atlas. Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with participation of over 1,000 volunteers of the birdwatching community, the atlas, prepared between 2015 and 2020, provides a solid baseline data about distribution and abundance of various bird species in the State," says Mr. Namer, who coordinated the atlas project. The Kerala Bird Atlas accounts for nearly three lakh records of 301 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species. "According to the atlas, most of the endemics are concentrated in the Western Ghats while the threatened species are cited mostly along the coast."

- **Kerala will become the first state to have its red list of birds.**
- **The Kerala Bird Monitoring Collective is planning to prepare the red list of birds.**
- **Kerala Agricultural University and the Bird Count India will conduct the regional red list assessment in Kerala.**
- **The regional red list assessment will be done as per the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**
- **As per the global IUCN red list, Kerala has 64 threatened species of birds including the Red-headed vulture and White-rumped vulture.**
- **Kerala has also created a Bird Atlas comprising records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, and 110 common species. Most of the endemic bird species are found in the Western Ghats region.**

21. Recently **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has signed MoU with \_\_\_\_\_ to create a collaborative ecosystem to **impart skill development training in the capital goods sector.**

- A. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- B. **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
- C. **Ministry of Science and Technology**
- D. **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**
- E. **None of these**

- **With an agenda to create a collaborative ecosystem to impart skill development training in the capital goods sector, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) have signed an MoU together.**
- **This collaboration will facilitate training in several engineering trades through Qualification Packs (QPs) developed by MHI Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) under the scheme for enhancement of competitiveness in the Capital Goods sector phase II.**
- **Under this initiative, MHI shall provide 100% funding support to MHI Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) for the development of new Industry Led National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) Level 6 and above Qualification Packs (QPs).**
- **Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries.**



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- *Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Education.*
22. Which state government has launched the ‘KashiYatra’ scheme to provide financial assistance to pilgrims going on pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple?
- A. Odisha government
  - B. Haryana government
  - C. **Karnataka government**
  - D. Himachal Pradesh government
  - E. None of these
- *Karnataka government launched the ‘KashiYatra’ scheme to provide financial assistance to pilgrims.*
  - *The Karnataka government has approved the ‘KashiYatra’ project.*
  - *Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5,000 will be given to pilgrims going on pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple.*
  - *For this scheme, the applicants should be above 18 years and native of Karnataka. Beneficiaries have to present proof that they have visited Kashi Vishwanath Temple.*
  - *The government has sanctioned Rs 7 crore for the ‘KashiYatra’ project.*
  - *Kashi Vishwanath Temple: It is located in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.*
  - *It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the current structure of the temple was constructed by AhilyabaiHolkar in 1780.*
23. Consider the following *World Vision India and Poverty Learning Foundation published India Child Well-Being Report 2021.*
1. *Kerala is at the top among all states while Meghalaya is in the last place.*
  2. *Kasaragod, Kanyakumari, Wayanad, Pathanamthitta, and Kannur are the top five performing districts.*
- 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 India Child Well-Being Report 2021 has given ranking to states on child well-being by considering various factors like health, hygiene, protection, and school education.**
- **According to India Child Well-Being Report 2021, Kerala is at the top among all states while Meghalaya is in the last place.**
- **Uttarakhand (0.77), Punjab (0.76), Himachal Pradesh (0.73), and Sikkim (0.72) are in the second, third, and fourth spots respectively.**
- **Bihar (0.02), Tripura (0.14), Uttar Pradesh (0.177), and Odisha (0.179) are among the bottom states on the list.**
- **Kasaragod, Kanyakumari, Wayanad, Pathanamthitta, and Kannur are the top five performing districts.**
- **Mizoram, Kerala, and Uttarakhand have performed well in the field of health.**
- **The overall score of states in the report has been calculated based on the score of health, hygiene, protection, and school education parameters.**

### Kerala tops States in child well-being

The India Child Well-Being Report 2021 ranks States on health, hygiene, protection and school education among children

**Where children are in a state of well-being**  
Based on World Vision India's Child Well-Being Index 2021

Best performing States (overall)			Worst performing States (overall)		
State	Rank	Index score	State	Rank	Index score
Kerala	1	0.89	Meghalaya	28	0.00
Uttarakhand	2	0.77	Bihar	27	0.02
Punjab	3	0.77	Tripura	26	0.14
Himachal Pradesh	4	0.73	Uttar Pradesh	25	0.18
Sikkim	5	0.73	Odisha	24	0.18

**DATA FOCUS**

**LONI DAS**  
Chennai, June 23

Where in India can a child be the happiest? Kerala could be the answer, if you go by the India Child Well-Being Report 2021 published jointly by non-profit World Vision India and think tank Poverty Learning Foundation. While Kerala bagged the first rank among all the States, Meghalaya ranked the lowest.

The southern State scored an overall high of 0.89 out of 1; the other States that fared well were Uttarakhand (0.77), Punjab (0.76), Himachal Pradesh (0.73) and Sikkim (0.72), bagging the second, third, fourth and fifth ranks, respectively.

On the other side of the spectrum, Meghalaya showed an abysmal performance scoring an overall 0 out of 1. The other States that scored the lowest ranks are Bihar (0.02), Tripura (0.14), Uttar Pradesh (0.177) and Odisha (0.179). Among the top five performing districts in the country, four belong to Kerala – Kasaragod, Wayanad, Pathanamthitta and Kannur – the other one being Kanyakumari (second rank) from Tamil Nadu.

Kerala was adjudged the best performing State in 2019 too, by the report. At that time, it was followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. Sikkim, Goa and Punjab had also done comparatively better than other States.

The overall score was calculated based on the geometric mean of the four domain scores impacting child well-being – health, hygiene, protection and school education.

**The indicators**  
A few of the indicators for health were the percentages of children under 5 years of age who were anaemic, stunted, malnourished or underweight. Other determinants included the percentage of women who had caesarean deliveries and institutional births.

Indicators for hygiene included the percentage of households who had access to toilets and practised hand-washing. Some of the criteria affecting protection were the rate of crimes under the Child Labour Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. The rates of child trafficking and cybercrimes against children were also incorporated.

In case of school education, the deciding factors were dropout rates, especially among girls and the percentages of schools having a library, playground or drinking water facilities.

Mizoram, Kerala and Uttarakhand did exceptionally well in the domain of health while Sikkim, Nagaland and Uttarakhand topped under hygiene. The North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur were the best in terms of child protection. In the sphere of school education, Kerala, Punjab and Gujarat were the leading States.

The report has sourced data from the National Family Health Survey 5, National Sample Survey Office 2018, National Crime Records Bureau reports, the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE, 2019-20) report and the National Achievement Survey 2017.

*The author is an intern with BusinessLine.*

24. Ministry of Defence approved the setting up of 'Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Cafes' at how many locations?
- 85
  - 65
  - 45
  - 75
  - None of these

- **Ministry of Defence approved the setting up of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 locations. The 'Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Cafes' will be set up at 75 locations in 12 states.**
- **The cafes will provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists. It will boost economic activities in border areas.**

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- It will also help in creating employment for the local people. It will provide road wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode on a license basis.
- The Selection of licensees will be done through a competitive process. It will also increase the number of tourists to scenic locations.

25. Consider the following statement regarding the report titled '*Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India*'.

1. NITI Aayog and TIFAC launched a report titled '*Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India*'.
2. 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by FY 2026–27, 72% by 2031.

Which of the following statement are correct?

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

### NITI Aayog and TIFAC Launch Report on Future Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in the Indian Market

100% Penetration by FY26–27 Forecasted in Optimistic Scenario; 72% by 2031  
Where Current Incentives Are Withdrawn by 2024

Posted On: 29 JUN 2022 4:26PM by PIB Delhi

NITI Aayog and TIFAC launched a report titled '*Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India*', on 28 June.

Using a tool made by NITI Aayog and TIFAC, eight scenarios have been developed for analyzing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country.

In an optimistic scenario, the report forecasts 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by FY 2026–27. In another scenario, which is technology driven and where current incentives are withdrawn by 2024, the report predicts 72% penetration by 2031.

During the launch of the report, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said, "This report provides a much-needed tool to the industry, researchers, academicians, and policymakers to analyze and respond to various scenarios. It can be replicated easily in other segments too, such as four-wheelers, without any hassle."

- NITI Aayog and TIFAC launched a report titled '*Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India*', on 28 June.
- Using a tool made by NITI Aayog and TIFAC, eight scenarios have been developed for analyzing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country.
- In an optimistic scenario, the report forecasts 100% penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by FY 2026–27. In another scenario, which is technology driven and where current incentives are withdrawn by 2024, the report predicts 72% penetration by 2031.

## MoD approves 'BRO cafes' in border areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday approved the setting up of wayside amenities with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to be branded as 'BRO Cafes', at 75 locations in 12 States and Union Territories on different sections of roads.

"These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people," the Ministry said in a statement.

The scheme provides for wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode with agencies, on a licence basis, which will design, build and operate the facility as per guidelines of the BRO. Proposed amenities include parking for two and four wheelers, food plaza, restaurant, separate rest rooms for men, women and differently abled, and first aid facilities, among others. Selection of licences will be done through a competitive process, the Ministry said.

To provide comfortable transit of tourists on these roads, located at harsh climatic conditions, the need to establish multi-utility wayside amenities was recognised, it said.



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- The sale of electric two-wheelers may cross 220 lakh units in FY 2028–29 under the ‘Optimistic’, ‘Same Performance’ and ‘Battery Cost Challenged’ scenarios. It may reach 180 lakh units under the ‘Technology-Driven’ scenario. Under the ‘Incentive Drive’ scenario, the sale is expected to reach only 55 lakh units in FY 2031.
- The sale of electric two-wheelers may cross 220 lakh units in FY 2028–29 under the ‘Optimistic’, ‘Same Performance’ and ‘Battery Cost Challenged’ scenarios. It may reach 180 lakh units under the ‘Technology-Driven’ scenario. Under the ‘Incentive Drive’ scenario, the sale is expected to reach only 55 lakh units in FY 2031.

**International / Report News**

26. Consider the following statement regarding the G-7 summit.

1. This year’s G7 Summit will be held under the German Presidency.
2. Theme of this year’s G7 summit is - Progress towards an equitable world.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Prime Minister Modi left for Germany to attend the G7 Summit. This year’s G7 Summit will be held under the German Presidency on 26-27 June 2022.
- The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- To address the situation after the oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany (West), Japan, and Italy.
- These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.
- US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan are the current members of this group.
- Since 2014, this is the third time the Prime Minister will be participating in a G7 meeting.
- India had been invited by the G7 French presidency in 2019 to the Biarritz Summit as a “Goodwill Partner”.
- India was also invited to the 47th G7 Summit held under the presidency of the UK.

## India joins G7, 4 others to protect free speech, ‘online and offline’

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

INDIA, ALONG with G7 countries and four invited countries, Monday signed the ‘2022 Resilient Democracies Statement’ in which they committed to “guarding the freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors” and “protecting the freedom of expression and opinion online and offline”.

A four-page statement, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the G-7 summit in Germany, said, “We, the Leaders of Germany, Argentina, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Senegal, South Africa, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Canada’s PM Justin Trudeau at the G7 meeting at Schloss Elmau Castle, Germany, on Monday. PTI RELATED REPORT, PAGE 13



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- *The US under President Donald Trump had extended an invitation to India in May 2020.*
- *PM Modi will be visiting SchlossElmau, Germany for the 48th G7 Summit under the German Presidency. The theme of this year's G7 summit is - Progress toward an equitable world.*
- *Besides India, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the G7 Summit.*
- *This is to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity.*

27. *European Union countries endorsed a push to eliminate carbon emissions from new cars by \_\_\_\_\_, effectively heralding the end of the era of the internal combustion engine.*

- A. 2030
- B. 2050
- C. 2035**
- D. 2040
- E. None of these

## EU nod to end combustion engine sales by 2035

European Union countries endorsed a push to eliminate carbon emissions from new cars by 2035, effectively heralding the end of the era of the internal combustion engine. Environment ministers struck a deal on the proposal after Italy, home to Ferrari NV and Automobili Lamborghini SpA, gave up demands for a five-year delay in the EU's plan for automakers to clean up their fleet. Italian Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani told his counterparts earlier on Tuesday he was "satisfied" with a compromise proposed by Germany that could enable the use of carbon-neutral fuels after 2035. 10/24

BLOOMBERG

- *European Union countries endorsed a push to eliminate carbon emissions from new cars by 2035, effectively heralding the end of the era of the internal combustion engine.*
- *Environment ministers struck a deal on the proposal after Italy, home to Ferrari NV and Automobili Lamborghini SpA, gave up demands for a five-year delay in the EU's plan for automakers to clean up their fleet.*
- *Italian Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani told his counterparts earlier he was "satisfied" with a compromise proposed by Germany that could enable the use of carbon-neutral fuels after 2035.*
- *The agreement defines member states' negotiating stance for further talks with the EU Parliament and the European Commission on the final shape of the bloc's so-called Fit for 55 landmark greenhouse gas-reduction package.*
- *The deal also limits the size of the Social Climate Fund to 59 billion euros (\$62 billion) from 72 billion euros proposed by the European Commission.*

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28. In June 2022, US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders unveiled ambitious plans to mobilize \_\_\_\_\_ billion in funding by 2027 to deliver transparent and game-changing infrastructure projects to counter rival China's BRI in developing nations.

- A. USD 500 billion
- B. USD 400 billion
- C. USD 600 billion**
- D. USD 300 billion
- E. None of these

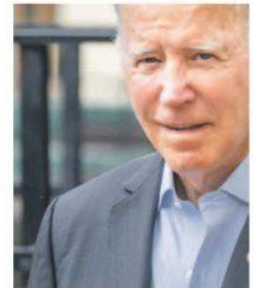
- **US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders have unveiled ambitious plans to mobilize USD 600 billion in funding by 2027 to deliver transparent and game-changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India, in a move seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.**
- **The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) unveiled on Sunday here during the G7 Summit relaunched a scheme unveiled at last year's G7 talks in England.**
- **Chinese President Xi Jinping's multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been criticized for hitting many developing nations with too much debt.**
- **The PGII has been hailed as a way to counter China's ambitious BRI. Launched by President Xi in 2013, the BRI provides financing for emerging countries to build infrastructures like ports, roads, and bridges.**
- **In India, the White House fact sheet said the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will invest up to USD 30 million in Omnivore Agritech and Climate Sustainability Fund 3, an impact venture capital fund that invests in entrepreneurs building the future of agriculture, food systems, climate, and the rural economy in India.**

29. Recently in June, The European Parliament voted in the favour of a proposal to grant candidate status to one of the following?

- A. Ukraine
- B. Moldova

## G7 unveil \$600 bn plan to rival Belt and Road Initiative

PTI  
 feedback@livemint.com  
 ELMAU (GERMANY)



US President Joe Biden said the plan would deliver returns for everyone. AP

US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders have unveiled ambitious plans to mobilize \$600 billion in funding by 2027 to deliver transparent and game-changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India, in a move seen as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) unveiled on Sunday here during the G7 Summit relaunched a scheme unveiled at last year's G7 talks in England.

President Biden said the plan would deliver returns for everyone.

"Today, the nations of the G7 launched the PGII," Biden said. "Collectively, we aim to mobilize nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027 to invest in critical infrastructure that improves lives and delivers real gains for all of our people," he tweeted.

"I want to be clear—the G7's announcement of a new global infrastructure partnership isn't aid or charity. It's an investment that will deliver returns for everyone—including the American people—and boost all of our economies," Biden tweeted. Chinese President Xi Jinping's multi-trillion dollar BRI has been criticized for hitting many developing nations with too much debt.

The PGII has been hailed as a way to counter China's ambitious BRI. Launched by President Xi in 2013, the BRI provides financing for emerging countries to build infrastructure like ports, roads and bridges.

While it has developed trade

links, it has also been criticized as a means of providing "predatory loans", forcing debt-saddled countries like Sri Lanka to cede key assets if they fail to meet their debt repayments.

The PGII scheme would allow countries to "see the concrete benefits of partnering with democracies," President Biden said.

He said the PGII will "mobilize strategic investments in areas vital to sustainable development and our shared global security". The White House, in a fact sheet, said the US will mobilize hundreds of billions of dollars and deliver quality, sustainable infrastructure that makes a difference in people's lives around the world, strengthens and diversifies the supply chains, creates new opportunities for American workers and businesses, and advances our national security.

On India, the White House fact sheet said the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will invest up to \$30 million in Omnivore Agritech and Climate Sustainability Fund 3, an impact venture capital fund that invests in entrepreneurs building the future of agriculture, food systems, climate, and the rural economy in India.

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- C. Georgia
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

- European Union granted candidate status for membership to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia.
- The European Parliament voted in the favour of a proposal to grant candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia.
- 529 votes were voted in support of the motion and 45 against, while 14 members did not participate in the voting.
- Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia will have to carry out a series of political and economic reforms for joining the European Union.
- **The European Council comprising heads of all 27 EU governments would finally vote on the membership of Ukraine.**

30. Consider the following statement regarding the report titled *‘Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories*.

1. It was launched by NITI Aayog and World Food Program
2. It is provided to fill the gap in nutrition among children, and pregnant & lactating women (PLW).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The government’s think-tank, NITI Aayog recently launched a report titled *‘Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories’*, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).
- NITI Aayog-WFP report on Take-Home Ration presents a set of good and innovative practices, that have been adopted by states & UTs, in the implementation of the Take-Home Ration value chain.
- The take-Home ratio is provided by the Government of India, under the Supplementary Nutrition component of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- It is provided to fill the gap in nutrition among children, and pregnant & lactating women (PLW).
- Recommendations made by the report
- The NITI Aayog-WFP report made the following recommendation:



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- All the components of this value chain should function at optimum, to realize the full potential of the Take-Home Ration program.
- It suggests building a robust system for procurement, standardized process, full coverage, supply chain management & monitoring to ensure complete transparency, and sustainability, leverage local ties, and bring a culture of collaboration and trust within a community.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.

31. Recently in June which of the following country Senate passed the first gun control bill in the last three decades?

- A. US
- B. UK
- C. Germany
- D. Russia
- E. None of these

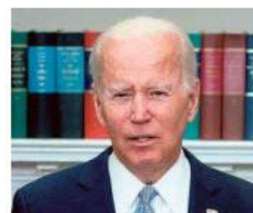
## Biden signs landmark gun control measure, says 'lives will be saved'

The law will toughen background checks for younger buyers

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence Bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Time is of the essence. Lives will be saved," he said. Citing the families of shooting victims, the President said, "Their message to us was, 'Do something.' How many times did we hear that? 'Just do something. For God's sake, just do something.' Today we did."



Joe Biden

The House gave final approval on Friday, following Senate passage on Thursday, and Mr. Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe.

"Today we say, 'More than enough,'" Mr. Biden said. "It's time, when it

seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential."

The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help States put in place "red flag" laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

The President called it "a historic achievement."

Most of its \$13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programmes and aid schools, which have been targeted in mass shootings.

- United States Senate passed the first gun control bill in the last three decades.
- The Senate of the United States has approved the gun violence bill by 65 votes in favor.
- The bill will now have to pass in the House of Representatives. The bill proposed tougher background checks for buyers less than 21 years.
- It has a provision to allocate \$11 billion for mental health programs and \$2 billion for school safety programs
- It also provides funding to incentivize states to enact "red flag" laws to remove firearms from those considered a threat.
- In recent times, it is the first time that proposed reforms have received support from both Democrats and Republicans.
- This year, more than 20,900 people have been killed in gun violence in the US.



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32. Consider the following statement regarding the *Global Liveability Index, an annual report from The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)*.

1. For the **third time in the past five years, Vienna has captured the top spot in the Global Liveability Index,**
2. As for the bottom of the list, **Damascus in Syria (172), Lagos in Nigeria (171) and Tripoli in Libya (170) continue to lag.**
3. **New Delhi received the top rank of 140, with a livability score of 56.5. This was followed by Mumbai at 141 (score 56.2) and Chennai at 142.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- For the **third time in the past five years, Vienna has captured the top spot in the Global Liveability Index, an annual report from The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) published.**
- **Copenhagen follows Vienna in second place, with Zurich taking third place with Calgary in Canada.**
- The report says **mid-sized cities in the wealthiest countries tended to fare exceptionally well in the survey.**
- **But this year, the top ten cities are also those that have managed “to go back to normal” with fewer COVID-19 restrictions.**

### VIENNA MAKES A COMEBACK AS 'MOST LIVEABLE CITY'



Vienna has rebounded to being most liveable city, snatching the top spot from Auckland, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's ranking of 173 cities for 2022. The Austrian capital held the position in 2018 and 2019. **It scored high on all five metrics: education, healthcare, culture and environment, stability and infrastructure.** It had slipped to 12th in 2021 as its museums and restaurants were closed

**TOP 10**

- 1 Vienna | Austria
- 2 Copenhagen | Denmark
- 3 Zurich | Switzerland
- 4 Calgary | Canada
- 5 Vancouver | Canada
- 6 Geneva | Switzerland
- 7 Frankfurt | Germany
- 8 Toronto | Canada
- 9 Amsterdam | Netherlands
- 10 Osaka | Japan and Melbourne | Australia (tie)

**BIG WINNERS** | Western European and Canadian cities dominate the rankings. Life is almost back to normal in these cities on account of high covid-19 vaccination rates and the easing of restrictions



Canada, the overall winner with cities – **Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto** – in top 10

**War-torn Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv not surveyed**

**Europe boasts 6 out of the top 10 cities.** Two noticeable entries missing are London (33) and Paris (19). Increased cost of living expenses and the UK's decision to leave the EU are among the reasons

**LAST 10**

- 163 Tehran | Iran
- 164 Douala | Cameroon
- 165 Harare | Zimbabwe
- 166 Dhaka | Bangladesh
- 167 Port Moresby | PNG
- 168 Karachi | Pakistan
- 169 Algiers | Algeria
- 170 Tripoli | Libya
- 171 Lagos | Nigeria
- 172 Damascus | Syria

**BIG LOSERS** | Russia invasion of Ukraine pushed **Moscow** to fall 15 places and **St Petersburg** to slip 13 places over increased instability, censorship, imposition of Western sanctions and corporates withdrawing their operations

2021 winner, NZ's Auckland, fell to 34th rank; Wellington, in fourth place in 2021, now ranks 50. Australia's Melbourne fell to 10th place. In 2021, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth all were in the top 10. This year, they rank 27th, 30th and 32nd respectively

Australia and New Zealand benefited in early 2021, when Covid-19 vaccines were scarce: their closed borders kept cases down. However, this changed as a more infectious wave struck in late 2021, which made closed borders less of a defence

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- the global average liveability score has also recovered from 69.1 to 73.6 since last year.
- As for the bottom of the list, Damascus in Syria (172), Lagos in Nigeria (171) and Tripoli in Libya (170) continue to lag.
- The Ukrainian capital Kyiv was not included this year after Russia invaded the country in late February, while Russian cities Moscow and St Petersburg fell in the rankings over "censorship" and the impact of Western sanctions.
- Among Indian cities, New Delhi received the top rank of 140, with a livability score of 56.5. This was followed by Mumbai at 141 (score 56.2), Chennai at 142 (score 55.8), Ahmedabad at 143 (score 55.7), and Bengaluru at 146 (score 54.4). The ideal score is 100.
- This is the first time that the index has included Chennai, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad — earlier reports only featured Delhi and Mumbai among Indian cities.

**33. Consider the following statement regarding QS Executive MBA Rankings 2022.**

1. Taking the global top spot is IESE Business School, Spain followed by HEC Paris and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
2. Among Indian B-schools, IIMB (46) is followed by the Indian School of Business (111) and IIM Kozhikode (171) in this year's rankings.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore's two-year MBA for working professionals – the Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) – has been declared number one in India once

### Indian B-schools lag regional, global peers in executive-MBA rankings

ANVITRI RAI  
New Delhi, June 23

INDIAN B-SCHOOLS CONTINUE to lag regional and global peers on executive-MBA programmes, the latest rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) showed.

Just three—Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B), Indian School of Business (ISB) and IIM Kozhikode—feature in the list of 194 assigned ranks by QS.

Indian institutes haven't emerged as serious contenders in the space; in 2021, too, the three institutes were the only from the country to earn spots in the rankings.

Worse, the institutes appear to have taken a tumble over the last one year.

IIM-B fell seven places and is ranked 46th, while ISB fell close to 10 places and now ranks in the 111-120 range. IIM Kozhikode received the worst knocking—of around 20 places—and is now ranked above 171.

Globally, the top spot this year was taken by IESE Business School. The remaining spots in the top five are taken, respectively, by HEC Paris,

**QS EMBA Rankings 2022**

Rank	Institute	Asia-Pacific rank	Change in global rankings
1	IESE Business School		
2	HEC Paris		
3	Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania		
4	MIT		
5	Saïd Business School, University of Oxford		
46	IIM-Bangalore	12	↘ 7
111-120	Indian School of Business	20	↘ ~10
171+	IIM-Kozhikode	30	↘ ~20

**QS EMBA 2022: Individual parameters**

Parameter	IIM Bangalore		Indian School of Business		IIM Kozhikode	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Employer reputation	72.8	74.6	57.4	58.3	25.1	25.3
Diversity	21.3	21.7	21.5	22.7	21.7	24.6
Thought leadership	58.8	61.5	37.8	35.5	22.5	25.8
Executive profile	36	41.4	72.2	77.7	28.7	28.3
Career outcomes	88.6	77.1	38	44.5	35.4	36.2

Wharton Business School (University of Pennsylvania), MIT Sloan School of Management, and Saïd Business School (University of Oxford), in that order. QS ranks executive MBA programmes based on five parameters—employer reputation (the institute's reputation among employers), thought leadership, executive profile (average years' work experience, managerial experience and C-suite experience), career progression (salary uplift after graduation, percentage of students promoted within a year of graduation), and diversity (representation of women within class cohort and number of nationalities among a programme's students).

A comparison of individual scores on these parameters for Indian institutes shows marginal improvements in several areas. For instance, all three institutes have improved in terms of employer reputation and diversity, and IIM-B and ISB have improved by five points in the executive profile area.

Save for one grave fall in scores (career outcomes, where IIM-B's score fell by 11.5 points), changes have been marginal, which means that Indian institutes have more or less remained the same as far as the global standing of their executive MBA programmes go.

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*again, number 12 in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, and number 46 globally, in the QS Global Executive MBA Rankings 2022.*

- *Among the 191 global EMBA programs included in this year's rankings, IIMB achieved an overall score of 61.6 out of 100 points.*
- *The methodology on which the rankings are based includes career outcomes, diversity, employer reputation, executive profile, and thought leadership.*
- *"At rank 30 globally, employer reputation is the strongest category of IIM Bangalore. A total of 447,945 nominations from 53,792 employers were analyzed for employer reputation,"*
- *Among the 191 global EMBA programs included in this year's rankings, IIMB achieved an overall score of 61.6 out of 100 points*
- *Taking the global top spot is IESE Business School, Spain followed by HEC Paris and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.*

34. Consider the following statement regarding **Commonwealth nations**.

1. **Togo and Gabon were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations.**
2. **The number of countries in the bloc now stands at 56.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Togo and Gabon were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations, bringing the number of countries in the bloc to 56.*
- *The two historically French-speaking countries were officially admitted to the grouping at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Rwanda's capital of Kigali with the new chairperson Rwandan President Paul Kagame. the two African countries were never British colonies.*
- *Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey told reporters that the country's motivation for joining the Commonwealth was to expand its diplomatic, political and economic network.*
- *Gabonese Foreign Minister Michael Moussa Adamo also said that joining would boost the country's economic diversification while maintaining relations with France.*



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- *The Central African nation's process of formally joining the Commonwealth started five years ago, while Togo, located in West Africa, began in 2014.*
- *Rwanda became a member of the group in 2009. While the Commonwealth is an association of former British colonies, Rwanda, like Mozambique, which joined in 1995, also was never colonized by the British.*

35. Consider the following statement regarding the *State of The Tropics Report 2022*.

1. *The first State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014.*
2. *Tropics account for 40% of the world's total surface area.*

*Which of the following statement is correct*

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

- *State of The Tropics Report 2022 has been released on **International Day of the Tropics on 29 June 2022**.*
- *The report is titled 'Covid-19 in the tropics'. International Day of the Tropics is celebrated annually on 29 June.*
- *International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics.*
- *At the same time, it highlights unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.*
- *The first State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014.*
- *Marking the anniversary of the launch of this report, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2016.*
- *This resolution declared that 29 June each year will be celebrated as International Day of the Tropics.*
- *The Tropics account for 40% of the world's total surface area. They comprise approximately 80% of the world's biodiversity.*
- *The report on the Tropics also noted that the population in the tropics would rise from 40% to about 50% by 2050*

36. Recently which of the following countries' groups have launched the '*Partners in the Blue Pacific*' initiative to counter China?

- A. *Australia, New Zealand, France, and United Kingdom*
- B. ***United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United Kingdom***
- C. *Australia, Germany, and France*
- D. *India, United States, Australia, and Japan*
- E. *None of these*



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- **The US and its allies launched the ‘Partners in the Blue Pacific’ initiative to counter China.**
- **The US and its allies — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United Kingdom launched the ‘Partners in the Blue Pacific’ initiative to counter the influence of China in the Pacific region.**
- **It is a five-nation “informal mechanism” to boost diplomatic, and economic ties through closer cooperation and will provide support to Pacific islands.**
- **The members of the initiative have also announced that they will “elevate Pacific regionalism” and create stronger ties with the Pacific Islands Forum.**
- **‘Partners in the Blue Pacific’ initiative will enhance cooperation in connectivity and transportation, maritime security and protection, health, prosperity, and education.**
- **In April 2022, China signed a pact with the Solomon Islands, which created a sense of insecurity in the region.**
- **Nine of the world’s 10 busiest seaports are in the Indo-Pacific region and 6 countries in the region have nuclear weapons.**

**37. Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) has set up India Center to promote India-centric activities at the University. BUFS is situated in which country?**

- A. South Korea**
- B. Japan**
- C. Singapore**
- D. China**
- E. None of these**

Jun 29, 2022, 3:06PM

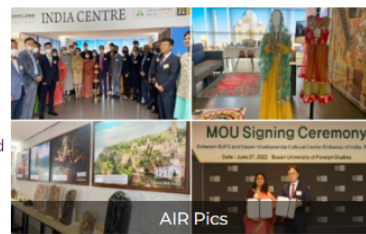
**Busan University of Foreign Studies establishes India Centre for promotion of India-focused activities**

Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) established an India Centre for the promotion of India-focused activities in the University.

The Centre was inaugurated on Monday. According to a note from the Indian Embassy in Seoul, the Centre will act as a nodal point for India-related events in Busan and serve as a ready resource for students interested in India and to expand academic and cultural cooperation with the University.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof. Hong-Koo Kim, President of Busan University of Foreign Studies, India’s Ambassador to South Korea, Sripriya Ranganathan, and Amb. Enna Park, Ambassador for International Relations, Busan City Government along with local govt. officials and business leaders.

On this occasion, an MoU to promote cooperation in the field of education & cultural exchange was also signed between Busan University of Foreign Studies and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Embassy of India in Seoul.



- **Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) sets up India Center to promote India-centric activities at the University.**
- **The Centre will be a focal point for India-related programs at Busan University. It will also strengthen academic and cultural collaboration with the university.**
- **The Busan University of Foreign Studies and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) also signed an MoU to foster collaboration in the areas of education and cultural exchange.**
- **Prof. Sun-Cheol Lee of the Department of Indian Studies, BUFS, will serve as the Center’s Honorary Director.**
- **The Centre in BUFS will be self-funded, and SVCC will provide content and resource persons for classes and workshops.**

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38. Consider the following statement regarding the “2022 UN Ocean Conference”.

1. Dr. Jitendra Singh will take part in the “2022 UN Ocean Conference” in Lisbon.
2. The theme is “Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships, and Solutions”.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology take part in the “2022 UN Ocean Conference” in Lisbon from the 27th of June to the 1st of July 2022.
- More than 130 countries will participate in the UN Ocean Conference.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh will deliver the Keynote address on behalf of India at the UN Conference on the theme “Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships, and Solutions”.**
- India has well-established collaboration and partnerships with UN Agencies and Research Institutions for bridging the methodology and data gaps on SDG indicators and working towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, for clean, healthy, productive, and predictive.
- There are 10 targets in Goal 14 to measure the health and services of water-related ecosystems with an emphasis on social, economic, and environmental conservation. **A total of 11 indicators have been identified at the national level to measure and monitor the progress of these targets and data is collected regularly for 9 indicators by monitoring the health/condition of coastal waters and marine ecosystems.**
- The leaders will also reaffirm the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017.

39. Consider the following statement regarding Padma Bridge.

1. **The 6.15 kilometers long Padma Bridge is the largest in Bangladesh.**
2. This is also being claimed as the **deepest pilling in the world**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Bangladesh's longest bridge Padma Bridge was inaugurated on Saturday by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The bridge now connects 21 districts of Bangladesh's Southwest region with Dhaka and the rest of the country and it also promises to decrease travel time from Kolkata to Dhaka.**
- **The Padma Bridge of Bangladesh is a multipurpose bridge and it is 6.15 kilometers long, while the railway viaduct is 0.532 kilometers long. It is being reported that the bridge will reduce the travel time significantly between the capital city of Dhaka to the Mongla seaport.**
- **The Padma Bridge stretches to a total distance of 10.642 km including 41 spans that have been attached to 42 pillars. Each pillar has a distance of 150 m between them with a pilling that goes as deep as 128 m. This is also being claimed as the deepest pilling in the world and interestingly, it has been ranked 122nd longest in the world.**
- **The construction of Padma Bridge began in 2015 and the last span of construction was completed in December of last year.**

● **A BRIDGE OF HOPES**

## Bangladesh marks opening of country's longest bridge

The bridge will slash the distance between the capital, Dhaka, and Bangladesh's second-largest seaport, Mongla, by 100 kilometres



A crowd gathers to watch the opening of Bangladesh's longest bridge

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Dhaka, Bangladesh, June 25

**BANGLADESH'S PRIME MINISTER** Sheikh Hasina on Saturday celebrated the opening of the country's longest bridge, which took eight years to build amid setbacks involving political conflict and corruption allegations.

The 6.51-kilometre (4.04-mile) bridge spanning the Padma River cost an estimated \$3.6 billion and was paid for with domestic funds after the World Bank and other global lending agencies declined to finance the project following a graft scandal involving a Canadian construction company.

The bridge, which will open to the public on Sunday, will slash the distance between the capital, Dhaka, and Bangladesh's second largest seaport, Mongla, by 100 kilo-

metres (62 miles).

"The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh. It encapsulates our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance," Hasina said at a ceremony in Mawa, about 31 kilometres (19 miles) southwest of Dhaka. While not directly part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, the bridge was built by the China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd and is seen by Beijing as a milestone for cooperation with Bangladesh, according to a statement by China's ambassador Li Jiming.

The China Railway Group has said the Padma Bridge will later feature a rail network that connects with other Belt and Road projects and will serve as

### IMPORTANT LINK

■ The Padma Bridge will increase Bangladesh's GDP by 1.3% per year

■ The 6.51-km bridge spanning the Padma River cost an estimated \$3.6 billion

■ Officials say the bridge will connect at least 21 districts in the southern and southwestern regions of Bangladesh

an important link between China and a pan-Asian rail network.

Economists say the Padma Bridge will increase Bangladesh's gross domestic product by an additional 1.3% per year, adding to robust growth projections from the Asian Development Bank that predict Bangladesh's \$465 billion economy will grow by 6.9% in 2021-22, and 7.1% in 2022-23.

Officials said the bridge will connect at least 21 districts in the southern and southwestern regions of Bangladesh. Experts say the construction of the bridge, which involved more than 4,000 engineers, was a major technical challenge.

40. Consider the following statement regarding the 14th BRICS Summit.

1. The 14th BRICS Summit was hosted by China in virtual format.
2. "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development" was the theme of the BRICS Summit.

Which of the following statement is correct?



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

- *The 14th BRICS Summit was hosted by China in virtual format.*
- *Discussions during the 14th BRICS Summit covered intra-BRICS cooperation in areas such as:*
- *Counter-terrorism, trade, health, traditional medicine, environment, S&T and innovation, agriculture, technical and vocational education & training, and MSMEs.*
- *XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration*
- *The theme of the BRICS Summit - is "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development"*
- *The participating leaders supported the BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System. It was adopted by the BRICS Foreign Ministers in 2021.*

**41. Recently in June which of the following two countries applied to join the BRICS mechanism?**

- A. Sweden & Finland
- B. Iran & Argentina**
- C. Argentina & Ukraine
- D. Iran & UAE
- E. None of these

## BRICS summit: Xi criticises ‘abuse’ of sanctions, Putin scolds the West

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE  
London, June 23

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI Jinping on Thursday criticised “the abuse” of international sanctions, while Russian President Vladimir Putin scolded the West for fomenting global crisis, with both leaders calling for greater BRICS cooperation.

Xi called on Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) to take up the responsibility conferred by their economic clout, and said they should stand up for a truly multinational international system based on the United Nations.

“We must abandon Cold War mentality and block confrontation and oppose unilateral sanctions — and the abuse of sanctions,” Xi told the BRICS summit through a translator.

“Our meeting today comes at a crucial moment of choice for the future of humanity: as key emerging markets and developing countries, BRICS countries must rise to our responsibility,” Xi said.

China has by far the largest economy in the BRICS grouping, accounting for more than 70% of the group’s collective \$27.5 trillion economic might.

Putin called for stronger BRICS cooperation and accused the West of fomenting a crisis. “Only on the basis of honest and mutually beneficial cooperation can we look for ways out of the crisis situation that has developed in the global economy due to the ill-considered and selfish actions of individual states,” Putin said.

He accused the West of “using financial mechanisms” to “shunt their own mistakes in macroeconomic policy on to the whole world”. Putin has said relations with China are the best they have ever been and touts a strategic partnership with China aimed at countering US influence.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with his counterparts from China, Brazil, Russia and South Africa during the 14th BRICS Summit on Thursday

### Ukraine takes step towards joining EU

**UKRAINE IS SET** to be accepted as a candidate to join the European Union on Thursday, a move that boosts the country’s morale as Russian assaults wear down the defenders of two cities in the eastern Donbas region. Although the approval of the Kyiv government’s application by EU leaders meeting in Brussels is just the start of what will be a years-long process, it marks a huge geopolitical shift and will anger Russia as it struggles to impose its will on Ukraine.

The expected green light “is a signal to Moscow that Ukraine, and also other countries from the former Soviet Union, cannot belong to the Russian spheres of influence,” Ukraine’s ambassador to the EU, Vsevolod Chentsov, said. Friday will mark four months since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops across the border in what he calls a “special military operation” partly necessitated by Western encroachment into what Russia considers its sphere of influence. — REUTERS

US President Joe Biden has said the West is locked in a battle with autocratic governments such as China and Russia.

The US and European powers blame Putin’s decision to invade Ukraine as the reason relations with the West have sunk to the lowest level since the 1962 Cuban

Missile Crisis — including the severest sanctions in modern history.

But Putin says the West wants to destroy Russia, the economic sanctions are akin to a declaration of economic war, and Russia will build ties with other powers such as China and India. — REUTERS



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- Iran and Argentina have applied to join the BRICS mechanism, the Russian state media reported, days after a summit of the five-nation bloc during which the leaders agreed to continue to discuss the possibility of admitting new countries to the grouping based on "full consultation and consensus."
- Argentina and Iran have applied for joining BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa)
- The issue of expansion of the BRICS bloc was figured in the June 23 virtual summit hosted by China.
- As the chair of the BRICS this year China actively supports BRICS countries to start the membership expansion process to expand BRICS Plus cooperation.
- BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India and China, South Africa) was initially formulated in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill, of Goldman Sachs.
- In July 2015 the BRICS countries – China, Russia, Brazil, India, and South Africa – set up a new bank (the New Development Bank) to provide loans to poor countries across the world.

### Iran & Argentina apply for Brics, Russia calls it West's failure

Dubai/London: Iran, which holds the world's second largest gas reserves, has applied to join the Brics group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa that Beijing and Moscow cast as a powerful emerging market alternative to the West. Russia said Argentina had also applied to join. Russia cast the applications as evidence that the West, led by the US, was failing to isolate Moscow over Ukraine conflict. Brics account for more than 40% of the world's population and about 26% of the global economy. sources

42. Recently Pakistan PM Sharif announces how much percent' super tax' on large-scale industries.

- A. 10 %
- B. 5 %
- C. 15 %
- D. 20 %
- E. None of these

- Pakistan will impose an extra one-time 10% tax on the large-scale industry for one year to raise over 400 billion Pakistani rupees (\$1.93 billion) to clinch a crucial deal from the International Monetary Fund.
- Those whose annual income exceeds Rs 150 million will be subject to 1 percent tax; for Rs 200 million, 2 percent; Rs 250 million 3 percent; and Rs 300 million will be taxed 4 percent of their income.

43. Consider the following statement regarding Mercer's 2022 Cost of Living survey,

1. Mumbai (127) is the most costly city in India in terms of both living expenses and accommodation costs.

## Big industries will be charged 10% 'super tax': Pak PM

Press Trust of India  
letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced a 10% "super tax" on large-scale industries like cement, steel and automobiles, a move he said was aimed at tackling spiralling inflation and saving the cash-strapped country from going "bankrupt".

High net worth individuals will also be subject to a "poverty alleviation tax", Sharif announced after chairing a meeting of his economic team on the federal budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23.

"Our first motive is to provide relief to the masses and to reduce the burden of inflation on the people and facilitate them," Sharif said in a video message to the nation.

"Our second motive is to protect the country from going bankrupt," he said, adding that it has been devastated due to the "incompetency and corruption" of the previous Imran Khan-led government.

The sectors on which this

"super tax" will be levied include cement, steel, sugar, oil and gas, fertilisers, LNG terminals, textile, banking, automobile, cigarettes, beverages and chemicals, he said.

Sharif explained that other motives included stabilisation of the economy.

"These aren't just words, this is the voice of my heart and InshaAllah we will be able to achieve all these targets," he said. He said history had witnessed that in difficult times, it was the poor people who always made sacrifices.

"Today, it is time for the affluent citizens to do their part. It is their turn to show selflessness. And I am confident that they will contribute fully to play their part," Sharif said.

He said the institutions whose job is to collect tax should take from the rich and give to the poor.

Those whose annual income exceeds Rs 150 million will be subject to 1% tax; for Rs 200 million, 2%; Rs 250 million 3%; and Rs 300 million will be taxed 4% of their income, he said.

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**2. Hong Kong, is the world's most expensive place for employees sent abroad to work.**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

- **Hong Kong is the world's most expensive place for employees sent abroad to work**
- **Four Switzerland cities Zurich, Geneva, Basel, and Bern ranked second to fifth place respectively in Mercer's Cost of Living Survey 2022.**
- **Three other Asian Cities — Singapore, Tokyo, and Beijing — made the top 10, filling the 8th, 9th, and 10th spots respectively.**
- **High rankings for many Asian cities were driven by inflation and strong currencies, the management consultancy said in its report.**
- **According to Mercer's 2022 Cost of Living survey, Mumbai (127) is the most costly city in India in terms of both living expenses and accommodation costs. This is followed by New Delhi (155), Chennai (177), Bengaluru (178), and Hyderabad (192), while Pune (201) and Kolkata (203) are the least expensive Indian cities in the ranking.**
- **The Cost of the Living survey was conducted in March 2022. This year's ranking compares the prices of more than 200 commodities including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment in 227 cities spread across five continents.**

*'Mumbai, the most expensive Indian city for expatriates'*

Kolkata has the lowest cost of daily necessities such as milk, breads, vegetables

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, June 29

Mumbai is the most expensive Indian city for expatriates, according to Mercer's 2022 Cost of Living survey.

Globally, the city ranks 127, down from 78 last year. However, it is the most costly city in India in terms of both living expenses and accommodation, as per the report. It is followed by New Delhi (155), Chennai (177), Bengaluru (178), and Hyderabad (192), while Pune (201) and Kolkata (203) are the least expensive Indian cities in the ranking.

The survey was conducted in March 2022. The ranking compares the prices of over 200 commodities, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment in 227 cities across five continents. Mercer revamped its methodology this

year with new items such as smartwatches, tablet computers and smartphones added to the 'cost of living' list, while items such as music CDs and video movie rentals were removed.

As per the study, Kolkata has the lowest cost of daily necessities such as milk, breads, vegetables, and so on, while it is the highest in Mumbai and New Delhi.

Cost of home utilities such as energy and phone is the highest in Mumbai and lowest in Chennai and Hyderabad. Mumbai is also the most expensive for movie watching, while Hyderabad is the cheapest.

**Global mobility**

Hyderabad was also the cheapest in terms of housing, but is more expensive than Pune and Kolkata when cost of living and housing are both



taken into account. Mumbai has the most costly rentals, followed by New Delhi and Bengaluru. Accommodation in other Indian cities in the ranking (Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata) is over 50 per cent cheaper than in Mumbai.

Rahul Sharma, India Mobility Leader, Mercer, said, "Global supply chains for necessities have been disrupted as a result of Covid-19-related volatility, which has been exacerbated by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia."

**Talent mobility**

Additionally, we have seen that petrol costs have increased in all Indian cities. Also, the price of a new car and other mainten-

ance costs have gone up in all Indian cities." The report added that it is imperative to re-examine and reinvent talent mobility programmes in the current global environment, given the challenges of cost and the complexity of operating.

Compared to other major cities in the Asia-Pacific region — like Beijing, Shanghai and Manila — Mumbai and New Delhi have a lower cost of living and expat accommodation.

The survey also found that Mumbai is a popular place for multinational corporations to establish operations. "Organisations are, however, also considering other low-cost areas such as Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pune due to the greater cost of living in Mumbai," it added.

Four out of the 10 most expensive cities to live in for international assignees are in Asia, including the most expensive globally — Hong Kong. Singapore (8), Tokyo (9) and Beijing (10) are among the others in the top 10 list.

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- *Apart from this, the report also showed the cheapest places for foreign employees to live which included Turkey's Ankara, Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, and Dushanbe in Tajikistan.*



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**Banking / Economy News**

44. Consider the following statement regarding RBI draft *guidelines for Banks and NBFCs for outsourcing IT services*.

1. As per RBI's draft on outsourcing of information technology (IT) services, outsourcing of IT-enabled services for regulating entities (REs) will not require prior approval from the central bank.
2. Banks, payment banks, cooperative banks, credit information companies, NBFCs, and other regulated entities will have to create a comprehensive board-approved IT outsourcing policy.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **RBI issued draft guidelines for Banks and NBFCs for outsourcing IT services. As per RBI's draft on outsourcing of information technology (IT) services, outsourcing of IT-enabled services for regulating entities (REs) will not require prior approval from the central bank.**
- **Banks, payment banks, cooperative banks, credit information companies, NBFCs, and other regulated entities will have to create a comprehensive board-approved IT outsourcing policy.**
- **RBI has also proposed to set up a robust grievance redressal mechanism for resolving customers' grievances related to outsourced services.**
- **According to the draft, the risk management framework for the outsourcing of IT services will have to deal with the identification, measurement, mitigation/ management, and reporting of risks associated with outsourcing.**

## RBI proposes norms for outsourcing of IT services by banks, NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Thursday proposed norms for the outsourcing of IT services to ring-fence banks and other regulated entities from financial, operational and reputational risks.

Regulated entities (REs) will not require prior approval from the central bank for the outsourcing of IT and IT-enabled services, according to RBI's draft Master Direction on Outsourcing of Information

Technology (IT) Services. "The underlying principle of these Directions is that the RE should ensure that outsourcing arrangements neither diminish its ability to fulfil its obligations to customers nor impede effective supervision by the supervising authority," said the draft, on which the RBI has invited comments from stakeholders by July 22.

Banks, payment banks, cooperative banks, credit information companies, NBFCs and other regulated entities, would be required to put in place a comprehensive board-

approved IT outsourcing policy. "Outsourcing of any activity of the RE shall not diminish its obligations as also of its Board and senior management, who shall be ultimately responsible for the outsourced activity.

"RE shall take steps to ensure that the service provider employs the same high standard of care in performing the services as would have been employed by the RE if the same activity was not outsourced," the draft said.

The draft specifies the role of the board and senior management, besides norms pertaining to the usage of cloud computing services and outsourcing of the Security Operations Center (SOC).

The RBI has also proposed that the REs should set up a robust grievance redressal mechanism, "which in no way shall be compromised on account of outsourcing", meaning responsibility for redressal of customers' grievances related to outsourced services would rest with them.

As per the draft, a risk

management framework for the outsourcing of IT services should comprehensively deal with the processes and responsibilities for the identification, measurement, mitigation/ management and reporting of risks associated with outsourcing.

Entities regulated by the RBI should also require their service providers to develop and establish a robust framework for documenting, maintaining and testing Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP).

Also, a RE could outsource any IT activity/IT-enabled service within its business group/ conglomerate, provided that such an arrangement is backed by the Board-approved policy and appropriate service level arrangements/ agreements with its group entities are in place, the draft said.

It has also proposed additional requirements for cross-border outsourcing. In February this year, the RBI had proposed to issue a guideline on outsourcing.



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- In addition to norms related to the use of cloud computing services and outsourcing of security operations centers (SoCs), the draft also specifies the role of the board and senior management.
- RBI has sought suggestions from stakeholders on this draft by 22 July.

45. In its recent meeting, GST Council has withdrawn exemptions on cheques. How much GST will be levied on fees that banks charge for the issue of cheques?

- A. 3%
- B. 5%
- C. 12%
- D. 18%

- In the 47th Meeting, GST Council considered the recommendations of four Group of Ministers (GoMs).
- These GoMs dealt with rate rationalization, movement of gold and precious stones, system reforms, casinos, horse racing, and online gaming.
- All rate changes recommended by the 47th GST Council will be made effective from 18th July 2022.
- The Council has decided to form a Group of Ministers to address concerns raised by the States about the constitution of the GST Appellate Tribunal.
- The mandatory registration under the CGST Act for supplying goods through e-commerce operators below the threshold of Rs 40 lakh turnover for goods not making any inter-state taxable supply has been removed. This may be effective from January 2023.

## No clarity on GST compensation to States as Council meet ends

States want extension beyond June 30, when the arrangement draws to a close

**SHISHIR SINHA**

Chandigarh, June 29

Confusion still prevails over GST compensation to States beyond June 30 as the two-day GST Council meeting concluded here after exhaustive discussions on the issue but without any concrete decision. The Council simultaneously took some significant decisions in terms of doing away exemptions, correcting the inverted duty structure on various goods and services and structural reforms in the tax system.

The five-year compensation period ends on Friday and many States have sought its extension by at least five years as the Covid pandemic has affected their revenue generation. States are hopeful for an ex-

### More levy, corrections

- GST to be levied on pre-packed, pre-labelled curd, lassi and butter milk, paneer, natural honey, fish & meat (except frozen), certain kinds of vegetables, barley, oats, maize, millets, corn flour, jaggery, puffed rice, parched paddy
- With inverted duty structure corrected, GST rate to go up
- E-waste: 18% from 5%
- Printing, writing ink: 18% from 12%
- Knives, spoons, forks: 18% from 12%
- LED lamps, lights, fixtures: 18% from 12%
- Solar water heater: 12% from 5%
- Finished leather: 12% from 5%



tension though the Centre is not inclined.

"A few States before lunch today said that they would like the compensation to continue for some time, even as a few other States said that 'yes, it is a question of coming out of pandemic but they have to stand on their feet'. Statements were being made with a sense of whether the compensation can be continued if not for five years

but for a few years," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told a press conference. As many as 16 States spoke on GST compensation, with only 3-4 saying that they have to "stand on their own feet".

### Compensation for 5 years

Per Section 18 of the Constitution (101st) Act, 2016, Parliament shall, by law, on the recommendation of the GST Council,

provide for compensation to States for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the GST for five years from the date of its implementation. During the transition period, the States' revenue is protected at 14 per cent per annum over the base year revenue of 2015-16.

A senior government official said that as per law, the compensation regime ends on June 30. "Now, for extension, there needs to be amendment to the Constitution. It cannot happen overnight," he explained.

### GoM reports accepted

Sitharaman told the press that the Council took up reports by the four Groups of Ministers. The recommendations on doing away exemptions and the inverted duty structure (a higher rate on inputs and a lower levy on finished products) by the GoM on rate rationalisation, e-way bill requirement for intra-State movement of gold and other precious metals by the second GoM, and IT reforms by the third GoM were accepted.

The GoM on online gaming, casinos and horse racing has been given 15 days to come out with further clarity. The Council decided to set up a GoM on the constitution of a GST Appellate Tribunal.

The next meeting of the GST Council is scheduled for the first week of August at Madurai and will take up the two GoM reports, one on online gaming, casinos and horse racing, and the other on tribunal.

[More reports p5](#)

## States hopeful of extension of compensation cess

**POORNIMA JOSHI**

New Delhi, June 29

States, including those ruled by the BJP, made a strong case for extension of compensation cess beyond the June 30 deadline at the GST Council meeting.

Talking to *BusinessLine*, Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal said, "I don't know if the deadline is not getting extended. We certainly hope this is-

should be resolved because almost every State has requested an extension. Some of us thought it should be five years, others suggested two years."

Chhattisgarh Finance Minister TS Singh Deo has come up with a solution in case the protected revenue provision is not continued. "If you are not extending this regime, the 50 per cent formula for CGST and SGST

should be changed to SGST 70-80 per cent and CGST 20-30 per cent," Singh Deo told *BusinessLine*.

BJP-ruled Uttarakhand, too, pitched for an extension. "I have apprised the FM of our difficulties and I am sure a way will be found to compensate us," said Uttarakhand FM Premchand Aggarwal.

[Details p5](#)



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- The meeting concluded with no decision on the demand of certain states for an extension of GST compensation.
- During the meeting, GST Council decided that the inverted duty structure will be corrected for several items.
- **18% GST will be levied on the fee that banks charge for the issue of cheques. GST Council also approved the Group of Ministers' plan to end exemptions.**
- **GST Council also decided that exemptions will be withdrawn for pre-packaged and pre-labeled food items such as grains, curd, lassi, paneer, jaggery, wheat flour, puffed rice, buttermilk, and meat/fish (except frozen). Such food items will now be taxed at 5%.**

## GST rate shakeup: Rise, fall, and exemptions gone

The GST Council on Wednesday recommended several changes to tax rates, including correction of inverted duty structure and withdrawal of certain exemptions. GST was exempted on specified food items, grains etc when not branded, or right on the brand has been foregone. Now, it has recommended withdrawal of exemption from pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail pack in terms of Legal Metrology Act, which will include pre-packed, pre-labelled food items like curd, lassi, puffed rice, wheat flour, paneer, and butter milk

### GST RATE INCREASED FROM 12% TO 18%:

- Printing, writing or drawing Ink
- Knives with cutting blades, paper knives, pencil sharpeners and blades therefor, spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake-servers etc
- LED lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuit boards
- Works contract for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plant, crematorium etc

- Machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce and its parts, milking machines and dairy machinery
- Tetra Pak
- Cut and polished diamonds (from 0.25% to 1.5%)

### GST RATE INCREASED FROM 5% TO 12%

- Solar water heater and system
- Prepared/finished leather/chamois leather/composition leathers
- Works contract supplied to central and state governments, union territories & local authorities involving predominantly earthwork and sub-contracts thereof
- Job work in relation to manufacture of leather goods and footwear
- Petroleum/coal bed methane

### GOODS AND SERVICES WHERE GST RATE DECREASED

- Orthopedic appliance – splints and other fracture appliances; artificial parts of the body; other appliances which are worn or



carried, or implanted in the body, to compensate for a defect or disability; intraocular lens (From 12% to 5%)

- Transport of goods and passengers by ropeways (From

### 18% to 5% with ITC)

- Renting of truck/goods carriage where cost of fuel is included. (From 18% to 12%)



### EXEMPTIONS BEING WITHDRAWN

- Cheques, lose or in book form (to be levied at 18%)
- Maps and hydrographic or similar charts of all kinds, including atlases, wall maps, topographical plans and globes, printed (to be levied at 12%)
- Hotel accommodation priced up to ₹1,000/day shall be taxed at 12%
- Room rent (excluding ICU) exceeding ₹5,000/day per patient charged by a hospital shall be taxed at 5% sans ITC



*Note: List is not exhaustive; Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau*

- There will be no refund of accumulated input tax credit (ITC) on goods such as edible oil and coal. Exemptions have also been withdrawn for room rents.
- 12% GST will now be collected on hotel rooms having rent up to Rs 1,000 a day.
- 5% GST will be collected on hospital room rent above Rs 5,000 per day (excluding ICU).
- GST rate has been reduced for ostomy/orthopedic appliances from 12% to 5%.
- GST rate has been reduced for transport of goods and passengers by ropeways from 18% to 5% with an input tax credit. These rate changes will be effective July 18.
- **The GoM headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has received a 3-month extension for rate rationalization measures.**



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- Presently, online gaming has a dual-rate of taxation- 18% on games of skill (not involving betting or gambling) and 28% on games of chance (involving betting and gambling).
- **Online gaming apps pay GST at 18%. Casinos and horse racing attract a GST of 28%.**
- The GoM recommended a uniform 28% GST rate on horse racing, online gaming, and casinos.
- The GoM had recommended that online gaming should be taxed at the full value of the consideration and no distinction be made on grounds of the game of skill or game of chance for the levy of GST.
- **On the valuation mechanism for taxing casinos, a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has been asked to submit its report by July 15.**
- The report of the GoM will be considered in the next meeting, which may take place during the first week of August at Madurai.

46. What is the name of the **Fintechservices Company that has launched UPI 123Pay payment and wearable ATM cards?**

- A. Pine Labs
- B. Bill Desk
- C. Acemoney**
- D. Mobikwik

- UPI 123Pay payment and wearable ATM cards have been launched by fintech services company Acemoney.
- **Acemoney is the first company in India, which has launched UPI 123Pay services in Malayalam and Tamil.**
- RBI launched UPI 123Pay in March 2022.
- With the help of UPI 123Pay, people can carry out cashless transactions without smartphones or internet connections using feature phones.
- The wearable ATM cards are designed as key chains and rings. They allow people to do cashless transactions without ATM cards and phones.

47. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ **became the fourth NBFC to receive issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments.**

- A. Bajaj Finserve
- B. Manapurram
- C. Paul Merchants
- D. Mufin Finance**

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- **RBI has given in-principle approval to Mufin Finance for the issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments.**  
**Mufin Finance is the fourth NBFC to receive such a license from the RBI.**
- **Bajaj Finserve, Manapurram, and Paul Merchants are other brands that have received this license.**
- **After receiving a semi-closed PPI license, digital banks and fintech firms can launch features such as digital payment solutions for lending.**
- **Mufin Finance is in the process of launching MufinPay, a digital payment solution that will complement its lending business.**
- **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) can be in the form of digital wallets, smart cards, magnetic chips, and vouchers.**
- **Gift cards, payment wallets, smart cards, and vouchers are all forms of PPIs.**

48. Recently In June \_\_\_\_\_ **received in-principle approval from RBI for an operations support subsidiary aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio.**

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. State Bank Of India**
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

- **SBI has received in-principle approval from RBI for an operations support subsidiary aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio.**
- **SBI will soon begin a pilot run in selected areas before introducing the new subsidiary across India.**
- **SBI's cost-to-income ratio stood at 53.3% in FY22. The cost-to-income ratio of the top three private banks is 35-40%.**
- **The subsidiary would focus on providing support services mainly for agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises.**
- **The subsidiary would also focus on other micro-loans, data entry**

## SBI gets RBI nod to set up operations support arm

Will help improve cost-to-income ratio, says Chairman

**HAMSINI KARTHIK SURABHI THOMAS K THOMAS**  
Mumbai, June 26

State Bank of India has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India for its proposed operations support subsidiary aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio. The bank will soon start a pilot run in a few regions before launching the new subsidiary pan India.

"We are setting up an operations support subsidiary. It is intended to address the concern relating to the cost-to-income ratio. We have already got the in-principle approval from RBI and soon we will be launching it in a pilot mode," said SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.

### Bettering efficiencies

In an interaction with *BusinessLine*, Khara said the subsidiary will enable the lender to leverage its high cost manpower for more productive services. SBI's cost-to-in-

**"Routine jobs can be done by the subsidiary. We are finalising the structure but it will be more technology and some people."**

**DINESH KUMAR KHARA,**  
SBI Chairman



come ratio stood at 53.3 per cent in FY22, an improvement of 240 basis points over FY19 levels. In comparison, the cost-to-income ratio of top three private banks are well below SBI's, at 35-40 per cent. Therefore, the subsidiary, aimed at bettering the operating efficiencies, can help India's largest bank significantly improve its profitability over time. In FY22, SBI's net interest margin stood at 3.15 per cent, while the average for private banks topped 4 per cent in FY22.

"Routine jobs can be done by the subsidiary. We are finalising the structure but it

will be more technology and some people. Technology supporting people on ground," he said, adding that core functions such as the loan sanctioning process will remain within the bank.

"Core functions cannot be outsourced, as per RBI directions," he pointed out.

Khara said the pilot will be launched soon within a quarter or so in a few circles and once the results are seen, it would be rolled out across the country.

Terming it one of his pet projects, Khara said that the bank had in January this year initiated the process of hir-

ing a consultant to set up an operations support subsidiary.

### Focus areas

The subsidiary would focus on providing support services mainly for agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises, other micro loans, data entry operations, activities that can be undertaken as allowed for Business Correspondents, among others.

SBI has been working to improve its cost efficiencies. The cost-to-income ratio has declined to 53.31 per cent in 2021-22 from 53.5 per cent in 2020-21 and 55.7 per cent in 2018-19.

Not many lenders in the public sector operate with a subsidiary to handle the bank's non-core functions, while the model is quite popular with private banks. Among public sector banks, Bank of Baroda was the first to undertake a similar strategy of operations support. However, Khara believes that given SBI's scale and size, the bank's operations subsidiary may be much larger, encompassing various functions.

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operations, and activities that can be undertaken as allowed for Business Correspondents.

49. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ partnered with Worldline, a global leader in payment services, to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network.
- A. Bank of India
  - B. State Bank Of India
  - C. Bajaj Finance Limited
  - D. HSBC limited

## Bajaj Finance, Worldline India tie up for merchant payment solutions

Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited has partnered with Worldline, a global leader in payment services, to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network. With this partnership, Bajaj Finance aims to enhance its relationship with its existing as well as new network of merchant partners by providing point-of-sale terminals and enabling acceptance of a wide range of payment instruments.

- Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited and India's largest and highly diversified NBFC company, has partnered with Worldline, a global leader in payment services, to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network.
- Worldline, a company with a rich experience in the payments ecosystem in India and globally, has been chosen by Bajaj Finance Limited as a technology and service partner to develop and manage their merchant acquiring initiative, which will be present at pan-India merchant locations
- With this tie-up, Bajaj Finance Limited aims to enhance its relationship with both its existing and new network of merchant partners, by providing point-of-sale terminals and enabling acceptance of a wide range of payment instruments such as EMI cards, credit cards, UPI, and wallets

50. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Indian agency to win the Agency of the Year at the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity 2022.
- A. IG Drones
  - B. Dentsu Creative
  - C. Dhruva Aerospace
  - D. Garuda Aerospace



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- Ending the Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity 2022 on a high, Dentsu Creative has been named the Agency of the Year. It is the first Indian agency to ever win the coveted title.
- India won a total of eight Lions on the festival's final day, taking its festival tally to 47, a record that also includes the most Grand Prix (4) in a year, beating the two from 2018.
- It is also the first time that India has bagged five Grand Prix in one year at the annual Fest.
- The most number of Lions came under the Radio & Audio (6), Media (5), Brand Experience & Activation, Direct, and Radio & Audio (4 each) categories.

51. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ launched a digital platform, 'Campus Power', first-of-its-kind to address the needs of the students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad.

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda

- On 23rd June 2022 ICICI Bank launched a digital platform, 'Campus Power', first-of-its-kind to address the needs of the students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad. It is also available for other bank customers.
- This is a one-stop platform, designed to assist the entire student ecosystem comprising students, parents, and institutes.
- Campus Power offers financial products ranging from bank accounts including overseas accounts, education loans, and its tax benefit, foreign exchange solutions, payment solutions, cards, other loans, and investments.
- MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi Establishment – 1994

52. Consider the following statement regarding Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA).

1. Indian Coast Guard launched Centralised Pay System 'PADMA'.

### { CANNES LIONS FESTIVAL }

## Dentsu Creative bags 'Agency of Year' title

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Dentsu Creative, Bengaluru, was named the 'Agency of the Year' at the prestigious Cannes Lions, 2022, festival, the first time an agency from India bagged the honour.

Cannes Lions International Festival is a global event that recognises exceptional work in the field of creative communications, advertising, and related domains.

It seeks to explore and acknowledge the value of creativity in branded communication: from product and service development to the creative strategy, execution and impact.

The jury consisted of the global industry's leading talent across a diverse range of disci-

plines.  
**THE COMPANY SAYS 'WE ARE MAKING HISTORY... INDIA IS SHOWING THE PATH FOR ALL OUR AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD'**

plines.

"Tonight we are making history. Dentsu Creative Bengaluru has been named Agency of the Year at @Cannes\_Lions. India is showing the path for all our agencies around the world. Thank you to our relentless teams & brave clients. This is a very special moment for our people & Dentsu," the company said in a Twitter post.

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2. It has been developed under the aegis of the **Defense Accounts Department** and it will be operated by the **Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

• **Indian Coast Guard launched Centralised Pay System 'PADMA'.**

PADMA, the Centralised Pay System for Indian Coast Guard launched

Posted On: 28 JUN 2022 7:30PM by PIB Delhi

Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA), an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Shri Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence, on June 28, 2022.

PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel. This module has been developed under the aegis of Defense Accounts Department and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida. The launch marked the beginning of the Centralized Pay System (CPS), the foundation of which is being laid down by the Defence Accounts Department Headquarters to provide one stop pay accounting solutions for all organisations under the Ministry.

The CGDA emphasized that the Government has campaigned for Digital India to ensure dedicated services and reduce manual intervention at every level & to promote E-Governance in a big way. Launch of PADMA will strengthen the Digital India concept. Also, it is an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative as the entire module has been designed and developed by Indian entrepreneurs assisted by domain experts.

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- **PADMA will help in seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to Indian Coast Guard personnel.**
- **It has been developed under the aegis of the Defense Accounts Department and it will be operated by the Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.**
- **The Centralized Pay System (CPS) has been started to provide one-stop pay accounting solutions for all organizations under the Ministry of Defence.**
- **'PADMA' will promote the Digital India concept under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.**
- **Indian Coast Guard: It works under the Ministry of Defense.**
- **It is an armed force, maritime, search and rescue, and law enforcement agency. It is headquartered in New Delhi.**

53. Recently in June, the Union Cabinet **approved the categorization of which the following as an International Organization?**

- A. International Solar Alliance
- B. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**
- C. National Institute of Solar Energy
- D. The Energy and Resources Institute

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- *The deregulation of the sale of domestically produced crude oil has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.*
- *All exploration and production companies will now be free to sell crude oil from their fields in the domestic market.*
- *However, exports will not be permissible. Government revenues like Royalty, cess, etc. will continue to be determined uniformly across all Contracts.*
- *The categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an International Organization has also been approved by Union Cabinet.*
- *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) initiative:*
- *The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23 September 2019 at the UN Climate Change Summit.*
- *Since its launch, six International Organizations, 31 Countries, and two private sector organizations have joined as members of CDRI.*

54. Recently in June **BSE collaborated** with the \_\_\_\_\_ **state Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture** to promote and create awareness in the state on the benefits of listing on its SME platform.

- A. Odisha
- B. Maharashtra**
- C. Karnataka
- D. Uttar Pradesh

- *Leading stock exchange BSE has collaborated with the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture to promote and create awareness in the state on the benefits of listing on its SME platform.*
- *Through this partnership, BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to enterprises registered with the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) to get listed on the BSE SME platform.*
- *Also, BSE SME will provide training and capacity-building programs to MACCIA officials. The exchange will appoint a nodal person as single point contact in Maharashtra for providing an end-to-end solution concerning registration or listing on its SME platform.*
- *Recently, BSE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Federal Bank to promote the listing of SMEs and startups.*

### **BSE, MACCIA to promote SME listing**

New Delhi, June 27

The BSE on Monday said it has collaborated with the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) to create awareness on the benefits of listing on its SME platform. BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to registered enterprises to get listed, it said in a statement. Also, BSE SME will provide training and capacity-building programmes to MACCIA officials. The exchange will appoint a nodal person as single point contact in Maharashtra for providing an end-to-end solution with respect to registration or listing on its SME platform. PTI



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55. Recently *Sebi provided an additional payment option of UPI to retail investors to apply in the public issue of REITs and InvITs for application value up to \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. Rs 5 Lakh
- B. Rs 10 Lakh
- C. Rs 15 Lakh
- D. Rs 2 Lakh

- *Capital markets regulator Sebi provided an additional payment option of UPI or unified payments interface mechanism to retail investors to apply in the public issue of REITs and InvITs for application value up to Rs 5 lakh.*
- *The new framework, aimed at further streamlining the process, will apply to the public issue of units of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and real estate investment trust (REIT), which opens from August 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in two separate circulars.*
- *Separately, the regulator has decided to reduce the time taken for allotment and listing of units of privately placed InvIT after the closure of the issue to six working days as against the present requirement of 30 working days.*
- *REITs and InvITs are relatively new investment instruments in the Indian context but are extremely popular in the global markets.*
- *While a REIT comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets, a major portion of which is already leased out, InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets, such as highways and power transmission assets.*

56. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ *has been felicitated with the “Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category” by Airwards.*

- A. Garuda Aerospace
- B. IG Drones
- C. Dhruva Drones
- D. Arjun Drones

## SEBI brings UPI payments option for REITs, InvITs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Friday provided an additional payment option of UPI or unified payments interface mechanism to retail investors to apply in the public issue of REITs and InvITs for application value up to ₹5 lakh.

The new framework, aimed at further streamlining the process, will be applicable to public issue of units of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and real estate investment trust (REIT), which opens from August 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in two separate circulars.

SEBI has asked all the entities involved in the process to coordinate with one another to ensure completion of the listing of securities and commencement of trading by T+ 6 working days.

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- *The Delhi-based leading Drone enterprise platform company IG Drones has been felicitated with the “Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category” by Airwards. IG Drones has been selected for the award for its approach to helping local communities and giving access to technology to various stakeholders during natural disasters and calamities.*
- *Airwards is The first panoptic global awards program of its kind dedicated to identifying, recognizing, and championing the breadth of positive drone use cases from around the world which are innovative, safe, and having a real-world impact.*
- *Over 120 global submissions were judged by 38 drone experts and business leaders to award this year’s 18 Airwards main category winners. Announced during the second-ever Airwards Winners’ Week (23-31 May 2022), the winners have been recognized by Airwards as the pinnacle in innovative, responsible, and impactful projects made possible with drones.*
- *IG Drones is developing new technology-based disaster response and mitigation to increase the efficiency and efficacy of first responders' aid in emergency response and catastrophe mapping.*

57. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.

- A. Ashok Soota
- B. SanjivPuri
- C. Dinesh Kumar
- D. Pawan Munjal

- *Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.*
- *The Annual CII Quality Ratna Award constituted in the year 2019 is in recognition of outstanding leadership, contribution, and distinguished service to the Quality Movement in India.*
- *The CII Awards Committee unanimously concurred to bestow the 2021 Award to Mr. Soota considering his significant contribution to building the competitiveness of the Indian industry through quality Initiatives.*

58. Recently *State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank* acquired a \_\_\_\_\_ percent stake each in *Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA)*.

- A. 9.91 %
- B. 9.54 %
- C. 9.99 %
- D. 4.91 %

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- *State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank on Tuesday acquired a 9.54 percent stake each in Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA).*
- *These banks acquired 8,05,520 equity shares each by paying Rs 4.03 crore each for the stakes.*
- *The investments will be subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.*
- *Perfios AA is an RBI-registered NBFC-Account Aggregator engaged in providing account aggregation services.*

59. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ announced the launch of a *new health insurance product 'Global Health Care'*.

- A. *Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.*
- B. *HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company*
- C. *Bharti Axa General Insurance Co. Ltd.*
- D. *Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd.*

- *Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced the launch of a new health insurance product 'Global Health Care'.*
- *complete health indemnity insurance program called Global Health Care offers seamless coverage to the policyholder for both domestic and international (outside of India) medical providers for both planned and emergency treatment (within India).*
- *The product's USP is that it enables insured members to arrange any treatment without anxiety in India, enabling them to make use of the best medical facilities available anywhere in the world.*
- *To give their clients a flawless claims experience, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has partnered with Allianz Partners.*
- *MD and CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: TapanSinghel*

60. Consider the following statement regarding *India's first fractionally-owned solar power plant*.

1. *PYSE has launched India's first fractionally-owned solar power plant in Karnataka.*
2. *The solar power plant is aRs 26 crore project*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *An investment platform PYSE has launched India's first fractionally-owned solar power plant in Karnataka.*



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- *PYSE has strengthened its leadership position in the renewable energy space by launching India's first and largest fractionally-owned solar power plant in Karnataka.*
- *According to the statement, the solar power plant is a Rs 26 crore project with an average investor ticket size of Rs 25,000.*
- *The project has been strategically divided into four tranches with the first three tranches worth Rs 16 crore.*
- *Tranche 1, 2, and 3 had been oversubscribed by 2.5x and the money was raised on an average of 3 days.*

61. Consider the following statement regarding the **World Bank loan provided to India In June.**

1. *The World Bank approved USD 250 million for Outcomes for Accelerated Learning (GOAL) to improve education results for children across the state of Gujarat,*
2. *World Bank approved a USD 150 million funding to support the recovery of India's fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu*
3. *World Bank approved a USD 162 million for the RIGHTS project to strengthen the social protection systems in Andhra Pradesh*

*Which of the following statement is correct?*

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

## **World Bank approves USD 562 mn funding for 3 projects in India**

World Bank has approved three loans totalling USD 562 million (about Rs 4,393.70 crore) to fund an education project in Gujarat, a social protection programme in Tamil Nadu and a project to help recovery in the fisheries sector post the pandemic, the multilateral funding agency said on Thursday.

- *World Bank has approved three loans totaling USD 562 million (about Rs 4,393.70 crore) to fund an education project in Gujarat, a social protection program in Tamil Nadu, and a project to help recovery in the fisheries sector post the pandemic*
- *The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved additional financing of USD 250 million for Outcomes for Accelerated Learning (GOAL), a program that aims to improve education results for children across the state of Gujarat, GOAL project financing complements the original loan of USD 500 million, which was approved in March 2021.*
- *Besides, the board of executive directors of the World Bank approved a USD 150 million in funding to support the recovery of India's fisheries sector and a USD 162 million for the RIGHTS project to strengthen the social protection systems and capability of the State of Tamil Nadu to promote inclusion, accessibility, and opportunities for persons with disabilities*

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- *The Fisheries Sector Covid-19 Recovery Project will complement the Government of India's Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.*
- 62. Recently **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, **Urraca-IX** in which of the following country?
  - A. Ukraine
  - B. Germany
  - C. Saudi Arabia
  - D. Colombia
- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), the National Oil Company of India, has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, **Urraca-IX**, in **CPO-5 block, Llanos Basin, Colombia**.
- **Well, Urraca-1X was spudded on 20th April 2022 and drilled to a target depth (TD) of 10956 ft., encountering 17 ft thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201ft -10218 ft.**
- **ONGC Videsh has earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing @ 20,000 bbl oil per day.**
- **Block CPO-5 was awarded to ONGC Videsh Limited in the 2008 bid round of Colombia. ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest (PI) in the block along with operatorship, the remaining 30% is held by partner Geopark.**
- **ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in the oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil-producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).**

**● EXPANSION OF FOOTPRINT**

## OVL discovers oil in Colombia block

With three other exploratory blocks in the country, OVL has a significant presence in the country's oil and gas sector

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, June 23

ONGC VIDESH (OVL), the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well Urraca-IX, in CPO-5 block, Llanos Basin, Colombia.

The block was awarded to OVL in the 2008 bid round of Colombia. OVL holds 70% participating interest in the block along with operatorship. The remaining 30% stake in the block is held by its partner Geopark.

"During initial testing with electrical submersible pump



### NEW GROUND

■ The block was awarded to OVL in the 2008 bid round of Colombia

■ The latest discovery will further enhance its presence in the African nation

■ OVL now has stake in 35 oil and gas projects in 15 countries

(ESP), fluid flowed at the rate of approx. 600 barrel/day. Oil discovery in the Lower Mirador play in this well opens up new

areas for further exploration in the northern part of the block," the government said in a statement.

OVL had earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing around 20,000 barrels of oil daily.

With three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia (MECL), OVL has a significant presence in Colombia's oil and gas sector.

The latest discovery will further enhance its presence in the nation.

OVL now has stake in 35 oil and gas projects in 15 countries. Of these, it produces oil & gas from 14 assets, hydrocarbons have been discovered in four assets, and exploration is at various stages in 14 assets while three projects are in the pipeline.



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63. Consider the following statement which of the following is incorrect.

1. Pankaj Mohan Pawar was appointed as the MD of Reliance JioInfocomm (RJIL).
2. Mukesh Ambani has resigned as the CEO of Reliance JioInfocomm (RJIL) and handed over the reins to his wife Nita Ambani.
3. IshaAmbanis set to be named chairman of the Reliance conglomerate's retail unit

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

- Mukesh Ambani has resigned as CEO of Reliance JioInfocomm (RJIL).
- Mukesh Ambani has stood down as chairman of the board of directors of Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd, turning over the reins to his son Akash.
- Mukesh Ambani will remain chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd, the parent company of all Jio digital services brands.
- Pankaj Mohan Pawar's appointment as the company's managing director for a five-year term has been also approved by the Reliance Jio board.
- Additionally, it approved the appointment of K.V. Chowdary and Raminder Singh Gujral as additional directors of the firm who will serve as independent directors for a five-year term.
- IshaAmbani is set to be named chairman of the Reliance conglomerate's retail unit in another sign that her father, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is pushing ahead with a plan for succession in one of Asia's richest families. She is currently the director of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.
- Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio are subsidiaries of the family's oil-to-telecom conglomerate, of which the \$217 billion Reliance Industries Ltd. is the flagship firm. Mukesh Ambani is chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries.

## MUKESH AMBANI STEPS DOWN, SON TO BE CHAIRMAN

# Akash's the limit for Jio

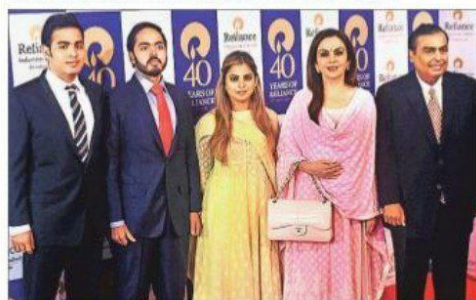
Pankaj Mohan Pawar to be MD; Mukesh to remain Jio Platforms head

RAJESH KURUP  
Mumbai, June 28

RELiance INDUSTRIES, THE country's largest private sector company, on Tuesday initiated a much-anticipated generational shift in its telecom arm's top management, with Mukesh Ambani stepping down from the board of Reliance Jio Infocomm.

His elder son, Akash (30), non-executive director, has been appointed the chairman of the country's largest telecom service provider. Jio is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RIL and is credited with bringing about the biggest change in the telecom

### SUCCESSION PLAN SET IN MOTION



Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with wife Nita, sons Akash & Anant and daughter Isha

market by charging only for data with voice being free. The change comes at a time when the telecom market is set for a generational change with the onset of 5G technology and services.

Mukesh Ambani, however, will continue to be the chairman of Jio Platforms, the flag-

ship company that owns all digital services brands, including RJio, and in which big-tech firms like Facebook, Qualcomm, Google, Intel and a host of PE firms have made investments totalling ₹1.52 trillion.

Continued on Page 21

### THE DIGITAL GAME

Operating revenue  
₹81,587 cr

Net profit  
₹15,487 cr

Subscriber base  
410.2 million

Avg data consumption per user per month  
19.7 GB

Avg voice consumption per user per month  
968 minutes

All numbers for FY22

### IN THE NEWS



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
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- **Reliance JioInfocomm: The largest 4G and mobile broadband service provider in India, Reliance JioInfocomm, is a division of Jio Platforms. It is headquartered in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- **It was established on 15 February 2007.**

## SUCCESSION PLANNING

The elevation of Akash Ambani as the chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm is the first official signal that succession planning is underway at Reliance Industries.



**Mukesh Ambani (65)**  
Chairman and MD, Reliance Industries



**Nita Ambani (58)**  
Non-executive, non-independent director, Reliance Industries



**Akash Ambani (30)**  
Chairman, Reliance Jio Infocomm; director, Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail Ventures



**Isha Ambani (30)**  
Director, Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail Ventures



**Anant Ambani (27)**  
Director, Reliance New Energy

### TAKING THE REINS

**AKASH** joined the board of Reliance Jio Infocomm in Oct 2014

**HE** was involved in Jio's many acquisitions and major stake sales in 2020

**MUKESH** Ambani is banking on top execs at RIL to help guide Akash

## Isha Ambani to head RIL retail biz

**Bloomberg**

feedback@livemint.com

**MUMBAI:** Isha Ambani is set to be named chairman of the Reliance conglomerate's retail unit in another sign that her father, billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is pushing ahead with a plan for succession in one of Asia's richest families.

An announcement of Isha Ambani's elevation could come soon, according to people with knowledge of the development, who asked not to be identified ahead of a formal statement.

She is currently director of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. A representative for the group declined to comment.

Isha Ambani's promotion

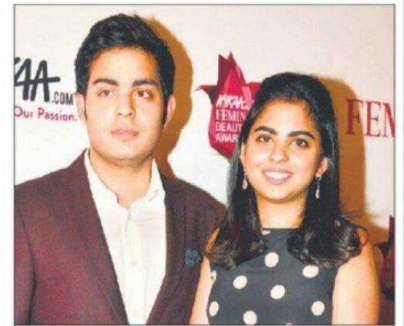
follows that of her twin brother, Akash Ambani, who was appointed on Tuesday as chairman of the telecom unit, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

Isha and Akash have both been part of teams that negotiated Meta Platforms Inc.'s investment in the conglomerate.

Isha, 30, is an alumnus of Yale University. The twins have a younger brother, Anant, 27.

Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio are subsidiaries of the family's oil-to-telecom conglomerate, of which the \$217 billion Reliance Industries Ltd is the flagship company.

Mukesh Ambani is chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries.



Isha Ambani with her twin brother Akash Ambani, who has been appointed as chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm. INDIA TODAY GROUP

## World Bank to give \$250 mn for India

The World Bank's Board of executive directors have approved the financing of \$250 million to support the government of India's Program for Strengthening Road Safety. The World Bank project will help participating states reduce road crash fatalities and injuries through improved road safety management and institutional reform, and results-based interventions on high-risk roads. It will also strengthen emergency medical and rehabilitation services for post-crash care.

With only 1% of the world's vehicles, India accounts for almost 10% of all crash related deaths. The poor households bear a higher proportion of the socio-economic burden of road crashes due to loss of income, high medical expenses and limited access to social safety nets.

According to a World Bank study, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between 5 to 7% of GDP a year.

STAFF WRITER

64. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ approved \$250 mn loan to India for road safety programme.

- A. ADB
- B. WB
- C. NDB
- D. EU

- **World Bank to give \$250 mn loans to India for the road safety program.**
- **The \$250 million loan amount to be given by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18 years.**
- **The India State Support Program for Road Safety will be implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal with the financial support of the World Bank.**

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- *The project will also create a national harmonized crash database system to analyze accidents, which will be used to construct safer roads.*
  - *The fund will be also used to expand the network of basic and advanced life support ambulances and to provide training to first responders to road accidents.*
  - *The project will also give incentives to States for leveraging private funding through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) concessions and pilot initiatives.*
  - *In India, around 1.5 lakh people died each year in road accidents. More than half of the victims are pedestrians, cyclists, or motorcyclists.*
65. SEBI has recently **permitted FPIs belonging to individuals, family offices, and corporates a position limit of \_\_\_\_\_ of the client-level position limit in a particular commodity derivatives contract.**
- A. 10%
  - B. 20%**
  - C. 30%
  - D. 40%
- 
- **SEBI has allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to participate in the Exchange-Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCD) market.**
  - *FPIs will be permitted to trade in all non-agricultural commodity derivatives and a few select broad agricultural commodity derivatives.*
  - *Initially, they will be permitted only in cash-settled contracts.*
  - *Institutional investors like Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), Portfolio Management Services, and Mutual Funds were already permitted by SEBI to participate in the ETCD market.*
  - *SEBI has discontinued the existing Eligible Foreign Entity (EFE) route, which required actual exposure to Indian physical commodities.*
  - *Now, any FPI who wants to participate in Indian commodity derivatives with or without actual exposure to Indian physical commodities can do so through the FPI route.*
  - *The position limits for FPIs (other than individuals, family offices, and corporate bodies) will be at par with those presently applicable for mutual fund schemes.*
  - **FPIs belonging to individuals, family offices and corporates will be permitted a position limit of 20% of the client-level position limit in a particular commodity derivatives contract.**
  - *SEBI Board has also approved the creation of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) for clearing and settlement of corporate bond repo transactions.*

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66. *Kutch Copper Ltd, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has raised a debt of ₹6,071 crores by a consortium of banks led by which of the following bank?*

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

- *Kutch Copper Ltd (KCL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, has raised a debt of ₹6,071 crores by a consortium of banks.*
- *The consortium of banks is led by the State Bank of India (SBI).*
- *Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, EXIM Bank of India, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra are other consortium members.*
- *Kutch Copper Ltd is establishing a copper refinery project in two phases.*
- *The consortium of banks has signed an agreement for the total debt requirement of Rs 6,071 crore for the KCL Project's Phase-1 at Mundra, Gujarat.*

## Adani group firm raises ₹6K cr for Kutch Copper project

Kutch Copper, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, is setting up a greenfield copper refinery project to produce one MTPA (million tonnes per annum) in two phases. The firm has achieved financial closure of ₹6,071 crore for the first phase. Phase-1 of the project will have a capacity 0.5 MTPA at Mundra, Gujarat. KCL has signed the financing documents with a consortium led by State Bank of India (SBI). The other members are Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, EXIM, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra. The consortium has sanctioned and signed agreement for the entire debt requirement of ₹6,071 crore for the phase one of the project, as per a company statement.

PTI

67. *In June 2022, RBI imposed a Rs 57.50 lakh monetary penalty on which of the following banks?*

- A. Bank of Maharashtra
- B. **Indian Overseas Bank**
- C. Axis Bank
- D. HDFC Bank

- *RBI has imposed a Rs 57.50 lakh monetary penalty on Indian Overseas Bank.*
- *RBI has imposed a monetary penalty for non-compliance with its directions on the classification and reporting of frauds by commercial banks and financial institutions.*
- *RBI has carried out a statutory inspection of the Indian Overseas Bank regarding its financial position and found non-compliance with certain directions.*
- *Indian Overseas Bank: It is a nationalized bank headquartered in Chennai.*
- *It is a government-owned bank. ParthaPratimSengupta is its MD and CEO.*

## RBI imposes Rs 57.5 lakh penalty on IOB

Mumbai: Reserve Bank on Friday imposed a penalty of Rs 57.5 lakh on state-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for non-compliance with certain norms, including those related with frauds classification and reporting.

Based on the statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position at end-March, 2020, and examination of reports, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed the penalty.

Giving details, the central bank said IOB failed to report certain instances of frauds involving ATM card cloning/skimming, to the RBI within three weeks from the date of detection.



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68. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has reduced the *solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business*.

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

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers doing crop business. The decision can free up capital of Rs 1,400 crore.
- Irdai has been relaxing the period of admissibility of premiums due from state governments for solvency purposes from 180 days to 365 days since 2017-18. It has now decided to extend this relaxation from FY23 onwards until further orders. "This move will improve the solvency status of the general insurance industry as a whole.
- It said the number of off-line returns being submitted by life insurers has been reduced from 40 to 4 and the number of online returns would come down from 8 to 5.

69. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ signed an MoU with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt. Ltd., India, a subsidiary of DI Belarus, for the supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for the helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited**
- B. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- D. Bharat Dynamics Ltd

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd, India (a subsidiary of DI Belarus) to build cooperation amongst the three companies for the supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for Indian Air Force's helicopters.
- ADS is used for protecting helicopters. BEL will be the prime contractor and will be supported by DI with manufacturing and maintenance for the supply of advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suites for helicopters under the 'Make in India' category.
- Bharat Electronics Limited Founded: 1954; Bharat Electronics Limited Executive Director: Vinay Kumar Katyal.

70. Recently Meta has extended its collaboration with \_\_\_\_\_ to launch the *second phase of the Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) program*.

- A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

- Meta has extended its collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to launch the second phase of the Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) program. Arjun Munda, Minister of Tribal Affairs launched the second phase of the **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) program**, which is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Meta. GOAL 2.0 will look to digitally upskill, connect and empower 10-lakh youth and women from the tribal communities of the country and will act as a bridge for the socially marginalized youth with a vast canvas of opportunities using technology that they otherwise may not have access to.
- The first phase of GOAL included inspiring, connecting, and upskilling tribal youth from across the country. The program is aimed at empowering youth and women from tribal and indigenous communities to harness the full potential of digital platforms and enhance their leadership skills for driving community development.

71. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ partnered with Axis Bank, to digitize the cash collection system in India's tier III cities and semi-urban regions.

- A. Airtel payment bank
- B. Jana Small finance bank
- C. Utkarsh Small finance bank
- D. Jio Payment bank

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Axis Bank, to digitize the cash collection system in India's tier III cities and semi-urban regions.
- Airtel Payments Bank will leverage the extensive reach of its digital-led neighborhood banking model to support Axis Bank with the digitization of last-mile cash collections.
- This partnership will help Axis Bank build operational efficiencies in the cash management process. It is also expected to speed up the payment cycle and help in releasing the bandwidth of field agents who operate across the country.
- Axis Bank customers will also be able to make direct EMI deposits for loan payments at the 5,00,000 banking points of Airtel Payments Bank.

## Airtel Payments Bank partners Axis Bank to digitise cash colle

4/14

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, June 29

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Axis Bank to digitise the cash collection system in Tier III cities and semi-urban regions.

Under this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank will leverage the extensive reach of its digital-led neighbourhood banking model to support Axis Bank with the digitisation of last-mile cash collections.

This tie-up would also speed up the payment cycle and help in releasing the band-

width of field agents who operate across the country.

This process will mitigate the risk of carrying cash collections by agents during long-distance travel. Additionally, this process will help avoid any delays, as Airtel Payments Bank outlets operate much beyond the traditional banking hours and over the weekends too.

Axis Bank customers will soon be able to make direct EMI deposits for loan payments at the 5 lakh banking points of Airtel Payments Bank.

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72. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ has rolled out a *smart solution, 'Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)'+*.

- A. **Max Life Insurance**
- B. PNB MetLife India Insurance
- C. Tata AIG General Insurance
- D. United India Insurance

- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has rolled out a smart solution, 'Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)'+, to customers buying the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan' a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan on the Max Life website or Policybazaar platform.**
- **The Insta-COI feature enables intimation to the proposer regarding the commencement of the risk cover pending release of the policy contract ensuring a quick and hassle-free onboarding.**
- **This initiative becomes possible by digitizing processes for documentation during onboarding. Strengthened by AI-enabled smart underwriting, this solution is currently applicable for certain low-risk prospects choosing a sum assured of up to INR 25 Lakh.**
- **Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a Joint Venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.**

73. Which of the following *Indian CMOs (chief marketing officers) made it to the list of the top ten of Forbes' world's most influential CMOs (chief marketing officers) in 2022?*

- A. Adar Poonawalla
- B. **Harish Bhat**
- C. Pushkar Malhotra
- D. Cyrus Poonawalla

- **Tata group's Harish Bhat is among the top ten of Forbes' world's most influential CMOs (chief marketing officers) 2022. Bhat, who is Brand Custodian, Tata Sons, is ranked number 9 on the list.**
- **The global top CMO list was announced at a special luncheon event hosted by Forbes on the sidelines of the**

## Tatas' Harish Bhat in Forbes' Top 10 CMOs list

Tata, the only Indian brand in Top 10; list announced at Cannes Lions festival

OUR BUREAU  
Chennai, June 25

Tata group's Harish Bhat is among the top ten of Forbes' world's most influential CMOs (chief marketing officers) of 2022. Bhat, who is Brand Custodian at Tata Sons, is ranked No 9 on the list. The global top CMO list was announced at a special luncheon event hosted by Forbes on the sidelines of the Cannes Lions festival on June 23.

Apart from being the only Indian on the list, Bhat and Bettina Fetzer, Head, Marketing, Mercedes-Benz, are the only two from companies that are not from the US. Tata is the only Indian brand in the top 10 and the top 50. Two other



Harish Bhat, Brand Custodian, Tata Sons

Asian brands on the list are Alibaba at No. 15 and Hyundai at No. 35.

Writing about Bhat, *Forbes* says, "As Brand Custodian for this Indian conglomerate, which controls over 30 companies, Bhat is careful to connect the history and legacy of the Tata brand to its current

and diverse business interests across media and markets. The author of multiple books on Tata's history, which he sees as inextricably linked to its future, he's been a key part of the group's transition to marketing that is more customer and consumer-focused. Essential to Bhat's approach is seeing the future through the eyes of those to whom you're marketing. "While digital and data can be part of the picture, nothing," he recently shared, "replaces interaction with consumers. They give you ideas on how to build your next campaign and build your next product."

#### Other CMOs

Topping the CMOs list is Dara

Treseder, SVP, Global Head of Marketing, Communications, Peloton Interactive. Others on the list in the order of ranking are William White, SVP & CMO, Walmart; Fernando Machado, CMO, Activision Blizzard; Greg Joswiak, SVP, Worldwide Marketing, Apple; Morgan Flatley, Global CMO, McDonald's; Sarah Franklin, President & CMO, Salesforce; Manuel Arroyo, Global CMO, The Coca-Cola Co; Bettina Fetzer, Head, Marketing, Mercedes-Benz; and number 10 on the list is Alex Schultz, CMO & VP, Analytics, Meta.

At No 11 is another Indian, Vandita Pant, Chief Commercial Officer, BHP, the Australian commodities company.

Bhat, a graduate of BITS Pil-

ani and a co-gold medallist from IIM-A with Raghuram Rajan, has spent over 35 years with the Tatas, selected straight out of B-school to the Tata Administrative Service. He spent many years with Titan Co Ltd as its Head of Marketing. A prolific writer, Bhat is also a regular columnist for *BusinessLine*.

#### BusinessLine

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*Cannes Lions festival on June*

23.

- Apart from being the only Indian on the list, Bhat, along with Bettina Fetzer, Head, Marketing, and Mercedes-Benz, are from the only two companies which are not from the US. Tata is the only Indian brand in the top 10 and the top 50. Two other Asian brands on the list are Alibaba at no. 15 and Hyundai at no. 35.
- **Topping the list is Dara Treseder, SVP, Global Head of Marketing, Communications, Peloton Interactive.**
- At number 11 is another Indian, Vandita Pant, Chief Commercial Officer, BHP, the Australian commodities company.

74. Recently in June **Flipkart** signs MoU with \_\_\_\_\_ based **SERP** to boost local businesses.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

- **Flipkart** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Telangana's Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty** to facilitate market access for self-help groups and farmer producer organizations in the state.
- Through this agreement, **Flipkart** will provide training to **FPOs and SHGs** and will source goods from local **Telangana farmers** to help to improve their income.
- **Flipkart** is working with several groups across India intending to build partnerships with local businesses to bring them online. The **Walmart-owned business** aims to digitize rural and small businesses and bring them to the over **400 million customers** on its **India platform** as well as international markets through its global e-commerce platform.

75. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ partners with **Google** to launch the **Google Nest** providing the battery-powered **Google Nest Cam** and a **Google Nest Mini**.

- A. State bank of India
- B. Tata Play**
- C. Viacom 18
- D. Disney Hotstar

Flipkart signs MoU with Telangana's SERP to enable market access for FPOs, SHGs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Hyderabad, June 25

**FLIPKART, INDIA'S HOME-GROWN** e-commerce marketplace, on Saturday said it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Telangana to enable market access for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the state. The MoU was exchanged between Sandeep Kumar Sultania, principal secretary, panchayat raj & rural development, Telangana and Smrithi Ravichandran, vice president and head of grocery, Flipkart, at an event held here, a press release from the e-commerce giant said. Through this partnership, Flipkart aims to empower local farming communities and SHGs of Telangana by providing pan-India market access to more than 400 million customers on its platform. As part of this collaboration, Flipkart will directly source premium quality pulses, millets, staples, and spices from the local farmers, contributing to improve income and business growth.

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- **Tata Play is offering a bundled service that includes providing the battery-powered Google Nest Cam and a Google Nest Mini.**
- **The packages are Tata Play Secure and Tata Play Secure, including an annual Nest Aware subscription service.**
- **Google Nest Cam was launched last year and it provides intelligent alerts that can be customized to meet security needs.**
- **It also offers advanced familiar face recognition alerts using the Nest Aware subscription.**
- **The Tata Play Secure and Google Nest Cam will be available in at least 10 cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. Interested subscribers can get the package from the Tata Play website. The support also includes a 1-year warranty for the Google Nest Cam.**

76. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ launched a special PSB Grih Lakshmi fixed deposit scheme, NanheChaman Term Deposit Scheme to celebrate its 115th foundation day on June 24.

A. Canara Bank  
 B. Punjab & Sind Bank  
 C. Bank of India  
 D. Indian Overseas Bank

**Tata Play partners with Google to offer home security solutions**



**New Delhi:** Content distribution platform, Tata Play—earlier called Tata Sky—has announced its foray into home security solutions with the launch of Tata Play Secure and Tata Play Secure+. The company has partnered with tech major Google to bring Google Nest security camera for its subscribers. The new initiative on “creating a safe home to its subscribers” comes close on the heels of its brand identity change.

**TECHCIRCLE**

- **Punjab & Sind Bank, which celebrated its 115th foundation day on June 24, 2022, reported a net profit of Rs 1,039 crore for FY 22. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO, said apart from other IT-related initiatives, the bank has launched a special PSB Grih Lakshmi fixed deposit scheme, NanheChaman Term Deposit Scheme, PSB GST ease loan, and pre-approved personal loans for salary account holders, pensioners, and housing loan borrowers as well as other deposit schemes.**
- **The bank was established in 1908 in Amritsar and has played a significant role in shaping of pre-and post-independent India.**

77. Consider the following statement regarding RBI Credit Card Spending in May.

**Punjab & Sind Bank launches a slew of products**

**FE BUREAU**  
 New Delhi, June 27

**PUNJAB & SIND** Bank, which celebrated its 115th foundation day on June 24, 2022, reported a net profit of ₹1,039 crore for FY 22.

Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO, said apart from other IT-related initiatives, the bank has launched a special PSB Grih Lakshmi fixed deposit scheme, Nanhe Chaman Term Deposit Scheme, PSB GST ease loan and pre-approved personal loans for salary account holders, pensioners and housing loan borrowers as well as other deposit schemes.

The bank was established in 1908 in Amritsar, and has played a significant role in shaping the banking landscape of pre- and post-independent India.

Saha said the bank has to now show consistency in performance to become a mid-sized lender by growing qualitatively for all sections of the society.

Saha said the bank is poised to move towards a digital transformation through up-gradation of its mobile app, PSB UNiC.

At present, the bank is offering low interest rates on housing, auto and gold loan products. The bank is focusing on its core strategy of supporting retail MSME (RAM) segments.

Saha said each PSBian is fully committed and dedicated to serve with renewed zeal and zest.

Even during the testing times of Covid-19, the bank extended the best of its services.



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1. Credit card spending **crossed ₹ 1.13 lakh crore in May**
2. **HDFC Bank had the highest number of credit cards at 1.72 crore**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Credit card spending crossed ₹ 1.13 lakh crore in May compared to ₹ 1.05 lakh crore in the previous month according to official data.
- The latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that 7.68 crore credit card holders spent about ₹ 71,429 crores buying online, while the amount was spent through swipes at Point of Sale (PoS) machines stood at ₹ 42,266 crores in May.
- In terms of the number of transactions, credit card payments were marginally lower online at 11.5 crores against 12.2 crores offline or at PoS machines
- HDFC Bank had the highest number of credit cards at 1.72 crores in May as the RBI lifted the ban on the issuance of new credit cards in March.
- In terms of credit cards, HDFC Bank was followed by the State Bank of India (1.41 crore) and ICICI Bank (1.33 crore) at the end of May 2022.

## Credit card swipe, issuance hit a high in May on retail spending

Bounce rate at 3-year low; rising interest rates could impact with a lag



interest rates expected to rise rapidly in the next few quarters, "we need to see whether current trends are sustainable".

**SURABHI**

Mumbai, June 27

Credit card issuances and spends continued to remain robust in May in an indication that the retail economy continues to be strong.

According to RBI data, there were 7.68 crore outstanding credit cards as of May, which was a 2.2 per cent increase from 7.51 crore in April. Year-on-year, this was a jump of 23.3 per cent from the 6.23 crore credit cards in force in May 2021.

Credit card spends also remained well above the ₹1-lakh crore mark in May despite inflationary pressures and rising interest rates. Total credit card spending in

May was at ₹1.13-lakh crore, which was 7.8 per cent higher than April's ₹1.05-lakh crore. But credit card spending more than doubled in the last year, by 117.8 per cent, from ₹52,200 crore in May 2021.

"Latest data releases from RBI reveal that credit card spends have been very strong touching an all-time high level in May 2022," said a note by Macquarie Research, adding that the bounce rate by value is also at a three-year low. "These data points indicate that the retail economy is strong," it said but cautioned that with

### Outstanding credit cards

According to Motilal Oswal, "Spends remained strong and continued their healthy momentum, led by the rising share of e-commerce transactions, which will keep growth in spends buoyant." Monthly spends per card grew five per cent to ₹14,800, much higher than pre-Covid levels, it said. The ticket size of transactions was stable at ₹4,700-4,800.

All players, barring American Express, saw an increase in monthly spends per card of up to ₹1,100; IndusInd Bank saw an increase of ₹3,900. HDFC Bank had the highest card issuances in May at about 3.85 lakh new cards.

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**Appointment News**

78. Recently The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as **Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.

- A. Tapan Kumar
- B. Dinkar Gupta**
- C. SamanthGoel
- D. Parameswaran Iyer

## IPS officer Dinkar Gupta appointed as NIA chief

**SNS& AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, 23 JUNE

Former Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta was on Thursday appointed as the new Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), an anti-terror probe agency formed after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai.

According to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared the name of Gupta, a 1987-batch IPS officer from Punjab, for the top NIA post.

According to the order, Gupta will hold the post of NIA chief till March 31, 2024, that is the date of his retirement or till further orders, whichever



comes earlier. Having a Master's degree in police administration, Gupta has held the position of Director General of Punjab Police in 2019 and served at the post for two years and seven months.

He has also held the post of Director General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab, which involved the direct supervision of the Punjab State Intelligence Wing, State Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Organized Crime Control Unit

(OCCU). An experienced and distinguished officer, Gupta earlier had an eight-year stint on central deputation from June 2004 to July 2012 during which he held sensitive assignments including as the head of the Intelligence Bureau unit which looked after the security of VVIPs. Gupta was decorated with two police gallantry medals in 1992 and 1994. In another order, Swagat Das, an IPS officer of 1987-batch and at present posted as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau, was appointed Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry, a post that had fallen vacant on June 14 last after V S K Kamudi was appointed as Secretary (Security).

- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dinkar Gupta as Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).**

- **He is currently serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. He has been appointed till 31 March 2024.**

- **He will take the charge from Kuldeep Singh, who was given additional charge of the NIA in May 2021.**

- **Swagger Das has been appointed as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry.**

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA): It is a central agency that investigates terror-related cases across the country. It was constituted under the provision of the NIA Act, 2008 in 2008. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.**

79. Recently The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as **chairman of the advisory panel to oversee the functioning All India Football Federation (AIFF)**.

- A. Dinkar Gupta
- B. Sanjay Kapoor
- C. Ranjit Bajaj**
- D. Rajesh Gera

- **The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has appointed Ranjit Bajaj as chairman of the advisory panel to oversee the functioning All India Football Federation (AIFF).**

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- *The 12-member group will be led by former I-League club Minerva Punjab FC owner Ranjit Bajaj and Jaydeep Basu will be in charge of "media and communication concerns."*
- *Praful Patel was compelled to resign last month by the Supreme Court for failing to comply with the National Sports Code's age and tenure requirement.*
- *The three-member CoA was established to take over the AIFF, which is comprised of Justice AR Dave, Dr. SY Quraishi, and Bhaskar Ganguly.*
- *All India Football Federation (AIFF): It was founded on 23 June 1937.*
- *Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.*

80. Recently The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has extended the tenure of its Director \_\_\_\_\_ for three months again with effect from June 25.

- A. Parameswaran Iyer
- B. Randeep Guleria**
- C. Samath Goel
- D. Vikram Desai

- *The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has extended the tenure of its*
- *Director Dr Randeep Guleria for three months again with effect from June 25. Guleria was appointed as the director for a term of five years on March 28, 2017.*
- *This is the second time he has been given the extension. Earlier in March, before his tenure was set to end, he was given an extension for three months after.*
- *Earlier in March, the names of three doctors, short-listed by a search-cum-selection committee and subsequently approved by the Institute Body, the top decision-making body of the AIIMS, were sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.*
- *The four-member search-cum-selection committee tasked with short-listing names for the AIIMS director's post is headed by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.*

## Guleria gets extension of 3 mths as AIIMS director

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The tenure of AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria has been extended by another three months, according to an office memorandum issued by the premier hospital on Thursday. Dr Guleria was appointed as the director for a term of five years on March 28, 2017. Before his tenure was to end on March 24, it was extended by three months till June 24. "The President, AIIMS, New Delhi is pleased to further extend his tenure as Director, AIIMS, New Delhi w.e.f. June 25, 2022 by three months or by the time a new director is appointed, whichever is earlier. Other terms and conditions of his appointment would be in accordance with the rules of the institute," the fresh memorandum stated.

The Appointments Com-

mittee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by the Prime Minister, met on June 20 seeking a wider panel of names for the post of director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. "... The Competent Authority in the ACC has directed to return the instant proposal with the request to send a wider panel of names for consideration of the ACC," stated an office memorandum sent to the Union health ministry by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Personnel and Training on June 20.

Earlier in March, the names of three doctors, short-listed by a search-cum-selection committee and subsequently approved by the Institute Body, the top decision-making body of AIIMS, were sent to the ACC for final approval.



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81. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) which will be the sole agent to resolve more than ₹83,000 crores of bad loans to be acquired by the government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).

- A. Avinash Kulkarni
- B. Dipankar Gupta
- C. Vishwas Patel
- D. Subhash Chandra

- The chief executive of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Company (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) which will be the sole agent to resolve more than ₹83,000 crores of bad loans to be acquired by the government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- "Kulkarni was selected from among a shortlist of about six candidates earlier this month. With this selection, the key executives are in place to start consolidating bad loans from banks through the NARCL
- He joined Piramal Enterprises and Bain Capital-promoted IRARC in 2018. "He has experience in distressed asset resolution - both in SBI and also IRARC
- Kulkarni's appointment follows another SBI veteran Natarajan Sundar being selected as CEO of the NARCL in April. Sundar took over as the CEO at the end of May.

## TOP MANAGEMENT already in place and with this appointment the firm, the sole agent of NARCL, can start consolidating bad loans from banks

# IRARC's Avinash Kulkarni to Head India Debt Resolution Co

Joel.Rebello@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The chief executive of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Company (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been selected to head the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) which will be the sole agent to resolve more than ₹83,000 crore of bad loans to be acquired by the government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).

"Kulkarni was selected from among a shortlist of about six candidates earlier this month. With this selection, the key executives are in place to start consolidating bad loans from banks through the NARCL," said a person directly aware of the development.

The IDRCL board has approved his appointment.

Kulkarni is a State Bank of India (SBI) veteran, having undertaken various roles at the public sector behemoth. His engagements at the SBI group have included assignments in the investment banking and advisory arm, SBI Capital Markets.

He joined Piramal Enterprises and Bain Capital-promoted IRARC in 2018. "He has experience in distressed asset resolution — both in SBI and also IRARC—and is an experienced banker. He was thought the best fit for the job," said a se-



**Avinash Kulkarni, CEO-designate, India Debt Resolution Company**

cond person aware of the matter. Kulkarni could not be immediately reached for comments.

Kulkarni's appointment follows another SBI veteran Natarajan Sundar being selected as CEO of the NARCL in April. Sundar took over as the CEO at the end of May.

Both appointments now mean that the key executive leadership to run the government-backed ARC is in place.

Setting up a bad bank was a key reform measure of Budget 2021 and it was incorporated in June 2021. IDRCL, the principal agent for NARCL, will be in charge of the resolution. It will have no balance she-

et and will only work as a facilitator for the resolution of these loans.

"Being just an agent to NARCL, IDRCL need not have its CEO appointment approved by the RBI, unlike in the case of NARCL. Kulkarni will have a three-year term as CEO. He is likely to take over as early as next month," the first person cited above said.

IDRCL is a private sector company controlled by private sector banks that own a 51% share. Its seven-member board is chaired by former SBI executive Diwakar

Gupta. The current CEO and former head of SBI Mutual Fund's alternative investment fund vertical, Manish Makharria, will make way for Kulkarni.

NARCL will now formally give banks an offer for each of these accounts which will be

later put through a Swiss challenge to ensure a transparent price discovery. NARCL will acquire the assets at 15% cash with security receipts issued for the remaining 85%, for which the government has approved a five-year guarantee of ₹30,600 crore which will backstop banks in case of lower realisations.

**IDRCL is a private company controlled by private banks that hold 51% stake. The firm will work as a facilitator for resolution**



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- *Setting up a bad bank was a key reform measure of Budget 2021 and it was incorporated in June 2021. IDRCL, the principal-agent for NARCL, will be in charge of the resolution. It will have no balance sheet and will only work as a facilitator for the resolution of these loans.*
- *IDRCL is a private sector company controlled by private sector banks that own a 51% share. Its seven-member board is chaired by former SBI executive Diwakar Gupta. The current CEO and former head of SBI Mutual Fund's alternative investment fund vertical, Manish Makharia, will make way for Kulkarni.*

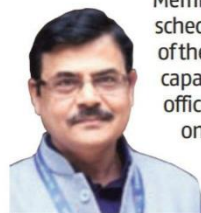
82. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the **new chairman of the CBDT**.

- A. Avinash Kulkarni
- B. Nitin Gupta**
- C. Sandeep Goel
- D. Sandeep Pradhan

### IN BRIEF

## IRS officer Nitin Gupta appointed CBDT chief

IRS officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed CBDT chairman, a recent government order said. Gupta, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre, is serving as the Member (investigation) in the Board and is scheduled to retire in September next year. The post of the CBDT chief was being held in an additional capacity by Board member and 1986-batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh after J B Mohapatra retired on April 30. The CBDT is headed by a Chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary. PTI



- *1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new chairman of the CBDT.*
- *He is serving as the Member (investigation) of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. He is scheduled to retire in September 2023.*
- *CBDT member and 1986-batch IRS officer Sangeeta Singh were holding the post of CBDT chairman in an additional capacity after J B Mohapatra retired on April 30.*
- *There are five members in the CBDT at present. Other three members are Anuja Sarangi, Pragya Sahay Saksena and Subashree Anantkrishnan.*
- *Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT): It is the administrative body for the Income Tax department.*
- *It is headed by a Chairman. It can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.*

83. Recently New **Development Bank (NDB)** announced the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as the **Director-General heading the Bank's Indian Regional Office (IRO) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.

- A. Amitabh Kant
- B. Suman Berry
- C. DJ Pandian**
- D. Amitav Ghosh

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- On June 20, 2022, the New Development Bank (NDB) announced the appointment of Dr. DJ Pandian as the Director-General heading the Bank's Indian Regional Office (IRO) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Dr. DJ Pandian is the former Vice President and Chief Investment Officer at Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- Dr. Pandian has an extensive career spanning 30 years with the Indian Administrative Services, holding key positions at the State, National, and International levels. During his career, he has served in the Government of Gujarat in various capacities.
- Dr. Pandian established the Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute and has served as chairman, director, and trustee with several state-owned enterprises.
- The establishment of the India Regional Office is an important milestone for the Bank as it marks the fulfillment of a commitment made by the founders of the Bank to set up regional offices, beyond headquarters, in each of our other four founding countries – South Africa, Brazil, Russia, and India.

84. Recently **Mohammed Jalood** has been elected as the new International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) President. Where is the headquarters of IWF?

- A. Paris
- B. **Lausanne**
- C. New York
- D. Washington

- The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) believes that substantial progress has been made in enhancing the culture and leadership of the sport.
- **Mohammed Jalood of Iraq** was elected the new IWF president, becoming the first Asian president in the IWF's history.
- Jalood, one of 11 candidates for the presidency, was a weightlifter himself for 13 years, and also holds citizenship status in Kazakhstan. The former general secretary of the Asian Weightlifting Federation is looking forward to his new role.
- **The international governing organization for Olympic weightlifting is the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), which has its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.**

85. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the **President of India International Centre**.

- A. Parameswaranlyer
- B. **Shyam Saran**
- C. AnanthaNageswaran
- D. SamantGoel\\

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- Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran has been appointed as the President of India International Centre.
- He was Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board under the National Security Council.
- He has authored the book, *How India Sees the World*. He has also authored the book, *How China Sees India and the World*.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan for his contributions to civil service.
- He was awarded the Spring Order Gold and Silver Star by the Emperor of Japan for promoting India-Japan relations.
- India International Centre is a non-government institution. It is situated in New Delhi. It is considered one of India's premier cultural institutions.

86. Recently in June Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the Advisory Committee of debt-laden Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance.

- A. VenkatNageswar Chalasani
- B. R Subramaniakumar
- C. T.T. Srinivasaraghavan
- D. FarokhSubedar,

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 23 appointed VenkatNageswar Chalasani as a member of the Advisory Committee of debt-laden Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance, following the resignation of R Subramaniakumar.
- Chalasani, whose appointment is tendered with immediate effect, was the former Deputy Managing Director of the State Bank of India,
- Along with Chalasani, the Advisory Committee comprises T.T. Srinivasaraghavan, the former Managing Director of Sundaram Finance, and FarokhSubedar, the former Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary of Tata Sons.
- The advisory committee shall advise the administrator on the operations of Srei Infra and Srei Equipment Finance during the corporate insolvency resolution process.

## Former SBI official on advisory panel for SREI firms

FE BUREAU  
Kolkata, June 23

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Thursday appointed Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as a member of the advisory committee of insolvent Srei Infrastructure Finance (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance (SEFL) with immediate effect.

Chalasani, former deputy managing director, State Bank of India, has been appointed as a member of the committee after R Subramaniakumar resigned.

“Consequent upon resignation of R Subramaniakumar from the advisory committee with effect from June 22, 2022, it has been decided to appoint Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as a member of the advisory committee with immediate effect,” the central bank said.

The RBI in October had constituted the advisory committee to advise the administrator, Rajneesh Sharma, in the operations of the financial service providers during the corporate insolvency resolution process.



87. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ has been named the new chief of the central intelligence agency while SamantGoel, the current head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has received an extension of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

- A. Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, 1 Year
- B. Dinkar Gupta, 1 Year
- C. TapanDeka, 1 Year
- D. SamantGoel, 1 Year

- R&AW head SamantGoel receives another extension, while TapanDeka is appointed as the new IB chief.
- TapanDeka, a Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), has been named the new chief of the central intelligence agency.
- He will succeed incumbent Arvind Kumar, whose term ends on June 30.
- He has been appointed as Director Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years.
- SamantGoel, the current head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has received yet another year's extension to his term, which ends on June 30.

88. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the new CEO of NITI Aayog.

- A. TapanDeka
- B. ParameswaranIyer
- C. AnanthaNageswaran
- D. SamantGoel

- ParameswaranIyer has been appointed as the new CEO of NITI Aayog.
- He has been appointed for two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He will replace Amitabh Kant, whose term ends on June 30. Amitabh Kant was appointed as NITI Aayog's CEO on February 17, 2016.

## Tapan Deka is new head of IB; R&AW chief gets 1-yr extension

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

TAPAN DEKA, special director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was on Friday appointed the new IB chief. He will replace incumbent Arvind Kumar, whose tenure comes to an end on June 30. The central government has also given a one-year extension to chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) Samant Goel, whose tenure was also set to come to an end at the end of this month.

On Thursday, the government had appointed former Punjab police chief Dinkar Gupta as the new head of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and had also named special director in IB, Swagat Das, as special secretary in the Union Home Ministry.

The new IB chief, Deka, will have a fixed tenure of two years. He has superseded his senior special director, A Sema Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, in the appointment. Deka is a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.

Deka has been handling the operations division of the IB, and has decades of experience in counter-terrorism. He was the joint director of operations when the Indian Mujahideen terror group was at the peak of its activities in the country. Under Deka, the IB tracked down Indian Mujahideen operatives over the years, and the group had been practically incapacitated since the 2012 arrest of its leader Yasin Bhatkai from Nepal and the 2014 arrest of operative Tehsin Akhtar. Deka was also handling oper-

ations during the 2015-16 Pathankot air base attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack.

He follows in the footsteps of former IB chiefs such as Ajit Doval and Nehchal Sandhu who had been handling operations before heading the agency.

Recently, Deka has been particularly focused on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where civilians have been increasingly targeted in the past several months.

R&AW chief Goel's tenure extension indicates that he continues to enjoy the trust of the government. Sources said that under Goel, the agency has been generating quality intelligence on cross-border infiltration from Pakistan, resulting in effective operations by security forces against militants in Kashmir.

TO REPLACE AMITABH KANT, WHO WILL LEAVE AFTER 6-YEAR STINT

## Iyer set to be NITI CEO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

AFTER A six-year-long stint, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant is set to leave the government policy think tank at the end of June. He will be replaced by former Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Parameswaran Iyer, who spearheaded the government's Swachh Bharat Mission.

Iyer's initial tenure will be for two years, according to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

A 1980-batch retired IAS officer (Kerala cadre), Kant took over as the NITI Aayog CEO in 2016 – he last got an extension, by a year, in June 2021. During his time at the organisation, Kant drove the policy push in areas related to industrial development, technology and investment. He is seen as having played a key



Parameswaran Iyer File

role in the government's flagship 'Make in India' scheme and was also behind the Aspirational Districts Programme, which was targeted at improving the socio-economic outcomes in some of the most backward districts.

He was also the chairman of Empowered Group-3, one of the 11 groups set up by the Centre to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The group worked with the private sector, NGOs, and international organisations for pandemic management activities, including the manage-

ment of international aid.

Earlier, in his capacity as the Secretary of the erstwhile Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Kant pushed the Ease of Doing Business initiative, which led to the emergence of state-specific rankings.

Iyer, 63, meanwhile, took voluntary retirement from the IAS in 2009, after 17 years in service. In 2016, he returned to helm the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation as Secretary. He spearheaded the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a campaign to eradicate open defecation by constructing over 90 million toilets in rural India. He resigned from the post in July 2020, and later went on to work with the World Bank in the US.

Iyer earlier worked as Senior Rural Water Sanitation Specialist at the United Nations. He also worked with the erstwhile Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh in the field of education.

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- *Iyer is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.*
- *He took voluntary retirement from IAS in 2009 to join water and sanitation initiatives at the World Bank.*
- *He led the government's Swachh Bharat Mission between 2016 and 2020.*
- *He earlier worked as a Senior Rural Water Sanitation Specialist at the United Nations.*
- *The Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure. He is appointed in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.*

**Days and Obituary News**

89. *International Widows Day* is observed annually on \_\_\_\_\_ to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need.

- A. 24<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 23<sup>rd</sup> June**
- C. 21<sup>st</sup> June
- D. 22<sup>nd</sup> June

- *International Widows Day is observed annually on 23 June.*
- *United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day since 2011.*
- *UN observes 23 June as International Widows Day to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need.*
- *International Widows Day was started by The Loomba Foundation.*
- *The first official UN International Widows Day was held on June 23, 2011.*
- *“Sustainable Solutions for Widows Financial Independence” is this year's theme*

90. *International Maritime Organization (IMO)* celebrated *Seafarer Day* on \_\_\_\_\_ to pay respect to seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.

- A. 24<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 25<sup>th</sup> June**
- C. 26<sup>th</sup> June
- D. 27<sup>th</sup> June

- *International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated Seafarer Day on 25 June 2022.*

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- *Seafarer Day is each year celebrated on 25 June to pay respect to seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.*
- *IMO proposed Seafarer Day in 2010 to celebrate the contribution of the seafarer to the world economy and civil society.*
- *The theme of this year is 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future.'*

91. Recently **Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh**, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s passed away and belonged to which of the following state?

- A. Haryana
- B. **Punjab**
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Delhi

- *Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning. He was 75. Varinder Singh was part of the gold-medal-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. This remains India's only gold medal at the prestigious tournament where the country had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final.*
- *Singh was also part of the bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the silver medal at the 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.*
- *He also had to his credit a silver medal at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively. The Indian hockey stalwart was also featured in the 1975 Montreal Olympics.*
- *In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.*

92. Name the former secretary of industries for the Indian government and former chairman of BHEL, Maruti Udyog, and SAIL, who passed away at the age of 97.

- A. BrijmohanLallMunjal
- B. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
- C. N.R. Narayana Murthy
- D. **V. Krishnamurthy**

## Varinder passes away



Varinder.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning. He was 75.

Varinder Singh was part of the gold-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. He was also part of teams that won bronze at the 1972 Munich Olympics and silver at the 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.

Also among his collection is silver from the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1975 Montreal Olympics.

In 2007, Varinder was conferred the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.



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- **V. Krishnamurthy, a former secretary of industries for the Indian government and former chairman of BHEL, Maruti Udyog, and SAIL, passed away from age-related illnesses.**
- **Krishnamurthy was known as the "Turnaround Man," who played a key role in India's most notable success stories of the public sector.**
- **Krishnamurthy had received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan awards and Japan's The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.**

**93. Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. 25<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 26<sup>th</sup> June
- C. 27<sup>th</sup> June**
- D. 28<sup>th</sup> June

- **Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is observed every year on 27 June.**
- **It is observed to raise awareness about the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development.**
- **Since 2017, World MSME Day is being observed on 27 June every year.**
- **This year, the theme of MSME Day is "Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for Sustainable Development".**
- **On this occasion, United Nations organized three hybrid sessions (online and offline) with entrepreneurs from across the world.**
- **Formal and informal MSMEs nearly contribute 70 percent of total employment and 50 percent of the GDP.**

**94. International Day of Parliamentarism is observed on \_\_\_\_\_ every year to commemorate the date on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).**

- A. 29<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 30<sup>th</sup> June**
- C. 28<sup>th</sup> June
- D. 27<sup>th</sup> June

## V Krishnamurthy, father of PSUs, passes away at 97

BS REPORTERS  
26 June

Dr Venkataraman Krishnamurthy, former chairman and managing director of Maruti Udyog Limited (now Maruti Suzuki), passed away at the age of 97 on Sunday. Krishnamurthy passed away at his home in Chennai, one of his former colleagues informed. His last rites will be performed on Monday.

According to a SAIL statement, V Krishnamurthy was the chairman of the company from 1985 to 1990.

"SAIL family deeply mourns the sad demise of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Venkataraman Krishnamurthy, ex-Chairman, SAIL, on 26th June 2022," it said.

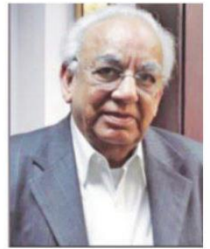
He has two sons, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Born in Tamil Nadu, Krishnamurthy was known as the 'Father of public sector undertakings in India'. Throughout his career, Dr V Krishnamurthy held important positions at BHEL, Maruti Udyog Limited, SAIL and GAIL.

Dr V Krishnamurthy was the Chairman and CEO of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Maruti Udyog Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and GAIL (India) Limited. He was conferred with India's fourth-highest civilian award Padma Shri in 1973 for the civil services category.

"He was one of the best leaders in Indian industry. As a leader of Indian industry, especially public sector, he provided clear vision and led Maruti, SAIL, and BHEL, besides other companies. He changed the way public sector industries were looked at. May his soul rest in peace," Sajjan Jindal, chairman & managing director, JSW Steel said.

T V Narendran, MD & CEO, Tata Steel, said, "An iconic leader in the steel industry who was an inspiration for many youngsters who joined the industry in the eighties. His tenure in BHEL and SAIL was trail blazing and he also was an inspiration for the quality movement in India."



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- June 30 is observed as the International Day of Parliamentarism every year to commemorate the date on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded.
- The IPU, founded in Paris in 1889, is an international organization of national parliaments to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.
- **In 2022, the International Day of Parliamentarism will be observed under the theme of public engagement. The theme has been selected in the wake of the third Global Parliamentary Report that chalks out a roadmap for enhanced public engagement by parliaments.**

95. Every year on \_\_\_\_\_ **World Asteroid Day** has celebrated across the world to increase public awareness about the dangers posed by asteroids.

- A. 28<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 29<sup>th</sup> June
- C. 30<sup>th</sup> June**
- D. 27<sup>th</sup> June

- Every year on June 30, World Asteroid Day is celebrated across the world.
- The purpose of World Asteroid Day is to increase public awareness about the dangers posed by asteroids.
- **The theme of International Asteroid Day 2022 is “Small is beautiful.”**
- It is celebrated on the anniversary of the 1908 Tunguska incident in Siberia.
- The UN declared June 30 as World Asteroid Day in December 2016.
- Asteroids are small rock-like structures that revolve around the Sun. These are found orbiting around the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- Two organizations were founded in 2013 and 2014 related to asteroids:
- Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG): It assists nations in evaluating the potential effects of an asteroid impact and developing mitigating strategies.
- International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN): It assists in determining the technology required for deflecting Near-Earth objects.

96. **National Insurance Awareness Day** is observed annually on \_\_\_\_\_ to make people aware of the benefits of investing in an insurance plan.

- A. 27<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 28<sup>th</sup> June**
- C. 29<sup>th</sup> June
- D. 30<sup>th</sup> June

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- The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed annually on June 28 to make people aware of the benefits of investing in an insurance plan.
- The day also serves as a reminder to people to check if all their insurance payments (or renewals) are up to date. While insurance companies run advertisement campaigns on National Insurance Awareness Day without a miss, the origin of this day remains a mystery.

97. **National Statistics Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to the celebrated birth anniversary of the late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

- A. 29<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 30<sup>th</sup> June
- C. 28<sup>th</sup> June
- D. 27<sup>th</sup> June

- National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on 29 June.
- This year, the theme for the National Statistics Day celebration is 'Data for Sustainable Development'.
- In 2007, the Government of India designated June 29 as "Statistics Day".
- National Statistics Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of the late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
- He set up the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata. ISI also celebrates June 29 as "Worker Day".

98. Recently, **Pallonji Mistry passed away in Mumbai at the age of 93. He was the chairman of which group?**

- A. Hero Group
- B. Aditya Birla Group
- C. Manipal Group
- D. ShapoorjiPallonji Group

- Chairman of ShapoorjiPallonji (SP) Group Pallonji Mistry passed away. Pallonji Mistry passed away in Mumbai at the age of 93.
- ShapoorjiPallonji (SP) Group is the largest shareholder in the Tata Group with 18.37%.

## Tata Sons' largest investor Mistry dead

He held 18.4% in Tata holding company

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (93), the former chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group passed away 'peacefully' on Tuesday at his home in south Mumbai, his family said in a statement

He is survived by wife Patsy, daughters Laila Rustom Jehangir, Aloo Noel Tata, sons Shapoor Mistry and Cyrus Mistry and their respective families. An Irish citizen, he mostly stayed in India and always remained low profile.

Called the 'Phantom of Bombay House' (the headquarters of Tata Group), Mistry held 18.4% stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group making him 'the single largest shareholder.'

His younger son Cyrus

 Towards end '60s, he participated in the construction boom in West Asia

was chairman of the Tata Group for a few years till 2016.

Mr. Mistry was born on June 1, 1929, and had his schooling and college education in Bombay before joining his family business, Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Ltd., in the year 1947 at the age of 18.

He took over the reins of the company in 1975, when his father passed away.

Towards the end of the 1960s, Mistry ventured abroad and participated in the construction boom in West Asia, which was being fuelled by petrodollars.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2016.



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- Mistry and his family control the ShapoorjiPallonji Group, which was founded more than 150 years ago.
- He is known as the "phantom of Bombay House" for his indirect influence over the Tata Group affairs.
- The ShapoorjiPallonji group companies have built many famous buildings including the Reserve Bank of India building in Mumbai.

99. The **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, or **World Drug Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise awareness about drug abuse and the illegal drug trade.

- A. 25<sup>th</sup> June
- B. 26<sup>th</sup> June
- C. 27<sup>th</sup> June
- D. 28<sup>th</sup> June

- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day is celebrated every year on 26 June.
- It is observed to raise awareness about drug abuse and the illegal drug trade.
- The General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1987.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) prepares the World Drug Report every year on the current situation of the drug problem.
- 

### Sports Award Books News

100. Recently The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has named \_\_\_\_\_ as the **host country for the inaugural FIH hockey men's Nations Cup**.

- A. India
- B. South Africa
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has named South Africa as the host country for the inaugural FIH hockey men's Nations Cup.

## Hockey: South Africa to host inaugural men's Nations Cup

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
LAUSANNE, 22 JUNE

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has named South Africa as the host country for the inaugural FIH hockey men's Nations Cup.

The event will take place at the North-West Universi-

ty of Potchefstroom - which successfully hosted the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup in April this year - from November 28 to December 4, 2022. The following eight teams - which include some of the powerhouses of world hockey - will participate in the very first

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- The event will take place at the North-West University of Potchefstroom - which successfully hosted the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup in April this year
- This new yearly event aims to offer a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League and give the winning team the option to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League the next season, precisely.
- Therefore, the FIH Hockey Nations Cup marks the start of the promotion-relegation principle for the FIH Hockey Pro League, with the winning team of the first FIH Hockey Nations Cup having the chance to be promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Pro League
- The inaugural FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup will be held in Valencia, Spain, from December 11 to 17 this year.

101. Recently in June \_\_\_\_\_ signed a four-year partnership with Emma Raducanu, the current British women's tennis number one and the reigning US Open champion.

- A. HSBC
- B. State Bank Of India
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda

### HSBC and Emma Raducanu partner to mobilise next generation

HSBC has announced a four-year partnership with Emma Raducanu, current British women's tennis number one and the reigning US Open champion, with the shared ambition to create opportunities for the next generation. Emma made tennis history when in 2021, she became the youngest female British player to win the US Open. Since then, her authenticity, talent and determination has made a global impact beyond the tennis world as an international citizen.

- HSBC has signed a four-year partnership with Emma Raducanu, the current British women's tennis number one and the reigning US Open champion.
- In the partnership launch video, the young tennis star reflects on her childhood days when she was part of the 'HSBC Road to Wimbledon' initiative and how it has helped accelerate her career – and how if it wasn't for Wimbledon, she wouldn't have been able to play and win the US Open and become the youngest Brit to do so.
- HSBC is the official banking partner of The Championships, Wimbledon.

102. Consider the following statement regarding the 'Kempegowda International Award'.

1. Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy, former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone have been selected for the award.
2. The award consists of a cash prize of ₹5 lakh along with a plaque.

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**

- **SM Krishna, Narayana Murthy, and Prakash Padukone will get the 'Kempegowda International Award'.**
- **Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy, former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone have been selected for the award.**
- **Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraja Bommai will present the awards during the celebration of the 513th birth anniversary of Kempegowda, on June 27 at Vidhana Soudha.**
- **The award consists of a cash prize of ₹5 lakh along with a plaque.**
- **Kempegowda was a chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire. He fortified the city of Bengaluru in 1537.**

## Karnataka announces 3 names for first Kempe Gowda award

Bengaluru founder's birth anniversary to be held tomorrow

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

The Karnataka government has selected the former Karnataka Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, and former Indian badminton player Prakash Padukone for the Kempe Gowda International Award, constituted in honour of Kempe Gowda, founder of Bengaluru.

Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also vice-president of the Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Heritage Area Development Authority, announced that an international award would be presented to three achievers every year

starting this year in the name of Kempe Gowda.

The award carries a purse ₹5 lakh and a plaque each. All three personalities chosen for the award this year have contributed to the growth of Bengaluru city, the Minister said. Dr. Narayan on Saturday called on Mr. Krishna at the latter's residence and requested him to accept the award.

The government would celebrate Kempe Gowda's birth anniversary at the Vidhana Soudha on June 27 in a grand manner and present the award. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would preside over the function.

The government had con-

stituted a committee headed by Start-up Vision Group head Prashanth Prakash to nominate candidates for the award. Chairman of Manipal Global Education and businessman T.V. Mohandas Pai, Vivekananda Youth Movement founder R. Balasubramaniam, and retired IAS officer M.K. Shankarling Gowda are members of the committee. Kempe Gowda Heritage Area Development Authority Commissioner R. Vinaydeep is member-secretary of the committee.

The Minister said places which have historical relevance in relation to Kempe Gowda's regime, would be developed on priority.

**103. Consider the following statement regarding Ranji Trophy.**

- 1. Madhya Pradesh won their maiden Ranji Trophy by defeating Mumbai.**
- 2. Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan has been named "Man of the Tournament" for his 982 runs in the Ranji Trophy 2022.**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

- **Madhya Pradesh defeated Mumbai by six wickets in the Ranji Trophy Final at M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to win their first-ever Ranji Trophy title.**
- **Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan has been named "Man of the Tournament" for his 982 runs in the Ranji Trophy 2022.**
- **Ranji Trophy:**
- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) annually organizes the Ranji Trophy, a domestic first-class cricket match between the country's state and regional cricket associations.**



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- The premier domestic tournament is named after the first cricketer to represent India, Ranjitsinghji also referred to as "Ranji."
- It was first played in 1934–1935 with 15 teams divided into four zones in a knockout system, and it has since grown to a 32-team league and knockout competition.
- Mumbai won the first-ever edition and also won the most Ranji Trophies.

104. Recently **Khushi Patel** from \_\_\_\_\_ has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022.

- A. United Kingdom
- B. Germany
- C. Guyana
- D. India

- **Khushi Patel**, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.

### Khushi from UK wins Miss India Worldwide title

WASHINGTON: Khushi Patel, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant outside India. PTI



- **Vaidehi Dongre** from the US was declared the first runner-up on Friday night while **Shrutika Mane** was adjudged the second runner-up. The top 12 contestants at the pageant were the winners of various other contests globally.
- **Roshani Razack** from Guyana was declared Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022.
- This year's pageant was held after a gap of three years with the last one being organized at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai in September 2019.

105. What is the name of the **England captain** who recently announced retirement from international cricket with immediate effect?

- A. Ben Stokes
- B. Jos Buttler
- C. Eoin Morgan
- D. James Anderson

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- **England's Eoin Morgan has retired from international cricket with immediate effect,**
- **Morgan, who led England to 50-over World Cup glory in 2019, captained England in a record 126 ODIs and 72 T20s. His 118 wins as skipper across the two formats is also a record.**
- **He retires with a slew of records to his name, including most ODI runs for England (6,957), most T20I runs for England (2,458), and most sixes for England in both formats.**
- **The 35-year-old, who made his ODI debut as a 16-year-old with Ireland in 2006 before he was called up by England in 2009, has played 248 ODIs and 115 T20Is, scoring 10,159 runs in total. He has also played in 16 tests, scoring 700 runs.**

## Morgan ends an illustrious career

### CRICKET

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Eoin Morgan confirmed his retirement from international cricket and stepped down as England's white-ball captain after more than

seven years on Tuesday.

After England's dismal failure at the 2015 Cricket World Cup, Morgan spearheaded the team's white-ball transformation to a bold, attacking approach and unprecedented heights.

He led England's to its first global 50-over title at the 2019 World Cup, and the No. 1 ranking in One-Day Internationals and Twenty20s. It enjoyed series victories against every major team and 60% success on his watch.



### Morgan's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s/50s
Tests	16	24	700	130	30.43	54.77	2/3
ODIs	248	230	7701	148	39.29	91.16	14/47
T20Is	115	107	2458	91	28.58	136.17	0/14

## Science Technology And Environment

106. Recently In June **Tata Power Solar Systems** started operating **India's largest floating solar power project** in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. **Vishakapatnam**
- B. **Kayakulam**
- C. **Jabalpur**
- D. **Dahej**

- **Tata Power Solar Systems started operating India's largest floating solar power project in Kerala.**
- **It has been installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala, and has a capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak.**
- **This project is the first in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through the power purchase agreement category.**

## Tata Power arm commissions India's largest floating solar power project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 25

**TATA POWER SOLAR** Systems on Saturday said it has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project of 101.6 Megawatt Peak (MWp) in Kerala backwaters.

The project is installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala, a company statement said.

The installation was completed within the stipulated period, despite the arduous challenges of variable water depths, high sea tides, and severe water salinity concerns, it stated.

Tata Power Solar is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power.

This first in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through power purchase agreement category, the company said.

"The commissioning of India's first and largest floating solar project is an innovative and incremental step toward meeting India's sustainable energy goals," said Praveer Sinha, CEO, and MD, Tata Power.

A power purchase agreement has been signed with a PSU client, wherein the entire power generated from this plant will be used by Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB).



### ENERGY FLOW

■ The project is installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala

■ This project is the first in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through power purchase agreement category

Interestingly, all the solar modules used in this plant were safely transported, unloaded, and stored on a limited parcel of land for about 35 days by Tata Power Solar, it said.

Ashish Khanna, President – Renewables, Tata Power, said the project reinforces Tata Power Solar's commitment to leading India's transition towards a greener future and achieving the collective vision of realizing 500 GW of energy through solar power by 2030.

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- **Kerela State Electricity Board (KSEB) will use the entire power generated by this plant.**
- **Tata Power Solar is a subsidiary of Tata Power. It will help in achieving the target of producing 500 GW of energy through solar power by 2030.**
- **As of 2021, Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan was the largest solar park in the world. It has a total capacity of 2245 MW.**

107. Consider the following statement regarding the **ship-borne weapon system VL-SRSAM**.

1. **Indian Navy and DRDO successfully conducted flight tests for the indigenously developed shipborne weapon system known as the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) off the coast of Odisha.**
2. **The VL-SRSAM system is designed to attack high-speed air targets at a range of 40 km to 50 km and an altitude of about 15 km.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha, the Indian Navy and DRDO successfully conducted flight tests for the indigenously developed shipborne weapon system known as the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).**
- **The VL-SRSAM system is designed to attack high-speed air targets at a range of 40 km to 50 km and an altitude of about 15 km.**

- **It has been designed based on the Astra missile, which is a Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile.**
- **Cruciform wings and thrust vectoring are two key features of the VL-SRSAM.**

## VL-SRSAM missile system successfully test-fired

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PUNE, JUNE 24

THE INDIGENOUSLY developed shipborne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), was successfully flight tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha on Friday.

The VL-SRSAM system has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40km to 50km and at an altitude of around 15km.

Defence Minister Rajnath



Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile being flight tested, off the coast of Chandipur on Friday. PTI

Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian Navy on the success of the mission. "Congratulations to DRDO, Indian Navy & the industry for the successful flight test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. This success will further enhance the defence capability of Indian Naval Ships against the aerial threats," he tweeted.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and DRDO Chairman Dr G Sathesh Reddy complimented the teams involved in the successful flight test.

DRDO officials have said its design is based on Astra missile which is a Beyond Visual Range

Air-to-Air missile. Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are cruciform wings and thrust vectoring.

The key DRDO facilities that contributed to the development of the system are Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), both from Hyderabad, and Research & Development Establishment (Engineers) based in Pune. VL-SRSAM is a canisterised system, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments. In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.

108. Recently in June, The **Indian Air Force will participate in a month-long tactical leadership program with**

- A. **Egypt**



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- B. Russia
- C. France
- D. Germany

- The Indian Air Force is participating in a month-long unique tactical leadership program with the Egyptian Air Force.
- IAF personnel with their fighters and transport aircraft reached the Egyptian Air Force Weapon School in Cairo on Friday in a non-stop flight with air refueling assistance extended by the UAE Air Force.
- **Three Su-30MKI fighters, two C-17 transport aircraft, and 57 IAF personnel are participating in the program being held from June 24 to July 22 at the Cairo West Airbase.**

109. Name the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target aircraft, which has been successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

- A. DHRUV
- B. ABHYAS**
- C. PRITHVI
- D. SAGAR

- India tested the high-speed expendable aerial target, HEAT-“Abhyas” successfully off the coast of Odisha.
- The indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target “ABHYAS” has been successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- During the test flight, the aircraft's low-altitude performance, including sustained level and high maneuverability was shown.
- Several tracking instruments, including radar and an electro-optical targeting system, were deployed by the ITR to track the aircraft.

## IAF to take part in Egypt exercise

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Indian Air Force will participate in a month-long tactical leadership programme at Egyptian Air Force Weapon School in Cairo. Three Su-30MKI aircraft, two C-17 aircraft and 57 IAF personnel, are in Cairo for the exercise that started today and ends on July 22.

The exercise will simulate various conflict scenarios. The exercise is aimed at enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries and exchange of best practices. Like the IAF the Egyptian Air

### Sky-high capability



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday successfully flight-tested ABHYAS, a high-speed expendable aerial target – used as an aerial target for evaluation of missile systems at low altitude – at the integrated test range in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the armed forces, and said the system will meet requirements of the forces

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- **Aeronautical Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has designed and developed the "ABHYAS".**

**110. Recently, 'Hermit' was in news. What is 'Hermit'?**

- A. Spyware**
- B. Virus**
- C. Bacteria**
- D. Satellite**

- **Cyber-security researchers discovered a new spyware 'Hermit'. 'Hermit' is being used by the government through SMS messages to target high-profile people like business executives, human rights activists, journalists, academics, and government officials.**
- **'Hermit' is probably developed by Italian spyware vendor RCS Lab and TykelabSrl.**
- **Hermit is modular spyware that hides its malicious capabilities in the downloaded packages.**
- **Hermit is highly configurable spyware with capabilities to collect and transmit data.**
- **Hermit spyware was earlier used by Italian authorities in an anti-corruption operation in 2019.**
- **Spyware is malicious software that enters a user's computer or mobile device and gathers data from the device and sends it to third parties without consent.**

**111. Which space agency has recently launched the 'CAPSTONE' mission on 28 June 2022?**

- A. ISRO**
- B. NASA**
- C. European Space Agency**
- D. French Space Agency**

- **NASA successfully launched the 'CAPSTONE' mission on 28 June 2022.**
- **Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment (CAPSTONE) mission were launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket.**
- **The Capstone mission will be deployed after reaching the lunar orbit in November 2022.**

## CAPSTONE

NASA's satellite, newly launched. It will test a unique lunar orbit that will be used by future missions

ON WEDNESDAY, NASA launched CAPSTONE, a microwave oven-sized CubeSat weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg). CAPSTONE, short for Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment, is designed to test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit.

The satellite, launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1, is heading toward an orbit intended in the future for Gateway, a Moon-orbiting outpost that is part of NASA's Artemis program.

As a pathfinder for Gateway, CAPSTONE aims to help reduce risk for future spacecraft by validating innovative navigation technologies, and by verifying the dynamics of the halo-shaped orbit.

The orbit is known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO). It is significantly elongated, and is located at a precise balance point in the gravities of Earth and the Moon. This offers stability for long-term missions like Gateway, NASA said on its website.

At the Moon, CAPSTONE will enter NRHO, where it will fly within 1,600 km of the Moon's North Pole on its near pass and 70,000 km from the South Pole at its far-



Artist's impression of CAPSTONE in lunar sunrise. NASA/Daniel Rutter

thest. The spacecraft will repeat the cycle every six-and-a-half days and maintain this orbit for at least six months to study dynamics.

CAPSTONE will gain experience with small dedicated launches of CubeSats beyond low-Earth orbit, to the Moon, and beyond, NASA said.

The spacecraft is currently in low-Earth orbit. It is attached to Rocket Lab's Lunar Photon. **SOURCE: NASA**

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- **The CAPSTONE mission will carry a dedicated flight computer and radio to perform calculations and determine whether the CubeSat satellite is on its orbital path or not.**
- **The CubeSat satellite will use NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) to understand its position in space.**
- **If CAPSTONE's autonomous navigation software is successfully tested, it will help future spacecraft determine their location without using Earth-based tracking.**

**112. NASA has recently launched its first commercial rocket outside the US from which country?**

- A. Japan**
- B. France**
- C. India**
- D. Australia**

- **NASA has successfully launched the first rocket from a commercial spaceport outside the United States.**
- **The rocket traveled around 300 kilometers (186 miles) into space to observe the Alpha Centauri A and B constellations.**
- **It will help scientists in study**
- **It is the first of the three launches that are scheduled to take place in Australia. The other two rockets will be launched on 4th and 12th July.**
- **NASA had last launched rockets from Australia in 1995.**
- **The Arnhem Space Centre is operated by Equatorial Launch Australia. It is located in the Northern Territory of Australia.**

### Nasa makes 'historic' launch from commercial site in Australia

Nasa's first-ever launch from a commercial site outside of the US blasted off from Australia's Outback late on Sunday, in a "historic" moment for the country's space industry.

In the first of three planned launches from the Arnhem Space Centre, the rocket, carrying technology likened to a "mini Hubble" telescope, lifted off—blasted about 350 kilometres into the night sky.

"It is a momentous occasion for us as a company in particular, but it's historic for Australia," Equatorial Launch Australia CEO Michael Jones told AFP ahead of the lift-off.

Jones, whose company owns and operates the launch site in the far north of Australia, described it as a "coming out" party for the country's space industry and said the chance to work with Nasa was a milestone for commercial space firms in the country. After a series of rain and wind delays, the suborbital sounding rocket soared into the sky to study x-rays emanating from the Alpha Centauri A and B systems.



Nasa's rocket carried technology akin to a 'mini Hubble' telescope. AFP

**113. Consider the following statements about Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), which was recently successfully test-fired by DRDO and the Indian Army:**

- 1. It is indigenously developed and has been test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Dhruv.**
- 2. It can hit protected armored vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometers.**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

- A. Only 1**



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

- **DRDO and Indian Army successfully test-fired indigenously-developed Laser-Guided ATGM from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun.**
- **They successfully test-fired this Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) at KK Ranges with the support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar on June 28, 2022.**
- **The ATGM uses a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armored vehicles.**
- **It has been developed with multi-platform launch capability.**
- **It is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from a 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.**
- **It can hit the protected armored vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometers.**
- **Two Pune-based facilities of the DRDO's Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) Cluster have developed the Laser Guided ATGM in association with Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun.**

**114. Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has recently authorized two space technology start-ups to launch payloads. What are the names of these start-ups?**

- A. Astrogate Labs and Agnikul Cosmos**
- B. Agnikul Cosmos and Digantara**
- C. Dhruva Space and Digantara**
- D. Dhruva Space and Agnikul Cosmos**

- **IN-SPACe authorized Dhruva Space Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, and Digantara research & technologies Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, on June 24 to launch their payloads.**
- **This marks the beginning of private space sector launches in India. Both Dhruva Space and Digantara are space technology start-ups.**
- **Dhruva Space's Dhruva Space Satellite Orbital Deployer (DSOD 1U) and Digantara's ROBust Integrating Proton Fluence Meter (ROBI) have been authorized.**
- **They would fly onboard the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) of PSLV-C53 on June 30.**
- **Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):**
- **It is an autonomous, single-window nodal agency.**
- **It was formed to promote, authorize, monitor, and supervise the space activities of non-governmental private entities in India.**

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115. Which country has launched a solid-fueled rocket named ‘Zuljanah’ into space?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Egypt
- C. Pakistan
- D. Iran

- Iran launched a solid-fueled rocket named ‘Zuljanah’ into space.
- ‘Zuljanah’ rocket is 25.5 meter-long and is capable of carrying a satellite of 220 kilograms to orbit.
- It will help Iran in gathering data in low-earth orbit and promote the space industry in Iran.
- Zuljanah is the name of the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
- Recently, Iran and the European Union agreed to resume talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.
- Iranian Space Agency: It was established on 28 February 2004.
- Safir SLV and Simorgh SLV are the other launch vehicle of Iran.
- Iran sent its second “Nour-2” military satellite on 8 March 2022.

#### AHEAD OF NUCLEAR TALKS

## Tehran launches rocket into space as US fumes

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TEHRAN, JUNE 26

IRANIAN STATE television said Sunday that Tehran had launched a solid-fueled rocket into space, drawing a rebuke from Washington ahead of the expected resumption of stalled talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

It's unclear when or where the rocket, christened Zuljanah, was launched, but the announcement came after satellite photos showed preparations at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province, the site of Iran's frequent failed attempts to put a satellite into orbit.

The White House said it was aware of Iran's announcement and criticised the move as “unhelpful and destabilising.” It said it was committed to using sanctions and other measures to prevent further advances in Iran's



Footage released by Iran's state TV, IRINN, shows the rocket blasting off. AP

ballistic missile program.

The launch comes just a day after the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, traveled to Tehran to resuscitate negotiations over Iran's nuclear program that have stalemated for months. Borrell said on Saturday talks over the nuclear deal would resume in an unnamed Persian Gulf country in coming days, with Iranian media reporting that Qatar would likely host the negotiations.