

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Third Week of June (17th June – 23rd June 2022)

National /State News

1. Recently _____ has become **India's first state to launch Balika Panchayat to promote the social and political development of the girls.**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gujarat**
- D. Bihar
- E. None of these

- **Gujarat has become India's first state to launch Balika Panchayat.**
- **The Balika Panchayat is run by girls in the 11-21 age group.**
- **Balika Panchayat aims to promote the social and political development of the girls.**
- **This is an initiative of the Women and Child Development Welfare department of the Gujarat Government under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.**
- **The initiative of Balika Panchayat was started in 4 villages in the Kutch district about a year ago. These villages are Kunaria, Maska, Motagua, and Vadsar.**

Balika Panchayat: A new initiative in Gujarat to empower women

ANJALI BHATIA
NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Gujarat is the first state in the country to launch a new initiative to make women politically and socially competent right from childhood. Name Balika Panchayat, under the new scheme, girls in the age group of 11 to 21 years can elect a balika panchayat.

This panchayat of girls will strive to implement the government's schemes meant for women and ensure solutions to the problems of girls and women. These balika panchayats are empowering girls at the grassroots level and enabling them to take decisions with confidence. At present, the initiative could be launched only in five villages of Kutch. But considering its encouraging results, it is being considered for replication throughout the country.

Balika Panchayat works in coordination with the task force constituted under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme in Gujarat to solve the problems of the women and girls of the village. Although there is no constitutional



basis for this girl's panchayat, this new thinking and new initiative has given the village girls the confidence and will to actively participate in social work.

Garva Bharti, the girl sarpanch of Kunaria village of Kutch, associated with the girl panchayat scheme, said in a conversation with The Statesman that the scheme was started by the state government in 2021 last year. Its objective is to promote the work for the development of girls in education, health, employment and politics, sports and eradication of child marriage.

The main objective of the Balika Panchayat is the elimination of the socially regressive practices that affect daughters in the society and uplift of the girl child. In the election of the girl sarpanch, 11 to 21 years old girls of the village contest and are elected. Initially, it has been started in five villages of Gujarat includ-

ing Kunaria, Kukatha, Montgia, Vadsar and Masaka. The sarpanch of the Balika Panchayat, who came to the programme, said she was informed about the successful initiative of the Balika Panchayat during a virtual meeting with the Union Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Women's Day this year. She took it forward and gave positive signals. Sources in the Union Ministry also said that in view of the successful initiative, it is being considered for country-wide replication.

The sarpanch of Kunaria village was the first to get to start Balika Panchayat in Gujarat taking a cue from a youth participation programme of the Philippines. While there is no constitutional basis for this scheme, the new thinking and initiative have given a huge boost to the political will and confidence in the girl child.

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2. Recently in June **PM Modi took part in the celebration of 200 years of which of the following Newspaper?**

- A. Times Of India
- B. Hindustan Time
- C. Sanskrit Sandhya
- D. Mumbai Samachar**
- E. None of these

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- PM Modi took part in the celebration of 200 years of Mumbai Samachar on 14 June 2022.
 - PM Modi also released a commemorative postal stamp on this occasion.
 - He said that Mumbai Samachar is the philosophy and expression of India.
 - **Mumbai Samachar is a newspaper in Gujarati and English. The printing of Mumbai Samachar as a weekly was started on 1st July 1822 by Shri Fardunjee Marzbanji. Later on, it became a daily newspaper in 1832.**
3. Recently in June APEDA in association with the Indian Embassy and Al Jazira Group launched the Mango festival in _____ on 13 June 2022.
- A. **Bahrain**
 - B. UAE
 - C. Nepal
 - D. Maldives
 - E. None of these
- To boost the export of mangoes, APEDA in association with the Indian Embassy and Al Jazira Group launched the Mango festival in Bahrain on 13 June 2022.
 - For the first time, 34 varieties of mangoes from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, and Odisha are being displayed.
 - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka are the major producers of mango in India.
4. Recently in June PM Modi dedicated India's first and only fully air-conditioned railway station named after Sir M Vishveshwarayya to the nation in _____.
- A. Hyderabad
 - B. Pune
 - C. **Bengaluru**
 - D. Mumbai
 - E. None of these
- PM Modi will inaugurate the **Brain Cell Research Centre. It has been set up for 450 crore rupees.**
 - The Brain Cell Research Centre will work on relative functions of the brain and create a better understanding of diseases.
 - He will lay the foundation stone for an 850-bed Bagchi-Parthasarathy Research hospital at IISc.

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- He will lay the foundation stones of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway project and Multi-modal Logistics Parks.
 - Bengaluru Suburban Railway project will connect Bengaluru city with its suburbs.
 - He will unveil the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar at the BR Ambedkar School of Economics campus.
 - He will also dedicate India's first and only fully air-conditioned railway station named after Sir M Vishveshwarayya to the nation.
5. Recently, the government has decided to implement the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme in the entire country by which year?

- A. 2022
- B. 2024
- C. 2026
- D. 2028
- E. None of these

- Employees' State Insurance Scheme to be implemented in the entire country by end of this year.
- The government has decided to implement the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme in the entire country by the end of 2022.
- At present, ESI Scheme is fully implemented in 443 districts and partially implemented in 153 districts. Around 148 districts are not covered under ESI Scheme.
- ESI Corporation has decided to set up 23 new 100-bedded hospitals and 62 dispensaries across the country. 48 dispensaries will be opened in Maharashtra, 12 dispensaries in Delhi, and 2 dispensaries in Haryana.
- ESI Corporation has also decided to start Certificate Courses in its Medical Colleges for Health Care Link Workers.
- Two cath labs at ESIC Medical College and Hospital at Sanathnagar, Telangana, and Alwar, Rajasthan will be also established.
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation:
 - It was founded in 1952.
 - It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 - It was set up under the ESI Act 1948 for the implementation of the ESI scheme.
 - Mukhmeet S Bhatia is the Director-General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

ESIC to cover entire India under scheme by year-end

New Delhi: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on Sunday decided its health insurance scheme ESI will be implemented throughout the country by the end of 2022.

Presently, the ESI Scheme is fully implemented in 443 districts and partially implemented in 153. A total of 148 districts are not covered under the ESI Scheme. The ESIC, under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour Bhupender Yadav, in its 188th meeting held on Sunday has taken significant decisions to augment the medical care and service delivery mechanism across the country, a statement said. PTI

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6. Recently in June _____ has won the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Education for 2021.

- A. Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)
- B. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- C. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- D. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- E. None of these

Unesco honour for using ICT in schools

NEW DELHI: The use of information and communications technology (ICT) under PM e-Vidya has got Unesco's recognition with NCERT constituent Central Institute of Educational Technology winning the King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the use of ICT in education for 2021. The award recognises innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies. TMS

- CIET has won the UNESCO's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize.
- CIET has won this award for the use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Education for 2021.
- Two best projects are selected for the award annually by the international jury.
- The winner gets US\$ 25,000, a medal, and, a diploma during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- The ceremony will be held on June 24, 2022. The prize rewards individuals and organizations.
- Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET):
- It is a constituent unit of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- It is an autonomous organization formed in 1984 for promoting the use of mass media technology for expanding the quality of education at the school level.

7. Recently In July, The National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) partnered with _____ for cooperation on numerical model-based applications in meteorology and oceanology.

- A. Indian Navy
- B. Indian Air Force
- C. Indian Army
- D. ITBP
- E. None of these

- The National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Ministry of Earth Sciences on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy for cooperation on numerical model-based applications in meteorology and oceanology.
- The NCMRWF with highly skilled scientists and state-of-the-art infrastructure would provide support to two of the premier establishments of the Indian Navy located at Kochi -- the Naval Operations Data Processing and Analysis Centre (NODPAC) and the Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC).

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8. Recently *India's first 100 MLD (million litres per day) capacity desalination plant was inaugurated in*

- _____ .
- A. Dolhera
 - B. Dahej**
 - C. Purnia
 - D. Sasaram
 - E. None of these

- *Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated India's first 100 MLD (million liters per day) capacity desalination plant in Bharuch district.*
- *The seawater desalination plant in Dahej industrial area has been set up by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) with an investment of Rs 881 crore,*
- *The plant can desalinate 100 million liters of water per day. It will supply water to the industries in the area.*

9. Consider the following statement regarding the *Pragati Maidan tunnel,*

1. *The tunnel is built for Rs 920 crore, funded by the Central govt*
2. *The 1.6-km-long Pragati Maidan tunnel will be Delhi's first tunnel, which will allow commuters traveling to India Gate and other central Delhi*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The 1.36-km-long Pragati Maidan tunnel will be Delhi's first tunnel, which will allow commuters to travel to India Gate and other central Delhi areas from east Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad.*
- *It starts near the National Sports Complex of India (NSCI) at the Purana Qila Road and passes underneath the redeveloped Pragati*

Maidan to culminate at the Ring Road near the Pragati Power station.

- *The tunnel and the five underpasses are part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project and have been built at a cost of more than ₹920 crores which is funded entirely by the central government.*
- *The construction work of the tunnel started in March 2018 and was scheduled to be completed by September 2019. However, the deadline was extended to June 2020 due to the complexities involved in the construction work. It was later pushed to December 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown and further extended to March 2022.*

PM opens Pragati project, says it is 'Centre's big gift'

Entire Cost Of ₹923cr Borne By Union Govt

Dipak Dash & Siddhanta Mishra

New Delhi: PM Modi on Sunday said several modern construction projects undertaken by the Centre are transforming the image of the capital. He was inaugurating the much-awaited Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor.

The Centre, which has borne the project's entire cost of Rs 923 crore, is spending a huge budget to improve connectivity in Delhi-NCR in a bid to reduce the "urban burden" on it and improve the "ease of living" of people, Modi said.

The 1.36km tunnel (see photo), a key part of the corridor, opens to the public Monday.

The PM suggested the tunnel, which he termed a "big gift from the Centre", could be reserved exclusively for pedestrians for four-six



PM Modi admires murals inspired by 'Samba Purana' and based on India's six seasons in a tunnel along the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor that he inaugurated on Sunday. In his hand is an empty plastic bottle that he picked up from the road. The photo went viral on social media — like a video of him 'plogging' (picking up litter while jogging) on Tamil Nadu's Mamallapuram beach in 2019 | P 2

CO₂ emissions will fall by 12k tonnes/yr: TERI

The project is likely to reduce CO₂ emissions by 12,400 tonnes and ensure 55 lakh litres of fuel is saved a year, according to an analysis by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). P 4

hours on Sundays so that they can enjoy the artwork. None from the Delhi government, except PWD officials associated with the project, was present at the inauguration.

► 'Urban burden', P 2

10. Recently the government has set a target of expanding the National Highway network to 2 lakh kilometers by

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

Will expand national highway network to 2-lakh km by 2025, says Gadkari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17

The government is working towards expanding the National Highway network to 2 lakh km by 2025, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

Addressing an event organised by Indian Roads Congress (IRC), Gadkari also proposed the setting up of 'Innovation Bank' for new ideas, research findings and technologies to focus on quality in infrastructure development.

"Our government is dedicatedly working towards expanding the National Highway network to 2 lakh km by 2025," he said.

The minister pointed out that in the last eight years, the length of National Highways has gone up by more than 50 per cent — from 91,000 km in 2014 to about 1.47-lakh km now.

Noting that the government is very committed to the devel-

opment of the north-east region, he said NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation) is playing a vital role in developing infrastructure in this region.

"Till date, 2,344 km highway has been constructed at the cost of ₹45,000 crore in the North-East region," Gadkari said.

Innovation should be the focus area for all engineers and IRC should develop a world-class state-of-art laboratory with the help of IITs and global institutions, Gadkari said. There should be minimum carbon footprint during the construction and operation phase, he added.

EV prices

The prices of all electric vehicles (EVs) will be equal to the cost of petrol vehicles within one year, according to the Road Transport and High-

ways Minister Nitin Gadkari. Gadkari further said the government is promoting ethanol produced from crop residue instead of petrol and diesel.

"I am trying...within one year, the cost of electric vehicles will be equivalent to the cost of petrol vehicles in the country and we will save money spent on fossil fuels," he said while addressing 'TV9 What India Thinks Today Global Summit'.

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- *The government is working towards expanding the National Highway network to 2 lakh kilometers by 2025*
- *Mr. Gadkari also proposed the setting up of an 'Innovation Bank' for new ideas, research findings, and technologies to focus on quality in infrastructure development.*
- *The minister pointed out that in the last eight years, the length of National Highways has gone up by more than 50 percent -- from 91,000 km in 2014 to about 1.47 lakh km now.*
- *The government is committed to the development of the northeast region, he said NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation) is playing a vital role in developing infrastructure in this region.*

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11. Recently in June _____ State government *launched the Ennum Ezhuthum scheme* to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below eight.
- A. Andhra Pradesh
 - B. Tamil Nadu**
 - C. Odisha
 - D. Telangana
 - E. None of these

- As schools reopened after month-long summer vacation on Monday, Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below eight.
- **The scheme aims to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025. It was launched at an event in Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school, Tiruvallur.**
- Under the program, the education department will distribute workbooks to students from Classes 1 to 3 to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- In May, the CM had announced a free breakfast scheme for primary school children and a nutrition scheme for malnourished children in the State.

12. Recently in June _____ state government *signed a joint declaration with Israel in integrated water resources management and capacity building.*
- A. West Bengal
 - B. Haryana**
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Uttar Pradesh
 - E. None of these

- **Israel and the Haryana government signed a joint declaration on integrated water resources management and capacity building**
- **The joint declaration was signed by Ambassador Eynat Shlein, head of Mashav, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Haryana government.**

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- *Through this declaration, both sides expressed their willingness to strengthen their existing friendly relations in the water management sector, and preserve water resources in public water areas in Haryana.*
13. Recently in June _____ state government **launched the 'Sujal' initiative for Panchkula** to monitor the water supply and control its flow in the region.
- A. **Haryana**
 - B. Punjab
 - C. Uttar Pradesh
 - D. Uttarakhand
 - E. None of these
- *Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Sujal' initiative for the State from "Sant Kabir Kutir" here in Chandigarh.*
 - *"'Sujal' initiative is a unique initiative which is environment friendly and due to which we can save resources along with a structured supply of water.*
 - *The Chief Minister said that a device will be installed in every drinking water meter, tube well, and connection of Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) which will have online cloud storage. With the help of this, the water supply will be monitored and the flow of water will also be controlled.*
14. Recently Seen In News **Baikho festival** is celebrated in which of the following state?
- A. **Assam**
 - B. Mizoram
 - C. Manipur
 - D. Nagaland
 - E. None of these
- *The three-day-long Baikho Festival brought to light the rich **cultural heritage of the Rabha tribal people.***
 - *This is a scene from the traditional Baikho festival of the Rabha community. The Rabha people worship Goddess Baikho.*
 - *To please the Goddess, the 'Baybras' (dancing people) dance on fire for several days to worship the Goddess by performing puja with various rituals.*
 - *The festival is celebrated to increase agricultural production and to protect the crops from diseases.*

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15. Consider the following statement regarding Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visits to Gujarat.**

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of **development projects worth over Rs 21,000 crores in Gujarat's Vadodra**
2. PM Modi launched the "**Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana,**" which will have an outlay of **Rs 800 crores.**
3. The Prime Minister also disbursed around **Rs 120 crores towards 'Poshan Sudha Yojana',** which is now being extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the state.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs 21,000 crores in Gujarat's Vadodra.**
- **Beneficiaries of various government schemes participated in the Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan at Vadodara.**
- **The prime minister dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various Railway projects worth over Rs 16,000 crores, which include the inauguration of 357 km long New Palanpur Madar Section of Dedicated Freight Corridor; gauge conversion of 166 km long Ahmedabad-Botad section; electrification of 81 km long Palanpur Mitha Section.**
- **PM Modi also dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various development works at Kheda, Anand, Vadodara, Chhota Udepur, and Panchmahal, worth over Rs 680 crore.**

PM to launch 2 schemes for pregnant, lactating women today in Gujarat

ESHAROY
KEVADIA, JUNE 17

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will on Saturday launch in Vadodara two flagship programmes of the Gujarat government under its Integrated Child Development Services, Poshan Abhiyan, which will be focused on rolling out additional nutrition to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

The Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana, which will cover 7 lakh women, is Gujarat government's first scheme aimed at dealing with dietary deficiency within the first 1,000 days of the conception of a child (from pregnancy to 2 years), considered the crucial first window to check malnutrition. The scheme will entail distribution of 2 kg chickpeas, 1 kg toor daal and 1 litre fortified ground nut oil.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

"The entire scheme will be electronically monitored. Packets will have bar codes which will be scanned and the scheme is OTP based. This means the beneficiary will receive OTPs confirming that they have received these packages, so that we know that the intended beneficiary is actually receiving the ration," said Avantika Darji, Joint Director, ICDS.

Apart from this, the Prime Minister will also relaunch the Poshan Sudha Yojana, under which hot cooked meals will be provided to tribal women once a day at Anganwadi centres. The pilot has been carried out in 10 districts in the state and is now being extended to all 14 tribal-domi-

nated districts.

Under this scheme, pregnant women and lactating mothers registered at Anganwadi are provided a full nutritious meal. In addition, iron and calcium tablets as well as education on health and nutrition are also offered.

The announcement of the roll-out comes ahead of the Assembly elections in Gujarat, and less than a month after the latest National Family Health Survey 5 data showed that 89% children across the country in the 6-23 month age group do not receive minimum acceptable diet.

Incidentally, Gujarat features at the bottom of the pile in NFHS 5 with the lowest adequate diets for children between 6-23 months at 5.9% each.

Ministry officials, however, said that the NFHS may not reflect the true picture on the ground.

FULL REPORT ON

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Modi to launch maternal nutrition scheme in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KEVADIA

On a two-day visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will launch a scheme on maternal nutrition in the State at an outlay of ₹800 crore.

Under the "Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana", pregnant and lactating mothers will be given 2 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of tur dal and 1 kg of edible oil free of cost

every month from anganwadi centres in Gujarat. An estimated 1.36 lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

The Prime Minister will also disburse around ₹120 crore towards 'Poshan Sudha Yojana', which is now being extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the State. The scheme was being implemented as a pilot project in 10 talukas of five tribal-dominated districts and is now

being expanded to 14 tribal-dominated districts. It offers one nutritious meal a day to pregnant and lactating women.

The schemes aim to intervene during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, which is the period from conception till the time the child turns two.

Their objective is to improve infant mortality and maternal mortality rates.

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- **"The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Gujarat Central University in Kundhela village in Dabhoi taluka of Gujarat. Located at about 20 km from Vadodara city, the university will be constructed at a cost of around Rs 425 crores and will cater to the higher education needs of over 2,500 students,"**
- **PM Modi launched the "Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana," which will have an outlay of Rs 800 crores. Under the scheme, pregnant and lactating mothers are to be given 2 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of tur dal, and 1 kg of edible oil-free of charge from Anganwadi Centres every month.**
- **The Prime Minister also disbursed around Rs 120 crores towards 'Poshan Sudha Yojana', which is now being extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the state.**
- **Prime Minister inaugurated the redeveloped Kalika Mata Temple atop Pavagadh Hill.**

Modi inaugurates revamped temple

Country witnessing restoration of its cultural and spiritual glory, says PM after unfurling flag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Asserting that India is now witnessing "cultural independence that started with Sardar Patel renovating Somnath temple" after Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unfurled a flag after inaugurating the revamped Mahakali temple, which was destroyed by the 15th century Gujarat ruler Mahmud Begda.

"For five centuries and 75 years of independence, there was no *dhwaja* atop Mahakali temple. Today, the flag once again unfurls on the temple. This flag is not only a symbol of our faith and spirituality but it shows that centuries change, eras go by, but our faith remains eternal and strong," Mr. Modi said addressing a small gathering on the Pavagadh hill in central Gujarat.

The 11th century temple has been redeveloped with a new spire and flag atop after a *dargah*, or a shrine which



Back to glory: Narendra Modi visits the redeveloped Mahakali temple in Pavagadh, Gujarat, on Saturday. ♦♦♦

stood atop the temple for nearly 500 years, was shifted with the consent of its caretakers.

The temple is being run by a trust headed by Gujarat BJP treasurer and senior leader Surendra Patel. The temple trust on Saturday issued an advertisement in local media which read, "After being destroyed by Mohamad Begda 500 years ago the temple atop and *Dhwaja* will be res-

tored today."

As per historical details, the temple is said to have been destroyed by 15th century Gujarat ruler Sultan Mahmud Begda (1458 to 1511), who had set up his capital in Champaner near Pavagadh after defeating the Rajput rulers. Begda was the most prominent ruler of the Gujarat Sultanate and had earned title Begda after conquering two main forts of

Gujarat: Junagadh and Pavagadh.

It is said that during Begda's reign, the Sadanshah Pir Dargah was built after the spire of the temple was destroyed. Now, the shrine has been shifted "amicably" paving the way for redevelopment of the temple with a spire and flag atop.

In his address, Mr. Modi, without mentioning about the temple's controversial

history, said that the country is witnessing restoration of India's cultural and spiritual glory as a grand temple of Lord Ram is being built in Ayodhya while Kashi Vishwanath temple has already been built. He referred to the redevelopment of Kedarnath in Uttarakhand.

"Our centres of faith and spiritual glory of India are being re-established. The rebuilding of Mahakali temple at Pavagadh is part of the same '*gaurav yatra*,'" the PM said in his address.

In fact, neither the State government nor the temple trust have made any statement about shifting of the shrine to pave the way for restoration of the ancient temple on the hill.

The PM said that in the glorious tradition of Somnath, Pavagadh temple has been redeveloped. The Somnath temple, which is said to have been plundered and demolished by Mahmud of Ghazni, was restored after independence by Sardar Patel.

16. Recently _____ state government signed MOU with Subhiksha, a multi-state cooperative society that is into organic farming.
- A. Odisha
 - B. Telangana
 - C. Andhra Pradesh
 - D. Karnataka**
 - E. None of these

- **The Karnataka state government inked two memoranda of understanding (MoU) that Higher Education & Skill Development Minister C N Ashwath Narayan said will help the**

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economic activities of women self-help groups and facilitate organic farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers.

- **One MoU was with the IIM Bangalore and another with Subhiksha, a multi-state cooperative society that is into organic farming. Narayan said the IIMB initiative is to scale up at least 100-150 existing women-owned or women-led enterprises in the state.**
- **The partnership with Subhiksha would create a direct linkage with the consumers through the online marketing platform 'Subhiksha Farmers to Consumers' app.**

17. Recently **IKEA** opened its **first big-box format store** in _____ .

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Pune
- C. Gurugram
- D. Bengaluru**
- E. None of these

- **IKEA will invest Rs 3,000 crore in Karnataka over the coming years**
- **The Swedish retail giant that opened its first big-box format store in Bengaluru, spread over 4,60,000 sq ft, will set up more large-format stores and small outlets in malls to gain a wider footprint across the country.**
- **IKEA, part of the Ingka Group, has earlier announced it is going to invest Rs 10,500 crore to set up stores across major cities, including Bangalore and Hyderabad.**
- **Susanne Pulverer, CEO, IKEA India.**

18. Recently In June _____ **state government signed a pact with educational tech company Byju's to impart quality education to students of government schools.**

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

- **The Andhra Pradesh state government signed a pact with educational tech company Byju to impart quality education to students of government schools.**

IKEA to open its largest store in India so far in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: IKEA, a leading Swedish home furnishings retailer, on Tuesday said it will open the doors to its largest store in India so far, at Nagasandra in Bengaluru, here on June 22.

With a planned investment of Rs 3,000 crore in Karnataka, IKEA is expecting to attract close to 5 million visitors this year in Bengaluru, the company said.

The Nagasandra Store is IKEA's fourth store in India, it said in a release, adding that the store will be an iconic landmark in the city, providing home furnishing solutions catering to the diverse needs of the family.

Spread over 12.2 acres, the 4,60,000 sq. ft IKEA Nagasandra store will feature more than 7,000 well-designed home furnishing products along with beautifully designed 65+ room sets for ideas and inspirations to live a better life at home.

The store will also house one of the largest children's play areas, 'Smaland', along with a 1,000-seater restaurant and a bistro.

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- The MoU was signed by school education commissioner S Suresh Kumar on behalf of the state with Susmit Sarkar, vice-president (public policy) of Byju's, in the presence of chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his Tadepalli camp office.
- The government will be distributing tabs to 4.7 lakh students in September for 500 crores.

19. Recently PM Modi unveiled a new portal called _____ as a one-stop platform for stakeholders to get all relevant information regarding India's foreign trade.

- A. NIRMAAN
- B. NIRYAT
- C. NIPUN
- D. NIRMAM
- E. None of these

PM launches NIRYAT information portal to support importers, exporters

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 23

The National Import-Export for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT) portal where importers and exporters can get all necessary information related to foreign trade will provide real time data to stakeholders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

"From this portal, important information related to more than 30 commodity groups exported to more than 200 countries will be available. Soon, information related to district-wise exports will also be made available. This will also strengthen the efforts to develop the districts as important centres of exports," Modi said at the launch of the portal and inauguration of the Vanijya Bhawan on Thursday.

The new Vanijya Bhawan will significantly benefit people asso-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi views a model of Vanijya Bhawan, in New Delhi, along with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

ciated with trade, commerce and the MSME sector, he said.

Increasing exports is important in the transition of a country from developing to developed status, Modi said. In the last eight years, India has also been continuously increasing its exports

and achieving export goals, he said. Despite the historic global disruptions, India's exports in 2021-22 crossed \$418 billion against the target of \$400 billion, Modi said. "Encouraged by this success of the past years, we have now increased our export targets

and have doubled our efforts to achieve them. Collective effort of everyone is very necessary to achieve these new goals," he said.

Better policies to increase exports, easing of processes, and taking products to new markets, have helped a lot. He said that today, every Ministry, every Department of the government is giving priority to increasing exports with a 'whole of government' approach. Be it the Ministry of MSME or Ministry of External Affairs, Agriculture or Commerce, all are making common efforts for a common goal.

"Exports from new areas are increasing. Even from many aspirational districts, exports have now increased manifold. The increase in exports of cotton and handloom products by 55 per cent shows how the work is being done at the grass root level", he added.

- The new premises of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry called Vanijya Bhawan were inaugurated by PM Modi.**
- The Vanijya Bhawan has been designed as a smart building, which is built near India Gate.
- It includes sustainable architectural principles with an emphasis on saving energy.
- During the Program, **Modi also unveiled a new portal called NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade).**
- It has been developed as a one-stop platform for stakeholders to get all relevant information regarding India's foreign trade.

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20. Recently Which of the following *state chief minister became 1st CM of the Indian state to Meet Pope Francis?*

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Delhi
- C. Odisha**
- D. Karnataka
- E. None of these

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday became India's first head of a provincial government to meet Pope Francis, the Pope of Rome and Head of the Catholic Church, in Vatican City. He was accompanied by 5T Secretary VK Pandian to the meeting.**
- **Naveen is currently on a 10-day foreign trip to Rome and Dubai, his second as chief minister of Odisha in 22 years.**
- **He is visiting Rome at the invitation of the World Food Program (WFP) and would share the transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management.**

21. Recently in June Department of Telecom (DoT) announced an incentive scheme for *design-led manufacturing*, along with extending the duration of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme by a year with an outlay of _____.

- A. Rs 11,195 crore.
- B. Rs 12,195 crore.**
- C. Rs 13,195 crore.
- D. Rs 16,195 crore.
- E. None of these

- **The Department of Telecom (DoT) announced an incentive scheme for design-led manufacturing, along with extending the duration of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme by a year.**
- **The DoT also announced an additional incentive rate of 1 percent over and above the existing rates.**

In a first for an Indian CM, Naveen meets the Pope

Bhubaneswar: Odisha chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** on Wednesday met Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, in Vatican City during his visit to Rome — the first CM of an Indian state to do so, reports **Sujit Bisoyi**. Naveen presented the Pope the state's famous Pattachitra (scroll) painting depicting the tree of life.



Though the meeting lasted a few minutes, Naveen expressed his pleasure and thanked "His Holiness" for a warm reception.

It has been an absolute pleasure meeting His Holiness Pope Francis (@Pontifex) in Vatican City. Thanked him for the warm audience and wished him good health and a long life, tweeted Naveen. The meeting was the most awaited one during Naveen's on-going 10-day foreign tour, which is only his second as CM in the past 22 years.

DoT introduces design linked incentive scheme

Extends PLI by a year

New Delhi: The Department of Telecom has launched an incentive scheme for design-led manufacturers and extended the duration of the Rs 12,195 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme by a year, an official statement said on Monday.

"With the objective to build a strong ecosystem for 5G, the Union Budget 2022-23 has proposed to launch a scheme for design-led manufacturing as part of the existing PLI scheme.

"After consultations with stakeholders, the guidelines for the PLI Scheme for telecom and networking products have been amended to introduce the Design-led Manufacturing with additional incentive rates," the statement said.

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- **“The existing PLI beneficiaries will be given an option to choose the financial year 2021-22 or financial year 2022-23 as the first year of incentive**
- **Investments made by successful applicants from April 1 onwards and up to Financial Year (FY) 2025-2026 shall be eligible.**
- **Design-Led Manufacturing is primarily aimed to support efforts for designing telecom products in India.**
- **The DoT notified the PLI Scheme on February 24, 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 12,195 crore.**

22. Recently Saffron of which of the following state has been given GI Tag?

- A. Jammu & Kashmir**
- B. Andhra Pradesh**
- C. Nagaland**
- D. Mizoram**
- E. None of these**

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Kashmir saffron gets Geographical Indication tag

SP SHARMA
JAMMU, 21 JUNE

With Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kashmir saffron, India has become the only saffron producing country for which the indication has been assigned.

As Iran is the largest producer of saffron in the world, now India is a close competitor but the GI and it will result in more prominence in the export market thereby boosting exports as well as help the farmers to get best remunerative price for economic sustainability, said an official spokesman on Tuesday.

The GI certification would also cease the prevalent adulteration of Saffron and will put an end to marketing of Saffron cultivated in other countries under the garb of being produced in Kashmir which otherwise was defeating the economic interests of the farmers associated with this crop.

To give a boost to saffron pro-

duction in Kashmir, J&K Government has launched new initiatives including the introduction of GI Tagging.

GI sign is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

Saffron growers are hopeful that they will now get a better price for their produce after the introduction of GI tag to the saffron grown here. Kashmiri Saffron is grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level, which adds to its uniqueness and differentiates it from other saffron varieties available across the world. Saffron is cultivated and harvested in the Karewas (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir and has been assigned GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. The spice is grown in Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

Highlighting the importance of preserving the unique iden-



tity of Kashmiri Saffron, an official of Agriculture Department said that Kashmir is having a distinction of producing one of the best saffron in the world, therefore it is our individual and collective moral responsibility to preserve this golden spice not only for a large number of families directly associated with the cul-

tivation of saffron but for our generations to come.

Saffron, despite its price, is in high demand for its antioxidant properties. It carries a hefty price tag also because the process of converting crocus flowers into the thread-like spice is painstaking and labour-intensive as it takes around 160,000

flowers to yield a kilogram of saffron. Kashmiri saffron is of superior quality because of the higher concentration of crocin, a carotenoid pigment that gives saffron its colour and medicinal value. Its crocin content is 8.72% compared to the Iranian variant's 6.82%, giving it a darker colour and enhanced medicinal value. Kashmiri Saffron is renowned globally as a spice. It rejuvenates health and is used in cosmetics and for medicinal purposes. It has been associated with traditional Kashmiri cuisine and represents the rich cultural heritage of the region. The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness).

Remarkably, a new saffron park has been set up just for the sole purpose of processing and

promoting the sale of saffron from Kashmir Valley. The samples brought by growers are tested here. The lab is recognised across the world. There are 8 parameters that are tested, which are internationally recognized. The 8 parameters include moisture, extraneous matter and foreign matter, and total ash and three main characteristics. They are graded and then e-auctioned. The farmers get the flowers and then the stigma separation and vacuum drying is done at the Dusoo Park.

Traditionally the farmers used to dry the saffron under shade at home but due to that, the saffron used to lose the main components. Now all the parameters are saved to get the best grade, an official of the Saffron Park said.

With the GI tag, saffron growers and traders are getting more benefits like legal protection to the products as well as prevention of unauthorized use of GI tag products by others.

- **To give a boost to saffron production in Kashmir, J&K Government has launched new initiatives including the introduction of GI Tagging.**
- **GI sign is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.**

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- *Saffron is cultivated and harvested in the Karewas (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir and has been assigned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. The spice is grown in Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar, and Srinagar regions of Jammu & Kashmir.*
 - *Iran is the largest producer of saffron in the world and India is a close competitor. However, with the GI tag of Kashmir saffron, India becomes the only Saffron producing Country for which GI has been assigned which will result in more prominence in the export market*
23. Recently, Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated *a seismological observatory at which location in Jammu Kashmir?*
- A. **Udhampur**
 - B. Pulwama
 - C. Ramban
 - D. Kathua
 - E. None of these
-
- *Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a seismological observatory center at Udhampur, Jammu, and Kashmir.*
 - *Seismological Observatory at Udhampur will record the data related to the inner activities of the earth's crust and help in earthquake monitoring in the region.*
 - *Udhampur is the third place in Jammu and Kashmir where such seismic observations will be now recorded. It is the latest, upgraded, and world-class 'Earthquake Observatory' under the aegis of 'The National Centre of Seismology'. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences is located in New Delhi.*
 - *Udhampur district lies between Main Frontal Thrust (MFT) and Main Boundary Thrust (MBT).*
 - *In the last eight years, India has installed more than 70 such observatories across the country.*
 - *The government is planning to install 100 more such seismological centers in the next 5 years.*
 - *These centers are being installed as part of the 'Seismic Microzonation' initiative. It aims to create geotechnical and seismological parameters for earthquake-resilient structures and infrastructures.*
24. Consider the following statement *regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Bengaluru, Karnataka.*
1. *Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for various ail and road infrastructure projects worth over Rs. 28,000 crores.*
 2. *Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru*
 3. *PM Modi has inaugurated a new campus of Dr. BR Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE), Bengaluru, and also unveiled the statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar.*

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bengaluru, Karnataka on June 20, 2022, to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for various ail and road infrastructure projects worth over Rs. 28,000 crores.**
- **PM Modi in Bengaluru is scheduled to attend various programs in both Bengaluru and Mysore. The first program was scheduled to be held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru**
- **Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru. It is developed as one it's a kind of facility and**

PM unveils rail and roadways projects worth ₹27k cr in B'luru

Modi says foundation stone for 5 national highway and 7 railway projects have been laid in K'taka

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 NEW DELHI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday laid the foundation stone for rail and road projects worth over ₹27,000 crore in Bengaluru.

Addressing a gathering, Modi said the foundation stone for five national highway and seven railway projects have been laid in Karnataka.

He also lauded the significant milestone of 100% electrification of Konkan Railway. All these projects will present new facilities and opportunities to the youth, middle class, farmers, workers and entrepreneurs of Karnataka, he said.

"Bengaluru is a city of dreams for lakhs of youth of the country; the city is a reflection of the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha'."

Modi said the "double engine" government is working on every possible means like strengthening infrastructure like rail, road, metro, underpass and flyovers to rid Bengaluru of traffic jams.

"Our government is committed to connecting the suburban areas of Bengaluru with better connectivity."

The Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to delivering the projects in time. "We will work hard to fulfil the dreams of people of Benga-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the launch ceremony of railway and road projects in Bengaluru on Monday.

luru in the next 40 months which were pending for the last 40 years."

The Bengaluru suburban rail project will connect Bengaluru city

tion, he added.

Modi dedicated to the nation India's first air-conditioned railway station - Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Station at Baiyappanahalli, which has been developed on the lines of a modern airport at a cost of ₹315 crore.

"We have taken the rail to those parts of the country where it was difficult to even think about

it. Indian Railways is now trying to provide those facilities and the ambience which was once found only in airports and air travel. The modern railway station in Bengaluru named after

Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya is also a direct proof of this," he said.

The Bengaluru suburban rail project (BSRP), which is to be built at a cost of over ₹15,700 crore, envisages four corridors with a route length of over 148 km.

Multimodal connectivity is getting a new impetus from PM GatiShakti National Masterplan. "The upcoming multimodal logistics are part of this vision. Such projects that are being undertaken with the spirit of GatiShakti will give employment to the youth and also strengthen the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' Campaign," Modi said.

With the change in the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), new avenues of growth have been thrown open. As a mark of confidence in 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', India has done away with foreign participation in contracts of up to ₹200 crore. Central government departments have been directed to make purchases of up to 25% from MSMEs. GeM portal is proving to be a great enabler for the MSME segment, Modi said while highlighting the importance of MSMEs.

Referring to the strides made in the startup sector, Modi said that while the first 10,000 startups took 800 days after 2014, today a similar number is being added in less than 200 days. The valuation of unicorns -- startups valued at \$1bn -- created in the last eight years is about ₹12 trillion, he added.

BIG TICKET PROJECTS

MODI lauds the significant milestone of 100% electrification of Konkan Railway

HE says the "double engine" government is working on every possible means to reduce jams in B'luru

BENGALURU suburban rail project will connect Bengaluru city with its suburbs and satellite townships

with its suburbs and satellite townships and this will have a multiplier effect.

Similarly, the Bengaluru Ring Road project will reduce the city's conges-

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focuses on conducting vital research

- **Foundation stone of the Bagchi-Parthasarathy Municipality Hospital - The 832-bedded hospital has been developed on the campus of IISc Bengaluru and it will help integrate science, engineering, and medicine at the prestigious institute.**
- **PM Modi has inaugurated a new campus of Dr. BR Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE), Bengaluru, and also unveiled the statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bengaluru dedicated 150 tech hubs to the nation. They have been developed by transforming ITIs. The technology hubs are developed for Rs. 4,600 crores and are supported by many industry partners.**

25. Consider the following statement regarding the **new set of guidelines by the government prohibiting surrogate advertising and Health Insurance For Surrogate Mothers.**
1. Notified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, “Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022” apply to ads across all media platforms including television, print, and online.
 2. The **guidelines have imposed a complete ban on surrogate advertising.**
 3. Couples who intend to take the surrogacy route to become parents will have to buy a general health insurance coverage in favor of a surrogate mother for 36 months
 4. the number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure on the **surrogate mother should not be more than three times.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1, 2 & 4
- B. Only 2, 3
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

- **A new set of guidelines by the government prohibit surrogate advertising. The move comes in the wake of controversy over a perfume ad that was slammed for promoting sexual violence against women.**
- **Notified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, “Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for**

Surrogacy rules notified, no more than 3 attempts allowed

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The Health Ministry has issued surrogacy regulation rules, saying not more than three attempts can be made at a surrogacy procedure and mandating the intending couple to buy 36-month general health insurance cover for the surrogate mother to cover expenses that may arise from pregnancy complications.

The rules stipulate that the surrogate mother would be entitled to abortion during surrogacy in accordance with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, which eased medical termination processes.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, has been in force

INSURANCE MUST

- The rules mandated the intending couple to buy 36-month general health insurance cover for the surrogate mother to cover expenses that may arise from pregnancy complications
- The rules stipulate that the surrogate mother would be entitled to abortion during surrogacy in accordance with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971



since January 25 this year, but rules had not been framed.

The rules now lay down

clear guidance on the qualification for employees of registered surrogacy clinics, and the formats in which clinics can charge for the registration and other services.

The rules say the intending couple will purchase a general health insurance coverage in favour of a surrogate mother for a period of 36 months from an insurance company or an agent recognised by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, for an amount which is sufficient enough to cover all expenses for all complications arising out of pregnancy and post-partum delivery complications. —TNS

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Misleading Advertisements, 2022” apply to ads across all media platforms including television, print, and online.

- *The guidelines have imposed a complete ban on surrogate advertising.*
- *Surrogate advertising is the strategy of advertising a product that cannot be advertised openly.*
- *Advertisers instead create ads that help in building a brand and often involve popular celebrities – all without naming the actual product that is being indirectly advertised.*
- *In India, tobacco products and alcohol cannot be advertised openly under laws like the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, which bans all kinds of direct and indirect advertisements of tobacco products.*
- *Couples who intend to take the surrogacy route to become parents will have to buy general health insurance coverage in favor of a surrogate mother for 36 months, according to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules issued recently.*
- *According to the rules notified by the Union health ministry on June 21, the number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure on the surrogate mother should not be more than three times.*
- *The surrogate mother may be allowed for abortion during the process of surrogacy following the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 came into force on January 25 this year.*
- *In this regard, the intending couple/woman also has to give an affidavit in court as a guarantee of compensation for medical expenses, health issues, and specified loss, incurred on such surrogate mother during the process of surrogacy*

26. Consider the following statement regarding the *Bharat Gaurav* tourist train.

1. *Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the Bharat Gaurav tourist train for Nepal from Safdarjung station.*
2. *IRCTC is the first Indian agency to connect India and Nepal through a tourist train.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

India-Nepal tourist train flagged off

KATHMANDU: The inaugural Bharat Gaurav tourist train connecting destinations associated with the Ramayana Circuit in India and Nepal was flagged off from the Safdarjung railway station in New Delhi on Tuesday. Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw and Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy jointly flagged off the train that will travel to several pilgrim sites related to Lord Ram in India and Nepal. The train carrying 500 Indian tourists will arrive at the Janakpur Dham railway station in Nepal on Thursday. It is the first train that will cross the international border and promote tourism in a more holistic manner.

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- **Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the Bharat Gaurav tourist train for *Nepal from Safdarjung station.***
- **Bharat Gaurav tourist train will connect India and Nepal and complete the Shri Ramayana Yatra in 18 days.**
- **It will cover the places of the Ramayana circuit and travel approximately 8,000 kilometers.**
- **It will pass through Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **The Bharat Gaurav tourist train has been started to showcase the rich cultural, spiritual and historical heritage of India.**
- **The exterior of the coaches of these trains has been designed as a kaleidoscope of “Bharat Gaurav” or “Pride of India”.**
- **IRCTC is the first Indian agency to connect India and Nepal through a tourist train.**
- **Ramayana Circuit is one of the fifteen thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.**

27. Recently in June Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called _____.

- A. NIRYAT
- B. NIPUN
- C. UTTAM
- D. SHRESTHA
- E. None of these

- **Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers.**
- **The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programs and**

Govt launches scheme to train 100,000 construction workers

Rituraj Baruah
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The Union minister of housing and urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday launched an initiative for skill training of construction workers -- the National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers.

The project NIPUN is an initiative of the ministry of housing & urban affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 100,000 construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provide them with work opportunities in other countries also, said a statement from the ministry.

Addressing the launch event, the minister said that the transformational impact of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) has reduced the vulnerability of urban poor households by providing upskilling and employment opportunities to urban dwellers, especially the youth. He said the spirit of entrepreneurship has been encouraged and supported by giving urban workers access to self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.

"This initiative will enable Nirman workers to be more



Union minister for housing and urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri at the launch of the 'NIPUN' in New Delhi.

proficient and skilled while making them adopt future trends in the construction industry by increasing their capabilities and diversifying their skill sets," he said.

Noting that the construction industry has been investing in skilling but it has not spread horizontally across the industry, Puri said that the initiative taken by ministry in this regard should expand to cover larger number of construction workers.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the nodal agency under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will be the implementation partner for NIPUN.

The project implementation is divided into three parts - training through recognition of prior learning (RPL) at con-

struction sites, training through fresh skilling and international placement through industries, builders and contractors. Onsite skill training will be provided to around 80,000 construction workers through industry associations under the RPL certification, co-branded with MoHUA, while about 14,000 candidates will receive fresh skilling through plumbing and infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC) in trades having promising placement potentials.

The courses are aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and will be imparted at accredited and affiliated training centres. Under NIPUN, it is also envisaged that NSDC will place around 12,000 people in Saudi Arabia, UAE and other countries in the Gulf.

Project NIPUN will also facilitate and support convergence with related line ministries.

The project is an initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission

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provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.

- *The project implementation is divided into three parts – training through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites, training through Fresh Skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC, and International Placement through industries, builders, and contractors.*
- *The courses are aligned with National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and will be imparted at accredited and affiliated training centers. Under NIPUN, it is also envisaged that NSDC will place approximately 12,000 people in foreign countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other GCC countries.*
- *It will provide trainees with 'Kaushal Bima', three-year accidental insurance with coverage of Rs 2 lakhs, digital skills such as cashless transactions and the BHIM app, orientation about entrepreneurship, and EPF and BOCW facilities.*

28. Who among the following will be BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the Presidential election?

- A. L. K. Advani
- B. Farooq Abdullah
- C. Draupadi Murmu**
- D. Gopalkrishna Gandhi
- E. None of these

- **Draupadi Murmu will be BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the Presidential election.**
- **She earlier served as the 9th Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021. She is from Odisha.**
- **BJP Chief JP Nadda said, for the first time, preference has been given to a woman tribal candidate.**
- **The voting for presidential elections will be held on 18th July 2022.**
- **Yashwant Sinha will be the opposition candidate for Presidential Election.**

Droupadi Murmu is NDA pick; Opposition parties field Sinha

BJP chooses tribal leader for President; she will take on former party veteran

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition have declared their respective candidates for the Presidential election in July.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Parliamentary Board nominated former Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu, who hails from Odisha and will be the first tribal woman to be the President of India, if elected. The Opposition declared former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha as its candidate.

High-level meeting

The BJP called a meeting of the Parliamentary Board late on Tuesday evening, and after discussions, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and lasting a little over an hour, announced Ms. Murmu's name.

Party president J.P. Nadda said that during the meeting, some 20 names were discussed, but it was felt that the new President of India should hail from the east and be a woman and an Adivasi (Ms. Murmu belongs to the Santal community).

For the Opposition, the choice of Mr. Sinha took a circuitous route. After two rounds of deliberations and



Droupadi Murmu, left, and Yashwant Sinha

Numbers game: all eyes on JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties are counting on making the 16th Presidential election a close contest. By nominating Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition is hoping to bring Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (U) to its side, to

many informal meetings, the 84-year-old bureaucrat-turned politician was declared the Opposition's common candidate.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh read out from a joint statement of the Opposition parties at the press meet. "Ideally, a consensus candi-

date of the government and the Opposition should be elected for the highest office of the Republic. However, the initiative for this should have been taken by the government. We regret the fact that the Modi government made no serious efforts in this direction. We, therefore,

make the battle slightly more even. Over the past many weeks, the JD(U) and the BJP have been at each other's throats, and the latest point of friction is the government's new military recruitment scheme Agnipath.

make the battle slightly more even. Over the past many weeks, the JD(U) and the BJP have been at each other's throats, and the latest point of friction is the government's new military recruitment scheme Agnipath.

appeal to all political parties to support the candidature of Mr. Sinha so that the nation can have a worthy Rashtrapati (President) elected unopposed."

No consensus

Mr. Nadda said that while a consensus candidate for the post of President was desirable, it did not materialise. "Both Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and I spoke to leaders of the various parties, including the UPA (United Progressive Alliance), but a commonality was not emerging. Therefore, we decided to field a common NDA candidate for the post of President of India," Mr. Nadda said.

"Looking at all this, it was decided that former Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu would be the NDA's candidate for President of India," Mr. Nadda said.

The members of the Parliamentary Board, the BJP's highest decision-making body, include Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Roads and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and BJP general secretary B.L. Santhosh.

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MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 11

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- *If elected, Draupadi Murmu would be the first tribal woman to occupy the topmost constitutional post in the country.*

29. Which of the following states has recently become the 36th state to implement the One Nation, One Ration Card scheme?

- A. **Assam**
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Manipur
- D. Tripura
- E. None of these

- **One Nation, One Ration Card scheme has now become operational throughout India with its implementation in Assam.**
- **Assam has become the 36th State to implement this scheme.**
- **The scheme is now successfully implemented in all the 36 states and Union Territories throughout the country.**
- **Within a short period, the scheme has covered 80 crore beneficiaries.**
- **MERA RATION mobile application was released to make the scheme more seamless. This application is available in 13 languages.**
- **The Department of Food and Public Distribution is the nodal agency responsible for the implementation of this scheme.**

30. Ambubachi Mela is celebrated in June at the Kamakhya temple in which of the following states?

- A. Meghalaya
- B. Mizoram

SCHEME ENSURES PORTABILITY OF 240M RATION CARDS

India completes 'One Nation One Ration Card' implementation

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, June 21

WITH ASSAM BECOMING the last state to implement the one nation one ration card (ONORC) scheme, its pan-India rollout is now complete.

Under the scheme, beneficiaries can get access to highly subsidised foodgrains under public distribution system anywhere in the country.

Launched in August 2019, ONORC ensures portability of around 240 million ration cards.

It enables migrant ration-card-holders to lift their quota of grain entitlement from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country by using the ration card issued in their home states or Union Territory after biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices



BIG LEAP

■ It enables migrant ration-card-holders to lift their quota of grain entitlement from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country

■ A monthly average of about 30 million portable transactions are being recorded

installed at the FPS'

Since the launch of ONORC, 710 million portable transactions – 436 million under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and 278 million under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyana Anna (PMGKAY) transactions have taken place

under ONORC. According to a food ministry statement on Tuesday, subsidised food grains worth ₹40,000 crore is delivered to beneficiaries through portability.

A monthly average of about 30 million portable transactions are being recorded, deliv-

ering the subsidised NFSA and free PMGKAY foodgrains.

As per estimates, 60 million people migrate seasonally to various states in search of livelihoods. Besides, around 80 million e people are intra-state migrants, moving from one district to another in their home state.

To ensure ration-card portability, the Centre had requested states to issue the ration card in the bi-lingual format—local language and Hindi or English. A 10-digit standard ration card number was assigned to beneficiaries, wherein the first two digits denotes the state code.

Along with 10 digits, a set of another two digits was appended with the ration card number to create unique member IDs for each beneficiary in a ration card.

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- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Assam**
- E. None of these

- *Ambubachi Mela is celebrated at the Kamakhya temple in Assam in June.*
- *Kamakhya temple is located in Guwahati. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is considered one of the 51 Shakti Peethas.*
- *The temple is closed for three days starting from the 7th day of the “Ashadh” month of the Hindu calendar.*
- *On the 12th day, the doors are opened and a big fair is organized at the temple.*
- *“Ambubachi” means “spoken with water”. This signifies that the rains expected during this month make the earth fertile.*

31. Recently in June A landmark MoU has been signed by *the Indian Navy (IN)* which of the following to facilitate the transition of both current and retired Indian Navy personnel into the Merchant Navy?

- A. Shipping Corporation of India
- B. Directorate General (DG) of Shipping**
- C. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited
- D. Minor Ports Survey Organisation
- E. None of these

- *On June 20, an MoU has been signed by the Indian Navy (IN) and the Directorate General (DG) of Shipping to facilitate the transition of both current and retired Indian Navy personnel into the Merchant Navy.*
- *Through this MoU, DG Shipping envisions to certify IN personnel in compliance with the International STCW (Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) conventions.*
- *The MoU aligns with the Government’s focus on the maritime sector, particularly the Blue economy and qualified and trained human resources.*
- *Through the DGS Order 17 of 2022, DG Shipping has issued detailed procedures to implement this transition.*
- ***Directorate-General of Shipping: In September 1949, the Directorate General of Shipping was established with headquarters in Bombay.***
- ***Shri Amitabh Kumar is the Director-General of Shipping.***



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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Indian Navy inks pact with DG Shipping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 22

A "LANDMARK" MOU has been signed between Indian Navy and the Directorate General of Shipping to facilitate transition of Indian Navy personnel into the merchant navy, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

Under the provisions of the pact, the DG Shipping has envisioned certification of Indian Navy personnel in accordance with the International STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and

The ministry said the scheme would ensure naval personnel to acquire certificates of competence, while in naval service, which is recognised globally, after undergoing relevant bridging courses

Watchkeeping for Seafarers) conventions.

The STCW sets qualification standards for personnel on seagoing merchant ships.

"A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Indian Navy and the Directorate General of Shipping on Jun 20 to facilitate transition of Indian Navy personnel, both serving and retired, into the Merchant Navy," the ministry said in a statement.

It said the DG Shipping has already issued an order on the provisions.

"The order duly acknowledges the naval sea service and advanced training undergone by Indian Navy personnel and covers almost all the officers' and sailors; cadres of the Navy both in the nautical as well as technical domain," it said.

The ministry said the scheme would ensure naval personnel to acquire certificates of competence, while in naval service, which is recognised globally, after undergoing relevant bridging courses.

This would aid Indian Navy personnel in a smooth transition to various designations on-board merchant ships, both in India as well as in shipping companies across the globe, the ministry said.

"The transition schemes, which have been formulated after due diligence and taking into consideration a host

of factors including international regulations, have introduced various provisions which offer a direct transition to Indian Navy personnel even up to the apex ranks in the Merchant Navy," it said.

It said the "Navy personnel, after having adequate experience in the Navy, would now be able to join directly as masters on foreign going ships of unlimited tonnage in the nautical side and up to the rank of chief engineers in the engineering domain".

Classifieds

PERSONAL

L.Rimsy Chhabra W/o Jaspreet Singh, R/o A-6/7, 3rd Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Rimsy Arora, for all purposes. 0040619699-9

Vemuri Sriшти, D/o Vemuri Sridhar, R/o A-5C, E-Block, Shivangl Kunj, Opp- BG-1, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Sriшти Vemuri Durga. 0040619718-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby inform that my client Pramod Kumar Son of Jagdish Prasad & Wife Maya Devi R/o 36757 Narang Colony Tri Nagar, New Delhi-110028, has disown and debarred her son Aman Kumar from all my movable and immovable property, due to their bad conduct and misbehaviour. Anybody deals with them shall be going at his/her own risk responsibilities.

Narmeet Singh Chahhan (Advocate) Chamber No. C499, Keshav Puram Delhi-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Gopinder Singh Paul (S/o Sohan Singh and Rita Paul) W/o Gopinder Singh Paul (S/o R/o 5502 Vasant Vihar New Delhi) have severed all their relations with their son Karan Paul due to his bad habits. Mr. above named client, has also disowned and debarred his said son from all their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Mr. Karan Paul will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities, and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Mr. Karan Paul.

Praveen Rainora (Advocate) Enrol No-DV244406

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby inform that my client Maya Devi wife of Late. Pradeep R/o 16-146, Gali No.-3 Saket Block, Mandawali, Delhi has disown and debarred her son Piyush Choudhary Alias Prince & wife Pooja daughter of Sarjey from all my movable and immovable property, due to their bad conduct and misbehaviour. Anybody deals with them shall be doing at his/her own risk responsibilities.

Narmeet Singh Chahhan (Advocate) Chamber No. C499, Keshav Puram Delhi-110034

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International / Report News

32. Recently in June _____ has launched its third most advanced aircraft carrier 'Fujian' .

- A. Japan
- B. Indonesia
- C. Thailand
- D. China**
- E. None of these

- **China launched its third most advanced aircraft carrier 'Fujian'.**
- **It is the most advanced and first "full domestically-built" naval vessel in China. Fujian is the name of China's eastern coastal province.**
- **China's first aircraft carrier is 'Liaoning' and the second aircraft carrier is 'Shandong'.**
- **'Liaoning' is the only Chinese aircraft carrier with the initial operational capability or the basic level of combat readiness.**
- **China's first aircraft carrier was commissioned in 2012 followed by the second aircraft carrier in 2019.**
- **The next aircraft carrier that China plans to build will be nuclear-powered.**

China gets its third aircraft carrier

Technology onboard includes electromagnetic catapults to launch jets off deck

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

China on Friday launched its biggest and most modern aircraft carrier, marking a major military advance for the Asian superpower.

The announcement comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the United States over Beijing's sabre-rattling towards Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province to be seized by force if necessary.

China's carrier development programme is part of a massive overhaul of the People's Liberation Army under President Xi Jinping, who has vowed to build a "fully modern" force to rival the U.S. military by 2027.



Growing fleet: The launch ceremony of the PLA aircraft carrier Fujian at a shipyard in Shanghai on Friday. •AFP

The new carrier, named Fujian, is the "first catapult aircraft carrier wholly designed and built by China", said state broadcaster CCTV.

It has significantly more advanced technology than China's two other carriers,

including electromagnetic catapults to launch aircraft off its deck, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The other carriers use a ski-jump-style ramp for takeoffs.

And with a displacement

of more than 80,000 tonnes, according to Xinhua, it is comparable in size to the supercarriers of the United States Navy.

Collin Koh, a research fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, said it could be a "game changer" for the Chinese navy. "The conventional flight deck with (electromagnetic catapults) will at least in theory allow the carrier to launch aircraft faster and with heavier payloads – which constitute key deciding factors during battle," he said.

It will take years before the Fujian becomes operational. Authorities have not said when it will enter service.

33. Recently _____ has announced to attend NATO summit for the first time.

- A. India
- B. Japan**
- C. Ukraine
- D. Sweden
- E. None of these

- **Japan to attend NATO summit for the first time. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will attend the NATO summit in Madrid on 28-30 June.**
- **Sweden and Finland will also send their delegation to the summit.**
- **'Yoon Suk-yeol' will be the first leader of South Korea to attend the NATO summit.**

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- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has recently announced the strengthening of Japan's military capability and budget.
 - Japan is not a member of NATO. Sweden and Finland have recently applied to join NATO.
 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization:
 - It is an intergovernmental political and military alliance of 30 countries.
 - It was constituted in 1949 with the North Atlantic Treaty, which regulates the functioning of NATO.
 - Its headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium.
34. As Per The **annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** nearly _____ million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021.
- A. 10 Million
 - B. 5 Million
 - C. 8 Million
 - D. 7 Million
 - E. None of these
- Nearly five million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021, the United Nations has said in a report.
 - The annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) highlighted that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine, and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.
 - According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), in 2021, there were 23.7 million new internal displacements globally due to disasters (these are in addition to those internally displaced due to conflict and violence)
 - "The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in China (6.0 million), the Philippines (5.7 million), and India (4.9 million). Most disaster displacements during the year were temporary,
 - The report said that at the end of 2021, 89.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide.
35. Recently The United States has announced a funding of _____ million to the top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, early detection of disease threats, and rapid and effective response.
- A. USD 150 mn
 - B. USD 200 Mn
 - C. USD 122 Mn
 - D. USD 250 Mn
 - E. None of these

U.S. to fund 3 Indian research institutions

It announces \$122 million to address challenges posed by infectious diseases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON

The United States has announced a funding of \$122 million to top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, enable early detection of disease threats and effect rapid and effective response.

The total funding of \$122,475,000 will, over a period of five years, be distributed to the three top Indian health research institutions

– Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology and National Institute of Epidemiology.

'One health' approach
Announced by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday, the fund will accelerate the progress towards an India, which is safe and secure from infectious disease threats, through ICMR institutions' focus on emerging

and re-emerging pathogens, a media release said.

Prominent among these include detecting and controlling zoonotic disease outbreaks through a 'one health' approach; evaluating vaccine safety monitoring systems; capacitating the public health workforce in field epidemiology and outbreak response; and combating antimicrobial resistance.

The CDC said the ICMR is in a unique position to conduct this work as it was origi-

nally established as an apex body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research in India, and has taken up most of the laboratory-based surveillance of infectious diseases in recent years.

Eligibility for funding beginning September 30, 2022 is limited to ICMR, and ICMR institutions, including the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai.

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- *The United States has announced a funding of USD 122 million to the top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, early detection of disease threats, and rapid and effective response.*
- *The total funding of USD 122,475,000 will, over five years, be distributed to the three top Indian health research institutions — the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology (NIV), and National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE).***
- *Announced by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the fund will accelerate the progress towards an India which is safe and secure from infectious disease threats through ICMR institutions' focus on emerging and re-emerging pathogens.*

36. Recently seen in News **Khuvsgul Lake National Park** is located in which of the following country?

- A. Nepal
- B. Magnolia**
- C. South Africa
- D. Bhutan
- E. None of these

- *Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.*
- *The decision of adding Khuvsgul Lake to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves has been made during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.*
- *Khuvsgul Lake is located in the Khuvsgul province of Mongolia near the Russian border.*
- *It contains nearly 70 percent of Mongolia's fresh water and is 1,645 meters above sea level. It is 136 km long and 262 meters deep.*

37. Consider the following statement regarding the **14th BRICS Summit**.

1. **14th BRICS Summit is hosted by China**
2. Its theme is **"Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development"**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

PM to attend BRICS virtual summit in China on June 23, 24

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

INDIA ON Tuesday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the annual summit of the five-nation grouping BRICS on June 23 and 24 following an invitation by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Russian President Vladimir Putin will also attend the summit.

This announcement came from the Ministry of External Affairs, after New Delhi decided to go for a virtual summit, and not an in-person summit in China.

The decision was taken in view of the strained ties between India and China over the two-year-long border stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

China is hosting the virtual summit in its capacity as its chair of BRICS this year. Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are likely to attend the virtual summit.

"At the invitation of President



Will take part in dialogue on global development

Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the 14th BRICS Summit hosted by China in virtual format on June 23 and 24. This includes a high-level dialogue on global development with guest countries on June 24," the MEA said in a statement.

It said the BRICS has become a platform for discussing and deliberating on issues of common concern for all developing countries, adding the grouping has regularly called for reform of the multilateral system to make it more representative and inclusive.

Before the summit, Modi will participate, by way of a recorded keynote speech, in the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum on Wednesday. Earlier in the year, China had reached out to India to revive bilateral dialogue.

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

- PM Modi will virtually address the 14th BRICS Summit. He will attend the two-day 14th BRICS Summit hosted by China. The summit started on 23 June 2022.
- The summit is being held in virtual format. Its theme is “Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development”.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping will chair a High-Level Dialogue on Global Development with guest countries on 24 June 2022.
- PM Modi will also deliver a keynote speech virtually in the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum.
- China and Russia have also expressed their willingness to discuss the expansion of the BRICS group.
- BRICS New Development Bank has already expanded by including UAE, Bangladesh, Uruguay, and Egypt.

38. Consider the following statement regarding the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
1. The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is being held from 20-25 June 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.
 2. ‘Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming’ is the theme of the summit.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to attend the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- Dr. S. Jaishankar is on a four-day visit to Rwanda to lead the Indian delegation at the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
- The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is being held from 20-25 June 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ‘Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming’ is the theme of the summit.
- The Commonwealth Member States representatives will discuss various global issues including climate change, food security, and health issues.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar will also hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Commonwealth member countries.

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- *India is one of the largest contributors to the Commonwealth and it is committed to deepening its ties with Commonwealth members.*
- *Commonwealth of Nations: It is a voluntary political organization of 54 countries. Its headquarters is located in London.*

39. Recently in June *Richard Marles deputy PM and defense minister of _____ signed MOU to expand maritime and other cooperation in the Indian Ocean and the larger Indo-Pacific region.*

- A. Japan
- B. Australia**
- C. Russia
- D. France
- E. None of these

- *India and Australia resolved to further crank up their defense ties through combat exercises, intelligence-sharing, reciprocal logistics, and military-industrial collaboration*
- *Australian deputy PM and defense minister Richard Marles, in the first high-level visit to India since the new Anthony Albanese government came to power in Canberra, strongly backed India in its two-year-long military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh.*
- *“The two sides also discussed ways to expand maritime and other cooperation in the Indian Ocean and the larger Indo-Pacific region, bilaterally as well as tri-laterally with some ASEAN countries”.*
- *They also undertook to build upon operational engagements through the bilateral Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA), which provides for refueling and berthing facilities for each other's warships and aircraft.*

40. Recently *World's largest freshwater fish has been caught in _____.*

- A. Italy
- B. Colombia
- C. Cambodia**

{ **MY INDIA** } 'CLOSE PARTNERS'

India, Aus agree to boost defence ties



Australia's new government reiterated its commitment to the strategic partnership with India by agreeing on Wednesday to work jointly on the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific and to boost cooperation between the defence industries of the two sides. Visiting Australian deputy prime minister and defence minister Richard Marles met India's defence minister Rajnath Singh and reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation, which both sides said has increased despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and also discussed ways to enhance collaboration. Marles is the first senior member of the new Australian government to visit India. Ahead of his arrival in the country on Monday, he described India as "one of Australia's closest security partners". →PT

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- D. Germany
 E. None of these

- The world's largest freshwater fish has been caught in Cambodia.
- Cambodian villagers have caught the world's biggest freshwater fish in the Mekong River.
- It is a big stingray fish, weighing 300kg (661lb). It is 3.98m long and 2.2m wide.
- The previous record-holder, a 646lb (293kg) Mekong giant catfish was caught in Thailand in 2005.
- The giant freshwater stingray fish is an endangered species.
- The Mekong has the third-largest diverse population of fish in the world. It flows through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

41. Recently in June which among the following has recently started free trade negotiations with India after nine years?

- A. European Union
 B. Eurasian Economic Union
 C. Gulf Cooperation Council
 D. ASEAN Economic Union
 E. None of these

- India and European Union to resume free trade negotiations after nine years.
- The first round of formal free trade negotiations between India and the European Union will begin on 27 June in New Delhi.
- The main aim of the free trade negotiations is to double the bilateral trade in five years from \$116 billion in 2021-22.
- India-EU free trade negotiations were stopped in 2013 due to the movement of Indian professionals and high tariffs on European farm produce.

India-EU relaunch talks on FTA after nine years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

India and the European Union (EU) have relaunched negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after a lull of nine years.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Executive Vice-President of European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis revived the talks on a far-reaching FTA at the EU Headquarters in Brussels last evening.

Besides, negotiations were also launched for a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and a Geographical Indicators (GIs) Agreement.

Last year, in the India and EU leaders' meeting held in Porto on 8 May 2021, an agreement was reached for resuming negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA and starting fresh negotiations on the IPA and a separate agreement on GIs.



The two partners had abruptly called off the talks in 2013 due to differences in the scope and expectations of the deal.

The Delhi visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in April 2022 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Europe accelerated the FTA discussions and helped in defining a clear roadmap for the negotiations.

This would be one of the most significant FTAs for India as the EU is its second-largest trading partner after the US. The India-EU merchandise trade has registered

an all-time high value of \$116.36 Billion in 2021-22 with a year-on growth of 43.5%. India's export to the EU jumped 57% in FY 2021-22 to \$65 billion. India has a surplus trade with the EU.

Considering that both partners have similar fundamental values and common interests and are two of the largest open market economies, the trade deal will help to diversify and secure the supply chains, boost economic opportunities for our businesses, and bring significant benefits to the people.

Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be

broad-based, balanced and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity. There will also be discussions on resolving the Market Access Issues which are impeding bilateral trade.

While the proposed IPA would provide a legal framework for cross-border investments to enhance the confidence of investors, the GI pact is expected to establish a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, to facilitate the trade of GI products including handicrafts and agri-commodities. Both parties are aiming to negotiate all three agreements in parallel and conclude them simultaneously.

The first round of formal negotiations for all three agreements will be held from 27 June-1 July in New Delhi.

India earlier this year has concluded FTAs with Australia and the UAE in a record time. The FTA talks with Canada and the UK are also underway.



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- *European Union is the second-largest trading partner of India after the United States.*
- *India's export to European Union has increased by 57% in 2021-22 to \$65 billion.*
- *India and the European Union will negotiate on all three agreements in parallel and conclude them simultaneously.*
- *Recently, India has signed free trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia.*
- *European Union: It is a political and economic union of 27 member states which are mainly located in Europe.*
- *It was founded on 1 November 1993. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium*

FATF retains Pakistan on 'grey list', hints at removal after October visit

MUNIRAHMED
ISLAMABAD, JUNE 17

THE FINANCIAL Action Task Force, an international watchdog, Friday said it will keep Pakistan on a so-called "grey list" of countries that do not take full measures to combat money-laundering and terror financing but raised hopes that its removal would follow an upcoming visit to the country to determine its progress.

The announcement by FATF president Marcus Pleyer is a blow to Pakistan's newly formed government, which believes it has mostly complied with the organisation's tasks set for Islamabad.

Pleyer said an onsite inspection by FATF in Pakistan would be done before October, and that a formal announcement on Pakistan's removal would follow.

He said FATF is praising Pakistan for implementing the or-



The country's new government, led by PM Shehbaz Sharif, believes it has complied with the watchdog's tasks. *Reuters File*

ganisation's action plans, a clear indication that Pakistan is moving closer to getting off the "grey list".

The Paris-based group added Pakistan to the list in 2018. The "grey list" is composed of countries with a high risk of money laundering and terrorism financ-

ing but which have formally committed to working with the task force to make changes.

At the time, the south Asian country avoided being put on the organisation's "black list" of countries that do not take adequate measures to halt money-

laundering and terror financing but also have not committed to working with the FATF. The designation severely restricts a country's international borrowing capabilities.

Still, being on the Paris-based international watchdog's "grey list" can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption. It also can make global banks wary of doing business with a country.

Pakistan has said it continues to detain suspects involved in terror financing to comply with tasks set by the watchdog.

A Pakistani-based independent think tank, Tabadlab, has estimated that it has cost the country's economy \$38 billion since it was put on the grey list in 2018.

The FATF is made up of 37 member countries, including the United States, and two regional groups, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission. **AP**

Banking / Economy News

42. Recently in June, the Government has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and _____ as 'critical information infrastructure'.

- State Bank Of India
- NPCI**
- Reserve Bank Of India
- SEBI
- None of these

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- The government declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and NPCI as ‘critical information infrastructure’.
- The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) issued a notification in this regard on 16 June 2022.
- According to Information Technology Act 2000, “Critical Information Infrastructure” has been defined as a “computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety”.
- Government can declare any data, database, IT network, or communications infrastructure as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) to protect the digital asset.
- The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is the nodal agency to protect the Critical Information Infrastructure in India. It was formed in 2014.
- CIIs will be protected from unauthorized access, modification, use, disclosure, disruption, and incapacitation.
- Any person who attempts to get access to a protected system violates a law. He can be punished with a jail term of up to 10 years.

43. Recently in June _____ has partnered with PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd (PhonePe), a digital payments platform to offers motor insurance to 380 million customers on the PhonePe platform.

- A. Kotak Mahindra General Insurance
- B. State Bank Of India
- C. Indian Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance) announced that it has partnered with PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd (PhonePe), a digital payments platform to offers motor insurance to 380 million customers on the PhonePe platform.
- Through PhonePe, Kotak General Insurance will provide quick and seamless car and two-wheeler insurance policies to its customers.
- Suresh Agarwal, Managing Director & CEO, Kotak General Insurance

ICICI, HDFC Bk, NPCI IT infra is ‘critical’: Govt

New Delhi: The government has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as ‘critical information infrastructure’, implying any harm to them can have an impact on national security and any unauthorised person accessing these resources may be jailed for up to 10 years.

“The government declares the computer resources relating to the core banking solution, RTGS and NEFT comprising structured financial messaging server, being critical information infrastructure of the ICICI Bank,” a notification said. In two other notifications, MeitY declared IT resources of HDFC Bank and NPCI as critical infrastructure too. AGENCIES

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44. Consider the following statement regarding *Hurun 500 most valuable private companies*.

1. *Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India* launched an update to the list of 500 most valuable private companies in India.
2. According to the list, *Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd* is now India's most valuable company with a value of Rs 18.9 lakh crore.
3. *Mumbai* alone is home to 159 of the companies, followed by Bengaluru at 59, Gurugram with 38, and Chennai with 36.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India* launched an update to the list of 500 most valuable private companies in India.
- The minimum valuation to make it into the top-500 valuation list was Rs 5,800 crore or \$760 million.
- Companies in the list came from 15 states led by Maharashtra.
- *Mumbai* alone is home to 159 of the companies, followed by Bengaluru at 59, Gurugram with 38, and Chennai with 36.
- According to the list, *Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd* is now India's most valuable company with a value of Rs 18.9 lakh crore.
- *It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with 12.9 lakh crore and HDFC Bank with Rs 7.7 lakh crore.*
- *Adani group companies made the maximum gain and surpassed all others by a huge margin.*
- *In just six months, Adani Green moved from 16th to 6th spot.*
- *Paytm was the worst performer, having lost 63% (Rs 63,666 crore) to touch a value of Rs 37,724 crore*
- *The only unicorn making it to the list was Delhivery*

45. Consider the following statement regarding the *17th edition of Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands*.

1. *Apple grabs the top spot at the Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands 2022 ranking and is on track to become the first trillion-dollar brand.*
2. *The number of Indian brands in the Global Top 100 rose to four: Tata Consultancy Services (46th), HDFC Bank (61st), Infosys (64th), and Life Insurance Corporation (92).*

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Kantar Brandz 2022 report is out, and Apple retook the No. 1 slot as the world’s most valuable brand, for the first time since 2015 With a brand value of \$947.1 billion
- Google moves up to the second place and is one of the fastest risers in the ranking, increasing its brand value by 79% to \$819.6 billion. While Amazon stands the third place with a brand value of \$705.6 billion.
- For the second straight year, American brands account for 56 out of the world’s Top 100 brands
- This year, the number of Chinese brands in the Top 100 fell by four, to 14, while the number of European brands on the list held steady at 18. Meanwhile, brands from Argentina and Saudi Arabia joined the Global Top 100 for the first time.
- The combined value of the world’s Top 100 most valuable brands has increased by 23% to \$8.7 trillion over the past year
- Newcomers in 2022’s ranking emerge from a range of categories. Aramco, the integrated energy and chemicals company, debuted highest at No.16. India’s IT services and consultancy Infosys arrived at No.64.

**APPLE TOPS WITH BRAND VALUE OF \$947.1 BILLION
TCS among top 50 global brands**

Apple, Google and Amazon lead Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands rankings

CHRISTINA MONIZ
Mumbai, June 16

TCS HAS BEEN ranked at number 46 in the Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands 2022 report, making it the first Indian brand to be featured in the top 50.

Other brands from India are HDFC Bank (at 61), Infosys (at 64) and LIC (at 92). Apple is placed at the top of the ranking with a brand value of \$947.1 billion, and is on track to become the first trillion-dollar brand.

Google climbed to the number two spot from number three last year, with a 79% increase in its brand value to reach \$819.6 billion.

Amazon, which was the leading brand in 2021, claimed third place with a brand value of \$705.6 billion. The combined value of the

Top 5 most valuable global brands

Rank	Brand	Brand value (\$ m)	% change 2022 vs 2021
1	Apple	947,062	55%
2	Google	819,573	79%
3	Amazon	705,646	3%
4	Microsoft	611,460	49%
5	Tencent	214,023	-11%

Category leaders

Category	Brand	Value (\$ m)	% change
Food & beverages	Coca-Cola	89,985	12%
Cars	Tesla	75,933	78%
Consumer technology	Apple	947,062	55%
Personal care	L'Oréal Paris	47,480	24%
Retail	Amazon	281,695	N/A

Source: Kantar BrandZ

world’s top 100 most valuable brands has increased by 23% to \$8.7 trillion over the past year, according to the Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands 2022 report. Apple, Google and Amazon have dominated the

Apple, Google and Amazon have dominated the rankings in the past three years, challenges like the pandemic and economic slowdown notwithstanding

rankings in the past three years, challenges like the pandemic and economic slowdown notwithstanding.

The report notes that the pandemic further accelerated growth of e-commerce in the retail category, and therefore brands with stronger connections to consumers were able to sustain their growth online and beyond.

Martin Guerrieria, head of Kantar BrandZ, credits this consistent growth to these brands’ abilities to diversify into new categories.

“Portfolio brands that continue to innovate and diversify their offering continue to grow, especially evident with Apple, Google and Amazon, amongst others, as their services cross technology, entertainment and payment services.”

“Brands reliant on one cat-

egory or market have the greatest risk profile, whereas brands that have diversified into multiple categories and markets showed faster brand value growth in 2022,” he explains.

One important factor that has fuelled these brands’ growth is their ability to prioritise consumer experience. “Clubbed with a jazz style of leadership and agility in their approach allows them to remain relevant, and connected, while they invest in their customer journey and seek ‘return on experience’ over a period of time,” remarks Moneka Khurana, MMA India’s country head and board member.

“Another model which these companies keep implementing to thrive is the practice where the chief growth officer, chief analytics officer, and chief experience officer sit adjacent to marketing rather than embedded within the marketing stack,” notes Khurana.

A total of 37 brands improved their ranking this year. The report shows that over three quarters of brand value originated from American companies.

TCS, HDFC Bank, Infy and LIC among Kantar’s global 100 most valuable firms

SHIVANI SHINDE
Mumbai, 16 June

IT services and banking companies have retained top positions in the Kantar BrandZ, 2022 Most Valuable Global Brands report.

This year the number of Indian brands in the Global Top 100 rose to four: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). That’s more than the amount that Japan, Italy, or the UK placed – combined, said the report.

TCS jumped 12 positions to 46th position from 58th in 2021. Its brand value was up 61 per cent. “The presence of TCS and Infosys in the APAC Kantar BrandZ Top 10 is not a fluke. Indian-born consulting companies have combined a high quality of human resources in India with innovative technological platforms, which unlock their employees’ capabilities. Formerly a challenger brand, TCS is now valued at



\$199 billion, almost equal to its peer Accenture. Success fuels dreams, which lead to more success. Today, India ranks number two on funded unicorns and number one in soon-to-be unicorns,” said Wayne Levings, president APAC, insights division, Kantar. HDFC Bank’s rank was up five positions and its brand value increased 35 per cent. However, life insurance player LIC saw its rank slip 19 positions to 92, and its brand value was down by 4 per cent compared to 2021. Infosys made its debut to the list at 64th position at a

GOING PLACES

Name	Rank	Brand Value \$mn	% change	Position change
TCS	46	50,349	61	12 (up) ▲
HDFC Bank	61	35,603	35	5 (up) ▲
Infosys	64	33,551	33	New entry
LIC	92	23,265	-4	19 (down) ▼

Source: Kantar BrandZ, 2022 Most Valuable global brands report

brand value of \$33,551 billion, up 33 per cent.

As China’s long run of spectacular growth appears to be levelling off for now, and India has emerged as a major source of opportunity, not least for Chinese brands themselves, some of which have begun to open factories in Indian cities, said the report.

The scale of the Indian market offers room for growth. For instance, according to the latest “ICUBE” report from The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Kantar, the

number of mobile internet users in India will rise to 900 million by 2025, up from 622 million in 2020.

But India has its impressive stable of home-grown brands (not to mention strict regulations aimed at supporting domestic factories).

The report points out how local success stories are taking on global traditional brands. Ghari, the detergent brand, started as a regional success story before taking on detergent giants. And today it holds a 17.1 per cent market share, the report said while talking about Indian brands.

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- The number of Indian brands in the Global Top 100 rose to four: Tata Consultancy Services (46th), HDFC Bank (61st), Infosys (64th), and Life Insurance Corporation (92).

46. Recently in June *Exim Bank extends a USD 24.98 mn line of credit to _____ for the Agri mechanization project.*
- A. Maldives
 - B. Ghana**
 - C. The Gambia
 - D. South Africa
 - E. None of these

- *Export-Import Bank of India has executed a Buyer's Credit Agreement with Ghana for an agriculture mechanization project valued at USD 24.98 million.*
- *The project envisages the establishment of an assembly plant for tractors, backhoe loaders, and the fabrication of agriculture implements.*
- *This funding is proposed to be provided under the Buyer's Credit program under the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) Scheme.*

Exim Bank extends \$24.98 mn funding to Ghana for agri mechanisation proj

The Export-Import Bank of India on Friday said it has executed a Buyer's Credit Agreement with Ghana for an agriculture mechanisation project valued at USD 24.98 million. The project envisages establishment of an assembly plant for tractors, backhoe loaders and fabrication of agriculture implements.

47. Recently in June _____ *has introduced Dhan Sanchay, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan offering protection and savings.*
- A. State Bank Of India
 - B. LIC**
 - C. ICICI Bank
 - D. HDFC Bank
 - E. None of these

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- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has recently introduced Dhan Sanchay, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan offering protection and savings.**
- **The plan is available for a term of a minimum of five years to a maximum of 15 years.**
- **The minimum sum assured under this plan for options A and B is ₹3,30,000, option C is ₹2,50,000 and option D is ₹22,00,000. There is no limit for maximum premium. The minimum age at entry is three years (complete) depending upon chosen policy term.**

LIC of India introduces Dhan Sanchay

Life Insurance Corporation of India introduced a new plan Dhan Sanchay, which is Non-Linked, Non-participating, Individual, Savings Life Insurance Plan which offers a combination of protection and savings. It provides guaranteed income Benefit during the Payout Period from the date of Maturity, and Guaranteed Terminal Benefit payable with the last installment of GIB. The plan is available for a term of minimum 5 to maximum 15 years. Plan provides Level Income Benefit, Increasing Income Benefit; Single Premium Level Income Benefit &



Single Premium enhanced cover with Level Income Benefit as per the choice of the customer. The plan provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the Life Assured during the term of the policy after the commencement of risk. The Death Benefit shall be paid in lump sum and/or in installments over a period of 5 years, as per the option exercised by the Policyholder.

48. Recently in June Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693: 2022 for 'non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay' name _____.
- A. Matka Refrigerator
 - B. Mitticool refrigerator**
 - C. Ghada refrigerator
 - D. Pot refrigerator
 - E. None of these

BIS develops Indian standards for 'non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693: 2022 for a 'non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'.**
- **BIS standard specifies the construction and performance requirements of a cooling cabinet made out of clay, which operates on the**

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, has developed an Indian Standard, IS 17693: 2022 for 'Non-electric cooling cabinet made of clay'. Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the grass root innovator behind the refrigerator made using clay, popularly called 'Mitticool Refrigerator'. In this era, where the world is dominated by technology and advancement,

there are people in our country who still bank on traditional cooling. Refrigeration is a food storage technique that prevents bacterial growth whereby increasing its shelf life and making it fit for consumption. Shri Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the grass root innovator behind the refrigerator made using clay, popularly called 'Mitticool Refrigerator'. It is a natural refrigerator

made primarily from clay to store vegetables, fruits, milk, and also for cooling water. It provides natural coolness to food stuffs stored in it without requiring any electricity. 'Mitticool Refrigerator' was exhibited at the 4th batch of Innovations Scholars In-residence Programme held at Rashtrapati Bhawan (2017) in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF).



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principle of evaporative cooling.

- *These cabinets may be used to store perishable foodstuff without the need for electricity.*
- *Named as 'Mitticool refrigerator', Mansukh Bhai Prajapati from Gujarat is the innovator behind the refrigerator which projects an eco-friendly technology.*
- *It is a natural refrigerator made primarily from clay to store vegetables, fruits, and milk, and also for cooling water.*
- *BIS is the National Standards Body of India working under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.*
- *It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986.*

49. Consider the following statement *regarding the country's first multi-modal rail and road transport corridor.*

1. *Under the project, two road tube tunnels and one rail tube tunnel will be built under the Ganga river.*
2. *Indian Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and Ministry of Defense (Border Roads Organisation) will jointly complete the project estimated to cost around Rs 7,700 crore.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Central Government is going to build a strategically important Integrated multi-modal rail and road transport corridor in the Northeast, the first in the country. Under the project, two road tube tunnels and one rail tube tunnel will be built under the Brahmaputra river.*
- *Apart from this, a rail-road infrastructure will be created for the rail-road missing links including several new rail lines, a loop line, a railway station, and a station yard. With the help of this mega rail-road transport corridor, military vehicles, logistics ammunition, and armed forces can reach the China border of North Assam, Tawang, and Arunachal Pradesh faster.*
- *Indian Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and Ministry of Defense (Border Roads Organisation) will jointly complete the project estimated to cost around Rs 7,700 crore.*
- *As per the consensus reached between the three ministries, the Railways will spend Rs 2,295 crore while the Ministry of Road Transport and*

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Highways will spend more than 4,700 crore (which comes to about Rs 7,000 crore).

- **The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has given a presentation of the above project to the Railway Board last month. A senior official said that there is a proposal to build two road tube tunnels and one rail tube tunnel, about 10 km long, under the Brahmaputra river.**
- **Apart from this, a 121.33 km-long new railway line will be laid between Rangpara and Tawang. This new rail line will connect Tawang, Senga, Rupa, Bhalukpong and Rangpara. A new railway line will also be laid between Dhalaiibil-Jakhlabandh and Dekragaan-Jamugurihar. A new railway station is proposed to be built between Dhalaiibil and Jamugurihar with an increased number of platforms and a loop line and station yard.**
- **Earlier, NHIDCL, an undertaking of the Ministry of Road Transport, had prepared a plan to build a tunnel under the river.**

50. Recently in June _____ extended its MoU with the Union ministry of rural development (MoRD) to continue its role as the nodal bank for processing and disbursement of interest subvention to women SHGs in 250 backward districts across the country through the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) portal.

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. Indian Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. Axis Bank
- E. None of these

- **Indian Bank has extended its MoU with the Union ministry of rural development (MoRD) to continue its role as the nodal bank for processing and disbursement of interest subvention to women SHGs in 250 backward districts across the country through the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) portal.**
- **The rural development ministry under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) receives annual action plans**

India's first Integrated multi-modal rail-road corridor to be built in NE

ANJALI BHATIA
NEW DELHI, 18 JUNE

The Central Government is going to build a strategically important integrated multi-modal rail and road transport corridor in the North-east, the first in the country. Under the project, two road tube tunnels and one rail tube tunnel will be built under the Brahmaputra river.

Apart from this, a rail-road infrastructure will be created for the rail-road missing links including several new rail lines, a loop line, a railway station, and a station yard. With the help of this mega rail-road transport corridor, military vehicles, logistics ammunition, and armed forces can reach the China border of North Assam, Tawang, and Arunachal Pradesh faster.

Indian Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and Ministry of Defense (Border Roads Organisation) will jointly complete the project estimated to cost around Rs 7,700 crore.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has given a presentation of the above project to the Railway Board last month. A senior official said that there is a proposal



to build two road tube tunnels and one rail tube tunnel, about 10 km long, under the Brahmaputra river.

Apart from this, a 121.33 km-long new railway line will be laid between Rangpara and Tawang. This new rail line will connect Tawang, Senga, Rupa, Bhalukpong and Rangpara. A new railway line will also be laid between Dhalaiibil-Jakhlabandh and Dekragaan-Jamugurihar. A new railway station is proposed to be built between Dhalaiibil and Jamugurihar with an increased number of platforms and a loop line and station yard.

There are plans to lay an additional rail line between South Portal and Silghat, the official said. It is not possible to reach the north

and south banks of the Brahmaputra river due to the missing link (no connectivity) of rail/roads in the north-east. In view of this, the rail-road connectivity will be prepared on priority.

It will have Dekragaan-Tezpur-Silghati road connectivity, but no rail connectivity at all. The Dhalaiibil-Jakhlabandh link does not have rail or road connectivity. Therefore, this connectivity will be strengthened by building a rail-road corridor on the mth 5/12 will play a strategic

For the first time in the country, infrastructure is being created for strategic purposes so that there will be direct rail-road connectivity from North Assam to Tawang and Arunachal Pradesh's China border. For the first time, three tunnels will be built under the Brahmaputra river.

Earlier, NHIDCL, an undertaking of the Ministry of Road Transport, had prepared a plan to build a tunnel under the river. The news was prominently featured by Hindustan on 14 July 2020. The government has transformed it into a mega-integrated multi-modal rail and road transporter corridor.

Indian Bank extends MoU with MoRD



INDIAN BANK has extended its MoU with ministry of rural development (MoRD) to continue its role as nodal bank for processing and disbursement of interest subvention to women SHGs pan India through NRLM portal.

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from states and Union territories, which include physical targets for mobilization of rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs).

- DAY-NRLM aims to cover at least one woman member from each rural poor household under the fold of SHGs.
- As per the DAY-NRLM, interest subvention is provided on loans taken by women SHGs from banks. In 250 backward districts, referred to as category-I districts, all women SHGs are eligible to get bank loans up to Rs 3 lakh at an interest rate of 7% per annum.

51. LIC has raised its stake in pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories to _____ per cent .

- A. 5.65 %
- B. 4.99 %
- C. 6.02 %
- D. 7.91 %
- E. None of these

- Life Insurance Corp of India's (LIC) holding in pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has crossed 5.65% as of 15 June.
- The corporation's shareholding in Dr. Reddy's Lab has increased from 60,64,345 to 93,96,14,345, from 3.644% to 5.646% of the paid-up capital of the company.
- LIC has recently increased its stake in Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Hero MotoCorp, and non-banking finance company Capri Global Capital through open market purchases over the last few months.

52. Recently _____ has provided a line of credit of Rs 5,000 crore to the PMAY mega housing scheme being developed by Cidco.

- A. RBI
- B. SBI
- C. SEBI
- D. NABARD
- E. None of these

LIC ups stake in Dr Reddy's to 5.6%

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, June 16

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has increased its stake in pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories from 3.64 per cent to 5.65 per cent.

The little over 2 per cent increase in the holding in the Hyderabad-based company by LIC was done during the period from September 3, 2021, to June 15, 2022, through open market purchase at an average cost of ₹4,670.46 per share, the corporation informed the BSE on Thursday.

The market capitalisation of Dr Reddy's has been pegged at ₹72,162 crore, as per the intimation.;

The stock of LIC lost 3.08 per cent on the BSE on Thursday to end at ₹669.20, while the scrip of Dr Reddy's lost 1.15 per cent to close at ₹4,287.

- State Bank of India has provided a line of credit of Rs 5,000 crore to the PMAY mega housing scheme being developed by Cidco, thus achieving financial closure. This will speed up the construction of houses under the scheme and make the dream of affordable housing come true for many common citizens.
- “The line of credit sanctioned by State Bank of India will enable completion of the scheme on time. The interest rate of 6% is probably the lowest rate for any PSU historically. This mega housing scheme is amongst the largest of its type in the world,”

- The entire project will be financed with a Rs 4,000 crore infusion by CIDCO, Rs 5,000 crore through SBI's Line of Credit and the remaining will be internal accruals of the project.
- The first phase has 23,500 units, the second phase will have 67,000 units and the third phase will have additional 22,000 units.
- CIDCO has appointed a private agency for Marketing and Consumer Relationship Management of the scheme to ensure end-to-end services throughout and after-sale process. Thus, CIDCO has become the first government authority to adopt this kind of professional approach for the housing scheme.

53. Recently _____ and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have entered into a memorandum of understanding aimed at forging a knowledge partnership as well as building and enabling a thriving skilling ecosystem in the country.

- Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu
- None of these

- The Indian School of Business (ISB) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have entered into a memorandum of understanding

Cidco gets ₹5k-cr Credit Line from SBI for PMAY Housing Scheme

Funding cost lowest at 6% interest rate; capital to help speed up project with over 1.12L units

Kailash.Babar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government's town planning and infrastructure development authority, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco), has secured a ₹5,000 crore fund-based line of credit from State Bank of India (SBI) for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) mass housing project in Navi Mumbai.

This financing is expected to help speed up the ongoing project with more than 112,000 houses at a total project cost of ₹30,000 crore. The rate of interest for the financing is 6%, which is the lowest for any public sector undertaking (PSU) for a line of credit of this size.

The entire project will be financed with ₹4,000 crore infusion by Cidco, ₹5,000 crore through the SBI's line of credit and the remaining will be internal accruals of the project. “The line of credit sanctioned by the State Bank of India will enable completion of the mega housing scheme on time,” said Sanjay Mukherjee, managing director, Cidco. “This mega housing scheme is amongst the largest of its kind in India and globally. This line of credit helps

Brick by Brick

₹4,000 crore Cidco's fund infusion in the project

Internal accruals to also finance project

35% Of houses reserved for economically weaker section of society

15% For the lower income group

PROJECT DETAILS	Units
1st Phase	23,500
2nd Phase	67,000
3rd Phase	22,000

Remaining houses will be for open market sale



the project achieve financial closure.”

The town planning body is implementing this housing scheme based on the concept of 'transit-oriented development' in various nodes of Navi Mumbai and the project will be developed in three phases, with 23,500 units in the first phase, 67,000 units in the second phase and 22,000 units in the third phase.

Around 35% houses are reserved for the economically weaker section (EWS) of the society; 15% for the lower income group and the remaining houses will be for open market sale. Cidco has appointed

a private agency for marketing and consumer relationship management of the scheme. Thus, Cidco has become the first government authority to adopt this kind of professional approach for a housing scheme.

The town planning body has worked on various fronts such as site availability, financial planning, statutory clearances and project monitoring mechanism, and started implementing the scheme. The first phase of the scheme has been completed and work under the second phase is underway, while the third phase will start soon.

DUE to Invest ₹200 cr for Expanding

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aimed at forging a knowledge partnership as well as building and enabling a thriving skilling ecosystem in the country.

- *ISB in consultation with NSDC will drive the design and delivery of online (jointly certified) training programs; co-creation of research collateral; a digital learning ecosystem; sectoral assessments; entrepreneurship development initiatives and capacity building.*

54. The Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, has fixed the issue price for the first tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for the current fiscal at _____.

- A. Rs 5091 gram**
- B. Rs 4851 gram**
- C. Rs 5055 gram**
- D. Rs 5591 gram**
- E. None of these**

- *The issue price for the first tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for the current fiscal, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at Rs 5,091 per gram of gold*
- *The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 - Series I will be open for subscription during June 20-24, 2022.*
- *The Government of India, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram on the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.*
- *"For such investors, the issue price of Gold Bond will be Rs 5,041 per gram of gold,"*
- *The second tranche (2022-23 Series II) will be available for subscription during August 22-26, 2022.*
- *The central bank issues the bonds on behalf of the Government of India, and these bonds are restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities, and charitable institutions.*
- *"The tenor of the SGB (Sovereign Gold Bond) will be for eight years with an option of premature redemption after 5th year to be exercised on the date on which interest is payable.*

ISB partners with NSDC for research

The Indian School of Business (ISB) inked a pact with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). As part of this initiative, ISB and NSDC will work together towards conducting joint research around labour markets, identifying and benchmarking skilling needs across occupations, enabling digital delivery of courses, and capacity building of managers, teachers, trainers and leaders in the skilling and education segment. The MoU was inked by Deepa Mani, Deputy Dean - Digital Initiatives and Executive Education, ISB, and Ved Mani Tiwari, Chief Operating Officer, NSDC. ISB, in consultation with the NSDC, will drive the design and delivery of online (jointly certified) training programmes; co-creation of research collateral and a digital learning ecosystem, among others.

Govt. prices sovereign gold bond at ₹5,091/gm

MUMBAI

The issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 - Series I has been fixed at ₹5,091 per gram of gold of 999 purity. The issue will be open for subscription during June 20-24. "The nominal value of the bond, based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription period, works out to ₹5,091 per gram of gold," the RBI said in a statement.

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- *The minimum permissible investment will be one gram of gold"*
- *In 2021-22, SGBs were issued in 10 tranches for an aggregate amount of Rs 12,991 crore (27 tonnes).*
- *The maximum limit of subscription is 4 Kg for individuals, 4 Kg for HUFs, and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal year.*
- *The SGBs are sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), post offices, and the two stock exchanges (NSE and BSE).*
- *The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched in November 2015 to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings -- used for the purchase of gold -- into financial savings.*

55. Consider the following statement regarding **RBI Payments Vision 2025**”.

1. It builds on the initiatives of **Payments Vision 2019-21**.
2. The **Payments Vision 2025** document is presented across the five anchor goalposts of **Integrity, Inclusion, Innovation, Institutionalisation, and Internationalisation**.
3. **Theme: E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, every time (4Es)**.
4. **Volume of cheque-based payments to be less than 0.25% of the total retail payments.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1, 2 & 4
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 3 & 4
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these



VISION DOCUMENT

RBI sees digital payment transactions trebling by 2025

SHRITAMA BOSE
Mumbai, June 17

document for 2025, the central bank said on Friday. The vision document took note of the proliferation of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) services which, it said, has developed into a new payment mode alongside the existing payment modes like cards, UPI, and net banking. "This novel method shall be examined, and issuance of appropriate guidelines on payments involving BNPL shall be explored," RBI said. Among other outcomes are a reduction in the volume of cheque-based payments to less than 0.25% of the total retail payments. The industry should target increasing its payment transaction turnover vis-à-vis gross domestic product (GDP) to eight and debit card transactions at point of sale (PoS) by 20%. Debit card usage is to surpass credit cards in terms of value while transactions through prepaid payment instrument (PPI) should rise 150%, says the document.

IN TRANSITION

- Volume of cheque-based payments to be less than **0.25%** of the total retail payments
- More than **3x** increase in number of digital payment transactions
- UPI to register average annualised growth of **50%** and IMPS/NEFT at **20%**
- Debit card usage to surpass credit cards in terms of value
- Increase in PPI transactions by **150%**
- Increase of registered customer base for mobile based transactions by **50% CAGR**
- Reduction in Cash in Circulation (CIC) as a percentage of GDP

It further says that card acceptance infrastructure is to increase to 25 million and the registered customer base for mobile-based transactions is to grow 50% on a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) while cash in circulation (CIC) as a percentage of GDP is to be reduced. The regulator also laid out a set of specific initiatives for the industry. Considering emerging concerns with OTP-based authentication in terms of increasing cases of divulgence of customers' confidential details, alternate risk-based authentication mechanisms leveraging behavioural biometrics, location, historical payments, digital tokens and in-app notifications shall be explored, the RBI said.

Continued on Page 2

- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with “Payments Vision 2025” to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible, and affordable e-payment options.*

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- *Payments Vision 2025 has been prepared by considering the guidance from the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems of the RBI.*
- *It builds on the initiatives of Payments Vision 2019-21.*
- *The Payments Vision 2025 document is presented across the five anchor goalposts of Integrity, Inclusion, Innovation, Institutionalisation, and Internationalisation.*
- *Theme: E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, every time (4Es)*
- *To elevate the payment systems towards a realm of empowering users with affordable payment options accessible anytime and anywhere with convenience.*
- *The volume of cheque-based payments is less than 0.25% of the total retail payments.*
- *Tripling the number of digital payment transactions.*
- *UPI to register average annualized growth of 50% and IMPS / NEFT at 20%.*
- *Increase of payment transaction turnover vis-à-vis GDP to 8.*
- *Increase in debit card transactions at PoS (Point of Sale) by 20%.*
- *Debit card usage to surpass credit cards in terms of value.*
- *Increase in PPI transactions by 150%.*
- *Card acceptance infrastructure to increase to 250 lakh.*
- *The RBI's Payments Vision 2025 will be significant in shaping India's payment ecosystem, propelling a safer, more secured, and seamless payment infrastructure.*

RBI PAYMENTS VISION 2025 PROPOSES...

+ National Card Switch for card transactions at PoS terminals

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 17

The Reserve Bank of India's 'Payments Vision 2025' document has recommended implementing a National Card Switch to process card transactions at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals.

To promote competition

This could promote competition, thereby bringing in more efficiency and innovation in the processing of such transactions.

At present, while card transactions at ATMs are processed either through the National Financial Switch or ATM networks or the concerned card networks, card transactions at PoS terminals are processed only through the card network concerned.

Card payments networks operating in India include Master-Card Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd, Singapore; Visa Worldwide Pte Ltd,

Singapore; National Payments Corporation of India; American Express Banking Corp, US; and Diners Club International Ltd, US. All ATM transactions are primarily processed through the National Financial Switch.

The document has also suggested exploring linkage of credit cards and credit components of banking products to Unified Payments Interface. This will offer more avenues and greater convenience to users in making payments through the UPI platform.

UPI users can only link the bank account and the debit card to the UPI Virtual Payment Address (VPA).

Per RBI's Payments Vision, the possibility of interoperability for contactless transit card payments in offline mode shall be explored to facilitate seamless travel with a single payment instrument usable across different transit operators.

56. Recently in June _____ launched its **KCC Digital Renewal scheme**, enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes.

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

- *The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE'*
- *PSU lender Indian Bank launched its KCC Digital Renewal scheme, enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes.*

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- *The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' - World of Advanced Virtual Experience.*
 - *The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndOASIS mobile app, internet banking, and via its website. The facility is available through SMS for feature phone users with no internet or with limited internet access*
 - *In April this year, the bank launched its first end-to-end digital product - A pre-Approved Personal Loan.*
57. Recently in June **BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center** signed an MoU with the _____ to facilitate bilateral cooperation and promote the common development of BRICS countries.
- A. ADB
 - B. NDB**
 - C. WB
 - D. AIIB
 - E. None of these
- *The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday with the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) to facilitate bilateral cooperation and promote the common development of BRICS countries.*
 - *BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market bloc that groups Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It is home to over 40 percent of the world's population and about a quarter of the global economy.*
 - *According to the MoU, the two sides will give priority to cooperation in such fields as artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, energy conservation, and environmental protection through joint research, personnel training, and information sharing on infrastructure and sustainable programs*
 - *The BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center was launched in Xiamen in December 2020. Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS nations. The bank formally opened in July 2015*
58. Recently in June _____ Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 100X VC, a leading early-stage venture capital firm, to engage more deeply with the start-up community.
- A. ICICI Bank
 - B. HDFC Bank**
 - C. Axis Bank
 - D. Yes Bank
 - E. None of these

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- **HDFC Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 100X VC, a leading early-stage venture capital firm, to engage more deeply with the start-up community.**
 - **The Bank has agreed to provide its full suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as Smart-Up, to all the firms associated with 100X VC.**
 - **It will also facilitate additional credit facilities and evaluate investment opportunities in these start-ups.**
 - **HDFC Bank and 100X VC seek to work together in mutually beneficial areas under this MoU.**
 - **HDFC Bank will be the primary Bank for all of 100X VC's investee companies. With the help of this collaboration, the bank visions an enhanced ecosystem by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.**
59. Recently In June _____ with **UN Women to advance women's economic empowerment.**
- A. Instagram
 - B. **LinkedIn**
 - C. Twitter
 - D. Meta
 - F. None of these
- **LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, on Wednesday said it will invest USD 5,00,000 (Rs 3.88 crore) in partnership with UN Women to advance women's economic empowerment.**
 - **The project will launch a pilot in Maharashtra to cultivate the digital, soft, and employability skills of 2,000 women and present them with a range of career-building opportunities through job fairs, mentoring sessions and peer-to-peer networks,**
 - **The three-year regional collaboration will digitally upskill women, providing them greater access to jobs and equipping them to fully participate in the formal economy.**

60. Recently In June **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)** partnered with _____ to co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card.

- A. **Nainital Bank**
- B. RBL Bank
- C. DBS Bank
- D. CSB Bank
- E. None of these



BOB Financial
Credit reimagined
A wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda



Nainital Bank
amulya rishto hai atoot bandhan



BOB Financial and Nainital Bank launch co-branded contactless RuPay credit card

Dehradun, 16 June 2022: **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and **Nainital Bank** – established by Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant in 1922 (and managed by Bank of Baroda since 1973), today announced the launch of **Nainital Bank - BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card**. The card, being launched in the centenary year of Nainital Bank, is designed to reward customers for everyday spend categories like grocery and departmental stores.

Cardholders of Nainital Bank - BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn 5X i.e. 5 reward points (per Rs. 100 spent) for spends on grocery, departmental stores and movies. For all other spends, cardholders will earn 1 reward point per Rs. 100 spent. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases.

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- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and Nainital Bank – established by Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant in 1922 (and managed by Bank of Baroda since 1973), today announced the launch of Nainital Bank - BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card.**
- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited was established in the year 1994. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company, wholly owned by the Bank of Baroda.**
- **Nainital Bank was established by the great freedom fighter Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant and a few of his close associates on July 31, 1922, at Nainital**
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.**

61. Recently in June The government's **open network for digital commerce (ONDC)** partnered with _____ To **Initiate E-Commerce In Agritech.**

- A. SIDBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NABARD**
- D. RBI
- E. None of these

- **The government's open network for digital commerce (ONDC) is working to activate e-commerce in the agriculture domain. It is done with the partnership of the national bank for agriculture and rural development (NABARD).**
- **ONDC and NABARD have come together to host a grand hackathon from July 1 to 3.**
- **The Grand Challenge aims to establish market linkages for the enabled players with market-ready farmers' producer organizations (FPOs) in the country.**
- **It also focuses on promoting the development of innovative solutions that are likely to aid the adoption of e-commerce in the agriculture domain.**
- **T Koshy, CEO of ONDC.**



ONDC Partners with NABARD to Bring Ecommerce to Agri-tech

Set to host NABARD-ONDC Grand Challenge to find innovative solutions

Suraksha.P@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The newly-minted Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is working to activate e-commerce in the agriculture domain in partnership with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). As one of the first initiatives to drive ONDC enablement in the domain, ONDC and NABARD have come together to host the NABARD-ONDC Grand Challenge, which aims to establish market linkages for the enabled players with market ready farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in the country. It also aims to promote development of innovative solutions that are likely to aid adoption of e-commerce in the agriculture domain.

ONDC CEO T Koshy told ET that for the NABARD-ONDC hackathon, they have more than 400 entities registered, out of which around 250 are agritech startups while 150 are non-agri tech startups. Agri-tech entities include Ninjakart, Agmart, John Deere, Arun Dairy Farm, and Udyami Kisan Agro Producer Co Ltd.

The non-agri tech companies include Phyigital24, SIS Tech, Near-tail, Find.ai, Tata Cummins, ThoughtWorks, Zoho, Sonata Software, Bosch Global Software, Alpha IoT and Centrix.

Koshy said the startups will be given two problem statements: One, to integrate existing agritech e-commerce players on the ONDC network, and the second, to build innovative solutions that may accelerate adoption of the network enabled.

"NABARD is one of the earlier investors in ONDC. We decided to adopt a programmatic approach to encourage rural tech innovations, and give them an opportunity to experiment in ONDC," Koshy said. "With interesting problem statements, they can test their solutions and will be provided with some hand-holding in terms of finance. This is to help products of diverse sellers/artisans be available in the market."

T KOSHY
CEO, ONDC

NABARD is one of the earlier investors in ONDC. We decided to adopt a programmatic approach to encourage rural tech innovations

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economicstimes.com

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62. Recently in June **CARD91** announced a strategic partnership with _____ and RuPay, to create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Yes Bank**
- C. RBL Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- **CARD91**, a global payment infrastructure powering B2B payments, announced a strategic partnership with **YES BANK** and RuPay, the flagship product of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Through this partnership, **CARD91** will create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments as well as maintain a real-time dashboard to generate insights.
- This will enable **CARD91** to expand its presence in the Indian payments market
- **CARD91** is a plug-and-play Payment Issuance Infrastructure designed to help businesses launch co-branded cards and simplify payments.

63. Recently in June **Adani Power** had signed a share purchase agreement to acquire 100 percent equity shares of two companies, viz. **Support Properties Private Ltd (SPPL)** and **Eternus Real Estate Private Ltd (EREPL)** for about _____.

- A. Rs 650 Cr
- B. Rs 819 Cr
- C. Rs 609 Cr**
- D. Rs 545 Cr
- E. None of these

Adani Power acquires infra development firms SPPL and EREPL for over Rs 609 cr

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Adani Power on Monday completed the acquisition of 100 per cent equities in SPPL and EREPL for about Rs 609 crore.

On June 7, 2022, Adani Power had signed a share-purchase agreements to acquire 100 per cent equity shares of two companies, viz. Support Properties Private Ltd (SPPL) and Eternus Real Estate Private Ltd



(EREPL) from their respective shareholders.

"All the related steps/activities for acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of SPPL and EREPL have now been completed," a BSE filing stated.

Earlier this month, the company had stated in a filing that the cost of acquisitions were Rs 280.10 crore for SPPL and Rs 329.30 crore for EREPL. The consideration for the acquisition was cash.

SPPL is yet to commence commercial activities. Its authorised share capital is Rs 74,01,00,000 and paid up share capital is Rs 67,91,00,000. The object of acquisition is to set up infrastructure facilities.

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- *Adani Power on Monday completed the acquisition of 100 percent equities in SPPL and EREPL for about Rs 609 crore.*
- *On June 7, 2022, Adani Power had signed a share purchase agreement to acquire 100 percent equity shares of two companies, viz. Support Properties Private Ltd (SPPL) and Eternus Real Estate Private Ltd (EREPL) from their respective shareholders.*
- *Earlier this month, the company had stated in a filing that the cost of acquisitions was Rs 280.10 crore for SPPL and Rs 329.30 crore for EREPL. The consideration for the acquisition was cash.*

64. Recently in June *Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.* has partnered with _____ to launch the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan'+

- A. *Policybazaar*
- B. *TCS*
- C. *Flipkart*
- D. *Paybima*
- E. *None of these*

- *Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has launched the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan'+ a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan.*
- *The plan offers guaranteed tax-free returns up to 6.14%² along with life cover protection at monthly premiums as low as Rs 3000/-* and is also available to purchase on Max Life's website and Policybazaar.com.*
- *Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a Joint Venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.*
- *Policybazaar.com is one of India's largest insurance marketplaces. It is the flagship platform of PB Fintech, which owns the fintech brand, Paisabazaar.com*

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65. Recently In June **Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the E-Seva portal for the mining department, called _____ that will work as a single-window system for various processes linked with the department.**

- A. Koyla Mitra
- B. Koyla Darpan
- C. Mine Darpan
- D. Mine Mitra**
- E. None of these

- **Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the E-Seva portal for the mining department, called 'My Mitra',.**
- **The portal will work as a single-window system for various processes linked with the department, making its functioning more transparent and easing several processes like applications for permits and leases,**
- **Various facilities of the mining department will be available on the portal. It will make work easier for someone seeking to take out earth from their private property, transport earth, take mining lease, permits and registration, etc.**

UP govt to launch portal for direct mineral purchase

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 20 JUNE

Individuals, real estate companies and government agencies in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow can now purchase sand and river sand directly from stockists for construction work in monsoon.

The Mining Department portal 'Mine Mitra', that will be to be launched soon, will enable direct buying and selling from July this year.

As mining and excavation in river basins is suspended in monsoon, the retail rates of sand and river sand shoot up during this period.

According to the government spokesman, the department has already started coordinating with collectors of two dozen districts where mining is done in significant quantities to meet the demand through the portal.

Officials said 169 land parcels for storing river sand and 89 parcels to stock up sand



have been identified.

Before the monsoon sets in, the miners fence a vacant land parcel close to the road from all sides.

The minerals are excavated, transported and stocked at the land parcel that is colloquially called 'dump' to meet the demand from July to September.

Mining Department Secretary Roshan Jacob said, "We have already started

work to get such storage grounds fenced. CCTV cameras will be installed, and a stock register will be maintained. Our officials will visit the dump to estimate the quantity of stock. Random inspections will be carried out to ensure transparency. We will also monitor the prices in the retail market."

Besides increasing the storage capacity, the department will also display contact numbers, daily running stock and rates quoted by stockists on the 'Mine Mitra' portal.

Though large players are expected to benefit from the decision since they will be able to bear the transportation cost on getting an option of buying in bulk, the small ones will have to join hands.

The business is halting in monsoon because heavy vehicles engaged for excavating and transporting the minerals get stuck in mud as there are no roads in the river basin. It is only sand or mud.

66. Recently in June **Ambuja Cements has launched _____, a business aid mobile application, that aims to engage contractors and simplify their businesses**

- A. Darpan**
- B. Utran
- C. Nirmam
- D. Janbaaz
- E. None of these

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- **Ambuja Cements has launched 'Darpan', a business aid mobile application, that aims to engage contractors and simplify their businesses.**
- **The app modularizes features like Vaastu tips, event calendar, and product guide in various Indian languages to benefit a wide segment of construction professionals in our country.**
- **In extension to Ambuja Abhimaan, a differentiated long-term loyalty program, Ambuja Cements has given birth to this brilliant digital aid.**
- **Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and MD & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd**
- **Ambuja Cements Ltd., a part of the Holcim Group, is among India's leading cement companies.**

Ambuja Cements launches 'Darpan' app

NEW DELHI, 20 JUNE

Ambuja Cements has launched 'Darpan', a business aid mobile application, that aims to engage contractors and simplifies their businesses.

The app modularizes features like Vaastu tips, event calendar and product guide in various Indian languages to benefit a wide segment of construction professionals in our country. Given the importance to the individual house builder (IHB), this app is purely to engage and fulfil the unmet needs of contractors.

The app has been extended to 95,000 key contractors of Ambuja Abhimaan Program.

The application aims to provide round-the-clock access to tools that help contractors run their business efficiently.

SNS

67. Recently **South Indian Bank has launched a new portal called 'SIB TF Online' for its corporate EXIM customers. Where is the headquarters of South Indian Bank?**

- A. Mysore
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Thrissur
- D. Kochi
- E. None of these

South Indian Bank Launches EXIM Trade Portal - 'SIB TF Online'



Posted On : 2022-06-20 23:40:28(TIMEZONE : IST)



The Kerala-headquartered South Indian Bank has launched a new portal called 'SIB TF Online' for its corporate EXIM customers. The portal provides the customers with a platform for trade-related payments and remittances to foreign entities without visiting the bank's branches. The customer can initiate the payment request over SIB TF Online after uploading the supporting documents for the transaction.

- **The Kerala-headquartered South Indian Bank has launched a new portal called 'SIB TF Online' for its corporate EXIM customers.**
- **The portal provides the customers with a platform for trade-related payments and remittances to foreign entities without visiting the bank's branches.**
- **The customer can initiate the payment request over SIB TF Online after uploading the supporting documents for the transaction.**
- **SIB TF Online is yet another accomplishment by South Indian Bank in its endeavor to make its operations more tech-driven. It comes close on the heels of the success of the internet banking facility launched specifically to enable retail savings banks (SB).**

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- SIB TF Online has been hosted on the home page of Corporate Internet Banking (SIBerNet) and would allow corporates to transact on the portal digitally and 24x7, in a safe and paperless manner.
68. Recently in June *Debt marketplace startup, CredAvenue has rebranded itself as _____ two years after its inception.*
- A. Yubi
 - B. Tingo
 - C. Takle
 - D. Picred
 - E. None of these

CredAvenue now to be called Yubi

FE BUREAU
Bengaluru, June 22

UNICORN DEBT MARKETPLACE CredAvenue has rebranded itself as Yubi before it plans to take its operations to the United Arab Emirates and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the company said on Wednesday.

The new brand captures the company's long-term ambition of being ubiquitous to the debt ecosystem, an invisible infrastructure layer powering credit globally and ensuring frictionless access to capital, Yubi's statement said. Yubi joined the unicorn club

with its Series B fundraise in March this year where it was valued at \$1.3 billion.

"Yubi represents the beginning of our global ambitions as we prepare to launch our first international office in the UAE, successfully debuting in the MENA region. Another reason for the brand identity change stems from our conversations with customers and other stakeholders on how technological integration because of data security concerns around financial information remains one of the key deterrents in the advancement of digital finance..." said Gaurav Kumar, founder and CEO.

- Debt marketplace startup CredAvenue has rebranded itself as Yubi two years after its inception
- Founded in August 2020, CredAvenue, now Yubi, acts as a marketplace to connect enterprises to lenders and investors. It also helps businesses and lenders to access primary as well as secondary bonds.
- According to the company, the new brand captures its long-term ambition of being ubiquitous in the debt ecosystem as an invisible infrastructure layer powering credit globally and ensuring frictionless access to capital.
- Currently, the platform has five offerings. The first is YubiCo.Lend a co-lending platform for banks and non-banking financial institutions to discover and provide joint loans. Secondly, enterprises looking to seek loans can do so via YubiLoans on the platform and it helps manage repayments too.
- The third, and the one that investors are most bullish about, is YubiInvest, a bond marketplace, to help enterprises and lenders access primary and secondary bonds.
- Its fourth platform helps secure working capital and cash flow requirements for supply-chain finance called YubiSCF. Lastly, the YubiPool product provides structured finance options like pass-through certificates and securitizations.
- Gaurav Kumar, founder, and CEO of Yubi.

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69. Recently in June *Garuda Aerospace partners with HiiLSE Drones to open a drone facility in Malaysia with an investment of _____.*

- A. Rs 110 Cr
- B. Rs 115 Cr**
- C. Rs 200 Cr
- D. Rs 245 Cr
- E. None of these

- *Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has partnered with HiiLSE Global Sdn Bhd (HiiLSE Drones) to set up its first aerospace plant in Malaysia,*
- *Described as HiiLSE Garuda Aerospace Plant, the facility spread across 2.42 hectares would be set up at an investment of Rs115 crore.*
- *This partnership will define an ecosystem of drones with advanced artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning technologies*
- *Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder-CEO, Garuda Aerospace.*

70. Recently in June, *The World Bank has approved a _____ loan to support India's efforts to modernize rail freight and logistics infrastructure.*

- A. USD 345 million
- B. USD 245 million**
- C. USD 445 million
- D. USD 145 million
- E. None of these

- *The World Bank has approved a USD 245 million loan to support India's efforts to modernize rail freight and logistics infrastructure,*
- *The Rail Logistics project will help India shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport -- both freight and passenger -- more efficient and reducing millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) each year.*
- *Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world having transported 1.2 billion tonnes of freight in the fiscal ending March 2020.*
- *Yet, 71 percent of India's freight is transported by road and only 17 percent by rail*

Garuda to set up drone factory

Chennai-based drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has partnered with Malaysian drone solution company, HiiLSE Global SdnBhd (HiiLSE Drones) to set up its first aerospace plant in Malaysia, the company said on Wednesday.

Touted HiiLSE Garuda Aerospace Plant, the facility spread across 2.42 hectares would be set up at an investment of ₹115 crore.

"The partners aim to focus on providing cutting-edge technology to both the government and private sectors all across the region," a company statement said.

"This partnership will define an ecosystem of drones with advanced artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning technologies," Garuda Aerospace, founder-CEO, Agnishwar Jayaprakash said.

Claimed to be the first and largest in Southeast Asian region once it becomes operational, the facility is expected to generate 3,000 jobs.

SOHINI BAGCHI

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- The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors and has a maturity of 22 years, including a grace period of seven years.
- The new Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor-3 (EFDC) is also supported by the World Bank.

71. Recently in June _____ have developed a solar cook top named 'Surya Nutan' to cut down on gas consumption.

- A. IOCL
- B. HPCL
- C. BPCL
- D. ONGC
- E. None of these

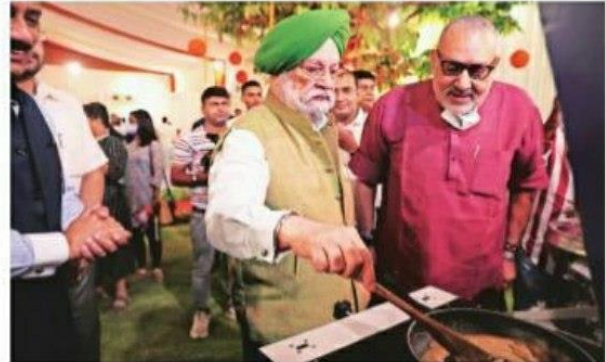
IOC develops new indoor solar cooking system, to replace LPG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

THE INDIAN Oil Corporation's Research and Development wing has developed a new solar cooking system, which is currently being tested at 60 locations in the country, and its use is likely to be scaled up soon.

Speaking at a demonstration on the indoor solar cooking system, called Surya Nutan, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri said, "This is a revolutionary step, a complete paradigm shift. If the idea is taken forward well and if there is commercial exploitation, the private sector will join in. There are so many households, the cost will come down."

"Testing is being done in 60 places. After that, in the next two to three months... large scale commercial exploitation. Not just in India, if this turns into a success-



Union ministers Hardeep Puri and Giriraj Singh at the event in New Delhi on Wednesday. *Amit Mehra*

ful product for home kitchens and industrial kitchens, the utilisation of this can be done outside the country," Puri said.

Indian Oil has patented the solar cooking system. SSV Ramakumar, Director, Research and Development, Indian Oil Corporation, said that the cooktop

can remain indoors, in the kitchen. It has a thermal battery that stores the heat. "Insulating material has been selected carefully to minimise heat loss..We are going to scale up in the next three months. If there are subsidies, it can be manufactured at around Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000," he said.

- Taking up a challenge put forth by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to design a sustainable stove for middle-class households, oil marketing major Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas have developed a solar cooktop to cut down on gas consumption.
- A demonstration of the innovative cooktop, named 'Surya Nutan',
- 'Surya Nutan' is a stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking system
- 'Surya Nutan' is available in three different models, and the premium one can cook all meals for a family of four. The base model will cost around ₹12,000, while the top model will cost ₹23,000.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer. Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

72. Recently in June, The Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will collaborate with the _____ to create an integrated pension portal to enhance the ease of living of pensioners.

- A. Infosys
- B. State Bank Of India**
- C. TCS
- D. ISRO
- E. None of these

DoPPW, SBI plan to create integrated pension portal

New Delhi: The Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will collaborate with the State Bank of India (SBI) to create an integrated pension portal to enhance ease of living of pensioners, according to an official statement on Tuesday.

PTI

- *The Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) will collaborate with the State Bank of India (SBI) to create an integrated pension portal to enhance the ease of living of pensioners*
- *Sessions on pension policy reforms and digitization regarding the disbursement of pensions to central government pensioners were organized to update SBI field functionaries during the two-day bankers' awareness program in Udaipur, Rajasthan.*
- *Face authentication technology for digital life certificates may be advertised extensively by banks.*

73. Recently in June _____ **launched the LIT (Live It Today) Credit Card** that allows cardholders to customize their choice of credit card features as per their ever-changing lifestyle requirements instead of predefined features.

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. AU Small Finance Bank**
- C. State Bank Of India
- D. Indian Bank
- E. None of these

- *AU Small Finance Bank launched an innovative Credit Card product that brings a revolutionary change to the credit card landscape.*
- *The AU Bank LIT (Live-It-Today) Credit Card, the largest small finance bank and one of the fastest-growing retail banks in India, offers a unique value proposition to cardholders – to choose the features they want and for the period they want.*

AU Small Finance Bank unveils LIT credit card

MUMBAI

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has introduced LIT Credit Card. "Last year, we became the first SFB to start a credit card portfolio," said Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO. "Soon, we observed digitally-savvy and GenZ consumers needed more control over products they use. This led to the evolution of the LIT Credit Card which brings the features of many credit cards into a single card."

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- The LIT credit card provides a higher degree of engagement to customers, through the AU0101 app as they can track their savings/earnings daily to maximize their benefits.
- AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU Bank) is a scheduled commercial bank, a Fortune India 500 Company, and the largest Small Finance Bank in the country.

74. Recently _____ won the prestigious International acclaimed Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 Winner award in the Category under Best ATM and Self-Service Innovation for Union Virtual Connect (WhatsApp Banking) amongst Asian Banks.

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Indian Bank
- C. Union Bank Of India
- D. State Bank Of India
- E. None of these

Union Bank of India wins award at Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022



Posted On : 2022-06-24 22:00:15(TIMEZONE : IST)

- Union Bank of India bagged the prestigious International acclaimed Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 Winner award in the Category under Best ATM and Self-Service Innovation for Union Virtual Connect (WhatsApp Banking) amongst Asian Banks.



Union Bank of India bagged the prestigious International acclaimed Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 Winner award in the Category under Best ATM and Self-Service Innovation for Union Virtual Connect (WhatsApp Banking) amongst Asian Banks.

The Award was given to the Bank along with its technology partner, M/s Infosys at the 13th Annual Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 held today, at Singapore. The winners of the Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 exemplify the agility, innovation and strategic foresight required to thrive in this dynamic, challenging and highly competitive sector.

- The Award was given to the Bank along with its technology partner, M/s Infosys at the 13th Annual Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 held today, in Singapore.

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- **The winners of the Retail Banker Asia Trailblazer Awards 2022 exemplify the agility, innovation, and strategic foresight required to thrive in this dynamic, challenging, and highly competitive sector.**
- **Ms. A Manimekhalai, MD&CEO, Union Bank of India**

75. According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of _____ of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion.

- A. 1.5 %**
- B. 2.8 %**
- C. 1.2 %**
- D. 1.6 %**
- E. None of these**

- **India witnessed a current account deficit of 1.2 percent of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9 percent in FY2020-21 due to a wider trade deficit,**
- **For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to USD 13.4 billion or 1.5 percent of GDP against USD 22.2 billion or 2.6 percent of GDP in the December 2021 quarter.**

- **The Balance of Payments data suggested that goods imports stood at USD 618.6 billion in FY22 as against USD 398.5 billion in the year-ago period, leading to the widening of the trade deficit.**
- **A current account deficit occurs when the value of goods and services imported and other payments exceeds the value of the export of goods and services and other receipts by a country in a particular period.**

India reports FY22 CAD of 1.2% as trade deficit widens

Net FPI recorded an outflow of \$16.8 billion: RBI data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion from \$102.2 billion a year earlier, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

"The current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 as against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion from \$102.2 billion a year ago," the RBI said.

Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at \$38.6 billion in 2021-22 were lower than \$44 billion in 2020-21.

Merchandise trade deficit sequentially narrowed to \$54.5 billion in the March quarter

Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of \$16.8 billion in 2021-22 as against an inflow of \$36.1 billion a year earlier.

For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to \$13.4 billion, or 1.5% of GDP, against \$22.2 billion, or 2.6% of GDP, in the December 2021 quarter.

"The CAD printed well below our forecast of \$16 billion in Q4 FY2022 benefiting from higher-than-expected secondary income," said Ad-

iti Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA.

"On a year-on-year basis, although gold imports halved, and the services trade surplus rose, this improvement was dwarfed by the widening of the merchandise trade deficit led by imports of commodity inputs such as crude oil, coal and fertilisers, as well as electronic goods."

Merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$54.5 billion in the March quarter compared with a deficit of \$60.4 billion in the previous quarter. The deficit in the year earlier period, however, had stood at \$41.7 billion.

(With inputs from PTI, Reuters)

GE Steam Power inks \$165 mn pact to supply 3 nuclear steam turbines to BHEL

New Delhi: GE Steam Power on Tuesday said that it has inked a USD 165 million pact with state-run engineering firm BHEL to supply three nuclear steam turbines.

GE Steam Power has signed a USD 165 million contract with BHEL for the supply of three nuclear steam turbines out of six units for NPCIL's domestic nuclear program-phase 1 being developed at Gorakhpur, Haryana (units - 1 to 4 (GHAVP)) and Kaiga (Kaiga-5&6) Karnataka, a company statement said.

This domestic program includes 12 units of 700 MWe being developed by NPCIL with their own nuclear reactor technology i.e., Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR). In total, it will represent 8.4GW of CO2-free

electricity for the country, enough to power more than 14 million homes, it stated.

In 2018, GE and BHEL had signed a business cooperation agreement and a License and Technology Transfer Agreement to enable them to manufacture nuclear steam turbines of 700 MW.

The two companies are well positioned to respond to the country's needs for a lower carbon source of energy. Supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative launched by the government of India, GE will manufacture the nuclear steam turbines at its facility in Sanand, Gujarat. These turbines are being engineered and manufactured with an improved design for enhanced output that will meet the requirements of the customer.

PTI

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76. Recently in June **GE Steam Power** has inked a _____ million pact with **state-run engineering firm BHEL** to supply **three nuclear steam turbines**.

- A. USD 195 million
- B. USD 245 million
- C. USD 165 million**
- D. USD 525 million
- E. None of these

- **GE Steam Power** has inked a **USD 165 million** pact with **state-run engineering firm BHEL** to supply **three nuclear steam turbines**.
- **GE Steam Power** has signed a **USD 165 million** contract with **BHEL** for the supply of **three nuclear steam turbines** out of six units for **NPCIL's domestic nuclear program- phase 1** being developed at **Gorakhpur, Haryana (units - 1 to 4 (GHAVP))** and **Kaiga (Kaiga-5&6) Karnataka**
- This domestic program includes **12 units of 700 MWe** being developed by **NPCIL** with their **nuclear reactor technology**
- In **2018**, **GE** and **BHEL** signed a **business cooperation agreement** and a **License and Technology Transfer Agreement** to enable them to **manufacture nuclear steam turbines of 700 MW**.

77. Recently Seen In News **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)** which was awarded by **WHO** for **Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)** is located in?

- A. Chandigarh**
- B. Pune
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mysore
- E. None of these

- Recognizing its efforts in advancing tobacco control, the **WHO** has awarded the **Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)** of the **Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health** at the **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)** in **Chandigarh** with the **Regional Director Special Recognition Award**
- The **Resource Centre** provides information related to **tobacco control in India**, including **circulars and orders, policies and legislations, multidisciplinary publications**

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- *The Resource Centre for Tobacco Control, a joint initiative of the PGIMER and the Union-SEA, was set up in 2018 by 25 organizations working over tobacco control in India to showcase tobacco control initiatives*

78. Consider the following statement regarding **World Competitiveness Index**.

1. *India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank*
2. *Denmark is on top, while Switzerland slipped from the top to the second position. Singapore has also regained the third spot in 2022*
3. *The 63-nation list, which is compiled by the Switzerland-based Institute of Management Development (IMD)*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development*
- *The domestic economy has experienced a stratospheric rise from 30th to the ninth position in a year, Institute for Management Development (IMD) noted.*
- *The labor market, a key sub-factor in the business efficiency parameter, moved up from 15th to 6th, while management practices and business attitudes and values also made major leaps.*
- *The 63-nation list, which is compiled by the Switzerland-based Institute of Management Development (IMD), ranks Denmark on top, while Switzerland slipped from the top to the second position. Singapore has also regained the third spot in 2022 from fifth in 2021, the IMD's economic competitiveness ranking data shows.*
- *The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), first published in 1989, is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of countries.*

79. Consider the following statement regarding **Coursera Global Skills Report 2022**.

1. *India has slipped 4 places to be ranked 68th globally and 19th in Asia.*
2. *West Bengal leads the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency with the state showing the highest levels of digital skills proficiency in the country.*

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3. For the second year in a row, *Switzerland had the highest-skilled learners followed by Denmark, Indonesia, and Belgium.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022 by Coursera states that India's proficiency in data science has reduced from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022, leading to a 12-rank drop.*
- *In terms of overall skills proficiency, India has slipped 4 places to be ranked 68th globally and 19th in Asia.*
- *However, the report reveals that India has improved its technology proficiency levels from 38 percent to 46 percent, improving its position by six spots.*
- *The report is based on the data collected from over 100 million Coursera users from more than 100 countries who learned a new skill during the past year.*
- *West Bengal leads the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency with the state showing the highest levels of digital skills proficiency in the country.*
- *Andhra Pradesh is among the top three performing states with high proficiency in business and technology skills.*
- *For the second year in a row, Switzerland had the highest-skilled learners followed by Denmark, Indonesia, and Belgium.*

80. Recently in June _____ has acquired a 9.9% stake in *Svakarma Finance*, a non-deposit taking, non-banking finance company, for delivering relevant financial solutions to micro-enterprises.

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

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- **DBS Bank India Limited today announced that it has acquired a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance, a non-banking finance company, for delivering relevant financial solutions to micro-enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending.**
- **DBS Bank India's strategy for its expanded franchise across 300+ locations and 500+ branches envisages significant growth in SME and consumer businesses.**
- **Svakarma is a non-deposit-taking NBFC, set up by seasoned ex-bankers to target micro-enterprises using an industry segment and cluster-focused delivery model leveraging smart technology and data. Currently present across Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu,**
- **DBS Bank has been present in India for 28 years, opening its first office in Mumbai in 1994. DBS Bank India Limited is among the first foreign banks in India to start operating as a wholly-owned, locally incorporated subsidiary of a leading global bank.**

DBS Bank buys 9.9% stake in Svakarma Fin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

DBS Bank India Ltd. said it had acquired a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance, a non deposit taking, non-banking finance company, for boosting the delivery of relevant financial solutions to micro enterprises.

"DBS Bank India's strategy for its expanded franchise across over 300 locations and over 500 branches envisages significant growth in SME and consumer businesses," the bank said in a statement.

DBS Bank India said it would continue to identify opportunities to support lending to micro enterprises in a cost-efficient manner through its own 16/18 expanded franchise as well through partners.

81. Recently in June Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd (KIAL), has formed a _____ million platform with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) to invest in India's commercial real estate sector.

- A. \$540-million
- B. \$560-million
- C. \$590-million**
- D. \$510-million
- E. None of these

Kotak Investment Advisors closes \$590-m realty fund focussed on office space

Platform created with arm of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 20
Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd on Monday closed its 12th real estate fund for investments in office assets in India.

Kotak Investment has formed a \$590-million platform with a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for the fund, which will be domiciled in GIFT City. With this new fund, Kotak Investment has

raised, managed or advised over \$2.8 billion under its real estate fund series, it said.

Vikas Chikmakurthy, CEO, Kotak Realty Fund, said, "This is our 12th real estate fund and extends our successful relationship with ADIA. With the closure of this fund, we have raised around \$1 billion in real estate in the last one year."

Increasing appetite

"Strong demand for offshoring, return to office increasing, growth of the services industry and Indian economy has seen substantial scope for creating a portfolio of quality

office assets. With multiple avenues for exit of such portfolios and increasing liquidity of completed assets, we intend to curate this portfolio to cater to increasing appetite for stabilised assets," Chikmakurthy added.

Srini Srinivasan, Managing Director, Kotak Investment Advisors, said, "Kotak Alternate Assets is targeting to become the "go-to" alternative assets manager for differentiated strategies for global investors."

"This pool of equity capital expands our footprint in real estate investment with a focused strategy. The GIFT re-

gime and proactive regulator has made the process of pooling global capital in GIFT City flexible and smooth. This is the first of many pools of capital that we intend to raise this year to address various alternative investment opportunities in India," Srinivasan added.

Focussed strategy

Mohamed AlQubaisi, Executive Director of the Real Estate Department at ADIA, said, "This new platform will focus on opportunities associated with long-term demand for Indian office space."

- **Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd (KIAL), the alternative investments arm of Kotak Mahindra Bank, has formed a \$590-million platform with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) to invest in India's commercial real estate sector.**
- **KIAL has closed its 12th real estate fund, which will be domiciled in Gujarat's GIFT City. KIAL was set up in early 2005 to bring a sharper focus to Kotak's alternate assets practice. It has so far raised or managed over \$5.7 billion across different asset classes including real estate funds, private equity funds, infrastructure funds**

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82. Recently in June *Canara HSBC OBC Life* has renamed itself as _____ following its third partner Punjab National Bank's (PNB's) decision to exit.

- A. *Canara HSBC Limited*
- B. *Canara HSBC Life***
- C. *Canara HSBC Lite*
- D. *Canara HSBC Loan*
- E. *None of these*

- *Canara HSBC oriental bank of commerce life insurance has rebranded and renamed itself as Canara HSBC life insurance.*
- *The company has launched its first brand campaign 'Promises Ka Partner' aligned to its new positioning.*
- *Canara HSBC Life is developing a customer mobility platform that will provide a solid digital architecture for customer support and engagement.*
- *Anuj Mathur, MD & CEO, Canara HSBC Life Insurance*
- *PNB had acquired a stake in the company following the amalgamation of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC). Currently, Canara Bank holds 51% in the insurance arm, HSBC holds 26%, and PNB 23%.*

83. Recently The *unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas* dipped to _____ % in January-March 2022 as per a *periodic labor force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO)*.

- A. *8.9 %*
- B. *9.2 %*
- C. *8.2 %***
- D. *8.8%*
- E. *None of these*

- *The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 8.2 percent in January-March 2022 from 9.3 percent in the year-ago quarter, showed a periodic labor force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO).*
- *Joblessness or unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labor force.*
- *Joblessness was high in January-March in 2021 mainly due to the staggering impact of the lockdown restrictions in the country, which were imposed to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus.*

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- NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. Based on PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labor force indicators namely unemployment rate, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), and distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in CWS.

84. Consider the following statement regarding the **RBI nod for the merger of Shriram Group**.

1. The **Shriram Group** has secured RBI approval for the merger of **Shriram City Union Finance** and **Shriram Capital Ltd** with **Shriram Transport Finance Company** in a consolidation set to create the largest retail finance NBFC in the country.
2. **STFC's Executive Vice President and CEO Umesh Revankar** would be the Vice-Chairman while **Shriram City's MD-CEO YS Chakravarti** would be the MD & CEO.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The **Shriram Group** has secured RBI approval for the merger of **Shriram City Union Finance** and **Shriram Capital Ltd** with **Shriram Transport Finance Company** in a consolidation set to create the largest retail finance NBFC in the country
- In December last year, the boards of various group companies met to approve the merger of **SCL** and **SCUF** with **STFC**.
- The **RBI green signal** counts among a raft of necessary approvals -- the scheme has to secure nods from the **IRDA** and other regulators to sail through. The combined financial service entity, **Shriram Finance Ltd**, would benefit from the multiplier effect of the unification of numerous market channels
- **STFC's Executive Vice President and CEO Umesh Revankar** would be the Vice-Chairman while **Shriram City's MD-CEO YS Chakravarti** would be the MD & CEO.

85. Recently in June _____ announced to launch an exclusive savings account for kids named 'ENJOI'.

- A. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**
- B. **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**
- C. **Jana Small Finance**
- D. **Equitas Small Finance Bank**
- E. None of these

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- Equitas Small Finance Bank on Thursday announced that it is all set to launch exclusive savings account for kids named 'ENJOI'.
- The savings account is aimed at introducing young kids to the financial world and encouraging them to develop saving habits early.
- The Chennai-headquartered bank said ENJOI will allow kids of 0-18 years to open savings accounts under the supervision of their parents.
- Minors aged 10 and above will also get the option of a personalized debit card. To promote higher growth in savings, the account will offer 7 percent interest for savings balances between ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crores.

86. Recently, NPCI International signed an MoU with the Lyra network of _____ for acceptance of the UPI and Rupay.

- A. Russia
- B. **France**
- C. Germany
- D. Italy
- E. None of these

- NPCI International has signed an MoU with the Lyra network of France.
- The MoU is for acceptance of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Rupay in France.
- **Singapore, UAE, Bhutan, and Nepal are other countries that have adopted India's UPI payment system so far.**
- Union Communication minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that India is doing 5.5 billion UPI transactions in a month.
- Vivatech 2020 has recognized India as the "country of the year." Vivatech 2020 is Europe's biggest start-up conference.
- NPCI International is the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

87. Recently in June, The Adani group had tied up with TotalEnergies SE of _____ to create the 'world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem' in Gujarat's Kutch region.

- A. Germany
- B. **France**
- C. Russia
- D. Australia
- E. None of these

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- *The Adani group said it had tied up with French energy major TotalEnergies SE to jointly create the ‘world’s largest green hydrogen ecosystem’ in Gujarat’s Kutch region.*
- *As part of the tie-up, TotalEnergies would acquire a 25% stake in Adani New Industries Ltd. (ANIL), a unit of Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL).*
- *The joint venture aims to invest \$50 billion over the next 10 years to set up the green hydrogen ecosystem. In the primary phase, ANIL will develop a green hydrogen production capacity of 1 million tons per annum at Mundra before 2030.*
- *Green hydrogen gas is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyzer that may be powered by electricity generated from renewable energy sources.*

88. Recently as per the **WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling'** India is the world’s _____ largest gold recycler.

- A. Second
- B. Third
- C. Fourth**
- D. Fifth
- E. None of these

- *India is the world’s fourth-largest gold recycler as per World Gold Council (WGC) report.*
- *India recycled 75 tonnes of gold in 2021. China is the world’s largest gold recycler as per the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling.'*
- ***China recycled 168 tonnes of gold. China is followed by Italy, which is ranked at 2nd position with recycling of 80 tonnes of gold.***
- ***The US is ranked third with the recycling of 78 tonnes of gold in 2021.***
- *As per the report, India’s gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) in 2021 from 300 tonnes in 2013.*
- *As per the report, the scale of formal refining has increased and the scale of unorganized refining has fallen.*
- *The report notes that the share of gold ore in overall imports has increased from just 7% in 2013 to around 22% in 2021.*
- *The report also notes that India recycles little of its stock of gold - about 8% of the global scrap supply.*

GLOBAL GOLD RECYCLING

India worth its weight in gold: Recycled 75 tn in 2021, says WGC

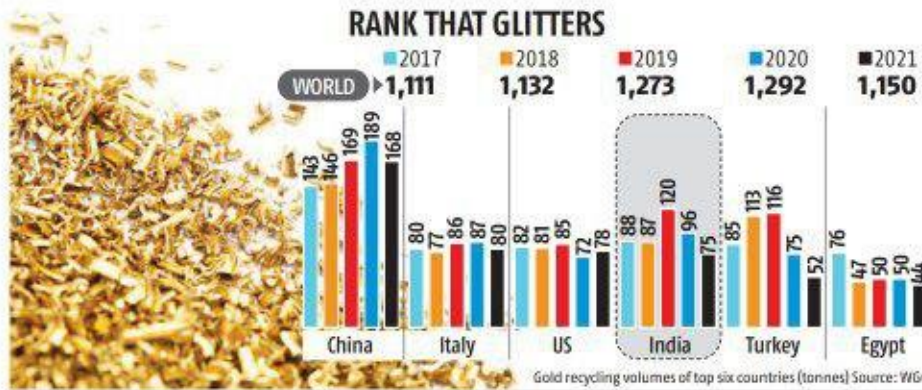
PUNEET WADHWA
New Delhi, 21 June

India has emerged as the fourth-largest gold recycling country in 2021, recycling 75 tonnes, or 6.5 per cent, of the total gold recycled across the globe, said a recent report by the World Gold Council (WGC).

Over the past five years, 11 per cent of India's gold supply came from 'old gold', driven by movements in gold price, future gold price expectations, and wider economic outlook, the said WGC report.

Recycling of gold (jewellery, manufacturing scrap, and end-of-life industrial scrap), according to WGC's findings, is driven by price movements of the yellow metal - current and future expectations - and the economic backdrop.

"When gold price jumps, people tend to sell their gold holdings, either to gain from the price rise or to avoid spending on new gold jewellery. Research from



Metals Focus found that the percentage of consumers exchanging old jewellery increases when gold price rises, and when the economy is under stress - as we saw during Covid-19 - gold is sold to meet everyday needs," the WGC report said.

In the short run, a 1 per cent increase in the price of gold pushes recycling up by 0.6 per cent. Conversely, positive gross

domestic product growth in the same year and the previous year pushes recycling down by 0.3 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively.

"In addition, a 1 per cent increase in jewellery demand pushes recycling down by 0.1 per cent," said WGC.

Gold refining capacity

Over the years, India's organised gold refining capacity, too, has

seen a significant jump - from barely 300 tonnes in 2013 to around 1,800 tonnes in 2021, said WGC. A large part of this is attributed to the Indian government's accommodative stance adopted in 2013 towards domestic gold refining, introducing a duty differential between refined gold bullion and doré.

"From August 2013 to January 2016, the duty on gold bullion was

10 per cent with a duty differential of 1-2 per cent for refineries, depending on the zone in which they operated. After the Union Budget of 2016, the duty on gold doré imports for refineries in the excise free zone (EFZ) and domestic tariff area was 8.75 per cent and 9.35 per cent, respectively, while the Customs duty on bullion was maintained at 10 per cent - narrowing the gap for refineries to 0.65 per cent and 1.25 per cent, respectively. Spurred by these tax incentives, around half of India's new refining capacity since 2014 has opened in the EFZs, mostly in the state of Uttarakhand," said WGC.

India, according to Somasundaram P R, regional chief executive officer, India, World Gold Council, has the potential to emerge as a competitive refining hub if the next phase of bullion market reforms promotes responsible sourcing, exports of bars, and consistent supply of doré or scrap.

89. Recently in June **Neobanking platform, Freo has partnered with _____ to launch a digital savings account.**

- A. **Jana Small Finance Bank**
- B. **Equitas Small Finance Bank**
- C. **Suryoday Small Finance bank**
- D. **Utkarsh Small Finance bank**
- E. **None of these**

- **Neobanking platform Freo has partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank to launch a digital savings account.**
- **The digital savings account is named Freo Save. Freo Save will offer quick access to credit & shopping.**
- **Freo is a Bengaluru-based neo-banking platform. Freo has become the first consumer neo bank in India to provide full-stack neo-banking products.**
- **Freo was started as MoneyTap in 2016. It is India's first credit-led neo bank.**

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90. Recently RBI has extended deadline for implementation of 3 specific credit-card related provisions upto

- A. 1 September 2022
- B. 1 October 2022**
- C. 1 November 2022
- D. 1 December 2022
- E. None of these

- **RBI has extended the deadline for implementation of 3 specific credit-card-related provisions by three months.**
- **These provisions are contained in RBI's "Credit and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct" Directions.**
- **Three provisions will now come into effect from October 1, 2022.**
- **One provision requires card-issuers to obtain One Time Password (OTP) based consent from the cardholder for activating a credit card if the customer has not activated it for over 30 days since issuance.**
- **"Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022" were issued by RBI in April 2022.**

Deadline for fresh credit, debit card rules extended

SUBRATA PANDA
Mumbai, 21 June

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday extended by three months the deadline for implementing certain provisions of the master directions it issued on new debit cards and credit cards to October 1.

"Considering various representations received from the industry stakeholders, it has been decided to extend the timeline for implementation of the following provisions of the master direction to October 1," the central bank said in a circular.

According to the master directions issued in April, if a customer has not activated the credit card for more than 30 days from the date of issuance, the card issuer will have to seek a one-time password (OTP-) based consent from the cardholder. And, if no consent is granted by the customer, the card issuers will have to close the card account without any cost to the customer within seven working days from the date of seeking confirmation.

Further, card issuers will now have more time to implement the RBI's directive to ensure the credit limit as sanctioned and advised to the cardholder is not breached at



Card issuers now have time till October 1 to implement certain provisions

any point in time without seeking explicit consent from the cardholder.

The RBI had also said the terms and conditions for payment of credit card dues, including the minimum amount due, will be stipulated so as to ensure there is no negative amortisation. The unpaid charges/levies/taxes will not be capitalised for charging/compounding of interest. The deadline to implement this provision has also been extended by the central bank to October 1.

91. Recently in June _____ has launched an online savings bank account opening facility using the Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Union Bank of India
- C. Karnataka Bank**
- D. South Indian Bank
- E. None of these

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- *Online savings bank account opening facility using V-CIP has been launched by Karnataka Bank.*
- *The online savings bank account opening facility using the Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) is available on the corporate website of the bank.*
- *With this facility, customers can open a savings bank account through an online process.*
- *Also, they can complete KYC (know your customer) verification through a video call.*
- *Karnataka Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangaluru, Karnataka. It is a private sector bank.*

92. Recently in June **BloombergNEF (BNEF) issued Financing India's 2030 Renewable Ambition report** in association with which the following?

- A. *Ministry of New and Renewable Energy*
- B. *NITI Aayog*
- C. **Power Foundation of India**
- D. *Central Electricity Authority*

- *India will require \$27.9 billion every year to achieve its aim of wind and solar capacity installation of 450 gigawatts by 2030.*
- *As per Financing India's 2030 Renewable Ambition report, Indian companies could help India achieve 86% of its 2030 goals.*
- *As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA), India's dependence on coal will drop from 53% of installed capacity in 2021 to 33% in 2030.*
- *India's power generation capacity grew by 118% between 2011 and 2021.*
- *Renewables' share of capacity reached 37% in 2021 from 31% in 2012.*
- *Solar power capacity has expanded the fastest. It reached 60 GW in 2021 from less than 1 GW in 2011.*
- *BloombergNEF (BNEF) issued the report in association with the Power Foundation of India (PFI).*
- *BloombergNEF (Bloomberg New Energy Finance) is a strategic research provider).*

93. Consider the following statement regarding the Debt-GSDP ratio as per a study by RBI.

1. **Five states (Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal) are identified as highly stressed states from among 10 states in an RBI study on state finances.**
2. **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV).**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

BIHAR, KERALA, PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, BENGAL HIGHLY STRESSED

5 states need to take steps to stabilise debt levels: RBI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

BIHAR, KERALA, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal are the five highly stressed states after taking into account the warning signs flashing from all the indicators, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has said.

"We can identify a core subset of highly stressed states from among the 10 states identified by the necessary condition i.e., the debt/GSDP ratio. The highly stressed states are Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal," said the RBI study on state finances released last week.

It said Punjab is expected to remain in the worst position as its debt-GSDP ratio is projected to exceed 45 per cent in 2026-27, with further deterioration in its fiscal position. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to exceed the debt-GSDP ratio of 35 per cent by 2026-27. These states will need to undertake significant cor-

EXPLAINED
E Limited room

COMMITTED EXPENDITURE, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure.

rective steps to stabilise their debt levels. "Based on the debt-GSDP ratio in 2020-21, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana turn out to be the

states with the highest debt burden," the study said. These 10 states account for around half of the total expenditure by all state governments in India, it said.

Among the 10 states, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV). Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal exceeded the debt target, while Madhya Pradesh overshot the fiscal deficit target. Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were exceptions as they met both criteria. Rajasthan, Kerala and West Bengal are projected to surpass the FC-XV targets for debt and fiscal deficit in 2022-23 (BE), it said.

It said the own tax revenue of some of these 10 states, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Kerala, has been declining over time, making them fiscally more vulnerable. "For most of these states, non-tax revenue has remained volatile, dropping significantly in recent years. The decline

in non-tax revenue is under general services, interest receipts and economic services," the study said.

The share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure of these states varies in the range of 80-90 per cent. "Some states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala spend around 90 per cent in revenue accounts. This results in poor expenditure quality, as reflected in their high revenue spending to capital outlay ratios," it said. Committed expenditure, which inter alia includes interest payments, pensions and administrative expenses, accounts for a significant portion (over 35 per cent) of the total revenue expenditure in states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, leaving limited fiscal space for undertaking developmental expenditure, it said. "Consequently, the share of developmental expenditure in these states is considerably lower than the other states."

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

- The debt-GSDP ratio of Punjab is projected to be more than 45% in 2026-27 as per a study by RBI.
- Five states are identified as highly stressed states from among 10 states in an RBI study on state finances.
- These five states are Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

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- **Rajasthan, Kerala, and West Bengal are projected to exceed the debt-GSDP (gross state domestic product) ratio of 35% by 2026-27.**
- **Taking into consideration the debt-GSDP ratio in 2020-21, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, MP, UP, and Haryana are states with the highest debt burden as per the study.**
- **The study says these 10 states account for around half of the total expenditure by all state governments in India. Other findings of the study are listed next.**
- **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Punjab exceeded both debt and fiscal deficit targets for 2020-21 set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV).**
- **Kerala, Jharkhand, and West Bengal exceeded the debt target.**
- **Madhya Pradesh exceeded the fiscal deficit target.**
- **Haryana and Uttar Pradesh achieved both debt and fiscal deficit targets.**
- **Rajasthan, Kerala, and West Bengal are projected to exceed the FC-XV targets for debt and fiscal deficit in 2022-23 (BE).**

94. Recently India's exports of which of the following crops have recently crossed the \$1-billion mark in 2021-22 after a gap of seven years?

- A. Wheat
- B. Maize**
- C. Rice
- D. Soybean
- E. None of these

- **Maize (corn) exports from India cross the \$1-billion mark in 2021-22 after a gap of seven years.**
- **Maize shipments had reached a nine-year low of \$142 million in 2019-20.**
- **Lower supplies from producers like Argentina and Brazil over the past two years worked in favor of Indian exporters.**
- **Bangladesh has emerged as the largest buyer of Indian maize during the past two years. It displaced Nepal.**

Maize shipments recover, top \$1 b in 2021-22

VISHWANATH KULKARNI
Bengaluru, June 22

Maize (corn) exports from India rebounded sharply in 2021-22 to top \$1-billion mark after a gap of seven years.

Shipments had touched a nine-year low of \$142 million in 2019-20 before staging a sharp rebound over the last two years on surging demand for the coarse cereal from South and South-East Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and Malaysia.

According to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) data, maize shipments for 2021-22 stood at \$1.02 billion — up 61 per cent from \$634 million the previous fiscal.

Sluggish demand

Lower supplies from South American producers such as Argentina and Brazil over the past two years worked in favour of Indian exporters, resulting in higher demand from consuming coun-

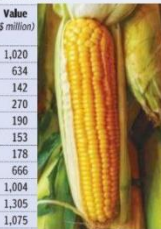
Sharp rebound (Maize exports from India)

Year	Volume (lakh tonnes)	Value (₹ cr)	Value (\$ million)
2021-22	36.90	7,615	1,020
2020-21	28.79	4,675	634
2019-20	3.70	1,019	142
2018-19	10.51	1,872	270
2017-18	7.05	1,228	190
2016-17	5.66	1,030	153
2015-16	6.97	1,162	178
2014-15	28.25	4,037	666
2013-14	39.54	5,983	1,004
2012-13	47.88	7,096	1,305
2011-12	38.55	5,157	1,075

Source: Apeda

tries in South-East Asia such as Vietnam and Malaysia among others.

India's maize exports have jumped from 37 lakh tonnes (lt) in 2019-20 to 36.90 lt in 2021-22. In the current financial year, though shipments were up 21 per cent during April at 2.51 lt over the same period last year, overall In-



dian exports may slow down on sluggish demand and a rebound in supplies from South America. Bangladesh has emerged as the largest buyer of Indian maize over the past two years, displacing Nepal. Bangladesh, which bought less than 10,000 tonnes from India in 2019-20, bought over 15 lt over the last two fiscals.

Similarly, Vietnam — which bought 1,893 tonnes in 2019-20 — stepped up its purchases from India significantly to 4.98 lt in 2020-21.

Malaysia, which bought around 122 lt during 2020-21, more than doubled its purchases during 2021-22 to 2.66 lt, while Nepal also stepped up its purchases to over 5.87 lt.

Turning competitive

"The Indian maize turned competitive during 2020-21 after the spread of Covid, which led to demand destruction in the domestic market. At the same time, supplies shrank from South America with bad weather hurting the production resulting in higher demand from Vietnam and Malaysia among other countries," said Indrajit Paul, Senior Manager Commodity Research at Origo E-Mandi. However, he said the demand has slowed down this fiscal from Bangladesh and Vietnam, which may result in lower shipments.

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- *India's maize production has witnessed a steady increase over the past decade*

95. Recently in June CBI has booked Wadhawans of DHFL for cheating a consortium of 17 banks in the biggest-ever bank fraud of _____.

- A. ₹24,614 crore
- B. ₹34,614 crore**
- C. ₹44,614 crore
- D. ₹54,614 crore
- E. None of these

- *CBI has booked Wadhawans of DHFL for cheating a consortium of 17 banks in the biggest-ever bank fraud of ₹34,614 crores.*
- *Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed an FIR based on a complaint filed by Union Bank of India, which was leading the consortium of 17 banks.*
- *The consortium was formed in July 2010 to lend ₹42,871.42 crores to DHFL.*
- *As per data in CBI's FIR, the State Bank of India was the worst hit, having an NPA of ₹9,898 crores, which is exactly the amount DHFL borrowed from it.*

Wadhawans, DHFL booked in ₹34,615-crore fraud case

Firm, promoters allegedly cheated a consortium of 17 banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), its promoters and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 17 banks of ₹34,615 crore. This is the biggest-ever bank fraud case registered by the agency.

Among those arraigned are the DHFL's then chairman-cum-managing director Kapil Wadhawan, promoter director Dheeraj Wadhawan, Sudhakar Shetty of the Sahana Group, Amaryllis Realtors, Gulmarg Realtors, Skylark Buildcon, Darshan Developers, Sigtia Constructions, Creatoz Builders, Township Developers, Shishir Reality and Sunblink Real Estate.

On Wednesday, the CBI conducted searches on the premises of the accused persons at 12 places in different parts of Mumbai.

Incorporated in April 1984, the DHFL extended financial assistance to low-



The CBI conducted searches on premises of accused at 12 places in Mumbai. • REUTERS

and middle-income group individuals for buying houses and also engaged in other financial intermediation.

The case has been registered on a complaint from the Union Bank of India, which led the consortium. According to the first information report (FIR), a group of 29 lenders, formed in July 2010, initially extended credit facilities to the company. In July 2020, there were 17 consortium members and the quantum of credit facilities was ₹42,871.42 crore.

The loans were sanctioned by lenders in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mangalore and Bengaluru.

This aside, the banks had subscribed to the DHFL's non-convertible debentures in 2016-18. The company defaulted on its debt payment obligations from May 2019 onwards.

Well before that, several non-banking finance companies were facing problems in fund-raising after the IL&FS Group entities defaulted on its commitments. It was followed by a sharp correction in the DHFL share price.

DHFL-linked entities are already under the scanner of multiple probe agencies for alleged financial irregularities, including the Yes Bank loans.

In March 2021, the CBI had booked the company and its promoters for allegedly claiming interest subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Appointment News

96. Recently in June Gustavo Petro has been elected as President of _____.

- A. Croatia
- B. Colombia**
- C. Sudan

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- D. Singapore
- E. None of these

- **Gustavo Petro has won Colombia's Presidential Elections by defeating Rodolfo Hernandez.**
- **Francia Marquez will become the first black woman Vice President of Colombia.**
- **She will be the country's first Afro-Colombian woman Vice-President.**
- **Colombia: It is located in South America. Bogotá is its capital.**

97. Recently _____ has been appointed to the prestigious role of Commissioner of Historic England, the public body championing the country's historic environment and heritage.

- A. **Nairita Chakraborty**
- B. Anjali Pandey
- C. Anjali Chaturvedi
- D. Niti Chakraborty
- E. None of these

- **Indian-origin architect and design advocate Nairita Chakraborty has been appointed to the prestigious role of Commissioner of Historic England, the public body championing the country's historic environment and heritage.**
- **Chakraborty, who grew up in Delhi and studied at the School of Planning and Architecture before moving to the UK, has over 16 years of experience in heritage, townscape, and design. She is already a member of Historic England's Advisory Committee and will start her new role on July 1 for four years.**

Ex-guerrilla leader Petro elected Colombia's President

He will succeed deeply unpopular conservative Ivan Duque

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOGOTA

Ex-guerrilla Gustavo Petro was elected the first ever left-wing president of Colombia on Sunday, after beating millionaire businessman Rodolfo Hernandez in a tense and unpredictable run-off election.

With all votes counted, Mr. Petro – the 62-year-old former Mayor of Bogota – won with 50.4% to Hernandez's 47.3%. "As of today, Colombia is changing, a real change that guides us to one of our aims: the politics of love... of understanding and dialogue," said Mr. Petro.

Mr. Hernandez, 77, accepted the result, in which he came up short by 7,00,000 votes, in a Facebook live broadcast.

"I hope that Mr. Gustavo Petro knows how to run the



Rise of Left: Gustavo Petro (left) and Francia Marquez after victory of second round election on Sunday. • REUTERS

country and is faithful to his discourse against corruption," said the construction magnate, who had made fighting graft his main campaign pledge.

Mr. Petro will succeed the deeply unpopular conservative Ivan Duque, who was barred by Colombia's Constitution from standing for re-election, in a country sad-

dled with widespread poverty, a surge in violence and other woes. Speaking to delirious supporters at his party headquarters in Bogota, Mr. Petro held out an olive branch to his opponents.

Mr. Duque on Monday promised a "transparent and efficient" transition to the new administration led by Gustavo Petro.



NAIRITA CHAKRABORTY

Indian-origin Nairita Commissioner of Historic England

LONDON, JUNE 18

Indian-origin architect and design advocate Nairita Chakraborty has been appointed to the prestigious role of Commissioner of Historic England, the public body championing the country's historic environment and heritage.

Chakraborty, who grew up in Delhi and studied at the School of Planning and Architecture before moving to the UK, has over 16 years of experience in heritage, townscape and design. She is already a member of Historic England's Advisory Committee and will start her new role from July 1 for four years. — PTI

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98. Recently In June *Hamza Abdi Barre has been appointed the new prime minister of _____ to replace Mohamed Roble who has been in office since September 2020.*

- A. Syria
- B. Somalia**
- C. South Sudan
- D. South Africa
- E. None of these

- *Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on Wednesday appointed Hamza Abdi Barre as the country's new prime minister to replace Mohamed Roble who has been in office since September 2020.*
- *Barre, a Member of Parliament from the Lower House of Parliament is a close ally of President Mohamud and a member of the president's political party.*
- *Capital - Mogadishu, Currency - Somali shilling (SOS)*

99. Recently in June *Capital markets regulator, Sebi has formed a Building Advisory Committee, which will be headed by _____ that will advise and assist it in all the premises-related matters such as planning, acquisition, and furnishing.*

- A. K. V. Krishna Rao
- B. Rajiv Mishra
- C. B K Katyal**
- D. K M Soni
- E. None of these

- *Capital markets regulator Sebi has formed a Building Advisory Committee, which will advise and assist it in all the premises-related matters such as planning, acquisition, and furnishing.*
- *The seven-member committee will be headed by B K Katyal, former Chief General Manager at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)*

100. Recently *SEBI has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities which will be chaired by _____*

- A. Navneet Munot
- B. K V Kamath**
- C. V Ravi Anshuman

Sebi sets up Kamath-led panel on hybrids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 20 June

The 20-member committee will be chaired by K V Kamath, chairperson of National Bank for Financing

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D. Sudhir Bassi

E. None of these

- Sebi has set up an advisory committee on hybrid securities, which will make recommendations for giving a fillip to the growth of such instruments, including measures focusing on ease of issuance and attracting domestic and global capital.
- The 20-member committee will be chaired by K V Kamath, Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.
- In addition, the committee comprises top-level officials of infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), finance as well as legal experts, and representatives of Sebi.
- REITs and InvITs are classified as hybrid securities and they are relatively new investment instruments in the Indian context but are extremely popular in global markets.
- Besides, Sebi has reconstituted its research advisory committee, which is responsible for the promotion, development, and maintenance of databases relevant to capital market regulation research.
- The 16-member panel will be headed by V Ravi Anshuman, Professor at IIM Bangalore.

101. Recently _____ has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations as she succeed T.S. Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the U.N.

- A. Ruchira Kamboj
- B. Shalini Awasthi
- C. Geeta Gopinath
- D. Soma Mondal
- E. None of these

- Ruchira Kamboj will be India's Permanent Representative to U.N.
- She has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.
- She is currently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan.

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ MADE PERMANENT U.N. REPRESENTATIVE

New Delhi: Ruchira Kamboj, currently Indian ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York, the MEA said on Tuesday. She will succeed T S Tirumurti, and is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the MEA said. Kamboj joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987. She was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch.

She began her diplomatic journey in France where she was posted as the Third Secretary in the Indian Embassy from 1989-91. During her career, she has been Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO in Paris, Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, and Chief of Protocol in New Delhi. **ENS**

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- She will succeed T.S. Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the U.N.

Days and Obituary News

102. *International Day of Family Remittances* is observed every year on _____ .

- A. 15th June
- B. 16th June**
- C. 17th June
- D. 18th June
- E. None of these

- *International Day of Family Remittances* is observed every year on 16 June.
- The day recognizes more than 200 million migrant workers, women, and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members.
- Family remittances are the money sent by people living in another country to their family members in their home country.
- **The theme for International Day of Family Remittances 2022 is “Recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion”.**
- As per World Bank data 2022, in 2021, remittances flow grew from US\$ 540 billion in 2020 to US\$ 605 billion sent to low-and middle-income countries.

103. *World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought* is observed every year on _____ to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.

- A. 15th June
- B. 16th June
- C. 17th June**
- D. 18th June
- E. None of these

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- *It is observed every year on 17 June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.*
- *The theme of the International Day Against Desertification and Drought 2022 is "Rising from drought together".*
- *Droughts are one of the greatest threats to sustainable development globally. It has been estimated that by 2050 droughts may affect over 75% of the world's population.*
- *Around 55 million people globally are directly affected by droughts every year.*
- *As per WMO Data 2021, the number and duration of droughts have increased by 29% since 2000, as compared to the two previous decades.*
- *Droughts impacted 2.7 billion people in the world between 1900 and 2019 and caused 11.7 million deaths.*
- *India is making efforts towards achieving the national commitment of Land Degradation Neutrality and restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.*

104. **National Reading Day** is celebrated on _____ every year *in honor of P N Panicker*, regarded as the **Father of Kerala's Library and Literacy Movement**.

- A. 15th June
- B. 16th June
- C. 19th June**
- D. 18th June
- E. None of these

- *National Reading Day is celebrated on 19 June every year.*
- *The country commemorated the 27th National Reading Day in 2022.*
- *The day is commemorated in honor of P N Panicker, regarded as the Father of Kerala's Library and Literacy Movement.*
- *PM Modi launched the National Reading / Digital Reading Month in Kochi in 2017.*
- *After 2017, the theme of National Reading Day celebrations has remained the same: 'Read and Grow.'*

105. Every year on _____ **World Refugee Day** is observed to honour refugees around the world.

- A. 15th June
- B. 16th June
- C. 20th June**
- D. 18th June

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E. None of these

- Every year on 20 June, World Refugee Day is observed to honor refugees around the world.
- The day is an effort to empathize and understand the plight of refugees and recognize their resilience in building their lives.
- **The theme of World Refugee Day 2022: “Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety.”**
- The day was first observed on 20 June 2001 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention that help protect refugees.
- It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day. But after UN General Assembly recognized the day in December 2000, it came to be known as World Refugee Day.
- India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework.

106. Every year on _____ **World Sea Turtle Day** highlights the importance of sea turtles.

- A. 16th June
- B. 20th June
- C. 21st June
- D. 22nd June
- E. None of these

- Every year on June 16th, World Sea Turtle Day highlights the importance of sea turtles. The day also encourages global supporters to dive into the threats that sea turtles face.
- In the year 2000, turtle conservation organizations came together to create World Sea Turtle Day. June 16th was chosen to honor the birthday of Dr. Archie Carr, a renowned sea turtle conservationist. Dr. Carr also founded the Sea Turtle Conservancy in Gainesville, Florida.

107. Every Year **World Hydrography Day** is celebrated on _____ to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a role in improved knowledge of the seas.

- A. 21st June
- B. 20th June
- C. 19th June
- D. 18th June

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E. None of these

- Celebrated on 21 June, World Hydrography Day is designed to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a role in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans.
- The theme this year is "Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade"

108. Every Year **World Sickle Day** is celebrated on _____ to create awareness of sickle cell diseases and the challenges experienced by people with sickle cell diseases

- A. 21st June
- B. 20th June
- C. 19th June
- D. 18th June
- E. None of these

- June 19th was officially designated as World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. The international awareness day is observed annually to increase public knowledge and an understanding of sickle cell disease, and the challenges experienced by patients and their families and caregivers.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations on December 22, 2008, created a resolution that recognized sickle cell disease (SCD) is a global public health concern.
- People can participate in the campaign by attending the "Shine the Light on Sickle Cell" gathering in their community on June 19.

109. **World Rainforest Day** is observed every year on _____ to preserve the tropical rainforests.

- A. 21st June
- B. 22nd June
- C. 23rd June
- D. 24th June
- E. None of these

- World Rainforest Day is observed every year on 22 June.
- It was started by the Rainforest Partnership to preserve the tropical rainforests.
- The theme of this year's World Rainforest Day is 'The Time is Now.'

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- *World Rainforest Day was observed for the first time on 22 June 2017. Rainforests cover around 6% of Earth's surface, but it has more than 750 species of trees, 400 species of birds, and 150 species of butterflies.*

- 110. Every year on _____ the **United Nations Public Service Day** is observed to raise awareness of the importance and virtue of public service to communities.
 - A. 21st June
 - B. 22nd June
 - C. 23rd June**
 - D. 24th June
 - E. None of these

- *Every year on June 23, the United Nations Public Service Day is observed.*
- *The theme of the UN Public Service Day 2022 is "Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goal."*
- *The day raises awareness of the importance and virtue of public service to communities.*
- *Additionally, it honors the efforts of public servants and promotes a career in the public sector.*
- *On 20 December 2002, the General Assembly decided to observe 23 June as Public Service Day. The UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) program was started by the UN in 2003 to recognize the importance of public service.*

- 111. **International Olympic Day** is observed annually on _____ to celebrate sport, health and being and together.
 - A. 21st June
 - B. 22nd June
 - C. 23rd June**
 - D. 24th June
 - E. None of these

- *International Olympic Day is observed annually on June 23 to celebrate sport, health, and being and together.*
- *International Olympic Day 2022 provides a moment for everyone to gather and get active with the purpose. The Olympic Day, for the last two decades, has often been associated with the Olympic Day runs all over the world.*
- *International Olympic Day 2022 theme is 'Together, For a Peaceful World'. On Social Media as well, Olympic Day 2022 will be marked with hashtags #MoveForPeace and #OlympicDay.*

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112. **International Yoga Day** is observed every year on _____ to raise awareness regarding the benefits of practicing Yoga.

- A. 20th June
- B. 21st June**
- C. 22nd June
- D. 19th June
- E. None of these

- **International Yoga Day is observed every year on the 21st of June to raise awareness regarding the benefits of practicing Yoga.**
- **During the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the International Yoga Day.**
- **International Yoga Day was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2014.**
- **“Yoga for Humanity” is the theme for International Yoga Day 2022.**
- **21st June was selected as it is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.**
- **In Uttar Pradesh, more than 3.5 crore people will take part in the yoga practice. Yog abhyaas program was organized in Uttarakhand.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a Yoga Day event in Mysuru.**

113. Every year, **World Music Day** is celebrated on _____ worldwide to encourage young and amateur musicians to perform.

- A. 20th June
- B. 21st June**
- C. 22nd June
- D. 19th June
- E. None of these

PM Modi to lead Yoga Day from Mysuru today

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the eighth International Yoga Day celebrations on Tuesday from the heritage city of Mysuru in Karnataka, where nearly 15,000 people will perform yoga along with him at the Mysore Palace grounds.

Taking into account the physical, emotional and mental stress that people have gone through due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's theme for the celebration is "Yoga for humanity". "Tomorrow, June 21 will be marked as International Yoga Day. Guided by the theme of 'Yoga For Humanity', let us make this Yoga Day a success and further popularise Yoga," PM Modi tweeted on Monday.

Keeping with theme of the 75

years of Independence, the ministry for Ayush has identified 75 locations across the country for Union ministers to participate in the Yoga Day celebration.

Union home minister Amit Shah will be performing Yoga in Delhi while information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur will celebrate the event at Hamirpur in his home state Himachal Pradesh.

Ayush minister Sarbananda Sonowal will join the PM from Mysuru, defence minister Rajnath Singh will perform yoga at the IAF base in Coimbatore, while external affairs minister S Jaishankar will be present at Purana Qila in Delhi. Urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri will be present at the iconic Red Fort while law minister Kiren Rijiju will lead the event at Dong in Arunachal Pradesh.

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- Every year, World Music Day is celebrated on 21 June worldwide. It is also known as Make Music Day.
- It is observed to encourage young and amateur musicians to perform.
- **The theme of this year's World Music Day is 'Music on the intersections.'**
- A charter was signed at the European Festival of Music in Budapest in 1997, which gave recognition to World Music Day globally.
- It was started by French composer Maurice Fleuret, who was also the Minister of Culture in the French government.
- It is celebrated in more than 120 countries. People organize public concerts in parks, stadiums, and public places.

Sports Award Books News

114. Recently **Neeraj Chopra** won the gold medal with a throw of _____ at the 2022 Kuortane Games in Finland.

- A. 89.30 m
- B. 86.69 m**
- C. 87.30 m
- D. 88.40 m
- E. None of these

- **Neeraj Chopra** won the gold medal with another stellar throw of 86.69m at the 2022 Kuortane Games in Finland.
- **Keshorn Walcott** of Trinidad won silver with an 86.64m throw, while **Anderson Peters** won bronze with an 84.75m throw.
- **Sandeep Chaudhury** of India finished eighth in the standings with a throw of 60.35 meters.
- At the beginning of this month, **Neeraj** participated in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland. There, he won a silver medal and created a new national record with a throw of 89.30 meters.
- On June 30, **Neeraj** will participate in the Diamond League's Stockholm leg.

Neeraj wins 1st gold medal of the season

2/17

AGENCIES / KUORTANE



Neeraj Chopra has won his first gold medal of the season at the Kuortane Games with an 86.69m throw. The Indian javelin thrower hit the mark in his very first attempt at

the event, had a foul in his second attempt and endured a nasty slip in his third, following which he opted to skip the remaining two attempts. While Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott (86.64m) bagged a silver medal, Grenada's Anderson Peters (84.75m) won bronze. Peters is also the reigning world champion and currently the season leader with 93.07m throw.

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115. Recently in June _____ has been named the President of the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations.

- A. Kumar Sangakara
- B. Lisa Sthalekar
- C. Mithali Raj
- D. Shaun Pollack
- E. None of these

Aussie great Sthalekar first woman president of cricketers' association

Press Trust of India
 sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Legendary Australian cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has become the first woman president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA).

The 42-year-old former Australia captain was confirmed in the role at the FICA Executive Committee meeting held in Nyon, Switzerland. She will take up a position that has previously been held by former South Africa batter Barry Richards, former West Indies all-rounder Jimmy Adams, and most recently by former England bat-



Lisa Sthalekar. GETTY IMAGES

ter Vikram Solanki.

"Lisa Sthalekar has been confirmed as FICA's President at the FICA Executive Committee meeting held in Nyon, Switzerland this week," the FICA said in

a statement. The Executive Committee meeting was held ahead of the FICA and World Players' Association Player Development Conferences and was the first in-person meeting of the group since the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Lisa was clearly the best candidate and her credentials are unparalleled as both a former player and broadcaster," FICA Executive Chairman Heath Mills said.

She represented Australia in 187 international matches across formats. She was the first woman to score 1000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODI cricket. She also played eight Tests and 54 T20 International matches.

- Former Australia cricketer Lisa Sthalekar has been named as the President of the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations.
- She will take the place of former England cricketer Vikram Solanki.
- She has been appointed during a FICA Executive Committee meeting in Nyon, Switzerland.
- Lisa Sthalekar has represented Australia in 187 international matches. She played an important role in Australia's victory in the 2010 T20 World Cup final.

116. Recently _____ claimed his sixth victory of the Formula 1 season after withstanding pressure from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in the closing stages of the Canadian Grand Prix.

- A. Lewis Hamilton
- B. Sergio Perez
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. Charles Leclerc
- E. None of these

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen narrowly claimed his sixth victory of the Formula 1 season after withstanding pressure from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in the closing stages of the Canadian Grand Prix. For the second time this season, Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was forced to retire from the race due to engine problems, while Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton grabbed his second podium this campaign in third.

Verstappen eases to Canadian GP victory

MONTREAL: Max Verstappen maintained his hold on the Formula One championship fight by holding off a late challenge from Carlos Sainz Jr. to earn his sixth win of the season in a fairly easy drive in the Canadian Grand Prix. Verstappen won from the pole at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve to extend his lead in the standings to 46 points over Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.

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117. The biography "*Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India*" has been written by _____ and will be published in October.

- A. Swapnil Pandey
- B. Swati Ken
- C. **R N Bhaskar.**
- D. Vipul Kumar
- E. None of these

- The biography "*Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India*" has been written by journalist-author R N Bhaskar.
- It will be published under the "Hamish" imprint of Penguin Random House (PRHI).
- Gautam Adani is the chairman and founder of the Adani Group.
- The Ahmedabad-based Adani Group is a multinational conglomerate in India.
- He founded it in 1988 as a commodity trading business.

Biography of Gautam Adani to release in October

The biography of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani, Adani Group chairman and founder, will hit the stands in October, announced Penguin Random House (PRHI) on Monday. Written by journalist-author RN Bhaskar, "*Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India*", claims to bring to light, for the first time, the unknown aspects of one of the richest men in the world. It will be released under PRHI's 'Hamish' imprint.

118. Recently _____ was awarded the *World Disaster Management Congress for Disaster Risk Reduction* during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2021.

- A. **Sanjeev Joshi**
- B. Nitin Gadkari
- C. Rahul Bose
- D. RN Bhaskar
- E. None of these

- BrahMos Aerospace Deputy CEO Sanjeev Joshi was awarded the *World Disaster Management Congress for Disaster Risk Reduction* during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2021. The award ceremony was held in the national capital on June 22, 2022. The award was presented by Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy.
- The award aims to recognize and honor those engaged in the entire Disaster Management during the Covid crisis.

Unfit Rani misses out; Savita to lead India again
 18-member team for WC announced

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI
 Talismanic striker and former skipper Rani Rampal was on Tuesday axed from the 18-member Indian women's hockey team for next month's FIH World Cup. Goalkeeper Savita Punia will continue to lead the side.
 Rani didn't feature in the first four games of the European leg of the Pro League, raising doubts about her full fitness, which cost her a place in the World Cup-bound squad.
 Deep Grace Ekka remains the vice-captain.
 Defenders Ishika Chaudhary and Akshata Abaso Dhekale, midfielder Baljeet Kaur and striker Sangita Kumari also missed out.
 The World Cup will be held from July 1 to 17.
 India is in Pool B alongside England, New Zealand and China and will begin its



Savita.
 • FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

campaign on July 3 against England. In the previous edition in London, India made the quarterfinals.
The team: Goalkeepers: Savita (Capt.), Bichu Devi Kharibam.
Defenders: Deep Grace Ekka (vice-capt.), Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita. **Midfielders:** Nisha, Sushila Chanu, Monika, Neha, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Sonika, Salima Tete. **Forwards:** Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, Sharmila Devi. **Replacements:** Akshata Dhekale, Sangita Kumari.

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- *India is a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that was adopted during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 to work to make all stakeholders disaster resilient.*

119. Consider the following statement regarding FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022.

- 1. FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in Spain and the Netherlands.**
- 2. Indian goalkeeper Savita Punia has been named the captain of the Indian squad for the Women's Hockey World Cup 2022.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India on June 21, 2022, announced the Indian squad for FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 which is scheduled to be held in Spain and the Netherlands between July 1 and July 17, 2022.*
- *Indian goalkeeper Savita Punia has been named the captain of the Indian squad for the Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 in the absence of long-serving captain Rani Rampal, who has been left out of the squad due to injury.*
- *Punia will lead the 20-member Indian squad at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022, while Deep Grace Ekka will be the vice-captain.*
- *The women's hockey world cup 2022 India squad features all the players who were a part of the Indian team that had made the nation proud in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 besides Rani Rampal who has still not fully recovered from her injury and is currently undergoing rehabilitation.*

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120. Recently in June _____ won the 1st U19 T20 National Cricket Championship for Deaf, after beating Gujarat by five wickets.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. **Andhra Pradesh**
- D. Delhi
- E. None of these


- **Andhra Pradesh won the 1st U19 T20 National Cricket Championship for Deaf, after beating Gujarat by five wickets**
- **The 4-day tournament saw teams from across the country competing for the coveted T20 Championship title.**
- **The tournament's best batsman, Mustakim Kaji, P Vijaya Bhaskar - Man of the Series**

AP win 1st U-19 T20 deaf championship

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh emerged victorious in the first U-19 T20 National Cricket Championship organised by Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA). The tournament, held between June 16 and 19, saw teams from across the country compete for the title. Andhra Pradesh beat Gujarat by five wickets in the final to claim their maiden title.

121. Who is the author of the book titled " *Do Different The Untold DHONI* " ?

- A. Anusha Ravishankar
- B. Neeraj Kapoor
- C. Joy Bhattacharya
- D. Amit Sinha
- E. **Both C & D**
- F. None of these

Joy Bhattacharjya & Amit Sinha 

DO DIFFERENT The Untold DHONI



122. Who is the author of the book titled " *Sacred Foods of India* " ?

- A. Sanjeev Kapoor
- B. **Vikas Khanna**
- C. Archana Singh
- D. Anuradha Singh
- E. None of these

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- Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna has joined hands with NFT-metaverse marketplace Akshaya.io to create a non-fungible token of his latest release, “Sacred Foods of India” — a limited-edition book that brings recipes of ‘prasad’ and foods served at various holy places across the country.
- Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are digital assets using which one can trade across products, including online-only assets. An NFT is a non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a blockchain that can be sold or traded.

123. Consider the following statement regarding the 44th Chess Olympiad.

1. International Chess Federation (FIDE) has this year for the second time instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch.
2. India is the first country from where the journey of the Chess Olympiad torch started.
3. The 44th Chess Olympiad will take place in Chennai from July 28 to August 10, 2022.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- PM Modi launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad.
- He launched the historic torch relay at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on 19th June 2022.
- International Chess Federation (FIDE) has this year for the very first time instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch.
- India is the first country from where the journey of the Chess Olympiad torch started.



Vikas Khanna phygital book launch Sacred Foods of India

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- **FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich passed the torch to PM, who then passed it to Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.**
- **This torch will be carried to 75 cities in 40 days. It will finally reach Mahabalipuram near Chennai.**
- **The 44th Chess Olympiad will take place in Chennai from July 28 to August 10, 2022.**
- **PM Modi said that ancestors of the country invented the games like Chaturanga and Chess.**

124. Recently PM unveiled a book titled ‘Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani’ authored by _____ .

- A. Hindol Sen Gupta
- B. Ram Bahadur Rai.**
- C. Savita Sen
- D. Anupriya Ghosh
- E. None of these

- **‘Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani’ has been written by Ram Bahadur Rai.**
- **PM Modi said that the Constitution of India is not just a book, but an idea and commitment.**
- **The book has been released on the day (June 18) when then-President Rajendra Prasad gave his assent to the first amendment to the Constitution in 1951.**
- **Ram Bahadur Rai is a journalist and former news editor of Hindi daily ‘Jansatta’.**

125. Recently FIFA Announced 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the first World Cup to be hosted by three different countries. Which of the following countries is not the host country among the following?

- A. USA
- B. Brazil**
- C. Canada

PM Modi flags off torch relay

Will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

In a fitting tribute to the cerebral sport that India gave to the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay to trigger off the countdown to the sport's biggest event scheduled at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, from July 28.

In a symbolic gesture following a gala ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, the Prime Minister faced country's top-ranked woman player Koneru Humpy over a chessboard and made a ceremonial move.

Later, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to Modi, who in turn passed it to five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand.

The country's first Grandmaster received the torch

and jogged a few yards for the cheering spectators on his way out of the arena.

Addressing the gathering, Modi noted, "Today the first torch relay for Chess Olympiad is starting from India. We are proud that a sport, starting from its birthplace and leaving its mark all over the world, has become a passion for many countries."

Matter of pride

Earlier, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur took pride in stating that the FIDE had agreed to have the commencement of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay from India for every subsequent edition of this mega event.

Due to paucity of time, the torch relay will pass through 75 Indian cities before culminating at Mahabalipuram on July 27.

World champion and top ranked Magnus Carlsen will lead the creamy layer of the players from around 189 countries.

Three players test positive

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

R. Praggnanandhaa, Soumya Swaminathan and Vantika Agarwal tested positive for COVID on Sunday, hours before the launch of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay.

Many members of the Indian Olympiad teams had reached the Capital on Saturday.

Soon after their arrival from Chennai, the players and officials were tested and the reports were released on Sunday afternoon. The three players stayed in their hotel rooms while the rest headed to the Indira Gandhi Stadium.



Making the first move: Prime Minister Modi after handing over the flame to Anand in New Delhi on Sunday. *SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

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- D. Mexico
- E. None of these

16 North American cities to host 2026 FIFA World Cup

MEXICO CITY'S AZTECA STADIUM, NAMED ON THURSDAY AS ONE OF THE VENUES, WILL BE THE FIRST STADIUM TO FEATURE IN THREE SEPARATE WORLD CUPS



AP ■ NEW YORK
 Mexico City's iconic Azteca Stadium and the Los Angeles Rams' multi-billion-dollar SoFi Stadium were among 16 venues named on Thursday to stage games at the 2026 World Cup being held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The 2026 tournament marks the first time three countries have hosted a World Cup, with the bulk of the games taking place in the United States. Mexico will be hosting the finals for a third time after serving as solo hosts in 1970 and 1986.

Mexico City's Azteca Stadium, named on Thursday as one of the venues, will be the first stadium to feature in three separate World Cups.

Other Mexican venues include Guadalajara's Estadio Akron and Monterrey's Estadio BBVA.

Canada's venue cities include Vancouver's BC Place and Toronto's BMO Field.

The list of US venues stretch from coast to coast, featuring several cities that hosted games in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Other venues include the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium in Arlington and the Miami Dolphins' Hard Rock Stadium.

The Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium — the loudest stadium in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records — also made the cut.

NFL venues in Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston and Philadelphia were also on the list.

However the venue for the 1994 World Cup final — the iconic Pasadena Rose Bowl in suburban Los Angeles — was not included.

The identity of the cities that will host the opening game and 2026 final were not disclosed on Thursday.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in an interview on Fox Television following the venue announcement that decisions on the opening game and final would be taken at a later date.

"We will take our time with that decision," Infantino said.

"There are still some discussions to go on and we'll certainly choose the best cities for the openings and the finals."

"But every match will be a final at this World Cup."

While all three host countries will share games from the group stage through to the last 16, the United States will host all games from the quarter-finals onwards.

2026 World Cup venues revealed

NEW YORK: FIFA on Thursday revealed the host cities for the 2026 World Cup. The 16 venues include 11 in the United States, three in Mexico and two in Canada. All US games will be held in venues that are home to NFL teams with New York's 82,000-seater MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford tipped to host the final. 60 of the 80 games—including all knockouts quarter-finals onwards—will take place in US. Mexico City's Azteca Stadium—host of the 1970 and 1986 World Cup finals—was among three Mexican venues along with Monterrey and Guadalajara. Toronto and Vancouver will host Canada games.

- **2026 men's World Cup will be the first-ever world cup to feature 48 teams. It will be organized in US, Mexico, and Canada.**
- **FIFA announced that the 2026 World Cup will be held in 11 US cities. It will be held at three host sites in Mexico and two in Canada.**
- **The US will host the World Cup for the second time. Mexico will host for the third time.**
- **It will be the first time a men's World Cup match has been held in Canada. It hosted the Women's World Cup in 2015.**
- **2022 FIFA World Cup will be held in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December 2022. It will be the last tournament to involve 32 teams.**

126. Recently Rumeli Dhar who announced her retirement from international cricket, hails from which of the following state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. West Bengal
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- **Rumeli Dhar, the India seam-bowling allrounder, has announced her retirement from international cricket, at the age of 38.**

Rumeli Dhar announces her retirement



Rumeli. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI
 Former India women's team captain Rumeli Dhar on Wednesday announced her retirement from all forms of the game.

The right-handed batter and medium-pacer announced her decision through an Instagram post.

"23 years of my cricket that started from Shyamnagar in West Bengal has finally come to an end as I announce my retirement from all formats of cricket," Dhar said in her post.

The 38-year-old played four women's Tests, in which she scored 236 runs with one half-century. She picked up eight Test wickets since debuting against En-

gland in 2005 at Delhi. She played her last Test against the same opponent in 2006 at Taunton.

She also played 78 WODIs, scoring 961 runs and taking 63 wickets, with six half-centuries since her debut against England in 2003 at Lincoln. She played her last ODI in 2012.

Dhar, who played for Bengal among other domestic sides, also featured in 18 T20s, in which she scored 131 runs and took 13 wickets after making her debut against England Women in 2006.

At 34, she made an unexpected comeback to the India T20 team in 2018 against South Africa, and played her last game in the format

against Australia Women at the Brabourne Stadium the same year.

One of the highlights of her career was taking India to the final of the 2005 Women's World Cup in South Africa.

"The journey has been prolonged one with highs and lows. The high was representing the Indian Women's cricket team, playing the World Cup final in 2005 as well as leading the Women in Blue," said Dhar.

According to Dhar, a "string of injuries" plagued her career but she always came back stronger.

She thanked the BCCI, her family, friends, and all the teams that she represented for their contribution

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- *Dhar played her last international match in the tri-nation women's T20I series between India, Australia, and England, at Brabourne in 2018.*
- *She was also part of the India team that had reached the 2005 World Cup final in South Africa.*
- *Having made her international debut in 2003, against England in Lincoln, Dhar made an unlikely comeback, to the Indian team at the age of 34, when she was called up to India's T20 squad for their tour of South Africa in February 2018.*

127. Recently The *Indian football team gained two places to jump to _____ in the latest FIFA world rankings.*

- A. 105
- B. 104**
- C. 106
- D. 102
- E. None of these

- *The Indian football team reaped a good harvest from its impressive Asian Cup qualification campaign as it gained two places to jump to 104th in the latest FIFA world rankings released on Thursday.*
- *The Blue Tigers are placed just below New Zealand (103rd), who missed out on a 2022 FIFA World Cup spot after losing to Costa Rica 0-1 in the intercontinental play-off earlier this month.*
- *India's ranking among Asian Football Confederation members, however, remained static at 19th place.*
- *Iran retained the top spot among AFC countries at 23rd place.*
- *The Sunil Chhetri-led side had their best Asian Cup qualification campaign earlier this month when they won all three of their league matches to top Group D and secure a place in the 24-team Finals to be held in 2023.*
- *This was India's fifth overall qualification and the first time the country qualified for back-to-back Asian Cups.*
- *In the overall rankings, Brazil remained on top, three months after taking the top spot from Belgium (2nd).*

India jump two places to 104 in FIFA ranking

NEW DELHI: The Indian football team reaped a good harvest of its impressive Asian Cup qualification campaign as it gained two places to jump to 104th in the latest FIFA world rankings released on Thursday.

The Blue Tigers are placed just below New Zealand (103rd), who missed out on a 2022 FIFA World Cup spot after losing to Costa Rica 0-1 in the intercontinental play-off earlier this month.

India's ranking among Asian Football Confederation members, however, still remained static at 19th place. Iran retained the top spot among AFC countries at 23rd place. In the overall rankings, Brazil remained on top, three months after taking the top spot from Belgium (2nd).

Argentina jumped one place to third at the expense of France (4th) who paid the price for four winless games in the UEFA Nations League.

England, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark complete the top-10. The next FIFA world ranking will be out on August 25. PTI

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Sunil Chhetri becomes 5th highest goalscorer in international football.

He achieved this feat by scoring his 84th goal in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifier match against Hong Kong.

He has now equalled the record of Hungarian player Ferenc Puskas.

In October 2021, Sunil Chhetri crossed the legendary football player Pele's record of 77 goals.

Sunil Chhetri is now the third-highest goal scorer among the active international players. He is just behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

At present, Cristiano Ronaldo is the highest goalscorer with 117 goals while Lionel Messi

128. Recently _____ has become the **first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the grueling “Ironman Triathlon”**.

- A. Shiwani Sharma
- B. Sheyas Hosur**
- C. Snana Dhaka
- D. Priya Khandelwal
- E. None of these

- **Shreyas G Hosur has become the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the grueling “Ironman Triathlon”**
- **The Ironman Triathlon is considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world.**
- **This includes 3.8-km swimming, 180-km cycling, and 42.2-km running. Hosur completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes in Germany’s Hamburg**
- **“The finishers of the event are popularly known as ‘IRONMAN’, befitting the mental and physical strength the race demands. Starting the 3.8-km swim at 6:30 am in the chilly waters of the Hamburg lake, it was followed by 180-km long cycling in the countryside and ended with a full marathon of 42.2 km.**

129. Recently **England broke its world record for the highest total in one-day international cricket by smashing 498-4 to set up a 232-run win over the _____.**

- A. Nepal
- B. Ireland**

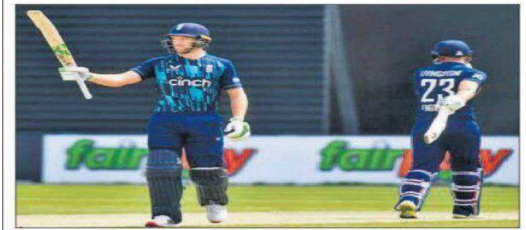
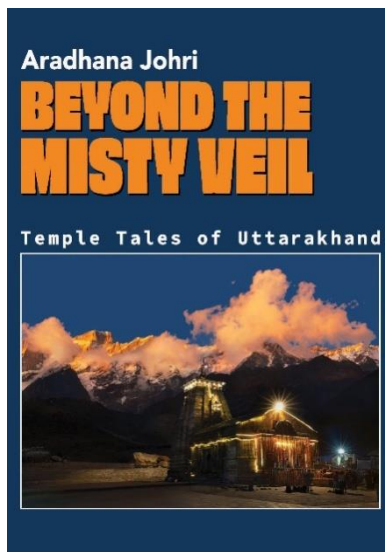
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- C. Netherland**
- D. Switzerland**
- E. None of these**

- **England has rampaged to a world record 4-498 following Jos Buttler's breathtaking belligerence as the Netherlands were blown away in the first one-day international.**
- **Not only was the previous ODI best of 6-481 that England amassed against Australia four years ago eclipsed.**
- **But the total even bettered the 4-496 Surrey registered against Gloucestershire which had stood as the List A benchmark since April 2007.**
- **Buttler missed out on breaking his record for the fastest century by an England batter by just one ball on Friday, reaching three figures from 47 deliveries, before finishing unbeaten on 162 off 70.**

130. Recently Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu Friday launched a book on temples titled" Beyond the Misty Veil', authored by _____.

- A. Aanchal Thakur**
- B. Aradhana Johri**
- C. Shikha Sharma**
- D. Aradhya Verma**
- E. None of these**



Both Jos Buttler (L) and Liam Livingstone remained unbeaten on 162 and 66 in Amstelveen on Friday. REUTERS

England's world record crushes Netherlands

Associated Press
 sportdesk@hindustantimes.com
AMSTELVEEN: England broke their own world record for the highest total in One-Day International cricket by smashing 498/4 to set up a 232-run win over the Netherlands on Friday. Jos Buttler led the barrage with a typically extravagant 162 not out off only 70 balls. The total achieved in Amstelveen, outside Amsterdam, surpassed the 481/6 made by England against Australia at Trent Bridge in June 2018.

While Dawid Malan (125) and Phil Salt (122) also compiled centuries for England, it was Buttler's that took the breath away. He reached three figures in 47 balls. Liam Livingstone weighed in with a 22-ball 66 not out after joining Buttler for the final 5.2 overs. He brought up England's fastest ODI fifty, from 17 balls, to beat the one in 21 deliveries set in a stand between Eoin Morgan and Jonny Bairstow, and struck six fours and six sixes.

Livingstone had the chance to take England to 500—an almost mythical figure in limited-overs cricket that would have seemed unfeasible only 20 years ago—by taking strike with two balls left, with his team on 488. Off the next-to-last ball of the innings, his slog toward the midwicket

HIGHEST TOTALS IN ODI CRICKET

498/4	England vs Netherlands at Amstelveen (June 17, 2022)
481/6	England vs Australia at Nottingham (June 19, 2018)
444/3	England vs Pakistan at Nottingham (August 30, 2016)
443/9	Sri Lanka vs Netherlands at Amstelveen (July 4, 2006)
439/2	South Africa vs West Indies at Johannesburg (January 18, 2015)

3 Number of centuries in England's total of 498/4 against Netherlands. This is the third such instance: SA have had three centuries in an innings twice (against India and West Indies in 2015)

boundary landed a couple of metres short of the rope and bounced for four. He smashed a six in the same area off the next ball. **Brief scores:** England 498/4 in 50 overs (J Buttler 162*, D Malan 125, P Salt 122) beat Netherlands 266 in 49.4 overs (S Edwards 72*, M Ali 3/57) by 232 runs.

Indian culture and heritage is inspiring: V-P at book launch

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday launched a book on temples in Uttarakhand and said that the Indian culture, art, heritage and mythology are very inspiring.

The book 'Beyond the Misty Veil', authored by former bureaucrat Aradhana Johri, contains stories on hundreds of temples in the hill-state of Uttarakhand in detail. Referring to these stories, Naidu said given the importance of old temples, their background and relevance cited in historic texts such as the Puranas, the book can be useful for the younger generation to preserve our culture.

The book gives the reader a glimpse into history and mythology as it offers details about places of reverence, such as the temples collectively



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the launch of a book 'Beyond the Misty Veil' on Friday. HT PHOTO

known as the Char Dham and the Panch Kedar.

"This book was borne out of my love for Uttarakhand... and is the outcome of my abiding interest in our history and mythology, together with the passion for preserving India's heritage and culture," Johri said

about the book.

The book covers about a thousand temples of which about 700 are listed, and 300 are mentioned in great detail, she added. Union minister G Kishen Reddy was also present at the launch of the book, published by Prabhat Prakashan.

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- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu o launched a book on temples in Uttarakhand and said that the Indian culture, art, heritage, and mythology are very inspiring.
- The book ‘Beyond the Misty Veil’, authored by former bureaucrat Aradhana Johri, contains stories on hundreds of temples in the hill-state of Uttarakhand in detail.

131. In June Anahat Singh won the gold medal in the girl's Under-15 category at the Asian Juniors Squash Championships held in _____.

- A. Thailand**
- B. Malaysia**
- C. Singapore**
- D. Uzbekistan**
- E. None of these**

- Promising Indian player Anahat Singh won the gold medal in the girl's Under-15 category at the Asian Juniors Squash Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.
- The 14-year-old Anahat defeated Kwong Ena of Hong Kong 3-0 in the final to claim the top prize.
- She reached the finals without dropping a single game in the tournament.
- She is the only Indian girl to win the US Junior Open in any category and the British Junior Open.
- At 14, Anahat will be the youngest player to represent India at the World Juniors Squash Championships in Nancy, France later this year.

132. Recently Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) has awarded _____ the Indian player of the year award.

- A. Anju Tamang**
- B. Liston Calaco**
- C. Akash Mishra**
- D. Manisha Kalyan**
- E. None of these**

Anahat wins Asian u-15 title



Anahat. ■ FILE PHOTO

IN BRIEF



Liston Colaco clinches FPAI awards

NEW DELHI

ATKMB's Liston Colaco was named the Indian player-of-the-year while Hyderabad FC's Akash Mishra was adjudged the young player-of-the-year at the Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) Awards. HFC's Bartholomew Ogbeche was declared the foreign player-of-the-year while Manuel Marquez scooped the coach's award. In the women's section, Anju Tamang won the Indian women's player-of-the-year award while the young player award went to Manisha Kalyan. ANI

SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU

Anahat Singh of India bagged the girls' under-15 title in the Asian junior individual squash championships at Tambon Na Chom Thian (Thailand) on Sunday, with a 11-7, 12-10, 11-5 win over Ena Kwong of Hong Kong in the final.

Anahat did not drop a game in the tournament and it was her maiden Asian title and eighth (International) overall.

The Indian contingent will return home with six medals, including a gold and five bronze.

The bronze medallists:

Anika Dubey (girls' u-13), Shiven Agarwal (boys' u-13), Lokesh Subramani (boys' u-13), Tiana Parasurampuriya (girls' u-17), Sharan Punjabi (boys' u-17).

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- *Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) awards as ATK Mohun Bagan's Liston Colaco was awarded the Indian player of the year award while Hyderabad FC's Akash Mishra was adjudged to be the Young player of the year.*
- *There was more joy in the Hyderabad FC camp as Bartholomew Ogbeche was named the Foreign Player of the year while Manuel Marquez scooped the coach's award.*
- *In the women's section, Anju Tamang won the Indian Women's Player of the year award. The young player award was handed to Manisha Kalyan.*
- *Colaco becomes the second ATK Mohun Bagan player to win the big prize in a row after goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharya had received the honor for his exploits in green and maroon in ISL 2020-21 season. The 23-year-old who was the top Indian goalscorer in ISL 2021-22 with eight goals is the youngest recipient of the award.*

133. Recently in June **Naomi Osaka** has teamed up with _____ to launch her **new media company, Hanna Kuma (Flower Bear)**.

- A. Rafael Nadal
- B. Roger Federer
- C. Lebron James**
- D. Cristiano Ronaldo
- E. None of these



Osaka and James launch media company

LOS ANGELES

Naomi Osaka is launching a new media company 'Hana Kuma (flower bear) in partnership with basketball legend LeBron James aimed at telling stories that cross cultural barriers, she said on Tuesday. It will produce stories that are "culturally specific but universal to all audiences". REUTERS

- *Four-time Grand Slam winner and Tennis legend Naomi Osaka announced the launch of her new media production company, Hana Kuma, on 21 June in partnership with The SpringHill Company, a media conglomerate created by Lebron James.*
- *Hana Kuma means "flower bear" in Japanese. Osaka founded it with her longtime agent and business partner Stuart Duguid.*
- *Hana Kuma will produce scripted and non-fiction content, with a special focus on people of color.*
- *Its first project is titled MINK! — a New York Times documentary on Patsy Mink, who was the first woman of color to be elected to the US Congress.*
- *On its part, SpringHill Company, which was founded by James and his business partner Maverick Carter, will help Hana Kuma with technical aspects such as production and strategic resources.*

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- *Hana Kuma is not Osaka’s first company. In May, the four-time Grand Slam champion launched the athlete representation agency Evolve with Duguid. Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios became the first athlete to sign with the agency.*

134. Consider the following statement regarding Asian Track Cycling Championships

1. *Ronaldo Singh won a historic silver medal in the men’s sprint event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.*
2. *Chayanika Gogoi also clinched a bronze in the 10km women’s scratch race on the fifth and final day to help India finish with a total of nine medals*
3. *Japan topped the overall medals tally (senior, junior, and para combined) with 18 gold, seven silver, and two bronze medals.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Asian Track Cycling Championship 2022 ended on Wednesday with India’s Ronaldo Singh winning a historic silver medal in the men’s sprint event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.*
- *It was India’s first-ever individual silver medal at the Asian meet.*
- *This was Ronaldo Singh’s third medal in the 2022 championships. Earlier, he won bronze medals in the 1km time trial and team sprint events.*
- *Chayanika Gogoi also clinched a bronze in the 10km women’s scratch race on the fifth and final day to help India finish with a total of nine medals – one silver and eight bronze – in the senior category.*
- *Japan topped the overall medals tally (senior, junior, and para combined) with 18 gold, seven silver, and two bronze medals. Korea finished second with 12 gold, 14 silver, and three bronze medals.*

Silver for Ronaldo



Ronaldo... a good ride. ■ AP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ronaldo Singh won the silver medal in the men’s sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Wednesday.

Ronaldo had earlier won bronze in the 1 km time trial and the team sprint. Birjit Yumnam won bronze in the junior 15km points race, missing the silver by one point. In the 10 km women’s scratch race, Chayanika Gogoi finished third.

India was seventh in the seniors section, with four silver and 13 bronze medals. Japan topped with 15 gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.

In the junior category, India came fifth with two gold, six silver and 15 bronze medals.

In the para events, India was third behind Thailand and Japan with two gold, two silver and two bronze

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- *The Indian cycling team finished its campaign with 23 combined medals, including two gold, six silver, and 15 bronze, which is the best-ever performance by India at the championships.*

135. Consider the following statement regarding the *Women's wrestling Under-17 Asian Championship*.

1. *The Indian women's wrestling team won the under-17 Asian Championship with a total of eight gold medals*
2. *The Tournament was held in Mongolia*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Indian women's wrestling team won the under-17 Asian Championship with a total of eight gold medals in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.*
- *With a total of 235 points, including eight gold medals, one silver, and one bronze, India won the championship.*
- *With 143 points, Japan has settled in second place, and Mongolia took third place with 138 points.*
- *In freestyle competitions, Parwinder Singh won gold in the 80-kg category and Narender took home silver in the 71-kg category.*

Wrestlers claim Asian U-17 team title

Bishkek: Indian freestyle wrestlers won the team title at the under-17 Asian Championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan by finishing with eight medals, including four gold. Apart from the four gold, the Indians also bagged two silver and two bronze medals. The Indians clinched three gold, one silver and two bronze medals in freestyle on Wednesday. The Indian freestyle team won the Asian Championships trophy with 188 points, while Kazakhstan finished runner-up with 150 points. Uzbekistan took the third spot with 145 points. The Indian gold winners were Ningappa (45kg), Shubham (48kg) & Vaibhav Patil (55kg), while Pratik Deshmukh (110kg) bagged the silver & Narsingh Patil (51kg) and Sourabh (60kg) clinched a bronze each.

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Science Technology Defence And Environment

136. Consider the following statement regarding the *Prithvi-II* missile.

1. *DRDO and BDL have developed this missile under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).*
2. *Prithvi-II is a single-fueled short-range surface- to surface ballistic missile.*
3. *It has a range of around 250 km with a 1-tonne payload capacity. The range of the missile was extended to 350 km.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Training launch of Prithvi-II missile carried out successfully on 15 June 2022 from ITR, Chandipur.*
- *DRDO and BDL have developed this missile under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).*
- *Prithvi-II is a single-fueled short-range surface- to surface ballistic missile. It has a range of around 250 km with a 1-tonne payload capacity. The range of the missile was extended to 350 km.*
- *The state-of-the-art missile uses an advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.*
- *The missile was inducted into India's Strategic Forces Command in 2003.*
- *'Prithvi' was the first missile developed under the IGMDP.*
- *Prithvi missile has 3 variants:*
 - *Prithvi I (SS-150): Army version with 1000 kg payload capacity*
 - *Prithvi II (SS-250): Air force version with 500 kg payload capacity*
 - *Prithvi III (SS-350-2 stage fueled missile): Naval version with 1000 kg payload capacity*
- *Dhanush Missile is a variant of the Prithvi III missile which has been developed for the Indian Navy.*

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137. Consider the following statement regarding the 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

1. *Indira Gandhi International Airport has won the best regional airport in India and South Asia title in the 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards.*
2. *Hamad International Airport has been selected as the World's Best Airport.*
3. *Tokyo Haneda Airport has won the 'World's Cleanest Airport' award.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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



- *Indira Gandhi International Airport has won the best regional airport in India and South Asia title in the 2022 Skytrax World Airport Awards.*
- *Hamad International Airport has been selected as the World's Best Airport.*
- *Tokyo Haneda Airport has won the 'World's Cleanest Airport' award.*
- *Copenhagen Airport won the World's Best Airport Immigration Processing award.*
- *The award has been given on the feedback from the customers in a survey.*
- *The customer's experiences from check-in to arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, and immigration are the main components of the survey.*
- *Earlier this year, Bengaluru airport won the Best Airport and Aviation Innovation Award at the Wings India Awards.*
- *Kempegowda International Airport is operated by Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL). It is the third busiest airport in India.*
 - *The world's Top 5 Airports for 2022 are as follows:*
 - *Hamad International Airport*
 - *Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)*
 - *Singapore Changi Airport*
 - *Narita International Airport*
 - *Incheon International Airport*

138. Recently in June, *A new air squadron was created in the Indian Coast Guard in Chennai. This new air squadron is named as _____.*

- A. 420 squadron

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- B. 480 squadron
- C. 820 squadron
- D. 840 squadron**
- E. None of these

- A new air squadron was created in the Indian Coast Guard in Chennai on 20 June 2022.
- It is named 840 squadrons and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft inducted into it.
- The aircraft was received in presence of Inspector General AP Badola, Commander of the eastern Coast Guard Region.
- This is the first such aircraft to be deployed by the defense force in the eastern region.
- Three more Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) aircraft will be added to the inventory of the new Squadron (840 squadrons) shortly.
- The aircraft is having Beyond the Visual Range detection. It is an indigenous aircraft designed and developed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

139. Recently which of the following IITs has developed **HomoSEP**, a robot to eliminate the practice of manual scavenging in India?

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Madras**
- E. None of these

- **HomoSEP**, a robot to eliminate the practice of manual scavenging in India, developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, is all set for field deployment.
- Plans are afoot to deploy 10 units across Tamil Nadu with researchers already establishing contact with sanitation workers to identify locations.
- This robot has been developed over the last several years by a team led by Professor Prabhu Rajagopal, Centre for Nondestructive Evaluation, IIT-M, faculty at the department of mechanical engineering, and IIT-Madras-incubated startup Solinas Integrity Private Limited.

140. Consider the following statement regarding **GSAT-24**

1. It is built by **ISRO** for **NSIL**

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- It was launched by the French company Arianespace.
- ISRO successfully launched GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- ISRO successfully launched GSAT-24 from Kourou in French Guiana.
- GSAT-24 is India's communication satellite. It is built by ISRO for NSIL.
- It was launched by the French company Arianespace. It is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg, which will meet the requirements of the DTH App across India.
- It is the first demand-driven communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post-space sector reforms.
- NSIL has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is a Government of India company under the Department of Space.

142. Which of the following is the first airport to run entirely on hydro and solar energy in India?

- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport
- Biju Patnaik International Airport
- Veer Savarkar International Airport
- None of these

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has switched entirely on hydro and solar power from 1 June.
- It has become the first airport in India to use green energy for its all consumption needs.
- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport full fills 6 percent of the energy requirement from solar energy while the remaining 94 percent of the energy comes from hydropower plants.
- The use of renewable energy will help the airport in reducing energy emissions by 2 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport is aiming to become a Net Zero Carbon Emission airport by 2030.

India's GSAT-24 satellite launched; leased to Tata Play

BENGALURU: NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) launched GSAT-24 in its first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission post space sector reforms, leasing the entire capacity on board to Direct-to-Home (DTH) service provider Tata Play. Built by Indian Space Research Organisation for NSIL, the satellite was successfully placed into geostationary orbit by the Ariane 5 rocket, operated by French company Arianespace, from Kourou in French Guiana (South America) on Thursday.

Five dead, 95 injured as bus

Delhi airport plugs into green energy

Jasjeev Gandhiok

jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has switched to hydro and solar power for its consumption needs from June 1, making it India's first airport to run entirely on a combination of these forms of green energy, operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said on Wednesday.

In 2015, the Cochin International Airport in Kerala became the first in the country to run solely using solar energy.

DIAL said while they are using a combination of hydro and solar power, a major part of it this is hydro-dependent. This move is part of the airport's goal to achieve the "Net Zero Carbon Emissions Airport" target by the year 2030, DIAL said.

Since June 1, around 6% of the airport's electricity requirement is being met from on-site solar power plants, while the remaining 94% energy is coming from a hydropower plant, it said.

"The solar plants are on the airside and roofs of the cargo terminals of the IGI airport. For hydropower, DIAL has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity to the airport until 2036," said a DIAL spokesperson.

The Delhi airport has a 7.84 MW solar power plant on the airside, while it added another 5.3 MW rooftop solar power plant at the cargo terminal recently as part of a stakeholder collaboration.

This transition to renewable energy is expected to help the airport in reducing energy emissions by 2 lakh tonne of carbon dioxide per year, the operator said. "DIAL has been working relentlessly towards environmental sustainability and has set its target to make Delhi Airport a Net Zero Carbon Emission airport by 2030, way ahead of the global target of 2050," said CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria.

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- *Delhi airport was the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to get 'Level 4+' under ACI's airport carbon accreditation program in 2020.*
 - *Cochin International Airport is the first airport in India to run entirely on solar energy.*
143. Recently in June Indian Army partnered with _____ to establish a 5G testbed at the Military College of Telecommunication in Mhow, Indore, to assist the army in implementing 5G technology for operational application.
- A. IIT Jodhpur
 - B. IIT Madras**
 - C. IIT Delhi
 - D. IIT Bombay
 - E. None of these
- *The Army Training Command (ARTRAC) is collaborating with IIT-Madras to establish a 5G testbed at the Military College of Telecommunication in Mhow, Indore, to assist the army in implementing 5G technology for operational application, particularly along international frontiers.*
 - *In the presence of army authorities and IIT-Madras professors, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this collaboration was signed on June 20 by the Military College of Telecommunication on behalf of the Army Training Command, Shimla, and IIT.*
 - *IIT-Madras will provide consultation, backed by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development on 5 G-enabled future communications, according to a statement released by the institute.*
 - *This collaboration is planned to accelerate the introduction of niche technology-based systems, devices, and equipment, as well as the application of AI-based algorithms to improve the capabilities of the Indian armed forces.*
 - *However, the news comes just a week after the Union Cabinet approved the 5G spectrum auction, which will take place by the end of July and will be 10 times faster than 4G.*
 - *Ashwini Vaishnav, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology, successfully tested India's first 5G audio and video call at IIT-M in May this year*

IIT-Madras to set up 5G test bed for Army

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), will establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Indore to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Army along the borders.

Lt.Gen. M.U. Commandant, MCTE, on behalf of the Army Training Command, Shimla, and Institute Director V. Kamakoti signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, who is heading the programme, said, "The project would enable students and trainees at the college to be thoroughly familiar with the advanced technologies embedded in the 5G system. It is an example of how the bed developed v 14/18 port from DoT to enable Indian companies and start-ups to test their products, can also be successfully leveraged for other productive purposes," he said.

The collaboration would provide an impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian armed forces.

144. Recently *South Korea has successfully launched a satellite with the help of the first domestically developed Nuri rocket, with this South Korea becomes the _____ country to put a satellite in its orbit with its technology.*

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- A. 8th
- B. 10th**
- C. 9th
- D. 5th
- E. None of these

- **South Korea has successfully launched a satellite with the help of the first domestically developed Nuri rocket.**
- **South Korea becomes the 10th country to put a satellite in its orbit with its technology.**
- **The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri, took off from the Naro Space Center on 21 June.**
- **The three-stage rocket placed the satellite at the target altitude and it transmitted signals about its status back to Earth.**
- **It is South Korea's second launch of the Nuri rocket. In October 2021, Nuri reached the desired altitude but couldn't place the satellite into orbit.**
- **South Korea successfully launched its first satellite from its soil in 2013 with the help of a Russian rocket.**

145. Recently **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** tapped _____ developing **two augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) platforms to develop digital museum.**

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Jodhpur**
- D. IIT Madras

- **The technology innovation hub of IIT Jodhpur known as iHub Drishti is developing two**

Successful launch

2 The number of attempts **South Korea** took to launch its first domestically built space rocket months after its earlier liftoff failed to place a payload into orbit. The launch has made **South Korea** the world's 10th nation to place a satellite into space with its own technology. The Nuri rocket succeeded in releasing and placing its functioning "performance verification" satellite at a target altitude of 700 kilometers after its liftoff. In the first attempt last October, the rocket's dummy payload reached its desired altitude but didn't enter orbit. AGENCIES

S. Korea successfully launches homegrown satellite Nuri

SEOUL, 22 JUNE

The performance verification satellite and dummy satellites carried by South Korea's domestically developed rocket Nuri (KSLV-II) have reached orbit after the second launch on the 21st.

As a result, Korea has become the seventh country that launched satellites weighing over 1 ton with domestic technologies.

The Nuri rocket was launched at 4 p.m. on the 21st and successfully separated the performance verification satellite and dummy satellites from the rocket.

Nuri's dummy satellites and the performance verification satellite are circulating around the Earth at an altitude of about 700km from the planet at about 7.5km/s speed.

Nuri is the first space launch vehicle developed with domestic technology.

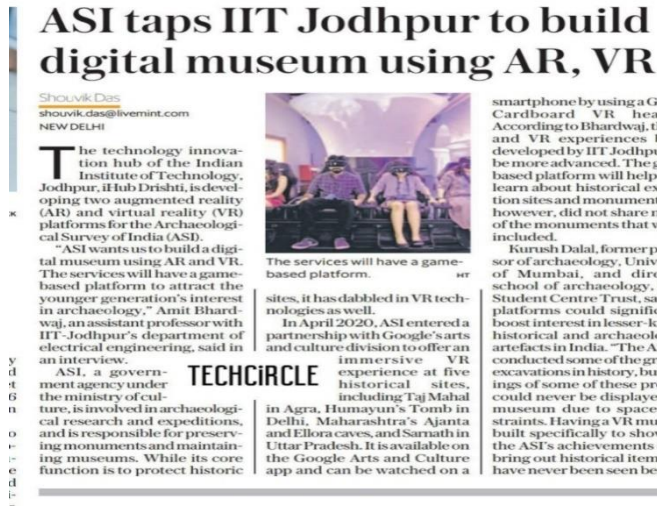
South Korean researchers and engineers have developed all parts of the Nuri, including 75-ton and 7-ton liquid fuel engines and parings, a cover to protect satellites mounted on the launch vehicle.

In particular, South Korea has successfully proved its space development capability by developing the 75-ton engine, which will be continuously used for space vehicle development. ANI

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augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) platforms for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), a government agency under the ministry of culture.

- **“ASI wants to build a digital museum using AR and VR. The services will have a game-based platform to attract the younger generation’s interest in archaeology**
- **ASI entered an alliance with Google's arts and culture division in April 2020 to offer an immersive VR experience at five historical sites,**
- **The Archaeological Survey of India is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural-historical monuments in the country.**
- **Director-General: V. Vidyavathi, IAS, Founded: 1861, Headquarters: New Delhi**



ASI taps IIT Jodhpur to build digital museum using AR, VR

Shouvik Das
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NEW DELHI

The technology innovation hub of the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur, IIT Jodhpur, is developing two augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) platforms for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). “ASI wants us to build a digital museum using AR and VR. The services will have a game-based platform to attract the younger generation’s interest in archaeology.” Amit Bhardwaj, an assistant professor with IIT-Jodhpur’s department of electrical engineering, said in an interview.

ASI, a government agency under the ministry of culture, is involved in archaeological research and expeditions, and is responsible for preserving monuments and maintaining museums. While its core function is to protect historic sites, it has dabbled in VR technologies as well.

In April 2020, ASI entered a partnership with Google’s arts and culture division to offer an immersive VR experience at five historical sites, including Taj Mahal in Agra, Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi, Maharashtra’s Ajanta and Ellora caves, and Samath in Uttar Pradesh. It is available on the Google Arts and Culture app and can be watched on a smartphone by using a Google Cardboard VR headset. According to Bhardwaj, the AR and VR experiences being developed by IIT Jodhpur will be more advanced. The game-based platform will help users learn about historical excavation sites and monuments. He, however, did not share names of the monuments that will be included.

Kurush Dalal, former professor of archaeology, University of Mumbai, and director, school of archaeology, India Student Centre Trust, said the platforms could significantly boost interest in lesser-known historical and archaeological artefacts in India. “The ASI has conducted some of the greatest excavations in history, but findings of some of these projects could never be displayed in a museum due to space constraints. Having a VR museum built specifically to showcase the ASI’s achievements could bring out historical items that have never been seen before.”

146. Consider the following statement regarding **PSLV-C53**.

1. **“PSLV-C53 is scheduled to launch DS-EO and 2 other co-passenger satellites from the *Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota*.**
2. **PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).**
3. **This is the 59th mission of PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation has once again re-opened its facilities in Sriharikota to allow interested viewers to watch the PSLV-C53 launch**
- **“PSLV-C53 is scheduled to launch DS-EO and 2 other co-passenger satellites on June 30, 2022, at 18:00 hrs IST from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.**
- **It accompanies PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) orbiting the earth as a stabilized platform,”**
- **PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).**
- **It is designed to orbit the DS-EO satellite along with two other co-passenger satellites from ST Electronics, Singapore.**
- **This is the 55th mission of PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant.**
- **It is the 16th PSLV launch from the second launch pad.**
- **The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) activity performs in-orbit scientific experiments using the spent PS4 stage as an orbital platform.**
- **It is the first time that the PS4 stage would orbit the earth as a stabilized platform**

PSLV-C53 to launch DS-EO, 2 other co-passenger satellites on June 30

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, June 22

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake the PSLV-C53/DS-EO mission on June 30. The launch is scheduled at 1800 hrs from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The countdown of 25 hours leading to the launch begins at 1700 hrs on June 29, said a release from the space agency.

PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), designed to orbit DS-EO satellite, along with two other co-passenger satellites, from ST Electronics, Singapore.

PSLV-C53 will carry three satellites. DS-EO, a 365 kg satellite, and NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite, both belonging

to Singapore and built by Starec Initiative, Republic of Korea. The third is a 2.8 kg Scoob-1 of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

PSLV's 55th mission

This is the 55th mission of PSLV and 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant. It is the 16th PSLV launch from the second launch pad.

The mission proposes to demonstrate the utilisation of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle, as a stabilised platform for scientific payloads subsequent to the separation of the satellites, said a release from ISRO.

A four-stage, 44.4 m tall PSLV-C53 has a lift-off mass of 228.433 t. It will inject DS-EO satellite into an orbit at an altitude of 570 km measured

from the equator. PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) DS-EO carries an electro-optic, multi-spectral payload, with 0.5 m resolution imaging capability. The POEM activity performs in-orbit scientific experiments using the spent PS4 stage as an orbital platform.

NGC system

It is the first time the PS4 stage will orbit the Earth as a stabilised platform. Attitude stabilisation is achieved using a dedicated NGC system.

POEM derives the power from the solar panels mounted around the PS4 tank and Li Ion battery. It navigates using four sun sensors, a magnetometer, gyros and NavIC. It carries dedicated control thrusters using Helium gas storage and is enabled with telecommand feature.

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147. Recently An *Indigenous metal 3D Printer for aerospace* has been developed by _____ .

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Jodhpur**
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Bhopal
- E. None of these

IIT Jodhpur builds metal 3D printer for aerospace, defence

STAFF REPORTER
Mumbai

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur have built a metal 3D printer using Direct Energy Deposition (DED) technology. Except for the laser and robot systems,

every component of this metal 3D printer is designed and built in India. The project's major goal is to bring metal 3D printers to a wider audience by lowering their cost. With metal powders manufactured in India, this machine can print 3D items.

- *A metal 3D printer has been developed indigenously by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, for use in aerospace, defense, and general engineering applications.*
- *Except for the laser and robot systems, every component of the metal 3D printer has been designed and manufactured in India.*
- *The main goal of the project is to reduce the cost of metal 3D printers and attract a broader variety of consumers.*
- *It can be used for repairing and adding additional material to existing components.*
- *It is equipped with India's first cutting-edge variable spot size laser optics and can print 3D parts with the metal powders made in India.*