

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

National /State News

1. Recently in June **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati** signed an MoU with which institute to promote startups, incubation, and entrepreneurship in the North-Eastern Region (NER)?

- A. Indian Institute of Management Nagpur
- B. Indian Institute of Management Shillong**
- C. Indian Institute of Management Ranchi
- D. Indian Institute of Management Rohtak

- **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS).**
- **This partnership aims to promote startups, incubation, and entrepreneurship in the North-Eastern Region (NER).**

Jul 01, 2022, 8:24PM

IIE, Guwahati signs MoU with IIM, Shillong to boost entrepreneurship ecosystem in NE region

The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati has signed an MoU with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre of the Indian Institute of Management Shillong in New Delhi to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern Region. The objective of this partnership is to encourage entrepreneurship, incubation, and startups in the North Eastern Region.



Tweeted by @AIR

Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajesh Agarwal has said, this partnership will help create an atmosphere where startups and entrepreneurs can flourish in the Northeast region. He said, this will not only encourage the locals but also give them access to formal training and professional mentorship to run a successful business. Mr. Agarwal said, the aim of the government is to foster an entrepreneurship-enabling ecosystem that promotes innovation and growth in the Northeast.

- **The institutes will work together and exchange information and resources to assist professional growth in the fields of management, entrepreneurship, and skill development.**
- **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE):**
- **It was established by the then Ministry of Industries (now the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) in 1993 in Guwahati.**
- **It works as an autonomous national institute for undertaking training, research, and consultancy activities in small and micro enterprises with a focus on entrepreneurship development.**
- **Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS):**
- **It was founded in 2007 and is the seventh Indian Institute of Management in the country.**

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2. Consider the following statement regarding EV Mitra.

1. The EV Mitra mobile app has been developed by the Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCO
2. BESCO introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal, which was a joint project of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The EV Mitra mobile app has been developed by the Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCO to provide information about EV charging stations in Bengaluru.
- Earlier, BESCO had introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal, which was a joint project of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom.

Jun 30, 2022, 9:25AM

BESCO develops 'EV Mitra' mobile app to provide info on EV charging stations in Bengaluru

The Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCO has developed EV Mitra mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in Bengaluru. The information on charges in each station for the electric vehicles to recharge are also mentioned in the app. The user-friendly app can be used by electric vehicle users to book in advance a slot in the station. BESCO had earlier introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal as a joint initiative of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom. The web portal provides state specific information on the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support mechanisms and initiatives of the state government regarding electric mobility.

BESCO has started 136 charging stations in Bengaluru and another 152 such stations will be started soon. Under the Public Private Partnership model, tenders have been invited to establish 1000 charging stations across the state. EV Abhiyan will be held for a week from July 1st to 6th and EV Expo from July 1st to 3rd. On July 2nd EV Rally will be organised from Vidhana Soudha to Palace Grounds to promote EV usage in Bengaluru city.



- The website provides information about the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support mechanisms, and state government initiatives related to electric mobility.
- In Bengaluru, BESCO has launched 136 charging stations, and another 152 such stations will be started soon.
- From July 1st to July 6th, EV Abhiyan will be conducted for a week, and from July 1st to July 3rd, EV Expo will be conducted.

3. Recently _____ state government announced that it will issue Family Cards to identify the families without any government job or any kind of employment.

- A. Bihar
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Chattisgarh

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E. None of the above

- UP government will issue cards to every family as a major step towards eradicating unemployment in Uttar Pradesh.
- These cards will be known as Family Cards. Through these cards, the government will identify the families without any government job or any kind of employment.
- The government will give jobs, employment, or self-employment to at least one member of such families.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath distributed a loan of 16 thousand crore rupees to 1.90 lakh artisans and small entrepreneurs at a function in Lucknow.
- CM Yogi said that the government will soon come up with an action plan to connect one person from every family with a job, employment, or self-employment.

4. Consider the following statement regarding India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions.
1. The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) in association with World Resources Institute India (WRI India) has launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS).
 2. It has been launched under the 'Cities4Forests' initiative.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions has been launched during the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.

NIUA's C-Cube and WRI India launch the India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and World Resources Institute India (WRI India) launch national platform to mainstream ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions to build urban climate resilience

Posted On: 29 JUN 2022 5:45PM by PIB Delhi

The National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners today launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.

Ecosystem-based services and *Nature-Based Solutions* are fast emerging as cost-effective and sustainable ways to address climate change induced challenges such as heat, urban flooding, air and water pollution and storm surges. Along with mitigating the impact of climate change, NbS also helps in providing multiple ecosystem benefits along with addressing various societal challenges including building resilience of the underserved and vulnerable urban communities who are most affected by climate change induced catastrophes.

The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions by

- Defining a shared language and by communicating benefits that inform actions at the local level including scaling up of existing NbS interventions.
- Driving investment and strengthening delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Mainstreaming urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions in India through informing policy, plans and project interventions

At the platform launch event, Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA said, "It is important that we have a low-cost and sustainable approach when we work on climate action and increasing our green cover. It is here that nature-based solutions (NbS) should be prioritized as part of India's resilience and adaptation strategy."

The event saw representatives, from core partner organisations such as GIZ India, India Climate Collaborative, The Nature Conservancy, WWF India and Wetlands International, pledge their efforts towards collaboratively achieving the Forum's objectives.

Yogi govt to map families under job plan

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said his government will soon start mapping each family in the state to connect one member of each household with job or self-employment. To facilitate employment in such families, the government would issue "parivar cards", he added.

The CM was speaking after distributing loan certificates to handicraft artisans and entrepreneurs at a loan fair.

"The then government (led by SP) did not take interest despite availability of various schemes. There was no paucity of funds," he said.

ENS

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- The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) in association with World Resources Institute India (WRI India) has launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS).
- It has been launched under the 'Cities4Forests' initiative and is supported by the Caterpillar Foundation, the Department of Environment of the United Kingdom, and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).
- Its main objective is to attract investment and strengthen delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
- It will also try to bring urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions into the mainstream through informing policy, plans, and project interventions.
- Ecosystem-based services and Nature-Based Solutions are the most effective and sustainable ways to resolve climate change challenges.

5. Consider the following statement regarding the report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen — Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India'.

1. This report has been created by NITI Aayog in association with Delhi-based think tank RMI India.
2. According to this report, India's hydrogen demand could increase by more than four-fold times by 2030.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- NITI Aayog released a report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen — Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India'.
- This report has been created in association with Delhi-based think tank RMI India.
- NITI Aayog in its report recommends the reduction or exemption of GST and customs duties on green hydrogen production.
- It also proposed to set up green hydrogen corridors and provide financial support to startups working on green hydrogen solutions.
- The report states that "There is a need to develop three hydrogen corridors across the country".
- As per this report, the government should focus on ways to reduce the cost of green hyd

'Hydrogen corridors need to be developed'

PTI
feedback@livemint.c
NEW DELHI

4/18

India needs to create green hydrogen corridors and governments can look at providing grants to startups as well as supporting entrepreneurs to promote the fuel, NITI Aayog said on Wednesday.

In a report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen - Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India', the Aayog also suggested that there is a need to facilitate investment through demand aggregation and dollar-based bidding for green hydrogen.

"Three hydrogen corridors should be developed across the country based on state grand challenges...The governments can provide grants and loans to startups and projects, support entrepreneurs through incubators and investor networks, and put in place regulations that manage first-mover risks," the report said.

The government can also use public procurement and purchase incentives (for green hydrogen) to create demand in niche markets and crowd in private investment, it added.

The report suggested that the government promote export of green hydrogen and green hydrogen-embedded products through a global hydrogen alliance.

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- NITI Aayog also suggested bringing investment through demand aggregation and dollar-based bidding for green hydrogen.
- According to this report, India's hydrogen demand could increase by more than four-fold times by 2050.
- The government should support entrepreneurs in the field of Green hydrogen through incubators and investor networks.
- Green hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water.

6. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

1. Devendra Fadnavis has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
2. Eknath Shinde is elected as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

- Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Devendra Fadnavis took oath as Deputy Chief Minister.
- On 29 June, Uddhav Thackeray stepped down as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- The Governor of Maharashtra has asked Chief Minister Shinde to prove the majority of his government in the state assembly on July 2.
- Article 164 states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister.

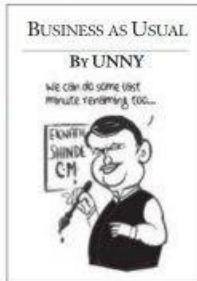
SHIV SENA REBELS, BJP FORM GOVT A DAY AFTER UDDHAV QUILTS

Shinde new Maharashtra CM, Fadnavis deputy in last-minute twist in script

BJP's central leadership tells Fadnavis to be part of govt



Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari with Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Thursday. *Express*



FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 7

VALLABHOZARKAR & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, JUNE 30

IN A surprise turn of events Thursday, Shiv Sena rebel leader Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra and BJP leader and former Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis as the Deputy Chief Minister.

Shinde became the 20th Chief Minister of the state a day after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray resigned as CM ahead of a floor test, bringing to an end the 31-month rule of his Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition.

What came as a surprise was the about-turn by Fadnavis.

Shortly after he told a press conference that he would not be a part of the government, the central leadership of the party said Fadnavis would be joining the government.

BJP president JP Nadda said, "The central leadership has directed that Devendra Fadnavis should take the responsibility of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Fadnavis stunned, but BJP clear about reasons

LIZ MATHEW & SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, JUNE 30

THE POLITICAL developments in Maharashtra – from sequestering of the Eknath Shinde-led rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, to the swearing-in of the new government on Thursday – were

closely worked out by the BJP central leadership, with even key player Devendra Fadnavis not aware of the finishing touch, party sources said.

This is why the unusual sequence of events in Mumbai Thursday: first, Fadnavis's surprise announcement that Shinde would be CM, and that he would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

With Shinde in seat, BJP defangs Uddhav; BMC next

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & LIZ MATHEW
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

THE BJP killed several birds with one stone by giving up chief ministership to Eknath Shinde, in the govern-

ment being formed by Shiv Sena rebels with the party's support. It was a strong rebuff to the Uddhav Thackeray-led group's contention that the BJP had pulled down "a Sena CM"; it sent a message about the BJP's large-heartedness in accommodating allies; and it is set to help the BJP in the coming BMC polls.

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7. Consider the following statement regarding the *Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme*.

1. PMFME Scheme is currently being implemented in 35 States and Union Territories in the country
2. The centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme was launched on 29th June 2020 by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
3. The PMFME Scheme envisages financial support of Rs. 40,000 for working capital and the purchase of small tools for each member of the Self Help Group (SHG) engaged in food processing activities.

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 the above

- The centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme was launched on 29th June 2020 by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The scheme has completed two years and a journey that started with the zest to empower the unorganized Micro Enterprises continues to fulfill the aim of formalizing the food processing sector.
- **PMFME Scheme is currently being implemented in 35 States and Union Territories in the country**
- **PMFME Scheme envisages financial support of Rs. 40,000 for working capital and the purchase of small tools for each member of the Self Help Group (SHG) engaged in food processing activities**
- **Over 1 lakh SHG members have been identified and the seed capital amount of Rs. 203 Cr. has been released so far.**

One lakh SHG members identified, capital worth ₹203 cr released under PMFME scheme

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 1 JULY

Over one lakh self-help group members have been identified under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme, and a seed capital worth total Rs 203 crore has been released so far.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched this scheme under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' in June 2020 with the purpose to strengthen the competitiveness of micro-enterprises in the unorganized parts of the food processing industry, while at the same time promoting its formalization. The scheme was targeted to be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a total expenditure of Rs 10,000 crore.



The scheme has now completed two years, and has witnessed several advancements towards empowering micro-enterprises.

According to an official statement, an approximate 50,000 applicants have registered on the portal and more than 25,000 applications have been successfully submitted so far.

State-level marketing support has also been witnessed in the form of the brand "AAS-NAA" from the State of Punjab and the brand "BHIMTHA-

DI" from the State of Maharashtra, the statement said.

A digital Geographical Information System has also been developed to provide details of One District One Product scheme. This map indicates tribal, SC, ST, aspirational districts and incubation centres that have been approved under the PMFME scheme. Such mapping may prove to be beneficial for making concerted efforts towards rural development.

A series of success stories is being published, which will feature the inspiring stories of micro enterprises and Self Help Groups in the food processing sector, thereby creating awareness about the opportunities in this sector and encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs to apply under the scheme, the statement further said.

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- Under the scheme, MoUs have been signed with NAFED and TRIFED to take up the marketing and branding activities for supporting and handholding the beneficiaries along the entire value chain. Under component 10, ODOP Brands in association with NAFED have been launched. The scheme also envisages marketing support for State-level brands. As of now, 2 State-level brands have been successfully launched, including the brand “AASNAA” from the State of Punjab and the brand “BHIMTHADI” from the State of Maharashtra, and many others are in the pipeline.

8. Recently In July **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited signed MOU with the Government of _____** for the development of a 10 GW Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park.

- A. Odisha
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Telangana
- E. None of the above

NTPC signs pact with Raj govt to develop 10-GW renewable energy power park

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 2

POWER UTILITY NTPC HAS signed an initial pact with the Rajasthan government for development of a 10 gigawatt (GW) ultra-mega renewable energy power park (UMREPP).

In a statement, issued Saturday, NTPC said the memoran-



dum of understanding signed between its wholly-owned subsidiary, NTPC Renewable Energy

Limited (NTPC REL) with the government of Rajasthan marks another step towards achieving Renewable Capacity addition targets of NTPC.

At the group level, NTPC aims to have a 60 GW renewable power generation capacity by 2032. NTPC currently has a little over 2 GW renewable energy capacity. A total of 22

projects with more than 4 GW capacity is at various stages of implementation. In addition, NTPC REL is developing one UMREPP of 4.75 GW capacity in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.

The company has also entered into a joint venture agreement with DVC for developing renewable energy parks and projects.

- NTPC Group has set its target of 60 GW Renewable energy capacity by 2032.**
- As a step towards achieving this target, NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Rajasthan for the development of a 10 GW Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park in Rajasthan.
- The MOU signing marks another step toward achieving the Renewable Capacity addition targets of NTPC. In less than 2 years since its inception, NTPC REL has won 4 GW Renewable Energy capacity by bidding on various tenders which are under different stages of implementation.
- Additionally, NTPC REL is developing one UMREPP of 4.75 GW capacity in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, and NTPC REL has entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with DVC for developing RE Parks and Projects.

9. Recently **Railway Protection Force to bring attention to the menace of NDPS, a month-long pan-India drive against the smuggling of narcotics through rail, was launched under the code name Operation _____** in the month of June-2022.

- A. Operation Aahat
- B. Operation Satark
- C. Operation Narcos**

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- D. Operation Suraksha
- E. None of the above

- **Railway Protection Force as one of the law enforcement agencies has gained prominence in recent times. RPF has been empowered to conduct search, seizure, and arrest under NDPS Act since April 2019 and has been actively participating in the efforts of the Government to restrict this illegal trade.**
- **To bring attention to the menace of NDPS, a month-long pan-Indian drive against the smuggling of narcotics through rail was launched under the code name Operation “NARCOS” in the month of June-2022.**
- **Under this operation, RPF has performed excellently against the carriers/transporters of Narcotics products through Indian Railways.**
- **Indian Railways plays a leading role in the transportation of passengers and goods and has the widest network in India, that is why long-distance trains are often used by offenders to smuggle the NDPS into different states disguising drug carriers as common passengers.**

10. Recently Union Minister Dr. **Jitendra Singh inaugurated the tihan Testbed, a unique, first-of-its-kind, state-of-the-art, futuristic "autonomous navigation" facility to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles for Autonomous Navigation at _____.**

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Hyderabad**
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Delhi
- E. None of the above

- **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; mos PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated first-of-its-kind, state-of-the-art “Autonomous Navigation” facility to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles in the IIT Hyderabad campus.**
- **Funded by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology at a budget of Rs.130 crore, the “Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation” is a multidisciplinary initiative, which will make India a global player in the futuristic and next-generation “Smart Mobility” technology”.**
- **The Minister also appreciated that IIT Hyderabad has established a new Post-Graduation course of M.Tech in “Smart Mobility”, which is the first of its kind in India.**
- **The Minister said, the vision of tihan-IITH, is to become a global player for next-generation smart mobility technologies and the Ministry of Science & Technology has come forward to support this initiative, which will be a trendsetter for others as well.**

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- India's mobility sector is one of the world's largest markets and the tihan - IITH will be the source of futuristic technology generation for autonomous vehicles. He also added that the tihan-IITH testbed on Autonomous Navigations (Aerial & Terrestrial) will allow us to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.
- Under this national mission, IIT Hyderabad has been awarded the Technology Innovation Hub in the technological vertical of 'Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, ROVs. etc.)'. NMICPS Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Foundation (TiHAN) is a multi-disciplinary initiative, including researchers from Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Design, Liberal Arts, and Entrepreneurship at IIT Hyderabad. TiHAN is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

11. Recently _____ State Government Signed a pact Spices Board to establish a quality evaluation laboratory and training center for spices.

- A. Assam
- B. Odisha
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana
- E. None of the above

- Assam government and Spices Board will establish a quality evaluation laboratory and training center for spices in Guwahati to help develop the region's spice industry.
- The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of Assam in spice production, saying his state can leverage its potential to become a major hub for post-harvest processing and value addition of spices from the North-Eastern region, as well as one of the major exporting hubs.
- India produces 75 of the 109 ISO-listed varieties of spices and has emerged as the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter.

12. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new 'smart' campus of Bosch India, a leading supplier of technology and services in _____.

- A. Hyderabad

Spices quality evaluation lab to come up in Guwahati

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, July 1

The Assam government and the Spices Board will establish a quality evaluation laboratory and training centre for spices at Guwahati for developing the spices industry further in the region, said State Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Emphasising the importance of Assam in spice production, Sarma said his State can leverage its potential for becoming a major hub for post-harvest processing and value addition of spices from the North-Eastern region. It will also aim to become one of the major exporting hubs.

Steps are being taken to make the best use of schemes such as PM-DevINE, One District One Product, and to convert the 'by-default organic' tag of spices to 'certified organic' or 'organic by design', Sarma said. He was inaugurating the International Buyer Seller Meet and Spices Con-

clave (IBSM), organised by Spices Board at Guwahati.

India produces 75 of 109 varieties of spices listed by ISO and has emerged as the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter. The North-East has acquired special attention, owing to the quality of organic spices. Assam produces nearly 3.1 lakh tonnes of spices annually.

Tage Taki, Arunachal Pradesh Minister for Agriculture, stressed the need for adequate technology and institutional support to further develop the spices sector of the North-Eastern region. D Sathiyam, Secretary, Spices Board, said the International Buyer Seller Meet and Spices Conclave has been envisaged to promote the indigenous spices of the eight North-Eastern States.

The programme aims to create direct trade links for the indigenous, high-quality spices of the region with both national and international buyers.

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- B. Bengaluru**
- C. Pune**
- D. Noida**
- E. None of the above**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the new 'smart' campus of Bosch India, a leading supplier of technology and services in Bengaluru built for Rs 800 crore.**
- **It is a special year for both India and Bosch India, as the nation celebrates 75 years of Independence and Bosch celebrates a century of its presence in India,**
- **Hundred years ago, Bosch came to India as a German company, and now it is as much Indian as German. This is a great example of German engineering and Indian energy.**
- **By converting its headquarters in Adugodi, announced that it is increasing its AIoT (Artificial Intelligence of Things) efforts in that country.**

PM opens Bosch’s smart campus in Bengaluru

ISHA RAUTELA
 Bengaluru, June 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Bosch's new campus in Bengaluru, built at a cost of \$100 million. The 76-acre Spark.NXT campus features multiple smart solutions based on sustainability, security, and user experience for associates, visitors, and facility management.

"The smart campus will take a lead in the development of futuristic products and solutions for India and for the world," said the Prime Minister.

The auto ancillaries major with a workforce of 31,500 and ₹22,000 crore in annual revenues, is celebrating its centenary in India. It has 16 manufacturing sites, and seven development and application centres in the country.

Soumitra Bhattacharya, Managing Director, Bosch Ltd and president of the Bosch

Group, India, said, "We started our Make in India and Make in Karnataka manufacturing journey 69 years ago. Today, with our new Spark.NXT campus, the company continues to invest in smart and sustainable solutions that are 'Invented for life'.

Filiz Albrecht, board member of management and director of Industrial Relations, Robert Bosch GmbH, said, "Over the last five years, Bosch India has invested one billion euros in upscaling and will invest another billion euros in the next five years in various training programmes for artificial intelligence, software, electromobility, etc," she added.

"We are is happy to have India's largest smart campus here. Bengaluru, has been a technology hub and houses the largest number of R&D centres across the globe. This campus is another feather to its cap," said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.



Bosch employees at the inauguration of the Bosch's campus in Bengaluru, on Thursday

13. Recently, the Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated the centenary year celebrations of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI). Where was NDRI established in the year 1923?

- A. Bangalore**
- B. Karnal**
- C. Surat**
- D. Bhopal**
- E. None of the above**

2 apps launched as NDRI turns 100

Union agri minister exhorts scientists to expedite research work

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, JULY 1

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar here today inaugurated year-long programmes of the ICAR-NDRI on the completion of 100 years of the premier dairy institute of the country.

He dedicated a pillar, depicting the history of the NDRI, and also an "oxygen park" on the occasion. He launched an app "Mahishi Mitra" which will help detect heat among animals with the help of saliva drop. When the drop of saliva of animal will be taken as a photograph, the app will tell whether the animal is in heat or not. The minister also inaugurated another app for climate-related advisory.

Addressing the scientists during the centenary anniversary programme (100



Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in Karnal on Friday.

SHIFTED TO KARNAL IN 1955

■ NDRI was established on July 1, 1923, in Bangalore.

■ It was shifted to Karnal in 1955 and later made a deemed university in 1989.

■ In 100 years, the institute has achieved various goals in the field of dairy research, education and extension.

years' of excellence in dairy science), the Tomar exhorted them to expedite the research work. "The NDRI has completed 100 years and it has done tremendous work, but

still a lot needs to be done," said Tomar.

The Union Minister also appealed to scientists to adopt 100 villages of the district under the "Azadi ka

Amrit Mahotsav" programme to promote dairy farming.

He said dairy farming played a vital role in economy and would help in doubling farmers' income. He also urged scientists to focus on enhancing the milk quality.

NDRI Director, Dr Manmohan Singh Chauhan, highlighted the achievements of the institution. He said several programmes would be organised during this year.

On being asked about the allegations levelled by the SKM that the Union Government did not form any committee for the MSP Union Minister Tomar said the government was ready to form the committee to review the implementation of the guaranteed MSP on the crop, but the SKM had not submitted the names. "We have not received names for the SKM for the committee," he added.

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

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

- Centenary year celebrations of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Inaugurating the celebrations at NDRI in Karnal (Haryana), the Minister said India ranks first in the world in terms of most agricultural products.
- He said that in its hundredth year, the NDRI should adopt 100 villages in the country and develop animal husbandry in them.
- He also released the centenary logo. He inaugurated the Oxygen Park.
- He inaugurated the Centenary Commemorative Pillar based on 100 years of achievements of the Institute.
- National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI):
- NDRI was established in Bangalore in the year 1923.
- In 1955, its headquarters was moved to Karnal, Haryana.
- Dr. M.S. Chauhan is its current director.

14. Recently PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Digital India Week 2022. What is the theme for Digital India Week 2022?

- A. Transforming India into a Digital Society
- B. Catalyzing New India's Techade
- C. India and the Digital Economy
- D. None of the above

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 04 July 2022.
- 'Catalyzing New India's Techade' is the theme for Digital India Week 2022.
- On this occasion, PM also launched 'Digital India Bhashini'. It will enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages.
- PM also launched 'Digital India GENESIS' Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups. It is a

India leading the world in digital revolution: PM

At Digital India Week, Modi launches multiple portals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India was leading the world in the digital revolution as the government's use of digital technology in welfare and governance delivery is changing the lives of the people of the country.

Mr. Modi launched multiple digital portals at the ongoing Digital India Week 2022, including a single sign-in portal *Meri Pehchaan*, Digital India *Bhashini*, Digital India Genesis, and a Chips to Startup (C2S) programme at an event at Gandhinagar.

"Around 10 years ago, we had to stand in queues for everything from getting a birth certificate, pay bills or getting rations from a shop to getting an admission in a school or college. Now, we have eliminated all lines while going online," he said in his speech after opening the Digital Week, 2022.

"The government's Digital India programme has gi-



Narendra Modi

ven relief to the poor from corruption and it is working for elimination of middlemen in all fields," he said, adding that the digital technology in the welfare services and schemes have brought in transparency in the system.

Since 2014, more than ₹23 lakh crore has been transferred to beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer, or DBT.

With the digitisation of welfare delivery, around ₹2.23 lakh crore could be saved from going into wrong hands or middlemen, Mr. Modi said.

He emphasised the need to adopt technology or else remain backward as happened during the third Industrial Revolution when the country remained far behind other nations.

During his speech, he mentioned digital platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, Co-WIN and Digilocker that have contributed to "ease of living" as citizens get services online without going to the government offices and approaching middlemen.

"All programmes launched in Gandhinagar are going to strengthen ease-of-doing business and ease of living. They will give a fillip to India's start-up ecosystem. India can proudly claim that it is not just part of the Industry 4.0 Revolution but is actually leading it," Mr. Modi said after inaugurating numerous digital portals for various services.

He added that the government had launched a project of digital mapping of rural properties using drones and other such devices.

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National Deep-tech Startup Platform for making successful startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities of India.

- The Prime Minister was dedicated to the citizens 'MyScheme' and 'Meri Pehchaan'.
- 'MyScheme' is a service discovery platform. It facilitates access to Government Schemes.
- It aims to offer a one-stop search and discovery portal where users can find schemes that they are eligible for.
- 'Meri Pehchaan' is National Single Sign-On for One Citizen Login. National Single Sign-On is a user authentication service.

15. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated which edition of **GST Day celebrations on 01 July 2022 in New Delhi?**

- A. 5th
- B. 6th
- C. 7th
- D. 8th
- E. None of the above

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated celebrations of the 5th GST Day on 01 July 2022 in New Delhi.
- A booklet, GST@5 was also released during the event.
- GST Day commemorates the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- GST replaced the old indirect tax regime. It was launched on the intervening night of 30th June and 1st July 2017.
- It was launched with the idea of One Nation- One Market- One Tax. It is an indirect consumption-based tax system.
- GST was brought to bring uniformity of tax rates, remove the cascading of taxes, improve competitiveness, and for facilitating manufacturers and exporters.

16. Recently _____ launched "Mission Kushal Karmi" for upskilling the construction workers in the state/UT.

- A. Delhi

Delhi govt launches programme to upskill construction workers

Sweta Goswami

sweta.goswami@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Wednesday launched the 'Mission Kushal Karmi' programme under which labourers registered with the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board will be offered a skill development training course. The government will also provide a sum of at least ₹4,200 to each worker who takes the course to compensate for the loss of work during the 15-day programme.

The programme was launched by deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who explained that workers will undergo upskilling that will help boost their income. Under the programme, workers will be trained for 120-hours in their workplace-like environment, he added.

"This will help in increasing the income of workers up to ₹8,000. The government aims to train 200,000 workers in a year under the programme. Construction companies will also benefit from these skilled workers. The programme will be conducted by the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) along with Simplex, NAREDCO and India Vision Foundation," Sisodia said.

A senior official aware of the programme details said DESU is running training centres at three places currently and more centres will be added in the coming



People are asked to pay a fee to learn something. But CM Arvind Kejriwal's govt is paying workers to learn new skills.

MANISH SISODIA, deputy CM

days. "This course is expected to increase productivity of workers by 40%. It is expected to increase the quality of product produced by 25% and wastage of materials may decrease by 50%. It will also help improve domain skills and soft skills, thereby making the worker more proficient and confident. Standard safety norms will also be taught in detail, thereby increasing the longevity of work and social security," the official said asking not to be named.

Sisodia said: "People are bound to pay a fee to learn something, but chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's government is giving money to construction workers to learn new skills. It usually happens that people have to go to some institute to take training, but this is the first time in the country that a university will provide training to workers at their place of work."

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- B. Ladakh
- C. Jammu & Kashmir
- D. Haryana
- E. None of the above

- The Delhi government launched "Mission Kushal Karmi" for upskilling the construction workers in the city in collaboration with Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.
- This will help in increasing the income of workers up to Rs 8,000. The government aims to train 2 lakh workers in a year under this program. Construction companies will also benefit from these skilled workers.
- All the construction workers will be provided with Rs 4200 each.

17. Which of the following will host India's biggest shopping festival in 2023?

- A. Delhi
- B. Ladakh
- C. Jammu & Kashmir
- D. Haryana
- E. None of the above

- Delhi government will host a 30-day 'Delhi Shopping Festival' in the national capital next year.
- The festival, the biggest in India, will be organized from January 28 and February 26, the chief minister said in what he called a "big and an important" announcement for the people of Delhi.
- The festival will be held in iconic markets of Delhi to promote business growth, create jobs, and make these markets more popular and it will help give a major boost to Delhi's economy.

City to host 'India's biggest shopping festival'

Delhi Shopping Festival to be held in Feb. 2023; CM says it will generate thousands of jobs, boost tourism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital will host a month long shopping festival between January 28 and February 26 next year, the Delhi government announced on Wednesday.

Delhi Shopping Festival, which the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said will be India's biggest shopping festival, aims to attract people from across the world, boost local tourism and generate employment for the city's residents.

Global ambitions

In a video statement on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the government plans to make next year's event the biggest shopping festival in the world over the coming years.

"I invite people from the entire country and the world to book their tickets to visit Delhi for the festival, which will be a unique opportunity to buy quality products, and



All markets and malls of Delhi will be decorated and products will be available at 'unmatched discounts' during the festival.

experience the culture and tradition of the city," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that all the markets, shops and malls of Delhi will be decorated and that products will be available at unmatched discounts during the festival.

The Chief Minister said there will be exhibitions on spirituality, gaming, technology and health, while artists from across the country and

the world will perform in over 200 entertainment programmes during the month-long event.

He added that food would also be a major attraction at the festival, with special food walks being planned throughout the month.

"The festival will bring together Delhi's residents, corporates, businessmen and the government, as partners. We are in talks with hotels,

travel agents and airlines to provide comfortable travel and lodging arrangements for people travelling from outside to Delhi. Special packages will be offered to them," the Chief Minister said.

Jobs bonanza

The Chief Minister in his statement said the shopping festival will provide thousands of jobs to Delhi's residents. "Most importantly, the festival will create thousands of jobs. We have made employment generation our priority, which is reflected in our budget and in every speech and interview I've given," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The Delhi government will divide the city into north, south, east, west and central zones, which will host different components of the shopping festival during the month. It will identify 15 iconic markets and 10 malls across all zones to host the festival.

The government also plans

to expand this festival to neighbourhood markets from the second year onwards.

The Kejriwal government had announced hosting the shopping festival in its Rozgar Budget, with an outlay of ₹250 crore.

The government said that the opening and closing ceremonies will host 20,000 people each along with millions of online visitors. The big attraction at these ceremonies will be performances by noted musicians, film personalities, comedians and dance groups. The government said that the closing ceremony will showcase a colourful display of Delhi's culture.

The government officials also said that a large-scale beautification campaign of the city will be undertaken before the festival, with street art, environment friendly installations, and lighting of select parks, monuments, flyovers, buildings, metro and railway stations, airport, ISBT, schools and colleges.

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18. Consider the following statement regarding the 1st edition of the State Ranking Index for NFSA.

1. Odisha has been adjudged the top-ranked State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at third amongst the General Category States
2. Among the Special Category States/UTs, Tripura stood first followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively.
3. The Index for ranking the states and UTs is built on three key pillars i) NFSA— Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, ii) Delivery platform, and iii) Nutrition initiatives.

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 the above

Odisha figures among top states in implementing NFSA: govt report

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 5

THE CENTRE has ranked Odisha first and Goa last among 20 'general category' states and Union Territories in implementing the National Food Security Act, 2013, the first time such a ranking has been done.

The 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' report, prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, was unveiled by Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal during a conference of state Food Ministers on food and nutrition security on Tuesday.

The index is the first of its kind and is based on the states' and UTs' performance in the implementation of the NFSA. They are ranked under three groups – general category, special category and UTs operating in DBT (cash transfer) mode to provide subsidised food grains under the NFSA.

The states and UTs have been ranked on their performance on

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

How 'general category' states ranked in terms of NFSA implementation

TOP THREE

Rank	State	Index score
1	Odisha	0.836
2	Uttar Pradesh	0.797
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.794

BOTTOM THREE

18	Delhi	0.658
19	Chhattisgarh	0.654
20	Goa	0.631

three parameters for the year 2022. The first measures "coverage of NFSA, rightful targeting, and implementation of all provisions under NFSA" and the second "analyzes the delivery platform while considering the allocation of foodgrains, their movement, and last-mile delivery to Fair Price Shops (FPS)". The third "focuses on nutrition ini-

tiatives of the department".

"Overall, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh scored the highest and secured the top three positions in the Index. The states performed very well on all the parameters and indicators governing the implementation of NFSA through TPDS (targeted public distribution system)," says the report.

ODISHA BEST IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Ranking of states/ UTs on implementation of National Food Security Act

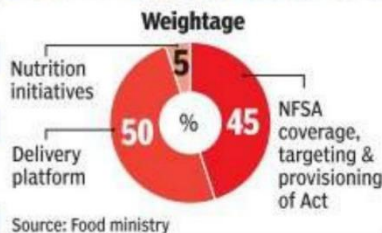
Top 5

- 1 Odisha
- 2 Uttar Pradesh
- 3 Andhra Pradesh
- 4 Gujarat
- 5 Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu



Bottom 5

- 34 Ladakh
- 33 Meghalaya
- 32 Manipur
- 31 Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 30 Jammu & Kashmir



- Odisha has been adjudged the top-ranked State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at third amongst the General Category States in 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'.
- Among the Special Category States/UTs, Tripura stood first followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively.
- Further, among the 3 UTs where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)- Cash is operational, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman, and Diu are the top-ranked UT.

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- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal released the 1st edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' during the conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India' organized by Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- The present Index is largely focused on NFSA Distribution and will include procurement and PMGKAY Distribution in the future.
- The Index for ranking the states and UTs is built on three key pillars which cover the end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS.
- These pillars are: i) NFSA— Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, ii) Delivery platform, and iii) Nutrition initiatives.

19. How many states are listed as top achievers in the recently released assessment report of States/UTs based on the implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2020?

- A. Six
- B. Seven
- C. Ten
- D. Eleven
- E. None of the above

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released an assessment report of States/UTs based on the implementation of BRAP 2020.
- In the report, seven states are listed as top achievers in the best performers category.
- These states are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, and Punjab.
- This year, the report classifies states/UTs into four categories. These categories are Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers, and Emerging Business Ecosystems.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been releasing BRAP since 2014.

AP, Gujarat, TN among Top 7 in ease-of-doing business reforms



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman releasing the BRAP 2020 report in New Delhi, on Thursday, as Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal looks on. KAMAL NARANG

Delhi, Bihar, J&K, Tripura among laggards, says BRAP 2020 report

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, June 30
Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana were adjudged the top achievers in implementing the Business Reform Action Plan.

The BRAP 2020 report, which was released by the Centre on Thursday, ranks States and Union Territories on the basis of ease-of-doing business parameters.

The seven top-ranked States scored more than 90 per cent in a feedback-based assessment by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), covering 301 reform action points.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the report at an event attended by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain, government officials and industry representatives. The assessment has evolved from evidence-based to 100 per

cent feedback in a multi-lingual format, Goyal said.

Learning culture

"The purpose of this BRAP exercise is to infuse a culture of learning from each other's best practices and improve upon the business climate in each State/UT with a unified objective for India to emerge as the most favoured investment destination across the globe," he added.

The States that scored between 80 per cent and 90 per cent to be ranked as achievers included Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal scored between 50 per cent and 80 per cent and were ranked as emerging business ecosystems.

Reform points

Delhi, Bihar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, Tripura and all the other UTs scored less than 50 per cent and were marked as

emerging business ecosystems.

Feedback could not be obtained for Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Ladakh due to insufficient user data. Significantly, in the latest assessment, the government replaced a simple ranking of individual States with a system of ranking a band of States in the same range of reform points cover 15 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single-window system, labour, environment and sectoral reforms.

Sectoral reforms were introduced in the ranking for the first time, with 72 reforms identified across nine sectors, including trade licence, healthcare, legal metrology, cinema halls, hospitality, fire NOC (no-objection certificate), telecom, movie shooting and tourism.

DPIIT has released five editions of BRAP since 2014. In BRAP 2019, released in September 2020, Andhra Pradesh topped the charts, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Tripura, Sikkim and Odisha were the laggards.

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- So far 4 editions of the assessment of States/UTs have been released. The latest edition is the assessment of BRAP 2020.
- About Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2020:
- It includes 301 reform points. They cover 15 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, Sectoral Reforms, and other reforms.
- Sectoral reforms have been introduced in BRAP 2020 with 72 reforms across 9 key sectors.
- **Top Achievers category**
- 7 states (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, and Punjab)
- **Achievers category**
- 6 states (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh)
- **Aspirers category**
- 7 States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, and West Bengal)
- **Emerging Business Ecosystems category**
- 11 states and UTs (Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Tripura)

Andhra, Gujarat among 'top achievers' in ease of doing business

5/22



Top achievers*	Achievers*
(States with scores above 90% in BRAP 2020)	(States with scores between 80% and 90%, in 2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Andhra Pradesh ■ Gujarat ■ Haryana ■ Karnataka ■ Punjab ■ Tamil Nadu ■ Telangana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Himachal Pradesh ■ Madhya Pradesh ■ Maharashtra ■ Odisha ■ Uttarakhand ■ Uttar Pradesh

*In alphabetical order, doesn't reflect any particular ranking
BRAP: Business Reforms Action Plan; Source: DPIIT

20. Consider the following statement regarding **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)**

1. The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** announced that **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** will be a part of the **Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT)** scheme.
2. It was launched on **August 19, 2016**, to promote apprenticeship training in the country and to provide financial support to establishments undertaking an apprenticeship.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

MSDE launches DBT scheme to extend direct monetary support to apprentices

Posted On: 02 JUL 2022 5:54PM by PIB Delhi

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The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) today announced that National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will be a part of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme, providing direct government benefits to all apprentices. Earlier companies used to pay apprentices the entire amount and then seek reimbursement from the government. With the launch of the DBT scheme, the government will directly transfer its contribution to bank accounts of apprentices through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs. 1500/- per month.

Lauding the initiative, Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, said that apprenticeship is getting a big

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

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

- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) today announced that National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will be a part of the Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme.**
- **With the launch of the DBT scheme, the government will directly transfer its contribution to the bank accounts of apprentices through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), with 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs. 1500/- per month.**
- **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched on August 19, 2016, to promote apprenticeship training in the country and to provide financial support to establishments undertaking an apprenticeship. The program aims to motivate employers to hire apprentices and aid them in discovering the right job roles while maximizing their potential through in-depth skill development.**

21. Recently how many states signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons.

- A. 5
B. 6
C. 4
D. 3
E. None of the above

Six Indian States sign Declaration of Intent to combat human trafficking



Abhinav Deshpande

HYDERABAD JULY 02, 2022 13:37 IST
UPDATED: JULY 02, 2022 14:56 IST

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Women and Child welfare representatives from six Indian States sign an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat human trafficking. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

The first of its kind agreement focusses on joint efforts on intelligence gathering and sharing; legal and witness protection; and rehabilitation and care for survivors.

2

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Women and Child welfare representatives from six Indian States – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana – signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons.

The first of its kind agreement focusses on joint efforts on intelligence gathering and sharing; legal and witness protection; and rehabilitation and care for survivors. The declaration concluded the two-day Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking, which was hosted by Telangana government in collaboration with non-profits Prajwala and Shakti Vahini. The U.S. Consulates General in Hyderabad and Kolkata supported the conference.

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- *Women and Child welfare representatives from six Indian states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana — signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons.*
 - *The first-of-its-kind agreement focuses on joint efforts on intelligence gathering and sharing; legal and witness protection; and rehabilitation and care for survivors.*
 - *The declaration concluded the two-day Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking, which was hosted by the Telangana government in collaboration with non-profits Prajwala and Shakti Vahini. The U. S. Consulates General in Hyderabad and Kolkata supported the conference.*
 - *The Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking took place on July 1 and July 2.*
 - *The U. S. government partnered with State governments to organize a series of consultations to bring together State-level stakeholders, including government Departments, legal services, law enforcement, and child protection.*
22. Recently **CBSE Board** launched a portal named _____ to connect students, school regional offices and CBSE board headquarters to integrate examination-related processes.
- A. Pariksha Dost
 - B. Pariksha Sangam**
 - C. Pariksha Mitra
 - D. Pariksha Saathi
 - E. None of the above
- *CBSE Board launched a portal named ‘Pariksha Sangam’ on 3 July to connect students, school regional offices, and CBSE board headquarters to integrate examination-related processes. A single window will from now be available for board examination results, sample papers, and other details.*
 - *CBSE’s pariksha Sangam portal can be accessed at ‘parikshasangam.cbse.gov.in’. The portal is divided into three parts, namely- Schools (Ganga), Regional Offices (Yamuna), and Head Office (Saraswati).*
 - *The ‘School section’ contains all tools that will improve ease in services concerning pre-exam, exam, and post-exam activities. Students can find exam reference material like circulars, curriculum, sample papers, and question banks from here.*
 - *The ‘School section’ contains all tools that will improve ease in services concerning pre-exam, exam, and post-exam activities. Students can find exam reference material like circulars, curriculum,*

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sample papers, and question banks from here.

T-Hub 2.0, world’s biggest innovation campus, inaugurated in Telangana

5.82 lakh sq ft facility to support 20,000 start-ups in the next five years

KV KURMANATH

Hyderabad, June 28

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has inaugurated T-Hub 2.0, the world’s biggest innovation campus, with an aim “to incubate the next generation of start-ups” that could become strong pillars of the country’s economy.

“Young India is an aspirational India. It wants to be challenged and seeks to compete globally. Our government recognised this aspirational India early on and wanted to put young India on the global map,” he said.

The Chief Minister later felicitated 21 unicorns with an aggregate valuation of



Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurating the World’s largest innovation campus in Hyderabad SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

\$50 billion. T-Hub Chief Executive Officer M Srinivas Rao said that the organisation targeted to support over 20,000 start-ups in the next five years.

“We will focus on verticals such as electric vehicles, mobility, healthtech, enterprise tech, gaming and artificial intelligence,” he said.

He said T-Hub will be replicating the hubs in Odisha and a few other States.

“The new phase of T-Hub will have an enhanced focus on internationalisation and capacity building with new foreign partnerships with countries like Bangladesh and Uzbekistan,” he said.

Located at the IT hub of Raidurg, the T-shaped structure has a built space of 5.82 lakh sq ft. It will house all the innovation ecosystem players, including start-ups, corporates, investors and academia.

Biggest campus

With a capacity of 1,000 seats, the hub allocates 18,000 sq ft for the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and AIC T-Hub Foundation.

The seventh floor is assigned to the Department of Science and Technology’s (DST) Centre of Excellence to promote artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

The eighth and ninth floors are proposed for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project, along with social impact start-ups and young entrepreneurs (Y-Hub).

23. The world’s largest innovation center “T-Hub 2.0” has been inaugurated in which city?
- Pune
 - Guwahati
 - Hyderabad
 - Mumbai
 - None of the above

- Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao inaugurated the world’s largest innovation center in Hyderabad.
- T-Hub 2.0, the world’s largest innovation center, has been inaugurated to incubate the next generation of startups.
- It is phase 2 of the T-Hub, which will support 2,000 startups in a total built-up area of 5,82,689 square feet.
- T-Hub will help young Indians to launch their startups with a collaborative innovation ecosystem.
- Telangana’s startup ecosystem is among the top10 global ecosystem in affordable talent and it is in the top 15 in Asia in terms of attracting funds.
- Hyderabad-based startups are providing valuable contributions in IT, life sciences, aerospace, etc.

24. Which of the following statements is correct about the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme?
- It is an Asian Development Bank-supported central sector scheme.
 - It will help the MSME sector in becoming more resilient, competitive, and efficient.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2

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

- **PM Narendra Modi addressed Udyami Bharat Programme in New Delhi.**
- **PM Narendra Modi also launched several schemes and programs and distributed National MSME Awards.**
- **He launched the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme and Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters Scheme and the new features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP).**
- **He announced the results of the MSME Idea Hackathon 2022 and distribute National MSME Awards 2022.**
- **He also issued Digital Equity Certificates to 75 MSMEs in Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund.**
- **The government had launched several initiatives for MSMEs like MUDRA Yojana, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), etc.**
- **MSMEs' share in India's exports is around 48 percent over the last few years. MSMEs contribute around one-third to India's GDP.**
- **Note:**
- **The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program is a World Bank-supported central sector scheme. It will help the MSME sector in becoming more resilient, competitive, and efficient.**
- **'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme has been launched to improve the quality of MSME products at par with international standards.**

PM launches scheme to strengthen MSME sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 New Delhi, June 30

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Thursday said his government is taking measures to help small businesses increase exports and is framing new policies that will help the sector realise its potential.

Launching several key initiatives for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the 'Udyami Bharat' programme, the Prime Minister emphasised that it is important for India's MSME sector to be strong for increasing India's exports and for India's products to reach new markets.

"Our government is taking decisions and making new policies keeping in mind your ability and the immense potential of this sector," he added.

He said that the initiatives launched and other measures



PM Modi during the Udyami Bharat programme organised by the MSME Ministry in New Delhi

undertaken by the government are linked with the quality and promotion of MSMEs.

Modi launched key initiatives like 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme, 'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme and new features of the 'Prime Min-

ister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP) to ramp up the MSME sector.

He also digitally transferred assistance to beneficiaries of PMEGP for 2022-23, announced results of the MSME Idea Hackathon, 2022, distributed National MSME Awards, 2022, and issued Digital Equity Certificates to 75 MSMEs in the Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund.

Modi said that the government is taking measures to help MSME in increasing exports. The Indian Mission abroad has been told to work on this.

Addressing the event, Modi said that the Missions are being evaluated on three parameters i.e. trade, technology and tourism. He observed that difficulty in getting loans without guarantees was a major obstacle for the vulnerable sections of the society to pursue the path of entrepreneurship.

25. Consider the following statement regarding **Alluri Sitarama Raju**.

1. PM Modi recently unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
2. This was launched to kick off the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1

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

- **PM Modi recently unveiled a 30-foot bronze statue of revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh (AP).**
- **This was launched to kick off the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju.**
- **Noting its confluence with events such as the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the 100th anniversary of the Rampa Rebellion, the PM referred to AP as the land of warriors.**
- **The state has produced great patriots such as Pingali Venkaiah, Kanneganti Hanumanthu, Kandukuri Veeresalingam, and Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy.**
- **He is believed to have been born in present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897-98.**
- **At a very young age, Raju channeled the discontent of the hill people in Ganjam, Visakhapatnam, and the Godavari into a highly effective guerrilla resistance against the British.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi said an Alluri Dhyana Mandir would be constructed at Mogallu, the birthplace of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Jagan Mohan Reddy said in Andhra Pradesh one district was named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, ASR District, during the reorganization of districts.**

‘Dhyana Mandir to be built at Alluri birthplace’

PM attends his 125th birth anniversary fete

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS BHIMAVARAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said an Alluri Dhyana Mandir would be constructed at Mogallu, the birthplace of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Modi, along with Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy, kick-started the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebrations of *Manyam Veerudu* Alluri Sitarama Raju, here.

The Prime Minister virtually unveiled the 30-foot bronze statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at ASR Nagar.



Narendra Modi paying respects to an elderly person at an event in Bhimavaram on Monday. •PTI

Addressing a meeting at Chinna Amaram village in Kalla Mandal, Mr. Modi recalled the services of Alluri and other tribal leaders who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. The sacrifices of the great leaders would be taken door-to-door. “We are celebrating the 125th Jayanthi celebrations of Sitarama Raju as part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. I am fortunate to attend the

celebrations along with his family members,” he said.

Mr. Modi felicitated Alluri Srirama Raju, great-grandson of Alluri Sitarama Raju, and Bodi Dora, great-grandson of Mallu Dora, who participated in the freedom struggle in the forests.

There was a huge applause from the public when Mr. Modi said in Telugu, *Manyam Veerudu Alluri. Maa nayakudu Alluri Sitarama*

Raju. Telugu veera levara, deeksha booni saagara. Maha nayakudu puttina yee nelameeda kalusu kovatam adrushtam.

“We are celebrating the 100 years of the Rampa rebellion which will be observed across the country. The memorials of Alluri will be constructed at Pandrangi and Chintapalli villages,” the Prime Minister said.

Recalling the sacrifices of Potti Sriramulu, Pingali Venkaiah, Kanneganti Hanumanthu, Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu and Vuyyalawada Narasimha Reddy, Mr. Modi exhorted the youth to join hands and come forward to fulfil the dreams of the freedom fighters.

Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said in Andhra Pradesh one district was named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, ASR District, during the reorganization of districts.

26. Consider the following statement regarding the **Odisha government budget for the financial year 2022-23**.
1. Odisha Finance Minister **Niranjan Pujari presented Rs 2 lakh crore budget for FY23.**
 2. **Rs 2,664 crore will be spent on the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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D. None of the above

- **Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari presented Rs 2 lakh crore budget for FY23.**
- **The Odisha government tabled the budget for the financial year 2022-23 in the state assembly.**
- **The budget is focused on strengthening infrastructure, developing education, and improving the livelihoods of people.**
- **This year's Budget is around 17.6 percent more than last year's budget.**
- **Rs 1 lakh crore of the total budgetary estimates is the planned expenditure and Rs 38,732 crore has been allocated for the capital outlay.**
- **The proposed expenditure will be financed through revenue receipts of Rs 1,63,967 crore and borrowing and other receipts of Rs 36,033 crore.**
- **For 2022-23, the state's share in central taxes was Rs 36,978 crore. The state government's tax revenue was Rs 46,000 crore and non-tax revenue was Rs 48,200 crore.**
- **The capital spending will increase by more than 56 percent. The government will allocate Rs 2,000 crore for 'Mission Shakti'.**
- **Rs 547 crore has been proposed for the development of rail projects in the state. Rs 2,664 crore will be spent on the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.**
- **Rs 27,324 crore has been allocated to the education and skill development sector.**

Odisha FM presents Rs 2 lakh crore budget for 2022-23

Unique Budget Stabilisation Fund to be set up

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 2 JULY

Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari on Saturday presented the annual budget for 2022-23 in the state Assembly with an outlay of Rs 2,00,000 crore.

The unique feature of the budget was the creation of a Budget Stabilisation Fund, first of its kind in the country, as a mitigation measure to neutralise the risk of price shock of metals on the state budget.

This would help the state to set aside certain surplus revenue for times of unexpected revenue shortfall or budget deficit, he said.

Presenting the budget the Finance Minister said over the last 22 years there has been 17 fold increase in budget size and this year it touched Rs 2,00,000 crore.

The outlay is proposed to be financed mainly through revenue receipts of Rs 1,63,967 crore and borrowing and other receipts of Rs 36,033 crore.

The total revenue receipts for 2022-23 included state's share in central taxes for Rs 36,978 crore, state's own tax

The unique feature of the budget was the creation of a Budget Stabilisation Fund, first of its kind in the country, as a mitigation measure to neutralise the risk of price shock of metals on the state budget.

revenue for Rs 46,000 crore, own non tax revenue for Rs 48,200 crore and grants from centre for Rs 32,789 crore.

Pujari said the programme expenditure has shown a 28 fold increase and capital spending has increased by about 50 times during the same period.

He even projected a growth rate of 8 to 8.5 percent.

Like previous years the budget was presented in two parts—agriculture budget and general budget.

The allocation for the farmers scheme KALIA has increased to Rs 1874 crore while MSME & Startup promotion as well as the industrial sector got 29 per cent more than the previous year at Rs 1269 crore.

The government's flagship Mission Shakti programme was provided with Rs

2000 crore while the MUKTA scheme received Rs 700 crore.

Pujari also made a provision of Rs 50 crore to promote use of Electric Vehicles while Rs 1325 crore was allocated for the ABADHA scheme in Puri.

The total programme expenditure outlay for 2022-23 will be Rs 1,00,000 crore which constitute 50 per cent of the budget size, said the Finance Minister.

Pujari said Rs 32,596 crore has been allocated for development of SC/STs for identified schemes in the programme budget, Rs 27,324 crore for education and skills sector, Rs 21,166 crore for Agriculture and allied sectors. He said revenue surplus is projected at 2.5 per cent of GSDP and the fiscal deficit kept within the prescribed limit of 3 per cent of GSDP.

The capital outlay in 2022-23 is Rs 38,732 crore which is about 5.4 per cent of the GSDP and 56 per cent increase over the previous year.

He proposed to provide Rs 12,624 crore for public health care, Rs 2664 crore for BSKY.

Pujari allocated Rs 27,324 crore for education and skill development.

The Minister said Odisha is fast emerging as the man-

ufacturing hub of eastern India, so far about 5.4 lakh MSMEs have been established with an investment of nearly Rs 25,700 crore generating more than 19 lakh employment.

He said during 2022-23 the government has planned to bring additional 2.80 lakh hectares of agriculture land under irrigation coverage to improve crop production and productivity. CM Naveen Patnaik described the budget as "progressive, pro-poor and development oriented".

The Capital spending will increase by more than 56%, which will foster growth, he said.

Separate Budget for Mission Shakti with allocation of Rs 2000 crore will further deepen our engagement with 70 lakh women of our State, he noted.

The initiative to create a "Budget Stabilization Fund" will help in mitigating any revenue shock in future.

The Budget is in line with our transformational agenda under "5T" and "Mo Sarkar", he stated.

Opposition BJP, Congress and the left parties described the budget as "disappointing and directionless".

27. Where is the [third International Drone Expo](#) organized from 06-07 July 2022?

- A. New Delhi**
- B. Chennai**
- C. Surat**
- D. Bhopal**
- E. None of the above**

- **The third International Drone Expo is being organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**

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- It is being organized from 06-07 July 2022. Nexgen Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd. is its organizer.
- It is a platform to connect with buyers and industry stakeholders.
- It is a display of capabilities, Drone & Anti Drone/UAV and Unmanned Systems for various applications.
- It is supported by the Electronic Security Association of India.
- 2nd International Drone Expo was held on 18-19 August 2021 in New Delhi.

28. Recently Indian Army organized “**SURAKSHA MANTHAN 2022**” on aspects of Border & Coastal Security in _____.

- A. Jaisalmer
- B. Belaghat
- C. Pulwama
- D. Jodhpur**
- E. None of the above

- Indian Army organized “**SURAKSHA MANTHAN 2022**” on aspects of Border & Coastal Security in Jodhpur.
- It was organized by the Desert Corps of the Indian Army.
- It was jointly presided by Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, VS Pathania, and Rakesh Kapoor.
- A joint training calendar was also formulated for interoperability and jointness amongst the security forces.
- It was decided that current security threats and challenges will be added in the forthcoming exercises.
- Interoperability, operational cohesion, and logistics will be the key factor in enhancing the security near International Boundary (IB) and coastal areas.

29. Recently _____ state Forest department launch the ‘Save Chenkurinji’ campaign.

- A. Kerala**
- B. Odisha
- C. Karnataka
- D. Tamil Nadu
- E. None of the above

- Kerala's Forest department to launch the ‘Save Chenkurinji’ campaign. Gluta Travancore, an endemic species of Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is locally known as ‘Chenkurinji’.
- The Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary has got its name from this endemic species.
- This species was present abundant in the southern parts of Aryankavu Pass but now its presence has almost ended in the area.

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- *‘Chenkurinji’ is very sensitive to climate change. At present, it has very low regeneration performance.*
- *Most of the trees of this endemic species are old with poor flowering and fruiting rates.*
- *‘Chenkurinji’ were earlier generally found in the Pandimala, Vilakkumaram, and Rosemala regions.*
- *It has many medicinal benefits like lowering blood pressure and is used in the treatment of arthritis.*
- *The ‘Save Chenkurinji’ campaign will be implemented in the areas under the Achencoil Forest Division.*
- *The government has identified 75 schools where Chenkurinji will be planted with the help of students.*

30. *‘Kharchi Festival’ is mainly celebrated in which of the following states?*

- A. *Himachal Pradesh*
- B. *Goa*
- C. *Andhra Pradesh*
- D. *Tripura*
- E. *None of the above*

- *‘Kharchi Festival’ is one of the most important Hindu festivals in Tripura.*
- *During this festival, fourteen gods and Mother Earth are worshipped.*
- *"Kharchi" word is derived from the word "Khya" which means "Earth". It is mainly observed for the worship of Earth.*
- *It is celebrated for seven days in the temple premises of the fourteen gods.*
- *It is observed to clean the post-menstrual phase of Mother Earth's menstruation. It generally starts in July on the eighth day of the new moon.*

31. *Recently Government launched _____ campaign to celebrate International Coastal Cleanup Day to create awareness about marine litter, minimal use of plastics, segregation at source and waste management.*

- A. *Project Bandhan*
- B. *Project Sagar Manthan*
- C. *Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar*
- D. *Project Sagar*
- E. *None of the above*

- *The government launched the ‘Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar’ campaign to celebrate International Coastal Cleanup Day.*

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- The government with the help of voluntary organizations, and the local society will run a cleanliness campaign "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" along India's entire coastline.
- This 75-day-long campaign was launched on 3rd July 2022.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Indian Coast Guard will also be part of this initiative.
- This campaign will create awareness about marine litter, minimal use of plastics, segregation at source, and waste management.
- It will be the first-of-its-kind longest coastal cleanup campaign in the world. It will convey the message of "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar".
- This coastal cleanup drive will be carried out at 75 beaches and end on "International Coastal Cleanup Day" on 17th September 2022.
- "Eco Mitram" App has been also launched to spread awareness about the campaign and for the voluntary registration for cleaning activities.
- Every year, "International Coastal Clean-Up Day" is celebrated on the third Saturday of September.

32. Consider the following statement regarding India's flora and fauna.

1. India added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258.
2. Of the 540 faunal species, 406 are discoveries and 134 new records to India.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258. The country also added 315 taxa to the Indian flora in 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048.
- Of the 540 faunal species, 406 are discoveries and 134 new records in India. Thirteen new genera were also discovered in 2021. Among the new species discovered are

India adds 540 species to faunal database

New species *Crocidura narcondamica* found in the Andaman and Nicobar islands

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

India added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258. The country also added 315 taxa to the Indian flora during 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048.

Of the 540 faunal species, 406 are new discoveries and 134 new records to India. Thirteen new genera were also discovered in 2021. Among the new species discovered is one species from mammal, 35 reptiles and 19 species of pisces.

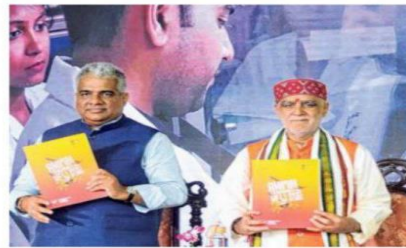
The new mammal species discovered is *Crocidura narcondamica*, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.

Among the reptiles discovered in 2021, notable is *Boiga whitakeri*, or Whitaker's cat snake, from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

The most number of new discoveries was from the faunal group Hymenoptera, an order of insects,

comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, in which 80 species, including one new genus, were discovered.

Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), which observed its 107th foundation day on July 1, said scientists from the ZSI had contributed to 68% of the animal discoveries in



Union Ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Kumar Choubey during an event in Kolkata. •DEBASISH BHADURI

2021. She pointed out that during the COVID-19 pandemic, explorations were greatly hampered, but they have been renewed with full vigour now.

With 1.03 lakh species of fauna, India contributes to 6.1% of faunal diversity in the world.

The 315 taxa of flora added to India consist of 298 species and 17

intraspecific taxa as new to India. Of these, 204 taxa are new to science and 125 taxa are new distributional records from India. "Forty-three per cent

novelties published in various national and international journals are of vascular plants; rest are non-vascular in nature. This volume records 135 angiosperms, four pteridophytes, 9

bryophytes, 28 lichens, 98 fungi, 29 algae and 12 microbes," a note from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) said.

According to the BSI, regions such as the Western Ghats and the northeastern Pradeshs. In 2021, the floral discoveries include wild relatives of many potential horticultural, agricultural, medicinal, and ornamental plants such as begonia, impatiens (Balsams), legumes, zingibers and orchids.

The details of new discoveries and new records of fauna and flora were published by Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change, at the headquarters of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Friday.

Migration of species Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yadav said climate change was no distant reality and science had been very categorical on the issue. The Minister pointed out that as a consequence of climate change, a change in distributional pattern of vegetation, with species in high elevation ecosystem shifting to higher elevation had already been observed.

"Range shift and migration of animals is very much likely; the distribution of fauna needs to be monitored and periodically analysed as a priority study. Long-term studies on faunal elements of forests, aquatic, and marine ecosystems are essential," Mr. Yadav said.

The Minister also pointed out that the geo-spatial data of the ZSI would be of great importance in developing adaptive spatial planning of conservation areas.

"Recent findings of ZSI will be useful in forest management and support the national action plan to combat climate change in India," Mr. Yadav said.

The Minister also pointed out that the significance of taxonomists cannot be neglected but unfortunately the number of taxonomists was declining alarmingly.

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one species of mammal, 35 reptiles, and 19 species of Pisces.

- *The new mammal species discovered is **Crocidura narcondamica**, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.*
- *Among the reptiles discovered in 2021, notable is **Boiga whitakeri**, or Whitaker's cat snake, from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.*
- *The most number of discoveries was from the faunal group Hymenoptera, an order of insects, comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, in which 80 species, including one new genus, were discovered.*
- *With 1.03 lakh species of fauna, India contributes to 6.1% of faunal diversity in the world.*

33. Recently **Maharashtra government has cleared a proposal to rename Aurangabad as _____** .

- A. Dharashiv
- B. Sambhajinagar**
- C. Jiwaji Nagar
- D. Hari Nagar
- E. None of the above

- **Maharashtra government has cleared a proposal to rename Aurangabad as Sambhajinagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv.**
- *The state government has also approved the proposal of the naming upcoming Navi Mumbai international airport after D B Patil.*
- *In 1653, Aurangzeb renamed Fatehnagar as Aurangabad. He shifted his court from Delhi to Aurangabad in 1681 to conduct his military campaigns in the Deccan.*
- **'Sambhajinagar' is kept after Sambhaji Bhosale, the second Chhatrapati of the Maratha Empire.**
- **Osmanabad derives its name from Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of Hyderabad. It is the seventh-largest city in Marathwada.**

Decks cleared for renaming two districts

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the decision to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to Sambhajinagar and Dharashiv, respectively, and passed the proposal to give the name of late farmer leader D.B. Patil to the under construction Navi Mumbai international airport.

Decisions to rename the districts were pending for many years and the Shiv Sena has been demanding the same for years. The Opposition BJP had mocked the Sena in the past questioning when the decision on the same will be taken.

The Congress too moved proposals for renaming. It had demanded renaming of Pune City to Jijaunagar and Sewri-Nhava Sheva trans harbour link to late former CM A.R. Antulay. Congress Minister Sunil Kedar who moved the proposal said that the demand was important and there was in-principle approval to it from the Cabinet.

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34. Consider the following statement regarding the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2022 report.

1. The report said that in India, the number of undernourished people stands at 224.3 million in 2019–21
2. The report is jointly prepared by: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

India's undernourished count dips to 224 mn: UN

YOSHITA SINGH
United Nations, 7 July

The number of undernourished people in India has declined in the last 15 years to 224.3 million in 2019-2021, according to a UN report, which also said that there are more obese adults and anaemic women in the world's second most populous country.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report, issued on Wednesday by UN agencies



Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP) and the

World Health Organisation (WHO), said that the number of people affected by hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million

since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report said in India, the number of undernourished people declined to 224.3 million in 2019–21 from 247.8 million in 2004-06.

It said that the number of children under 5 years of age who are stunted declined to 36.1 million in 2020 from 52.3 million in 2012, the number of children under five years of age who are overweight declined to 2.2 million in 2020 from three

million in 2012.

However, the number of obese adults in India, which has a population of over 1.38 billion, grew to 34.3 million in 2016 from 25.2 million in 2012 and the number of women aged 15 to 49 years affected by anaemia also grew to 187.3 million in 2019 from 171.5 million in 2012.

The report added that the number of children up to 5 months of age exclusively breastfed touched 14 million in 2020 from 11.2 million in 2012. PTI

- The number of undernourished people in India has declined in the last 15 years to 224.3 million in 2019-2021, according to a UN report, which also said that there are more obese adults and anemic women in the world's second-most populous country.
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report, issued by UN agencies Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The number of people affected by hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the pandemic.
- In percentage terms, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population in India stood at 21.6 percent in 2004-06 and declined to 16.3 percent in 2019-21, and the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age declined to 30.9 percent in 2020 from 41.7 percent in 2012 and the prevalence of overweight children under five years of age was 1.9 percent in 2020 from 2.4 percent in 2012.

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35. Recently _____ state government has received an in-principle nod from the Centre to go ahead with a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crores) school education project the State is negotiating with the World Bank.

- A. Punjab
- B. Chhattisgarh**
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bihar
- E. None of the above

- The Chhattisgarh government has received an in-principle nod from the Centre to go ahead with a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crores) school education project the State is negotiating with the World Bank.
- If it goes through, the initiative will allow the Chhattisgarh government to borrow \$300 million over five years at significantly lower than market rates, and repay it over 20 years.
- An in-principle nod means that the Centre has no objection to the State borrowing money from an external financial institution such as the World Bank. This is not the final approval but it paves the way for the State to proceed with subsequent discussions.
- The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994, according to its website. One of its more recent projects, inked in 2021, is the \$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian States. That list, however, does not include Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh gets nod for school project funded by World Bank

Centre gives in-principle approval for \$300 million borrowing over five years

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has received an in-principle nod from the Centre to go ahead with a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crore) school education project the State is negotiating with the World Bank.

Confirming this, Principal Secretary (Planning, Economics and Statistics, Implementation of 20pts. Programme, Science and Technology) Alok Shukla said on Thursday that the Department of Economic Affairs under the Union Finance Ministry had given an in-principle approval for the project. "A team of the World Bank is visiting Chhattisgarh later this month for the first stage of discussion," Mr. Shukla added.

The proposal, discussions on which started two months ago, was sent to the Centre after the State Finance De-



The bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994, according to its website. • FILE PHOTO

partment cleared it, Mr. Shukla said. If it goes through, the initiative will allow the Chhattisgarh government to borrow \$300 million over a period of five years at significantly lower than market rates, and repay it over a period of 20 years. The pooled resources will be a shot in the arm for the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government, which has education as one of its key planks.

An in-principle nod means

that the Centre has no objection to the State borrowing money from an external financial institution such as the World Bank. This is not the final approval but it paves the way for the State to proceed with subsequent discussions. Similarly, the World Bank has also in-principle approved that it's willing to fund the project.

"This will be followed by a World Bank team's visit to Chhattisgarh. The team is

scheduled to arrive later this month. Then we will prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) with the Centre and the World Bank, which will be put up before the World Bank Board and the Centre for a final approval. We are hopeful that all the clearances will be received by the end of this year," Mr. Shukla said.

The DPR will also have a detailed plan on how the money will be spent.

The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994, according to its website. One of its more recent projects, inked in 2021, is the \$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian States. That list, however, does not include Chhattisgarh.

36. Recently Dr. Jitendra Singh announces the setting up of the _____ award in public administration in the field of academic excellence.

- A. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award**
- B. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Memorial Award
- C. Veer Sawarkar Memorial Award

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- D. Subhash Chandra Bose Memorial Award
- E. None of the above

- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday announced the setting up of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration for academic excellence, in memory of the first President of India.**
- **He was presiding over the 320th meeting of the executive council of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).**
- **The institute has to have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. IIPA has the capacity and it needs to continue performing by having an enlarged pool of experts and a wide spectrum of activities.**

Dr. Jitendra Singh announces setting up of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration in the field of academic excellence

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, receiving the ISO 9001:2015 certification by Indian Institute of Public Administration, speaks volume of the excellent work being done by the premier training institution of the Government of India

Dr. Jitendra Singh chairs meeting of Executive Council of IIPA in New Delhi

IIPA should have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to create a New India

37. Recently Union government announced to launch of a new scheme _____ to provide affordable medical care to the elderly at the doorstep.

- A. PM Shree
- B. PM Special
- C. PM Aayush
- D. PM Kalyan
- E. None of the above

- **The Union government is set to launch a new scheme 'PM Special' to provide affordable medical care to the elderly at the doorstep.**
- **The Centre is planning to train 100,000 geriatric caregivers over the next three years as part of the scheme. Geriatric care is the area of medicine that is focused on the health care of elderly people.**
- **While the Union ministry of social justice and development is likely to start the training program within a week, the online portal through which the facility will be available for the general public will be launched in September.**
- **Anybody who has completed education till Class 12 will be able to apply for training under the scheme.**

GOVT PLANS 'PM SPECIAL' SCHEME FOR MEDICAL CARE OF ELDERLY

Fareeha Iftikhar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Union government is set to launch a new scheme 'PM Special' to provide affordable medical care to elderly at the doorstep, people familiar with the development said. The Centre is planning to train 100,000 geriatric care-givers over the next three years as part of the scheme.

Geriatric care is focused on health care of elderly people.

While the Union ministry of social justice and development is likely to start the training programme within a week, the online portal through which the facility will be available for the general public will be launched in September, officials in the ministry said.

"The requirements of the geriatric professionals have not been properly met so far. Either there are not adequately trained persons or professionally trained persons. And due to this, people who require attention are not in safe hands," said R Subrahmanyan, secretary, ministry of social justice and development.

"Besides, the service has also become costly. Here, we will lay down certain standards in terms of quality of training and charges will also be affordable." Anybody who has completed education till Class 12 can apply for training under the scheme, the secretary said. "At least 10,000 people from SC, ST, and other marginalised communities will be trained free of cost," he said.

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38. **'Naari Ko Naman' scheme has been launched by which state government?**

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of the above

Himachal CM launches 'Naari Ko Naman' scheme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 30 JUNE

Ahead of the assembly polls the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday launched 'Nari Ko Naman' scheme to provide 50 percent concession to the women passengers in the bus fare in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses.

The women passengers will be provided concession only in HRTC buses plying within the state.

Launching the scheme at a state-level function held at Dharamshala in Kangra district on Thursday, he said that this concession on bus fares to women is not a political move, rather it is a small step towards our resolve to strengthen women power, he added.

He also announced reducing the minimum fare in HRTC buses from the existing Rs. 7 to Rs. 5, filling up of



25 posts of women drivers for 'Ride with Pride' Taxis of HRTC. He also announced filling up of 265 posts of motor mechanics, electricians and other categories in HRTC and stated that the matter of providing additional funds of Rs. 30 crore for HRTC would be taken up with the Finance

Department.

Thakur said, "This scheme would prove helpful in making women self-reliant and would give a new impetus to the progress of the women of the state. The state government would spend about Rs. 60 crore annually on the scheme since as per an esti-

The scheme will provide 50 percent concession to the women passengers in the bus fare in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses.

mate as many as 1.25 lakh women, travel in the HRTC buses daily."

He said that the scheme would also give momentum to the initiative of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao' campaign as girl students of schools and colleges, who commute daily by buses would be immensely benefitted.

The Chief Minister said that women constitute fifty percent of our total population and one cannot even imagine development without the active participation and overall development of the women. He said that it was

unfortunate that a young opposition MLA immediately after this historic decision went live on social media and alleged that the present state government was making the people of the state habitual of freebees.

The people of the state would give a befitting reply to these leaders in the coming elections, he added.

Earlier, the Chief Minister provided concessional tickets and flowers to the women commuters and flagged off the HRTC buses from the bus stand Dharamshala.

CM also honoured women HRTC Driver Seema Thakur and also provided employment letters to two beneficiaries on compassionate ground on the occasion. Chief Minister also interacted with women commuters of Mandi, Sirmour, Una, Chamba, Hamirpur, Shimla, Lahaul Spiti, Solan, Bilaspur, Kinnaur and Kullu districts virtually on the occasion.

- **'Naari Ko Naman' scheme has been launched by Himachal CM.**
- **Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) will now charge only half the fare for women traveling within the state.**
- **Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, while launching the Nari Ko Naman Yojana at the Government College Auditorium, also released concessional tickets to women.**
- **On Himachal Diwas (15 April), the Chief Minister announced a 50% discount on bus fares for women.**
- **In another scheme, the minimum bus fare from Rs 7 to Rs 5 has also been reduced for all passengers across the state.**
- **The government will also approve 25 new posts of women drivers in the government taxi service 'Ride with Pride', an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens.**

39. Recently To celebrate the 75th year of independence, the Navy has proposed to develop and induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products in the coming year under the _____ Project.

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- A. Project Bandhan
- B. Project Surya
- C. Project Sprint
- D. Project Narcos
- E. None of the above

- To celebrate the 75th year of independence, the Navy has proposed to develop and induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products in the coming year.
- A collaborative project named Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO, and TDAC (Sprint) has been envisaged and an MoU has been signed between the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) for the purpose
- The Indian Navy, in conjunction with DIO, will unveil the problem statements for Indian industries as part of iDEX (SPRINT) during the NIIO seminar 'Swavlamban 2022' scheduled on July 18 and 19 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.
- The NIIO was launched two years ago to realize Defence Acquisition Policy objectives which envisage the creation of 'Innovation and Indigenisation Organisations (IIOs) within service headquarters (SHQs).

40. Consider the following statement regarding Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG).

1. MAMSG was formed in November 2021 to develop better coordination between different maritime security agencies and ministries of the country.
2. It works directly under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
3. NSA is the Chairperson of NSCS.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

In Atmanirbhar Bharat push, Navy to embrace local tech

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 4

To celebrate the 75th year of independence, the Navy has proposed to develop and induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products in the coming year. A collaborative project named Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC (Sprint) has been envisaged and an MoU has been signed between the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) for the purpose.

The Indian Navy, in conjunction with DIO, will unveil the problem statements for Indian industries as part of iDEX (SPRINT) during the NIIO seminar 'Swavlamban 2022' scheduled on July 18 and 19 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, said Navy officials. The purpose of the seminar is to engage domestic industry and academia, towards achieving self-reliance

in the defence sector. The Navy has accepted the Atmanirbhar Bharat challenge and reinvested over 64 per cent of its capital budget.

The NIIO was launched two years ago to realise Defence Acquisition Policy objectives which envisage creation of 'Innovation and Indigenisation Organisations (IIOs) within service headquarters (SHQs).

Squadron commissioned

Meanwhile, Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 was commissioned into the Navy in the presence of Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, at a ceremony held at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam on Monday. The unit is the first naval squadron on the eastern seaboard operating a newly designed advanced light helicopter (ALH) Mk III (MR).

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E. None of the above

- **National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval participated in the first meeting of the Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG).**
- **Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG)**
- **MAMSG was formed in November 2021 to develop better coordination between different maritime security agencies and ministries of the country.**
- **It works directly under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).**
- **The National Security Council is a three-tiered organization consisting of the Strategic Policy Group (SPG); the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and the National Security Council Secretariat.**
- **The council oversees political, economic, energy, and security issues of strategic concern.**
- **NSA is the Chairperson of NSCS.**
- **In February 2022, G Ashok Kumar was appointed as India's first Coordinator of MAMSG – also known as a national maritime security coordinator.**
- **It has the responsibility of coordinating between all the agencies involved in maritime security and maritime civil issues as well.**
- **He will be the principal advisor to the government in the maritime security domain and will act as a nodal point for all issues related to maritime security.**

NSA: India won't be power it deserves to be without a strong maritime system

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

STATING THAT the Indian Ocean, which has been an "ocean of peace", is now witness to rivalries and competitions, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Thursday said that India needs to protect its interests since the region has the potential to witness clash of interests.

Speaking at the first meeting of the Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG), Doval said security at the high seas and economic wellbeing is inextricably linked and all stakeholders must work unitedly.

"In the changing geopolitical scenario, the Indian Ocean, which has been an ocean of peace, is gradually becoming competitive. We see a potential of having a clash of interest, we need to protect it and be vigilant," he said.

"The trajectory of this nation is well defined. We know where we are going. And when our time comes...we as a nation have to be strong. India will not be able to become the power it deserves to be unless it has a very strong maritime system," Doval said.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar (retd), the country's first

National Maritime Security Coordinator. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar was among the top officials who attended the deliberations.

Top maritime and coastal security officials from all 13 coastal states and Union Territories as well Indian Navy and other central agencies attended the meeting.

"The more we develop, the more assets we create, the more prosperous we get, greater would be the vulnerability and the need for security in the maritime domain," Doval said.

In national security discourse, the importance of land and maritime borders are very different, Doval said. He said one cannot fence the maritime borders, and that disputes in seas are resolved through international norms and laws, while land disputes are bilateral in nature.

The NSA also said that denying accessibility to foreign intelligence agencies looking to undertake espionage activities is a major challenge.

Doval referred to initiatives such as the Colombo security conclave for cooperation among the like-minded countries in the maritime domain and that it could be expanded further.

"Our responsibility as a premier maritime power is extremely important," he said.

41. Dak Karmayogi is an e-learning portal off of the following?

- A. India Post Payment Bank
- B. Department of Posts**
- C. Department of Economic Affairs
- D. NITI Aayog
- E. None of the above

- **'Dak Karmayogi', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts was launched by Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Communications.**

Dak Karmayogi: E-Learning Platform launched by Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav and MoS Shri Devusinh Chauhan today

'Dak Karmayogi' portal to enhance competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks & Departmental employees

Portal to enable trainees to access uniform standardized training content to enable them to effectively deliver a number of G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction

Meghdoot Awards conferred to recognize the good performance of employees of Department of Posts

Posted On: 28 JUN 2022 4:43PM by PIB Delhi

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- This portal has been developed 'In-House' under the vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', which was conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring efficiency in the actions of all the employees of the Government of India and transform the efficiency of bureaucracy with 'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance'.
- 'Dak Karmayogi' portal will enhance the competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks & Departmental employees by enabling the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online or in blended campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver several G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction.
- Department of Posts has been imparting training to its employees through its network of 10 Postal Training Centres/Regional Training Centre and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA), a Central Training Institute.
- To recognize the good performance of employees of the Department of Posts and motivate them to maintain or improve their good work, Meghdoot Awards were also conferred in eight different categories by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways
- Meghdoot Award was introduced in the year 1984. This is the highest award of the Department of Posts at the National level for overall performance and excellence. This award is conferred in eight categories. Awardees are conferred with a medallion, certificate, and a cash award of Rs. 21,000/-.

42. Recently which ministry organized "Hariyali Mahotsav" on 8th July 2022 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi?

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
 - B. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 - C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 - D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - E. None of the above
-
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will organize "Hariyali Mahotsav" on 8th July 2022 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.
 - Hariyali Mahotsav 2022 will be organized in collaboration with the State Governments, Police Institutions, and Schools of Delhi.
 - Hariyali Mahotsav, the "Tree Festival" will be organized to create awareness about the importance of trees.
 - As part of this Mahotsav, plantation drives will be organized with the participation of 75 Nagar Vans throughout the country, 75 Police Stations and 75 Schools in Delhi/NCR, and 75 degraded plantation sites in the different states.
 - The highlight of the event includes a concert by Ricky Kej, a Grammy Award-winning Indian music composer and environmentalist.

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43. Recently Union Minister *Parshottam Rupala* inaugurated the first-ever Animal Health Summit of India in which city?

- A. Jaipur
- B. New Delhi**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Lucknow
- E. None of the above

- Union Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the first-ever Animal Health Summit of India.
- India Animal Health Summit 2022 has been organized at NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- The main aim of the summit was to understand the significance of animal health for food and nutrition security, rural incomes, and overall economic development.
- It has been organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group.
- In this two-day event, various topics such as Animal Health policy initiatives to Business environment & investment opportunities in the Animal Health sector have been discussed.
- Union Minister Parshottam Rupala said that there is a need to strengthen cooperative movement in the livestock sector.

44. Recently Prime Minister *Narendra* inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Agradoot group of newspapers on 6th July 2022. Agradoot newspaper is the newspaper of which of the following state?

- A. Assam**
- B. Nagaland
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram
- E. None of the above

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Agradoot group of newspapers on 6th July 2022.
- Agradoot was started as an Assamese bi-weekly.
- It was established by *Kanak Sen Deka*, a senior journalist of Assam.
- In 1995, Dainik Agradoot, a daily newspaper, was started and it has developed as a trusted and influential voice in Assam.

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45. Recently _____ has been assigned the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, while Union Minister for civil aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has been assigned the charge of the _____.

- A. **Smriti Zubin Irani, Ministry of Steel**
- B. **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of Women and Child Development**
- C. **Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Ministry of Coal**
- D. **Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Minority Affairs**
- E. **None of the above**

- **Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India accepted the resignation of Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh.**
- **Both Naqvi and Singh resigned a day ahead of their Rajya Sabha term's completion.**

Union Ministers Mukhtar Naqvi, R.C.P. Singh quit as RS term ends

PM thanks them for their service; Smriti Irani given charge of Minority Affairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Ministers R.C.P. Singh of the Janata Dal (U) and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of the BJP resigned on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term.

Mr. Singh and Mr. Naqvi have not been renominated by their respective parties, but they were technically entitled to continue for another six months without being an MP.

That option, however, was not exercised by either of them, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in fact, turning Wednesday's Cabinet meeting into a kind of valedictory meeting for the two Ministers, praising their performance and thanking them for their service. Mr. Singh held the Steel portfolio, while Mr. Naqvi was Minister for Minority Affairs.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan



New course: Former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. **AP/PTI**

communicate, while stating that the resignations of the Ministers had been accepted under Clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution, said that Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia would be handling Steel as an additional portfolio, while Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani would be looking after the Ministry of Minority Affairs as an additional charge. Mr.

Naqvi went straight from the Cabinet meeting to the BJP's national headquarters on Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg to meet party chief J.P. Nadda. He also met Mr. Modi in the evening and handed over his resignation.

While it is being said that he may yet return to the Rajya Sabha as Chairperson and Vice-President, government sources said such reports were mere specula-

tion. Mr. Naqvi had been holding the position of Deputy Leader of the Rajya Sabha. The fact that neither Mr. Singh nor Mr. Naqvi got renominated was surprising, with the former's failure to get renominated also revealing an internal tug of war in the Janata Dal(U) and reports of him being seen as closer to the BJP than his own party.

Whatever the case, it made the continuation of Mr. Singh untenable in the Council of Ministers as the BJP and the JD(U) are running a government in Bihar. In fact, Mr. Singh, after sending his resignation by fax to Mr. Modi, met Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan who handles the party affairs in Bihar. A Cabinet expansion may be on the cards, but it is still not certain if the JD(U) would offer another name to be Minister.

Scindia given additional charge of Steel Ministry

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 6

Following the resignation of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, a minor change in the Cabinet happened on Wednesday with the Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, being given additional charge of the Steel Ministry.

Women and Child Welfare Minister Smriti Irani was given the additional charge

of Minority Affairs which was held by Naqvi.

The Rajya Sabha terms of Naqvi and Steel Minister

RCP Singh end tomorrow.

The BJP didn't renominate Naqvi. Singh, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's one-time confidante and No. 2 in the party, failed to get another Rajya Sabha term as his party boss was reportedly not happy with his proximity to senior partner BJP.

There is speculation that Naqvi, 64, will be chosen by the BJP as its candidate for Vice-President.

Naqvi met BJP president JP Nadda before handing in his resignation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, fuelling more speculation.

Scindia tweeted thanking the Prime Minister for handing to him the additional charge of the Steel Ministry.



- **According to a correspondence issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minister of Women and Child Development in the Union Cabinet of India Smriti Zubin Irani has been assigned the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- **Further Union Minister for civil aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has been assigned the charge of the Ministry of Steel.**
- **This is the first time two sitting ministers are out of both Houses of Parliament.**
- **Naqvi, a senior BJP leader, is also the deputy leader of the Rajya Sabha.**

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46. In July 2022, _____ government announced to introduce of the first of its kind in India the Right to Health Bill which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.

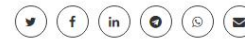
- A. Bihar
- B. Rajasthan**
- C. Odisha
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of the above

- The Rajasthan government is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the Right to Health Bill — the first of its kind in India — which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.
- The Rajasthan government is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the Right to Health Bill — the first of its kind in India — which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.
- The right to health was promised by Congress in its 2018 Assembly election manifesto.
- The right to health bill is part of the Rajasthan government's bid to expand and strengthen medical services in the state. Recently, the chief minister approved Rs 117 crore for the expansion of the facilities in Mahila Chikitsalaya (women's hospital) at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur.
- The state has also ensured the health and security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.

UP becomes first state to integrate ODOP mart with ONDC platform, ACS Navneet Sehgal launches pilot phase

With the onboarding of odopmart.com, the ODOP products will be displayed on all e-commerce portals and apps that are associated with ONDC.

ETGovernment • July 01, 2022, 08:22 IST



Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect One District One Product (ODOP) mart with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of

goods and services over digital or electronic networks. With the onboarding of odopmart.com, the ODOP products will be displayed on all e-commerce portals and apps that are associated with ONDC.

The initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry - ONDC - is gaining increasing traction from the industry and aiming to onboard 30 million sellers and 10 million merchants online, and cover at least 100 cities and towns by August. The UP government has actively started working with ONDC to get all the One District One Product (ODOP) products available on the ONDC network.

47. Recently _____ has become the first state in the country to connect One District One Product (ODOP) mart with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.

- A. Bihar
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh**
- D. Madhya Pradesh
- E. None of the above

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

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

- **Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect One District One Product (ODOP) mart with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.**
- **With the onboarding of odopmart.com, the ODOP products will be displayed on all e-commerce portals and apps that are associated with ONDC.**
- **The initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry - ONDC - is gaining increasing traction from the industry and aims to onboard 30 million sellers and 10 million merchants online, and cover at least 100 cities and towns by August.**
- **The initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry - ONDC - is gaining increasing traction from the industry and aims to onboard 30 million sellers and 10 million merchants online, and cover at least 100 cities and towns by August.**
- **A total of seven companies- one buyer side app, five seller side apps, and one logistics service provider app – have adopted ONDC protocols and built their ONDC compatible apps.**

48. Recently After China and Pakistan voiced their opposition to **India's decision to hold preparatory meetings of the G-20 summit in Jammu and Kashmir the Centre has proposed to hold these meetings in**

- A. Delhi
- B. Ladakh**
- C. Telangana
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above

- **Days after China and Pakistan voiced their opposition to India's decision to hold preparatory meetings of the G-20 summit in Jammu and Kashmir next year, the Centre has proposed to hold these meetings in the Union Territory of Ladakh as well.**
- **Indian and Chinese troops have been involved in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020, and the government's proposal to hold the meetings in the Union Territory is likely to be seen as a snub to China.**
- **India assumes the presidency of the G-20 on December 1 this year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to reach Bali in Indonesia to participate in the G-20 foreign ministers' meeting on July 7 and 8.**

India to hold G-20 meetings in Ladakh

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JULY 6

DAYS AFTER China and Pakistan voiced their opposition to India's decision to hold preparatory meetings of the G-20 summit in Jammu and Kashmir next year, the Centre has proposed to hold these meetings in the Union Territory of Ladakh as well.

Indian and Chinese troops have been involved in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020, and the government's proposal to hold the meetings in the Union Territory is likely to be seen as a snub to China.

India assumes the presidency of the G-20 on December 1 this year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to reach Bali in Indonesia to participate in the G-20 foreign ministers' meeting on July 7 and 8.

Ladakh's Lt Governor R K Mathur has cleared the nominations of Divisional Commissioner Saugat Biswas and Leh-Kargil Range DIG Junaid Mehmood as nodal officers to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, which houses the G-20 secretariat.

The J&K administration had on June 23 constituted a five-

member committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, to coordinate the G-20 meetings that are to be held in the UT.

India's proposal to hold the preparatory meetings of the international grouping in 2023 in J&K had invited sharp reactions from Pakistan, which said that it hoped that members of the grouping would be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and oppose the proposal outright.

China had later voiced its opposition to the Indian government's move, saying "relevant parties should avoid complicating the situation with the unilateral move".

This will be the first major international meet to be held in the former state since August 2019, when J&K was stripped of its special status and divided into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

The G-20 brings together the world's major economies and has as members the US, UK, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey, besides the European Union.

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- Ladakh's Lt Governor R K Mathur has cleared the nominations of Divisional Commissioner Saugat Biswas and Leh-Kargil Range DIG Junaid Mehmood as nodal officers to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, which houses the G-20 secretariat.

49. Consider the following match the following regarding the latest nominations to Rajya Sabha by the government .which is not matched correctly.

- A. PT Usha - Athlete
- B. KM Vijayendra Prasad - Singer**
- C. Ilayraja - music composer
- D. Veerendra Heggade - Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple
- E. None of the above

POLITICAL MESSAGE THROUGH NOMINATIONS?

PT Usha



- > Kerala-born sprinter is one of India's most iconic sportspersons
- > Popularly known as Payyoli Express, she won medals at various international sporting events, including World Junior Invitational Meet, Asian Championships and Asian Games
- > In 1984 Olympics, she missed India's first medal in track and field, coming 4th in women's 400M hurdles and lost bronze by 1/100th of second.
- > Post-retirement, she started the Usha School of Athletics, which offers world-class facilities to talented youngsters.
- > She is a recipient of Arjuna and Padma Shri awards

Ilaiyaraaja



- > Born in a Dalit household in Tamil Nadu, Ilaiyaraaja is regarded as one of India's greatest music composers
- > Ilaiyaraaja had to face innumerable hardships and caste-based discrimination
- > In his five decades-long career, he has composed over 7,000 songs for more than 1,000 movies and performed in more than 20,000 concerts across the globe.
- > In 2018, he received the Padma Vibhushan.

Veerendra Heggade



- > Veerendra Heggade has served as the Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Temple in Karnataka since the tender age of 20.
- > He has led various transformative initiatives for rural development and promotion of self-employment.
- > He established Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RDSETI) to provide awareness on self-employment opportunities and train rural youth
- > He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2015

KV Vijayendra Prasad



- > Born in Kovvur in Andhra Pradesh, KV Vijayendra Prasad is one of the country's leading screenwriters and film directors. He has written for the story for many Telugu and Hindi movies.
- > His notable works include some of the highest-grossing Indian movies, such as RRR, Baahubali series and Bajrangi Bhaijaan.
- > Some of the movies he wrote have transcended sharp regional boundaries and become blockbusters

- Legendary athlete P T Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalities nominated to Rajya Sabha.
- Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple Veerendra Heggade and noted screenwriter V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament.

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- **Known as the ‘Queen of Indian track and field’, PT Usha will be best remembered for her show at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The lady from Kerala lost a historic bronze medal in 400m hurdles when Cristieana Cojocaru of Romania beat her by 1/100th of a second.**
- **Twelve members are nominated by the President to the Rajya Sabha for a term of six years. These nominees, who have made significant achievements in the field of arts, science, and literature, are selected on the advice of the Prime Minister.**

50. Recently _____ rolled out **MEDISEP** scheme- the medical insurance scheme for State Government employees, pensioners, and their eligible family members from 1st July 2022

- A. Kerala Government
- B. Odisha Government
- C. Telangana Government
- D. Andhra Pradesh Government
- E. None of the above

Jun 24, 2022, 6:31PM

Kerala Govt to roll out MEDISEP scheme for State Government employees from 1st July

Kerala Government will roll out MEDISEP scheme- the medical insurance scheme for State Government employees, pensioners and their eligible family members from 1st July, 2022. The scheme will provide cashless medical assistance with a comprehensive coverage up to 3 lakhs per year. The annual premium would be Rs 4,800 plus 18 per cent GST for the policy period of 2022-24. Monthly premium of Rs.500 will be deducted from the salary of June and pension of July onwards. An order has been issued by the state finance department in this regard. MEDISEP is being implemented through the public sector insurer, Oriental Insurance Company. About 30 lakh people will be benefitted by the scheme.



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51. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam at _____

- A. Pune
- B. Surat
- C. Varanasi
- D. Delhi
- E. None of the above

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam at Varanasi.**
- **The Samagam is being organized by the Education Ministry in association with University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University.**
- **The three-day event will bring together over 300 Vice-Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities, educationists, policymakers, as also industry representatives.**
- **The summit will provide a platform for leading Indian Higher Educational Institutions to discuss, deliberate, and share insights on strategies, success stories, and best practices in implementing the National Education Policy-2020.**
- **The key highlight of the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam will be the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education which will showcase India's extended vision and a renewed commitment to help achieve the goals of the higher education system.**

PM to launch education summit today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a three-day summit in Varanasi on Thursday that will culminate with the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on higher education.

The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Education in association with the University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University, and will bring together over 300 Vice-Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities as well as educationists, policymakers and industry representatives to discuss the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020.

Discussions will be held on various themes such as multi-disciplinary and holistic education, skill development and employability and Indian knowledge systems.

52. On 07 July 2022, Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled the Statue of Peace of Swamy Ramanuja at the following places in Jammu and Kashmir via video conferencing?

- A. Kathua
- B. Srinagar**
- C. Udhampur
- D. Kishtwar
- E. None of the above

- **Statue of Peace of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, Jammu, and Kashmir was unveiled by Home Minister Amit Shah via video conference on 07 July 2022.**
- **Ramanujacharya is revered as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer.**

Amit Shah virtually unveils 'Statue of Peace' in Srinagar

Home minister also inaugurates a Yatri Bhavan in Srinagar

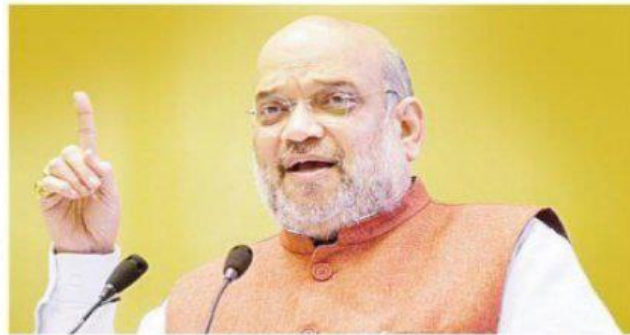
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, 7 JULY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Sri Ramanujacharya installed in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also inaugurated a Yatri Bhavan in Srinagar, renovated with the support from Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya.

On Thursday, Shah formally unveiled the statue and threw open the renovated Yatri Bhavan for travellers. The Murti installed a 4-feet-tall Statue of Peace of Sri Ramanujacharya at the premises, symbolising his special connection with Jammu and Kashmir.

Surya contributed to the rebuilding of the Yatri Bhavan for pilgrims in Srinagar. The Yatri Bhavan was in a dilapidated condition, almost reduced to a shed with no proper infrastructure for accommodating any guests.



"Today is a historic moment for Bharat as a civilization," Surya said. "Kashmir is a crowning jewel of our civilization and traditions. As a Bengali from the southern part of India, I have always wanted to do my bit to further the civilisational cause in Kashmir," he said.

"It was only after the abrogation of Article 370 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that we could get this opportunity to contribute to the betterment of Saranath Dharma in Kashmir," he said.

"The renovated Yatri Bhavan can accommodate a large number of pilgrims travelling

to Kashmir from across the country. I am grateful to the Home Minister for unveiling the Statue of Peace of Ramanujacharya and also inaugurating the Yatri Bhavan," he stated. Sri Ramanujacharya visited Kashmir in the 11th Century to get an important manuscript called Bodhayana Vrit-

ti, a treatise on the Brahma Sutras. The Bodhayana Vritti had the reputation of being the most authoritative explanation of the Brahma Sutras.

His disciple Kuresha accompanied him and committed the entire text to memory as local scholars did not permit Ramanujacharya to carry the manuscript out of Kashmir. After returning to Srirangam, Ramanujacharya dictated the Sri Bhashyam, the commentary on Brahma Sutra and the Acharya's most notable work, to Kuresha, who wrote it down. Ramanujacharya again returned to Kashmir after 2 years to dedicate Sri Bhayam to the region.

The function was presided over by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the current and 41st Pontiff of Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji, and Minister of Higher Education, Government of Karnataka, Dr Ashwath Narayan.

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- *Mr. Shah virtually unveiled the statue of 11th-century Vaishnavite saint Sri Ramanujacharya at the Sun Temple in Srinagar's Sonawar. The statue weighs 600 kg and is four feet high.*
- *He revived the Bhakti movement. He is considered to be the inspiration for poets like Annamacharya, Bhakta Ramdas, Thyagaraja, Kabir, and Meerabai.*
- *In February 2022, PM Modi unveiled a 216-foot Statue of Equality in Hyderabad. 'Statue of Equality is also a statue of Ramanujacharya.*
- *In November 2020, PM Modi unveiled the Statue of Peace on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj in Rajasthan.*
- *Ramanujacharya: He was born in a Brahmin family in Tamil Nadu.*
- *He opened the doors of the temple to all caste, creeds, races, and gender.*
- *He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita.*

International / Report News

53. Consider the following statement regarding *Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021*.

1. *Four Indian cities are included in the list of top 20 sustainable cities according to Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021.*
2. *Bengaluru was ranked 14th in the APAC region. It is the only Indian city to achieve the 'Gold' standard category.*
3. *India is the sixth-largest country in APAC based on the total amount of green bonds issued in 2021.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Four Indian cities are included in the list of top 20 sustainable cities according to Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021.*
- *These cities are Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.*
- *Bengaluru was ranked 14th in the APAC region. It is the only Indian city to achieve the 'Gold' standard category.*
- *Delhi ranked second amongst the Indian cities (ranked 17th in the APAC region).*

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- **Hyderabad ranked third among the Indian cities and 18th in the APAC region. Mumbai is in the 20th position in the APAC region.**
- **India is the sixth-largest country in APAC based on the total amount of green bonds issued in 2021.**
- **According to statistics provided by the Climate Bonds Initiative, China issued the largest amount of green bonds in APAC in 2021.**
- **Global property consultant, Knight Frank’s APAC Sustainably Led Cities Index rated 36 cities based on four parameters.**
- **These parameters are urbanization pressure, climate risk, carbon emissions, and government initiatives.**
- **The top five green-rated cities in commercial real estate in the Asia-Pacific region are Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne.**

54. Consider the following statement regarding **NATO**.

1. NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for **Finland and Sweden** to allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance.
2. The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** was created in 1949
3. NATO's headquarters are **located in Haren, Brussels, 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 the above

- **NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for Finland and Sweden to allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance once allied parliaments ratify the decision, the most significant expansion of the alliance since the mid-1990s.**
- **The protocol means Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence but will not be protected by the NATO defense clause that an attack**

Sweden, Finland sign protocol to join NATO, await ratification

They can now participate in NATO meetings, have greater access to intelligence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for Finland and Sweden on Tuesday to allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance once allied Parliaments ratify the decision, the most significant expansion of the alliance since the mid-1990s. Separately, the bloc's Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana said that NATO has no current plans to send troops to Sweden and Finland.

"We don't plan to have an additional presence in either country, they have formidable national forces. They're capable of defending themselves," Mr. Geoana said in a telephone interview.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, alongside the Foreign



Welcoming to fold: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, centre, with the Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Finland in Brussels. •REUTERS

Ministers of Finland and Sweden, said: "This is truly an historic moment". "With 32 nations around the table, we will be even stronger," he added.

The protocol means Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence but will not be

protected by the NATO defence clause that an attack on one ally is an attack against all until ratification. That is likely to take up to a year.

"Thank you for your support! Now the process of ratification by each of the allies begins," Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde said on

Twitter. "Look forward to working together in ensuring our collective security!"

Turkey's warning

However, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned on last Thursday at a NATO summit in Madrid that said Finland and Sweden must first keep the promises made to Turkey in a deal or ratification will not be sent to the Turkish Parliament.

Mr. Erdogan and his Finnish and Swedish counterparts had agreed on a series of security measures to allow the two Nordic countries to overcome the Turkish.

According to the memorandum, Finland and Sweden pledged not to support the Kurdish militant PKK and YPG groups or the network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen.

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on one ally is an attack against all until ratification. That is likely to take up to a year.

- *NATO's 30 ambassadors and Stoltenberg stood together for a photo in which the foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland held up their signed protocols, before breaking out into applause.*
- *According to the signed memorandum, Finland and Sweden pledged not to support the Kurdish militant PKK and YPG groups or the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, which Ankara says staged a 2016 coup attempt and which it labels a terrorist organization with the acronym FETO.*
- *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.*
- *The organization constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.*
- *NATO's headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium, where the Supreme Allied Commander also resides.*

55. Which of the following statements is **correct regarding the UNESCO Panel on Intangible Cultural Heritage.**

1. For the year 2022–2026, **India has been chosen as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's**
2. The **Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention is comprised of 24 members.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *For the year 2022–2026, India has been chosen as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.*
- *Elections for the Intergovernmental Committee took place during the two-day General Assembly of the 2003 Convention in Paris, which began on July 5.*
- *The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention is comprised of 24 members.*
- *They are elected by the Convention's General Assembly based on the criteria of equitable geographical representation and rotation.*

India on UNESCO panel

India has been elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the



Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the 2022-2026 cycle, the government said on Thursday. This is yet another opportunity for India to reinstate the values of 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam', Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy tweeted.

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- **Intangible cultural heritage is the practices, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities, groups, and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.**
- **Currently, UNESCO’s Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity has 630 elements.**
- **As of 2021, 14 cultural heritages of India have been placed in UNESCO’s Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.**
- **India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice — from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. India will now be a part of two prominent Committees of UNESCO — Intangible Cultural Heritage (2022-2026) and World Heritage (2021-2025).**

56. Consider the following statement regarding United Nations-Habitat’s World Cities Report 2022.

1. The global urban population will grow by 2.2 billion people by 2050.
2. India’s urban population will reach 675 mn in 2035.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **According to the United Nations-Habitat’s World Cities Report 2022, the global urban population will grow by 2.2 billion people by 2050.**
- **It states that rapid urbanization had temporarily stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **India’s urban population is projected to reach from 483,099,000 in 2020 to 675,456,000 in 2035. By 2035, India’s urban population percentage will be 43.2.**
- **China’s urban population is projected to reach 1.05 billion by 2035.**
- **The urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035 and in South Asia, it will be 987,592,000.**
- **The report said that urban poverty and inequality will remain the key challenge for cities.**
- **Climate change challenges like warm climates, floods, and air pollution are the main challenges to the cities in the world.**

Urban pop. to reach 675 mn by 2035



India’s urban population is projected to be 675,456,000 in 2035.

India’s urban population is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035, the second highest behind China’s one billion, the UN has said in a report, noting that after the covid-19 pandemic, the global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050. The United

Nations-Habitat’s World Cities Report 2022, released on Wednesday, said that rapid urbanization was only temporarily delayed by the covid-19 pandemic.

The global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050, it said.

India’s urban population is projected to be 675,456,000 in 2035, growing from 483,099,000 in 2020 to 542,743,000 in 2025 and 607,342,000 in 2030, the report said. By 2035, the percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2%, it said.

China’s urban population in 2035 is projected at 1.05 billion while the urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035 and that in South Asia 987,592,000, it said. The report said that very big economies like China and India have a large share of the world’s population and their development trajectories have greatly influenced global inequality. PTI

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57. Consider the following statement regarding QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023.

1. London is the best city for students looking to study abroad in terms of affordability, student facilities, and university standard.
2. India's highest-ranked city is Mumbai at 103rd position. It is followed by Bengaluru at 114th spot. Chennai and Delhi are in the 125th and 129th spots respectively.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- London is the best city for students looking to study abroad in terms of affordability, student facilities, and university standard.
- Seoul and Munich are in the second position while Zurich and Melbourne are in fourth and fifth place respectively.
- India's highest-ranked city is Mumbai at 103rd position. It is followed by Bengaluru at 114th spot. Chennai and Delhi are in the 125th and 129th spots respectively.
- QS gives a ranking to 140 cities around the world. Dubai is the best city in the Arab region for students.
- According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19, only 47,427 international students enrolled in Indian universities.
- India is planning to attract more than 2 lakh international students, by the end of 2023.
- QS ranks 140 cities around the world. The best student city in the Arab Region is Dubai, which ranks 51st globally. Buenos Aires takes Latin America's top spot, ranking 23rd in the world.

58. Snake Island, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following country?

- A. Russia
- B. Ukraine
- C. Netherland
- D. Ireland
- E. None of the above

Delhi, Chennai debut on best student cities list

ANVITII RAI
New Delhi, June 29

DELHI AND CHENNAI were the newest Indian entrants to the recent QS Best Student Cities 2023 rankings. Debuting at the 129th and 125th ranks, respectively, the two metropolitan cities follow Mumbai and Bengaluru, which are at the 103rd and 114th ranks, respectively. This marks an improvement of three spots for Mumbai, while Bengaluru has fallen four ranks from last year.

These rankings, per the QS website, "use the opinions of current students to rate university locations on factors including affordability and desirability". Cities are ranked on six parameters — university rankings (the collective performance of a city's universities); student

The top spot was given to London this year. Mumbai saw an improvement of three spots, while Bengaluru has fallen four ranks from last year

mix (the student make-up of the city, both overall and from an international perspective); desirability; employer activity (most sought-after recruiting grounds among graduate employers); affordability; and student views. Debutants Delhi and Chennai scored pretty low on parameters related to students specifically — student mix and student view. Neither managed to scrape a score above 20. Mumbai and Bengaluru also fared the same regarding student mix, but were way better off regarding student views (39.8 and 44.2, respectively).

The top spot was given to London this year, as it has been "a student favourite for many years" and is "home to some of the world's most prestigious academic institutions, including King's College London and UCL (University College London)". While Mumbai scored the best among Indian cities on employer activity and desirability (59.8 and 36.2, respectively), Delhi was the best among the four as far as university rankings were concerned (39.9). All cities except Chennai scored above 60 on affordability.

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- **Russian forces abandoned the strategic Black Sea outpost of Snake Island, in a major victory for Ukraine that could loosen the grip of Russia’s blockade on Ukrainian ports.**
- **Snake Island, also known as Serpent Island or Zmiinyi Island, is an island belonging to Ukraine located in the Black Sea, near the Danube Delta, with an important role in delimiting Ukrainian territorial waters.**
- **On 24 February 2022, two Russian navy warships attacked and captured Snake Island. On 30 June 2022, Ukraine said that it had pushed Russian forces from the island.**
- **The bare rocky outcrop overlooks sea lanes to Odesa, Ukraine’s main Black Sea port, where Russia is blocking food cargos from one of the world’s leading grain suppliers.**

Russia withdraws from Snake Island

Ukraine says it has driven the enemy forces out after a massive artillery and missile assault overnight

REUTERS
KYIV

Russian forces abandoned the strategic Black Sea outpost of Snake Island on Thursday, in a major victory for Ukraine that could loosen the grip of Russia’s blockade on Ukrainian ports.

Russia’s Defence Ministry said it had decided to withdraw from the outcrop as a “gesture of goodwill” to show Moscow was not obstructing UN efforts to open a humanitarian corridor allowing grains to be shipped from Ukraine.

Ukraine said it had driven the Russian forces out after a massive artillery and missile assault overnight.

“KABOOM!” tweeted Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s Chief of Staff. “No Russian



Back in control: A satellite image of the Snake Island in the Black Sea taken on June 17. • AFP/MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES

troops on the Snake Island anymore. Our Armed Forces did a great job.”

Ukraine’s southern military command posted an image on Facebook of what appeared to be the island, seen from the air, with at least five huge columns of black smoke rising above it.

“The enemy hurriedly evacuated the remains of the garrison with two speed boats and probably left the island. Currently, Snake island is consumed by fire, explosions are bursting.”

The bare rocky outcrop overlooks sea lanes to Odesa, Ukraine’s main Black Sea

port, where Russia is blocking food cargos from one of the world’s leading grain suppliers.

Snake Island has held the world’s attention since Russia seized it on the war’s first day, when a Ukrainian guard, ordered by Russia’s flagship cruiser Moskva to surrender, responded by ridiculing them.

Grain exports

“The most significant aspect is that this could open the door to Ukrainian grain exports from Odesa, which is critical for Ukraine’s economy and for the global food supply,” tweeted Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Lifting the blockade has been a primary strategic goal

of the West: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has accused Russia of deliberately causing world hunger, as “blackmail.” Moscow denies blocking the ports and blames food shortages on Western sanctions it says limit its own exports.

“We do not prevent the export of Ukrainian grain. The Ukrainian military has mined the approaches to their ports; no one prevents them from clearing those mines and we guarantee the safety of shipping grain out of there,” President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

Russia had defended the island since February, despite Ukraine increasingly claiming to inflict severe damage, sinking supply vessels and destroying Russian fortifications.

59. Consider the following statement regarding Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022.

1. India will have 122 new unicorns in the next two to four years
2. Hurun India’s findings showed that Bengaluru continues to be the start-up capital of India. The city is home to 46 probable Unicorns.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **India will have 122 new unicorns in the next two to four years, according to the Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022 released by Hurun Research Institute. Startups, Shiprocket, Zepto, and Turtlemint top the list of probable unicorns.**

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- India will have 122 new unicorns in the next two to four years, according to the Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022 released by Hurun Research Institute. Startups, Shiprocket, Zepto, and Twin Health are probable unicorns.
- Gazelles are projected to be worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The Gazelle pack is led by Shiprocket, a five-year-old LogisticsTech startup, followed by Zepto, Turtlemint, Ather Energy, and Vivriti Capital. The other five startups on the list are Ninjacart, Dunzo, Rapido, ClearTax, and Twin Health.
- The 'Cheetahs' pack is led by Pepperfry, followed by Bengaluru-based Juspay and FinTech firm Mswipe Technologies. Pixis, SUGAR cosmetics, WayCool, ZestMoney, Bluestone, Cuemath, and Winzo are the other startups on the list.
- Hurun India's findings showed that Bengaluru continues to be the start-up capital of India. The city is home to 46 probable Unicorns, followed by Delhi NCR (25) and Mumbai (16). E-commerce, FinTech, and SaaS comprise 43 percent of the Future Unicorn Index 2022.
- Venture capital firm Sequoia has emerged as the most active investor in the nation's start-up ecosystem after investing in 39 probable unicorns, followed by Tiger Global, which has invested in 27 potential unicorns, the report showed.

60. Consider the following statement regarding Knight Frank Affordability Index In H1 2022.

- Ahmedabad has emerged as the most affordable with 22% in H1 of 2022 followed by Pune at 26% and Chennai at 26%.
- Mumbai is the most expensive housing market at an EMI to income ratio of 56% for H12022.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

The world of unicorns and the animal spirit driving it

Hurun India index names the 'gazelles' and 'cheetahs' of 2022

VINSON KURIAN

Thiruvananthapuram, June 30

The Hurun Research Institute has unveiled the ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022, a ranking of Indian start-ups founded in the 2000s and valued \$200 million at least, but not listed on a public exchange. It classified companies as would-be unicorns (those founded after 2000 and valued \$1 billion at least); gazelles (most likely to become unicorns in the following two years); and cheetahs (start-ups that could turn unicorn in the next four years).

The gazelle in the wild is capable of outrunning the cheetah due to its agility and speed. The 'gazelles' on the index are projected to be worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The gazelle pack is led by Shiprocket, a five-year-old logistics-tech start-up, followed by Zepto, Turtlemint, Ather Energy and Vivriti Capital.

The age factor

The Hurun classification has been validated by this year's report, as six cheetahs from the previous index 'skipped' the gazelle-stage and entered the unicorn club, a spokesman said. This year, the cheetah pack is led by Pepperfry, followed by Bengaluru-based Juspay and Ratan Tata-backed fintech Mswipe Technologies. The youngest start-up founders are Kaivalya Vohra (19) and Aadit Palicha (20) of Zepto, a 10-minute grocery delivery company based out of Mumbai. The oldest founder in the index is K Satyanarayana, aged 61, of Ecom

Top 10 Gazelles in India

Startup	Funding received (in \$ mn)	Year founded	Sector
Shiprocket	355	2017	Logistics Tech
Zepto	360	2021	Quick Commerce
Turtlemint	200	2015	E-Commerce
Ather Energy	290	2013	Electric Vehicle
Vivriti Capital	190	2017	Fintech
Ninjacart	370	2015	AgriTech
Dunzo	700	2015	Quick Commerce
Rapido	310	2015	Shared Economy
Clear Tax	140	2011	Fintech
Twin Health	200	2018	HealthTech

Source - ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022

Express. The average age of start-up founders is 38. There are 18 founders aged under 30 and 19 aged above 50. Fifteen companies have a woman co-founder.

The fintech magnet

Among sectors, fintech contributed the most start-ups to the index at 27, followed by e-commerce at 14, and software-as-a-service (SaaS) at, with 11. Approximately half of the firms in the index are involved in fintech, e-commerce, SaaS, and edtech. Other potential fields in the start-up ecosystem include agri-tech, artificial intelligence, health-tech, and shared economy. The prospective unicorns were founded, on average, in 2015, with the great majority selling software and services and only 17 per cent selling physical goods. At least 37 per cent are business-to-business sellers, and 63 per cent are consumer-facing. The future unicorns have disrupted the financial services, logistics, health-care, and education sectors.

Rising stars of tomorrow

Hurun Research identified 122 future unicorns in India from 25 cities. Bengaluru continues to be the unicorn capital with 46, and

Delhi NCR and Mumbai follow with 25 and 16, respectively. Rajesh Saluja, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, ASK Wealth Advisors, said India has emerged as the third largest ecosystem for start-ups after the US and China, and saw a record 44 unicorns in 2021. "The ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn list showcases the leaders of tomorrow today. We shine the spotlight on gazelles and cheetahs, the rising stars of the start-up ecosystem, and, possibly, future unicorns. As many as 17 gazelles and seven cheetahs from last year's list hit unicorn valuation this year," Saluja said.

Anas Rahman Junaid, Managing Director and Chief Researcher, Hurun India, said the country's start-up ecosystem is expanding at an unprecedented rate. In just one year, the number of unicorns has increased by 65 per cent, the number of gazelles by 59 per cent to 51, and cheetahs, 31 per cent to 71.

"Probably, the pandemic has accelerated the disruption of traditional businesses and fostered the emergence of start-ups. The ecosystem is gradually attaining the requisite maturity and resilience," he added.



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- Hyderabad has emerged as the second most expensive housing market in the country after Mumbai among the top eight cities for the first half of 2022, according to international realty consultancy firm Knight Frank.
- While Mumbai is the most expensive housing market at an EMI to income ratio of 56% for H12022 as against 53% in 2021, Hyderabad is the second most expensive at 31% (29% in 2021), followed by National Capital Region (NCR) at 30% (28% in 2021) and Bengaluru at 28% (26% in 2021) on the Knight Frank India Affordability Index for H1 2022 which tracks the EMI (equated monthly installment) to household income ratio for an average household.
- On the other hand, Ahmedabad has emerged as the most affordable with 22% in H1 of 2022 (20% in 2021) followed by Pune at 26% (24% in 2021) and Chennai at 26% (25% in 2021).
- Knight Frank said for H1 of 2022, affordability and income levels have been calculated keeping all variables constant, except for the interest rate.
- According to Knight Frank, all the markets have seen a decline in affordability due to the recent rise in home loan rates due to the 90 basis points rise in REPO rates.

61. According to the **US Homeland Security India was the _____ largest country of birth for naturalized American citizens in the first quarter of the United States.**

- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- None of the above

- The United States welcomed 661,500 new citizens as of June 15 in the fiscal year 2022, with India the second largest country of birth for naturalized American citizens in the first quarter after Mexico.

Ahmedabad most affordable housing market in top 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 1

AHMEDABAD IS THE most affordable housing market among top eight cities in the country while affordability of owning homes in terms of EMI to income ratio declined in the first half of 2022, according to property consultant Knight Frank India.

Knight Frank India on Friday released its Affordability Index report for H1 (January-June) 2022 that tracks the EMI to income ratio for an average household. It said affordability has been hit due to RBI's decision to hike repo rates by 90 basis points, which prompted banks and other financial institutions to increase home loan interest rate.

Ahmedabad is the most affordable housing market amongst the top eight cities, with a ratio of 22%, followed by Pune and Chennai at 26% each in the first half of the calendar year 2022, the property consultant said in a statement.

Knight Frank's affordability index witnessed steady improvement from 2010 to 2021 across the eight leading cities especially during the pandemic when the RBI cut repo rates to decadal lows.

However, with two consecutive repo rate hikes, the cumulative 90 basis points rate hikes by RBI has decreased home purchase affordability on an average by 2% across markets and increased EMI load by 6.97%.

Knight Frank India chairman and managing director Shishir Bajjal said home affordability has worsened in the last couple of months. "On an average affordability has decreased by 200-300 basis points across the major markets. However, despite the hike in the rates, markets remain largely affordable," he added.

As per the data, Mumbai



On an average affordability decreased by 200-300 basis points across the major markets, Knight Frank India chairman and MD Shishir Bajjal said

remains the most expensive residential market in the country. In H1 2022, the affordability index of the city increased to 56% from 53% in 2021.

Hyderabad is the second most expensive residential market in the country. In H1 2022, the affordability index of the city rose to 31% from 29% in 2021. The Delhi-NCR market ranks third in terms of the most expensive residential market. In H1 2022, the affordability index of the city rose to 30% from 28%. The index of Bengaluru rose to 28% from 26%, while in Kolkata, the index increased to 27% from 25%.

According to the affordability index, Pune and Chennai are the second most affordable residential markets in the country.

The affordability index in Pune rose to 26% from 24%, while in Chennai, the index inched up to 26% in H1 2022 from 25% in 2021.

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- *In Fiscal Year 2021, the USCIS welcomed 855,000 new US citizens. In Fiscal Year 2022, the USCIS welcomed 661,500 new US citizens as of June 15 and made significant progress in reducing our naturalization pending queues.*
- *According to the US Homeland Security, 34 percent of naturalizations in FY 2022 Q1 consisted of persons from the top five countries of nationality: Mexico (24,508), India (12,928), and the Philippines (11,316), Cuba (10,689), and the Dominican Republic (7,046). During this period, the US welcomed 1,97,148 new citizens.*
- *In FY 2021 Q1, the top five countries of nationality (Mexico, India, Cuba, the Philippines, and China) accounted for 35 percent of naturalizations.*
- *The US federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.*
- *Among the top countries of birth for persons naturalizing in 2020, Mexico was the leading country (13 percent of the total), followed by India (7.7 percent), the Philippines (5.3 percent), Cuba (5.0 percent), and China (4.2 percent).*

US citizenship in 2022 on rise, Indians among top 5

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Independence Day celebrations in the US always include programmes to welcome new citizens by holding naturalisations ceremonies. This year, during the week of July 1-8, more than 6,600 new citizens will be sworn-in.

During the fiscal year 2022 (which ends on September 30), the US Citizenship and Immigration Services has welcomed 6,61,500 new citizens — this data is as of June 15. During fiscal 2021, 8,55,000 new citizens were sworn in. The latest available country-wise statistics are of the first quarter of fiscal 2022 during which 197,000 individuals were

sworn in as American citizens. As per data from the department of homeland security, 34% of these consisted of persons from the top five countries: Mexico (24,508); India (12,928); the Philippines (11,316); Cuba (10,689) and the Dominican Republic (7,046).

“Throughout our nation’s history, the promise of both life and liberty, and the freedom to pursue happiness, is what has drawn millions from across the globe to call America their home. At USCIS, our belief in the promise of America is renewed daily as we work to welcome immigrants as our fellow citizens,” said USCIS Director Ur Jaddou.

62. **Machu Picchu** recently seen in news is located in _____ .

- A. Ukraine
- B. Peru
- C. Phillipines
- D. Cambodia
- E. None of the above

- *Peruvian firefighters were fighting to contain a forest fire near the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu as the blaze threatened to close in on the ancient city in the Andean mountains*

PERU'S MACHU PICCHU THREATENED BY WILDFIRE

Getty Images/iStockphoto, Reuters



Peruvian firefighters were fighting to contain a forest fire near the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu on Thursday, as the blaze threatened to close in on the ancient city high in the Andean mountains. The fire, which had engulfed an area about half the size of Vatican City, was started on Tuesday by farmers burning grass and debris to prepare to sow new crops. As of Wednesday, about 20 hectares (49 acres) had been affected by the fire, the mayor of the nearby city of Cusco said. Machu Picchu, a complex of stone structures sitting atop a mountain,

was built more than 500 years ago by the Incas, whose empire controlled large swaths of South America from what is today southern Ecuador to central Chile. The ruins, which have made the surrounding Cusco region Peru's top tourist destination, are considered one of the seven wonders of the world. The area's remoteness has hindered firefighters' efforts. 'We have already been fighting the fire for two days and it has not been possible to get it under control, given the area is quite inaccessible,' said the director of the Cusco risk management and security office. REUTERS

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- *Machu Picchu, a complex of stone structures sitting atop a mountain, was built more than 500 years ago by the Incas, whose empire controlled large swaths of South America from what is today southern Ecuador to central Chile.*
- *The breathtaking ruins, which have made the surrounding Cusco region Peru's top tourist destination, are considered one of the new seven wonders of the world.*

63. Consider the following statement regarding **India-Armenia Projects signed in July**.

1. **India-Armenia inked an MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia.**
2. **A Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium has been also inaugurated at the Yerevan State Medical University (VSMU).**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **India-Armenia inked an MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia.**
- **The MoU has been signed at the 8th India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC).**
- **Both sides discussed the current status of cooperation in the field of Investments, health, tourism, infrastructure, etc.**
- **A Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium has been also inaugurated at the Yerevan State Medical University (VSMU).**
- **The 6th and 7th IGC were organized in New Delhi.**
- **Yerevan is the capital of Armenia and the currency is Dram.**

64. Recently seen in the news **Ayni airport** is situated in which of the following country?

India develops Ayni airport in Tajikistan in boost to ties

Shishir Gupta

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: As part of its outreach towards Central Asian countries, India has rehabilitated, renovated and developed the Ayni airport in Tajikistan, an important step in boosting relations with the nation, people aware of the development said on Tuesday.

The lack of overland connectivity with Central Asia has negatively impacted trade and commerce between India and the region. There has been an increased focus to bolster this connectivity, and India has developed the Ayni airport, located near the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, as a key asset, a person aware of the matter said.

Other projects in the region include connectivity corridors such as the International North-South Transport corridor, and the Ashgabat agreement. Since Tajikistan's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, India has played the role of a development and aid partner, and the two countries enjoy a strong friendship ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992.

"To make the airport fully operational, the existing runway was upgraded to 'PCN 40' classification and many structures have been constructed, including a new air traffic control (ATC) tower, runway lighting, emer-

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASED FOCUS TO BOLSTER OVERLAND CONNECTIVITY WITH CENTRAL ASIA, AND INDIA HAS DEVELOPED THE AYNI AIRPORT AS A KEY ASSET

gency landing strip, perimeter road, guard posts, apron along with its lighting, a 14.5-km perimeter wall and a 7.183-km road from Dushanbe to Ayni. As part of the operationalisation, existing hangers and parking surfaces have also been repaired," the person cited above said.

In addition, India has refurbished and widened the Gai-Ayni road that leads from Dushanbe to the airport; and another project that is currently being undertaken by India under grant assistance is a six-eight lane road that further connects the Ayni-Gai road to the Chortut highway, which will help decongest Dushanbe. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, another official said, asking not to be named.

India's relations with Central Asian countries have acquired a new salience with the institu-

tionalisation of the India-Central Asia Summit in January. India and Central Asian countries, with the exception of Turkmenistan, are important constituents of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) mechanism.

Over the years, India has been involved in several projects in Tajikistan. "In 1995, India extended a credit line to set up the pharmaceutical plant Ajanta Pharma. In January 2005, a fruit processing plant was established in Dushanbe. The following year, in 2006, the Bedil Centre — an information and technology centre — was commissioned, which has trained almost all the first generation IT experts in the Tajik government sector. India set up a modern engineering workshop and commissioned it in June 2011," the second official said.

In July 2015, during a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a project for setting up computer labs in 37 Tajik schools was announced, which was completed in August 2016.

Last month, India handed over the India-Tajikistan Friendship hospital in Bokhtar region that was developed and refurbished into a fully functional 50-bed hospital. Most of the cooperation with Central Asian countries has a development cooperation aspect, which is increasingly becoming an important facet of India's relations with the region.

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- A. Israel
- B. Japan
- C. Tajikistan
- D. Nepal
- E. None of the above

- To make the Ayni airport fully operational, the existing runway was upgraded to 'PCN 40' classification and many construction works were carried out. This includes the construction of a new ATC tower, runway lighting, emergency landing strip, perimeter road, guard posts, apron including its lighting, 14.5-km perimeter wall, and 7.183km of road from Dushanbe to Ayni as well as repair of hangers and parking surfaces. An instrument landing system (ILS) was installed in 2015.
- Last month, India also handed over the India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital in the Bokhtar region which was developed and refurbished into a fully functional 50-bedded hospital.
- India has regularly upgraded its technical infrastructure and equipment to ensure full operational readiness over the year
- India and Tajikistan have enjoyed good diplomatic relations ever since diplomatic relations were established in 1992.
- In January 2005, a fruit processing plant was established in Dushanbe by HMT. An information and technology center (Bedil Centre) was commissioned in 2006. The project ran for a full hardware cycle of six years and trained almost all the first-generation IT experts in the country's government sector.
- In June 2011, India set up a modern engineering workshop. It also undertook rehabilitation and modernization of a 1936 vintage Varzob-1 Hydro Power Station through Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

65. Recently India with _____ decided to strengthen their partnership in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals.
- A. Armenia

Mines Minister in Australia to secure supply of key minerals

Will help in India's transition to clean energy, EVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3

Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi began his six-day tour of Australia on Sunday as India looks to strengthen partnerships with Canberra in the field of strategic critical minerals that are important in transition to clean energy sources and electric mobility.

During his six-day tour, Joshi will meet with several Australian ministers and officials, and industry bodies, the Mines Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The visit assumes importance as it is the first meeting between Joshi and Resources and Northern Australia Minister Madeleine King since the election of the Anthony Albanese Government, it said.

Focus will also be on joint investment possibilities in lithium and cobalt projects. The India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership envisages joint investment for viable lithium and cobalt projects in Australia, which is critical for India's transition towards clean energy ambitions.

Shared ambitions

Joshi will also visit mineral-rich sites of Tianqi Lithium Kwinana and Greenbushes Mine.

Joshi will aim to build on the MoU signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, a joint venture of three CPSEs under the Ministry of Mines, and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), Government of Australia, to strengthen bilateral trade and lays the path to deliver on a shared ambition to develop secure, robust and commercially viable critical minerals supply chains.

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- B. Australia**
- C. France
- D. Nepal
- E. None of the above

- *India and Australia decided to strengthen their partnership in the field of projects and supply chains for critical minerals.*
- *Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions.*
- *These minerals are now used everywhere from making mobile phones, and computers to batteries, electric vehicles, and green technologies like solar panels and wind turbines. Based on their individual needs and strategic considerations, different countries create their lists.*
- *However, such lists mostly include graphite, lithium, and cobalt, which are used for making EV batteries; rare earth that is used for making magnets and silicon which is a key mineral for making computer chips and solar panels.*
- *Aerospace, communications, and defense industries also rely on several such minerals as they are used in manufacturing fighter jets, drones, radio sets, and other critical equipment.*
- *Australia will commit \$5.8 million to the three-year India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.*
- *An MoU was recently signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and the Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) of Australia that will try to source lithium and cobalt from Australia.*

66. Consider the following statement regarding the 2022 edition of the U.N. food security and nutrition report.
1. Up to **828 million people**, or nearly 10% of the world's population, were affected by hunger last year.
 2. Every year, **11 million people die due to unhealthy diets.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *World hunger levels rose again last year after soaring in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Ukraine war and climate change threatening starvation and mass migration on an "unprecedented scale" this year.*
- *Up to 828 million people, or nearly 10% of the world's population, were affected by hunger last year, 46 million more than in 2020 and 150 million more than in 2019, agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization,*

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World Food Programme, and World Health Organisation said in the 2022 edition of the U.N. food security and nutrition report.

- **It is estimated that globally in 2020, 22% of children under 5 were stunted while 6.7% or 45 million suffered from wasting, a deadly form of malnutrition that increases the risk of death by up to 12 times.**
- **Every year, 11 million people die due to unhealthy diets.**
- **The report said the global food and agriculture sector received almost \$630 billion a year in support that often distorted market prices, did not reach small-scale farmers, hurt the environment, and did not promote nutritious food production.**
- **The report was jointly published today by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).**

Banking / Economy News

67. Consider the following statement regarding the 25th edition of the Financial Stability Report.

1. The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks has increased by 16.7 percent.
2. According to this report, the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio has fallen to a six-year low of 5.9%.
3. The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks could reach 5.3 percent by March 2023.

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 the above

- **RBI released the 25th edition of the Financial Stability Report.**
- **As per the report, the Indian economy remains on the path of recovery even after the global challenges. Inflationary**

RBI'S FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

Gross NPAs of banks fall to six-year low of 5.9% in March

Says banking system can absorb any shock; credit growing in double digits

OUR BUREAU
 Mumbai, June 30
 Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) fell to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March and can dip further to 5.3 per cent by March 2023, according to the RBI's Financial Stability Report.

"Under the assumption of no further regulatory reliefs as well as without taking the potential impact of stressed asset purchases by National Assets Reconstruction Company Limited into account, stress tests indicate that GNPA ratio of all SCBs may improve from 5.9 per cent by March 2022 to 5.3 per cent by March 2023 under the baseline scenario driven by higher expected bank credit growth and declining trend in the stock of GNPA," among other factors," said the report for June, released by the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday.

Can weather severe stress
 However, the report warned that if the macroeconomic



Source: RBI FSR June 2022

environment worsens to a medium or severe stress scenario, the GNPA ratio may rise to 6.2 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively.

"Stress test results presented in this FSR demonstrate that banks are well positioned to withstand even severe stress scenarios without falling below the minimum capital requirement," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in the foreword.

Support measures help
 It may be noted that GNPA of scheduled commercial banks were at 7.4 per cent in March 2021. "Support measures provided by the regulator during the Covid-19

pandemic aided in arresting GNPA ratios of SCBs even with the winding down of regulatory reliefs," the report said.

SCBs' asset quality has improved across all major sectors, it said. The Net NPA ratio also fell by 70 basis points (bps) in 2021-22 and stood at 1.7 per cent at the year-end while the provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 70.9 per cent in March 2022 from 67.6 per cent a year ago. The capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of SCBs rose to a new high of 16.7 per cent.

No capital needed
 "Stress test results reveal that SCBs are well capital-

ised and capable of absorbing macroeconomic shocks even in the absence of any further capital infusion by stakeholders," the report said.

Under the baseline scenario, the aggregate CRAR of 46 major banks is projected to slip from 16.5 per cent in March 2022 to 15 per cent by March 2023. It may go down to 14.2 per cent in the medium stress scenario and to 13.3 per cent under the severe stress scenario by March 2023. None of the 46 SCBs would breach the minimum capital requirement of 9 per cent in the next one year, even in a severely stressed situation, it further said.

Stress signs in some sectors
 The report, however, noted that there are early signs of stress in certain sectors, calling for caution and monitoring on an ongoing basis. It also noted that the annual growth in bank credit by SCBs reached 13.1 per cent in early June 2022, a rate last recorded in March 2019.
 "On the back of adequate capital buffers and improving asset quality levels, the Indian banking system is well positioned to support economic growth, with bank credit growing in double digits after a long hiatus," it said.

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pressures, external spillovers, and geopolitical risk will be the key challenges to the Indian Economy.

- **Banks, as well as financial institutions, have sufficient capital buffers. The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks has increased by 16.7 percent.**
- **According to this report, the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio has fallen to a six-year low of 5.9%.**
- **The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks could reach 5.3 percent by March 2023.**
- **The global economic prospect is clouded in uncertainty due to the war in Europe, high inflation, and the Covid-19 pandemic situation.**
- **The Financial Stability Report is the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council. It reflects the risk to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.**

68. Consider the following statement regarding the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India.

1. **India's external debt increased by 8.2 percent to \$620.7 billion in FY 22.**
2. **US dollar-denominated debt remains the largest component of India's external debt. It is followed by the Indian rupee-denominated debt (31.2 percent), SDR (6.6 percent), yen (5.4 percent), and euro (2.9 percent).**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **India's external debt increased by 8.2 percent to \$620.7 billion in FY 22 as compared to the previous year.**
- **According to the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India, short-term debt has risen by 20% but the Debt-GDP ratio has declined to 19.9% from 21.2 percent.**
- **The ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves has increased to 20 percent (17.5 percent at the end of March 2021) by end-March 2022.**

External debt rose \$47.1 bn to \$620.7 bn in FY22: RBI data

External debt to GDP ratio declined to 19.9% from 21.2%

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

India's external debt rose to \$620.7 billion at end-March 2022, recording an increase of \$47.1 billion over the year earlier period, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 19.9% at end-March 2022, from 21.2% a year earlier.

Valuation gains on account of the appreciation of the U.S. dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and major currencies including the Japanese yen and euro was estimated at \$11.7 billion.

"Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$58.8 billion instead of \$47.1 billion at



end-March 2022 over end-March 2021," the RBI said.

India's long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) rose to \$499.1 billion, recording an increase of \$26.5 billion over its level at end-March 2021, RBI data showed.

During the same period, the share of short-term debt

in total external debt increased to 19.6% from 17.6%.

Similarly, the ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves increased to 20%. U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 53.2%.

Separately, the RBI said net claims of non-residents on India increased by \$5.6 billion during the fourth quarter of 2021-22 to \$359.8 billion in March 2022.

"This rise in net claims was due to larger decline in the Indian residents' overseas financial assets... when compared to the decline in foreign-owned assets in India," the central bank said.

(With PTI inputs)

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- **US dollar-denominated debt remains the largest component of India's external debt. It is followed by the Indian rupee-denominated debt (31.2 percent), SDR (6.6 percent), yen (5.4 percent), and euro (2.9 percent).**
- **Debt service (i.e., principal repayments and interest payments) has declined from 8.2 percent in March 2021 to 19.9 percent in March 2022.**
- **The share of outstanding debt of non-financial corporations in total external debt was the highest at 40.3 percent, followed by deposit-taking corporations (except the central bank) (25.6 percent), general government (21.1 percent), and other financial corporations (8.6 percent).**
- **External debt means money borrowed from a source outside the country. Government and corporations are eligible to borrow loans from abroad.**

69. Consider the following statement regarding the **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for May 2022**

1. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for May 2022**
2. **Core industry's output recorded a growth of 18.1% in May 2022.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for May 2022 on 30 June 2022.**
- **The combined ICI increased at 18.1% (provisional) in May 2022 as compared to the Index of May 2021. In May 2022, the Index stood at 148.1.**
- **The core industry's output recorded a growth of 18.1% in May 2022 against 16.4% in the corresponding month of the previous year (May 2021).**
- **The final growth rate of ICI for February 2022 has been revised to 5.9% from its provisional level of 5.8%.**

At 18.1%, output growth of 8 core industries at 13-month high in May

Coal, fertiliser, electricity and cement sectors put up good show

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, June 30

Reflecting a rebound in economic activity and aided by good show from coal, fertiliser, electricity and cement sectors, the output growth of eight core industries hit a 13-month high of 18.1 per cent in May 2022.

The latest output growth print was higher than the 16.4 per cent growth in May 2021 and the revised 9.3 per cent growth recorded in April 2022.

For the first time in several months, all eight core industries' output growth on a year-on-year basis remained in positive territory. The eight industries that saw positive growth rate in April are: coal (25.1 per cent); crude oil (4.6 per cent); natural gas (7 per cent); refinery products (16.7 per cent); fertilisers (22.8 per cent); cement (26.3 per cent); and electricity (22 per cent). The y-o-y growth in elec-

tricity generation doubled to 22 per cent in May from 11.8 per cent in April, echoing the rise in demand stemming from heat wave conditions in parts of North-West and Central India, as well as some pick-up from commercial and industrial establishments.

The eight core industries have a weightage of 40.27 per cent in the index of industrial production (IIP).

Meanwhile, the Commerce and Industry Ministry has revised upwards the final growth rate of core industries for February to 5.9 per cent from the provisional level of 5.8 per cent. The growth rate of ICI during April-May 2022-23 was 13.6 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in the last financial year. Last month, the growth output of core industries for January was revised upwards. The core output for December 2021 was earlier revised upwards to 4.1 per cent from its provisional level of 3.8 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said the core sector growth for May printed at a robust but optically misleading 18 per cent,



boosted by the low base of the second wave of Covid-19, and coming in at the lower end of ICRA's expectations range of 18-20 per cent.

The disaggregated data showed a broad-based improvement in the y-o-y growth, benefiting from the low base, with the exception of coal, which nevertheless continued to record a high growth, she added.

Compared to the pre-Covid level, the core index reported a growth of 8.1 per cent in May, led by all constituents, except crude oil. Enthusiastically, fertiliser, coal, cement and electricity output displayed a double-digit expansion in May 2022 over the May 2019 levels, said Nayar.

"We expect the IIP to expand by 16-19 per cent in May, benefiting

from the high growth in the core sector as well as various other high-frequency indicators," she said.

Oil output

India Ratings' Sunil Kumar Sinha and Paras Jasrai said the support to growth was fairly broad-based, as except for crude oil, production in other core sectors recorded robust growth. Even crude oil output witnessed a positive growth of 4.6 per cent y-o-y after a gap of 53 months.

"Positive crude oil production is good news at a time when the country is facing headwinds due to elevated global crude oil price and its related ramifications on the economy," said the note.

Notably, output growth in cement, electricity petroleum and refinery products and steel were on a high base, and are at 9-month, 13-month and 13-month and 11-month high, respectively. Robust growth in the cement and steel sector indicates a pick-up in the construction sector, which is the second-largest employment provider after agriculture.

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- **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):** It measures the combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries.
- **The eight core industries are Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.**
- **The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**

70. Recently According to the annual Complaint Insights 2021-22 report, released by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) _____ % of the “objectionable or misleading” advertisements were found to be from the education sector.
- A. 33 %
 - B. 35 %
 - C. 50 %
 - D. 16 %
 - E. None of the above

- **Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) released its annual complaints report.**
- **According to the annual Complaint Insights 2021-22 report, 33% of the “objectionable or misleading” advertisements were found to be from the education sector.**
- **ASCI is planning to study all advertisements of edtech companies.**
- **According to this report, 16 percent of the misleading ads were from the health sector while 11 percent were from the personal care sector.**
- **Around 8 percent of the complaints were from newer categories like crypto and gaming and the food and beverage sector.**
- **As per the report, ASCI processed 5,532 ads across print, digital, and television. It is 62% more than the previous year.**
- **Complaints against advertisements have also increased by 25%.**

71. Consider The Following statement regarding **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**.
1. **This new entity, will be headed by former Banks Board Bureau Chairman, Bhanu Pratap Sharma, for two years**
 2. **The Reserve Bank of India is to carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalised Banks**
 3. **The establishment of FSIB could also mean the end of the road for the Department of Financial Services (DFS).**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) has passed a government resolution to establish the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) in place of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB).
- The new framework was proposed by the Department of Financial Service, Ministry of Finance.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau will select the chiefs of public sector banks and insurance companies.
- The FSIB will have a clear mandate to issue guidelines and select general managers and directors of state-run non-life insurers, general insurers, and Financial Institutions.
- FSIB will be the single entity for making recommendations for appointments of WTD (Whole-time Director) and NEC (Non-executive Chairman) in Public Sector Banks, India Private Limited company, and Financial Institutions.
- The Department of Financial Services shall first carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980 (as amended).
- Chairman of FSIB: The ACC has approved the appointment of Bhanu Pratap Sharma as the Initial chairperson of FSIB for two years. He was the former Chairman of BBB.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) also appointed three members of the new entity (FSIB). They are given next.
- Animesh Chauhan, former chairman and managing director of Oriental Bank of Commerce
- Shailendra Bhandari, former managing director, and chief executive of ING Vysya Bank
- Deepak Singhal, former Reserve Bank of India executive director

Centre to set up FSIB to make selection recos

Former BBB chair Bhanu Pratap to take over as chief

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, July 1

The Centre has decided to set up a Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) as a single entity for making recommendations for the appointment of Wholetime Directors and Non-Executive Directors in public sector banks (PSBs), public sector insurers (PSIs) and financial institutions (FIs), said sources.

This new entity, which will be headed by former Banks Board Bureau Chairman, Bhanu Pratap Sharma, for two years, will also make recommendations for the selection of General Managers and Directors in non-life PSIs.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the establishment of FSIB and also the appointment of part-time, non-government members for a term of two years, said sources. Animesh

Chauhan, former Chairman and Managing Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce, has been appointed as member of FSIB in the ex-banker from public sector category. Shailendra Bhandari, former Managing Director & CEO of ING Vysya Bank, has been appointed as member of FSIB in the ex-banker from private sector category.

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is now expected to carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980, sources added.

End of BBB?

The establishment of FSIB could also mean the end of the road for the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), which was formed in April 1, 2016, as an autonomous body to search and select personages for the Board of PSBs, public sector FIs and PSIs, and recommend measures to improve corporate governance, said observers.

72. Recently The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in collaboration with _____ has organized a three-day "Grand Hackathon" to help the adoption of eCommerce in the agricultural sector.

- A. SEBI

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- B. SIDBI
- C. NABARD**
- D. RBI
- E. None of the above

- Piyush Goyal launched a three-day “Grand Hackathon” on the Agriculture domain to promote an open eCommerce network.
- **The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in collaboration with NABARD has organized a three-day “Grand Hackathon”.**
- **Agri Grant Challenge and Agri Innovation Hackathon are the two parts of this Hackathon. It has been organized to help the adoption of eCommerce in the agricultural sector.**
- **Around 700 participants took part in the Hackathon. Participants will showcase innovative solutions for the Agriculture domain.**
- **It aims to bring various agricultural stakeholders, start-ups, and individual organizations under one roof.**
- **The focus of this event is on solving the need of the Agriculture domain and helping state governments in promoting their local products at the national level.**
- **ONDC aims to build an open network for buyers and sellers in the country.**

73. Consider the following statement regarding the **Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX)**.

1. **The third power exchange in the country, Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) backed by BSE and Power Trading Corporation (PTC) was launched.**
2. **PTC India and BSE Investment hold 25 percent each in HPX, followed by 9.9 percent held by ICICI Bank.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The third power exchange in the country, Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) backed by BSE and Power Trading Corporation (PTC) was launched, after being floated in 2019.**

BSE & PTC-backed Hindustan Power Exchange launched

SHREYA JAI
New Delhi, 6 July

The third power exchange in the country, Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) backed by BSE and Power Trading Corporation (PTC) was launched on Wednesday, after being floated in 2019. PTC India and BSE Investment hold 25 per cent each in HPX, followed by 9.9 per cent held by ICICI Bank.

Other shareholders are Greenko Energies (5 per cent), Jindal Power (2 per cent), Meenakshi Power (5 per cent) and six others. HPX received a nod from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) last week.

The other two exchanges in the country are Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL), of which, IEX holds a 98 per cent—almost monopoly on the total traded power in the country.

Akhilesh Awasthy, chief operating officer at HPX, told Business Standard, “For 20 years or more, almost 90 per cent of India’s electricity is traded via bilateral contracts between power generation companies and state utilities. These contracts do not provide the flexibility to sector participants to take advantage of market conditions at different times. The introduction of HPX will give a push to the development and pro-

gress of spot trading in electricity.”

Awasthy said the new exchange already has a heterogeneous mix of stakeholders, including state-owned private utilities, generating companies and consultants. Power distribution companies of Haryana and West Bengal are already on board to trade electricity; so are the two discoms of RP Sanjiv Goenka group – Noida power and CESC.

Among equity partners are Jindal Power, SJVN and Greenko and Manikaran partners, a leading power trader and Mercados Energy Markets, which is a consulting agency, Awasthy said.

“This takes us ahead of the two exchanges already as most of the equity is controlled by power companies. In terms of technology, we are offering all contracts on a single platform. Unlike others, our technology platform was audited by one of the big four accounting firms and the report was scrutinised by the regulator,” Awasthy said.

He further said the module of price discovery has been designed on the lines of European power markets and their platform will ensure minimal or no manual intervention at all in the price discovery. “We would be able to challenge the monopoly of existing platforms in no time,” Awasthy said.



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- **PTC India and BSE Investment hold 25 percent each in HPX, followed by 9.9 percent held by ICICI Bank.**
- **Other shareholders are Greenko Energies (5 percent), Jindal Power (2 percent), Meenakshi Power (5 percent), and six others. HPX received a nod from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) last week.**
- **The other two exchanges in the country are the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and the Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL), of which IEX holds a 98 percent almost monopoly on the total traded power in the country.**

74. Recently India has set a target of _____

billion service export in the current fiscal.

India targets \$350 billion of services exports this fiscal

- A. USD 200 Billion
- B. USD 350 Billion**
- C. USD 500 Billion
- D. USD 450 Billion
- E. None of the above

India's services export market share improved from 3% in 2010 to 4% in 2020 and 2021

Dilasha Seth & Ravi Dutta Mishra
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

India's service exporters are looking at an export target of \$350 billion in the current fiscal, up a steep 37% from last year, despite headwinds and recession fears in the global market.

They are pinning their hopes on the post-pandemic recovery made by some key sectors, including travel, hospitality, and entertainment. This, they say, can help narrow the widening trade and current account deficits.

However, the services exports sector is looking for support and incentives from the government in the new foreign trade policy that is likely to be unveiled in September, said Abhay Singh, DG, Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC).

Key sectors, including tourism and hospitality, have shown a revival after being hammered for two years during the pandemic, which has improved their outlook.

"We have been communicated a target of \$350 billion for services exports by the department of commerce. It is very steep. There are a lot of challenges, but we will strive for that. We will see how to encash on the global opportunities emerging out of free trade agreements. The target is achievable, given that the government provides incentives," Sinha said.



The incentives should be broad-based, covering small players so they could spend on marketing development efforts, competitiveness development, upskilling, and export promotion.

STEPPED BUT ACHIEVABLE
SERVICES exports in FY22 was \$254 bn despite travel, tourism & aviation being hit by covid

FOR FY23 exporters will also focus on market research, engineering & construction svcs

GAMING & animation industry is another sector, with a huge potential in Latin America

This comes at a time merchandise exports are seeing a dip in orders from key markets. Leather and textiles exporters anticipate a 10-20% decline in export volume during the current financial year compared with FY22.

In June, engineering goods recorded a 1.57% decline in June over the corresponding month last year at \$9.19 billion.

Drugs and pharmaceuticals exports fell 1.27% during the month to \$1.99 billion, while yarn and handloom exports were down 22.54% compared with last year at \$0.925 billion. Plastics and linoleum exports contracted by 23.23% to \$0.75

billion in June. There may be some data to back the commerce department's optimism. India's services exports in the fiscal year 2021-22 touched an all-time high of \$254 billion despite the travel and tourism, aviation, and hospitality sectors being severely hit by the pandemic.

Sinha said that the focus of exporters will also be on sectors such as market research, consulting, engineering, and construction services and will contribute to the target of \$350 billion in FY23.

India's trade deficit widened to a record high in June at \$25.5 billion led by high value coal and petroleum imports amid high international prices.

Economists expect the trade deficit or the gap between exports and imports to remain elevated through 2022-23 with the current account deficit expected to nearly double to more than 3% of GDP in FY23, from 1.2% in FY22.

As per World Trade Organization estimates, India's services export market share improved from 3% in 2010 to 3.5% in 2019 and 4% in 2020 and 2021.

"Computer services comprise about one-third of India's total services exports, the share of which has remained steady over the past ten years, even as it grew at half (5.4%) the growth rate of world computer services exports (10.9%) on a CAGR basis," a Morgan Stanley report said.

"We have been focusing on the gaming and animation industry and there is a huge potential in markets like Latin America," said Sinha.

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75. Recently Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) announced to invest _____ crore in the proposed rights issue of its joint venture LIC (Nepal) Ltd.

- A. Rs 80.67 Cr**
- B. Rs 85.69 Cr
- C. Rs 90.87 Cr

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- D. Rs 68.96 Cr
- E. None of the above

- **State-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) will invest Rs 80.67 crore in the proposed rights issue of its joint venture LIC (Nepal) Ltd.**
- **LIC, which got listed on the bourses in May, will hold its first Annual General Meeting on September 27, 2022.**
- **Approval has been accorded for investing in the proposed rights issue of LIC (Nepal) Ltd worth NPR 127.07 cr (INR 80.67 Crore) approximately subject to the prevalent exchange rate for infusing capital in LIC (Nepal) Ltd.**
- **LIC owns a 55 percent stake in LIC (Nepal).**
- **LIC said the central government has nominated Suchindra Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, as Government Director on its board with immediate effect. He replaces Pankaj Jain.**

LIC to invest ₹80.67 cr in rights issue of its Nepal arm

First AGM post listing on September 27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4

LIC will invest ₹80.67 crore in the proposed rights issue of its joint venture LIC (Nepal) Ltd.

The proposal was approved during the insurer's board meeting on Monday.

LIC, which got listed on the bourses in May, will hold its first annual general meeting on September 27, according to stock exchange filing. "Approval has been accorded for investing in the proposed rights issue of LIC (Nepal) Ltd worth NPR 127.07 crore (₹ 80.67 crore) approximately subject to the prevalent exchange rate for infusing capital in LIC (Nepal) Ltd," it said.

LIC owns 55 per cent stake in



LIC (Nepal). In another filing, LIC said the central government has nominated Suchindra Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Financial Services, as Government Director on its board with immediate effect. He replaces Pankaj Jain. Shares of LIC rose 2.33 per cent to close at ₹ 692.50 apiece on the BSE.

RBI revises norms on sorting of banknotes

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)
Mumbai, July 1

on Friday issued guidelines directing banks to test their banknote sorting machines on a quarterly basis. The central bank revised the existing guidelines for authentication and sorting following introduction of the new series banknotes.

"In the backdrop of introduction of the new series banknotes, these parameters have been reviewed and a revised set of guidelines are enclosed for implementation," the central bank said.

Currently, the RBI issues banknotes in denominations of ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, ₹200, ₹500 and ₹2000, according to information in its annual report for 2021-22. In value terms, the share of ₹500 and ₹2000 banknotes together accounted for 87.1% of banknotes in circulation. In volume terms, ₹500 denomination constituted the highest share at 34.9% of the total banknotes in circulation as on March 31.

Banks will have to prepare a test deck of minimum 2,000 pieces of soiled notes, including mutilated one and fake Indian currency notes, as per the revised guidelines. The machine will be required to be tested by using notes of different denominations such as ₹100 old series notes, ₹100 new series notes, ₹200 notes, ₹500 notes and ₹2,000 notes. In case of discrepancies during the sorting, suppliers will have to re-calibrate the machines, the central bank said.

Additionally, banks will have to classify mutilated, imperfect, mismatched notes and built-up ones as suspect or reject, under the notes refund rules of 2009, the RBI said.



76. Consider the following statement regarding **RBI's new norms on banknote authentication.**

1. **The RBI issues banknotes in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500, and Rs 2000.**
2. **In volume terms, Rs 500 denomination constituted the highest share at 34.9% of the total banknotes in circulation as of March 31.**
3. **Banks will have to prepare a test deck of a minimum of 2,000 pieces of soiled notes, including mutilated ones and fake Indian currency notes.**

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 the above

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued guidelines directing banks to test their banknote sorting machines every quarter.**

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

- The central bank revised the existing guidelines for authentication and sorting following the introduction of the new series of banknotes.
- Currently, the RBI issues banknotes in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500, and Rs 2000, according to information in its annual report for 2021-22.
- In value terms, the share of Rs 500 and Rs 2000 banknotes together accounted for 87.1% of banknotes in circulation. In volume terms, Rs 500 denomination constituted the highest share at 34.9% of the total banknotes in circulation as of March 31.
- Banks will have to prepare a test deck of a minimum of 2,000 pieces of soiled notes, including mutilated ones and fake Indian currency notes, as per the revised guidelines.
- The machine will be required to be tested by using notes of different denominations such as Rs 100 old series notes, Rs 100 new series notes, Rs 200 notes, Rs 500 notes, and Rs 2,000 notes. In case of discrepancies during the sorting, suppliers will have to re-calibrate the machines.

77. Recently ACME Group announced a world's largest green hydrogen and green ammonia project entailing an investment of Rs 52,474 crore in _____ .

- A. Odisha
- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Telangana
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above

- ACME Group announced green hydrogen and green ammonia project entailing an investment of Rs 52,474 crore in Tamil Nadu.
- The initial agreement with the state government was signed during the

TAMIL NADU – INVESTORS' FIRST PORT OF CALL INVESTMENT CONCLAVE

ACME Green Hydrogen to invest ₹52,474 cr in TN

Tata Power will invest ₹3,000 crore in Tirunelveli for making PV cells, modules

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, July 4

The Gurugram-based ACME Green Hydrogen and Chemicals Pvt Ltd will set up a green ammonia and green hydrogen factory in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, at a cost of ₹52,474 crore. This will be one of the largest such plants in the world, said the company's founder, Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, at the Tamil Nadu - Investors' First Port of Call Investment Conclave held on Monday. This was the largest investment announced at the event.

The green ammonia hydrogen will provide chemicals to the fertiliser industry, fuel to the power sector and to the shipping industry. The factory needs a large piece of land

near the port, solar radiation, and a skilled talent pool, all of which are available in Tamil Nadu, he said at the event.

Tamil Nadu further enhanced its image of being the top State in the country when it comes to clean and renewable energy with two significant projects worth nearly ₹12,000 crore announced at the event.

The US-based Cubic PV will invest ₹8,832 crore to set up a plant in the State with a manufacturing capacity of 4 GW cells and 4 GW modules. Peter Van Mierlo, CFO, Cubic PV, said India is the only global market that has put up a number of measures in place to create the next solar industry. The industry has been moving from the US, to Europe, China and



MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; Thangam Thennarasu, Industries Minister; and S Krishnan, Industries Secretary, at the signing an MoU with Manoj Kumar Upadhyay, CMD, ACME Group, at the TN - Investors' First Port of Call Investment Conclave - July 2022, in Chennai. BJY GHSH

India will be the next place to be. The company selected Tamil Nadu because of the government support, talent pool and the number of universities. Three Nobel laureates have come from the State, and they were in Physics

and Chemistry - both are at the heart of solar energy, he said.

TN to lead in RE

Tata Power will invest ₹3,000 crore in Sipcot Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli with a manufacturing capacity of 4 GW solar

cell and 4 GW module. Work is likely to start next month and by next year, around this time, the first phase of the project will be in place with solar modules coming out of the plant, Praveer Singh Singh, MD and CEO, Tata Power, said.

The company has been manufacturing solar cells and modules for the last 30 years and strongly believes that Tamil Nadu can take the lead in renewable energy and the way it can be used. The State has the maximum wind farms in the country of nearly 10 GW and has a huge potential of around 60 GW, he said.

While there is a huge opportunity for wind energy on the ground, offshore wind energy opportunities are there for nearly 35 GW. "I am sure Tamil Nadu will be the first State in the country which will have an offshore green plant," he said.

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Tamil Nadu

Investment Conclave.

- This will be one of the largest plants in India and perhaps the largest in the world. This plant will produce green hydrogen and ammonia, which will help to de-carbonize sectors such as fertilizers, power, refining, and steel, among others.
- The project requires four ingredients – solar radiation, access to the port, availability of land, and skilled resources.
- **ACME Group COO Sandeep Kashyap said the project will comprise 5,000 MW of solar PV plant, 1.5 GW of the electrolyzer, and 1.1 million tonnes of ammonia synthesis loop.**

78. Consider the following statement regarding **Tamil Nadu's first port of call investment conclave.**

1. Tamil Nadu secured investments worth **Rs 1.44 trillion** by signing memoranda of understanding (MoU) with **60 companies**
2. To encourage FinTech adoption in the State, the Chief Minister launched the **TECXPRIENCE** program.
3. **Tata Power** to invest about **₹3,000 crores** to set up a solar cell, and module manufacturing unit in **Tirunelveli.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The Tamil Nadu Government signed 60 MoUs to bring in a cumulative investment worth ₹1.25 lakh crore and offer 74,898 jobs.**
- **In the last year, the State had attracted investment worth ₹2.20 lakh crore (from 192 MoUs signed), according to State government data.**
- **At the Tamil Nadu Investors' First Port of Call - Investment Conclave, 53 facilitation MoUs were signed with an investment of ₹65,373 crores, offering employment opportunities to 58,478 people. The companies that signed the MOUs include Amplus (Petronas); Cubic PV and L&T.**

Tata Power to set up ₹3K-cr solar unit in TN

FE BUREAU
Chennai, July 4

TATAPOWER on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to invest around ₹3,000 crore to set up a greenfield 4 GW solar cell and 4 GW solar module manufacturing plant in the state's Tirunelveli district. The investment will be made over 16 months and is likely to directly or indirectly create over 2,000 employment opportunities, with majority being for women.

Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power, said: "Tata Power Solar's new production facility being set up with the support and assistance of the Tamil Nadu government will help meet the rising demand for clean energy solutions, apart from providing huge employment opportunities." This will be its second manufacturing unit after Bengaluru.

In all, the Tamil Nadu government on Monday signed 60 MoUs at the Investors' Conclave here, attracting cumulative investments of ₹1.25 trillion and employment for 74,898 people. With this, the state government has garnered industrial investment of ₹2.2 trillion in the last one year.

Lucas TVS and International Aerospace Manufacturing are other significant names that inked pacts. Of the total 60 MoUs, 53 are facilitation MoUs worth ₹65,373 crore and seven amounting to ₹59,871 crore were inked for projects sanctioned under structured packages of incentives.

Lucas TVS said it will set up a lithium ion cell facility at Thiruvallur; ACME, a green ammonia project at Tuticorin; International Aerospace Manufacturing, an aero engine component unit at Hosur; and Aravind Ceramics, a tile production centre at Thanjavur. While MPlastics will set up a toy-making facility at Hosur, VVDN will establish a 5G networking facility at Pollachi.

The 53 facilitation MoUs also include



Investments this year

Tamil Nadu	West Bengal	Odisha
Date of investors' meet		
Jul 4, '22	Apr 4, '22	Jun 29, '22
Investments committed		
₹1.25 trn	₹3.42 trn	₹21,000 cr
Employment generated		
74,898	4,000,000	19,000

names such as Sify, L&T, Cubic PV of the US, ENES Textiles, Century Ply, M&M, Rane Holdings, Gokaldas group, Bharat Alt Fuel, Equinix and Garuda Aerospace.

Equinix India, part of Equinix, the world's largest data centre provider, has taken 5.95 acre land on a long-term lease at State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu IT Park. The project includes building a world-class data centre with an ultimate capacity of 24 MW IT load. The company estimates to invest over ₹1,000 crore in phases over the next 10 years.

Chief minister MK Stalin said Tamil Nadu had moved up to the third spot in the ease of doing business rankings from the 14th. He laid the foundation stone for 21 projects, entailing investment of ₹22,252 crore. He also inaugurated 12 projects with a cumulative investment of ₹1,492 crore.

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- In addition, seven MoUs for projects that have been sanctioned with structured packages of incentives were signed with an investment value of ₹59,871 crores, providing 74,898 jobs. The firms include Lucas TVS, ACME Green Hydrogen, and Tata Power.
- To encourage FinTech adoption in the State, the Chief Minister launched the TECXPERIENCE program, a suite of technology services available for free or at a discounted price for a limited period.
- He also inaugurated TN PitchFest, organized by Guidance and StartUp TN, to provide a platform for StartUps in the State to venture capital firms and angel investors.
- Tata Power has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tamil Nadu government to invest about ₹3,000 crores to set up a solar cell, module manufacturing unit in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.
- The new plant in Tamil Nadu will integrate Mono-PERC (Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell) Bifacial Technology with future n-type technology of Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contacts (TOPCON) and will produce High Wattage Modules with industry-leading efficiencies.
- International Aerospace Manufacturing Pvt Ltd (IAMPL), a joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Hindustan Aeronautics for the manufacture of high-precision aero-engine compressors, also signed an MoU for setting up a plant in Hosur.

79. Consider the following statement regarding the Reserve Bank's next round of its order books, inventories and capacity utilization survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing companies.

1. The 58th round of the OBICUS is for April - June 2022 period.
2. The central bank has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector every quarter since 2008.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

TN signs MoUs worth ₹1.25-lakh cr; to generate nearly 75,000 jobs

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, July 4

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday signed 60 MoUs to bring in cumulative investments of ₹1.25-lakh crore and offer 75,000 jobs. In the last one year, the State had attracted investment worth ₹2.2-lakh crore (via 192 MoUs), according to State government data.

At the Tamil Nadu Investors' First Port of Call-Investment Conclave, 53 facilitation MoUs were signed for investments of ₹65,373 crore, generating employment opportunities to over 58,400. The companies that signed the MoUs include Amplus (Petronas); Cubic PV and L&T. Another seven MoUs for projects sanctioned with structured packages of incentives were signed for investments of ₹59,871 crore, generating 75,000 jobs. The firms include Lucas TVS, ACME Green Hydrogen and Tata Power.

TECXPERIENCE programme
To encourage FinTech adoption in the State, the Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the TECXPERIENCE programme, a suite of technology services available for free or at a discounted price for a limited period. He also inaugurated TN PitchFest, organised by Guidance and StartUp TN, to provide a platform for start-ups to venture capital firms and angel investors.

Organisational MoUs were exchanged for 11 projects, including VakilSearch and Capital FinTech.

[Also read p9](#)

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- **The Reserve Bank has launched the next round of its order books, inventories, and capacity utilization survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing companies, results of which provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.**
- **The 58th round of the OBICUS is for April - June 2022 period.**
- **Selected manufacturing companies will be approached by the RBI for the survey.**
- **The survey provides valuable input for monetary policy formulation.**
- **The central bank has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector every quarter since 2008.**
- **The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS).**
- **The survey, conducted annually from 2006-07, provides information on financial services rendered by branches/subsidiaries/joint ventures of Indian banks operating abroad and branches/subsidiaries of foreign banks operating in India.**

RBI launches next round of survey of manufacturing cos

Mumbai, Jul 4 (PTI) The Reserve Bank on Monday said it has launched the next round of its order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing companies, results of which provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.

The 58th round of the OBICUS is for April - June 2022 period.

Selected manufacturing companies will be approached by the RBI for the survey, the central bank said.

The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, and total inventories with a breakup between finished goods, among others.

The level of capacity utilisation is estimated from these responses.

"The survey provides valuable input for monetary policy formulation," the RBI said.

The central bank has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS).

The survey, conducted annually since 2006-07, provides information on financial services rendered by branches/subsidiaries/joint ventures of Indian banks operating abroad and branches/subsidiaries of foreign banks operating in India.

80. Recently IGSS Ventures has signed an agreement with _____ State Government for setting up a semiconductor park.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala
- E. None of the above

- **IGSS Ventures has signed an agreement with Tamil Nadu Government for setting up a semiconductor park.**
- **The park will be established on a 300-acre land. It will be established with an investment commitment of 25,600 crore rupees in five years.**
- **As per the government, the industrial park has the potential to generate 1500 direct jobs.**

IGSS Ventures, TN govt ink pact for ₹25,600-cr semiconductor park

To generate direct employment for 1,500 people

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, July 1
Singapore-based IGSS Ventures, a leading player in the semiconductor technology space, is proposing to invest ₹25,600 crore in Tamil Nadu over the next five years to set up a semiconductor fab unit and a semiconductor high-tech park. To this effect, IGSS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Guidance, the State government's nodal agency for investment promotion and single-window facilitation, on Friday, in presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin.

"The project will come up over a 300-acre area and the location for the same will be worked out," said Thangam Thennarasu, State Industries Minister. IGSS Ventures has proposed to set up the facility under "Project Suria" and submitted an application under the "Scheme for Setting up of



IGSS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Guidance, Tamil Nadu government's nodal agency for investment promotion and single-window facilitation, on Friday

Semiconductor Fabs in India" under India Semiconductor Mission.

Job opportunities

IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd is a semiconductor technology holding company with three other semiconductor subsidiaries – Innovative Global Solutions & Services Pte Ltd, IGSS GaN Pte Ltd and CompoundTek Pte Ltd – that together has tier 1 semiconductor foundry/fab capabilities and key emerging niche technologies. While there be will direct job opportunities for about 1,500 people by the company, the eco-

system comprising circuit design companies, raw material and equipment suppliers and outsourcing and testing companies may generate job opportunities for about 25,000 people.

The proposed project will generate direct employment for around 1,500 people, Guidance said in a social media post. The development comes a week after officials from Guidance held talks with the top management of Foxconn, which manufactures Apple iPhones in the State, on the latter's plans to invest in the semiconductor sector.

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- *IGSS Ventures plans to establish a semiconductor fabrication unit under the 'India Semiconductor Mission' of the Centre.*
- *IGSS Ventures is a Singapore-based technology investment holding company.*
- *India Semiconductor Mission was launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and IT with a financial outlay of Rs76,000 crore.*

81. Recently in July _____ *partnered with software firm Salesforce to support the company's growth priorities.*

- A. *State Bank of India*
- B. *HDFC Ltd***
- C. *Bank of Baroda*
- D. *ICICI Bank*
- E. *None of the above*

- *Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Tuesday said it has partnered with software firm Salesforce to support the company's growth priorities.*
- *HDFC wanted to build the next generation of integration backbone, to easily connect backend and frontend systems including Salesforce.*
- *HDFC stated that Mulesoft with its innovative API-led integration approach coupled with low code integration capabilities - will help the company innovate quickly around the connecting system.*
- ***Arundhati Bhattacharya, CEO of Salesforce India***
- ***HDFC MD Renu Sud Karnad.***

82. Consider the following statement regarding the *amendment to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).*

1. *With the new rule, relatives can send up to 10 lakh rupees without informing the government.*
2. *If the amount exceeds 10 lakhs, individuals will now have three months to notify the government instead of the previous 30-day limit.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) has been amended by the Union Home Ministry to provide some relaxation, including the freedom for relatives to transfer more money to India.**
- **With the new rule, relatives can send up to 10 lakh rupees without informing the government.**
- **If the amount exceeds 10 lakhs, individuals will now have three months to notify the government instead of the previous 30-day limit.**
- **Additionally, the amended rule offers organizations more time to inform the government about the opening of bank accounts for the use of funds obtained under the "registration" or "prior permission" category.**
- **A provision that required organizations or individuals receiving foreign funds to disclose their contributions on their official website every three months have also been eliminated.**
- **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):**
- **It is an act of Parliament that was passed in 2010.**
- **It was formed to regulate the individuals or associations or companies receiving foreign contributions and to ban the receipt and use of these funds for any activity that can cause a threat to national security.**
- **No political organization, other than a political party, is permitted to accept foreign contributions without the prior consent of the Central Government, according to Section 5 of the aforementioned Act.**

83. How much TDS has become applicable on the transfer of Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) from 1 July 2022?

- A. 1%
- B. 2%
- C. 3%
- D. 4%
- E. None of the above

FCRA RULES AMENDED

Relatives abroad can send up to ₹10L to Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 2

THE UNION HOME ministry has amended certain rules related to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), allowing Indians to receive up to ₹10 lakh in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities. The earlier limit was ₹1 lakh.

In a notification, the home ministry also said if the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have 90 days to inform the government instead of 30 days earlier.

The new rules, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, were notified by the home ministry through a gazette notification on Friday night. "In the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, in rule 6,—for the words "one lakh rupees", the words "ten lakh rupees" shall be substituted; and for the words "thirty days", the words "three months" shall be substituted," the notification said. Rule 6 deals with intimation of receiving foreign funds

Money matters



■ Earlier limit was ₹1 lakh



■ If amount exceeds, 90 days to inform govt instead of 30 days earlier

■ NGOs, individual getting foreign funds no longer have to declare every quarter

from relatives.

It stated earlier that "any person receiving foreign contribution in excess of ₹1 lakh or equivalent thereto in a financial year from any of his relatives shall inform the central government (details of funds) within 30 days from the receipt of such contribution".

Continued on Page 2

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- **One percent tax deducted at source (TDS) has become applicable on the transfer of Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) from 1 July 2022.**

CBDT clears air on what qualifies as VDA and what doesn't

Gift card, mileage/reward points will not fall under the ambit of virtual digital asset

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, July 1
The Income Tax Department has said that a token which qualifies to be a virtual digital asset (VDA) as non-fungible token (NFT) will not include an NFT whose transfer results in the transfer of ownership of the underlying tangible asset. Also, it has said that subscription to websites or platforms or application will not be treated as VDA. Similarly, gift card or vouchers, mileage points, reward points or loyalty cards will not be categorized as VDA.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued two notifications to bring clarity on VDA, which are popularly known as cryptos. These notifications are a follow-up to the Budget announcement which prescribed 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of VDA and 1 per cent TDS (tax deducted at source) on VDA transactions. While tax on income came into effect from April 1, the TDS has come into effect from July 1.

Clarity on VDA
One of the notifications specifies "a token which qualifies



These notifications are a follow-up to the Budget announcement, which prescribed 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of VDA and 1 per cent TDS on VDA transactions.

to be a virtual digital asset as non-fungible token within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause (47A) of Section 2 of the Act but shall not include a non-fungible token whose transfer results in the transfer of ownership of the underlying

tangible asset and the transfer of ownership of such underlying tangible asset is legally enforceable." Sandeep Bhanjhwala, Partner with Nangia Andersen LLP, said there were concerns on what would be covered under NFIs, as its taxation under normal provisions could be more beneficial vis-à-vis deemed higher rate of taxation under the VDA provisions. "The notification excluding NFIs which derive value from the underlying tangible asset and transactions involving the transfer of the underlying tangible asset is a welcome move. Hence, not all NFIs would be subject to the VDA tax provisions," he said.

In another notification, the CBDT said that VDAs will exclude gift card or vouchers, being a record that may be used to obtain goods or services or a discount on goods or services. Mileage points, reward points or loyalty card and subscription to websites or platforms or application will not be treated as VDA.

Key factor
According to Aakasha Goel, Partner with T R Chadha & Co LLP, most of the above VDAs have been covered within the ambit of Section 194R of the Income Tax Act, which seems to be the reason for the exclusion of the same from the purview of VDA. Raghav Bajaj, a counsel

with Khaifan & Co, said it clears the ambiguity that had arisen in relation to the scope of VDAs. Amit Maheshwari, Tax Partner, AKM Global, said this is a welcome clarification by the government since the definition of VDA is worded in an all-encompassing manner. "The unintended consequence of the same covered online gaming coupons, codes, website subscriptions, gift coupons, CRED coins, credit card reward points and mileage points under the VDA category. With this clarification, the ambiguity has been addressed. They do not have to bear the tax burden of 30 per cent, which will create certainty in this space," he said.

- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has excluded certain items from the definition of virtual digital assets in a notification dated 30th June 2022.**
- **As per the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the following items are not virtual digital assets:**
- **A gift card or voucher is a record that may be used to obtain goods or services or a discount on goods or services**
- **Reward points, mileage points, or loyalty cards, being a record given without direct monetary consideration under a reward, award, loyalty, benefit, incentive, promotional, or rebate program that may be redeemed or used only to obtain goods or services or a discount on goods or services**
- **Subscription to websites or platforms or application**

84. Recently which of the following Indian-origin women has been listed on the Forbes list of America's richest self-made women.

- A. Jayshree V Ullal
- B. Neha Narkhede
- C. Neerja Sethi
- D. Indra Nooyi
- E. All of the above

- **Jayshree Ullal has been listed on the Forbes list of America's richest self-made women. With a net worth of \$1.9 billion, Ullal owns 5% of Arista's stock.**
- **Ullal ranks 15th on the Forbes list.**

Five Indian-origin faces on Forbes list of America's richest self-made women

With a net worth of \$1.9 billion, Jayshree V Ullal, president & CEO of Arista Networks, has grabbed the 15th position on the Forbes' list of America's richest self-made women. Besides Ullal, four other Indian-origin names made it to the list.

● Net worth



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- *Ulla is not the only Indian-American on the list. At rank 24 is Neerja Sethi with a net worth of USD 1 billion. Sethi co-founded IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai in 1980*
 - *Neha Narkhede, the co-founder of cloud company Confluent, is ranked 57th on the list.*
 - *At rank 85 is Indra Nooyi, the former chairperson, and chief executive officer of PepsiCo.*
 - *The 41-year-old Reshma Shetty, co-founder of Gingko Bioworks is also on the Forbes' list of America's richest self-made women*
 - *Diane Hendricks, co-founder, and chairman of ABC Supply topped the list for the fifth year.*
85. Recently *Star Health and Allied Insurance Company* have signed a corporate agency agreement with _____ for the distribution of its health insurance products.
- A. Axis Bank
 - B. Yes Bank
 - C. IDFC First Bank**
 - D. Bank of Baroda
 - E. None of the above
- *Star Health and Allied Insurance Company have signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for the distribution of its health insurance products.*
 - *As per the agreement, Star Health and Allied Insurance will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers through the latter's digital platform and distribution network.*
 - *Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd is an Indian multinational health insurance company headquartered in Tamil Nadu, Chennai.*
 - *IDFC First Bank is an Indian Private Sector Bank that forms part of IDFC, an integrated infrastructure finance company. The bank started operations on 1 October 2015, after receiving a universal banking license from the Reserve Bank of India in July 2015.*
86. About *Interest rates on small savings schemes for quarter 2 of FY23 Which Of The Following Is not matched correctly :*

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- A. **Public Provident Fund (PPF) - 7.1 %**
- B. **National Savings Certificate (NSC) - 6.8 %**
- C. **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana - 7.6 %**
- D. **EPF deposits - 8.1 %**
- E. **All are Correct**

- **The government on Thursday kept interest rates unchanged on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, for the second quarter of 2022-23 amid high inflation and rising interest rate.**
- **The interest rate on small savings schemes has not been revised since the first quarter of 2020-21.**
- **Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to have an annual interest rate of 7.1 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively, in the second quarter of this fiscal.**
- **Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified every quarter.**
- **The one-year term deposit scheme will continue to earn an interest rate of 5.5 percent in the second quarter.**
- **It is to be noted that the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) raised the interest rate on one-year fixed deposits by 5.10 percent following two consecutive increases in benchmark rate by 90 basis points to tame high inflation.**
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the repo rate by 40 basis points and 50 basis points in May and June, respectively.**
- **Retail inflation stood at 7.04 percent in May, remaining above the RBI's tolerance level for the fifth month in a row.**
- **The interest rate on the five-year senior citizens' savings scheme will be retained at 7.4 percent. The interest on the senior citizens' scheme is paid every quarter.**
- **The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana will fetch 7.6 percent.**
- **The interest rate on savings deposits will continue to be at 4 percent per annum.**
- **Term deposits of one to five years will fetch an interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7 percent, to be paid quarterly while the interest rate on five-year recurring deposits will earn a higher interest of 5.8 percent.**

Govt. keeps small savings interest rates unchanged

Move belies hopes of hike amid surge in yields from bonds

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The government has left the interest rates on small savings schemes such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF) and the National Savings Certificate (NSC) unchanged for the July-September quarter.

A hike in small savings rate was expected in view of a surge in yields on government bonds, to which their returns are linked as per a formula, amid a surge in inflation and increases in key interest rates by the Reserve Bank. "The *status quo* on small savings rates for

Rate card | A look at the existing rates of interest for select small savings schemes

Instruments	Existing interest rates (%)
1-year term deposit	5.5*
5-year term deposit	6.7*
5-year recurring deposit	5.8*
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4
National Savings Certificate	6.8
Public Provident Fund	7.1
Monthly Income Account	6.6
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	7.6

*approximate Source: CMIE

the next quarter is contrary to our expectations of a hike in rates, given the sharp increases seen in the yields on government se-

curities of various maturities," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

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87. Recently, a special additional excise duty of _____ has been imposed on exports of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

- A. ₹3 per liter
- B. ₹5 per liter
- C. ₹6 per liter
- D. ₹8 per liter
- E. None of the above

Export duty on fuel, import duty on gold hiked; windfall tax on crude imposed

Earning profits is good but extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures: FM

SHSHIR SINHA
New Delhi, July 1

The government on Friday hiked import duty on gold, slapped export tax on petrol, diesel and jet fuel (ATF) shipped out by firms like Reliance and Nayara Energy, and simultaneously imposed a windfall tax on crude oil. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the exercise was a reflection of "extraordinary times which need extraordinary measures".

While the move on gold will result in prices going up, the higher export duty on diesel and jet fuel aims to boost domestic supply. The government also maintained that it will review

the new taxation on crude and petro-products every fortnight based on international prices and take a call accordingly.

Arresting import surge

A notification by the Finance Ministry said the basic custom duty on gold will now be 12.5 per cent as against 7.5 per cent. Though surcharge at the rate of 10 per cent of basic custom duty has been removed, the 2.5 per cent agriculture infrastructure development cess (AIDC) will continue. Effectively, import duty will now be 15 per cent as against 10.75 per cent.

"India does not produce much

gold. In fact, the production is almost zilch. So, you are importing by paying foreign exchange. So, you would want to see whether you can at least try to discourage the extent to which people are importing," Sitharaman said.

A note from the Finance Ministry said there has been a sudden surge in gold imports. In May, a total of 107 tonnes of gold was imported and in June, too, the imports have been significant. The surge is putting pressure on the current account deficit with the resultant impact being the weakening of rupee.

Special additional excise duty/cess has been imposed on the export of petrol (₹6/litre) and diesel (₹13/litre). The move aims to facilitate domestic supplies. The Centre has also imposed a special additional excise duty of ₹6 per litre on exports of ATF.

'Not to discourage exports'

Sitharaman said while it is a good thing that India has become a refining hub and the government would like that to continue, it is also true that some private pump outlets are now not supplying for domestic consumption. Further, she said India buys crude from different places at cost-effective ways while also making sure the excise duty is cut so that the burden is not

In a nutshell

- Basic Custom Duty (BCD) on gold hiked to 12.5%
- Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess of 2.5% to continue
- Surcharge on BCD removed
- Special additional excise duty/cesses on exports of petrol and diesel at ₹6 and ₹13 per litre, respectively
- Upstream oil companies exporting petrol have to sell the equivalent of 50% of the amount sold to the domestic market for FY23
- For diesel, this requirement has been put at 30% of the volume exported
- Windfall gain tax by way of cess at ₹23,250 per tonne imposed on domestically produced crude oil
- No estimate of additional revenue of windfall gain, some reports suggest ₹66,000 in a full year



passed on to the ordinary citizen.

"Earning profits is good but these are extraordinary times. We need that at least some of it is for our own citizens and that is why we have taken this twin-pronged approach. It is not to discourage exports. It is not to discourage India remaining a refining hub. It is certainly not against profit earnings. But extraordinary times do require some such steps," she said.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj clarified that the increase in the duty will be applicable to Special Economic Zones also. "But the export restriction will not be ap-

plicable," he said. A cess of ₹23,250 per tonne (by way of special additional excise duty) has been imposed on crude.

No cess on import of crude

"Domestic crude producers sell crude to domestic refineries at international parity prices. As a result, the producers are making windfall gains. Taking this into account, a cess has been imposed," said the ministry. The import of crude would not be subject to this cess. The ministry also clarified the cess will have no adverse impact on domestic petroleum products/fuel prices.

Hike in gold import duty will strengthen grey market: WGC

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 1
Somasundaram PR, Regional CEO (India), World Gold Council, said the increase in import duty on gold to 12.5 per cent aims to reduce imports and ease macro-economic pressure

on rupee. However, the overall taxes on gold will now rise sharply to about 18.45 per cent and unless this is tactical and temporary, this will strengthen the grey market with adverse consequences, he added.

Report p8

- **Special additional excise duty/cess has been imposed on exports of petrol and diesel at ₹6 per liter and ₹13 per liter, respectively.**
- **A special additional excise duty of ₹6 per liter has been imposed on exports of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).**
- **Windfall gain tax by way of cess at ₹23,250 per tonne has been imposed on domestically produced crude oil.**
- **This tax has been imposed to take away windfall gains accruing to oil producers from high international oil prices.**
- **A windfall gain tax is a higher tax rate imposed on sudden big profits of a company or industry.**
- **Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on gold has been increased from 7.5% to 12.5%.**
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess of 2.5% will continue. Surcharge on BCD has been removed.**
- **Effectively, import duty on gold is now 15% as against earlier 10.75%.**
- **Import duty on gold has been raised from 10.75% to 15% to control the current account deficit (CAD) and rising import of gold.**

88. Recently _____ launched an initiative *The Ally Annexure* to help LGBTQ customers gain better access to financial services.

- A. Fi Money

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- B. Pi Phy
- C. Paytm
- D. Open
- E. None of the above

- Bengaluru-based neo bank Fi Money recently launched an initiative to help LGBTQ customers gain better access to financial services.
- While still at its initial stages, the 'The Ally Annexure' initiative aims to educate institutions about being more accessible to queer customers' financial needs.
- The initiative was launched in partnership with Pride Circle, a diversity and inclusion firm. It will be supported by Fi Money's banking partner - Kochi-based Federal Bank.
- Founded in 2019, the fintech company is funded by Sequoia India, Ribbit Capital, and B Capital Group.

89. Recently _____ has teamed up with CAMSPay to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Autopay for immediate SIPs.

- A. UTI Mutual Fund
- B. MAS Financial Services Ltd
- C. **Tata Mutual Fund**
- D. Nebo Financial Services
- E. None of the above

- Tata Mutual Fund has teamed up with CAMSPay to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Autopay for immediate SIPs. Using this, investors in mutual funds can use their virtual payment address (VPA)/UPI handle to mandate an Autopay facility for their Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions.
- This is yet another effort from Tata Mutual Fund to provide ease of transactions to investors. They can now set a SIP mandate in their UPI application. Instruction to debit the investor's bank account will be sent on the SIP date for immediate recovery of funds in the scheme account. This ensures that the investor gets the appropriate NAV to ensure operational efficiency.
- CAMSPay's UPI Autopay offers Real-Time Third-Party Payment Validation (TPV) and Same-Day Settlement, hence the NAV benefit to the investors.

90. Recently in July _____ in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL) announced, the launch of "highly rewarding lifestyle credit card.

- A. ICICI Bank

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- B. HDFC Bank
- C. SBI Card
- D. Yes Bank
- E. None of the above

- SBI Card, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), announced, on June 30, the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', a "highly rewarding lifestyle credit card."
- The rewards-centric credit card has been launched in two variants on the Visa platform: 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card.'
- The key difference variants between the two variants are the reward points and benefit: times or more than that of the other.
- Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Managing Director, and CEO, SBI Card.
- Rakesh Singh, Managing Director, and CEO, Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

Aditya Birla SBI card



SBI Card has announced the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', a lifestyle credit card, in a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Finance. The card has been designed to give customers reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels. The rewards-centric credit card has been launched in two variants - 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', on the Visa platform. The joining/annual renewal fee for 'Aditya Birla SBI Card' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' is ₹499 and ₹1499 respectively.

91. Recently _____ in partnership with EazyDiner has announced the launch of Dining Delights, a unique and enriching dining experience for the Bank's customers

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Axis Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of the above

- Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, in partnership with EazyDiner, India's leading table reservation, food discovery, and restaurant payment platform, has announced the launch of Dining Delights, a unique and enriching dining experience for the Bank's customers.
- The program will offer a host of benefits such as the option to choose from over 10,000 premium restaurants across India and Dubai, instant confirmation on table reservations, and exclusive offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app.
- In addition to the exquisite dining experience, Dining Delights will soon offer 'Celebrations with Axis Bank and EazyDiner' an exclusive birthday celebration experience for premium cardholders, who can enjoy personalized

Enjoy Rs.1000* off at 10,000+ restaurants with EazyDiner

Only with Axis Bank Credit & Debit Cards

Axis Bank **DINING DELIGHTS** now in partnership with EazyDiner



AXIS BANK

*T&C Apply | Offer valid only on paying using Axis Bank card | Axis Bank takes no responsibility of any health issues faced due to the consumption of food from the participating restaurants | Images used are only for representational purposes | For more details visit axisbank.com

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dining recommendations for their birthday by the culinary concierge at EazyDiner and also avail of 50% off on their meal.

92. Recently in July _____ partnered with Avanse Financial Services, an education-focused NBFC, to provide student travel insurance to overseas academic aspirants financed by Avanse.

- A. Bharati AXA General Insurance
- B. Aditya Birla General Insurance Company
- C. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company
- D. Edelweiss General Insurance Company**
- E. None of the above

- Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has partnered with Avanse Financial Services, an education-focused NBFC, to provide student travel insurance to overseas academic aspirants financed by Avanse.
- EGI's student travel insurance takes care of medical expenses and protects students from emergencies and losses. EGI's plan offers complete coverage against medical, stay, and travel inconvenience-related covers, thereby ensuring a worry-free, study and stay period for students.
- Indian students opting to go abroad for higher education are growing at a fast pace. Industry reports suggest that this number is expected to touch 1.8 million by 2024, leading to increased spending as well.

93. Recently in July _____ launched SWITCH, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (Irdai) Sandbox initiative.

- A. Bharati AXA General Insurance
- B. Aditya Birla General Insurance Company
- C. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company
- D. Edelweiss General Insurance Company**
- E. None of the above

- Edelweiss General Insurance has launched SWITCH, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (Irdai) Sandbox initiative.
- SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy. The app detects motion and automatically activates insurance when the vehicle is driven, making it convenient and hassle-free for customers.
- SWITCH has been designed keeping in mind the changing driving preferences of today's mobile-savvy customers. We attempt to incentivize good driving and make customers pay only as per usage.

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- SWITCH can be bought online. Post the purchase, customers can download the SWITCH app from Google Play Store and the iOS App Store to see their policy.
94. Recently *ReNew Power in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA)*, launched _____ which aims to train low-income women salt pan workers to work as solar technicians.
- A. Project Agni
 - B. Project Surya**
 - C. Project Bandhan
 - D. Project Veer
 - E. None of the above
- *ReNew Power in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA), launched 'Project Surya', which aims to train low-income women salt pan workers to work as solar technicians.*
 - *Under this program, women salt pan workers, who work in the physically challenging and extreme temperatures of the remote Rann of Kutch marshes, will be trained as solar panel and solar pump technicians at Dhokavada village in the Patan district of Gujarat.*
 - *Currently, these women save an average of ₹10,000 in around 10 months, while a solar panel technician can earn up to ₹18,000 a month. The project will address multiple Sustainable Development Goals under one umbrella, including no poverty, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, decent work, economic growth, and climate action.*
 - *The program will start with training 60 women and, eventually, around 1,000 women will be skilled in the new clean energy transition roles. The program will be supported by the government's National Skill Development Corporation.*
 - *ReNew is providing financial support and familiarization with its renewable facility in the area, while SEWA is the lead implementation partner. For its part, UNEP will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project.*
95. Consider the following statement regarding *According to RBI official data on fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks.*
1. *Number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks dropped to 118 in FY22 from 265 in 2020-21*
 2. *Frauds in the banking sector involving sums of over ₹100 crores have declined significantly, with banks reporting cases worth ₹41,000 crores in 2021-22.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Banking frauds of over ₹100 cr decline

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

Frauds in the banking sector involving sums of over ₹100 crore have declined significantly, with banks reporting cases worth ₹4,000 crore in 2021-22 compared to ₹1.05 trillion in the previous year. According to official data, the number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks dropped to 118 in FY'22 from 265 in 2020-21.

In the case of public sector banks (PSBs), the total number of fraud cases of over ₹100 crore declined to 80 from 167 in FY'21, while for private sector lenders such cases reduced to 38 in FY'22 from 98 earlier, as per the data. In terms of cumulative amount, it has come

down to ₹28,000 crore from ₹65,900 crore in FY'21 for PSBs. For private sector banks, the reduction is from ₹39,900 crore to ₹13,000 crore in FY'22.

In a bid to check frauds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been taking several steps including improving efficacy of Early Warning System (EWS) framework, strengthening fraud governance and response system, augmenting data analysis for monitoring of transactions and introduction of dedicated Market Intelligence (MI) Unit for frauds.

During 2021-22, the RBI carried out a study on the

implementation of EWS framework in select Scheduled Commercial Banks, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT).

The number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks dropped to 118 in FY'22 from 265 in 2020-21

Further, the effectiveness of EWS was assessed in select banks by using Machine Learning (ML) algorithms.

Earlier this year, State Bank of India (SBI) reported one of the biggest bank frauds in the country totalling ₹22,842 crore, perpetrated by ABG Shipyard and its promoters. This was much higher than the case involving Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi,

who allegedly cheated Punjab National Bank (PNB) of around ₹14,000 crore through issuance of fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs).

Last month, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), its former CMD Kapil Wadhawan, director Dheeraj Wadhawan and others in a fresh case involving ₹34,615 crore, making it the biggest bank fraud probed by the agency.

A consortium of lenders led by Union Bank of India alleged that the firm had availed credit facility to the tune of ₹42,871 crore between 2010 and 2018 from the consortium under various arrangements but started defaulting on repayments from May 2019 onwards.

- **Frauds in the banking sector involving sums of over ₹100 crores have declined significantly, with banks reporting cases worth ₹41,000 crores in 2021-22 compared to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the previous year.**
- **According to official data, the number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks dropped to 118 in FY'22 from 265 in 2020-21.**
- **In the case of public sector banks (PSBs), the total number of fraud cases of over ₹100 crores declined to 80 from 167 in FY'21, while for private-sector lenders such cases reduced to 38 in FY'22 from 98 earlier, as per the data.**
- **In terms of cumulative amount, it has come down to ₹28,000 crores from ₹65,900 crores in FY'21 for PSBs. For private sector banks, the reduction is from ₹39,900 crores to ₹13,000 crore in FY'22.**
- **In a bid to check fraud, the RBI has been taking several steps including improving the efficacy of the Early Warning System (EWS) framework, strengthening fraud governance and response system**
- **During 2021-22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) carried out a study on the implementation of the EWS framework in select Scheduled Commercial Banks, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT).**
- **Further, the effectiveness of EWS was assessed in select banks by using Machine Learning (ML) algorithms.**
- **Earlier this year, the State Bank of India (SBI) reported one of the biggest bank frauds in the country totaling ₹22,842 crores, perpetrated by ABG Shipyard and its promoters.**
- **Last month, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), its former CMD Kapil Wadhawan, director Dheeraj Wadhawan and others in a fresh case involving ₹34,615 crores, making it the biggest bank fraud probed by the agency.**

96. Recently **NCRTC** has entered into an agreement with _____ for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of the 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor for 12 years.

- A. DB India

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- B. MetroLife
- C. Deccan Queen
- D. RailWire
- E. None of the above

NCRTC SIGNS MEMORANDUM WITH DB INDIA

New Delhi: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Deutsche Bahn Engineering and Consultancy India Pvt Ltd (DB India) for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of the 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor for a period of 12 years.

- **NCRTC agreed on July 1, 2022, with DB India for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of the 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor for 12 years.**
- **The rail-based transit systems in India are run by public entities, at times by outsourcing certain activities to private contractors.**
- **There has been limited participation by the private sector in this sector and till now the scope has generally been limited to the provision of facility management and ancillary services.**
- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs issued the Metro Rail Policy in 2017 which, inter alia, advocates the need for private sector participation in regional rail and metro rail projects.**
- **Deutsche Bahn Engineering and Consultancy India Pvt Ltd (DB India) is a subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG, National Railway Company of Germany.**
- **NCRTC has also adopted the first-of-its-kind model for integrated procurement cum long-term (15 years) comprehensive maintenance of rolling stock through private participation to capture lifecycle costing.**

97. Recently _____ announced **the launch of ICICIdirect iLearn, a learning app for customers to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics.**

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. ICICI Securities**
- C. HDFC Ergo
- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of the above

- **ICICI Securities (I-Sec) on Wednesday announced the launch of ICICIdirect iLearn, a learning app for customers to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics.**

- **This will equip customers with the robust knowledge required to better assist them in their investment journey,**

ICICIdirect iLearn app



ICICI Securities (I-Sec), which operates ICICIdirect, has announced the launch of 'ICICIdirect iLearn,' a learning

app that will provide customers with access to learning content curated around several financial products and market topics. In a country like India where more people are gradually transitioning towards investment in the markets, a major proportion of them are still unfamiliar of the nitty-gritty of financial or investment tools. The app currently hosts more than 550 plus content pieces across various sections. The content will be updated on regular intervals.

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- ICICIdirect iLearn' aims to familiarise investors with the knowledge of financial or investment tools by including both, standard and contemporary content, catering to the requirement of beginners as well as evolved investors
- Currently, the app has over 550 content pieces across various sections related to financial markets and the content will be updated at regular intervals.

98. Consider the following statement regarding RBI's new norms to boost forex inflows to shore up the rupee.

1. Foreign currency non-resident deposits [FCNR (B) and NRE deposits] will be exempt from the maintenance of cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).
2. The limit for external commercial borrowings under the automatic route has been raised to \$1.5 billion from \$750 million or its equivalent per financial year.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday further liberalized norms to boost inflows of foreign exchange, including doubling the borrowing limit under the ECB route, amid the rupee falling against the US dollar.
- The measures taken by the central bank come against the backdrop of the rupee depreciating by 4.1 percent against the US dollar during the current financial year so far (up to July 5) amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions.
- The measures include easing norms for FPI investment in the debt market and increasing the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) limit under the automatic route from \$750 million or

RBI steps in with measures to boost forex flows, stem Ru slump

Eases norms for NRI deposits and investments by FPIs

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 6

In the backdrop of global uncertainties and the continuing weakness of the rupee against the US dollar, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday unleashed a slew of measures to boost forex inflows by relaxing norms for deposits by non-resident Indians, investments by foreign portfolio investors, and raising the limits for external commercial borrowings.

The RBI has doubled the limit under the automatic route for ECBs from \$750 million per financial year to \$1.5 billion in a bid to encourage companies to raise money through this route.

Other measures

Other measure include an exemption to banks from the Cash Reserve Ratio and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio on all Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) and Non-Resident (External) Rupee term deposits. These deposits will be without reference to the extant regulations on interest rates, which could push banks to raise fresh deposits from NRIs.

For FPIs, the RBI has allowed access to more funds. For example, it has been decided that FPIs can invest in all-new issuances of G-Secs of 7-year and 14-

Key measures

- Exempts banks from CRR and SLR requirement on incremental FCNR(B) and NRE term deposits from reporting fortnight July 30.
- Banks can temporarily raise fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits without reference to the extant regulations on interest rates
- Investments by FPIs in G-Secs and corporate debt made till October 31, 2022 to be exempt from macro-prudential short-term limit
- FPIs to be provided with a limited window till October 31 to invest in corporate money market instruments
- ECB limit under the automatic route doubled to \$1.5 billion



year tenors, including the current issuances of 7.10 per cent GS 2029 and 7.54 per cent GS 2036. Currently, they can invest in government securities (G-Secs) with 5-year, 10-year and 30-year tenors

"In order to further diversify and expand the sources of forex funding to mitigate volatility and dampen global spillovers, it has been decided to undertake measures to enhance forex inflows while ensuring overall macroeconomic and financial stability," the RBI said.

Focus on NRI deposits

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said the measures should help in attracting NRI deposits and also reasonable FPI inflows into the bond market at the shorter end, providing relief to the supply-laden market. "FPIs

permission on corporate money market instruments will also aid inflows in the debt segment," she said.

The RBI underlined that India's growth prospects remain strong and resilient while referring to high frequency indicators.

Modest CAD

"The current account deficit (CAD) is modest. All capital flows barring portfolio investments remain stable and an adequate level of reserves provides a buffer against external shocks," it further said.

The move comes just days after the Finance Ministry hiked import duty on gold, slapped export tax on petrol, diesel and jet fuel and imposed a windfall tax on crude oil.

The rupee has depreciated 4.1 per cent against the US dollar so far this financial year

up to July 5, which is modest relative to other emerging market currencies and even major advanced economies, the RBI said.

Rupee up

On Wednesday, the rupee ended marginally higher at 79.30 against the US dollar from its previous close of 79.37 but it is expected to breach the 80 level down the year.

Analysts believe the RBI actions will have a positive sentimental impact in the short term but will have a marginal positive impact over the medium term.

"However, for sustainable dollar inflows, global as well as domestic stability in growth and inflation is needed," said Dilip Parmar, HDFC Securities, adding that as the dollar strength continues versus major currencies, the impact of steps taken by the government and central bank on the rupee might not last long.

Abhishek Goenka, Founder and CEO, IFA Global, said it remains to be seen how much impact these measures will have given that corporates were as it is not borrowing much through ECBs. "Even on FCNR deposits, banks are not too sure how much incremental flows will come," he said.

India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$593.3 billion as on June 24, supplemented by a substantial stock of net forward assets.

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its equivalent per financial year to \$1.5 billion.

- Here are the measures:
- At present, banks are required to include all Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] and Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) deposit liabilities for computation of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) for maintenance of CRR and SLR. **It has been decided that with effect from the reporting fortnight beginning July 30, 2022, incremental FCNR(B) and NRE deposits with a reference base date of July 1, 2022, will be exempt from the maintenance of CRR and SLR. This relaxation will be available for deposits mobilized up to November 4, 2022.**
- At present, interest rates on Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank [FCNR(B)] deposits are subject to ceilings of Overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) for the respective currency/swap plus 250 basis points for deposits of 1 year to less than 3 years maturity and overnight ARR plus 350 basis points for deposits of 3 years and above and up to 5 years maturity. In the case of NRE deposits, as per extant instructions, interest rates shall not be higher than those offered by the banks on comparable domestic rupee term deposits. **It has been decided to temporarily permit banks to raise fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits without reference to the extant regulations on interest rates, with effect from July 7, 2022. This relaxation will be available for the period up to October 31, 2022.**
- Fully Accessible Route (FAR): Currently, all central government securities (G-Secs) with 5-year, 10-year, and 30-year tenors are categorized as “specified securities” under the FAR. **it has been decided that all new issuances of G-Secs of 7-year and 14-year tenors, including the current issuances of 7.10% GS 2029 and 7.54% GS 2036, will be designated as specified securities under the FAR.**

99. Which among the following has **received Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022 in the healthcare and life sciences category?**

- A. **HCL Technologies**
- B. Reliance Industries
- C. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd
- D. Infosys
- E. None of the above

- HCL Technologies received Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022 in the healthcare and life sciences category.
- HCL Technologies received the award for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology.
- HCL Technologies has received the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner) awards.

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- It was also a finalist in the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Internet of Things (domain finalist).
- The Awards are given to Microsoft partners who have developed outstanding Microsoft-based applications, services, and devices.

100. Recently The Competition Commission of India approved Google's investment of nearly \$1 billion for _____ % stake in Bharti Airtel.

- A. 1.28 %
- B. 2.27 %
- C. 4.99 %
- D. 9.91 %
- E. None of the above

- The Competition Commission of India approved Google's investment of nearly \$1 billion for 1.28% in Bharti Airtel.
- The CCI approved the proposed combination based on modifications offered by the Acquirer (Google International LLC)
- Google and Airtel have executed an Investment Agreement (IA) per which the Acquirer proposes to acquire a minority and non-controlling stake of 1.28% of equity share capital.
- Along with the IA, the acquirer and the target through their affiliates have also entered into certain commercial deals.
- Google had said in January this year that it will invest up to \$1 billion in India's No 2 telecom services provider Bharti Airtel through an equity purchase of 1.28% for \$700 million and a commercial agreement of \$300 million on mutual terms over the next five years.
- The investment comes on the back of the internet search giant has invested \$4.5 billion in Reliance Jio back in July 2020, both part of the Google for India Digitization Fund, making it an investor in two rival telecom service providers in the sector.
- Google has already partnered with Reliance Jio to launch of low-cost smartphone – JioNext - with an optimized Android OS, as part of Google's investment into Jio last year.

CCI Clears Google's Stake Buy in Airtel

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Anti-trust regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday approved tech giant Google's acquisition of a 1.28% stake in telecom provider Bharti Airtel.

CCI said in a press release that Google LLC plans to acquire a non-controlling minority stake in the telecom provider, adding that both parties have also entered certain commercial arrangements.

"The Commission approved the proposed combination on the basis of modifications offered by the acquirer (Google)," the press release said, adding, "The parties also intend to enter into certain other commercial

arrangements in future."

In January 2022, Airtel had announced that Google will invest \$700 million to buy a 1.28% stake in the company at a price of ₹734 per share. On Thursday, shares of Airtel closed 0.4% lower on the BSE at ₹684.

US-based Google is making the acquisition through a holding company, Google Investments LLC, which

is a subsidiary of Delaware based Alphabet Inc. It will invest another \$300 million through various other commercial arrangements in areas like manufacturing of affordable smart phones and investments in cloud adoption.



101. Recently in July _____ inked a pact with the Government of Haryana towards the distribution of mobile phones to consumers through an e-unified payment interface system,

- A. Indian Bank
- B. State Bank Of India
- C. Punjab National Bank

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- D. Bank Of Baroda
- E. None of the above

- **Public sector Indian Bank has inked a pact with the Government of Haryana towards the distribution of mobile phones to consumers through an e-unified payment interface system.**
- **As per the agreement, the city-headquartered bank would provide e-upi coupons to beneficiaries. The coupons can be redeemed without any credit or debit card allowing the customers to avail a mobile phone from a designated vendor.**
- **Mobile distribution melas would be organized by the bank in Haryana under this initiative.**
- **Indian Bank is a major nationalized bank. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established in 1907 and is headquartered in Chennai, India.**

Indian Bank signs MoU with Haryana's govt

PUBLIC SECTOR INDIAN Bank has inked a pact with the Government of Haryana towards distribution of mobile phones to consumers through e-unified payment interface system, the bank said on Saturday.

As per the agreement, the Chennai-headquartered bank would provide e-upi coupons to beneficiaries. The coupons can be redeemed without any credit or debit card allowing the customers to avail a mobile phone from a designated vendor, a bank statement here said. Mobile distribution melas would be organised by the bank in Haryana under this, it added. —PTI

102. Recently in July _____ approved loans totaling USD 1.75 billion (about Rs 13,834.54 crore) to fund India's PM Ayushman Bharat scheme and private investment to boost economic growth.

- A. ADB
- B. WB
- C. AIIB
- D. EU
- E. None of the above

- **The World Bank has approved loans totaling USD 1.75 billion (about Rs 13,834.54 crore) to fund India's PM Ayushman Bharat scheme and private investment to boost economic growth.**
- **Of the total loan, USD 1 billion will go towards the health sector, while the rest USD 750 million will be in the form of a development policy loan (DPL) to fill the financing gaps through private sector investment in the economy.**
- **The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of USD 500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector.**

India gets \$1.75-billion loan from World Bank

Funds to be used for healthcare, infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 1

The World Bank has approved loans totalling \$1.75 billion (about ₹13,834.54 crore) to fund the Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat scheme and private investment to boost the economic growth.

Of the total loan, \$1 billion will go towards the health sector, while the rest \$750 million will be in the form of development policy loan (DPL) to fill the financing gaps through private sector investment in the economy. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance the health sector.

Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the World Bank will support the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, the World Bank said in a release on Friday.

Healthcare infra

The funds will be used to im-

prove public healthcare infrastructure across the country. In addition to the national-level interventions, one of the loans will prioritise seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, the multilateral funding agency said.

Separately, its board approved the DPL to the Centre to support reforms critical to addressing financing gaps by leveraging private sector investment in infrastructure, small businesses, and the green finance markets.

The World Bank said India's performance in the health sector has improved over time. It has estimated India's life expectancy at 69.8 in 2020, up from 58 in 1990 – higher than the average for the country's income level.

The under-five mortality rate (36 per 1,000 live births), infant mortality rate (30 per 1,000 live births), and maternal mortality ratio (103 per 1,00,000 live births) are all close to the average for India's income level, reflecting significant achievements in access to skilled birth attendance, immunisations, and other priority services, the World Bank said.

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- *Through this combined financing of USD 1 billion, the World Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021.*
 - *In addition to the national-level interventions, one of the loans will prioritize seven states namely Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.*
103. Recently _____ has developed a **Change Detection Software to detect unauthorised constructions & encroachments on defence land** .
- A. **Centre of Excellence on Satellite & Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative (CoE-SURVEI)**
 - B. National Remote Sensing Centre
 - C. Defense Research and Development Organisation
 - D. Defense Acquisition Council
 - E. None of the above
- *AI-based software has been developed by DGDE to detect unauthorized constructions & encroachments on defense land.*
 - *The Centre of Excellence on Satellite & Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative (CoE-SURVEI) has developed this Change Detection Software in association with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).*
 - *It will automatically detect changes on the ground by using Satellite Imagery.*
 - *It uses the latest technologies in the survey including satellite imagery, drone imagery, and geospatial tools. It detects changes on the ground by analyzing satellite imagery regularly.*
 - *This software will help in the optimum use of defense land through Geographic Information System (GIS)-based land management systems.*
 - *At present, this software uses the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) Cartosat-3 imagery. This is being used by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in 62 Cantonments.*
 - *This software facilitates better control over unauthorized activities and ensures accountability of field staff.*
 - *Directorate General, Defence Estates (DGDE) is the headquarters of the Indian Defence Estates Service. It provides advisory inputs on all Cantonments and Land matters to the Ministry of Defence and other organizations under the Ministry of Defence. It also ensures implementation of the Cantonments Act 2006, Policies, Rules & Regulations, and Executive instructions.*
104. Recently _____ launched the **Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan**, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that protects against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks.
- A. BOB Financial Solutions Limited
 - B. **SBI General Insurance**

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- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- E. None of the above

SBI General launches cyber insurance cover for individuals

New Delhi: SBI General Insurance has launched the Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that provides protection against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks, the insurer said in a statement.

TECHCIRCLE

- **SBI General Insurance launched the Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that protects against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks.**
- **SBI General has designed SBI General Cyber VaultEdge which offers a range of benefits and protects individuals against cyber risks, allowing them to be assured against any such instances while conducting activities on the internet or during digital transactions.**
- **SBI General Insurance is a joint venture general insurance company. State Bank of India, the largest state-owned banking and financial services company in India owns 70 percent of the total capital. Other investors are Axis Bank Asset Management Co. Ltd.**

105. Consider the following statement regarding IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022 for Angel Funds to facilitate investments in start-ups.

- 1. Angel Funds shall accept investments from accredited investors or investors who are willing to commit at least USD 40,000 over 5 years.**
- 2. Investment(s) by an Angel Fund in a start-up is capped at USD 1,500,000.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Regulatory framework for Angel Funds to facilitate investments in start-ups

Posted On: 01 JUL 2022 5:57PM by PIB Delhi

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), in furtherance of its mandate to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC), had notified the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022 in April 2022 enabling the regulatory framework for various activities related to fund management including schemes for investing in early-stage venture capital undertaking (start-ups).

Angel Funds bridge the gap between start-ups and angel investors, who are instrumental in providing mentoring, and resources to the start-ups. In recognition of the same, IFSCA has now issued a framework for Angel funds under the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022. The salient features of the said framework are as under:

1. A Fund Management Entity (FME) in IFSC will be able to launch Angel Fund by filing a placement memorandum with the Authority under a Green Channel, i.e. the schemes can open for subscription by investors immediately upon filing the placement memorandum with the Authority.
2. Angel Funds shall accept investments from accredited investors or investors who are willing to commit at least USD 40,000 over 5 years.
3. Angel Funds are permitted to invest in start-ups as well as other regulated angel schemes in IFSC, India, foreign jurisdictions upon receiving consent from the desirous investors.
4. While investment(s) by an Angel Fund in a start-up is capped at USD 1,500,000, the Angel fund is permitted to invest in subsequent rounds of fund raising by the start-up in order to protect its shareholding from dilution, subject to certain conditions.

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- **The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), in furtherance of its mandate to develop and regulate financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC), had notified the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022 in April 2022 enabling the regulatory framework for various activities related to funding management including schemes for investing in early-stage venture capital undertaking (start-ups).**
- **Angel Funds bridge the gap between start-ups and angel investors, who are instrumental in providing mentoring, and resources to the start-ups. In recognition of the same, IFSCA has now issued a framework for Angel funds under the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022. The salient features of the said framework are as under:**
- **A Fund Management Entity (FME) in IFSC will be able to launch Angel Fund by filing a placement memorandum with the Authority under a Green Channel, i.e. the schemes can open for subscription by investors immediately upon filing the placement memorandum with the Authority.**
- **Angel Funds shall accept investments from accredited investors or investors who are willing to commit at least USD 40,000 over 5 years.**
- **Angel Funds are permitted to invest in start-ups as well as other regulated angel schemes in IFSC, India, and foreign jurisdictions upon receiving consent from the desirous investors.**
- **While investment(s) by an Angel Fund in a start-up is capped at USD 1,500,000, the Angel fund is permitted to invest in subsequent rounds of fundraising by the start-up to protect its shareholding from dilution, subject to certain conditions.**

106. Consider the following statement regarding the Reserve bank of India (RBI)'s approval for the proposed amalgamation of HDFC into HDFC Bank.

1. Shareholders of HDFC as of the record date will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank.
2. HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41% of HDFC Bank.
3. Sashidhar Jagdishan, who became MD & CEO of HDFC Bank in October 2020 will lead the merged entity.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **HDFC Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved its amalgamation with Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC).**

BEHEMOTH TO BE AMONG WORLD'S 10 MOST VALUED BANKS

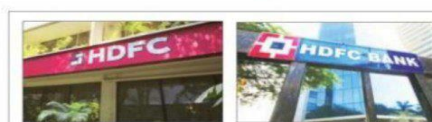
HDFC merger gets RBI nod

SHRITAMA BOSE
Mumbai, July 4

HDFC BANK ON Monday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved its amalgamation with Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). Once all approvals are in place, HDFC Bank will become a 100% publicly owned institution, with HDFC's 21% promoter holding getting extinguished.

Sashidhar Jagdishan, who became MD & CEO of HDFC Bank in October, 2020 will lead the merged entity.

The merger would be the largest in Indian corporate history, creating a financial behemoth with a \$169-billion market capitalisation (the second-largest in India) and will be among the 10 most valued banks in the world. Shareholders of HDFC will receive 42



TWO-IN-ONE

- Clearances from CCI, NCLT, shareholders and creditors of the companies still remain
- Merger will make HDFC Bank India's second largest company by market capitalisation
- HDFC shareholders will hold a 41% stake in the bank, getting 1.68 HDFC Bank shares for one share of HDFC

shares of HDFC Bank for 25 shares of HDFC.

The merged entity will be twice the size of ICICI Bank, the second largest private bank in the country, and will shrink the gap between HDFC Bank and market leader State Bank of

India (SBI).

The merger will result in a sharp rise in competitive intensity in the industry given the new HDFC entity will have a book of close to ₹18 trillion, which is twice the size of ICICI Bank's book and the fairly deep

distribution franchise.

While the Street has been concerned about how the transition would be managed, as also on how margins might be hurt because of the regulatory requirements that would be needed to be maintained, top executives of the group, nonetheless, acknowledge the synergies and say there is very little overlap in the businesses.

"The RoE is likely to dilute marginally given the differences in return ratios and there would be an impact due to regulatory requirements," analysts had observed when the merger was first announced in early April.

Moreover, they pointed out that on a much bigger book, loan growth is likely to be slower and likely to be a lot more dependent on the economic conditions.

Continued on Page 8

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- Once all approvals are in place, HDFC Bank will become a 100% publicly owned institution, with HDFC's 21% promoter holding getting extinguished.
- **Sashidhar Jagdishan, who became MD & CEO of HDFC Bank in October 2020 will lead the merged entity.**
- The merger would be the largest in Indian corporate history, creating a financial behemoth with a \$169-billion market capitalization (the second-largest in India) and will be among the 10 most valued banks in the world. Shareholders of HDFC will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank for 25 shares of HDFC.
- The merged entity will be twice the size of ICICI Bank, the second-largest private bank in the country, and will shrink the gap between HDFC Bank and market leader State Bank of India (SBI).
- The merger will result in a sharp rise in competitive intensity in the industry given the new HDFC entity will have a book of close to Rs 18 trillion, which is twice the size of ICICI Bank's book, and a fairly deep distribution franchise.

107. Recently _____ has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **the Indian Air Force** for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme.

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. State Bank of India**
- C. Yes Bank
- D. Axis Bank
- E. None of the above

- **State Bank of India (SBI) has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme.**
- **Under this scheme, the country's largest lender will offer various benefits and features to all serving and retired Air Force personnel and their families.**
- **SBI offers extensive benefits to the Air Force personnel by way of complimentary Personal Accidental Insurance, Air Accidental Insurance, and additional cover in case of on-duty death (during the action).**
- **As part of the Bank's commitment to the defense forces, enhanced benefits contained in the MoU will be automatically extended to all the Air Force personnel who are covered under the Bank's Defence Salary Package.**

SBI renews MoU with Air Force for defence salary package

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday said it has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme.

Under this scheme, it will offer various benefits and features to all serving and retired Air Force personnel and their families. The lender offers extensive benefits to the Air Force personnel such as complimentary personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance, and additional cover in case of on-duty death (during action), a release said.

Insurance cover for permanent total disability / partial disability is also available.

“At SBI, we endeavor to support the undying efforts of the Air Force personnel in securing the safety of our nation and its citizens. We will continue to provide tailor-made solutions to defence personnel under our flagship defence salary scheme,” the bank's Chairman Dinesh Khara said in the release.

The bank said in case of death of the Air Force personnel, the family of the deceased is provided with add-on covers for child education and marriage of girl child.

Additionally, the retired personnel will be eligible for complimentary personal accidental insurance, irrespective of their age. **PTI**

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108. Recently _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) to collaborate in setting up India's first commercial-scale Green Ammonia and Green Methanol projects.

- A. Power Finance Corporation
- B. Solar Energy Corporation of India
- C. NTPC Renewable Energy Limited**
- D. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
- E. None of the above

- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a fully-owned subsidiary of NTPC, on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) to collaborate in setting up India's first commercial-scale Green Ammonia and Green Methanol projects.
- The MoU envisages collaborating in the field of Renewable Energy, Green Methanol & Green Ammonia and mutually exploring the opportunities for the supply of 100 MW RE-RTC (Round The Clock) power and synthesizing 75 TPD Green Methanol and 35 TPD Green Ammonia for captive use for the production of various chemicals by GACL at its Vadodara and Dahej complex in Gujarat.
- **NTPC REL, a 100 percent subsidiary of NTPC was incorporated in October 2020 to take care of the RE business of NTPC.**
- This would be the first commercial-scale Green ammonia and Green methanol project in the country.
- NTPC is India's largest Power Utility and its core business is power generation with a total installed capacity of 69 GW (including JVs and subsidiaries).
- **Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL), incorporated in March 1973, is a state-owned chemical manufacturing unit. GACL is one of the largest producers of Caustic Soda in India, with a production capacity of over 1400 TPD at their two complexes in Dahej and Vadodara.**

109. Recently _____ partnered National Health Authority (NHA) will develop a National Health Claims Exchange as a digital platform to settle health claims.

- A. SBI
- B. IRDAI**
- C. RBI
- D. PFRDA
- E. None of the above

Irdai and NHA to develop National Health Claims Exchange

Irdai and National Health Authority (NHA) will develop a National Health Claims Exchange as a digital platform to settle health claims. Based on a presentation by R S Sharma, CEO of NHA, chairman of Irdai Debasish Panda, has proposed creation of a working group with representation from the industry to decide how to make the largest segment of general insurance in India attract more people to buy health insurance. **BS REPORTER**

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- *Irdai and National Health Authority (NHA) will develop a National Health Claims Exchange as a digital platform to settle health claims.*
- *Based on a presentation by R S Sharma, CEO of NHA, chairman of Irdai Debasish Panda, has proposed the creation of a working group with representation from the industry to decide how to make the largest segment of general insurance in India attract more people to buy health insurance.*
- *The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.*
- *Founded: 1999, Headquarters: Hyderabad*

110. *India's merchandise exports rise by 16.8% to _____ in June, 2022, recording the highest ever exports in June 2022.*

- A. *USD 47.9 billion*
- B. *USD 35.9 billion*
- C. *USD 37.9 billion*
- D. *USD 33.9 billion*
- E. *None of the above*

- *India has achieved a monthly value of merchandise export in June 2022 amounting to USD 37.94 billion, an increase of 16.78%*
- *India's merchandise export in April -June 2022-23 was USD 116.77 billion with an increase of 22.22% over USD 95.54 billion in April -June 2021-22.*
- *India's merchandise import in June 2022 was USD 63.58 billion, an increase of 51.02% over USD 42.1 billion in June 2021.*
- *India's merchandise imports in April -June 2022-23 was USD 187.02 billion with an increase of 47.31% over USD 126.96 billion in April -June 2021-22.*

Exports rise 16.78% to USD 37.94 bn in Jun; trade deficit at record USD 25.63 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in June rose by 16.78 per cent year-on-year to USD 37.94 billion while the trade deficit ballooned to a record USD 25.63 billion, according to the government's preliminary data released on Monday.

Imports expanded by 51 per cent to USD 63.58 billion in June compared to the year-ago

month, the data showed.

The trade deficit stood at USD 9.61 billion in June 2021.

Cumulative exports in April-June 2022-23 rose by about 22.22 per cent to USD 116.77 billion while imports increased 47.31 per cent to USD 187.02 billion during the period. The trade deficit during the first three months of this fiscal widened to USD 70.25 billion from USD 31.42 billion in the year-ago period.

111. *Recently In July Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an Operation & Management agreement for the operationalization of five airports owned by the Government of _____ for 30 years.*

- A. *Madhya Pradesh*
- B. *Uttar Pradesh*
- C. *Telangana*

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- D. Rajasthan
- E. None of the above

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an Operation & Management agreement for the operationalization of five airports owned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for 30 years.
- These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Muirpur & Shravasti.
- As per the agreement, AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services. Communication Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) services will also be provided by AAI, for which State Government will enter into a separate agreement.
- This is the first time AAI is entering into an O&M Agreement with the State Government for the Operationalization of State Government-owned airports.
- AAI is the largest airport operator and sole air navigation service provider committed to providing air connectivity across the country.

112. Recently In July Department of Telecommunications signed an agreement with ITI Limited and _____ to fund pilot projects under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

- A. BSNL
- B. VI
- C. Reliance Jio
- D. Airtel
- E. None of the above

Department of Telecommunications signs agreement with ITI Limited and BSNL to fund pilot projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Posted On: 01 JUL 2022 3:37PM by PIB Delhi

Department of Telecommunications (USOF), Ministry of Communications has signed an agreement with Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to fund the pilot projects of E-band, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of 4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core.

The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), under its program for Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding 4 pilot projects each of around Rs 10 Crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies. The indigenous companies Astrome technologies, Lekha Wireless Solutions, Resonous Technologies, Signaltron would be executing these projects in partnership with C-DoT and DoT PSUs BSNL and ITI.

AAI signs MoU with UP govt; to operate 5 airports

FE BUREAU
Lucknow, July 1

THE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY of India (AAI) signed an agreement with the Uttar Pradesh government on Friday to operate and manage airports in Aligarh, Azamgarh, Shravasti, Chitrakoot and Sonebhadra for a period of 30 years, an official statement said.

According to the agreement, the state government will complete the construction, ready the airports for commercial operations, and then hand them over to the AAI for operation and management. The Uttar Pradesh government will provide dedicated infrastructure for utilities like water, electricity and drainage connection at the airports and the AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services, the statement read citing the agreement.

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- Department of Telecommunications (USOF), Ministry of Communications has signed an agreement with Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to fund the pilot projects of E-band, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of 4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core.
- The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), under its program for Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding 4 pilot projects each of around Rs 10 Crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies.
- The indigenous companies Astrome technologies, Lekha Wireless Solutions, Resonous Technologies, and Signaltron would be executing these projects in partnership with C-DoT and DoT PSUs BSNL and ITI.

113. Consider the following statement regarding **GST Revenue collection for June 2022**.

1. ₹1,44,616 crore gross GST Revenue collection for June 2022; increase of 56% year-on-year
2. Gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second-highest collection next to the April 2022 collection
3. GST collection crosses ₹1.40 lakh crore mark 5th time since the inception of GST; 4th month at a stretch since March 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 the above

- The gross GST revenue collected in June 2022 is ₹144,616 crore of which CGST is ₹25,306 crore, SGST is ₹32,406 crore
- The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second-highest collection next to the April 2022 collection of ₹1,67,540 crore.
- The revenues for June 2022 are 56% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year of ₹92,800 crores.
- This is the fifth time the monthly GST collection crossed the ₹1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the fourth month at a stretch since March 2022.

GST collections at ₹1.44-lakh cr in June

This is the fifth time the mop-up tops ₹1.40-lakh crore since GST inception

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, July 1
GST collection in the month of June touched ₹1.44-lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced here on Friday. "₹1.4-lakh crore is the rough bottom line now for GST collections," she said.

This is the second highest number ever after ₹1.6-lakh crore plus was collected in April. "Coupled with economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, have been contributing to the enhanced GST. The gross cess collection in this month is the highest since the introduction of GST," a statement by the Finance Ministry said.

Bettering 2021

The revenues for June are 56 per cent higher than those recorded in the year-ago period (₹92,800 crore). During the month, revenue from import of goods was 55 per cent higher and those from domestic transaction (including import of services) was



FM Nirmala Sitharaman at the 5th GST Day celebrations, in New Delhi, on Friday

erated in May was 73 crore, which is 2 per cent less than 7.4 crore recorded in April, said the statement.

Statewise collections up

MS Mani, Partner with Deloitte India, said the high GST collections, which leads to a new monthly normal of ₹1.4-lakh crore during Q1 of FY23, comes on the heels of several macroeconomic parameters being on the upswing. "The increase in Statewise collections compared to the same month last year is impressive as many large States have shown an increase in excess of 40 per cent. Since this comes in the backdrop of the guaranteed compensation to States coming to an end, it would assuage many

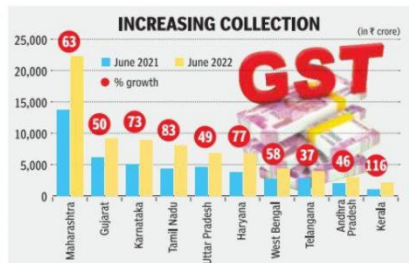
States who were worried about their revenue mobilisation ability in the post cess period," he said.

Up, up and away

Vivek Jalan, Partner with Tax Connect Advisory, said collection would further rise due to activities of GST scrutinies, summons, investigations, searches and seizures on the basis of data provided by DGARM, the data analytics wing of the GST Council. On April 1, as many as 35,000 taxpayers' scrutiny assessments were sent to field formations for initiation. This will be followed up by GST audits which will ensure enhanced collections.

Suspending/cancellation of GST number when there is a mismatch between GST returns, blocking of Input Tax Credit (ITC) of taxpayers where there is a 'reason to believe' that some suspicious activity is taking place, etc., have ensured that compliances under GST have improved.

The above, "seems to be a clear indication to trade and industry that robust compliances is the way ahead under GST. The requirement of current business is that it has to concurrently keep its GST and income tax books sanitised and be scrutiny ready at all times," Jalan added.



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- The collection in June'2022 is not only the second-highest but also has broken the trend of being a low collection month as observed in the past.

114. Consider the following statement regarding **Disinvestment Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)**.

- Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) is a Joint Venture of 4 CPSEs, namely MMTC (shareholding of 49.78%), NMDC (10.10%), BHEL (0.68%), MECON (0.68%) and 2 Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC (20.47%) and IPICOL (12.00%).
- NINL Strategic Disinvestment transaction has been completed with the transfer of 93.71% shares of the Joint Venture Partners (4 CPSEs and 2 Odisha Govt. PSUs) to the Strategic Buyer, Tata Steel Long products Limited.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) is a Joint Venture of 4 CPSEs, namely MMTC (shareholding of 49.78%), NMDC (10.10%), BHEL (0.68%), MECON (0.68%) and 2 Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC (20.47%) and IPICOL (12.00%).
- MNINL Strategic Disinvestment transaction has been completed with the transfer of 93.71% shares of the Joint Venture Partners (4 CPSEs and 2 Odisha Govt. PSUs) to the Strategic Buyer, M/s Tata Steel Long products Limited.
- The Enterprise Value paid by the Strategic Buyer is Rs. 12,100 Crores.
- This payment has been utilized as per the SPA for settlement of dues of employees, operational creditors, secured financial creditors, and sellers (operational and financial dues), and for equity of selling shareholders as per SPA.

115. Consider the following statement regarding the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report on its Benchmarking India's Payment Systems**.

- As per the report on **credit card issuance**, India saw a strong compound **annual growth rate of 17.2% between 2017 and 2020**.

NINL handed over to Tata Steel arm

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 4

THE CENTRE ON Monday completed the privatisation of Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) by transferring it to Tata group company Tata Steel Long Products (TSLP).

"The strategic disinvestment transaction of NINL completed today with transfer of 93.71% shares of the company by 6 JV partners and shareholders to TSLP, a subsidiary of Tata Steel," department of investment and public asset management secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

NINL is the second successful privatisation in 2022 after Air India. Air India was also acquired by the Tata group.

NINL is a joint venture of four CPSEs, namely MMTC (49.78%), NMDC (10.10%), BHEL (0.68%), MECON (0.68%), and two Odisha government PSUs, namely OMC (20.47%) and IPICOL (12%). It has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT at Kalinganagar (Jajpur), Odisha.

By offering ₹12,100 crore, the Tatas bested the bids by a consortium of Jindal Steel & Power as well as Nalwa Steel and Power. The reserve price for the ailing NINL had been set at ₹5,617 crore.

Tata Steel Long Products' share price closed at ₹572.5 on Monday, up 0.35% from the previous closing price.

In a statement on Monday, Tata Steel said, "The plan is to not only restart 1 MTPA steel plant expeditiously but to also work simultaneously to expand the capacity by building a 4.5 million tonne per annum state-of-the-art long products complex in the next few years, and further expand it to 10 MTPA by 2030."

(With inputs from PTI)

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2. The number of persons served by a PoS terminal improved to 296 people in 2020 from 426 people per terminal in 2017.
3. India reported the second-highest compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 21 percent (2017-2020), behind only Saudi Arabia.

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 the above

REPORT ON BENCHMARKING PAYMENT SYSTEMS OUT
RBI: Payments acceptance infra must be improved

Benchmarking exercise reveals that there is a need to enhance the spread of ATMs and PoS terminals

SHRITAMA BOSE
Mumbai, July 1

DESPITE INDIA'S LEADERSHIP position in large-value and fast payments systems, there is room for improvement in the payments acceptance infrastructure, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report.

Released on Friday, the report on benchmarking India's payment systems provides a comparative position of the payments ecosystem in India relative to other major countries. The benchmarking exercise undertaken with respect to the position in 2020 revealed that there is a need to enhance the spread of ATMs and point of sale (PoS) terminals.

Although the number of persons served by a PoS terminal improved to 296 people in 2020 from 426 people per terminal in 2017, the figure is still the highest among the 21 benchmarked countries, the report said. The number of PoS terminals in India increased to 4.59 million in 2020 from 3.08 million in 2017, and has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 14%.

"The availability of payment acceptance infrastructure across the country can be measured by considering the people catered to by a single PoS terminal. In order to ensure deepening of digital payments, it is essential to increase the density of acceptance infrastructure across the country," the RBI said in the report.

DIGITAL PUSH

■ No of persons served by a PoS terminal improved to **296 people in 2020 from 426 people per terminal in 2017**



■ Number of PoS terminals in India increased to **4.59 million in 2020 from 3.08 million in 2017**

■ India's performance in terms of currency in circulation per capita took a hit, rising to **\$288 in 2020 from \$218 in 2017**

■ Of **40 indicators** used, India was categorised as **leader or strong in respect of 25**

To address the supply-side issues in acceptance infrastructure and give a fillip to the deployment of PoS terminals, the RBI operationalised the payments infrastructure development fund (PIDF) in January 2021 with an emphasis on enhancing acceptance infrastructure in rural areas. By the end of March 2022, 9.1 million digital payment acceptance devices and 0.39 million physical payment acceptance devices were deployed under the PIDF scheme.

India's performance in terms of currency in circulation (CIC) per capita took a hit, rising to \$288 in 2020 from \$218 in 2017. CIC per capita offers an indication of the use of cash and a lower level implies better migration to digital payment modes.

The RBI attributed the rise in the CIC per capita to the tendency of people to use cash

as a store of value during the Covid pandemic. "High level of CIC does not necessarily indicate the usage of cash for payment transactions, and it can represent the use of currency as a store of value. This is demonstrated by the robust demand observed for higher value denomination of currency across jurisdictions," the central bank said.

Out of the 40 indicators used in the exercise, India was categorised as a 'leader' or 'strong' in respect of 25, up from 21 in the previous round of the exercise, and 'weak' in respect of eight indicators, down from 12 earlier. Since the last exercise, India has shown improvement in digital payment options available for bill payments, ticketing systems for public transportation, available channels for cross-border remittances and decline in cheque usage, the RBI said.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its Benchmarking India's Payment Systems – Follow-on Exercise Report, says in terms of credit card issuance, India saw a strong compound annual growth rate of 17.2% between 2017 and 2020.
- According to the RBI, the increase in the number of credit cards is an indication of the expansion of retail borrowers in the ecosystem. Despite the increasing use, the number of credit cards -- in absolute terms -- in India is significantly low as compared to China (778 million) and the United States (1069 million) as of December 2020.
- India, with 886 million debit cards at the end of 2020, was behind only China (8,178 million) in terms of the number of debit cards issued. In terms of the number of credit cards issued, India with 60.4 million credit cards, was behind Brazil, Canada, China, Korea, Turkey, and the USA.
- In India, the debit cards and credit cards issued increased to 0.92 billion and 73.6 million respectively, as of end-March 2022. Apart from credit cards, China is also the leader in debit card issuance, followed by India with 8.1 billion and 0.88 billion debit cards issued, respectively, as of the end of 2020.

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- According to the report, India reported the second-highest compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 21 percent (2017-2020), behind only Saudi Arabia, which registered an annualized growth of 26 percent.
- India has emerged as a leader in 16 categories, and strong in nine categories, totaling 25 out of the 40 benchmarks for banking payment systems among 20 countries across the world.
- A leader is ranked 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, while strong denotes the top half of the countries other than the leaders.
- The pilot exercise, which was carried out in 2019, ranked India's payment systems leader in nine and strong in six categories.
- The report on benchmarking India's payment systems provides a comparative position of the payments ecosystem in India relative to other major countries. The benchmarking exercise undertaken concerning the position in 2020 revealed that there is a need to enhance the spread of ATMs and point of sale (PoS) terminals.
- Although the number of persons served by a PoS terminal improved to 296 people in 2020 from 426 people per terminal in 2017, the figure is still the highest among the 21 benchmarked countries, the report said. The number of PoS terminals in India increased to 4.59 million in 2020 from 3.08 million in 2017 and has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 14%.

116. Recently **Greenko** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ to launch India's first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology.

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Hyderabad**
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Kanpur
- E. None of the above

- Renewable energy major **Greenko** and **IIT Hyderabad** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to launch India's first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology.
- The school will be advancing knowledge in the key thrust areas of climate change mitigation, artificial intelligence, space technology, energy transition, industrial transformation, and circular and regenerative economy among others.
- **GST** will open towards the end of this year and, by June 2023, will induct students for **MTech** and **Ph.D.** in sustainable science and technology, followed by **BTech** programs.

Greenko, IIT-H sign pact to set up School for Sustainable S&T

BL Hyderabad Bureau | July 4 | Updated On: Jul 04, 2022



The School will open towards the end of this year

Greenko, an energy transition and industrial decarbonisation solutions company, has signed an agreement with IIT-Hyderabad to launch the country's first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology.

The Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST) will help

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- **Greenko is working in consultation with the Ministry of Education, AICTE, NCERT, and NCVET to ensure GSSST both conforms to and advances learning in sustainable science and technology.**

117. Recently _____ become the country's first fully solar powered dairy plant with 2 MW capacity with an outlay _____ crore.

- A. Anand Dairy Plant, Rs 13.5 Cr
- B. Kochi Dairy Plant, Rs 1.5 Cr
- C. **Milma Dairy Plant, Rs 11.5 Cr**
- D. Kolkata Dairy Plant, Rs 10.5 Cr
- E. None of the above

Jul 05, 2022, 8:43PM

MoS Dr L Murugan lays foundation for 2MW solar power plant at MILMA Dairy unit at Edappally in Kochi

Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr L Murugan today said that the union government is implementing several schemes with an aim to double the income of the farmers. He was addressing a function after laying the foundation for a 2MW solar power plant at the MILMA Dairy unit at Edappally in Kochi, to be set up at a cost of 11 and a half crore rupees. The Minister said the solar power project will help save the Edappally Dairy 90 per cent of its power consumption, and make it the first dairy to be run entirely on solar power.



Murugan announced that 29 mobile veterinary units have been allocated to Kerala as part of the union government's initiative to take medical facilities to the doorsteps of the farmers. State Minister for Animal Husbandry, J Chinchu Rani unveiled a bust of Dr Varghese Kurian, the founder- Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board on the occasion. Dr Murugan later addressed the valedictory of the two-day South Zone Training Camp organised by the Karshaka Morcha of the BJP at Kottayam.

- **Laying the foundation for a solar power project at a Milma dairy plant here, Union Minister L Murugan said it is on its way to becoming the country's first fully solar-powered dairy plant.**
- **Speaking after laying the foundation stone at the Ernakulam dairy, Murugan said the central government has been implementing many projects and added that in 2019, the Centre formed a separate ministry for dairy development.**
- **The Union minister also said that with the implementation of the solar project, electricity consumption can be reduced by almost 90 percent in the plant.**
- **The solar power project with a 2 MW capacity will be installed at Milma Dairy Plant, Tripunithura with an outlay of Rs 11.5 crore provided through the National Dairy Development Board.**
- **The statue of Dr. Varghese Kurien, who raised India's success in the dairy sector to the global level, was unveiled at the ceremony.**

118. Recently _____ has signed an agreement with Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Department to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centers across the state.

- A. RBL Bank
- B. **South Indian Bank**
- C. DBS Bank
- D. Federal Bank
- E. None of the above

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- The South Indian Bank has signed an agreement with Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Department to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centers, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units, and eco-shops across the state.
- Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available in all the 124 tourist spots under the Forest Department.
- The tie-up will start with the setting up of 124 POS machines at various Eco-tourism centers, Vanasree shops, Mobile Vanasree Units, and Eco-Shops under 36 Forest Department Agencies across Kerala.
- **South Indian Bank Limited is a major private sector bank headquartered in Thrissur in Kerala.**

119. Recently **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd** has signed an agreement with the _____ government for the **design and construction of a next-generation electric ferry.**

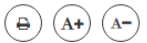
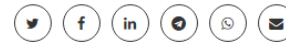
- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal**
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala
- E. None of the above

- To reduce the carbon emissions in the water transport sector, defense mini Ratna company Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd has signed an agreement with the West Bengal government for the design and construction of the next-generation electric ferry.
- This green vessel has the potential to replace the conventional diesel engine-driven ferries operated in Hooghly River.
- **The arrival of electric ferries shall transform the inland water transport system in National Waterway-1 (NW-1) which is being developed from Haldia to Varanasi under the Ministry of Shipping.**
- Under the green initiative and sustainable development of West Bengal, the zero-emission full-electric ferry is powered by a 210 Kilowatt per hour (kWh) liquid-cooled Energy Storage Solution and Ergonomically designed to

Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers to build next-gen electric ferry for West Bengal govt

This green vessel has the potential to replace the conventional diesel engine-driven ferries operated in Hooghly River. The arrival of electric ferries shall transform the inland water transport system in National Waterway-1 (NW-1) which is being developed from Haldia to Varanasi under the Ministry of Shipping.

ETGovernment • July 06, 2022, 11:53 IST



Representative image

To reduce the carbon emissions in the water transport sector, defence miniratna company Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd has signed an agreement with the West Bengal government for the design and construction of

next generation electric ferry. GRSE Director (Shipbuilding) Shantanu Bose and the State government's special secretary, Transport Department, Anindya Sengupta signed the MOU, official sources said on Tuesday.

This green vessel has the potential to replace the conventional diesel engine-driven ferries operated in Hooghly River. The arrival of electric ferries shall transform the inland water transport system in National Waterway-1 (NW-1) which is being developed from Haldia to Varanasi under the Ministry of Shipping, they said.

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carry 150 passengers with the provision of Air Conditioning sitting arrangements.

- **The 24 Meters long Vessel will be built with twin Screw propellers, a catamaran Aluminium hull along with a piercing hull form-fitted with solar panels above the superstructure.**
- **The operating speed of the vessel shall be 8 knots with a maximum speed of 10 Knots. The ferry is fully designed by the in-house design team of GRSE and is indigenously developed in association with industry experts in the domain.**

120. Recently _____ project was launched to tackle pink bollworm in cotton-Business Journal .

- A. Project Bandhan
- B. Project Karma
- C. Project Saffron
- D. Project Sheetal
- E. None of the above

- **As the pink bollworm infestation spreads in cotton plants in North India, stakeholders including the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), State agricultural universities, and private players including the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) are taking up a large-scale demonstration of the use of technologies such as mating disruption and pheromone traps to tackle the dreaded pest.**

Project Bandhan launched to tackle pink bollworm menace in cotton

Pheromone trap, mating disruption being used to restrict the pest population

VISHWANATH KULKARNI
Bengaluru, June 30

As the pink bollworm infestation spreads in cotton plants in North India, stakeholders including the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), State agricultural universities and private players including the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) are taking up large-scale demonstration of the use of technologies such as mating disruption and pheromone traps to tackle the dreaded pest.

"We are trying to demonstrate the mating disruption technologies this season in North India. There will be some 30-40 demonstrations from different organisations," said YG Prasad, Director, CICR. The idea is to arrange for the protection throughout the season – from the flowering stage to harvest, he said.

Innovative technique

Mating disruption is an innovative pheromone-based technique that interferes with the reproductive cycle of PBW in such a way that the population is significantly reduced and crop damage is minimised. The Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) had approved the technology in the integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for controlling PBW in India for the first time in 2019-20.

As part of this, CICR and the other players have come out with PBKnot, a solid metric dispenser rope which can be easily tagged to the cotton plants. The PBKnot charges the surrounding air with Gossypure, a pheromone scent that confuses the male adults



SABC-trained farm labour tagging PBKnot tech at Sirsa (Haryana)

preventing them from finding and mating with female adults and reducing the number of eggs laid and controlling the PBW population.

"The mating disruption has emerged as a powerful tool to manage pests such as PBW," said Bhagirath Choudhary, Director,

South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), Jodhpur, which is implementing a large-scale "Project Bandhan" to control the spread of PBW across 16 districts of seven major cotton-growing States this kharif.

Project Bandhan will be implemented in some 19 clusters each over 62.5 acres covering a total area of 1,200 acres across the country in partnership with Ambuja Cement Foundation, PI Foundations, Agrovision Foundation, State Agriculture Universities, KVVs and local organisations under the technical guidance of ICAR-CICR, Nagpur.

The PBW, which has surfaced early in the kharif season of North, typically has a short life cycle and can multiply 4-5 generations in a crop cycle, potentially threatening cotton from early stage, flower, green bolls and cotton locules, affecting affect cotton lint quality, Choudhary said.

- **The Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) approved the technology in the integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for controlling PBW in India for the first time in 2019-20.**
- **PBW has emerged as a key pest affecting cotton over almost 12 million hectares annually in India. The current methods of controlling pink bollworms primarily rely on chemical spraying.**
- **SABC, which implemented Project Bandhan in the last Kharif season in the Central Zone has found it to be very effective in controlling the pest.**
- **Project Bandhan is an exemplary initiative to promote a pheromone-based IPM production system of cotton.**

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121. Which of the following has been selected by RBI to conduct fieldwork for the July 2022 round of the consumer confidence survey (CCS)?

- A. Seminal Research
- B. Hansa Research Group**
- C. GreyCells Research Services
- D. Azure Knowledge Corporation
- E. None of the above

- RBI has selected Mumbai-based Hansa Research Group to carry out the July 2022 round of CCS and IESH.
- On behalf of RBI, Hansa Research Group will conduct fieldwork for the July 2022 round of the consumer confidence survey (CCS) and inflation expectation survey of households (IESH).
- IESH aims to capture subjective assessments of households on inflation, based on their consumption baskets, across 19 cities.
- CCS seeks qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on the general economic situation, price level, employment scenario, households' income, and spending. It is conducted regularly in 19 cities.
- The results of IESH and CCS provide useful inputs for monetary policy.

122. Recently _____ has become the first woman to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists'.

- A. Anjali Pathanaia
- B. Kristina Gergovia
- C. Gita Gopinath**
- D. Maya Anglou
- E. None of the above

- Gita Gopinath has become the first woman to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists'.
- She has become the 2nd Indian to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists'.
- Raghuram Rajan was the first Indian to achieve this honor.

- Gita Gopinath became IMF Chief Economist in October 2018. She served as the first female chief economist of IMF for three years.
- She was appointed International Monetary Fund's First Deputy Managing Director in December 2021.

Gita Gopinath on IMF wall



India-born Gita Gopinath became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was Chief Economist of IMF between 2003 and 2006. Gopinath was appointed as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018 and was later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year. Prior to her appointment as IMF Chief Economist, she was with the Harvard University.

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- Gita Gopinath is an Indian-American economist. She has earlier worked as an honorary economic adviser to the Chief Minister of Kerala.

123. Recently Ministry of Defence has approved three Private Sector Banks to provide financial services in overseas procurement. which of the following bank is not on the list?

- A. HDFC Bank Ltd.
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. State Bank of India
- E. None of the above

- The Ministry of Defence has approved three Private Sector Banks to provide financial services in overseas procurement.
- The names of the three approved banks are HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank.
- In this regard, the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) on behalf of the Ministry of Defense recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these three banks.
- Till now, only authorized public sector banks were utilized to provide financial services in overseas procurement to the Ministry of Defence.
- Now for the first time, three private sector banks have also been allowed by the Defense Ministry to provide financial services for overseas procurement.
- Selected banks may be permitted to issue letters of credit worth Rs 2000 crore on the capital and revenue side for one year on a concurrent basis.

124. recently July RBI imposed penalties of Rs 1.05 crore on _____ for violation of norms related to 'The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014' while the penalty of Rs 1 crore on _____ for non-compliance with certain Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

- A. Bank Of Baroda , DSB Bank
- B. ICICI Bank, RBL Bank
- C. Kotak Mahindra Bank , IndusInd Bank
- D. Yes Bank, Axis Bank

ICICI, Axis, HDFC Bank allowed to offer services to DefMin in global buys

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 7 July

The Ministry of Defence has allowed HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and ICICI Bank to provide financial services in overseas procurement done by the department, a first after the Centre opened up allocation of government business for private banks.

These private banks will provide Letter of Credit (LC) and direct bank transfer business for overseas procurement by the defence ministry. These banks may be allocated with LC business of ₹2,000 crore, each on the capital and revenue side, for one year on con-

current basis (₹666 crore for each bank under both capital, as well as revenue), the defence ministry said in a statement. Until now, only authorised public sector banks were allowed to provide these services to the defence ministry. "The performance of these banks will be monitored regularly so as to take necessary further action, as required," it said.

Even as the quantum of business may not be significant, the move showcases the government's intent of opening up business for private banks, said Prakash Agarwal, head-financial institutions at India Ratings.

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E. None of the above

- **RBI has imposed penalties of Rs 1.05 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for violation of norms related to 'The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014' and for non-compliance with certain directions.**
- **RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with certain Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.**
- **RBI has also imposed penalties on four cooperative banks. These co-operative banks are given below.**
- **Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank**
- **Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Balangir**
- **Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata**
- **The Palani Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Palani**
- **IndusInd Bank is a private sector bank founded in 1994. It is headquartered in Mumbai.**
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank: It was India's 3rd largest private sector bank in terms of assets and market capitalization as of November 2021.**
- **It was founded in 2003. It is headquartered in Mumbai.**

125. Recently In June 2022, services PMI increased to 59.2 and reached the highest level since _____.

- A. April 2014
- B. April 2013
- C. April 2012
- D. April 2011
- E. None of the above

- **Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased to 59.2 in June 2022.**
- **This is the highest level since April 2011. PMI is based on surveys and data compiled by S&P Global.**

Kotak, IndusInd Bank fined

MUMBAI, JULY 4

The RBI on Monday said it has imposed penalties of about Rs 1 crore each on Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Besides, the RBI has also imposed fine on four co-

operative banks. Penalties have also been imposed on Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank; Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Balangir; Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata; and The Palani Co-operative Urban Bank Limited (No.A.331), Palani. — PTI

RBI imposes fines on four co-op banks for not following norms

AGENCIES
New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed fines on four co-operative banks for not adhering to the directions of the central bank, according to four separate press releases on Monday.

The central bank has imposed a fine of 200,000 rupees on Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata for contravention of the direc-



tions issued by RBI on urban co-operative banks, and also for violation of know-your-customer guidelines.

It has imposed a fine of 100,000 rupees on Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd, Balangir, Odisha for non-adherence with directions issued by RBI on disposal of non-banking assets.

RBI has imposed a fine of 200,000 rupees each on Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ulhasnagar, and Palani Co-operative Urban Bank for contravention of directions.

Services PMI rises to 59.2 in June, highest since April 2011

Services economy sees strongest increases in both output and new orders in June



OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 5
Services activities are on rise as Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 59.2 in June. This is highest mark since April 2011. Good news is that companies went for fresh hiring in June. However, inflation is still a concern.

Service sector has a share of over 53 per cent in gross value added. PMI is based on survey and data compiled by S&P Global.

Cost pressures remain high

On the latest survey results, Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said that activity growth in the services sector moved up a gear again in June, reaching its strongest in over 11 years and surpassing that seen in manufacturing for the third month running. Demand for services improved to the greatest extent since February 2011, supporting a robust economic expansion for the sector over the first quarter of fiscal year 2022-23 and setting the scene for an-

other substantial upturn in output next month.

"Consumer services posted the strongest increases in both output and new orders in June, but growth rates quickened across the board. Cost pressures in the service economy remained stubbornly high in June, despite easing to a three-month low. With companies retaining significant pricing power, owing to robust demand conditions, output charge inflation climbed to a near five-year peak," she said.

IT, transport sectors

According to S&P Global, some companies responded to capacity pressures by hiring additional staff in June, but the vast majority (94 per cent) left payroll numbers unchanged. Overall, "services employment rose marginally, following a decline in May," it said.

Further, it highlighted that June data pointed to further accelerations in growth of new business and output at Indian services companies amid ongoing improvements in de-

mand conditions. Although firms expect the recovery to be sustained over the coming 12 months, concerns surrounding price pressures restricted business confidence. Input costs continued to rise at a historically elevated pace, although one that was the slowest in three months, while charge inflation hit a near five-year high.

Inflation, a concern

June data showed the fastest rise in selling prices since July 2017 as several companies sought to transfer part of their additional cost burdens to clients. Stronger increases in charges were seen across the four broad areas of the service economy, with the sharpest upturn recorded in transport, information and communication. Despite easing to a three-month low in June, the overall rate of input cost inflation remained elevated by historical standards as one-fifth of panelists signalled greater expenses and the remaining reported no change since May.

De Lima said that unrelenting inflation somewhat concerned service providers, who were cautious in their forecasts. On average, "business activity is expected to increase over the course of the coming 12 months, but the overall level of sentiment remained historically low," she said.

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- *The services sector has a share of over 53 % in gross value added (GVA).*
- *According to S&P Global, services employment increased marginally, following a decline in May.*
- *Among different areas of the service economy, the sharpest increase in charges was recorded in Transport, Information & Communication.*
- *PMI is prepared based on responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.*

126. As Per the Government *e-invoices will soon be made mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of over Rs 10 crore. E-invoice is presently (as of 05 July 2022) mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of over*

- _____.
- A. *Rs 10 crore*
 - B. *Rs 20 crore***
 - C. *Rs 50 crore*
 - D. *Rs 100 crore*
 - E. *None of the above*

- *E-invoices will soon be made mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of over Rs 10 crore.*
- *E-invoice is presently (as of 05 July 2022) mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of over Rs 20 crore.*
- *The introduction of an electronic invoice (e-invoice) in GST in a phased manner was recommended by GST Council in its 37th meeting on September 20, 2019.*
- *E-invoicing started with businesses having an annual turnover of Rs 500 crore. It was then brought down to Rs 100 crore and Rs 20 crore.*

What kind of changes are being brought into the e-invoicing system?

E-invoicing started with those having an annual turnover of ₹500 crore, then brought down to ₹100 crore and now to ₹20 crore. We plan to bring it down first to ₹10 crore and then to ₹5 crore. There is a timeline for lowering the threshold to ₹10 crore, but before that, we want stability in the IT system. The number of assesseees between ₹10 and ₹20 crore would go up substantially, so we want to be sure that our IT system is good. GSTN is working on a plan, and it should be ready in the next 3-4 months.

127. Recently, *RBI has directed non-bank PSOs to inform it within how many calendar days in case of sale/transfer of payment activity to an*

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entity authorized for undertaking similar activity?

- A. 15 days**
- B. 45 days
- C. 60 days
- D. 90 days
- E. None of the above

- **RBI has reviewed the operations of non-bank Payment System Operators (PSOs), which are authorized to operate any Payment System.**
- **RBI said that non-bank PSOs shall require prior approval of RBI in case of takeover/acquisition of control, which may/may not result in a change of management.**
- **RBI further said that non-bank PSOs shall also require prior approval of RBI in case of sale/transfer of payment activity to an entity not authorized for undertaking a similar activity.**
- **RBI has directed non-bank PSOs to inform RBI within 15 calendar days in case of change in management/directors or in case of sale/transfer of payment activity to an entity authorized for undertaking a similar activity.**
- **RBI has issued this directive under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. The directive has come into effect immediately on 04 July 2022.**

New RBI norms for payment system operators

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 4

Non-bank payment system operators (PSOs) will require prior approval of the RBI for any takeover or acquisition of control, which may or may not result in change of management.

They would also require prior approval of the RBI for sale or transfer of payment activity to an entity not authorised for undertaking such an activity.

This follows a review of the operations of non-bank PSOs authorised to operate any payment system by the RBI. The non-bank PSOs shall inform the RBI within 15 calendar days in the following cases: change in management or directors and sale or transfer of payment



activity to an entity authorised for undertaking similar activity, the RBI said on Monday.

"This directive is issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007) and shall come into effect," it said.

For acquisition or takeover

In the case of an acquisition or takeover, the transferor non-bank PSO would submit an ap-

plication to the RBI with information about the proposed directors and complete details about the new shareholders.

In case of sale or transfer of payment activity, the seller or transferor non-bank PSO shall apply to the RBI for obtaining prior approval along with the minimum appropriate details.

"The RBI shall endeavour to respond within 45 calendar days after receipt of complete details from both the entities," it said, adding that the timeline is not applicable in case of overseas principal in Money Transfer Service Scheme. Further, after obtaining the RBI approval, a public notice of at least 15 calendar days shall be given before effecting the changes.

128. The government recently approved the issuing of _____ phase of the sale of electoral bonds through authorized SBI branches from July 1, 2022.

- A. 20th
- B. 21st**
- C. 22nd
- D. 23rd
- E. None of the above

- **The government has authorized SBI to issue and encash Electoral Bonds.**
- **SBI can issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 authorized branches from 1 July 2022 to 10 July 2022.**
- **The Electoral Bonds will be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue.**
- **No payment will be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period.**
- **The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account will be credited on the same day.**

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- The government approved the issuing of the 21st phase of the sale of electoral bonds through authorized SBI branches from July 1, 2022.
- Electoral Bonds: The Electoral Bond Scheme was notified by the Government of India in 2018.
- These are financial instruments through which donations can be made to political parties.

129. Recently **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** inked a loan pact for _____ with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**.

- A. JPY 10 billion
- B. JPY 20 billion
- C. JPY 30 billion
- D. JPY 50 billion
- E. None of the above

Power Finance Corp inks pact with JBIC for \$220-million loan

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Thursday inked a loan pact for JPY 30 billion (about \$220 million) with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). JBIC has provided this long term facility under its GREEN initiative, wherein JBIC provides financing for projects that ensure the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and conservation of the global environment, it said. PTI

- PFC, the leading NBFC in the Indian power sector signed a loan agreement for JPY 30 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- JBIC has provided this long-term facility to PFC under its initiative 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation' (GREEN), wherein JBIC provides financing for projects which ensure the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and conservation of the global environment
- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is an Indian financial institution under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. Established in 1986.**

130. Recently **RailTel**, one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India, announced the launch of 13 OTT (Over-The-Top) named _____ services to customers through its popular retail broadband service Railwire.

- A. RailWire SATRANG
- B. RailWire UMANG
- C. RailWire DARSHAN
- D. RailWire LIVE
- E. None of the above

- RailTel, one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India, announced the launch of 13 OTT (Over-The-Top) services to customers through its popular retail broadband service Railwire.

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- **A total of 13 OTT services will be offered to Railwire subscribers bundled with unlimited broadband plans named under the "RailWire SATRANG" canvas.**
- **With the bundled OTT RailWire broadband plans, RailTel is offering cost-effective OTTs in comparison to buying individual OTTs by broadband customers from the open market.**
- **The "RailWire SATRANG" plans will help users to watch their favorite content "On The Go" with the option of multi-screen/multi-users at any given point in time. Additionally, there will be 150+ TV channels along with multiple OTT packs.**
- **RailTel is also working with the Indian Railways to transform railway stations into the digital hub by providing public Wi-Fi at railway stations across the country and 6100+ stations are life with RailTel's RailWire Wi-Fi.**

GE Healthcare opens first 5G innovation lab in India

BENGALURU

GE Healthcare, a global medical technology, diagnostics and digital solutions innovator, announced the unveiling of its 5G Innovation Lab in India, the first for the firm across the globe. The 5G Lab was designed to position GE Healthcare at the forefront of ground-breaking advances in patient care, including taking cutting-edge technology to rural and suburban regions, the company said.

131. Recently _____ unveiled first 5G Innovation Lab in India.

- A. **GE Healthcare**
- B. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- C. Bharti AXA General Insurance
- D. HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- E. None of the above
- F.

- **GE Healthcare, a global medical technology, diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, has announced the unveiling of its 5G Innovation Lab in India, the first for GE Healthcare globally.**
- **Situated at Bengaluru's John F. Welch Technology Centre (JFWTC), the lab would be a testbed to develop future-ready products and solutions, turning a new corner in innovation. It has a private 5G network for testing and development.**
- **Moreover, the lab would serve as a conduit for the interplay of exponential technologies such as AI, IoT, ML, Big Data, Edge Computing, and cybersecurity.**
- **The company said it is also using its clinical expertise and know-how to deliver integrated, highly personalized care and advance precision health. At this 5G Innovation Lab, the company's lead scientists and technologists will research and develop solutions for the most pressing healthcare issues for India and the world.**

Appointment News

132. Consider the following statement regarding **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

1. **Indian origin T Raja Kumar becomes the new President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).**
2. **He succeeded Dr. Marcus Pleyer and will serve for a two-year term.**

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3. It is *headquartered in Rome, Italy*.

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 the above

- *Indian origin T Raja Kumar becomes the new President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).*
- *T Raja Kumar will focus on improving the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures.*

Indian-origin Raja Kumar takes over as new president of FATF

AGENCIES
New Delhi



The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced on Friday that Indian-origin **Raja Kumar** from Singapore has taken over as the new president of the anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing watchdog.

The FATF said that the new president would focus on enhancing the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures, improving asset recovery, and other initiatives. Kumar was selected to replace Dr Marcus Pleier of Germany

during their plenary session.

Who is Raja Kumar?

Kumar has a strong experience in leadership as he has held a wide range of senior leadership roles in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Singapore and the Singapore Police Force for more than 35 years. Currently, he is serving as the Senior Ad-

visor (International) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, advising on international policy development, partnerships and engagement. Earlier, he was Deputy Secretary (International) at the Ministry from January 2015 to July 2021 and was also the Chief Executive of the Home Team Academy between 2014 to 2018. As the Deputy Secretary (International), Raja Kumar was responsible for stronger collaborative relationships with key counterparts in the safety and security arena, including with strategic partners such as INTERPOL and the UN.

- *He succeeded Dr. Marcus Pleyer and will serve for a two-year term.*
- *Before this, he was serving as the Senior Advisor (International) in the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore.*
- *He has held many key positions in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Singapore.*
- *Financial Action Task Force: It is a global watchdog for money laundering and terrorist financing.*
- *It was established in 1989 to create policies to deal with money laundering. The financing of terrorism was also included in 2001.*
- *It is headquartered in located in Paris, France.*
- *India became an Observer at FATF in 2006 and became a full-time member in 2010.*

133. Recently United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed _____ as the *new Force Commander of the UN United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)*.

- A. Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar
- B. Lt Gen Mohan Subramanian
- C. Lt Gen Subhash Chandra
- D. Lt Gen Abhishek Sharma
- E. None of the above

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- **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Lt Gen Mohan Subramanian of India as Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).**

- **He succeeds Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar also from India.**

- **He is presently serving as the Commandant of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington from February 01, 2022, onwards.**

- **Indian Army continues to play a lead role in UN Peacekeeping with presence in eight out of 14 UN missions worldwide and currently has over 5,400 military personnel deployed in challenging circumstances under the UN flag.**

- **India has so far provided 15 Force Commanders, two Military Advisors, one Deputy Military Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, two Divisions Commanders, and eight Deputy Force Commanders in various UN Missions.**

UN chief appoints Lt Gen Subramanian as Force Commander of Mission in South Sudan

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, JULY 6

LIEUTENANT GENERAL Mohan Subramanian has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as his new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Lt Gen Subramanian suc-

ceeds Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar to "whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his tireless dedication, invaluable service and effective leadership as UNMISS Force Commander," a statement said on Tuesday.

Tinaikar was appointed by Guterres as the UNMISS Force Commander in May 2019.

Subramanian has a "distinguished military career with the

Indian Army spanning over 36 years" and most recently, he served as the General Officer Commanding, Military Region (Operational and Logistic Readiness Zone) in central India.

He has served as India's Defence Attache to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (2008-2012) and as a Staff Officer with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in 2000. **PTI**

134. **Yair Lapid became the 14th Prime Minister of _____ .**

- A. Iran
- B. Israel**
- C. Iraq
- D. Indonesia
- E. None of the above

Israel Parliament dissolved, election set for November 1

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Israeli lawmakers dissolved Parliament on Thursday, forcing the country's fifth election in less than four years, with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid set to take over as

caretaker Prime Minister at midnight.

The newly called election set for November 1 marks another sign that Israel remains mired in an unprecedented era of political gridlock.

- **Foreign Minister Yair Lapid became the caretaker Prime Minister. He has taken place of Naftali Bennett.**
- **Israel's Parliament got dissolved and now the elections will be held on 1 November. It will be the fifth election in less than four years.**
- **Naftali Bennett said that he will not participate in the next parliamentary elections. Naftali Bennett's term was the shortest in the history of Israel.**
- **Yair Lapid said that he looks forward to further strengthening the bilateral partnership between India and Israel.**
- **Its capital is Jerusalem and the currency is the Israeli shekel.**

135. Recently _____ became the new brand ambassador of the FanCode while _____ has been appointed as **PokerBaazi.com's** brand ambassador.

- A. Risabh Pant , Tiger Shroff
- B. KL Rahul, Salman Khan**

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- C. Ravi Shastri, Shahid Kapoor**
- D. Jasprit Bumrah, Shahid Kapoor**
- E. None of the above**

- *Ravi Shastri became the new brand ambassador of FanCode.*
- *FanCode is the top digital sports destination in India and is dedicated to providing each fan with a fully personalized experience in terms of Sports Content, Commerce, and Statistics.*
- *Other brand ambassadors:*
- *Actor Shahid Kapoor has been appointed as PokerBaazi.com's brand ambassador.*
- *Nykaa has appointed Bollywood star Bhumi Pednekar as its brand ambassador to launch its new campaign 'As Good as Nyk.'*
- *General insurance company Go Digit has appointed Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador to launch its new brand campaign 'Do the Digit Digit'.*

136. Consider the following statement regarding the **Attorney General of India**.

1. *K.K. Venugopal has been re-appointed as Attorney General for three months.*
2. *He is appointed by President under the Article 76 of the Indian Constitution.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *K.K. Venugopal has been re-appointed as Attorney General for three months.*
- *He was appointed by the President as Attorney General of India in July 2017. His present tenure ended on June 30.*
- *He is not willing to continue in the constitutional post due to "personal reasons".*
- *He has appeared in many cases related to Constitutional and corporate law.*
- *Attorney General of India: He is the chief legal advisor of the government.*
- *He is appointed by President under the Article 76 of the Indian Constitution.*
- *He has the right to participate in the proceedings of both the house but he cannot vote in the parliament.*
- *M. C. Setalvad was the first Attorney General of India.*

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137. Recently _____ has been selected as the new chairman and managing director of GAIL.

- A. Bhanu Pratap
- B. Subhash Kumar
- C. Alka Mittal
- D. Sandeep Kumar Gupta**
- E. None of the above

- Sandeep Kumar Gupta has been selected as the new chairman and managing director of GAIL.
- He will take the place of Manoj Jain, who is scheduled to retire on August 31.
- The Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended the name of Sandeep Kumar Gupta.
- He is currently serving as the Director for Finance at Indian Oil Corporation.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet will approve the appointment after the go-ahead by CVC and CBI
- GAIL: It is India's largest gas transmission and gas marketing company. It has a 14,502-kilometre gas pipeline network and a capacity of 206 million standard cubic meters a day.



Sandeep Gupta will replace Manoj Jain who is scheduled to retire on 31 August.

Sandeep Gupta to be new GAIL chief

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, director for finance at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has been picked to head India's largest gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd, the government headhunter said. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) selected Gupta, 56, for the post of chairman and managing director of GAIL after interviewing 10 candidates, it said in a post-interview notice. He will replace Manoj Jain, who is scheduled to retire on 31 August.

The PESB recommendation will be vetted by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after the go-ahead of anti-corruption bodies such as the CVC and CBI.

A commerce graduate and chartered accountant by education, Gupta has more than 31 years of working experience at IOC, the nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.

PTI

135. Recently Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has took oath as the 17th President of the _____ .

- A. Israel
- B. Barbados
- C. Philippines**
- D. Cambodia
- E. None of the above

- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. won the elections in May by receiving 31.6 million votes.
- Marcos Jr. is popularly known as "Bongbong". He took the oath at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila.
- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will serve as President until 2028. Sara Duterte Carpio becomes the new Vice President.



MARCOS TAKES HELM IN PHILIPPINES

Ferdinand Marcos Jr (right), the namesake son of an ousted dictator, praised his father's legacy and glossed over its violent past as he was sworn in as Philippine President on Thursday. The new president, who was accompanied by his wife Maria Louise (left) and son Sandro, called for unity, saying 'we will go farther together than against each other.' AP

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- *Ferdinand Marcos has taken place of Rodrigo Duterte, who served as the President of the Philippines from 2016 to 2022.*
- *The President heads the executive branch of the Philippines government. President is directly elected by the people.*

136. Recently _____ has been sworn in as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman to serve on the high court of the US.

- A. Maya Angelou
- B. **Ketanji Brown Jackson**
- C. Neena Aiyyer
- D. Pamela Anderson
- E. None of the above

- *Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman to serve on the high court.*
- *The ceremony caps a months-long process that essentially began in February, when President Biden, fulfilling a campaign promise to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court, announced Jackson, 51, as his pick to **replace Justice Stephen Breyer.***
- *Jackson has been confirmed since April when the Senate voted 53 to 47 on her nomination.*
- *"It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States".*
- *Jackson is the first Supreme Court justice since Thurgood Marshall to have represented indigent criminal defendants as public defenders.*

Jackson takes oath as first Black woman SC Justice

Top court retains conservative majority

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. made history on Thursday as Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the first Black woman to serve in the Supreme Court.

The 51-year-old's appointment by Democratic President Joe Biden means white men are not in the majority on the nation's highest court for the first time in 233 years.

While Justice Jackson's confirmation is a milestone, it would not change the 6-3 conservative majority in the court, which has come under fire for recent rulings broadening the right to bear arms and eviscerating abortion rights.

Justice Jackson spoke only to say her oaths during Thursday's brief ceremony.



Ketanji Brown Jackson

The appointment presents an opportunity for Biden administration to pivot from a spate of bad news in recent months, with Mr. Biden's poll ratings still languishing below 40% amid runaway inflation ahead of midterm elections in November.

Four of the Justices on the nine-member court are now women, making it the most diverse bench in history.

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137. Recently _____ has become an official partner with the Indian Olympics Association (IOA) for the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and Paris Olympic Games 2024.

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Adani Sportsline
- C. Coca Cola
- D. Byju's
- E. None of the above

- Adani Sportsline has become an official partner with the Indian Olympics Association (IOA) for the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and Paris Olympic Games 2024.
- The partnership is an extension of the Adani Group's sports portfolio that focuses on building a world-class ecosystem to nurture sporting talent, accelerate the sports economy, and play the role of an enabler in India's journey to becoming a leading sporting nation.
- Adani Sportsline has supported over 28 athletes through its athlete support initiative, #GarvHai, across a variety of sports. Six of these athletes represented India at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, and among them was wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who brought home a silver medal.
- Adani Sportsline also owns teams on Indian and global platforms, including the Pro Kabaddi League, Ultimate Kho Kho League, Big Bout Boxing League, and International League T20 (cricket), among other initiatives.

138. Recently Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the premier industry association and RBI recognized Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry announced the re-election of _____ as its Chairperson.

- A. Mr. Vivek Tiwari
- B. Mr. Devesh Sachdev
- C. Mr. Subhash Dev
- D. Mr. Ashwini Tiwari
- E. None of the above

Adani Sportsline is principal sponsor of IOA

MEENAKSHI VERMA AMBWANI

New Delhi, June 30

Adani Sportsline, the sports arm of the Adani Group, has inked a long-term principal sponsorship deal with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). It will be the official partner of the Indian contingent during the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

The group had earlier been associated with the Indian contingent during the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

#GarvHai initiative

"We are delighted to welcome Adani Sportsline's participation in our journey of representing Indian athletes across the global platforms. Corporate participation will help emerging sports stars, allowing India to genuinely become a sporting nation," said IOA Secretary General, Rajeev Me-

hta, in a statement. Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises Ltd., said, "It is our privilege to support our athletes' journeys in their quest to bring glory to India. We celebrate this journey through our initiative #GarvHai. The association with IOA is a natural extension of expressing our support for the Indian contingent."

Adani Sportsline has supported over 28 athletes through its athlete support initiative, #GarvHai, across a variety of sports. Six of these athletes represented India at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, and among them was wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who brought home a silver medal.

Adani Sportsline also owns teams on Indian and global platforms, including the Pro Kabaddi League, Ultimate Kho Kho League, Big Bout Boxing League, and International League T20 (cricket), among other initiatives.

Devesh Sachdev re-elected MFIN chairperson

MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS NETWORK (MFIN) on Tuesday announced the re-election of Devesh Sachdev as its chairperson and Vivek Tiwari as its vice chairperson.

The decision was taken during MFIN's 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on Tuesday, a release said.

Sachdev is the founder and CEO of Fusion Micro Finance and Tiwari is the MD and CEO of Satya Microcredit. —PTI

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- **Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the premier industry association and RBI recognized Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry announced the re-election of Mr. Devesh Sachdev, Founder, and CEO, of Fusion Micro Finance, as the Chairperson and Mr. Vivek Tiwari, MD & CEO of Satya Microcredit Ltd as its Vice-Chairperson at its 13th AGM on the 4th of July, 2022.**
- **Micro Finance Institutions Network (MFIN) is an Association of Non-Bank Finance Company Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs). It was established in October 2009 as the primary representative body of NBFCs engaged in the business of Microfinance. Since its establishment, MFIN has been promoting the key objectives of Microfinance in India and as the Self-Regulatory Organization for the industry, has been working to establish guidelines for responsible lending and client protection.**

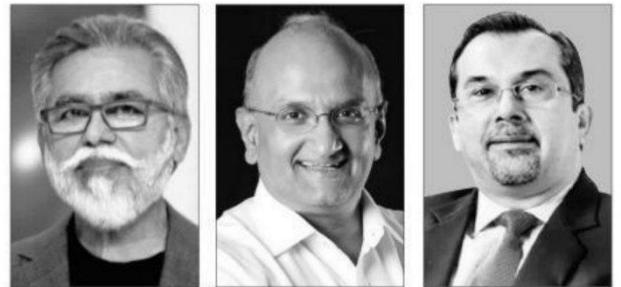
139. Recently _____ has been elected as President Designate of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2022-23.

- A. R Dinesh
- B. Sanjiv Puri
- C. Pawan Munjal
- D. TV Narednran
- E. None of the above

- **R Dinesh has been elected as President-Designate of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2022-23. He is executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.**
- **He was elected President-Designate of CII for 2022-23 at its recent National Council meeting.**
- **At the meeting, Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, was elected as Vice-President of CII.**
- **Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd, continues to be the President of CII for the year 2022-23.**
- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII): It was established in 1895 as a non-governmental trade association.**
- **It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its Director-General is Chandrajit Banerjee.**

140. Recently SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has announced _____ as managing director and chief executive officer.

CII names R Dinesh president-designate, drops Pawan Munjal



R Dinesh (centre) replaces Pawan Munjal as the CII president-designate for 2022-23; ITC's Sanjiv Puri (right) has been elected vice-president

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 7

IN LESS THAN two months, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has changed its president-designate for 2022-23. This is probably the first time that the country's leading industry chamber has effected such a mid-course change in its top-level office bearers.

On Thursday, CII said that at a meeting of its national council, R Dinesh, executive vice chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been elected as president-designate for 2022-23.

Earlier on May 13, CII had announced Hero MotoCorp chairman and CEO Pawan Munjal as its president designated for 2022-23, whereas Dinesh had then taken over as vice president.

The mid-course change assumes importance because the president-designate becomes the president of the chamber the following year. Now Dinesh will become president next year (2023-24) instead of Munjal.

While CII did not offer any comment regarding this quick change, it is understood that Munjal had business commitments.

Following the dropping of Munjal as president-designate and Dinesh being appointed in his place, Sanjiv Puri, chairman and managing director of ITC has been elected as vice president.

Sanjiv Bajaj, chairman and managing director of Bajaj Finserv, will continue to be president for 2022-23. He had taken over from TV Narendran, CEO and managing director of Tata Steel, in May.

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- A. Amitabh Kant
- B. Pawan Munjal
- C. Paritosh Tripathi**
- D. Sanjiv Puri
- E. None of the above

- **SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has announced Paritosh Tripathi as managing director and chief executive officer, effective 5 July.**
- **He was nominated by the parent company, State Bank of India, for the post and succeeds P.C. Kandpal.**
- **Mr. Tripathi has more than 32 years of banking experience and has worked in various departments including MSME, mid-corporate segment, international banking, and bancassurance, a release said.**
- **Before joining SBI General Insurance, he was general manager of operations, internal banking group with SBI, and was also on the board of Sterling Bank, Nigeria, and SBI Canada.**
- **From 2017 to 2020, he was head – of bancassurance, firstly with SBI Mutual Fund, and then with SBI General Insurance. He was the CEO of the SBI DIFC branch in Dubai.**

New MD & CEO at SBI General Insurance

SBI GENERAL INSURANCE on Thursday said it has appointed Paritosh Tripathi as managing director and chief executive officer with effect from July 5. He succeeds PC Kandpal, who has been posted as deputy managing director (DMD)-(P&RE) at the Corporate Centre, State Bank of India (SBI).

Tripathi has over 32 years of banking experience and has worked in various departments, including MSME, mid-corporate segment, international banking and bancassurance, a release said.

Before joining SBI General Insurance, he was general manager operations, internal banking group with SBI and was also on the boards of Sterling Bank, Nigeria and SBI Canada.

—PTI

141. Recently _____ has been appointed as the new Sherpa of G-20 .

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Ranjeeta Kant
- C. Arvind Panagariya
- D. Amitabh Kant**
- E. None of the above

- **Amitabh Kant, a former CEO of Niti Aayog, will be the new Sherpa of G-20.**
- **Piyush Goel, Minister of Commerce, will step down from his role as G-20 Sherpa.**

Kant to be India's new G20 Sherpa

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 7

THE GOVERNMENT HAS decided to appoint former NITI Aayog chief executive Amitabh Kant as India's Sherpa for the G20 grouping. Kant will replace commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, who offered to shed this



Former NITI Aayog CEO
Amitabh Kant

role due to his mounting workload.

Given that India is assuming the G20 presidency later this year, a full-time Sherpa who can devote a lot of time for the job is required, a source told FE. This has prompted the government to appoint Kant, whose six-year term at the NITI Aayog ended on June 30.

- **India will assume the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia so there is a need for a full-time Sherpa.**
- **He will participate in various meetings with the representatives of G20 countries.**

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- India will host the G20 summit in 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- G20: It was founded in 1999 as a forum for Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks.
- It was formed after the Asian financial crisis. The G20 summit is held annually since 2011.
- Indonesia will host the G20 summit in 2022.

142. Recently _____ was appointed as the President Commissioner (Non-Executive Chairman) of PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk, a public company.

- A. Sanjiv Mehta
- B. Bhanu Pratap
- C. Sanjiv Bajaj
- D. Praveen Rao
- E. None of the above

- Sanjiv Mehra, CEO & MD of Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL), will be appointed as the President Commissioner (Non-Executive Chairman) of PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk, a public company, subject to approval from shareholders at the company's next Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 28 July.
- However, he will continue to be the CEO & MD of HUL and President, of Unilever South Asia, HUL said in a statement. He is also a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive
- Unilever Indonesia is a public company and a member of the Unilever group. Mehta's appointment will be subject to approval from shareholders at Unilever Indonesia's next Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 28 July 2022.
- Established in 1933, Unilever Indonesia had a turnover of \$2.7 billion as of December 2021. It manufactures over 40 Unilever brands including local jewels Bango and Sariwangi across nine factories situated in the country.

143. Recently Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of the _____ Legislative Assembly.

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Chattisgarh
- E. None of the above

Sanjiv Mehta
named President
Commissioner for
Unilever Indonesia

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, June 30

Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) CEO and Managing Director, Sanjiv Mehta will be appointed the President Commissioner (Non-Executive Chairman) of Unilever Indonesia, a public company. The appointment is subjected to approval from shareholders at the Unilever Indonesia's next Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on July 28. He will join the company's Board of Commissioners and chair the same in a non-executive capacity. Mehta will continue to be CEO and MD, HUL and President, Unilever South Asia. He is also a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive.

The Board of Commissioners of Unilever Indonesia is responsible for overseeing the policy and the implementation of the corporate governance agenda and providing advice to the Board of Directors in managing the company.

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- **Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.**
- **He also becomes the youngest person to hold this constitutional post in India. He has been elected as Speaker at the age of 45.**
- **The post of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly speaker was vacant after the resignation of Nana Patole.**
- **Rahul Narwekar received 164 votes while Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi got 107 votes.**
- **Rahul Narwekar represents the Colaba Assembly constituency in Mumbai.**
- **Shanno Devi was the first woman Speaker of a State Assembly in India.**

144. Recently **Insecticides India**, a crop protection and Nutrition company, has roped in _____ as its brand ambassador.

- A. Akshay Kumar
- B. Ajay Devgn**
- C. Tigesr Shroff
- D. Shahrukh Khan
- E. None of the above

- **Insecticides India, a crop protection and nutrition company has roped in Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn as their brand ambassador.**
- **With this association, the company intends to spread the message of judicious use of agrochemicals besides communicating about their products and boosting farmer awareness in India to the grassroots level.**

145. Recently _____ has been given charge of the coveted government bullet train project amid **Satish Agnihotri** was terminated by **NHSRCL**.

- A. Rajendra Prasad**
- B. Suman Berry
- C. Amitabh Kant
- D. Pawan Munjal
- E. None of the above

- **Senior authorities said on July 7 that NHSRCL Managing Director Satish Agnihotri, who was in charge of the coveted government bullet train project, had his employment with the Railways terminated. According to the officials, Rajendra Prasad, Director - Projects (NHSRCL), has been given responsibility for the next three months.**

Insecticides India ropes in Ajay Devgn as brand ambassador

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, July 5

Crop protection firm Insecticides (India) Ltd (IIL) has roped in Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn as its brand ambassador. With the support of Devgn, the company intends to spread the message of judicious use of agrochemicals, besides providing information about their products and boosting farmer awareness to the grassroots level, IIL said in a statement.

Rajesh Aggarwal, Managing Director, IIL, said, "With IIL entering the next phase of growth, we are sure that his popularity, along with the credibility of our products, will help us to increase the penetration of our communication in our existing markets as well as newer markets."

Focus on new range

IIL's Tractor Brand range of crop protection and nutrition have a pan-India presence today with its team of more than 500 crop advisors. The company is focusing on its new range of products launched this year like Shinwa, Izuki and Torry, which will make a difference to the farmers in terms of the better productivity and providing them with cost-effective solutions.

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- *The Government of India and the participating states have formed NHRCL as a joint venture to carry out high-speed rail projects.*
- *According to senior railway officials, Agnihotri is accused of abusing his authority as a railway officer and illegally funneling money to a private company.*

IN BRIEF

Ankiti Bose steps down from Zilingo board, was fired from firm in May



Ankiti Bose, co-founder and former CEO of Zilingo, has stepped down as director of the company. She was ousted from the company in May this year. "Given the current circumstances, and due to the opacity of information to me as a board member and a shareholder, I resign forthwith from all directorships I hold with Zilingo's holding company and any of its subsidiaries," she said in a social media post. Zilingo, too, confirmed Bose's resignation. In an emailed statement, they said, "The company has accepted Ms Ankiti's

resignation from her directorship positions, and is saddened to note that inaccurate claims have been made in the media of concealing relevant information from Zilingo's Directors. The company continues to evaluate and actively pursue all real and credible options for the business." Bose was fired from the Singapore-based B2B e-commerce startup company on May 20 on grounds of financial irregularities. According to media reports earlier this month, Bose and co-founder Dhruv Kapoor have come together for a management buyout.

BS REPORTER

Har Ghar Tiranga

The Culture Ministry is going to launch 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign this month, marking India's 75th Independence Day. The date and venue will be announced soon. As part of the campaign, all the citizens will be encouraged to hoist the tricolour at their homes during Independence week from 11th-17th August 2022. A ministry official said that the Indian National Flag is a symbol of national pride for the entire nation.



Setu co-founder Kumar says arm got RBI licence for account aggregation

AGENCIES
Mumbai

Nikhil Kumar, co-founder of application programming interface infrastructure company Setu, today said the company's subsidiary Agya Technologies had received an in-principle licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an account aggregator.



"The licence enables us to now go deeper and power AA (account aggregator) for every single bank, NBFC,

and fintech in India," Kumar wrote on Twitter. "We are looking forward to working with the amazing team @sahamati to build the ecosystem and accelerate the speed of AA adoption."

The account aggregator framework enables individuals and small- and mid-sized businesses to avail of services such as sharing

their financial information digitally with regulated financial institutions such as banks and non-banking financial companies within a secure framework.

The account aggregator framework is aimed at eliminating the need to collect or submit physical documents to get loans or access other financial products and services.

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NHRCL MD at the helm of bullet train project, fired

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

The Railways has terminated the services of NHRCL Managing Director Satish Agnihotri who was in charge of the government's prestigious bullet train project, senior officials said on Thursday.

Rajendra Prasad, Director, Projects, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) has been handed over the charge for three months, the officials said.

Senior Railway officials said there were several allegations against Agnihotri, including misuse of official position and diverting funds in an unauthorised manner to a private company.

They said the decision to terminate the services of Agnihotri came following a June 2 Lokpal court order directing the CBI to probe charges of a "quid pro quo" deal allegedly struck by the former NHRCL MD with a private company during his nine-year tenure as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

The Lokpal court has directed the CBI to "ascertain whether any offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, is made out" against Agnihotri and to submit the probe report to the Lokpal office within six months or before December 12, 2022.

"The competent authority has approved the termination of office of Satish Agnihotri. He has been directed to be relieved with immediate effect," read the July 7 letter of the Railway Board, addressed to the company secretary of the NHRCL.

NHRCL is a joint venture of the Government of India and participating states for implementing high-speed rail projects. Officials also alleged that Agnihotri took up a job in a private firm within a year of his retirement, in violation of rules.

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Days and Obituary News

146. Every Year **National Chartered Accountant Day** commemorates the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). It was established on which day?

- A. 1 July 1948
- B. 1 July 1949**
- C. 1 July 1950
- D. 1 July 1951
- E. None of the above

- In India, July 1 is celebrated as National Chartered Accountants Day.
- The day commemorates the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949.
- Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI):
- **It is a statutory body established by the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, owned by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- It is the second-largest professional accounting and finance body in the world in terms of members.
- The ICAI is the only organization in the country that issues licenses and regulations for the financial auditing and accounting professions.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its President is Dr. Debashis Mitra.

147. Every Year **National Doctors' Day** is celebrated on _____ to mark both the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.

- A. 1st July**
- B. 2nd July
- C. 3rd July
- D. 4th July
- E. None of the above

- National Doctors' Day is celebrated every year on 1 July. It was first observed in 1991.
- **National Doctor's Day is celebrated to mark both the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy on 1 July.**
- **The theme for National Doctors' Day 2022 is "Family Doctors on the Front Line".**
- Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy played an important role in the establishment of the Medical Council of India and the Indian Medical Association.

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- *It is observed to show gratitude to all those doctors who work tirelessly for the health of their patients.*
148. Every year on the first _____ in July, *the International Day of Cooperatives* is observed to raise awareness about how cooperatives work together for social, cultural, and economic growth.
- A. Friday
 - B. Saturday**
 - C. Sunday
 - D. Monday
 - E. None of the above
-
- *Every year on the first Saturday in July, the International Day of Cooperatives is observed.*
 - *This year, the day was celebrated on 2 July around the world. The day is commonly known as Coops Day.*
 - *The theme of International Day of Cooperatives 2022 is "Cooperatives Build a Better World."*
 - *The day raises awareness about how cooperatives work together for social, cultural, and economic growth.*
 - *Since 1923, cooperatives around the world have celebrated this day, which was formally proclaimed by the UNGA on the ICA's centennial in 1995.*
 - *On December 16, 1992, the UNGA passed a resolution to declare the first Saturday of July 1995 the International Day of Cooperatives.*
 - *The 100th International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated in New Delhi on July 4 with Home Minister Amit Shah as the Chief Guest.*
 - *The event, with the theme "Cooperatives Build an Atmanirbhar Bharat and Better World," was organized by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Cooperative Federation of India.*
149. *World Sports Journalists Day* is observed all over the world on _____ to highlight the contribution of Sports Journalists in bringing sports closer to its viewers.
- A. 1st July
 - B. 2nd July**
 - C. 3rd July
 - D. 4th July
 - E. None of the above
-
- *World Sports Journalists Day is observed all over the world on 2nd July.*
 - *It is observed to highlight the contribution of Sports Journalists in bringing sports closer to its viewers.*
 - *Sports journalists work on various media platforms including print, broadcast, and the internet.*

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- *World Sports Journalist Day was first celebrated in 1994. It is also observed to mark the establishment of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS).*
 - *There are different kinds of sports journalism such as play-by-play reporting, game recap analysis, investigative sports journalism, etc.*
150. Every year, the **International Plastic Bag free day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about the harmful effect of plastic.
- A. 1st July
 - B. 2nd July
 - C. 3rd July**
 - D. 4th July
 - E. None of the above
-
- *Every year, the International Plastic Bag free day is observed on 3 July.*
 - *It was first observed on July 3, 2008, by Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE).*
 - *The day's main goal is to raise awareness about the harmful effect of plastic. Items made out of single-use plastics are also contaminating rivers and oceans.*
 - *In 2002, Bangladesh became the first nation to ban plastics. A plastic bag takes 1,000 years to disintegrate in a landfill.*
 - *India has imposed a ban on single-use plastics from 1 July.*
 - *Nearly 300 million tons of plastic are produced by humans each year. Only 10-13% of plastic items get recycled.*
 - *Single-use plastics are non-recyclable plastic products that cannot be used after the single-use.*
151. **World UFO Day** is observed every year on _____ to spread awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).
- A. 1st July
 - B. 2nd July**
 - C. 3rd July
 - D. 4th July
 - E. None of the above
-
- *World UFO Day is observed every year to spread awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). The main aim to celebrate the day is to acknowledge the existence of UFOs. Earlier, this day was celebrated on two different dates by people, some celebrated it on 24 June, while the others observed it on 2 July. Later, 2 July was officially declared World UFO Day.*

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- World UFO Day is observed every year to spread awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). The main aim to celebrate the day is to acknowledge the existence of UFOs. Earlier, this day was celebrated on two different dates by people, some celebrated it on 24 June, while the others observed it on 2 July. Later, 2 July was officially declared World UFO Day.

152. **Tarun Majumdar**, who passed away recently belonged to which of the following state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. West Bengal**
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above

- Veteran Bengali director **Tarun Majumdar** passed away at the age of 92. He was famous for highlighting the life of middle-class families in his films.
- Tarun Majumdar** was the recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 1990. Apart from this, the veteran filmmaker won four National Awards, Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards (BFJA Awards), among several others.

Tarun Majumdar, veteran filmmaker, passes away at 91

He had won the national award for best film four times

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Veteran filmmaker Tarun Majumdar passed away in Kolkata on Monday. He was 91 and had been undergoing treatment at the State-run SSKM hospital since June 14.

The filmmaker was put on ventilator support on Sunday, when his health deteriorated and he breathed his last at 11.17 am on Monday.

Mr. Majumdar was among the last of the great film directors from West Bengal who created a niche of their own, beyond the trinity of cinema legends such as Sa-



Tarun Majumdar

He directed his first film *Chawa Pawa* (1959), starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen, when he was only 27 years old.

Mr. Majumdar then joined the directorial team Yatrik, which also included Sachin Mukherji and Dilip Mukherji. In 1962, the team came out with *Kancher Swarga*, which won the National Award for the best feature film in Bengali.

He will also be remembered for the aesthetic pictorialisation of songs in his films, particularly the use of *Rabindra Sangeet*.

tyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, and Ritwik Ghatak.

The filmmaker is a four-time National Award winner and a Padma Shri awardee.

153. **Legendary theatre director, Peter Brook** who recently passed away belongs to which of the following country?

- A. Germany
- B. England**
- C. France
- D. Spain
- E. None of the above

+ The complicated legacy of Peter Brook

The British theatre director known for his famous adaptation of The Mahabharata died on Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

"I can take any empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching him, and this is all that is needed for an act of theatre to be engaged."

So begins *The Empty Space* (1968) by the British theatre director Peter Brook, who died on Saturday, aged 97. He was famous for his adaptation of *The Mahabharata*.

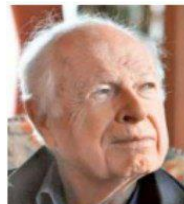
Brook's goal, as he put it, was to work "outside of contexts", asking: "In what conditions is it possible for what happens in a theatre experience to originate from a

group of actors and be received and shared by spectators without the help and hindrance of [...] shared cultural signs and tokens?"

In 1979, Brook took his international troupe on a trip through Africa, presenting *The Conference of the Birds*, a play based on a 12th Century Persian poem, to audiences with whom they expected to have nothing in common.

This phase of what came to be called intercultural theatre culminated in a famous adaptation of *The Mahabharata*.

Premiering at the Avignon festival in 1985 with a cast drawn from many cultures and theatrical traditions, the



Peter Brook

drama was praised by critics for its beauty and limpid theatricality of the production. However, it also triggered a critical backlash.

As Australians well know, there are no "empty spaces"

that are simply there for the taking. There are no cultural forms that exist "outside of contexts".

Brook was not naive about this, but he struggled to square local particularity with his universalist instincts. He acknowledged the *Mahabharata* "would never have existed without India", yet at the same time, stated "we had to avoid allowing the suggestion of India to be so strong as to inhibit human identification to too great an extent."

For a growing number of critics, this was not only intellectually unsustainable, but compounded historical wrongs.

In 1990, the Indian theatre scholar Rustom Bharucha published *Theatre and the World*, a broadside against western appropriations of Asian theatrical forms. Bharucha accused Brook of trivialising and de-contextualising Indian culture, and exploiting Indian performers.

The *Mahabharata* would mark a significant shift in how intercultural collaborations would be approached in future: greater attention being paid to who has the right to represent what, and how the material and intellectual resources in any given production are distributed.

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- Peter Brook, one of the world's most innovative theatre directors who perfected the art of staging powerful drama in bizarre venues, has died aged 97. The British director mounted productions ranging from challenging versions of Shakespeare through international opera to Hindu epic poems. He brought a stunning nine-hour adaptation of the Sanskrit epic "The Mahabharata" from France to New York in 1987.
- Brook was born in the UK but was living in France for decades

154. **World Zoonoses Day** is observed annually on _____ to raise awareness about those diseases that can spread from animals to humans.

- A. 3rd July
- B. 4th July
- C. 5th July
- D. 6th July
- E. None of the above

- World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on 6 July to raise awareness about those diseases that can spread from animals to humans.
- World Zoonoses Day was started on 6 July 1885 to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases.
- Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus on 6 July 1885.

155. **Mohammad Barkindo**, who passed away recently was **Secretary-General** of which of the following organizations?

- A. BRICS
- B. OPEC
- C. NDB
- D. ADB
- E. None of the above

Barkindo: India's friend in Opec dies



Mohammad Sanusi **Barkindo**, secretary-general, Opec

Mohammad Sanusi **Barkindo**, the secretary-general of Opec who died on Wednesday, was a friend of India who believed that sustained healthy economic growth and prosperity of the country was in the interest of the Saudi-led oil cartel.

Barkindo, 63, died in his home country of Nigeria, OPEC said in a statement without giving reasons for his death.

He was due to step down at the end of this month after six years in the top job at the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Hours before his death, he met Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and spoke at an energy summit in Abuja where he stated that the oil and gas industry is "under siege" due to years of under-investment and oil

from Iran and Venezuela could help address the market's current tight supply.

Just like the rest of the world, India too has issues with the tight production controls by the OPEC which had led to soaring energy prices and inflation, but **Barkindo** was always sympathetic to New Delhi's concerns and repeatedly assured for meeting full demand of the nation. **PII**

- OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo, an oil industry veteran who steered the group through the creation of the OPEC+ alliance, has died in his native Nigeria. He was 63.
- Barkindo was in the final weeks of his six-year tenure as the top diplomat at the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, where he headed its Vienna-based secretariat. He had returned to Abuja in preparation for a post-OPEC career.

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- *The Nigerian engaged in a flurry of shuttle diplomacy to establish the once-unthinkable partnership with non-members, personally lobbying leaders including Russia's Vladimir Putin.*
- *The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries. Founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members, it has, since 1965, been headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member state.*

156. *World Kiswahili Language Day* is celebrated on _____ every year.

- A. 6th July
- B. 7th July**
- C. 8th July
- D. 9th July
- E. None of the above

- *World Kiswahili Language Day is celebrated on the 7th of July every year.*
- *On November 23, 2021, the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO proclaimed 7 July of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day.*
- *The theme for the first celebration of the World Kiswahili Language Day is 'Kiswahili for peace and prosperity.'*
- *Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. It is most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa.*
- *It is the only African language that is the official language of the African Union.*

157. What is the name of the former *chairman of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi* and eminent freedom fighter who took part in the 1942 Quit India movement passed away?

- A. Narendra Singh
- B. P. Gopinathan Nair**
- C. Tarun Majumdar
- D. Peter Brooke
- E. None of the above

- *P. Gopinathan Nair, a freedom fighter, passed away at the age of 100.*
- *The Indian freedom fighter died due to age-related ailments.*
- *He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life.*
- *He took part in the 1942 Quit India movement.*
- *For his contribution to society, the Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 2016.*

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- *He served as the chairman of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi (Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Trust), an organization run by the Indian government.*

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Sports Award Books News

158. Recently **Neeraj Chopra** won a silver medal at Diamond League meet in Stockholm by finishing second with a throw of _____.

- A. 86.64 m
- B. 89.94 m**
- C. 90.25 m
- D. 87.69 m
- E. None of the above

- **Neeraj Chopra won a silver medal at Diamond League meet in Stockholm.**
- **He won his first-ever medal at Diamond League meet in Stockholm.**
- **He broke his national record for the second time in a month.**
- **He finished second with a throw of 89.94 meters. World champion Anderson Peters won the event with a throw of 90.31 meters.**
- **Neeraj Chopra broke the record of 89.30 meters. He set this record at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku earlier this month.**
- **Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is the first Indian who won a gold medal in athletics at the Olympics.**

Neeraj sets new National record, finishes second



Soaring high: Neeraj's effort of 89.94m helped him rewrite the National mark and also win the silver. • REUTERS

Misses the 90m mark by a whisker

DIAMOND LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
STOCKHOLM

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top-3 finish at a Diamond League meeting with a National record-breaking effort, but missed the 90m mark by a whisker at a star-studded field on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Neeraj opened with a stunning 89.94m, just 6cm shy of the 90m mark, the gold standard in the world of javelin.

It turned out to be his best. Neeraj's other throws were 84.37m, 87.46m, 84.77m, 86.67m and 86.84m. He bettered his earlier National record of 89.30m, set in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on June 14.

He finished second behind World champion and season's leader Anderson Peters of Grenada, who won with a best throw of 90.31m in his third attempt.

Julian Weber of Germany was third with a fifth-round throw of 89.08m.

158. Recently _____ State Government has taken ownership of a team in the soon-to-be-launched Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) league.

- A. Haryana
- B. Odisha**
- C. Kerala
- D. Rajasthan
- E. None of the above

- **The Odisha government has taken ownership of a team in the soon-to-be-launched Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) league.**

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- *This will be the second direct sports venture for the Odisha government, which also owned a team —Kalinga Lancers—in the now-defunct Hockey India League in 2013.*
- *The announcement comes days after Odisha won silver medals in both boys and girls categories in Kho Kho during Khelo India Youth Games 2022.*
- *The Odisha Sports Development and Promotion Company (OSDPC)-owned team will be the fifth franchise in the league.*
- *In the last decade, the Naveen Patnaik-led government has not only hosted some of the major sports events in the country but also developed a world-class multi-sport infrastructure. The state also sponsors India's men's hockey team.*
- *For UKK, OSDPC is collaborating with steel manufacturer ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, which is already developing the infrastructure of Kho Kho in the state.*

159. _____ will be the top seeds in the open section at the upcoming 44th chess Olympiad while hosts India is ranked _____ .

- A. Russia, 2nd
- B. USA, 3rd
- C. China, 4th
- D. England, 2nd
- E. None of the above

- *Team USA will be the top seeds in the open section at the upcoming 44th chess Olympiad scheduled to be held here from July 28 to August 10. Azerbaijan is seeded second while hosts India are third. China and Russia --- the two powerhouses of the sport --- will not be part of the tournament.*
- *Russia has been banned by FIDE, the game's governing body, while China chose to opt-out of the competition. The two teams have been a dominant force --- bagging top honors in 6 out of the last 9 editions of the Olympiad.*
- *FIDE announced that 187 teams in the open section and 162 in the women's category are taking part in the event. This is the largest-ever Olympiad in terms of team entries. In the open section,*
- *In the women's category, the Indian team is seeded No. 1 with an average rating of 2486. Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev, and Bhakti Kulkarni are part of the top team. Ukraine (2478) and Georgia (2475) are seeded second and third respectively.*

160. Recently _____ has been honoured with Ayurveda Ratna Award .

USA top seeds for Chess Olympiad

Chennai: Team USA will be the top seeds in the open section at the upcoming 44th Chess Olympiad scheduled to be held here from July 28 to August 10.

Azerbaijan is seeded second while hosts India are third. China and Russia - the two powerhouses of the sport - will not be part of the tournament.

In the open section, team USA has the highest average rating of 2771 points - 66 higher than Azerbaijan. India, on the other hand, has an average rating of 2696. Norway, to be spearheaded by World champion Magnus Carlsen, is the fourth seed.

India is fielding two teams in the open section. The first team comprises Vidit Gujrathi, P Harikrishna, Arjun Erigaisi and SL Narayanan. The second Indian team in the section features Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa and B Adhiban.

In the women's category, the Indian team are seeded No.1 with an average rating of 2486. Koneru Humpy, D Harika, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni are part of the top team. TNN

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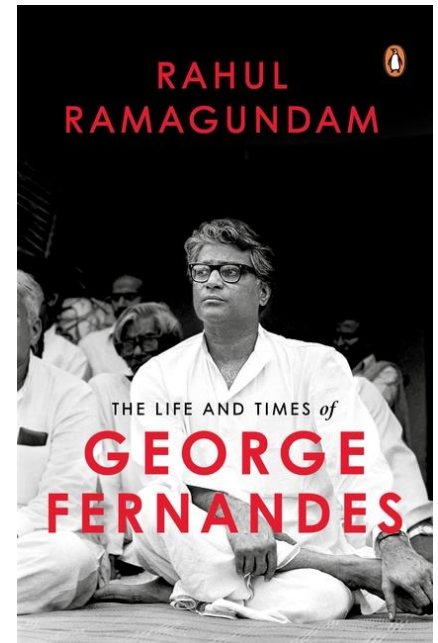
- A. **Tanuja Nesari**
- B. PK Prajapati
- C. Abhimanyu Kumar
- D. Sujata Kadam
- E. None of the above

- UK Parliament has honored Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna Award.
- The UK’s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg) conferred the award for her exceptional service of the highest order for the promotion of Ayurveda.
- The award was presented to her at a virtual ceremony on the International Day of Yoga.
- **Tanuja Nesari is the Director of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).**
- **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is located in New Delhi.**

161. A new biography of one of India’s most **firebrand union leaders and former Central minister George Fernandes** titled “**The Life and Times of George Fernandes**” has been authored by _____.

- A. **Rahul Ramagundam**
- B. Shikha Sharma
- C. Sanjiv Mehta
- D. Rahul Bose
- E. None of the above

- A new biography of one of India’s most **firebrand union leaders and former Central minister George Fernandes** will trace his journey from the streets of Bombay to the corridors of power in Delhi, announced the Penguin Random House India.
- “**The Life and Times of George Fernandes**”, written by **Rahul Ramagundam**, will be released under Penguin’s ‘Allen Lane’ imprint on July 25.

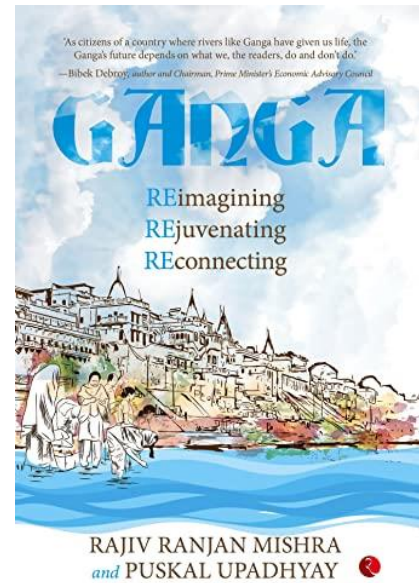


- He became the Railways minister in 1989 under V P Singh’s National Front coalition government, comprising mostly Left-leaning parties.
- Fernandes died in January 2019 at the age of 88 after a prolonged illness.

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162. Who is the author of the book titled "Ganga: Reimagining, Rejuvenating, Reconnecting" which describes issues how the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) team took up its task of keeping the scar of past failures of cleaning the river?

- A. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra
- B. Puskal Upadhyay
- C. Suranjan Das
- D. Both A & B**
- E. Both B & C



- **Taking charge of cleaning and maintaining water bodies, lakes, and stretches of rivers can go a long way in nurturing and sustaining them for the future and will also help reduce the carbon footprint of the country, says a new book on Ganga rejuvenation.**
- **In "Ganga: Reimagining, Rejuvenating, Reconnecting", authors Rajiv Ranjan Mishra and Puskal Upadhyay describe among other issues how the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) team took up its task keeping in mind not just the enormity of it but also the scar of past failures of cleaning the river.**
- **Many initiatives to clean the river ended up either being hugely inadequate or dismal failures. And this haunting legacy stayed with the NMCG team every step of the way in its long, complex, and daunting journey.**
- **Since the establishment of NMCG in 2011 and the launch of Namami Gange in 2014, many facets of rejuvenation like clean villages, ghats, and crematoriums, improving ecology and flow, biodiversity and wetland conservation, plantation, strengthening People-River connect, research, knowledge dissemination, and public participation have been initiated.**

163. Who is the author of the book titled " Gandhi and the Champaran Satyagraha: Select Readings?"

- A. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra
- B. Puskal Upadhyay
- C. Suranjan Das**
- D. Shristi Verma
- E. None of the above

New book explores Gandhi's role in Champaran satyagraha

The Mahatma refused to abide by convention, says scholar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A book titled *Gandhi and the Champaran Satyagraha: Select Readings*, which has been edited by Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das, was released on Saturday.

At the virtual book launch event, Prof. Das thanked the West Bengal government and the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies for sponsoring the research.

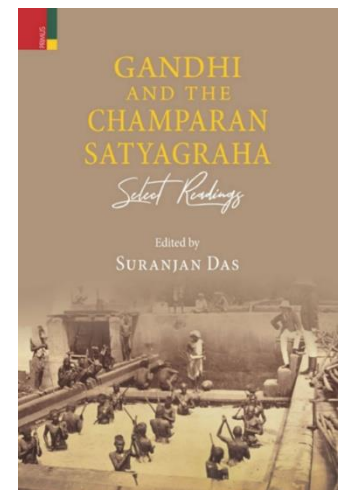
Speaking during a panel discussion, Faisal Devji, Professor of History in the University of Oxford, said the book would immediately be-

come an indispensable resource for those who wanted to look at Mahatma Gandhi's journey at its very beginning in India with respect to the Champaran satyagraha.

Prof. Devji said during the satyagraha, Mahatma Gandhi quite deliberately refused to abide by the inherited conventional standard categorisations of national politics that had existed till then. "I am, in particular, referring to the distinction between social reform on one hand and political freedom on the other, which also maps on to another distinc-

tion between moderates on the one hand and extremists on the other," he said.

As the Congress party was said to have been divided between moderates and extremists, "Gandhi being Gandhi, of course, refuses to abide by these tenets and these terms of debate and you already see this in Champaran. What he does in Champaran, in my view, is he explicitly refuses to engage in formal political manoeuvres and he achieves political ends as it were through their opposite, the social", Prof. Devji remarked.



- **A book titled *Gandhi and the Champaran Satyagraha: Select Readings*, which has been edited by**

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Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor
Suranjan Das was released.

- At the virtual book launch event, Prof. Das thanked the West Bengal government and the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies for sponsoring the research.

164. Consider the following statement regarding **Elorda Cup 2022 boxing**.

1. **Alfiya Pathan, Gitika won gold medals**
2. **Indian boxers finished with 14 medals two gold, two silver, and 10 bronze.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Young Indian boxers Alfiya Pathan and Gitika helped India end the Elorda Cup 2022 on a high by winning gold medals in their respective weight categories at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.**
- **Alfiya Pathan defeated the 2016 world champion Lazzat Kungeibayeva of Kazakhstan 5-0 in the women's +81kg final.**
- **Gitika, meanwhile, got the better of compatriot Kalaivani Srinivasan in an intense 48kg final by a 4-1 margin.**
- **The Indian contingent concluded its campaign at the Elorda Cup with 14 medals - two gold, two silver, and 10 bronze.**

165. **Ferrari Carlos Sainz Wins First Career F1 Race With British Grand Prix Victory. He is from which country?**

- A. Germany
- B. Spain
- C. France
- D. Italy
- E. None of the above

Elorda Cup: Alfiya wins gold; Indian boxers claim 14 medals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 JULY

The reigning Youth World champions Alfiya Pathan and fellow boxer Gitika produced sensational performances to win gold medals in the Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan on Monday.

Two other female boxers, Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro signed off with silver medals as India ended their campaign with 14 medals including 10 bronze.

Nagpur-girl Alfiya thrashed the 2016 world champion and a strong contender for the title, Lazzat Kungeibayeva by a 5-0 margin without breaking a sweat in the women's +81kg final while Gitika clinched a thrilling 4-1 win over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48kg final. Alfiya and Gitika were making their senior international debut.

Alfiya proved too strong for the reigning Asian champion Kungeibayeva as she completely dominated the bout which eventually ended as a one-sided affair with a unanimous decision in Alfiya's favour. The experienced Kazakh boxer looked clueless against the young Indian, who demonstrated remarkable skills.

"It's an amazing feeling to win a gold medal, especially against the World Champi-

onships medallist," an elated Alfiya said after winning gold.

Gitika, who hails from Rohtak, handed the country the first gold of the day by winning an intense all-Indian final against Kalaivani where in both the boxers started with an aggressive intent and kept attacking each other.

While they continued to exchange heavy punches, Gitika effortlessly shifted gears as the bout progressed and did enough, in the end, to tilt the result in her favour.

"It was a great feeling to win a gold medal in the first senior international tournament. This is a start; I want to win more medals at the senior level in international competitions," Gitika said after her win.

Meanwhile, the 2019 World Championships bronze medalist Jamuna gave her all against Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova but ended up with a 0-5 loss in the 54kg final.

Alfiya and Gitika fetched themselves prize money of \$700 for their gold medal-winning feats while silver and bronze medal winners were awarded \$400 and \$200 each respectively.

With the addition of two gold and as many silver medals on the final day, the Indian contingent also concluded its campaign with 14 medals, including 10 bronze, in the inaugural edition of the tournament.

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- **Ferrari Carlos Sainz Jr. won his first career Formula One race on Sunday with a victory at the British Grand Prix – the most dramatic race so far this season. It began with a frightening first-lap crash and ended with intense wheel-to-wheel battles for the podium positions.**

166. Recently Which of the following cricket board announced that professional men's and women's cricketers will be paid the same amount of pay in a ground-breaking new five-year deal?

- A. England
- B. New Zealand**
- C. Australia
- D. South Africa
- E. None of the above

- **New Zealand's professional men's and women's cricketers will be paid the same amount of pay in a ground-breaking new five-year deal. This would include all players playing in top-tier domestic matches.**
- **The five-year deal will see the domestic women's players receive the same match fees as men across all formats including ODIs, T20Is, Ford Trophy, and Dream11 Super Smash level.**
- **The new deal also increases the number of contracts offered to women cricketers in New Zealand. It would also boost the number of competitive matches available to emerging players.**

167. Recently Maryna Viazovska from _____ became the second woman to win the prestigious Fields Medals one of the highest honors in mathematics.

- A. Russia
- B. Ukraine**
- C. Germany
- D. France
- E. None of the above

Maiden victory for Sainz

Zhou in frightening crash on opening lap



Close shave: Zhou's car catapulted upside down and bounced back to finish semi-upright in a stationary position. ■ REUTERS

BRITISH GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SILVERSTONE

Carlos Sainz claimed his maiden Formula One win on his 150th start at a thrilling British Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Ferrari driver kept his cool to beat Red Bull's Sergio Perez and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

World champion Max Verstappen finished seventh but retained the lead.

"I don't know what to say, it's amazing. First race win 150 races later with Ferrari in Silverstone, it's a very special day," said Sainz, who won from pole. Behind Sainz there was an epic battle between Perez, Hamilton and Charles Leclerc.

Carnage

The 10th round of the season began with carnage at the first corner after a horror crash as Zhou Guanyu's Alfa Romeo flipped upside down and hurtled over the circuit's safety barrier.

George Russell's Mer-

cedes, Alpine's Esteban Ocon, Yuki Tsunoda (Alpha Tauri) and the Williams of Alex Albon were also involved.

Zhou's car was catapulted upside down, the Chinese rookie's head saved by his car's roll hoop-halo as it skidded off across a gravel trap and over the tyre barriers into the catch fencing, where it bounced back to finish semi-upright.

The results (top-10): 1. Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari) 1h 21m 20.440s, 2. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) +3.779, 3. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 6.225, 4. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 8.546, 5. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) 9.571, 6. Lando Norris (McLaren) 11.943, 7. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 18.777, 8. Mick Schumacher (Ferrari) 18.995, 9. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) 22.356, and 10. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 24.590.

Standings (top-6): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 181 pts, 2. Perez 147, 3. Leclerc 138, 4. Sainz Jr 127, 5. George Russell 111, 6. Lewis Hamilton 93.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 328, 2. Ferrari 265, 3. Mercedes 204, 4. McLaren 73, 5. Alpine 67, 6. Alfa Romeo 51.

M ND-NDE

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- *Four mathematicians have been awarded the prestigious Fields Medals including Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska at a ceremony in Helsinki, Finland.*
- *This was informed by the International Mathematical Union jury on July 5, 2022.*
- *Four mathematicians have been awarded the prestigious Fields Medals including Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska at a ceremony in Helsinki, Finland. This was informed by the International Mathematical Union jury on July 5, 2022.*
- *Viazovska, who is based at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), is the second woman ever to earn the award. She is best known for her solution to the sphere packing problem — finding the arrangement of spheres that can take up the largest portion of a volume — in eight dimensions.*
- *The Fields Medals and other IMU prizes are normally announced at the opening of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), which takes place every four years.*
- *Before Viazovska, the only woman to win a Fields Medal was the late Maryam Mirzakhani, in 2014.*
- *The Fields medal award comprises a gold medal (14 karat gold) bearing the profile of Archimedes and a cash amount.*
- *The Fields medal and cash prizes are funded by a trust established by J.C.Fields at the University of Toronto.*
- *The Fields Medals were first awarded in 1936 in Oslo, Norway. The Fields medals were conceived by John Charles Fields, a Canadian mathematician.*

+ Woman mathematician from Ukraine wins Fields Medal

Maryna Viazovska says war has profoundly changed her life

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named on Tuesday as one of four recipients of the prestigious Fields Medal, which is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.

The International Mathematical Union said Ms. Viazovska, who holds the chair in number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, was being honoured for her work on the densest packing of identical spheres in eight dimensions.

Ms. Viazovska said Russia's attack on Ukraine in February had profoundly changed her life and those of all Ukrainians.

Small respite

"When the war started I could not think about anything else, including mathematics," she said, adding



Maryna Viazovska

that teaching has offered some respite, however.

"When I'm in front of class, I have to forget about everything else because I have to be very focused," Ms. Viazovska said. "This made me forget about the fear and pain inside myself."

The other winners were French mathematician Hugo Duminil-Copin of the University of Geneva; Korean-American mathematician June Huh of Princeton; and British mathematician James

Maynard of the University of Oxford.

The Fields Medal is awarded every four years to mathematicians under age 40. The recipients are normally announced at the International Congress of Mathematicians, which was originally due to be held in Russia this year but moved to Helsinki instead.

"The ongoing barbaric war that Russia still continues to wage against Ukraine clearly shows that no other alternative was feasible," the president of the International Mathematical Union, Carlos E. Kenig, said.

Ms. Viazovska recently dedicated one of her lectures to Yulia Zdanovska, a young Ukrainian mathematician and computer scientist from Kharkiv who was killed in a Russian missile attack.

"When someone like her dies, it's like the future dies," Ms. Viazovska said.

168. Recently India announced _____ member squad that will be heading to the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

- A. 215
- B. 220
- C. 218
- D. 225
- E. None of the above

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- A 215-member Indian squad will be heading to the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8, comprising 108 male and 107 female athletes.
- The overall strength of the contingent will be 322, including 72 team officials, 26 extra officials, and nine contingent staff, including three general managers. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will likely be named the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony. Indian athletes will be competing across 16 disciplines.
- Boxing Federation of India vice-president Rajesh Bhandari has been named as chef de mission after Cycling Federation of India chairman Onkar Singh pulled out.
- 2022 will be the 22nd edition of the quadrennial Games. In Gold Coast 2018, India finished third in the standings behind Australia and England with 66 medals including 26 gold, 20 silver, and bronze each. India's best show was at Delhi in 2010 when they finished behind Australia.

India to send 215-member squad for Commonwealth Games



Sports minister Anurag Thakur (R) with Olympics silver winner Ravi Dahiya during the send-off ceremony for CWG. ANI

HT Correspondent
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 215-member India squad will be heading to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8, comprising 108 male and 107 female athletes. The overall contingent will be 322, including 72 team officials, 26 extra officials, nine contingent staff, including three general managers. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will likely be named the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony. Indian athletes will be competing across 16 disciplines.

Boxing Federation of India vice-president Rajesh Bhandari has been named as chef de mission after Cycling Federation of India chairman Onkar Singh pulled out. "Onkar ji withdrew as

he will be busy with the National Games," said IOA acting president Anil Khanna. Onkar had been named as the chef de mission initially.

Maninder Singh, Prashant Kushwaha and Anil Dhupar will be the three general managers of the contingent while Bibhu Kalayan Nayak named as the doctor.

It was announced that gold medal winning athletes will get ₹20 lakh from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). "₹10 lakh will be awarded to silver winners while bronze winners will get ₹7.5 lakh," IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said in a send-off ceremony here on Thursday.

In Gold Coast 2018, India had finished third in the standings behind Australia and England with 66 medals including 26 gold, 20 silver and bronze each. India's best show was at Delhi



2010 when they finished behind Australia.

"The performance at last year's Olympic Games was our best ever and we have seen the improvement of our athletes across sports in recent times with our own eyes. The historic

Thomas Cup win was one such occasion," sports minister Anurag Thakur, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, said, adding that that he was extremely happy that the squad had attained gender balance. "This Indian CWG squad is definitely our strongest ever and I am confident that all our athletes will make India proud."

In 2018, over 90% of the medals—including 25 of the 26 gold—came from the six disciplines of badminton, boxing, shooting, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. Athletics, parasports and squash were the other medal winning sports.

Shooting, which gave India 16 medals in Gold Coast including seven gold, is no longer a part of CWG 2022. However, for the first time women's cricket has been included.

169. Recently _____ was crowned Miss India World 2022 .

- A. Sini Shetty
- B. Swati Verma
- C. Surbhi Shetty
- D. Mansha Varshney
- E. None of the above

• Sini Shetty of Karnataka was crowned Miss India World 2022.

THE WINNERS

FEMINA MISS INDIA WORLD 2022 | Sini Shetty
State: Karnataka

FEMINA MISS INDIA 2022 - FIRST RUNNER-UP | Rubal Shekhawat
State: Rajasthan

FEMINA MISS INDIA 2022 - SECOND RUNNER-UP | Shinata Chauhan
State: Uttar Pradesh

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- At the VLCC Femina Miss India grand finals, Sini Shetty of Karnataka was declared the winner of the Femina Miss India World 2022 title.
- She will now participate in the 71st Miss World pageant as India's representative.
- Shetty (age 21) was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by Manasa Varanasi, Miss India 2020, at the JIO World Convention Center in Mumbai.
- Rubal Shekhawat (from Rajasthan) is the first runner-up of Femina Miss India 2022, while Shinata Chauhan (from Uttar Pradesh) is the second runner-up.
- It was the 58th edition of the Femina Miss India beauty pageant.



170. Recently _____ has made history as she is set to become the first Indian to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League after the 20-year-old forward signed a two-year deal with Cypriot club Apollon Ladies.

- A. Bala Devi
- B. Sanju Kumari
- C. **Manisha Kalyan**
- D. Muskan Varshney
- E. None of the above

- Shooting into fame after scoring against Brazil last year, young winger Manisha Kalyan has made history once again as she is set to become the first Indian to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League after the 20-year-old forward signed a two-year deal with Cypriot club Apollon Ladies.
- Apollon will be playing in round 1 of the UEFA Women's Champions League qualifying on 18 August. If they win, they will face the winners of Switzerland's FC Zurich and Faroe Island's Klaksvik Kvinnur.
- Manisha made her senior team debut against Hong Kong in January 2019, but the turning point in her career came when she was named to the Indian

Manisha set to play in Women's CL

CHENNAI

Manisha Kalyan is set to become the first Indian to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League after the 20-year-old forward signed a two-year deal with Cypriot club Apollon Ladies. Manisha, who won two IWL titles (2019-20, 21-22) with Gokulam Kerala, is also an India international with 17 caps and four goals to her name.

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U-17 team that participated in the BRICS Football Cup in South Africa in 2018.

- In the 2019-20 season, she played a key role in Gokulam Kerala winning the Indian Women's League (IWL) title. She was named the emerging player of the tournament.*

171. Recently _____ broke Brian Lara's world record, of most runs of an over in Test cricket as he smashed 35 runs in an over.

- A. Risabh Pant
- B. Jhonny Bairstow
- C. Jasprit Bumrah**
- D. Joe Root
- E. None of the above

- Jasprit Bumrah smashed Brian Lara's world record as Stuart Broad conceded the most expensive Test over in history.*
- Jasprit Bumrah created a new world record with the bat in the ongoing fifth Test match of the India-England series at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. In the 83rd over of the Indian innings, Stuart Broad conceded 35 runs to help India cross the 400-run mark in the innings.*
- Lara had set the record in a West Indies-South Africa Test match in 2003 of Robin Petersen's bowling.*
- By conceding 35 runs in an over, Broad now holds the record for conceding the most number of runs in an over in Test cricket history. The veteran England pacer is also the joint-holder of the same record in T20I cricket alongside Sri Lankan spinner Akila Dhananjay. Broad had conceded 36 runs in the 2007 T20 World Cup against India when Yuvraj Singh smashed him for six sixes in an over.*

172. Recently Onslabeur *Becomes First Arab Player to Reach Grand Slam Final. She hails from which of the following country?*

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Tunisia**
- C. UAE

Most runs in an over in Tests

Stuart Broad's 35-run over is the costliest in Tests, breaking the record of 28




28 Batter: **Lara**
 Bowler: **Robin Peterson**
 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4
 ■ West Indies vs. South Africa, Johannesburg, 2003

28 Batter: **Bailey**
 Bowler: **Anderson**
 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6
 ■ Australia vs. England, Perth, 2013

35 Batter: **Bumrah**
 Bowler: **Broad**
 4 | 4wd | 6+nb | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 1
 ■ India vs. England, Birmingham, 2022
 ■ Bumrah scored 29 of those 35, a wide went for four (five runs) and a no-ball that was hit for a six (seven runs)

28 Batter: **Maharaj**
 Bowler: **Root**
 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4b
 ■ South Africa vs. England, Port Elizabeth, 2020
 ■ Maharaj scored 24 and there were 4 byes

 Just when you think you have seen it all, this game surprises you even more. Fascinating batting from Bumrah to smash the red cherry for 29 in an over. First in Durban with Yuvraj and now in Birmingham. On air at the right place and right time for 35 and 36.
 RAVI SHASTRI

 Sad to lose my record today... oh, well, records are made to be broken, I guess. On to the next one
 ROBIN PETERSON

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- D. Iraq
 E. None of the above

- **Ons Jabeur advanced to her first Grand Slam final after defeating Tatjana Maria.**
- **The No. 3 seed became the first Arab player to reach a major final with the win. Jabeur is also the first African woman to reach a Grand Slam final during the Open era.**
- **Before Jabeur, the only other Tunisian to reach the WTA Top 100 rankings was Selima Sfar, peaking at No. 75 in July 2001.**

A Major feat

Jabeur first Arab in Major final



Ons jabeur (R) ended Tatjana Maria's stupendous run. REUTERS

LONDON, JULY 7

When Ons Jabeur sealed the match point that made her the first Arab to reach a Grand Slam final at Wimbledon today all she could think of was rushing over to her vanquished barbecue buddy at the net to give Tatjana Maria the tightest of hugs.

While Jabeur's coach Issam Jellali jumped to his feet with raised arms to join 15,000 cheering fans in hailing the first African woman to reach the title match, Jabeur sim-

ply smiled as she ended Maria's remarkable run with a 6-2 3-6 6-1 victory. On the eve of the contest, Jabeur had vowed that the "hug at the end will be amazing" and she was not wrong. The two players held each other across the net for what seemed an eternity, with both whispering into each other's ears.

Meanwhile, Elena Rybakina powered into the final by dismantling former champion Simona Halep 6-3 6-3 with a clinical display. — Reuters

Parul sets new 3,000m record

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Parul Chaudhary smashed the national women's 3,000 metres record at the Sound Running meet in Los Angeles, becoming the first athlete from India to clock a sub-nine minute time in the event.

The 27-year-old from Meerut covered the distance in 8 minutes 57.19 seconds as she finished third in the race on Saturday night. With her latest effort, Chaudhary, who specialises in steeplechase, broke Suriya Loganathan's record of 9:04.5, set in New Delhi six years ago.

Chaudhary was trailing at the fifth spot in the race before she picked up pace in the last two laps to claim a podium finish.

The 3,000m event is a non-Olympics event in which the Indians don't compete often.

Chaudhary is part of the Indian team for the World



Parul Chaudhary became the first Indian to clock a sub-nine minute time in women's 3,000 metres. AFI

Championships, which will be held in Oregon later this month. She will be competing in the women's 3,000m steeplechase event. Chaudhary had won the gold in the women's 3,000m steeplechase at the Nationals last month in Chennai. — PTI

Science Technology And Environment

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173. Consider the following statement regarding **DRDO Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator**.

1. Maiden flight was successfully carried out from Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka
2. It is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- DRDO successfully carried out the maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.
- Maiden flight was successfully carried out from Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka on July 01, 2022.
- It is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.
- The aircraft operated in a fully autonomous mode. It is powered by a small turbofan engine.
- The aircraft's airframe, as well as its entire flight control and avionics systems, are developed indigenously.

DRDO's unmanned aircraft takes wing

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 1

In a significant step towards self-reliance in strategic defence technologies, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), on Friday, successfully conducted the maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from the aeronautical test range in Chitradurga of Karnataka.

"This flight marks a major milestone in terms of proving critical technologies towards the development of unmanned aircraft," said the Defence Ministry.

Unmanned vehicles have many advantages over conventional aircraft, they are more



The Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator being flight-tested by DRDO at Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga

economical, have better endurance and save human lives. Use of such vehicles have multiplied in wars, as they can be armed as well used for surveillance. The maiden sortie was in a fully autonomous mode, with

the aircraft exhibiting a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown, stated the Ministry. Designed and developed by DRDO's premium Bengaluru-based research lab, Aeronaut-

ical Development Establishment, the unmanned aerial vehicle is powered by a small turbofan engine. Its airframe, undercarriage and entire flight control and avionics systems were developed indigenously, it said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the "major achievement towards autonomous aircraft" which he believes, "will pave the way for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in terms of critical military systems". Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO G Sathesh Reddy also appreciated the efforts of the teams associated in the design, development and testing of the system.

174. Consider the following statement regarding

PSLV-C53/DS-EO mission.

1. PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
2. This is the 55th mission of PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant.
3. PSLV-C53 carries three satellites. DS-EO, a 365 kg, and NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite both belonging to Singapore. The third satellite is a 2.8 kg Scoob-1 of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

Which of the following statement is correct?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday successfully launched three Singapore satellites through its commercial arm, the NewSpace India Ltd, the second such launch after February's by space agency.

Along with the commercial satellites, officials said, the current mission also has six in-orbit experiments mounted on the rocket's fourth stage.

This is the second time that the space agency has utilised the stage for in-orbit experiments, the first being in 2019 when a student organisation, SpaceKidz India, put its KalamSat on the PS-4 stage of the rocket.

A week ago, Isro, through NSIL, launched the 4,180-kg GSAT-24 satellite aboard a vehicle from commercial launcher Ariane Space. The satellite will provide pan-India coverage for DTH services and has been leased out to Tata Play.



ISRO's PSLV-C53 carrying DS-EO satellite along with two other satellites launched. PTI

"Congratulations to NSIL for accomplishing yet another major mission in this month, June itself. ... I wish all the very best to NSIL for major missions to take up in the coming days using PSLV and PSLV is waiting for that to happen," Isro chairman S Somanath said after the mission. The PSLV-C53, the country's

workhorse rocket, took off from Sriharikota at 6pm on Thursday. Around 18 minutes later, the three satellites were injected into their precise orbits, with the launch vehicle flying in the core-alone configuration, where no strap-on motors are used other than the four main engine stages.

The rocket's main payload was a 365-kg Singaporean DS-EO, an electro-optic earth observation satellite capable of providing full colour images for land classification and in disaster relief.

The second, the 155-kg NeuSAR was a small commercial satellite capable of providing images during the day or at night under all weather conditions.

The third satellite was Nanyang Technical University's 2.8-kg Scoob-1, the first in the student satellite series for hands-on training for the university's satellite research centre. In addition to the international payloads, the rocket also carried six experiments in its fourth stage, including two from Indian startups Digantara and Dhruva space.

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

- ISRO undertook PSLV-C53/DS-EO mission on June 30, 2022, from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- **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 Singapore.**
- **This is the 55th mission of PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant. The mission proposes to demonstrate the utilization of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilized platform for scientific payloads after the separation of the satellites.**
- **PSLV-C53 carries three satellites. DS-EO, a 365 kg, and NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite both belonging to Singapore. The third satellite is a 2.8 kg Scoob-1 of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.**
- **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)DS-EO carries an Electro-Optic, multi-spectral payload that will provide full-color images for land classification, and serve Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief needs.**
- **The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module is a platform that will help perform in-orbit experiments using the final, and otherwise discarded, stage of ISRO's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).**
- **The PSLV is a four-stage rocket where the first three spent stages fall back into the ocean, and the final stage (PS4) — after launching the satellite into orbit — ends up as space junk.**
- **However, in the PSLV-C53 mission, the spent final stage will be utilized as a “stabilized platform” to perform experiments.**
- **POEM is carrying six payloads, including two from Indian space start-ups Digantara and Dhruva Space.**
- **According to ISRO, POEM has a dedicated Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system for attitude stabilization, which stands for controlling the orientation of any aerospace vehicle within permitted limits.**
- **The NGC will act as the platform's brain to stabilize it with specified accuracy.**
- **POEM will derive its power from solar panels mounted around the PS4 tank, and a Li-Ion battery. It will navigate using “four sun sensors, a magnetometer, gyros & NavIC**
- **NeuSAR is Singapore's first small commercial satellite carrying a SAR payload, which is capable of providing images day and night and under all weather conditions.**
- **SCOOB-I satellite is the first satellite in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I), a hands-on student training program from the Satellite Research Centre (SaRC) at Singapore's NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.**

175. Recently **NTPC Commissioned India's largest floating Solar Power Project** in _____ .

- A. Telangana**

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- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Punjab
- E. None of the above

- India's largest floating Solar Power Project is now fully operational.
- **NTPC declared Commercial Operation of the final part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana with effect from July 01, 2022.**
- **With the operationalization of the 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, the total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in the Southern Region rose to 217 MW.**
- **Earlier, NTPC declared Commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).**
- **The solar modules are placed on floaters manufactured with HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) material.**

- 176. Which of the following indigenously built Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer was deployed to Port Victoria, Seychelles to coincide with the Independence Day of Seychelles on 29 June 22 and was dressed overall to mark the ceremonial occasion?**
- A. **INS Kochi**
 - B. **INS Vishakapatnam**
 - C. **INS Kolkata**
 - D. **INS Vikrant**
 - E. **None of the above**

EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PLANT, AND WHY IT IS SIGNIFICANT



The floating solar plant at Ramagundam: 500 acres, capacity 100MW. NTPC

INDIA'S LARGEST floating solar plant is now fully operational at Ramagundam in Telangana. The 100-megawatt (MW) floating solar power photovoltaic project, commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), was commissioned on July 1, raising the total floating solar capacity in commercial operation in the southern region to 217 MW, according to the NTPC.

The NTPC has set a target of 60GW capacity through renewable energy sources, constituting nearly 45% of its overall power generation capacity, by 2032. The Ramagundam plant spread over 500 acres is built at a cost of Rs 423 crore through a contract with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

WHAT IT MEANS: Solar plants can be either ground-mounted or set up on the surface of waterbodies. Though these floating farms are a bit more expensive, there are advantages as well. They do not require land to be acquired for the installation of photovoltaic panels. They are more efficient as the presence of water underneath helps them keep cool. They also reduce water evaporation, thereby saving more water for hydropower generation.

At Ramagundam, the solar modules are placed across 500 acres on floaters manufactured with high-density polyethylene ma-

terial that keeps floating irrespective of water-level fluctuations. The spread is divided into 40 blocks, each with a capacity of 2.5 MW, an array of 11,200 solar modules, and a floating platform with various components. This project is unique because all the electrical equipment are set up on floating ferro-cement platforms.

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY: Solar panels floating on the water surface will reduce the evaporation rate and thereby help water conservation. Also, with a minimum land requirement, mostly for associated evacuation arrangements, available land can be put to better use unlike in the case of ground-mounted solar farms.

At Ramagundam, approximately 32.5 lakh cubic metres per year of water evaporation can be prevented. The waterbody underneath the solar modules helps in maintaining their ambient temperature, thereby improving their efficiency and generation. Coal consumption of 1,65,000 tonnes can be avoided per year; carbon dioxide emissions of 2,10,000 tons per year can be prevented, according to the NTPC.

RAHUL VPISHARODY

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- The Indian Navy contingent joined the enthusiastic personnel of the Seychelles Defence Force (SDF) and the proud citizens of the Republic of Seychelles for the Independence Day celebrations.
- **INS Kolkata, an indigenously built Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer of the Indian Navy, was deployed to Port Victoria, Seychelles to coincide with the Independence Day of Seychelles on 29 June 22 and was dressed overall to mark the ceremonial occasion.**
- A marching contingent of IN personnel along with the Musical Band joined the Military Parade held at the Unity Stadium at Roche Caiman on 03 July 22. The deployment marked sustained participation of Indian Military Contingent in the Seychelles National Day since 1976.
- During the port call, INS Kolkata delivered two engines of Dornier Aircraft of the SDF, which were overhauled at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Hyderabad. A set of engineering spares were also delivered to Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) for the sustenance of SCG ships.
- The deployment of INS Kolkata aligned with the vision of SAGAR which promotes collaborative efforts to ensure maritime security in the Indian Ocean. To this end, India remains committed to providing sustained support to capacity building & capability enhancement efforts of all maritime littorals of the Indian Ocean.

177. Recently In July Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 named _____ was commissioned into the Indian Navy at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam.

- A. **KESTRELS**
- B. **EAGLE EYE**
- C. **OPTIMUS**
- D. **PRIME**
- E. **None of the above**

ALH Squadron INAS 324 Commissioned at Visakhapatnam

Posted On: 04 JUL 2022 4:20PM by PIB Delhi

Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command at an impressive Commissioning Ceremony held at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam on 04 Jul 22. The unit is the first Naval Squadron on the Eastern Seaboard operating the indigenously designed and built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters.

INAS 324 has been named "KESTRELS" which are birds of prey and have good sensory capabilities symbolising the envisaged role of the Aircraft and the Air Squadron. The Insignia of the Squadron depicts a 'KESTREL' searching over vast blue and white sea waves, which signifies the integral Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) role of the Squadron.

ALH MK III helicopters are fitted with state-of-the-art equipment which includes modern surveillance radar and electro-optical sensors. Induction of these flying machines is, in pursuance of the GOI initiative of *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*, as they have been developed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). In addition to their primary roles of MR and SAR, these helicopters can also be deployed for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations as well as Special Operations with Marine Commandos. The helicopter also has an airborne Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) for use in the Air Ambulance role to facilitate the medical evacuation of critically ill patients.

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178. Recently in July, the following ship took part in the largest multilateral Naval Exercises, the 28th edition of Rim of the Pacific exercise, also known as RIMPAC at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

- A. *INS Vikrant*
- B. *INS Satpura***
- C. *INS Kochi*
- D. *INS Tabar*
- E. *None of the above*

- *Indian Navy's indigenous Frigate INS Satpura and P8I LRMRSW aircraft are at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii taking part in one of the largest multilateral Naval Exercises, the Rim of the Pacific exercise, also known as RIMPAC.*
- *The harbor phase of the exercise saw participation in multiple symposiums, exercise planning discussions, and sports competitions.*
- *28 countries, 38 warships, 09 land forces, 31 unmanned systems, 170 aircraft, and over 25,000 personnel are participating in the multi-dimensional exercise. The sea phase commences on 12 Jul 22 and will culminate with the closing ceremony on 04 Aug 22.*
- *The theme of RIMPAC 2022 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners."*

179. Recently French engine manufacturer Safran announced that it would invest \$150 million to set up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility in _____.

- A. *Hyderabad***
- B. *Noida*
- C. *Pune*
- D. *Gurugram*
- E. *None of the above*

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- **French engine manufacturer Safran has announced that it would invest \$150 million to set up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility in Hyderabad.**

- **Meanwhile, forward movement has taken place in plans to co-develop and produce a next-generation fighter jet engine in India.**

- **Defense minister Rajnath Singh met a high-level French delegation led by Safran Group CEO Olivier Andries, with the company releasing details of its planned investments that are expected to create close to 600 highly skilled jobs in India.**

- **The MRO facility for LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines in use by Indian and foreign commercial airlines is expected to overhaul 250 engines a year.**

- **Safran, which is one of the leading manufacturers of jet engines in the world, is also in talks with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to co-develop a 110-kilonewton power engine for next-generation fighter aircraft.**

- **The French company will inaugurate three facilities in India - Safran Aircraft Engines, Safran Electrical & Power India Pvt Ltd, and Safran-HAL Aircraft Engines - this week. They will focus on components for advanced aircraft and helicopter engines.**

Safran Group to set up \$150-m MRO facility for commercial airlines in Hyderabad

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 5

A high-level delegation of Safran Group, one of the leading original equipment manufacturers of advanced aircraft engines for civil and fighter jets, met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday and announced plans to set up maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for commercial airlines in India.

The MRO facility through direct foreign investment of \$150 million in Hyderabad is expected to create 500-600 highly skilled jobs, said the Ministry of Defence in a statement following the meeting of Safran Group delegation led by its CEO Olivier Andries with the Defence Minister. The facility will be able to overhaul over 250 LEAP-1A &



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interacting with Olivier Andries, the CEO of French company Safran Group, in New Delhi on

LEAP-1B engines used by Indian and foreign commercial airlines per year in the beginning, the Ministry stated.

The CEO also briefed the minister of their plan to inaugurate this week Safran Aircraft Engines and Safran Electrical & Power India Pvt Ltd facilities in Hyderabad.

Safran-HAL Aircraft Engines

as a joint venture will be based in Bengaluru. Safran Aircraft Engine will fetch an investment of €36 million and will be located in the Hyderabad SEZ, it said. It will produce parts and components for advanced aircraft engines including rotating seals.

Olivier Andries, said ministry officials, outlined his company's long-term plan in co-de-

velopment and co-production of advanced jet engines and transfer of technology.

Cost advantage

Welcoming the announcement on new facilities, the Defence Minister invited Safran to tie up for more co-development and co-production projects in tune with 'Make in India, Make for the World' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. "We are a big market. However, we are increasingly focused on making in India for addressing the needs in a competitive manner and supplying to friendly foreign countries. You can leverage all the competitive advantages India offers, including the cost advantages and availability of trained manpower," he said.

180. Consider the following statement regarding **World's largest Zoo**.

1. India will have the world's largest zoo **at Lalpur taluka of Jamnagar, Gujarat.**
2. The zoo will be called **'Greens Zoological Rescue and the Rehabilitation Kingdom.'**
3. It will be **built by Reliance Industries Limited.**

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 the above

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India's ark: World's largest zoo takes shape in Gujarat

African Lions, American Bears Already In Acclimatisation Zone

Himanshu.Kaushik
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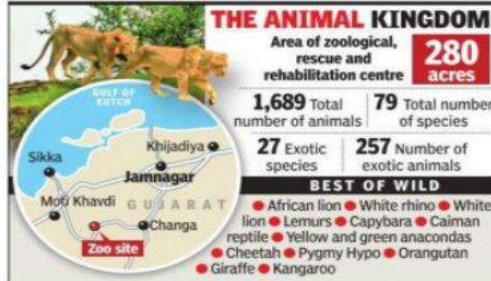
Ahmedabad: Gujarat's pride is set to swell from being the sole abode of Asiatic lions to owning the planet's largest zoo in two years from now, where people can marvel at the beauty of African lions and the "fearful symmetry", to borrow William Blake's phrase, of Royal Bengal tigers.

A 280-acre swath in the state is being readied for the world's biggest wildlife showcase — the Green Zoological, Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom — in Lalpur taluka of Jamnagar on the Dwarka-

Jamnagar Road, about 300km from Ahmedabad.

Aside a veritable pantheon of big cats, it will house majestic, exotic, and endangered animals. As of now, earthmovers and road levellers are bustling about, paving the way for enclosures that will accommodate 1,689 animals belonging to 79 species. Of these, 27 species will be exotic, consisting of 257 animals such as cheetahs, jaguars, jaguarundis, pygmy hippos, giraffes, zebras, kangaroos, white rhinos, and African elephants.

The zoo plan envisages 10 major zones and 73 special-



ised enclosures. A major attraction will be the largest, an exotic island. This will feature the 257 animals, including caimans (a tropical American reptile similar to the alligator), capybaras (a South American mammal),

Malayan tapirs (a stout mammal), meerkats, marmosets (a tiny tropical American monkey), and binturong (a tree-dwelling civet). The Indian Forest zone will consist of 238 animals, including giant squirrels, pangolins,

swamp deer, one-horned rhinos, and dhols (wild dogs).

The zoo is being built by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). A few African lions and Royal Bengal tigers are already in Gujarat as part of the zoo's rescue mission and are acclimatising to the state's conditions in enclosures set up 27km from the zoo enclave.

The big cats currently share the acclimatisation zone with American bears (grizzly and black), jaguars, ocelots, and an albino lion. All these animals brought in by the RIL zoo's rescue effort will be eventually housed in the public-viewing area if they are deemed fully fit. They will be in the zoo's special precincts for exotic animals, which is expected to welcome more species in the coming months.

The animal rescue centre has received deliveries from two cargo flights, one landing in Ahmedabad and the other in Jamnagar. These animals are being tended to by a dedicated team of nutritionists and veterinarians. A special CCTV network is being established to monitor these animals' well-being.

"Due to the pandemic, work on this project had been delayed. But we hope to have it ready in two years if there are no further contingencies." The paddocks for the animals will be largely open, but at many enclosures PVB (polyvinyl butyral) laminated glass barriers will be placed for safety—similar to the one used at Statue of Unity. But in case of the aviary, visitors can walk into the enclosure.

- **India will have the world's largest zoo. The work for it is in-progress at Lalpur taluka of Jamnagar, Gujarat, and will house exotic to endangered animals. Gujarat is already home to Asiatic lions, the pride of India.**
- **According to reports, over 250-acre land in Gujarat is being dedicated to building the largest animal home on the planet. The zoo will be called 'Greens Zoological Rescue and the Rehabilitation Kingdom' and will not only be important from a wildlife and environment perspective but also facilitate and boost tourism in the State.**
- **The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) 2019 subject to certain conditions approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) along with the Master (Layout) Plan for the establishment of the Greens Zoological Rescue and the Rehabilitation Kingdom at Jamnagar by Reliance Industries Limited.**
- **Animals such as bats, giant squirrel, sambar, chowsingha deer, pangolin, wild boar, Asian elephants, fishing cat, and more have been proposed for the zoo. A total of 79 bird and animal species will be housed at the zoo. This includes 1,689 animals, including 27 species that will be exotic consisting of 257 animals.**

181. Recently _____ have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based tool, 'PIVOT', that can predict cancer-causing genes in an individual.

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Kanpur
- E. None of the above

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based tool, 'PIVOT', that can predict cancer-causing genes in an individual.**

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- *This tool will help in devising personalized cancer treatment strategies as per the institute. The findings of the research have been published in a peer-reviewed journal called Frontiers.*
- ***'PIVOT,' developed by IIT Madras researchers, is designed to predict genes that are responsible for causing cancer in an individual.***
- *The prediction is based on a model that utilizes information on mutations, expression of genes, and copy number variation in genes and perturbations in the biological network due to an altered gene expression.*

IIT-M team develops AI tool to predict cancer-causing genes

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, July 6

Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based tool, 'PIVOT', that can predict cancer-causing genes in an individual and help in devising personalised cancer treatment strategies.

"The prediction is based on a model that utilises information on mutations, expression of genes, and copy-number variation in genes and perturbations in the biological network due to an altered gene expression", says a release.

The research was led by Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean (Global Engagement), IIT Madras, and Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering; Karthik Raman, Associate Professor, Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta School of Biosciences, and a Core Member, Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI)

and Malvika Sudhakar, Research Scholar. The findings of the research have been published in a peer-reviewed journal *Frontier in Genetics* (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fgene.2022.854190>).

Machine learning model

The tool is based on a machine learning model that classifies genes as tumour suppressor genes, oncogenes or neutral genes. The tool was able to successfully predict both the existing oncogenes and tumour-suppressor genes. Although there are tools available to identify personalised cancer genes, they use unsupervised learning and predict based on presence and absence of mutations in cancer-related genes.

This study, however, is the first one to use supervised learning and takes into account the functional impact of mutations while making predictions, the release said.