

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of July (9th July– 17th July 2022)

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding the national emblem on the roof of the new Parliament building.
1. This national emblem has a total weight of 9,500 kg and is 6.5 meters in height and is made up of bronze.
 2. The National Emblem of India is a replica of the Lion Pillar of Ashoka at Sarnath.
 3. It has been cast at the top of the central foyer of the new Rashtrapati Bahwan.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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



THE LION CAPITAL

PM Narendra Modi unveils the official emblem of India at the new Parliament building on Monday. PTI PAGE 5

PM unveils National Emblem atop new Parliament building

The sculpture made of bronze weighs 9,500 kg and is 4.34 metres wide

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled a 6.5-metre-tall National Emblem on the roof of the under-construction Parliament building here.

The emblem, which is made of bronze, weighs 9,500 kg. A steel structure of 6,500 kg was made to support the weight of the emblem, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

"The concept sketch and process of casting of the National Emblem on the roof of New Parliament Building has gone through eight different stages of preparation from clay modeling/computer graphic to bronze casting and polishing," it added.

After the ceremony, Mr. Modi interacted with the workers building the new Parliament, which is scheduled to be completed by



Imposing figure: A view of the National Emblem on top of the new Parliament building in New Delhi on Monday. ■R.V. MOORTHY

October. In a tweet, Mr. Modi said: "I had a wonderful interaction with the *Shramjeevis* who have been involved in the making of the Parliament. We are proud of their efforts and will always remember their contribution to our nation".

The emblem was created by Sunil Deore from Aurangabad and Laxman Vyas from Jaipur and the fabrication was carried out in Au-

rangabad, Jaipur and Delhi, the government's consultant for the project, HCP Design, Planning and Management Ltd., told *The Hindu* last week. It had taken nine months to complete the 4.34-metre-wide sculpture, HCP said.

'Norms violated'

Reacting to the photos of the ceremony released by the government, AIMIM presi-


dent and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said in a tweet: "Constitution separates powers of Parliament, govt & judiciary. As head of govt, @PMOIndia shouldn't have unveiled the National Emblem atop new Parliament building. Speaker of Lok Sabha represents LS which isn't subordinate to govt. @PMOIndia has violated all constitutional norms".

BJP chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni said the allegations by the Opposition were politically motivated. "Opposition parties questioning the unveiling ceremony should understand the administrative process. Right from its design to funds and constructions supervision, entire work is being done by the urban development

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- **PM Modi unveiled the national emblem on the roof of the new Parliament building.**
- **This national emblem has a total weight of 9,500 kg and is 6.5 meters in height and is made up of bronze.**
- **It has been cast at the top of the central foyer of the new Parliament building.**
- **A supporting structure of steel weighing around 6500 kilograms has also been constructed to support the National Emblem.**
- **National Emblem:**
- **The National Emblem of India is a replica of the Lion Pillar of Ashoka at Sarnath, which is preserved in the Sarnath museum.**
- **In the original, there are four lions, mounted back to back, on a circular abacus, which itself rests on a bell-shaped lotus.**
- **The bell-shaped lotus was omitted.**
- **The carving in the center of the strip has a chakra, with a bull on the right and a horse on the left.**
- **The motto Satyameva Jayate, which means 'Truth Alone Triumphs' is also part of the State Emblem of India.**
- **The National Emblem of India was adopted on January 26, 1950.**
- **It acts as the official seal for all national and state government offices.**
- **The metal sculpture has been built in Aurangabad, Jaipur, and Delhi by artists Sunil Deore and Lakshman Vyas. The earlier design incorporated a spire atop the building and was replaced with the Ashoka Emblem in 2020.**
- **The central foyer has been renamed the Constitution Hall as it is expected to display the Constitution for public viewing. A library will also come up near the central foyer.**
- **In 2019, the central government announced the redevelopment project to give a new identity to the 'power corridor' of India.**
- **This project is known as the Central Vista redevelopment project.**
- **As per the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the current building is 93 years old and poses structural safety concerns.**
- **The existing building was designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.**
- **It was inaugurated on January 18, 1927, by then Governor General of India Lord Irwin.**
- **The foundation for the existing Parliament was laid by the Duke of Connaught on February 12, 1921.**
- **The building's interiors - The new building will have:**
- **six granite statues of important personalities,**

Grand structure adorns new Parliament



The emblem's inauguration marks the first major milestone ahead of the new Parliament building's opening, which is scheduled for later this year

16,000kg
Weight of the huge structure which is made of bronze. While the emblem weighs around 9,500 kg, the weight of the supporting structure is 6,500kg

33m
Above ground level, according to project officials

9 months
Time taken to complete the structure. Made partly in Aurangabad and Jaipur, the structure took over 100 artisans to build. It took two months to assemble, on the roof of the building

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- *four galleries each for the two Houses of Parliament,*
- *three ceremonial foyers, three India galleries, and*
- *one Constitution gallery.*
- *The new Parliament building is triangular and incorporates architectural styles from around India.*
- *It has 888 seats in the Lok Sabha chamber and 384 seats in the Rajya Sabha chamber.*
- *Unlike the present Parliament building, there is no Central Hall, and the Lok Sabha chamber will be able to house 1,272 members in case of a joint session.*

2. Consider the following statement regarding **NIRF India Ranking 2022**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. **Dharmendra Pradhan released the 8th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings.**

2. **IIT Madras has topped in the ‘Overall’ category for the fourth year**

3. **IIM Ahmedabad topped in the ‘Management’ category**

4. **IISc Bengaluru topped in the ‘Universities’ category.**

5. **IIT Madras is the best engineering college**

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the seventh edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings.**
- **IIT Madras has topped in the ‘Overall’ category for the fourth year while IISc Bengaluru and IIT Bombay are in the second and third spots respectively.**
- **AIIMS Delhi is the best medical college in India while the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru is the best law school.**
- **IIM Ahmedabad topped in the ‘Management’ category and IISc Bengaluru topped in the ‘Universities’ category.**
- **Among the ‘Universities’ category, IISc Bengaluru is followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia in second and third place respectively.**

IIT-M ranked country’s top higher education institute

JNU, Jamia Millia find place in NIRF’s list of best varsities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), is yet again the top higher educational institute in the country followed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and IIT Bombay, according to the Ministry of Education’s National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2022.

Among the universities, IISc, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jadavpur University and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham were among the top five. And among the top five colleges in the country are Miranda House, Hindu College, Presidency College, Loyola College and Lady Shri Ram College for Women.

The top five medical institutes are All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Christian Medical College, Vellore, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru, and Banaras Hindu University. The top five management institutes are Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, IIM Bengaluru, IIM Kolkata, IIT Delhi and IIM Kozhikode.

This is the seventh consecutive edition of NIRF. It ranks colleges, universities

Report card

A look at the top 10 educational institutions in India, according to Ministry of Education’s National Institutional Ranking Framework 2022



Rank	Institution	Score
1	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	87.59
2	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	83.57
3	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	82.35
4	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	82.22
5	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	77.83
6	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	75.94
7	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	71.48
8	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	69.75
9	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	69.57
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	67.25

and research institutions and also provides an overall ranking of all of them combined. Institutes are also ranked across seven subject domains, namely engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture and dental.

Accreditation must

A total of 4,786 institutions were evaluated on five parameters – teaching, learning and resources (TLR); research and professional practice; graduation outcome; outreach; and inclusivity and perception.

Education Minister Dhar-

mendra Pradhan said at an event held to launch the rankings that accreditation and assessment of every higher education institution will be made mandatory and all institutions will have to be part of the NIRF ranking system. He said the two accreditation systems – NAAC and NBA – will be merged and institutes will need to have either NAAC accreditation or NIRF rank to be able to get government funds. He also said soon, there will be a system for accreditation of schools in the country.

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- *IIT Madras is the best engineering college and Jamia Hamdard is the best Pharmacy College.*
- *Miranda House is the best college, followed by Hindu College and Presidency College.*
- *There are a total of 11 categories under which the Indian universities have been ranked.*



3. Which is the **first elevated urban expressway in India?**
- Ganga Expressway
 - Dwarka Expressway**
 - Bundelkhand Expressway
 - Yamuna Express
 - None of these

- *Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road in the Haryana portion, is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India.*
- *Dwarka Expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of the Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi.*
- *Once operational in 2023, it shall immensely help reduce the air pollution in Delhi-NCR.*

IIT Madras Best Institution Fourth Year In A Row; IISc Bengaluru Best University

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained the top spot among institutes for the fourth consecutive year, whereas the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was the best university and research institution, according to the Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework. The seventh edition of NIRF was announced by Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Here's a list:

TOP 10 INSTITUTES

- IIT Madras
- IISc Bengaluru
- IIT Bombay
- IIT Delhi
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Kharagpur
- IIT Roorkee
- IIT Guwahati
- AIIMS New Delhi
- JNU, New Delhi

TOP UNIVERSITIES

- IISc Bengaluru
- JNU, New Delhi
- Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore
- BHU, Varanasi
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal
- Calcutta University, Kolkata
- Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore
- University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

TOP COLLEGES

- Miranda House
- Hindu College
- Presidency College
- Loyola College
- Lady Shri Ram College for Women

TOP ENGINEERING INSTITUTES

- IIT Madras
- IIT Delhi
- IIT Bombay
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Kharagpur

TOP MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS

- IIM Ahmedabad
- IIM Bengaluru
- IIM Calcutta
- IIT Delhi
- IIM Kozhikode



ILLUSTRATION: ZAHID

- MEDICINE** AIIMS Delhi & PGIMER Chandigarh lead the tally
- LAW** National Law School Bengaluru and National Law University are the top two
- ARCHITECTURE** IIT Roorkee followed by NIT Calicut and IIT Kharagpur
- RESEARCH** IISc Bengaluru followed by IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur
- PHARMACY** Jamia Hamdard followed by National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Hyderabad
- DENTAL** Chennai's Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences followed by Manipal college of Dental Sciences

OTHER INSTITUTES OF EMINENCE

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- **The Minister said it is a 16-lane access-controlled highway with the provision of a minimum 3-lane service road on both sides, The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 Crore with a total length of 29 km out of which 19 km length falls in Haryana while the remaining 10 km of length is in Delhi.**
- **The project is estimated to consume 2 lakh MT of steel (30 times of steel used in the Eiffel Tower) and 20 lakh cum of concrete (6 times of concrete used in Burj Khalifa) for its construction.**

delayed the project



- The expressway is an important pivot of the approx. ₹50k-cr Delhi congestion plan.
- Will assuage the urgent need for an alternate link between Delhi and Gurugram, bypassing congestion on NH-8.
- Haryana portion to open by end-2022, Delhi leg by 2023.
- Designed as 8-grade-separated expressway, with provision of a minimum of 3-lane service roads on both sides
- Seamless connectivity from W Delhi, new sectors of Gurugram to Delhi-Vadodra Expressway via SPR - NH- 248A (Rajiv Chowk Sohna Section)

'Dwarka Expressway to be ready next year'

It will help reduce traffic congestion, air pollution in Delhi-NCR, says Gadkari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Dwarka Expressway, which is being developed as the country's first elevated urban expressway, will become operational in 2023 and help reduce air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.



The 22-km-long corridor from Gurugram to Sohna was opened to the traffic on Monday •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Golden Quadrilateral

In a series of tweets, Mr. Gadkari said the expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, which is a part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of the Golden Quadrilateral, and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from commuters of West Delhi.

"Nearly 50%-60% of traffic

on NH-8 will be diverted on to the new expressway, thereby improving traffic movement towards Sohna Road, Golf Course Road," the Minister said.

He said the expressway is a 16-lane, access-controlled highway with provision of minimum three-lane service

roads on both sides. Mr. Gadkari said the 29-km expressway, connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana, is being developed at a cost of ₹9,000 crore.

Around 19 km of the expressway falls in Haryana while the remaining 10 km is in Delhi.

The expressway begins from Shiv-Murti on NH-8 (Delhi-Gurugram Expressway) and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, passing through Dwarka Sector 21, Gurugram border and Basai.

The 22-km-long access-controlled corridor from Gurugram to Sohna on National Highway-248A, widened and strengthened, was opened to traffic on Monday.

The opening of the corridor would considerably cut travel time from Gurugram to Sohna. The NHAI had awarded two separate tenders for the project, starting from Rajiv Chowk. The first package involved six-laning and strengthening of the road from 0.340 km to 9.282 km starting from Rajiv Chowk and a 4.752-km-long elevated road.

4. **Where was the 6th Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) level meeting of members of the Colombo Security Conclave held on 07 July 2022?**

- A. **Kochi**
- B. **Chennai**
- C. **Hyderabad**
- D. **Coimbatore**
- E. **None of these**

Jul 07, 2022, 8:31PM

6th Deputy National Security Adviser level meeting of members of Colombo Security Conclave held in Kochi

The 6th Deputy National Security Adviser level meeting of the members of Colombo Security Conclave was held in Kochi today. The member states are India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. Delegations from Bangladesh and Seychelles participated as Observers.

The participants discussed the implementation of the Roadmap for Cooperation for 2022-23 and the decisions taken at the 5th NSA level meeting of the Conclave held in March this year in Maldives. Maritime safety and security, countering terrorism and radicalisation, combating trafficking and transnational organised crime, cyber security, protection of critical infrastructure and technology and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief were discussed at the meeting.



AIR Pics

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- **6th Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) level meeting of members of Colombo Security Conclave concluded. The meeting was held in Kochi, Kerala on 07 July 2022.**
 - **During the meeting, the participants discussed the implementation of the Roadmap for Cooperation for 2022-23.**
 - **They also discussed the decisions taken at the 5th NSA level meeting of the Conclave held in March 2022 in the Maldives.**
 - **India, Maldives, Mauritius, and, Sri Lanka are member states of the Colombo Security Conclave.**
 - **Delegations from Bangladesh and Seychelles attended the meeting as Observers.**
 - **Colombo Security Conclave: It began as a trilateral maritime cooperation mechanism among India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka in 2011.**
 - **Its membership was enlarged in March 2022 to include Mauritius. Its secretariat is located in Colombo.**
 - **Its members are India, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh and Seychelles are their two observers.**
5. Consider the following statement regarding Western Railway's longest skywalk.
1. It connects **Bandra Terminus with Khar Station of Mumbai.**
 2. It spans **314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Western Railways has opened its longest skywalk. It connects Bandra Terminus with Khar Station of Mumbai.**
- **It spans 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide.**
- **It will allow passengers to reach Bandra Terminus directly by deboarding at Khar station.**
- **Earlier, the suburban train passengers had to either get down at Bandra or Khar Railway Station to reach Bandra Terminus by walking.**
- **The total cost of the Skywalk is approx. Rs. 14 crores and has been constructed using 510 MT structural steel, 20 MT Reinforcement steel & 240 cum of concrete.**
- **With this, a total of seven FOBs & Skywalks have been commissioned in the Mumbai suburban section of Western Railway in the financial year 2022 - 23.**

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- *Western Railway is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways. Its headquarters is in Mumbai.*

- 6. *In July 2022, the Department of Economic Affairs organized the first ‘Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture’. What was the theme for the lecture?*
 - A. *Agriculture and Food Management*
 - B. *Sustainable Development and Climate Change*
 - C. ***Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth***
 - D. *Industry and Infrastructure*
 - E. *None of these*

- *PM Modi participated in the first ‘Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture in New Delhi.*
- *The first ‘Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture’ was given by a Minister of the Singapore government, Tharman Shanmugaratnam.*
- *The theme of the lecture was ‘Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth’.*
- *Department of Economic Affairs has organized the first ‘Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture’ in memory of his invaluable contribution to the nation.*
- *The Prime Minister addressed the gathering and interacted with the delegates participating in the Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC).*
- *Kautilya Economic Conclave was organized by the Institute of Economic Growth in association with the Ministry of Finance from 8th-10th July.*

- 7. *Recently Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur launched National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) website. In which year was NSDF established?*
 - A. **1982**
 - B. 1994
 - C. 1998
 - D. 2000
 - E. None of these

- *Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur launched a web portal for schemes of the Department of Sports.*

Sports Ministry launches digital access for welfare schemes

Move aimed towards “minimum government, maximum governance”

GENERAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
 The Union Sports Ministry has cut the red tape further in its bid to enhance transparency, accountability, and speed of process, by launching web portals for cash awards to sports persons, pension scheme and also for accessing the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) or making contributions to it.

The Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced that the revised schemes and digital access were meant to help “ease of living” for the sports persons, and cut the processing time to a great extent, moving towards the ideology of “minimum government and maximum governance”.

“The sportspersons can directly apply for welfare schemes. Earlier the proposals were received through sports federations, Sports Authority of India (SAI), which used to take considerable time for submission of the proposals. Sometimes, it used to take more than one or two years to approve the proposal. Now the applicant needs to apply online for cash award within six months from the last date of the particular event,” said the Sports Minister, address-



Anurag Thakur. ■PTI

ing the media on Friday.

The verification process for the cash awards has been modified to reduce the processing time, and pension benefits have been extended to the athletes of Deaflympics also.

The Minister made it categorical that physical submission of applications would no longer be required and, the applicants need not make rounds of the government offices to seek their rightful benefits.

The funds would also be transferred to the bank account of the applicants.

As far as the NSDF is concerned, the Minister said that individuals, institutions, and corporate organisations can now “directly contribute for players, sports facilities and sports events through the portal.”

“The website will provide easy and transparent access not only to the sportspersons but also to the CSR contributors,” the Minister

16/16

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- He also launched revised schemes of Cash Awards, National Welfare, and, Pension for sportspersons.
- He also launched the National Sports Development Fund website.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's National Welfare for Sportspersons and Pension to Meritorious Sportsperson Schemes has been made online.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is implementing the Scheme of Pension for Meritorious Sportspersons since 1994.
- Under this Scheme, a lifetime monthly pension is given to sportspersons.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is also implementing the Scheme National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons since 1982 to assist outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears.
- Under this scheme, lump-sum ex-gratia assistance is given from National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons to the sportspersons or their families for medical treatment, etc.
- National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):
- It was established in 1998. The NSDF corpus is used for Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme and infrastructure development.
- It is based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from Central & State Governments, PSUs, private companies, individuals, etc.

8. Recently National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar be declared Monuments of National importance. These sites are located at which of the following places?

- A. Satara and Vadodara
- B. Pune and Surat
- C. Mumbai and Ahmedabad
- D. None of the above

Jul 09, 2022, 8:54AM

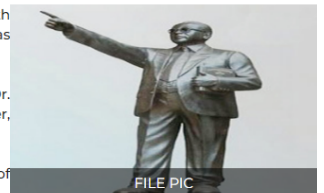
National Monuments Authority recommends two sites associated with Babasaheb Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National importance

National Monuments Authority has recommended two sites associated with architect of the Indian Constitution Babsaheb Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National importance.

Culture Ministry said, Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara, where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917 be declared as Monument of National Importance.

This place is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Dr. Ambedkar.

The National Monuments Authority has also recommended a place in Satara in Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar received his primary education in Pratap Rao Bhosle High School to be declared as monument of National importance. The school register still shows with pride a child student Bhim Rao's signature in Marathi.



- Two sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar will be declared Monuments of National importance.
- National Monuments Authority (NMA) has recommended that the Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara be declared a Monument of National Importance.
- NMA has also recommended a place in Satara (Maharashtra) to be declared a monument of National Importance.

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- **Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar received his primary education in Pratap Rao Bhosle High School at this place in Satara (Maharashtra).**
- **Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus in Vadodara is the place where Dr. Ambedkar had taken resolved to eradicate untouchability on 23rd September 1917.**
- **On 6 July 2022, NMA Chairman Tarun Vijay submitted a report on declaring Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan as a monument of National Importance as a tribute to 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters**
- **British army brutally killed 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters on 17th November 1913.**
- **National Monuments Authority: It comes under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**
- **It has been set up as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 which was enacted in March 2010.**

9. **Kautilya Economic Conclave has been organized by the Institute of Economic Growth in association with which Ministry?**

- A. **Ministry of Finance**
- B. **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
- C. **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- D. **Ministry of Steel**
- E. **None of these**

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took part in the first 'Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- **Department of Economic Affairs has organized the first 'Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture' in memory of his invaluable contribution to the nation.**
- **The first 'Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture' was given by a Minister of the Singapore government Tharman Shanmugaratnam on 'Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth'.**
- **It was followed by a panel discussion by Mathias Cormann (OECD Secretary-General) and Arvind Panagariya (Professor, Columbia University).**
- **The Prime Minister addressed the gathering and interacted with the delegates participating in the Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC).**
- **Kautilya Economic Conclave is being organized by the Institute of Economic Growth in association with the Ministry of Finance from 8th-10th July.**

10. **Which of the following has become the first state to have 13 expressways?**

- A. **Maharashtra**



UP only State in India to have 13 expressways

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has become the first State in the country to have 13 expressways. Of these 13 expressways having a total length of 3,200 kilometers, work is going on, on seven while six expressways are operational.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway on July 16 and with its inauguration Bundelkhand will be directly connected to Delhi.

"Realising that infrastructure is the growth engine of the economy and roads are the mirror of progress, the double engine Bharatiya Janata Party-led government has worked extensively for the rejuvenation of roads," a government spokesman said here on Thursday. He added that from village streets to block headquarters and district headquarters, a network of roads connecting other states and other countries has been created.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that only one-and-a-half expressways were built in 70 years. He said the double engine government had fulfilled the decades-old demand of the people of National Capital Region (NCR) and western UP and Delhi-Meerut Expressway was an example of this.

Also, the foundation stone of the 594 km long Ganga Expressway has been laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This expressway will not only reduce the distance between East and West but will also serve to connect people.

The Bundelkhand Expressway will connect people with Delhi and other states as well. This will benefit the people of Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah districts. People will get the benefit of connecting Bundelkhand with Delhi directly and Bundelkhand will be free from the stain of backwardness. Apart from this, Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway,

Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Ghazipur-Ballia-Manjhihat Expressway and Delhi-Dehradun Expressway are being constructed," Maurya said. "These corridors will give impetus to rapid, balanced and inclusive growth as well as immense employment potential. Lands have been marked for this. Airstrips are also being built on the expressways for landing and take-off of Air Force aircraft in case of emergency," he said.

EXPRESSWAY NETWORK IN UP

- Yamuna Expressway -- 165 km
 - Noida-Greater Noida Expressway -- 25 km
 - Agra-Lucknow Expressway -- 302 km
 - Delhi-Meerut Expressway -- 96 km
 - Purvanchal Expressway -- 341 km
 - Bundelkhand Expressway -- 296 km
- Total operational expressways -- 1,225 km

EXPRESSWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Gorakhpur Link Expressway -- 91 km
 - Ganga-Expressway -- 594 km
 - Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway -- 63 km
 - Ghaziabad-Kanpur Expressway -- 380 km
 - Gorakhpur-Siliguri Expressway -- 519 km
 - Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Expressway -- 210 km
 - Ghazipur-Ballia-Manjhihat Expressway -- 117 km
- Expressways under construction -- 1,974 km

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- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Punjab
- D. Uttar Pradesh**
- E. None of these

- Uttar Pradesh with 13 expressways has the largest network of expressways in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 296 km long Bundelkhand Expressway on July 16. It will directly connect Bundelkhand to Delhi.
- Bundelkhand Expressway will pass through Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya, and Etawah districts.

11. As per the recent report by DPIIT on startups _____ has the maximum number of government-recognised startups.

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

- Maharashtra has the maximum number of government-recognized startups, followed by states such as Karnataka and Delhi, data shared by the industry department showed.
- As many as 13,541 active Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognized startups were from Maharashtra, out of the total 73,205 such government-approved new age companies in the country.
- This means Maharashtra has a share of 18 percent concerning the total number of startups.
- Karnataka has 8,902 startups and Delhi is home to 8,670 enterprises as of July 5.
- Rs 365.75 crore has been disbursed to 99 incubators and Rs 76 crore approved for 436 startups under the Startup India Seed Fund. The government launched the Seed Fund Scheme last year for new-age firms to ensure adequate availability of funds, especially for startups with good ideas across fields.

Maha has most govt-recognised start-ups: DPIIT

Maharashtra has the highest number of government-recognised start-ups, followed by states such as Karnataka and Delhi, data shared by the industry department showed.

As many as 13,541 active Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognised start-ups were from Maharashtra, out of the total 73,205 such government-approved new-age companies in the country. This means Maharashtra has a share of 18 per cent with respect to the total number of startups. Karnataka has 8,902 start-ups and Delhi is home to 8,670 enterprises as of July 5.

These start-ups have created more than 750,000 jobs with an average of 11 jobs per enterprise, the data showed. Shruti Singh, joint secretary of DPIIT, said: "Fifty per cent of start-ups are from small towns. Over 45 per cent have at least one woman director." Singh said a platform was being developed to connect start-ups and domestic investors. The portal Sidbi is developing towards this end should be ready in two months. **BS REPORTER**

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12. Which of the following ministry has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign this month, marking India's 75th Independence Day.

- A. Ministry of defense
- B. Ministry of culture
- C. Ministry of home affairs
- D. Ministry of education
- E. None of these

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.



- The Culture Ministry is going to launch the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign this month, marking India's 75th Independence Day.
- As part of the campaign, all the citizens will be encouraged to hoist the tricolor at their homes during Independence week from 11th-17th August 2022.
- Ministry of Culture is Nodal Agency for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and Ministry will seek help from State Governments to mobilize all resources, housing, and urban development departments and local bodies including municipal bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions for furthering the goals of the campaign
- As per Clause 1.3 and 1.4 of the Flag Code of India, the National Flag shall be rectangular. The Flag can be of any size but the ratio of the length to the height (width) of the National Flag shall be 3:2.

Sale of National Flag Exempt from GST

New Delhi: Sale of the Indian national flag, irrespective of whether machine made or of polyester, is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the finance ministry said on Friday. Hand-woven, hand-spun national flags made of cotton, silk, wool or Khadi are already exempt from GST.

In an office memorandum, the Revenue Department clarified that polyester or machine-made tricolour too would be exempt from the levy following amendments to the 'Flag Code of India, 2002' in December last year.

"It has been clarified that the sale of the Indian National Flag, adhering to the Flag Code 2002 and its subsequent amendments, is exempt from GST," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's office tweeted.

The clarification from the finance ministry comes in the backdrop of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative under the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' — celebrating 75 years of India's independence.

It envisages inspiring Indians everywhere to hoist the national flag at their home. The idea behind the initiative is to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and promote awareness about our national flag.



The clarification from the finance ministry comes in the backdrop of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative

The Flag Code of India brings together all laws, conventions, practices, and instructions for the display of the national flag.

The Flag Code of India, 2002 was amended in December 2021, and tricolour made of polyester or machine-made flags have been allowed.

Now, the tricolour can be made of hand-spun and hand-woven or machine-made, cotton/polyester/wool/silk/khadi bunting.—PTI

13. Consider the following statement regarding Bundelkhand Expressway :

1. Bundelkhand Expressway will pass through seven districts.
2. It is a 296 Km long four-lane expressway.
3. It starts from Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district and ends near Kudrail village in Etawah district.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2

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

- PM Modi inaugurated the Bundelkhand Expressway in the Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Bundelkhand Expressway will pass through seven districts, Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya, and Etawah.
- It is a 296 km long four-lane expressway, which has been built at a cost of around Rs 14,850 crores.
- Later, it will be expanded up to six lanes. It has four railway bridges, 18 big bridges, and 286 small bridges.
- It has been completed in record 28 months, 8 months ahead of its timeline.
- It starts from Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district and ends near Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it merges with the Agra-Lucknow expressway.
- Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of the Bundelkhand Expressway on 29 February 2020.
- It will also give a major boost to economic development in the Bundelkhand region.
- Uttar Pradesh with 13 expressways has the largest network of expressways.

14. Recently at which Air Force Station is IAF's Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence inaugurated?

- A. Air Force Station Palam
- B. Air Force Station Rajokri

Description of Technical and other Structures

- Construction of Bundelkhand Expressway in 4 lane (Expandable upto 6 lane)
- Construction of structures on alignment for 6 lane width
- Width of Right of Way (ROW) - 110 meters
- Estimated Length - 296.07 km
- Major Bridges - 14, Railway over Bridges - 4, Toll Plaza - 06,
- Ramp Toll Plaza - 7
- Total Packages - 6

PM to unveil 296-km UP expressway today

Rajesh Kumar Singh

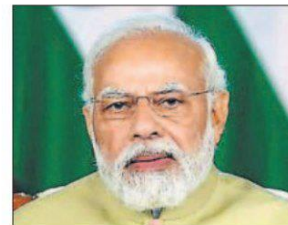
letters@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 296 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway at a programme in Jalaun district on Saturday, a state minister said on Friday.

The four-lane access-controlled green field expressway, built at a cost of ₹14,849 crore, will pave the way for the development of the backward regions of Bundelkhand, said the state's industrial development minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'.

Giving details about the preparations for the ceremony, Nandi said, around one lakh people will arrive by 1,500 buses to attend the event. Four government employees, including police personnel will travel with the people in each bus, he said.

In view of Covid-19, the health department has made arrangement for the rapid antigen test, he said. A police officer who did not wish to be named said the Special Protection Group (SPG)



Narendra Modi

ANI/PIB

inspected the event spot. Police force from neighbouring districts have been deployed to manage the crowd.

The Jalaun police has been directed to scan the 13 villages located near the programme spot, said the official.

Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) MLA from Orai assembly seat in Jalaun district, Gauri Shankar Verma said, "The preparation for the event is complete. People here supported BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election as well as 2022 assembly election, its return gift to them from the BJP government, he said.

The expressway connects the

Bundelkhand area with Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) via the Agra- Lucknow expressway and Yamuna expressway. It is expected to cut down the travel time between Chitrakoot and Delhi to six hours, from the current 10-12 hours, said government officials familiar with the matter.

Meanwhile, PM Modi took to his Twitter to talk about the event. "Tomorrow, 16th July is a special day for my sisters and brothers of the Bundelkhand region. At a programme in Jalaun district, the Bundelkhand Expressway will be inaugurated. This project will boost the local economy and connectivity." Modi tweeted.

Awanish Kumar Awasthi, the CEO of the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority, said the PM had laid the foundation stone for the expressway on February 29, 2020 in Chitrakoot district. The project was completed in 29 months despite challenges emanating from the pandemic, he said.

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- C. Air Force Station Pathankot
- D. Air Force Station Sirsa
- E. None of these

- IAF's Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence has been inaugurated at Air Force Station Rajokri, New Delhi.
- Indian Air Force is the first among the services to establish a dedicated center of excellence for artificial intelligence.
- Air Marshal Sandeep Singh has inaugurated the IAF Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence under the aegis of UDAAN (Unit for Digitisation, Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and Application Networking).
- In this IAF's AI Centre, a Big Data Analytics and AI Platform has been commissioned.
- It will handle aspects of Analytics, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Neural Networks, and Deep Learning algorithms.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence (Coe) will enhance the operational capability of IAF.
- AI-based applications are being developed by experts in association with various PSUs, MSMEs, and academia.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) will play a key role in the next-generation combat aircraft.
- AI application is also playing a crucial role in developing anti-combat drone solutions.

15. Recently **Central Government announced to promote the cultivation of dragon fruit on 50,000 hectares. Which of the following state is currently the highest producer of Dragon fruit in India.**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram**
- E. None of these

- Central Government will promote the cultivation of dragon fruit on 50,000 hectares. At present, the dragon fruit is cultivated on 3000 hectares of land. The government is planning to increase its cultivation to 50,000 hectares in the next five years.
- Dragon fruit is known as a "super fruit" and it has many health benefits. Global demand for this fruit is also high due to its nutritional value.
- Dragon fruit is good for diabetic patients and contains nutrients like iron, calcium, potassium, and zinc.
- Centre government will help states in providing good quality planting materials to farmers.
- Dragon fruit doesn't require much water and can be cultivated on dry land.
- Mizoram is currently the highest producer of Dragon fruit in India. India is importing about 15,491 tonnes of dragon fruits.

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16. Recently seen in the news **Singalila National Park** is located in which of the following state?

- A. West Bengal**
- B. Assam
- C. Nagaland
- D. Gujarat
- E. None of these

- **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park started a program to release 20 Red Pandas into the forests in the next five years.**

20 red pandas to make a home in the forests

In first rewilding programme of these animals, Darjeeling zoo to release them in Singalila National Park

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
DARJEELING

The Singalila National Park, the highest protected area in West Bengal, will soon get new denizens. A zoo in the picturesque Darjeeling Hills has started an ambitious programme to augment the wild red panda population.

In the first rewilding programme of red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) in India, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park will release 20 of these furry endangered mammals in about five years to the forests.

The number of red pandas has been declining in the wild, even in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks, the two



Safe zone: A red panda at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling. • DEBASISH BHADURI

protected areas where the mammal is found in the wild in West Bengal. Recent studies estimate that there are 38 of them in Singalila and 32 in Neora.

Basavaraj Holeyachi, Director of the zoological park who is at the centre of the Red Panda Augment-

ation Programme, says conservation breeding of red pandas is only one part of the programme. Selection of animals to be released in the wild, breaking their food association with humans and tagging the animals released in the wild are crucial factors in rewilding

of the red panda population, he adds.

The Padmaja Naidu park, at a height of about 2,000 metres above the sea level, is one of the high-altitude zoos in the country and has been quite successful in captive breeding of the furry mammals.

With the birth of a couple of cubs a few weeks ago, the number of red pandas at the Darjeeling zoo has increased to 27. Dr. Holeyachi told *The Hindu* it was the coordination zoo for conservation breeding of red pandas in the country with decades of experience. He said most other high-altitude zoos were participatory zoos that have animals given by it.

In 2021, two pairs of red pandas were released in the Singalila park. While two died, signals were received from two animals who managed to survive in the wild. The zoo director said this year, three females are likely to be released in October in Singalila. Dr. Holeyachi said the whole process of selection and identification of animals to be released in the wild is time-consuming and meticulous.

Categorised as an endangered species as per IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, red pandas are shy, solitary and arboreal animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change.

- **The Padmaja Naidu Park is located at a height of about 2,000 meters above sea level in West Bengal.**
- **It is one of the high-altitude zoos where captive breeding of mammals has been quite successful.**
- **The number of Red Pandas has been declining in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks.**
- **These are the two protected areas where Red Pandas are found in the wild in West Bengal. Currently, there are 38 Red Pandas in Singalila and 32 in Neora.**
- **Himalayan Red Panda and Chinese Red Panda are the main two species of Red Panda found in India.**
- **Red Pandas are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. They are categorized in the “Endangered” category of the IUCN Red List.**
- **Red Panda is the state animal of Sikkim. It is generally found in the forest of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and southern China.**

17. Recently Union Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **Geo-Portal ‘PARIMAN’** for which of the following regions?

- A. North East Region
- B. NCR region**
- C. Central India Region
- D. Gujarat Industrial Region
- E. None of these

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- **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Geo-Portal 'PARIMAN' for NCR.**

PARIMAN: The Geo-Portal for NCR made Public

Posted On: 08 JUL 2022 7:04PM by PIB Delhi

National Capital Region (NCR) is presently spread over 55,083 Sq. Kms and has four participating states (24 Districts and entire NCT of Delhi) as its constituent area. For the purpose of effective utilization of Remote Sensing and GIS technology, a web geo-portal has been developed through National Informatics Centre (NIC), initially for use by NCR Participating states and the Office of NCRPB.

This Geo-Portal will help to improve decentralized planning and management in NCR region.

The Portal consists of around 179 Layers presented as Line, Point & Polygon feature covering details of various sectors like Land Use, Transport, Industries, Water, Power, Health, Shelter, Heritage & Tourism, Disaster Management, etc.

Geo-Portal for NCR known as 'PARIMAN' was launched on 31.08.2021 in the 40th meeting of the Board by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, NCRPB and Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs.

Now, with an intent of optimum utilization of resources in Public interest, NCRPB has made the Geo-Portal open to Public. The Geo-Portal can be accessed through the NCRPB website <https://ncrpb.nic.in/> and also through the weblink <https://ncrpbgis.nic.in/>

- **Geo-Portal PARIMAN' will help in improving decentralized planning and management in the NCR region.**

- **Geo-Portal for NCR 'PARIMAN' has been launched at the 40th meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board.**
- **It consists of 179 Layers presented as Line, Point & Polygon features covering details of various sectors.**
- **A web geo-portal was developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) initially for NCR states and the Office of NCRPB.**
- **National Capital Region (NCR): It is spread over 55,083 sq km comprising Delhi and several districts from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.**

18. Consider the following statement regarding **Delta Ranking Released by NITI Aayog.**

1. **Jharkhand has secured the first position in the Delta Ranking for June under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission Scheme**
2. **The scheme was launched on February 21, 2016.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Recently, Jharkhand secured the first position in the Delta Ranking for June under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission Scheme released by the Ministry of Rural Development (Government of India).**
- **MGNREGA Commissioner, Rajeshwari B informed that in June, there has been a positive change in the rank of Jharkhand due to the continuous improvement in each of the areas.**

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- *The main objective of the RURBAN Scheme is to focus on the all-around development of the region. The emphasis is on economic development and value creation, increasing ENT and basic services as well as the construction of irrigation facilities in the State.*
- *Shyam Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) - The National Rurban Mission (NRuM) follows the vision of “Development of a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with a focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating a cluster of “Rurban Villages”.*
- *The scheme was launched on February 21, 2016, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the vision to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.*
- *The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2016.*

19. In a bid to increase citizen participation in protecting the city forests, *the World Wide Fund for Nature- India (WWF India) to organize first ever dragonfly festival in _____.*

- A. Gujarat
- B. **Delhi**
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Haryana
- E. None of these

- *In a bid to increase citizen participation in protecting the city forests, the World Wide Fund for Nature- India (WWF India) and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will jointly organize a dragonfly festival in Sanjay Van at the end of July.*
- *This is the first such event planned in the city forest area after the DDA inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WWF India last week to promote nature-based learning and experimental activities, especially for children.*
- *Dragonflies are one of the finest creations of nature. It is a flying insect that belongs to the Odonata order.*

DDA, WWF to start dragonfly festival at Sanjay Van city forest by month-end

Risha Chitlangia

risha.chitlangia@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: In a bid to increase citizen participation in protecting the city forests, the World Wide Fund for Nature- India (WWF India) and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will jointly organise a dragonfly festival in Sanjay Van at the end of July.

This is the first such event planned in the city forest area after the DDA inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WWF India last week to promote nature-based learning and experimental activities, especially for children.

Radhika Suri, director of environment education, WWF India, said, “The dragonfly festival is the

SPREAD OVER 783 ACRES, SANJAY VAN IS A NOTIFIED RESERVED FOREST AND PART OF THE SOUTH-CENTRAL RIDGE IN THE CITY

first of the many events and activities that we plan to hold at Sanjay Van to encourage people’s involvement in preserving the forest. The community needs to own the forest and for that, we will plan different activities.”

Suri said dragonflies are an indicator of the health of an environment and help to check diseases such as malaria and dengue

as they feed on mosquitoes.

“Visitors, especially children, can take pictures of dragonflies in the forest and upload them on India biodiversity portal along with the coordinates of where they were spotted. The pond ecosystem in Sanjay Van attracts several species of dragonflies and damselflies. This will help in understanding the status of the forest environment and also give us an idea about the number and types of species of flies, and their location with respect to water bodies.”

Spread over 783 acres, Sanjay Van is a notified reserved forest and is part of the South-Central Ridge and is visited by around 10,000-15,000 people daily, according to WWF India.

“The idea is to get people to connect with nature and facilitate experiential activities such as tree tagging, nature walks, flora and fauna observation, children’s educational activities etc. along with educative signboards, a flora and fauna atlas and citizen science initiatives,” said a senior DDA official, asking not to be named.

The festival is one of the initiatives during which visitors can explore the forest and also contribute to data/information collection, the DDA said.

“We will initiate citizen science projects to allow visitors and volunteers to explore and contribute information/data on the various plants and animal species that can be discovered throughout the year,” Suri said.

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These creatures have broad wings and colored patches on their bodies that makes them distinct from other. They are said to be closely related to damselflies. Beginning their lifecycle from water, dragonflies feed on aquatic insects like mosquito larvae or small fish.

What are dragonflies?



20. Recently in July _____ decided to rejoin the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- A. Maharashtra
 - B. Odisha
 - C. Andhra Pradesh**
 - D. Jharkhand
 - E. None of these
- The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to rejoin the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) following talks between the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

- All the agricultural activities in the State have been brought under the purview of 10,444 Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs), where every crop grown by farmers is being e-cropped with geotagging, besides getting updates on a real-time basis.
- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna was launched on 18th February 2016

AP decides to rejoin Fasal Bima Yojana in current kharif season after tweaks

State government to bear two-thirds premium to make it free for farmers

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, July 12

Andhra Pradesh will be rejoining the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a crop insurance scheme being implemented by the Centre from kharif 2022 season.

Participating in a virtual meeting with the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and other senior officials in Amaravati on Tuesday, the Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the State Government would bear the premium burden of the farmers along with its own share as part of the scheme to facilitate free crop cover to the farmers.

"Despite the economic situation, the State Government will be bearing two-thirds of the premium to bring all farm-

ers cultivating the crops specified in the scheme," he said.

Crop insurance modalities

Referring to the modalities of the scheme, Reddy said some changes have to be brought in the scheme in line with the situation in the State.

The State has 10,444 Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) acting as hubs for the entire agricultural activities in coordination with the village secretariats. "We are collecting diverse data for better utilisation of the scheme by the Centre. The e-crop system being followed in AP will be very useful. The necessary changes should be brought in to bring all the farmers/crops under the purview of the system," the Chief Minister said.

"There can be miracles if the



As per the scheme, farmers pay 2 per cent of the total premium for kharif crops

Centre and States can share the premium burden for small and marginal farmers equally," he added.

Churning of scheme

In his virtual address, Union Agriculture Minister Tomar said the Fasal Bima Yojana has been undergoing constant changes in consultation with the parti-

cipating states adding to the benefit of the farmers. Keeping in view the suggestions of Andhra Pradesh and other States, the Centre has revamped the scheme in February 2020 with new features, such as voluntary enrolment for all farmers, wider use of technology in yield estimation, risk coverage to choose for payment of sum insured to the States as per the option and prevailing risk profile and a provision of 3 per cent was made for administrative expenses, Tomar said.

As per the scheme, farmers pay 2 per cent of the total premium for the kharif crops, 15 per cent for the rabi, and 5 per cent for cash crops. The rest were borne by the government.

The scheme has replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

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- *The scheme is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture.*

21. Consider the following statement regarding **Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road's new rail line.**

1. The total length of the **new rail line will be 116.65 km.**
2. The project will be **completed by 2026-27**
3. Abu Road's new rail line is to be **constructed by the Ministry of Railways at an estimated cost of Rs.2798.16 crore.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

behalf in order to come to a Sudhanshu Dhulia, said. | aside a lower court order the Bhondsi area in Gurgaon. | Organisation(SCO)Foreign th

Cabinet OK's Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road rail line

116.65 km rail line is to be constructed with estimate of ₹2,798.16 cr

PIIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the construction of the 116.65-km Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road rail line at an estimated cost of ₹2,798.16 crore.

Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet also granted central status to The Railway University in Gujarat's Vadodara and it has been

renamed as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

To be built by the Ministry of Railways, the project will link two states and three religious places and will be completed by 2026-27. The proposed rail line will traverse through the Sirohi district of Rajasthan and Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Mahesana districts of Gujarat. Ambaji is one of the 51 'Shakti Peeths' which attract millions of devotees from Gujarat as well as other parts of the country and abroad every year.

Mount Abu is the headquarters of the Brahma Kumari community and is frequented by its followers from around the world. The construction of this railway line will facilitate easy travel for millions of devotees. Those visiting the temple of Ajitnath Jain (one of the 24 Tirthankaras) at Taranga Hill



will generate direct employment for about 40 lakh man-days.

"The estimated cost of this project is ₹2,798.16 crore and will be completed by 2026-27. The new railway line will connect two states, and three religious places and will reduce the load on the main railway line," Thakur said at a press briefing.

Besides enhancing connectivity and mobility, the pro-

ject will lead to the overall socio-economic development of the region. This line will facilitate faster movement of agricultural and local products and improve mobility of the people between Gujarat and Rajasthan as well as to other parts of the country.

The project will also provide an alternative route to the existing Ahmedabad-Abu Road railway line. The new

line shall also benefit the dairy industry of Mehsana and the marble industry of Gujarat. PTI

Thakur said the Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce a Bill in Parliament, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV).

The amendment would help in converting the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a deemed-to-be university into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University, he added.

Currently, the NRTI offers BSc in transportation technology, BBA in transportation management courses, and MSc in railway system engineering and integration.

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- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the construction of the Taranga Hill-Ambaji- Abu Road new rail line to be constructed by the Ministry of Railways at an estimated cost of Rs.2798.16 crore.**
- **The total length of the new rail line will be 116.65 km. The project will be completed by 2026-27. The project will generate direct employment during construction for about 40 lakh man-days.**
- **In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of a New India, the project is going to enhance connectivity and improve mobility leading to the overall socio-economic development of the region.**
- **Ambaji is a famous important pilgrimage destination and is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in India and attracts millions of devotees from Gujarat as well as other parts of the country and abroad every year.**
- **This railway new line between Taranga Hill-Ambaji- Abu Road will connect these two important religious sports with the railway's main network.**

22. _____ is set to be the first state in the country to have an exclusive Research & Development policy.

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

- **Karnataka is set to be the first state in the country to have an exclusive Research & Development policy.**
- **The proposed policy should be simple. Any R&D is considered worthy only when it is found useful in the daily life of the people. It should cater to all the sectors.**

23. Recently _____ State Government and 11 Japanese companies at the MoU Ceremony held at Daikin Japanese Institute of Manufacturing Excellence (DJIME), Neemrana on July 7, 2022.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Odisha
- C. **Rajasthan**
- D. Telangana
- E. None of these

- **The MoU was signed between the Government of Rajasthan and 11 Japanese companies at the MoU Ceremony**

11 Japanese companies-Rajasthan ink MoU worth ₹1380 to create 2272 jobs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 8 JULY

Eleven Japanese companies and Rajasthan have signed an MoU worth ₹13380 for investment in various sectors at a special ceremony here on Thursday evening.

With this, an investment of Rs 1,338 crore will be made in Neemrana, Ghiloth and Chapparua Ki Dhani (Pali) and 2272 jobs will be generated. Tokai Rika Minda India Pvt Ltd (Rs 335 crore), Nidec India Pvt Ltd (Rs 300 crore), Hitachi Astemo Rajasthan Brake System Pvt Ltd (Rs. 140 crore), Fuji Silvertech India Pvt Ltd (Rs. 110 crore), CKD India Pvt Ltd (Rs. 100 crore), Taiyo India Pvt Ltd (Rs. 100 crore), Allied JB Friction Pvt Ltd (Rs 78 crore), H2 Milk Farm Pvt Ltd (Rs. 65 crore), HNV Casting Pvt Ltd (Rs. 40 crore), MIESP India Pvt Ltd (Rs. 40 crore) and Belteco India Private Limited (Rs.30 Crore) have signed MoUs for investment. At least, 2272 people will get jobs in these projects.

The Ambassador of Japan to India Mr. Suzuki Satoshi said India and Japan share fundamental values like rule of law and democracy. "Our relationship is not only bilateral, but extraordinary, and that is why it is called the Special Strategic and Global Partnership, Satoshi said, adding during the summit last March, the Prime Ministers of India and Japan expressed satisfaction that the investment target of 3.5 trillion Japanese yen (about Rs 2 lakh crore) announced in 2014 has been achieved", he added.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that Japanese companies have prominently invested in Rajasthan and such investment has been an inspiration for entrepreneurs in the state. Now, Japanese companies must write a new chapter by investing in the Petrochemical Complex being built in Barmer, Invest Rajasthan and Skill Development Centre, addressing the MoU Ceremony organized at Daikin Japanese Institute of Manufacturing Excellence (DJIME) at Neemrana, CM said.

Gehlot said that Japanese investment has been a source of inspiration for many entrepreneurs in Rajasthan and for this very reason, the Japanese zone remains a topic of hot discussion among entrepreneurs.

He called upon the Japanese companies to invest in the petrochemical complex of the refinery being built at Pachpadra. He also urged them to establish a skill development centre which will enhance the employability of the youth in rural areas. Shri Gehlot assured that the state government will provide all necessary cooperation.

CM said the framework of Japanese investment, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Freight Corridor was prepared during the Japan visit of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2005. The Japanese Zone at Neemrana is also a part of DMIC.

"Now they have started work on investing 5 trillion Japanese yen (about Rs 3 lakh crore) in India by Japan in the next 5 years. The MoU signed on Thursday will lead to an investment of about Rs 1,300 crore, which is 22 billion yen. The number of Japanese companies which were just 10 in the state in 2008 has now increased to 170 by 2021", CM said.

Investments scaling new heights in state Industries Minister Mrs Shakuntala Rawat said with the vision of CM, the investments have scaled new dimensions.

Yasuyuki Murahashi, Chief Director General, Japanese External Organization (JETRO) said that out of these 11 companies, one company is going to invest in Giloth Industrial Park, which is the first investment of a Japanese company in the said area. JETRO will invest in this area as much as it has done in the Neemrana industrial area, he said.

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*held at Daikin
 Japanese Institute
 of Manufacturing
 Excellence (DJIME),
 Neemrana on July
 7, 2022.*

- *With this MoU, an investment of Rs 1338 crore will be made in the Dhani (Pali) areas of Neemrana, Giloth, and Chaparia, and 2272 people will get employment.*
- *The MoU will result in an investment of about Rs.1300 crores, which is equivalent to 22 billion yen. The number of Japanese companies in the state has increased from 10 in 2008 to 170 in 2021.*

24. Recently In July _____ and Panchayati Raj Ministry signed an MoU to eliminate TB in India.

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. Ministry of Health**
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- D. Ministry of Culture
- E. None of these

- *Union Health Ministry and Panchayati Raj Ministry have signed an MoU to eliminate TB in India. The MoU was signed by Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Dr. P Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Health.*

Jul 09, 2022, 10:13AM

Union Health Ministry and Panchayati Raj Ministry sign MoU with aim to eliminate TB in India

Union Health Ministry and Panchayati Raj Ministry have signed an MoU with the aim to eliminate TB in India. The MoU was signed by Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Dr. P Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

The MoU will forge inter-Ministerial collaboration and strategic partnerships with the aim to achieving the Prime Minister's ambitious target of eliminating TB in India by 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ashok Babu said that the MoU is expected to pave way for coordinated efforts at grassroots level to create mass awareness in rural areas to end stigma and discrimination associated with Tuberculosis.

He said, this will help utilize the huge potential of nationwide network of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies for the elimination of TB in India. This MoU will serve as a milestone to achieve the objective and target of TB Free India Campaign.



- *The MoU will forge inter-Ministerial collaboration and strategic partnerships to achieve the Prime Minister's ambitious target of eliminating TB in India by 2025.*
- *This will help utilize the huge potential of a nationwide network of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies for the elimination of TB in India. This MoU will serve as a milestone to achieve the objective and target of the TB Free India Campaign.*
- *This MoU will be a significant step in achieving the target of the TB Free India Campaign.*

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- *To eradicate tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, Prime Minister Modi launched the TB-free India Campaign in 2018.*
- 25. *In July The Union Cabinet approved the up-gradation of the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) to Gati Shakti University in _____ which would serve as a hub for education, training, skilling, and research in the transportation sector.*
 - A. Rajasthan
 - B. Gujarat**
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. Odisha
 - E. None of these
- *The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the up-gradation of the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) to Gati Shakti University in Gujarat which would serve as a hub for education, training, skilling, and research in the transportation sector.*
- *The cabinet committee of economic affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the up-gradation of the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) from a deemed-to-be-university to a Central University.*
- *In December 2017, Union Cabinet approved a proposal of the railway ministry to set up the first-ever NRTU in Vadodara. Earlier in October 2016, the Prime Minister had announced the government's intent to set up the university in Vadodara.*
- *As a deemed university, NRTU has to follow the deemed university's regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The institute is not allowed to affiliate with any institution.*
- *The University is named after the government's flagship ₹100 trillion PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity. It aims to build a holistic infrastructure in the country. It received its first-ever outlay of ₹20,000 crores in the budget of FY22-23.*
- *The Gati Shakti Master Plan is essentially a digital platform bringing together 16 ministries, including roadways and railways for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry and land ports, UDAN, etc.*
- *National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) will be now a Central University. It is India's first transport institute situated in Vadodara, Gujarat.*

Gati Shakti University

The Railway University in Gujarat's Vadodara has been granted central status by the Union Cabinet. The varsity has been renamed as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce a Bill in Par-



liament to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. The amendment would help in converting the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a deemed-to-be university into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University, he added.

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26. Consider the following statement regarding guidelines to states about the Mission Vatsalya child protection scheme

1. According to the guidelines, states cannot change the original name of the scheme to gain access to funding granted by the central government.
2. It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a 60:40 ratio.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Recently, the central government issued guidelines to states about the Mission Vatsalya child protection scheme
- According to the guidelines, states cannot change the original name of the scheme to gain access to funding granted by the central government.
- Funds to states will be approved through the Mission Vatsalya Project Approval Board (PAB), which will be chaired by the WCD Secretary, who will scrutinize and approve annual plans and financial proposals received from states and UTs for the release of grants.
- It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a 60:40 ratio.
- However, for the eight states in the Northeast — as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the UT of Jammu and

MISSION VATSALYA: GOVT RELEASES GUIDELINES

Centre to states: Don't tamper with name of child protection scheme

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

IN ORDER to access Central funds and benefits under Mission Vatsalya, an umbrella scheme for child protection services in the country, states will have to retain the official name, as given by the Centre, the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry mandated in the guidelines it released on Thursday.

The ministry stated that only a "correct translation to local language is permissible".

States will also have to comply with any "guidelines/instructions issued by the Government of India regarding branding of this Scheme," the WCD Ministry stated in its guidelines.

Mission Vatsalya guidelines details the process by which funds will be disbursed to states under various heads by defining institutionalised arrangements. Funds to states will be approved through the Mission Vatsalya Project Approval Board (PAB), which will

EXPLAINED
E Name change saga

BEFORE 2009, three schemes were being implemented under the WCD Ministry for children in need of protection: the programme for juvenile justice for children in need of care and protection, and children in conflict with law; the integrated programme for street children; and the scheme for assistance to homes for children. These were clubbed in 2010 into a single scheme called the Integrated Child Protection Scheme. It was then renamed "Child Protection Services" Scheme in 2017, and again as Mission Vatsalya in 2021-22.

be chaired by the WCD Secretary, who will scrutinise and approve annual plans and financial proposals received from states and

UTs for release of grants.

Secretaries of the departments of Home Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Housing and Urban Affairs, Labour, Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of School Affairs and Literacy, and the Niti Aayog CEO, will be PAB members.

It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a 60:40 ratio. However, for the eight states in the Northeast — as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir — the Centre and state/UT's share will be 90:10.

The Centre will cover the whole cost in UTs without a legislature, according to the ministry.

At state level, there will be a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to monitor, review and promote convergence in implementation of the scheme. There will also be a district-level panel.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

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Kashmir — the Centre and state/UT's share will be 90:10.

- *Before 2009, the Ministry of women and child development Implemented three schemes for children in need of protection.*
- *In 2010, these were merged into a single plan known as the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.*
- *In 2017, it was renamed "Child Protection Services Scheme," and again in 2021-22 as Mission Vatsalya.*

27. Recently **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** introduced **Internet Exchanges** in which two districts of West Bengal to improve the quality of Internet and Broadband services in the state?

- A. **Durgapur and Bardhaman**
- B. **Kolkata And Bankura**
- C. **Hooghly and Darjeeling**
- D. **Howrah and Durgapur**
- E. **None of these**

- *National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is introducing Internet Exchanges in Durgapur and Bardhaman to improve the quality of Internet and Broadband services in West Bengal and nearby regions. It's an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) vision of 1000 days.*
- *NIXI is a not-for-profit organization under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 and was registered on 19th June 2003.*
- *NIXI was set up for peering of ISPs among themselves to route the domestic traffic within the country, instead of taking it to the US/Abroad, thereby resulting in a better quality of service (reduced latency) and reduced bandwidth charges for ISPs by saving on International Bandwidth.*
- *NIXI is managed and operated on a Neutral basis, in line with the best practices for such initiatives globally.*

NIXI announces internet exchange points in Bardhaman, Durgapur

New Delhi: The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has announced the introduction of two new internet exchange points (IXPs) in the cities of Bardhaman and Durgapur, in West Bengal. The announcement was made on Saturday by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, union minister of state for electronics and IT, skill development and entrepreneurship. The new IXPs will help bolster broadband internet connectivity in these regions. **TECHCIRCLE**

28. Consider the following statement regarding the foundation stone of **development projects at Deoghar in Jharkhand**.

1. **PM Modi inaugurated Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand to provide direct connectivity to Baba Baidyanath Dham.**
2. **PM Modi also addressed the Concluding Ceremony of Centenary Celebrations of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. He also inaugurated Shatabdi Smriti Stambh.**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than 16,000 crore rupees at Deoghar in Jharkhand on 12 July 2022.**
- **PM Modi inaugurated Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand to provide direct connectivity to Baba Baidyanath Dham.**
- **It has been built at an estimated cost of around 400 crore rupees.**
- **PM Modi also performed Darshan and Pooja at Baba Baidyanath temple which is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas.**
- **In-Patient Department and Operation Theatre services at AIIMS, Deoghar was also inaugurated.**
- **PM Modi also addressed the Concluding Ceremony of Centenary Celebrations of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in Patna.**

In Bihar, PM stresses need to co-exist, listen to views

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he believes in "co-operation and coexistence", and that one should move forward talking along the people and "listen to their views".

Speaking at the concluding function of the foundation of Bihar Assembly building, Modi said the Centre has so far changed or amended about 1,500 archaic laws, "which created problems for the common people".

"There could be such laws in states as well. There is a need to pay attention to this (and identify them)," he said.

During the event, Modi unveiled a 25-foot Centenary Memorial pillar and laid foundation of a guesthouse and museum. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said Modi is the first Prime Minister to have visited the Bihar legislature campus. Nitish said, "The day President Ram Nath Kovind opened the centenary year function of Vidhan Sabha building, we had thought about inviting the PM for closing function."

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, demanded Bharat Ratna for former CM and socialist icon Karpoori Thakur.

Addressing the former and current MPs, MLAs and MLCs, Modi said: "In democracy, we believe in coexistence, harmony, co-operation and organisational capacity of the society...we have to move forward together and listen to views of the people."

Outlining contributions of past stalwarts from the state such as first Bihar CM Sri Krishna Singh, so-



PM Narendra Modi, Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan, CM Nitish Kumar and others near the Centenary Memorial pillar in the Assembly premises on Tuesday. PTI

cialist leader Jayaprakash Narain and former CM Karpoori Thakur, Modi praised Nitish for implementing the Panchayati Raj Act, through which women can get 50 per cent reservation.

Exhorting people in Bihar to

take pride in the fact that Vaishali is the harbinger of democracy, Modi said they have been taught that India is the largest democracy in the world, "but when I speak at any global forum, I prefer to say India is the mother of democracy".

PM in Jharkhand today, to inaugurate Deoghar airport, AIIMS

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JULY 11

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will visit Deoghar in Jharkhand on Tuesday to launch or inaugurate development projects worth Rs 16,835 crore, including the Rs 400-crore Deoghar airport.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Deoghar, which has come up at a cost of Rs 1100 crore.

The Deoghar airport will provide direct connectivity to Baidyanath Dham, a religious destination thronged by lakhs of pilgrims from across the country every year. The annual Shravani Mela fair at Baidyanath Dham begins next week.

Modi will also offer prayers at "Baba Dham", said BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who represents the Godda Lok Sabha seat, under which Deoghar falls. "PM Modi will also hold his longest-ever roadshow, of 11.5 kilometres, in the district and later address a jan sabha," a statement issued by the state BJP quoted him as saying.

Tuesday's visit, Modi's first to the state since 2019, is being seen as a show of support for Dubey,



Modi will also offer prayers at Baidyanath Dham

who has, of late, been training his guns on Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is under fire over the mining scam and the money laundering probe against his aide, Pankaj Mishra.

Last week, the ED raided more than a dozen premises linked to Mishra and seized around Rs 5.32 crore in cash.

A day before Modi's visit, Soren held his own series of functions at Jamtara, about 70 kilometres from Deoghar. He laid the foundation of government schemes worth Rs 200 crore. Before Soren took to the dais, Jamtara MLA Irfan Ansari lashed out at the BJP, accusing it of using the ED to "scare" the CM.

Then, without naming the BJP, Soren criticised the saffron party's 'double-engine' government (the state was ruled by BJP before the 2019 polls). "There are reasons why the double-engine government of 20 years was ousted out of power in Jharkhand," he said.

- **He also inaugurated Shatabdi Smriti Stambh. It has been constructed to commemorate 100 years of Bihar Vidhan Sabha.**

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- *A ceremonial pillar erected in the Bihar Assembly premises to mark the centenary of the iconic building has been built at a cost of about Rs 3 crore.*
 - *The 40-foot structure has been built by the Building Construction Department (BCD) of the Bihar government, and the pillar is topped with an ornate bronze sculpture depicting the emblem of Bihar.*
 - *He will also lay the foundation stones of a Bihar Vidhan Sabha museum and Bihar Vidhan Sabha guest house via remote control. Both these projects will also be executed by the BCD.*
 - *"The budget for the museum is Rs 48.76 crore and the Bihar Cabinet had given its nod to the project on July 5. The budget for the Assembly guest house is Rs 12.10 crore. Both the museum and the guest house will come up in 18 months.*
 - *The Bihar Legislative Assembly building, which was originally called the Council Chamber, completed its centenary in 2021.*
 - *Vijay Kumar Sinha is its speaker. Maheshwar Hazari is its Deputy Speaker. Nitish Kumar is the leader of the House and Tejashwi Yadav is the leader of the opposition.*
29. *Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to implement New Education Policy (NEP) at the pre-primary level under which of the following scheme?*
- A. *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*
 - B. *Bal Vatikas***
 - C. *Bal Samagra Shiksha*
 - D. *Bachpan*
 - E. *None of these*
- *Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to implement New Education Policy (NEP) at the pre-primary level.*
 - *Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated 'Bal Vatikas' at Anganwadi Kendras all over the state to make the pre-primary education system strong.*
 - *The 'Bal Vatikas' will function at 4,457 Anganwadi Kendras in Uttarakhand.*
 - *They will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school.*
 - *The Chief Minister said the Uttarakhand government has already constituted a committee to prepare a draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).*
 - *This committee is headed by Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.*
 - *In 2025, Uttarakhand will be celebrating the silver jubilee of its formation.*
 - *Education Minister of Uttarakhand, Dhan Singh Rawat said that NEP will be fully implemented in the state by 2030.*
30. *Recently, APEDA signed an MoU with which university to conduct training programs on pre-harvest and post-harvest management?*

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A. Assam Agriculture University

B. Rajendra Agriculture University

C. Anand Agricultural University

D. Pusa Institute

E. None of these

- **The government created a roadmap to promote North-Eastern (NE) states as Agriculture export hubs. For promoting the export of horticulture products grown in North-Eastern (NE) states, the government has created a strategy.**
- **APEDA signed an MoU with Assam Agriculture University to conduct training programs on pre-harvest and post-harvest management and other research activities.**
- **Recently, APEDA also organized a conference on the Export Potential of Natural, Organic, and Geographical Indications (GI) Agro Products**
- **APEDA organized a training program to promote the export of organic pork from Sikkim.**
- **For the first time, Tripura’s Jack fruit, and Nagaland’s King Chilli were exported to London.**
- **The APEDA promoted GI products like Bhut Jolokia, Assam Lemon, etc. from NER.**
- **In the last six years, the export of agricultural products has increased from USD 2.52 million in 2016-17 to USD 17.2 million in 2021-22.**

31. Consider the following statement regarding the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL).

- 1. Government extended the RoSCTL scheme till March 2026.**
- 2. It is related to promoting the export of Agricultural products.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

- **The government extended the RoSCTL scheme till March 2024. The government has approved the continuation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) to boost exports and job creation in the textile sector.**

Govt. extends RoSCTL plan for garment exports

Scheme extended till March 31, 2024

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) will continue for export of garments/apparels, and made-ups till March 31, 2024, according to a press release from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

With a view to boost exports and job creation in the textile sector, the government has approved the continuation of the scheme, the release said.

Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Narendra Goenka said in a press release that the RoSCTL provided a stable and predictable policy regime and helped improve



RoSCTL helped improve export competitiveness, says AEPC chairman Goenka.

cost efficiency and export competitiveness in the international market.

After the introduction of GST in 2017, the RoSL (Rebate of State Levies) scheme was replaced by the RoSCTL in March 2019.

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- In 2019, the RoSL (Rebate of State Levies) scheme was converted into a new scheme Rebate of State and Central Taxes Levies (RoSCTL).
- The scheme has supported the incubation of start-ups and entrepreneurs. It helped in improving cost efficiency and export competitiveness.
- This scheme has provided a stable and predictable policy regime and helped in generating employment in the textile sector.
- Textile Ministry has a fixed maximum rate of rebate for the scheme at 6.05% for apparel and 8.2% for made-ups.

32. Which state/ UT government has **launched the 'SAH-BHAGITA' scheme for resident welfare associations?**

- A. **Delhi government**
- B. Ladakh government
- C. Hararyana government
- D. Punjab government
- E. None of these

- Delhi government launched the 'SAH-BHAGITA' scheme for resident welfare associations.
- Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena launched the 'SAH-BHAGITA' scheme to increase the involvement of the Residential Welfare Association (RWAs) in tax collection and waste management systems.
- Under this scheme, RWAs will get incentives for their efforts to improve efficiency and compliance in tax collection.
- RWAs will get incentives for achieving 90 percent tax collection from the total number of properties in their societies or colonies.
- After achieving this feat, RWAs can recommend development works worth 10% of the tax collection but it should not be more than Rs 1 Lakh.
- In addition to this, an extra 5% incentive will be given if the colony implements 100% waste segregation at the source.

33. Recently in July NTPC rolled out a four-week long empowerment program for underprivileged girls in _____ to train 40 minors in different skills.

- A. **Assam**
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Jammu & Kashmir
- E. None of these

NTPC launches Girl Empowerment Mission in Assam, to train 40 minors

The country's largest power producer NTPC on Wednesday said it has rolled out a four-week long empowerment programme for underprivileged girls in Assam to train 40 minors in different skills. The programme -- Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) -- is being conducted by the power major across the country since 2018 and was launched in Assam for the first time.

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- The country's largest power producer NTPC has rolled out a four-week-long empowerment program for underprivileged girls in Assam to train 40 minors in different skills.
- The program — Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) — is being conducted by the power major across the country since 2018 and was launched in Assam for the first time.
- Rolling out the initiative NTPC Executive Director (Bongaigaon Plant) Subrata Mandal said the company is conducting the program for the first time in Assam to uplift the underprivileged girls.
- The NTPC GEM program will empower girls by making them aware of basic education, health, and self-defense. With this initiative, NTPC aims to help these girls break the glass ceiling and dispel the misconception about female foeticide in rural areas.

34. The Ministry of Defence has set a target of _____ for defense production by 2025.

- A. Rs 1.45 lakh crores
- B. Rs 1.75 lakh crores**
- C. Rs 1.55 lakh crores
- D. Rs 1.65 lakh crores
- E. None of these

- The Ministry of Defence has set a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crores of defense production by 2025, which includes exports of Rs 35,000 crores, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.
- Defense PSUs would play a major role in achieving this goal with a contribution of 70-80 percent.
- The minister exhorted the Non-Official Directors (NODs) of DPSUs to ensure smooth implementation of various initiatives taken by the government towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence'.
- He was addressing the CMDs and NODs of DPSUs during the first-of-its-kind workshop organized by the Department of Defence Production in New Delhi.
- He listed various initiatives taken by the MoD to achieve self-reliance, including simplification of the acquisition process of defense equipment/platforms under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020; flexibility in Offset guidelines; increase in FDI limit to 74 percent under Automatic Route and up to 100 percent under the government route; simplification of the process of obtaining a license; launch of

MoD sets ₹1.75L crore defence production target by 2025



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 JULY

The Ministry of Defence has set a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore of defence production by 2025, which includes exports of Rs 35,000 crores, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said today.

He exuded confidence that the Defence PSUs would play a major role in achieving this goal with a contribution of 70-80 per cent.

The minister exhorted the Non-Official Directors (NODs) of DPSUs to ensure smooth implementation of various initiatives taken by the government towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence'.

He was addressing the CMDs and NODs of DPSUs during the first-of-its-kind workshop organised by the Department of Defence Production in New Delhi.

Rajnath asserted that the country was witnessing a transitional phase towards self-reliance and active and collective efforts were central to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

He listed various initiatives taken by the MoD to achieve self-reliance, includ-

Rajnath asserted that the country was witnessing a transitional phase towards self-reliance and active and collective efforts were central to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

ing simplification of the acquisition process of defence equipment/platforms under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020; flexibility in Offset guidelines; increase in FDI limit to 74 per cent under Automatic Route and up to 100 per cent under the government route; simplification of the process of obtaining a license; launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative and enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence in the defence sector.

Rajnath described NODs as a bridge between DPSUs and the MoD, which not only strengthened corporate governance in public sector companies but also ensured that the work was carried out as per the policies of the government.

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Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative and enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence in the defense sector.

35. Which of the following state government has launched the **CHEERAG** scheme which aims at providing free education at private schools to EWS students of classes II to XII?

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

- **Launched from this academic session, the CHEERAG (CM Haryana Equal Education Relief, Assistance, and Grant) scheme replaces Rule 134A of the Haryana School Education Rules, 2003, which was omitted in April**
- **The scheme aims at providing free education at private schools to EWS students of classes II to XII**
- **The government will reimburse private schools a fixed amount per student**
- **Private schools are not bound to compulsorily register under the scheme; only 381 schools have done so across the state**
- **24,987 seats are reserved for EWS students in private schools, but only 1,470 applications were received for admissions till July 8**
- **Only those students can benefit under the scheme who have passed their previous exams from government schools**
- **Parivar Pehchan Patra is also mandatory for every student and his/her family income should be less than 1.80 lakh per annum.**

Last date for admissions under CHEERAG scheme extended

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JULY 13

Poor response of students belonging to economically weaker section (EWS) towards newly launched CHEERAG (CM Haryana Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant) Scheme has forced the Directorate of Elementary Education (DEE) to extend the last date for admission in private schools to July 21.

Earlier, the last date for admissions under the scheme was July 8. The date has been extended as only 1,470 applications were received against 24,987 seats reserved under the scheme in 381 private schools across the state. In all, 243 seats were available for EWS students in three private schools in Rohtak district, but not a single application was received for these seats.

Lack of unawareness among parents and fewer schools enrolling under the scheme were the two major reasons behind this situation, said Bharat Chawla, Director, Manav Bharti High School.

"Since the reservation of seats for EWS students is not



EWS STUDENTS TO BENEFIT

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- The scheme aims at providing free education at private schools to EWS students of classes II to XII
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- Parivar Pehchan Patra is also mandatory for every student and his/her family income should be less than 1.80 lakh per annum

mandatory for private schools, top schools in a majority of the districts have not adopted the scheme," said another school owner. Diljeet Singh, District Elementary Education Officer, Rohtak, said the school concerned had been informed about the extension of last date for admissions under the CHEERAG scheme.

36. Recently The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, has partnered with _____ for **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)**.

- A. Tamil Nadu

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- B. Telangana**
- C. Karnataka**
- D. Odisha**
- E. None of these**

- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has partnered with the Indian State of Telangana for Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA). The platform aims to strengthen food systems and food security by the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.**
- **DiCRA is a digital solution that aims to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- **This first-of-a-kind digital solution will also bring stakeholders together including data scientists, government, organizations, and citizens to promote open innovation to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture.**
- **DiCRA is a part of the Digital Public Goods Alliance through which India is pioneering open data systems and making them widely available to other countries.**
- **UNDP has collaborated with different State Governments in various areas to provide a solution, for instance, for water management, UNDP partnered with the Government of Odisha. It is also working with governments and innovators to create the digital public goods of the future.**
- **The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), the Government of India, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wherein UNDP will provide technical support for the Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme and Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.**

UNDP to provide Telangana intelligence on climate resilience

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, July 14

The Telangana government has joined hands with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to add Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA) to the Digital Public Goods Registry.

DiCRA

Using remote sensing and pattern detection algorithms, DiCRA can identify farms that are resilient to climate change and those that are highly vulnerable.

Backed by artificial intelligence tools, the platform uses open-source technologies to facilitate analysis and sharing of insights on climate resilience.

In a span of three months, DiCRA tagged over 500 citizens and scientists from local digital ecosystems to support climate action in 1.12 lakh square km of land in the State. It provides open access to both data as well

as analytics derived through open software, allowing it to be replicated across the world. "Its analysis is based on empirical inputs crowdsourced from hundreds of data scientists and citizen scientists on best performing farms," a government official said.

"DiCRA becoming a digital public good is an important milestone in our commitment to open data policy, service delivery to farmers and anticipatory governance to combat the global challenge of food security," Telangana's IT Minister K T Rama Rao, said.

DiCRA, in association with various ecosystem partners in the State, will provide intelligence on climate resilience at the farm-level. DiCRA pieces together over 100 digital solutions that adhere to privacy and other applicable laws and best practices to help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- 37. Consider the following statement regarding India's Clean energy.**
- 1. India has achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule.**
 - 2. India has installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity, which is 41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed.**

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3. In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

‘India has achieved clean energy targets 9 years before deadline’

We have installed 162 GW of renewable energy capacity, says Power Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI
 India has achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said at the Sydney Energy Forum in Sydney on Wednesday.

India has installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity, which is 41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed.

“We reached this target on November 2021 and what our Prime Minister did was ask us to raise our ambition and so in Glasgow (at the UN COP-21) our Prime Minister committed to installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, which would then be 50% of the installed capacity. Despite having among the lowest per capita emissions



In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030. *FILE PHOTO

in the world, we have invested in this energy transition because our traditions teach us to respect and care for our environment. We are not doing this for economic reasons,” Mr. Singh said.

In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030 as

part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Ministers from the United States, Japan, India, Indonesia, and the Pacific Island nation of Samoa are attending the forum along with leaders of major companies that are committed to low emissions technologies.

The forum, said a state-

ment from the Australian government, will “foster connections between investors, business and government with a focus on innovations in key clean energy technologies such as solar, hydrogen, critical minerals and batteries”.

The energy crisis that has gripped the world has been “some time in the making” and not only due to the Russia-Ukraine war but because of the “cartelisation in the fossil fuel industry.”

He said that renewable energy promised to break these cartels though it was possible that there would be newer such cartels forming in manufacturing and equipment and the world would have to take steps to ensure that these do not coalesce.

- **India has achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said at the Sydney Energy Forum in Sydney.**
- **India has installed 162 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) of renewable energy capacity, which is 41% of the 402 GW of electricity installed.**
- **“We reached this target on November 2021 and what our Prime Minister did was ask us to raise our ambition and so in Glasgow (at the UN COP-21) our Prime Minister committed to installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, which would then be 50% of the installed capacity.” Mr. Singh said.**
- **In 2015, India committed to ensuring that 40% of its energy would be from renewable sources by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).**
- **Ministers from the United States, Japan, India, Indonesia, and the Pacific Island nation of Samoa are attending the forum along with leaders of major companies that are committed to low emissions technologies.**
- **The forum will “foster connections between investors, business and government with a focus on innovations in key clean energy technologies such as solar, hydrogen, critical minerals and batteries”.**

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38. Recently _____ state government has established District Climate Change Missions in all 38 district.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat
- C. Punjab
- D. Himachal Pradesh
- E. None of these

- The Tamil Nadu government has established District Climate Change Missions in all 38 districts.
- The missions will be headed by the Collectors as Mission Directors.
- The District Forest Officers will function as Climate Officers. The missions will help strengthen the government's climate response at the grassroots, said Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest.
- The missions will create strong policy support across all sectors of governance, devise strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and bench-mark industries to move towards green manufacturing. They will also promote eco-friendly technologies, such as solar and wind energy technologies, biodegradable packaging, and e-vehicles.
- The Collectors will have to prepare district-level climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, build capacity and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans.
- Another key deliverable is strengthening the 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign against the use of single-use plastics. The Collectors will also work towards strengthening Climate Smart Villages and creating bio-shields in coastal areas.
- The government has initially sanctioned ₹3.80 crores for 38 district missions which will function under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

Climate Change Missions in all districts of T.N.

ARAVIND KUMAR B.
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has established District Climate Change Missions in all 38 districts.

The missions will be headed by the Collectors as Mission Directors. The District Forest Officers will function as Climate Officers. The missions will help strengthen the government's climate response at the grassroots, said Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest.

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Educating local commun-

ities in the management of climate change and creating technologies for evidence-based green models for adaptation and practical models for green mobility are the other objectives of the missions.

District-level plans

The Collectors will have to prepare district-level climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, build capacity and provide inputs for low-carbon, climate-resilient development plans. Another key deliverable is strengthening the 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign against the use of single-use plastics. The Collectors will also work towards strengthening Climate Smart Villages and creating bio-shields in coastal areas.

The government has initially sanctioned ₹3.80 crore for 38 district missions which will function under the supervision of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

39. Consider the following statement regarding the **NAMASTE** scheme to prevent deaths of sanitation workers engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

1. The scheme stands for - "**National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem**" (NAMASTE).
2. The scheme to be implemented by the ministry of social justice and empowerment and the ministry of housing and urban affairs.

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

- With a goal of "zero fatalities," the Centre will rollout from August 16 its ambitious plan to prevent deaths of sanitation workers engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- The scheme - "National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem" (NAMASTE) will take - off with a survey to identify workers engaged in hazardous cleaning.
- The scheme to be implemented by the ministry of social justice and empowerment and the ministry of housing and urban affairs will cover all sewer and septic tank workers who are identified under the survey.
- The standing finance committee (SFC) chaired by secretary social justice and empowerment R Subrahmanyam has approved the "NAMASTE" roadmap that will be implemented from 2022 to 2026 across 500 cities and townships already notified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) that aims to equip cities with basic quality of life services.
- The government plans to hold a mid-term review in 2024-25 to extend the scheme to other cities and rural areas.
- The NAMASTE scheme replaces the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, which according to social justice ministry officials has accomplished its objectives of eliminating the manual lifting of night soil.

40. Which of the following ministry will implement "naari Adalat" (women's courts) led by women's collectives in the country as an alternate grievance redressal mechanism to resolve "petty" disputes at the gram panchayat level.

- A. Ministry of Health
- B. **Ministry of Women & Child Development**
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment
- D. Ministry of Environment
- E. None of these

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will implement "naari Adalat" (women's courts) led by women's collectives in the country in a phased manner as an alternate grievance redressal mechanism to resolve "petty" disputes at the gram panchayat level.
- The scheme is part of the Ministry guidelines for the Mission Shakti umbrella scheme released on Thursday. The umbrella scheme comprises sub-schemes for women's safety and empowerment.

Centre to roll out scheme to achieve '0 sewer deaths' goal

New Delhi: With a goal of "zero fatality", the Centre will roll out from August 16 its ambitious plan to prevent deaths of sanitation workers engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, reports **Ambika Pandit**.

The scheme "National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem" (NAMASTE) will take off with a survey to identify workers engaged in hazardous cleaning. NAMASTE creates room for occupational safety training in collaboration with the urban local bodies for at least 1 lakh such workers and linking them with livelihood options, skilling and welfare measures across 500 cities and townships that will be covered under the scheme.

The scheme to be implemented by the ministry of social justice and empowerment and the ministry of housing and urban affairs will cover all sewer and septic tank workers who are identified under the survey.

The standing finance committee (SFC) led by secretary, social justice and empowerment, R Subrahmanyam has given the approval to "NAMASTE" roadmap that will be implemented from 2022 to 2026 in cities and townships already notified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) that aims to equip cities with basic quality of life services.

Available data from 21 states and UTs with the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis shows that there have been nearly 954 sewer and septic tank-related deaths between 1993 to July 2021. However, as of now there is no centralised data of workers engaged in sewer cleaning.

The roadmap approved at the SFC meeting talks of a time-bound action plan in the selected cities and towns for mechanisation of cleaning of sewers, creating a system so that sanitation work is performed by skilled workers and no worker comes in direct contact with human faecal matter. The government plans to hold a review in 2024-25 to extend the scheme to other cities and rural areas.

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- The naari Adalat scheme “will promote gender justice in society and family”, say the guidelines. These will resolve “petty cases” such as harassment, and curtailment of rights or entitlements.
- In the beginning, the scheme will be launched in some States and Union Territories, preferably in aspirational districts where elected women representatives head gram panchayat.

41. Recently _____ State Agriculture Department signed a tripartite agreement with Sikkim Government and Sikkim University for collaboration on training, technology, capacity building, and extension activities for saffron and other temperate crops.

- A. Manipur
- B. **Jammu & Kashmir**
- C. West Bengal
- D. Nagaland
- E. None of these

- In a historic move to further boost the growth of the agriculture and horticulture sector, J&K Agriculture Department, Sikkim Government, and Sikkim University signed a tripartite agreement for collaboration on training, technology, capacity building, and extension activities for saffron and other temperate crops.
- This agreement will give a new direction to the efforts for saffron production in Sikkim, besides creating a better understanding of diverse aspects of saffron cultivation and other temperate crops.
- Sikkim being the first organic state in India has expertise in organic production technologies and certification. The collaboration will immensely help J&K to provide solutions and policy prescriptions for the organic farmers in UT.

42. Recently A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the _____ government and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited [TCIL] for participation in the e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project.

- A. Maldives
- B. **Madagascar**
- C. Mauritius
- D. Malaysia
- E. None of these

Naari adalat to be set up in a phased manner

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Women and Child Development will implement “naari adalat” (women’s courts) led by women’s collectives in the country in a phased manner as an alternative grievance redressal mechanism to resolve “petty” disputes at the gram panchayat level. The scheme is part of the Ministry guidelines for the Mission Shakti umbrella scheme released on Thursday. The umbrella scheme comprises of sub-schemes for women’s safety and empowerment.

Nagaland clammed for

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- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Madagascar government and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited [TCIL] for participation in the e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project.
 - The Minister of Higher Education of Madagascar Elia Beatrice Assoumacou signed the MoU at the premises of the Ministry of Higher Education in Antananarivo, Madagascar in presence of the Ambassador of India to Comoros and Madagascar Abhay Kumar.
 - During India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in New Delhi in October 2015, the Government of India announced technological up-gradation and extension of the Pan-Africa e-network Project (PAeNP) under which tele-education and telemedicine services were successfully implemented in 48 countries in Africa including the Republic of Madagascar.
 - The technological up-gradation and extension of the Pan African e-network Project are known as e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti Network Project. The Republic of Madagascar participated in the PAeNP.
 - A total of 26 major Indian universities (including Andhra University, Chandigarh University, Amity University Indira Gandhi National Open University) are participating in the project offering more than 300 different courses in Management, Computer Science, Commerce, Science, Health care, Humanities, and Arts.
43. Consider the following statement of comprehensive guidelines for **Mission Shakti** issued by the **Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry**
1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** program to be extended to all districts, The program is operational in 405 districts at present.
 2. **Mission Shakti** is an **umbrella scheme** for the empowerment of women, which was launched by the Indian government with effect on 1 April 2022.
 3. There are **two sub-schemes** of 'Mission Shakti': 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. Only 1 & 2
 - B. Only 2 & 3
 - C. Only 1 & 3
 - D. All of the above**
 - E. None of these
- Detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme have been issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Mission Shakti is an umbrella scheme for the empowerment of women, which was launched by the Indian government.
 - During the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26, it was launched for the protection, security, and empowerment of women for implementation.
 - The norms of 'Mission Shakti' were implemented with effect from 1 April 2022.
 - Mission Shakti' is a mission scheme aimed at enhancing interventions for women's safety, security, and empowerment.

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- **There are two sub-schemes of ‘Mission Shakti’: ‘Sambal’ and ‘Samarthya’.**
- **Sambal: It is for the safety and security of women.**
- **Components of the sub-scheme include One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), and Nari Adalats.**
- **Apart from this, this scheme will work to promote alternative dispute resolution and gender justice within society and family.**
- **Samarthya: It is for the empowerment of women.**
- **The components of the sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh, and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications.**
- **The existing schemes of the National Crche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under the umbrella of ICDS have now been included.**
- **A new component of gap funding for economic empowerment has also been added.**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, the Centre’s flagship program for women’s empowerment, which focuses on the education of girls and children and improving the sex ratio, will now be extended across the country, according to guidelines issued by the Women and Child Development (WCD).**
- **The program is operational in 405 districts at present.**
- **In December, the committee on empowerment of women, chaired by BJP MP from Maharashtra, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, tabled in Lok Sabha its fifth report on “Empowerment of women through education with special reference to ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ scheme”. It stated that nearly 80 percent of funds for the BBBP scheme have been used for advertising, and not on sectoral interventions such as women’s health and education. The committee had said that the scheme’s performance in states has not**

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to be extended to all dists

Focus on activities with impact on ground: WCD guidelines

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

BETI BACHAO Beti Padhao, the Centre’s flagship programme for women’s empowerment, which focuses on education of girl child and improving sex ratio, will now be extended across the country, according to guidelines issued by Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry on Thursday.

The programme is operational in 405 districts at present.

The ministry published comprehensive guidelines for Mission Shakti – the guidelines are applicable from April.

“The component will aim for zero-budget advertising and encouraging greater spend on activities that have on-ground impact...for promoting sports among girls, self-defence camps, construction of girls’ toilets, making available sanitary napkin vending machines and sanitary pads, especially in educational institutions, awareness about PC-PNDT Act, etc.” the guidelines said.

In December, the committee on empowerment of women, chaired by BJP MP from Maharashtra, Dr Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, tabled in Lok

IN THE WORKS

- Additional 300 One-Stop Centres to be set up; existing centres to be upgraded
- Govt to introduce free day-care crèche facilities through Palna
- Half-Way Homes to be set up under Anti-

Trafficking Units, where a group of victims, ready for reintegration, can live and work out of

■ Hubs for empowerment of women to be set up at Central, states and districts levels to merge and monitor schemes

Sabha its fifth report on “Empowerment of women through education with special reference to ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ scheme”. It stated that nearly 80 percent funds for the BBBP scheme has been used for advertising, and not on sectoral interventions such as women’s health and education. The committee had said that the scheme’s performance in states has not been “up to the mark” and expressed “dismay” at under-utilisation of funds.

According to the guidelines, the ministry has now targeted improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by 2 points every year, improvement in the percentage of institutional deliveries at 95% or above, 1% increase in 1st Trimester ANC Registration per

year, 1% increase in enrolment at secondary education level and skilling of girls and women per year, to check dropout rate among girls at secondary and higher secondary levels and raising awareness about safe menstrual hygiene management.

The scheme will also look at increasing girls’ participation in sports by identifying talent and linking them with appropriate authorities under ‘Khelo India’.

The ministry also plans to strengthen One-Stop Centres, set up to help women facing violence by adding 300 OSCs in districts which either have a high rate of crimes against women or are geographically large, preferably in aspirational districts.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

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been “up to the mark” and expressed “dismay” at the under-utilization of funds.

- According to the guidelines, the ministry has now targeted improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by 2 points every year.
- The toll-free, 24-hour women’s helpline, 181, will be merged with the Emergency Response Support System, and other platforms such as the 1098 child line and NALSA, will also be connected to OSCs.
- In the future, the endeavor would be to have a single number — 112 — for emergency response and 181 for taking care of all non-emergency and information dissemination services to women, girls and children.
- The ministry has further introduced a new component — Nari Adalat — for providing women with an alternate grievance redress mechanism to resolve cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) at the gram panchayat level, which will be implemented at a phased manner.

44. To empower consumers and raise awareness of their rights, the **Department of Consumer Affairs has launched Masco named _____.**

- A. Smriti
- B. Jagriti**
- C. Pratima
- D. Pratiistha
- E. None of these

- To empower consumers and raise awareness of their rights, the Department of Consumer Affairs has launched the "Jagriti" mascot.
- The mascot will be shown as an empowered consumer who is promoting consumer rights and solving the issues that consumers confront.
- The Jagriti mascot will be featured in all media campaigns with the tagline "Jago Grahak Jago".
- The mascot will be used to raise consumer awareness of the Department's various themes. Themes include:
 - Provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019
 - Hallmarking
 - National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915



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- Provisions of the weights and measures Act
- Decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority
- Testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal

45. Recently _____ becomes the first state in India to have its internet service.

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala**
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- Kerala becomes the first state in India to have its internet service.
- Kerala is the only state in India which have its internet service.
- The Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd is an IT infrastructure project to provide internet service to everyone in the state.
- The Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd has received the ISP license from @DoT_India.
- Under the KFON scheme, the government will provide free internet to BPL families and 30,000 government offices.
- In 2019, the Kerala government declared internet connection as a basic right and launched the KFON project with an outlay of Rs 1548 crore.
- According to a report, India has 646 million active internet users as of December 2021.
- Internet services were launched in India on 15th August 1995 by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited.

Kerala becomes first State to have own internet service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 15

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said Kerala has now become the first and only State in the country to have its own internet service.

The announcement came in the wake of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd, an ambitious IT infrastructure project of the government to make the internet accessible to everyone in the State, receiving the Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Department of Telecommunications.

With this, the project envisaged to bridge the digital divide in the society, can commence its operations, the CM said.

“Now, our prestigious #KFON project can kickstart its operations of providing the internet as a basic right to our people,” Vijayan tweeted.

46. Recently _____ to be the first city in SCO to be granted the rotating title of ‘Cultural and Tourism capital of SCO’ in September when India assumes SCO Presidency.

- A. **Varanasi**
- B. Pune
- C. Srinagar
- D. Leh
- E. None of these

Varanasi to be first ‘cultural capital’ of SCO

BEIJING: Varanasi in UP will be declared the first “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), bloc secretary general Zhang Ming said on Friday. PTI

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Second Week of July (9th July– 17th July 2022)

- **Varanasi will be the first city in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) region to be granted the rotating title of ‘Cultural & Tourism capital of SCO’ under a new mechanism during India’s SCO Presidency from September 2022 to September 2023.**
- **Announcing this in Beijing at a press conference, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming said that people-to-people cooperation is an important area under the SCO framework and member states are very proactive and positive and implemented a large number of cooperation in cultures.**
- **India will take over as SCO chair from Uzbekistan at the Samarkand summit in September this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed many initiatives in the realm of culture for SCO including the SCO Food Festival and SCO Film Festival. It is not yet clear whether the SCO Summit this year will be an in-person summit, however, Mr. Zhang said that Uzbekistan has made a huge investment in preparing the venue for the SCO Summit in Samarkand which will be later used as 'SCO Park'.**
- **Recently to commemorate the 20 years of adoption of the SCO Charter, the SCO Secretariat has finished the compilation of a picture album that includes about 240 World Cultural Heritage sites in SCO countries including 32 sites from India.**

47. Consider the following statement regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- 1. Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping.**
- 2. India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region’s first “Tourism and Cultural Capital”, a title it will hold next year coinciding with India chairing the grouping.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Iran, Belarus to be newest SCO members

With the expansion, China and Russia are looking to frame the grouping as a counter to the West

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping, officials said on Friday.

Expanding the group is among the issues that leaders of the grouping, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are likely to discuss at the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September.

The current SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming, a veteran Chinese diplomat, told reporters on Friday the grouping hopes for an in-person summit in Uzbekistan, which could see Mr. Modi meet with Mr. Xi for the first time since 2019. “So far, all participating countries have confirmed the attendance of their leaders but the format of atten-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in this file photo. **AP**

dance is not finalised. All wish to switch to the traditional way of meeting which is more efficient,” said Mr. Zhang, who recently visited Samarkand and said the facilities for the summit would be constructed by the end of this month. “At the same time, the epidemic situation is changing and there are new variants emerging,” he said, adding a note of caution, with last year’s summit held virtually on account of

COVID-19. China, Russia and four Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – were the founding members of the SCO, while India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017 in its first round of expansion. Last year’s summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join, while Belarus has also begun the membership process.

“In the Samarkand sum-

mit, we expect the leadership to adopt a document on the obligations Iran must fulfil to gain membership. The legal procedures of Belarus’s accession are also about to start. We need to build consensus on the acceptance of Belarus,” Mr. Zhang said. “The significance of this round of expansion is that it shows the SCO’s rising international influence and that the principles of the SCO charter are being widely accepted.”

Sharp contrast

China and Russia are looking to frame the grouping as a counter to the West – particularly after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine – and Mr. Zhang sought to draw a sharp contrast between the SCO and NATO.

“There has been discussion in the international arena that the trend of non-alignment is back,” he said. “The expansion of NATO is totally different as the SCO is

a cooperative organisation based on non-alignment and not targeting a third party. NATO is based on Cold War thinking. The logic of NATO is creating new enemies to sustain its own existence.”

He said the SCO “believes one should not build its safety at the expense of other countries”, a statement China has used previously to blame NATO for the Ukraine crisis. Mr. Zhang also hit out at “small circles” – a term China has used in the past to criticise the Quad – underlining India’s somewhat unique position in the SCO, whose two most important members, China and Russia, are increasingly positioning the grouping directly at odds with the West.

India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region’s first “Tourism and Cultural Capital”, Mr. Zhang said, a title it will hold next year coinciding with India chairing the grouping.

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- *Iran and Belarus are likely to be the two newest additions to the China and Russia-backed Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping.*
- *Expanding the group is among the issues that leaders of the grouping are likely to discuss at the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in September.*
- *China, Russia, and four Central Asian states — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan — were the founding members of the SCO, while India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017 in its first round of expansion.*
- *Last year’s summit in Dushanbe agreed for Iran to join, while Belarus has also begun the membership process. China and Russia are looking to frame the grouping as a counter to the West — particularly after Russia invaded Ukraine.*
- *India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region’s first “Tourism and Cultural Capital”, a title it will hold next year coinciding with India chairing the grouping.*

48. Recently The power ministry has notified _____ as the central nodal agency to set up and run a single window green energy system.

- A. Tata Power
- B. National Thermal Corporation Limited
- C. Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited
- D. Power System Operation Corporation Limited**
- E. None of these

- *The power ministry has notified Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO) as the central nodal agency to set up and run a single window green energy system.*
- *This follows the notification of the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, on 6 June.*
- *The rules are aimed at easing the process of accessing green sources of power by commercial and industrial consumers. Captive consumers can now take power under Green Open Access without any limits and distribution companies can demand a supply of green power from generation companies.*
- *Under the new rules, any consumer can take power under Green Open Access.*
- *The approval process will be quicker, according to the government. POSOCO will now have to approve or reject the applications for green power supply within 15 days. Otherwise, the application would be deemed approved. The threshold for such transactions has also been lowered to 100 kilowatts, from 1 megawatt earlier, to benefit smaller consumers.*
- *The 2003 Electricity Act allowed consumers to buy power directly from the generators by using the grid under open access arrangement.*

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- *Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) is a CPSE under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It is responsible to monitor and ensure round clock integrated operation of the Indian Power System in a reliable.*
- *Founded - March 2009, Headquarters - New Delhi, India.*

49. Which organization has signed two *MoU for the development of "Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies" in the Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh?*

- A. **NHPC**
- B. NTPC
- C. ONGC
- D. IOCL
- E. None of these

NHPC inks two pacts to develop green hydrogen tech in Leh, Kargil

State-owned hydro power giant NHPC has inked two agreements to develop green hydrogen technologies in Leh and Kargil. "NHPC signed two MoUs for the development of 'Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies' in line with the country's resolve to reduce the carbon footprint in the Power Sector in Leh and Kargil districts yesterday," a statement said on Friday.

- *Two MoUs have been signed by NHPC for the development of "Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies".*
- *The MoUs were signed to reduce the carbon footprint in the Power Sector in Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh.*
- *According to MoU for the Leh district, NHPC shall consider the development of a pilot green hydrogen fuel cell-based microgrid, including hydrogen production to satisfy the power needs of the NHPC guest house at Nimmo Bazgo Power Station (Leh).*
- *As per the MoU for the Kargil district, the hydrogen generated in Kargil will be used in a fuel cell for mobility which will be able to run two buses in the local area of Kargil for 8 hours.*
- *To meet the Ladakh region's needs for hydrogen in areas such as mobility, transportation, heating, and micro-grid, NHPC will scale up hydrogen production on a commercial scale.*
- *These two pilot projects will prepare a roadmap for the future development of green hydrogen and employment opportunities for the youth of the Union Territory of Ladakh.*
- *National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC): It is an Indian government hydropower body that is owned by the Ministry of Power. It was established in 1975.*
- *It is headquartered in Faridabad, Haryana.*
- *It's Chairman & Managing Director is Abhay Kumar Singh.*

50. The website of which of the following ministries has been *ranked first under the Central Ministries Portal in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment?*

- A. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

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B. Ministry of Home Affairs

C. Ministry of Science and Technology

D. Ministry of Defence

E. None of these

- **The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs has been ranked first under the Central Ministries Portal in National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.**
- **The Digital Police portal of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has been ranked second in the assessment under the Central Ministries Services Portal.**
- **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) conducted the assessment in association with NASSCOM and KPMG in 2021.**
- **Four main parameters of assessment were Accessibility, Content Availability, Ease of Use, and Information Security and Privacy for Central Ministry Portals.**
- **Three more parameters were used for the Central Ministry Services Portals.**
- **These additional parameters were End Service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery, and Status and Request Tracking.**

51. Consider the following statement regarding a bill to regulate digital media in the upcoming Monsoon Session.

- 1. The Government will bring the Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019 to regulate the Digital News Media industry.**
- 2. The Bill will replace the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867, which regulate newspapers and printing presses in India.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Centre to introduce Bill in Parl to regulate digital media: Sources

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Central government is said to be preparing legislation by which digital media in the country will, for the first time, be regulated.

A Bill is in the works to revive the Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019, to put in place a new registration regime for newspapers that will also include the digital news media industry, which currently is not covered by the Centre's registration framework, according to sources.

The Bill, if passed, will replace the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, which regulates newspapers and printing presses in India. The Bill could be introduced in the Monsoon session of Parliament that starts next week, according to the sources. Under the Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, that proposes to bring digital media on par with newspapers, digital platforms will have to apply for registration, sources said. The Bill, that

STRICT VIGILANCE

▶ The Bill, if passed, will replace the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, which regulates newspapers and printing presses in India

▶ The Bill, that is yet to be taken up by the Cabinet, proposes to include "news on digital media through any electronic device".

▶ In 2019, the Centre had put out a draft Reg-



istration of Press and Periodicals Bill that defined news on digital media as "news in digitised format that can be transmitted over the internet, computer or mobile networks and includes text, audio, video and graphics".

is yet to be taken up by the Cabinet, proposes to include "news on digital media through any electronic device".

Digital publishers will need to register with the Press Registrar General, sources said, effectively bringing digital media under government regulation. Digital media could potentially face action for 'violations' under the proposed Bill. Currently, the Registrar of Newspapers, a statutory body of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regu-

lates and monitors printing and publication of newspapers in the country. In 2019, the Centre had put out a draft Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill that defined news on digital media as "news in digitised format that can be transmitted over the internet, computer or mobile networks and includes text, audio, video and graphics".

When the bill was proposed, it stirred controversy as many argued that it was an attempt to 'control' digital news media.

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- *The government will introduce a bill to regulate digital media in the upcoming Monsoon Session.*
- *The Government will bring the Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, 2019 to regulate the Digital News Media industry.*
- *With this bill, the government will bring digital news to par with newspapers.*
- *The Bill will replace the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867, which regulate newspapers and printing presses in India.*
- *As per the bill, digital news publishers have to register themselves with the Press Registrar General. Digital news publishers have to apply for registration within 90 days after the law becomes effective.*
- *If the bill gets passed then it will be the first time that digital media in India will have regulations.*
- *The main criticism of the bill is that it can curtail the Freedom of Speech and Expression of digital media.*

52. Recently **AAP government planned to develop India's first e-waste eco-park in Holambi Kalan in Delhi.** Which state is the largest producer of e-waste in India?

- A. Maharashtra**
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. West Bengal
- E. None of these

- *Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced the AAP government's plan to develop India's first e-waste eco-park in Holambi Kalan in Delhi.*
- *Delhi environment department stated that every year the capital city produces over two lakh tonnes of e-waste or about 9.5 percent of the total amount produced in India.*
- *With this, Delhi is now the fifth-largest producer of e-waste in India, behind Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Additionally, it has been shown that only 5 percent of the generated e-waste is properly recycled.*
- *Rai said an 11-member steering committee has been formed and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has been made its implementing agency.*

53. During the current quarter, **NHAI has intended to offer at least two highway up-gradation projects to private players under the _____ model.**

- A. PPP
- B. BOT**
- C. EPC
- D. HAM

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E. None of these

- After funding highway projects with public funds (for a better part of the last decade), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to return to private investment.
- During the current quarter, NHAI intends to offer at least two highway up-gradation projects to private players under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model.
- Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT): Under this, a private player is granted a concession to finance, build and operate a project for a set period (20 or 30 years).

For new projects, NHAI back to build-operate-transfer model

MIHIR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

AFTER FUNDING highway projects through public money for a better part of the last decade, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is set to return to funding through private investments and plans to offer at least two highway upgradation projects to private players using the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model during the current quarter.

Under the BOT model, a private player is granted a concession to finance, build and oper-

EXPLAINED
E Positive sign

THE PPP model is key to road asset development, and the BOT scheme is central to attracting private investment. When private interest waned post-2011, the shift to the EPC and HAM models was made to plug the funding gap. The return to BOT could be a big positive for the sector.

ate a project for a specified period of time (20 or 30 years or a shorter period), with the developer recouping the investments by way of user charges or tolls charged from customers using the facility, and thereby taking on a certain amount of financial risk.

"We have funded road projects during the Covid period through public money and will continue to do so if required. We plan to see whether the private sector has an appetite for road projects or not and we plan to offer two projects during this quarter," a senior official of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- During the agreed period, the developer recovers its investments through user fees or tolls charged to customers who use the facility.
- Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM): As the name suggests, it is a mix of the EPC and BOT models.
- Under the HAM model, 40% of the project cost is paid by the government as construction support to the private developer, and the remaining 60% is to be arranged by the developer.
- The PPP model is key to road asset development and the BOT scheme is central to attracting private investment.
- The BOT (toll) model was the preferred model for road projects, accounting for 96% of all projects awarded in 2011-12.
- But this progressively reduced to nil. For example, the last time NHAI tried to assign road projects on BOT was in 2020.

54. Recently Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu signed the _____ Declaration for minimizing the inter-State boundary dispute involving 123 villages.

- A. Namsai
- B. Kisami
- C. Sikkim

D. Itanagar

E. None of these

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu recently signed the Namsai Declaration for minimizing the inter-State boundary dispute involving 123 villages.**
- **A list of these villages had been placed before a local commission by Arunachal Pradesh on December 26, 2007.**
- **According to the declaration, all border issues between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be confined to those raised before the local commission in 2007.**
- **Namsai is the headquarter of the Namsai district in southern**

Assam, Arunachal sign pact to resolve border dispute

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JULY 15

IN WHAT has been described as a “significant milestone” in the border talks between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the two states on Friday signed the “Namsai Declaration” – an agreement to reduce the number of disputed villages from 123 to 86.

The meeting on Friday was the third this year between Chief Ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma and Pema Khandu to discuss the vexed border dispute, which dates back to colonial times. The 800-km-long inter-state border has been the site of many conflicts over the years.

Following the meeting, Khandu said, “Namsai Declaration is hugely significant and a landmark progress towards enduring brotherhood, peace and prosperity in the North East.” Sarma also endorsed the pact, saying the two states would thrash out a resolution based on the agreement by September 15.

Speaking to reporters, Sarma said reducing the areas of dispute from 123 to 86 was “historic”.

As per the declaration, both the states will now constitute 12 regional committees, each for



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma with his Arunachal counterpart. *Express*

the 12 districts where there is a dispute. These committees will jointly verify the concerned villages and thereafter make recommendations to the respective state governments “keeping in view the historical perspective, administrative convenience, contiguity and people’s will”.

A senior official from Assam privy to the developments said the reduction of the sites of conflict was a “significant step forward”. Out of the 37 villages, it has been agreed that while 34 villages fell within the border of Arunachal Pradesh, the rest three lay in Assam.

In August 2021, Sarma had told the Assam Assembly that there were at least 1,200 areas of dispute along the border with Arunachal Pradesh, and that the two states were working toward resolving them.

Delhi govt celebrates 'Happiness Utsav 2022'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 14 JULY

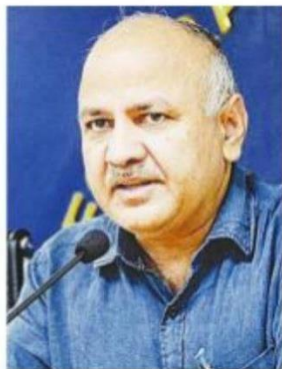
The Delhi government’s schools saw power-packed ‘Happiness Utsav 2022’ celebrations on Thursday to mark the four-year anniversary of the world-renowned Happiness Curriculum.

Life-coach Gaur Gopal Das taught the nuances of happiness in a special session for students on this occasion.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Gaur Gopal Das inaugurated the fortnightly fest at Kautilya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Chirag Enclave.

Talking about his government’s unique celebration of happiness, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, “For the first time in the history of the country, children are being taught to become good human beings and to live happily; this is the most important goal of education, but it has never been taught in India. The experiments being done in the field of education in Delhi will show the way not only to the country but to the entire humanity in the coming times.”

Talking about the event,



Sisodia said, “Happiness Classes have brought a path-breaking change in the students’ mindset; through the Happiness Utsav, we’ll teach lakhs of Delhiites to lead a happy life. The Happiness Curriculum has seen a tremendous journey in the last 4 years; students’ focus in studies increasing, children staying stress-free.”

Appreciating the Kejriwal Government’s efforts, Gaur Gopal Das said real happiness rests in following your passion, giving importance to your relationships.

“The Delhi Government is teaching children to be happy through the Happiness Curriculum,” he added.

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55. Consider the following statement regarding the *Youth in India 2022 Report*.

1. *Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)* has released the ‘*Youth in India 2022*’ Report.
2. The total youth population increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Recently, the *Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)* released the ‘*Youth in India 2022*’ Report, which shows that the population share of the youth is starting to decline whereas the share of the elderly is expected to increase during 2021-2036.
- A sustained drop in fertility has led to an increased concentration of the population at working ages (between 25 and 64 years) and this shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth known as the ‘*Demographic Dividend*’.

SENSEX: 53,886.61 ▼ 508.62 (-0.94%) NIFTY: 16,058.30 ▼ 157.70 (-0.97%) NIKKEI: 26,336.66 ▼ 475.64 HANG SENG: 20,844.11 ▼ 108.12 (-0.52%)

LIKELY TO PUT PRESSURE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, PUBLIC WELFARE

India’s demography at crossroads: Elderly may outnumber the youth

‘YOUTH IN INDIA 2022’ REPORT

State/Union Territory	2021	2031	2036
Bihar	28.8	27.7	25.5
Himachal Pradesh	25.1	21.4	19.5
Kerala	22.1	20	19.2
Madhya Pradesh	27.7	25.3	24.7
Maharashtra	26.1	22.5	21
Rajasthan	28.7	25.8	24.6
Tamil Nadu	23.2	20.4	19.1
Uttar Pradesh	29.9	26.3	25.1
India	27.2	24.1	22.7

Source: Youth in India 2022 Report, MoSPI
Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 2020

INDIA'S FAVOURABLE demographic dividend is at an inflection point of sorts, with the population share of the youth starting to taper off even as the share of the elderly is expected to steadily surge during 2021-2036. The more populous states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which experienced a rise in proportion of youth population to total population till 2021, are expected to see a decline from hereon, according to the ‘Youth in India 2022’ report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are projected to see a higher elderly population than the youth by 2036. “Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experienced a rise in proportion of youth population to total population till 2021 and then it is expected to start declining. These two states, along with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, are projected to have over half (52 per cent) of the country’s youth,” the report said.

Citing the findings from the Report of Technical Group on Population Projections, 2020, constituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, this report said youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.2 per cent of the population for 2021, which is expected to decrease to 22.7 by 2036. The proportion of the population aged under 15 years is projected to decline, the elderly in the population is expected to increase, the report said. “The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of 2011-2036 period. The total youth population increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036,” the report said.

For Kerala, which saw the youth population peak earlier than other states, the elderly population share in total population has been projected at 16.5 per cent compared with 22.1 per cent of youth population in 2021. The share of elderly in total population (22.8 per cent) in Kerala is then projected to cross the share of youth (19.2 per cent) by 2036. Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh are also projected to experience elderly population more than the youth by 2036, the report said.

A greater proportion of youth at present will result in a greater proportion of elderly in the population in future. “This will create a demand for better healthcare facilities and development of welfare schemes/programmes for elderly people,” the report said.

Experts said the rise in the share of elderly population will put pressure on social security and public welfare systems and the next 4-5 years need to be utilised well to accelerate productive job creation. “We haven’t utilised this period to create more productive employment to enhance savings and growth because that is what demographic dividend is all about. That window is closing. In the case of the southern states, where the share of the dependent population is predicted to increase, then it means how are you going to support the dependent population and what implications it will have on things like providing social security for the aged, pension and healthcare as longevity increases. That’s the conversation that happens in advanced economies. The share of the elderly in the population starts rising as opposed to the young working age group. Given the fact that people are typically in informal employment that don’t provide social security, then who is going to step in to provide social security that adds burden to the state. Those would be the kind of issues,” Radhicka Kapoor, senior visiting fellow, ICRIER, said.

Proportion of youth to the total population had increased from 26.6 per cent in 1991 to 27.9 per cent in 2016 and then projected to start a downward trend and to reach 22.7 per cent by year 2036. On the contrary, the proportion of elderly population to the total population has increased from 6.8 per cent in 1991 to 9.2 per cent in 2016 and is projected to reach 14.9 per cent in 2036.

“We should have seen expansion in manufacturing. We have missed it. We are still aspiring to increase our share of employment in manufacturing, which we need to continue doing because even for the people who are currently seeking employment and are in current labour force, when they are going to retire and the share of elderly starts rising in very populous states, then it will be like a ticking time bomb. In the next 4-5 years, if active labour market policies are adopted to accelerate productive job creation, then we can at least try to ensure that the situation doesn’t worsen,” Kapoor added.

As per the 2022 edition of the United Nations’ World Population Prospects (WPP), released on Monday, India is projected to surpass China as the world’s most populous country in 2023. The report pointed out that a sustained drop in fertility has led to an increased concentration of the population at working ages (between 25 and 64 years) and this shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth known as the “demographic dividend”.

The UN report, however, also noted that the population of older persons is increasing both in numbers and as a share of the total, with the share of the global population aged 65 years or above projected to rise from 10 per cent in 2022 to 16 per cent in 2050, warning countries with ageing populations to take steps to adapt public programmes to the growing proportion of older persons, including by improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems and by establishing universal health care and long-term care systems.

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- **The decline in Youth Population:** The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of the 2011-2036 period.
- **The total youth population increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036.**
- **The proportion of Youth and Elderly Population:** The proportion of youth to the total population had increased from 26.6% in 1991 to 27.9% in 2016 and is then projected to start a downward trend and reach 22.7 % by the year 2036.
- **s:** States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Himachal Pradesh are projected to see a higher elderly population than the youth by 2036.
- **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experienced a rise in the proportion of youth population to total population till 2021 and then it is expected to start declining.**
- **These two states, along with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, are projected to have over half (52%) of the country's youth.**

56. Which of the following state observe **Harela Festival**?

- A. **Uttarakhand**
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Nagaland
- D. Manipur
- E. None of these

- **The Shravan Harela, celebrated in the Hindu calendar month of Shravan, marks the onset of the rainy season (Monsoon). Harela means "Day of Green". It is considered to be an auspicious day for farmers, as it is the day when they begin the sowing cycle in their fields.**
- **It is celebrated by people from the Kumaon region of the state of Uttarakhand. According to popular belief, the day marks the religious celebration of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati's wedding. The village communities make clay idols of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. These are known as Dikare or Dikars.**
- **In 2020, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat approved the proposal to declare July 16th as a public holiday. In the ongoing calendar of annual holidays, the state government has declared an unrestricted holiday on Harela.**



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International / Report News

57. What is the name of the **longest-serving Prime Minister of Japan, who recently passed away after being shot?**

- A. Fumio Kishida
- B. Shinzo Abe**
- C. Shunichi Suzuki
- D. Nobuo Kishi
- E. None of these

- **Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe passed away after being shot.**
- **Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, died after being shot during campaigning for a parliamentary election in Nara, Japan.**
- **He was shot in the chest twice from behind while delivering a speech.**
- **Police arrested a man, named Yamagami Tetsuya, for assassinating Shinzo Abe.**
- **He served as Japan's Prime Minister for one year from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2020. He was the youngest Prime Minister of Japan in the post-world war era.**
- **He was the President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2020.**
- **The 67-year-old Shinzo Abe had to step down from the post of Prime Minister in 2020 due to health reasons.**
- **India declared a day of national mourning for Shinzo Abe on July 9.**

GUNMAN ARRESTED FROM SPOT; ONE-DAY MOURNING IN INDIA;
 Abe had neck wounds, damaged artery | PM 'shocked by death of dear friend'

Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe assassinated during speech, killer used homemade firearm



A suspect in the shooting of Shinzo Abe is tackled by police officers in Japan's Nara city on Friday. Reuters REPORTS, PAGES 9, 16

Suspect a former Navy man; weapons, computer seized from his home

MARI YAMAGUCHI,
 CHISATO TANAKA
 & FOSTER KLUG
 NARA (JAPAN), JULY 8

FORMER PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated Friday on a street in western Japan by a gunman who opened fire on him from behind as he delivered a campaign speech – an attack that stunned a nation with some of the strictest gun control laws anywhere.

The 67-year-old Abe, who was Japan's longest-serving leader when he resigned in 2020, collapsed bleeding and was airlifted to a nearby hospital in Nara, although he was not breathing and his heart had stopped. He was later pronounced dead after receiving massive blood transfusions, officials said.



Abe, 67, was the longest serving Japanese PM. AP file

Nara Medical University emergency department chief Hidetada Fukushima said Abe suffered major damage to his heart, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Shaped India-Japan ties, key person behind Quad

SHUBHAJIT ROY
 NEW DELHI, JULY 8

CALLING SHINZO Abe one of his "dearest friends", Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a day-long national mourning for the former Japanese Prime Minister on Saturday.

"I am shocked and saddened beyond words at the tragic demise of one of my dearest friends, Shinzo Abe. He was a towering global statesman, an outstanding leader and a remarkable administrator. He dedicated his life to make Japan and the world a better place... Abe made an immense contribution to elevating India-Japan relations to the level of a Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Today, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

In the land of manga, a pity someone draws the gun.



THE IDEAS PAGE

ABE, MY FRIEND
 BY NARENDRA MODI
 PAGE 11

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58. Consider the following statement regarding Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum.

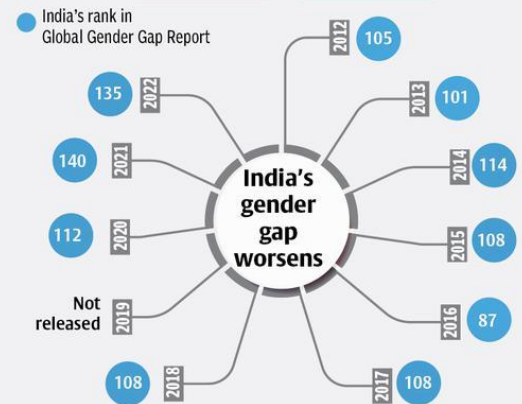
1. India ranked 135 th out of 146 countries in gender parity
2. Iceland, Finland, and Norway bagged the first three positions, the last two in the list are Pakistan and Afghanistan, bagging the 145 th and 146 th positions respectively
3. In 2022, India’s overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629.

Which of the following statement is correct?

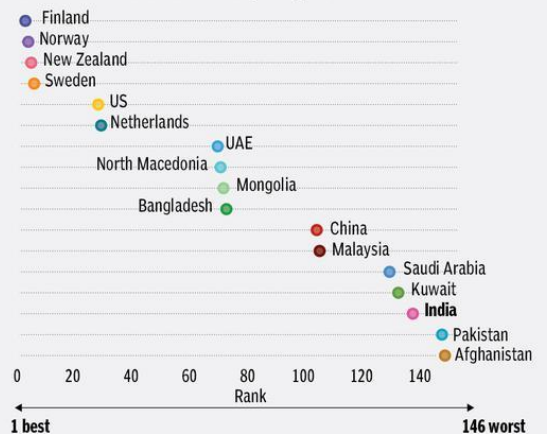
- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these

- The Global Gender Gap Index for 2022 was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) Wednesday, and it ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries. In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- The Global Gender Gap index “benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions (Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment)”. According to the WEF, it is the longest-standing index, which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.
- On each of the four sub-indices as well as on the overall index the GGG index provides scores between 0 and 1, where 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity.
- India has approximately 662 million (or 66.2 crores) women. In 2022, India’s overall score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629.

- The report assessed countries on four parameters — economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.



Overall rank of UAE, Saudi Arabia above India in Global Gender Gap Report 2022



How India fared on various parameters (Rank)



Source: World Economic Forum

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- *In political empowerment, It slipped to the 48 th position in 2022.*
- *For instance, India ranks at an abysmal 143 rd in economic participation, and opportunity in 2022.*
- *In terms of Health and Survival India scored very low. While the current rank is 143.*
- *In educational attainment, India is now the 107 th in the world.*
- *Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India are among the worst-performing countries globally. The sex ratio at birth remains relatively low in large, populated countries such as India and Pakistan, whereas Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, and Sri Lanka have reached parity.*
- *Iceland, Finland, and Norway bagged the first three positions the last two in the list are Pakistan and Afghanistan, bagging the 145 th and 146 th positions respectively.*
- *The five countries with gender gaps larger than 5 percent are Qatar, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, China, and India.*
- *The report added that South East Asian countries will take nearly 200 years to bridge the gender gap.*
- *Among South Asian countries, India has been ranked the sixth best after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bhutan.*

INDIA'S REPORT CARD

Index/sub-index	2022 (146 countries)		2021 (156 countries)	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	135	0.629	140	0.625
Political empowerment	48	0.267	51	0.276
Economic participation & opportunity	143	0.350	151	0.326
Educational attainment	107	0.961	114	0.962
Health and survival	146	0.937	155	0.937

Source: World Economic Forum

South Asia

Country	Rank	
	Regional	Global
● Bangladesh	1	71
● Nepal	2	96
● Sri Lanka	3	110
● Maldives	4	117
● Bhutan	5	126
● India	6	135
● Iran, Islamic Republic of	7	143
● Pakistan	8	145
● Afghanistan	9	146

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59. Consider the following statement regarding *United Nations' World Population Prospects 2022*.

1. The 27th edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2022 projected that India will overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023.
2. With 1,426 million, China is the most populous country in the world in 2022.
3. On November 15, 2022, the global population will reach 8 billion.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

UNITED NATIONS' WORLD POPULATION PROSPECTS

World population growth rate below 1%, India to surpass China next year

Global population to touch 8 billion in November; India to reach 1,668 million by 2050: UN projections

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

INDIA IS projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, according to the 27th edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects, 2022, released on Monday.

In 2022, China remains the most populous country in the world with 1,426 million, but India has caught up with a marginally less population of 1,412 million.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Fewer years to add a billion

EXPLAINED
E. IT TOOK 123 years for the population to double to 2 billion in 1927.

Since then, the number of years taken to add a billion people has only dropped. The last billion, which will take the population to 8 billion later this year, will be added in just 11 years.

World Population	Year
1 billion	1804
2 billion	1927
3 billion	1959
4 billion	1974
5 billion	1987
6 billion	1998
7 billion	2011
8 billion	2022

Source: United Nations Population Fund

Global life expectancy falls after Covid years

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

GLOBAL LIFE expectancy, which stood at 72.8 in 2019, "slowed down...due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic" and fell to 71 years in 2021, according to the latest UN population report released on Monday.

The report, 'World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results', shows that although Covid wiped out some of the gains achieved in life expectancy

at birth between 1990 and 2019, it improved by almost nine years during this period. By 2050, it is projected to reach 77.2 years worldwide, it says.

In 2021, the report says, life expectancy was higher for females (73.8 years) than males (68.4 years). "This female survival advantage is observed in virtually all regions and countries of

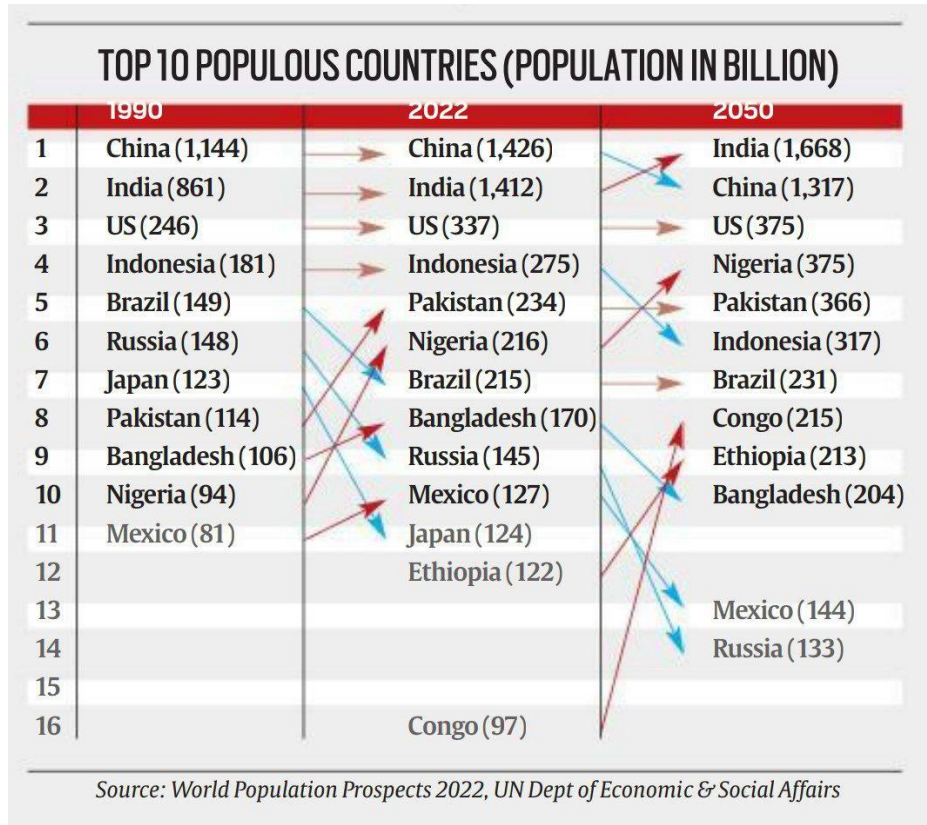
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
PAGE 11

- *The 27th edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2022 projected that India will overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023.*

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- With 1,426 million, China is the most populous country in the world in 2022, and India has a population of 1,412 million.
- On November 15, 2022, the global population will reach 8 billion which is more than three times the population of 2.5 billion in 1950.
- According to UN forecasts, India's population will reach 1,668 million by 2050, greatly above China's falling population of 1,317 million.
- In 2022, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (2.3 billion people, or 29% of the world's population) and Central and Southern Asia with 2.1 billion (26%) were the two most populous regions.
- According to the report, China and India have the largest populations in these regions, with over 1.4 billion people each in 2022.
- By 2037, Central and Southern Asia is likely to become the world's most populous region.
- According to the most recent UN projections, the world's population may reach 8.5 billion people in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.
- According to the report, the global life expectancy at birth decreased to 71 years in 2021, from 72.8 years in 2019.



60. Recently _____ has resigned as leader of Britain's Conservative party, paving the way for the selection of a UK new Prime Minister.
- Shinzo Abe
 - Rishi Sunak
 - Boris Johnson**
 - Gita Gopinath
 - None of these
- Boris Johnson has resigned as leader of Britain's Conservative party, paving the way for the selection of a UK new Prime Minister.

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- **Johnson finally agreed to step down as UK PM after a wave of resignations from top Ministers and close aides, bringing an end to a tumultuous two and a half years in office.**
- **The new leader of the Conservative Party will automatically become the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.**
- **The Chris Pincher scandal is a major political controversy that has led to the collapse of the Boris Johnson government, with many ministers expressing a lack of confidence in his leadership. The scandal relates to sexual misconduct, implicating former Conservative Party Deputy Chief Whip Chris Pincher, who had behaved inappropriately.**
- **Boris Johnson came under the scanner over his handling of the case against Chris Pincher. The 52-year-old had stepped down on July 30th after allegations that he had groped two male colleagues at a London club in a drunk state. This was followed by other sexual harassment allegations against him.**

Boris Johnson resigns as PM, political drama ends in Britain

Rishi Sunak, Ben Wallace, Liz Truss among contenders for the top post

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Boris Johnson resigned on Thursday as leader of Britain's Conservative party, paving the way for the selection of a new Prime Minister after dozens of Ministers quit his government over 48 hours of frenzied political drama.

"It is clearly the will of the parliamentary Conservative party that there should be a new leader of that party, and therefore a new Prime Minister," Mr. Johnson said outside 10 Downing Street.

The timetable for a Tory leadership race will be announced next week, he said, after three tumultuous years in office defined by Brexit, the COVID pandemic and non-stop controversy over his reputation for mendacity. In the latest, party colleague Chris Pincher had to resign as Deputy Chief Whip last week over allegations of sexual misconduct.

'Best job in the world'

Mr. Johnson, 58, said he would stay on as Prime Minister until a replacement is



Curtailed down: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaving after making a statement in front of 10 Downing Street in London on Thursday. •AFP

found.

He had fought hard against a Cabinet revolt and said he was "sad... to be giving up the best job in the world", justifying fighting on in the final hours to deliver the mandate he won in a Brexit-dominated general election in December 2019.

"And let me say now, to the people of Ukraine, that I know that we in the U.K. will continue to back your fight for freedom for as long as it takes," he added in his six-minute address.

Ukraine's presidency thanked Mr. Johnson for his support in "the hardest

times". Mr. Johnson's few remaining allies in the Tory party stood adjacent alongside wife Carrie, carrying their baby daughter Romy.

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EDITORIAL ► PAGE 10
BREXIT TO EXIT ► PAGE 17

61. Recently seen in the news **Kualanamu International Airport** is located in which of the following country?

- A. **Indonesia**
- B. Malaysia
- C. Tajikistan
- D. Nepal
- E. None of these

- **GMR Group said its joint venture Angkasa Pura Aviassi has started operating the Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, Indonesia.**
- **Angkasa Pura Aviassi (APA) is a joint venture between GMR Airports Ltd and Indonesia's state-owned airport operator PT Angkasa Pura II.**
- **With the project, GMR Airports, a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure, has entered the growing Indonesian aviation market and the project will cover a cooperation period of 25 years.**

GMR Airports JV starts ops in Indonesia's Medan airport

GMR Group on Friday said its joint venture Angkasa Pura Aviassi has started operating the Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, Indonesia. Angkasa Pura Aviassi (APA) is a joint venture between GMR Airports and Indonesia's state-owned airport operator PT Angkasa Pura II. With the project, GMR Airports, a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure, has entered the growing Indonesian aviation market and the project will cover a cooperation period of 25 years, according to a release. PTI

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- Currently, GMR Group is operating Delhi, and Hyderabad airports as well as the Mactan Cebu Currently, GMR Group is operating Delhi, and Hyderabad airports as well as the Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) in the Philippines.
- It also recently finished the construction of Clark Airport in the Philippines and is also coming up with a new airport at Crete in Greece.
- For the project, GMR had entered into a 49:51 partnership with PT Angkasa Pura II.

62. Consider the following statement regarding the **UN SDGs report**.

1. According to a United Nations report Russia-Ukraine war, has jeopardized all 17 of **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030**, with the global “excess deaths” directly and indirectly attributable to COVID-19 reaching **15 million by the end of 2021**.
2. The report said more than four years of progress in alleviating poverty have been wiped out due to the pandemic, pushing **93 million more people worldwide into extreme poverty in 2020**.

Which of the following statement is correct?




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

- Highlighting that the global “excess deaths” directly and indirectly attributable to Covid-19 had reached 15 million by the end of 2021, a United Nations report released said the pandemic, along with the climate crisis and increased number of conflicts around the world, including the Russia-Ukraine war, has placed all the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) of 2030 in jeopardy.
- Assessing the progress on the goals, the report said more than four years of progress in alleviating poverty have been wiped out due to the pandemic, pushing 93 million more people worldwide into extreme poverty in 2020, while the war in Ukraine is creating one of the largest refugee crises of modern times.

KEY MESSAGES FROM **SDG REPORT**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > About 1 in 10 people worldwide are suffering from hunger > Nearly 1 in 3 people lack regular access to adequate food > Immunisation coverage dropped for the first time in 10 years > Deaths from TB and malaria increased > In 2020, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by an estimated 25%, with young people and women most affected > In 2021, an estimated 17 million metric tonne of plastic entered the world’s ocean > Volume of plastic pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> entering the ocean is expected to double or triple by 2040 > About 24 million learners from the pre-primary to university level are at risk of not returning to school > No. of Internet users surged by 782 million to reach 4.9 billion people in 2021 from 4.1 billion in 2019 > Projected global economic growth for 2022 was cut by 0.9 percentage point, due to the war in Ukraine and potential new waves of the pandemic > Women accounted for 39% of total employment before the pandemic in 2019, but made up nearly 45% of global employment losses in 2020
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At current rates, in 2030

<p>1.6 billion people will lack safely managed drinking water</p> 	<p>2.8 billion people will lack safely managed sanitation</p> 	<p>1.9 billion people will lack basic hand hygiene facilities</p> 
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- As of May 2022, over 100 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes (due to war and multiple other conflicts).
- The 17 SDGs, which contain 169 targets ranging from eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education to providing basic services such as drinking water by 2030, were adopted by nearly 200 countries including India in September 2015 when the global leaders pledged to set the world on a new trajectory to deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet through domestic actions in the next 15 years.

63. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa sent his resignation via an email to Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abhayavardhan.
- Speaker of Parliament will take over as the Acting President after Rajapaksa's resignation.

Which of the statement is correct?

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

- Gotabaya Rajapaksa sent his resignation letter to Sri Lanka Speaker.
- Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa sent his resignation via an email to Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abhayavardhan.
- Ranil Wickremesinghe will take over as the acting President after Rajapaksa's resignation.
- According to the Sri Lankan Constitution, the Speaker of Parliament will act as President for a maximum of 30 days if both the President and Prime Minister resign.
- Within 30 days, the Parliament will choose a new President from among its members. Then, that person will serve as President for the remaining two years of the current term.

64. European Union Finance Ministers have given Croatia the final approval to adopt the euro single currency on January 1, 2023, replacing _____.

Lanka PM sworn in as interim President



Interim President Ranil Wickremesinghe greets Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya during the oath-taking ceremony in Colombo on Friday. AP

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
COLOMBO, 15 JULY

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Friday has sworn in as the interim President after Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena accepted the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the Acting President before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Daily Mirror reported citing Prime Minister's Media Division.

Wickremesinghe was appointed as the acting President by former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on July 13 after the latter fled to the Maldives due to the massive protest demanding his resignation.

Parliament Speaker Abeywardena told ANI, "Yes, the resignation (of President) has been accepted, the legal process will follow... Members will be invited tomorrow (to elect a

India is doing all to help Lanka: Rajnath



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 JULY

The Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh today said that India is doing all to help Sri Lanka while highlighting that the rapid growth of Bangladesh should act as a model for countries across the globe.

Speaking at GRSE Kolkata on the occasion of a warship launch, the defence minister (*in photo*) said that India wants healthy relations with its neighbour countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

He assured India is doing everything to help Sri Lanka. "The country is going through a tough situation and India is helping as much as it can."

President)". Addressing the presser, he said that from 14 July, the President has legally resigned from his legal duties and responsibilities. Abeywardena said that the President will be selected according to the provisions of the Special Provisions Act No. 2 of 1981 and Article 40 of the Constitution.

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- A. Krone
- B. Kuna**
- C. Rand
- D. Dirham
- E. None of these

- *European Union Finance Ministers have given Croatia the final approval to adopt the euro single currency on January 1, 2023, replacing the Croatian kuna.*
- *Croatia will join the eurozone as the 20th country.*
- *It is the currency bloc's first expansion in eight years when the euro has come down to its lowest level against the US dollar in 20 years.*
- *Adopting the euro provides economic benefits resulting from deep financial ties with the currency bloc's other members and the European Central Bank.*
- *Lithuania was the last country to join the European single currency area in 2015.*
- *The euro is the official currency of the European Union.*
- *This group of countries is known as the eurozone or, officially, the euro area.*
- *On 16 December 1995, the name euro was officially adopted in Madrid.*

65. What is the name of the **first Russian submarine carrying nuke-powered drones?**

- A. Khanjar
- B. Kingal
- C. Belgorod**
- D. Possiedein
- E. None of these

- *The Russian navy has received the first submarine Belgorod which is designed to carry Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drones.*
- *The submarine opens new opportunities for Russia to implement various scientific research tasks and conduct rescue operations in remote areas of the oceans.*
- *The nuclear-powered Belgorod was floated out in April 2019 and was initially planned to be delivered to the navy in 2020.*
- *Two more such submarines will be commissioned by 2027.*

Russian navy receives 1st sub carrying nuke-powered drones

AGENCIES
Moscow

The Russian navy has received the first submarine Belgorod, which is designed to carry Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drones.

The submarine opens new opportunities for Russia to implement various scientific research tasks and conduct rescue operations in remote areas of the oceans, Xinhua news agency quoted Nikolay Yevmenov, commander-in-chief of the Navy, as saying at a ceremony on Friday.



The nuclear-powered Belgorod was floated out in April 2019 and was initially planned to be delivered to the navy in 2020.

Two more such submarines will be commissioned by 2027.

According to an earlier report by the TASS News Agency, the Poseidon drone is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead with a yield of up to 2 megatonnes to destroy enemy naval bases.

It can travel fast in an intercontinental range with an operational depth of over 1 km.

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- According to an earlier report by the TASS News Agency, the Poseidon drone is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead with a yield of up to 2 megatonnes to destroy enemy naval bases.
- It can travel fast in an intercontinental range with an operational depth of over 1 km.

66. Recently **China and Pakistan** kicked off their naval drills named _____ off the **Shanghai coast** by deploying their new high-tech naval ships and fighter jets to "jointly deal with maritime security threats.

- A. Black Pearl 2
- B. Sea Guardian 2**
- C. Sea Monster 2
- D. Black Diamond 2
- E. None of these

- All-weather friends **China and Pakistan** on Sunday kicked off their 'Sea Guardians-2' drills off the Shanghai coast by deploying their new high-tech naval ships and fighter jets to "jointly deal with maritime security threats," as their navies stepped up cooperation in India's backyard, the Indian Ocean.
- The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy and the Pakistan Navy, will hold a joint naval exercise in maritime and aerial spaces off Shanghai in mid-July.
- The PLA Eastern Theatre Command Navy sent the frigate Xiangtan, the corvette Shuozhou, the comprehensive supply ship Qiandaohu, a submarine, an early warning aircraft, two fighter jets, and a helicopter for the drill while the Pakistan Navy's frigate Taimur joined the exercise.
- Themed "jointly dealing with maritime security threats," the exercise will feature training courses including the joint strike against maritime targets.

67. PM Modi will take part in the **first I2U2 Leaders' Virtual Summit on 14 July 2022**. Which of the following countries are included in I2U2?



A file photo of Chinese and Pakistani troops taking part in a joint war drill in Jhelum, Pakistan. •AP

China, Pak. begin war games off Shanghai

Drills aimed at countering maritime threat

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China and Pakistan on Sunday began four-day naval exercises off the coast of Shanghai, involving Pakistan's most advanced China-built frigate and paving the way for closer security cooperation between the two countries in the Indian Ocean.

The drills, the two countries said, were aimed at "jointly dealing with maritime security threats". The PLA Eastern Theater Command Navy said the frigate Xiangtan, corvette Shuozhou, supply ship Qiandaohu, two fighter jets and a submarine would participate, the Communist Party-run *Global Times* reported.

Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military expert, told the paper the two countries "need to jointly demonstrate their capabilities in safeguarding strategic sea lanes that transport energy and goods".

The exercises are the second edition of Sea Guardians, following drills held in January 2020 in the Arabian Sea off Karachi.

Pakistan's Navy said its second Type 054A frigate built by China, Taimur, which was delivered to them in Shanghai last

month, would take part in the drill.

The first Type 054A, Tughril, was commissioned last year. Pakistan's envoy to China Moil Ul Haque then told Chinese media that the commissioning of the frigate "in the context of the overall security paradigm of the region" would "strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region".

Gen. Bajwa's China visit
The drills this week followed the visit of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa to China last month, where he held talks with China's top-ranking General, Zhang Youxia, who is Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission headed by President Xi Jinping.

General Zhang said China was "willing to strengthen communication, reinforce cooperation, deepen pragmatic exchanges with Pakistan" as well as "properly deal with the complicated factors in regional situation", and described the relationship as "unbreakable and rock-solid."

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- A. India-Israel-UAE-USA**
- B. India-Iran-UAE-Uzbekistan**
- C. India-Iraq-UAE-USA**
- D. India-Iraq-UK-Uzbekistan**
- E. None of these**

- **PM Modi will take part in the first I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit on 14 July 2022.**
- **PM of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President of the USA Joseph R. Biden will also participate in the Summit.**
- **During the summit, the Leaders will discuss possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2.**
- **I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas like energy, water, space, transportation, health, and food security.**
- **I2U2: It is a four-nation grouping between India, Israel, UAE, and the USA.**
- **It was conceptualized during a meeting of the four countries' Foreign Ministers on October 18, 2021.**

68. Consider the following statement regarding the I2U2 meeting.

- 1. The UAE will invest \$2 billion in India to create the food parks.**
- 2. The I2U2 group will advance a hybrid renewable energy project of USD 330 million in Gujarat consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1**

Joint projects, economy top agenda at I2U2 meet

Modi, Biden, UAE and Israeli leaders to participate in virtual summit

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will discuss ways to forge joint projects and further strengthen economic ties during the summit level talks with heads of States of Israel, the United States of America (USA) and the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. The virtual summit will also see the leaders take stock of food and energy shortages arising out of the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

This first conclave called I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit will comprise Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and US President Joe Biden. The summit will take place during Biden's visit to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Giving details of the upcoming high profile event, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Tuesday, the I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries on October 18 last year.

Each country also has Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation. The Leaders of the four countries



will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond.

These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for our businesspersons and workers, the MEA said. The I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

It intends to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize the infrastructure, low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

Besides the I2U2 Summit, Biden will participate in an in-person summit in Jeddah of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) + 3, which will bring together leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, plus Iraq,

Jordan and Egypt. As regards the I2U2 grouping, sources said the four countries have assured there are no military objectives for this combine and the stakeholders are pushing a constructive agenda focused on the economy, especially infrastructure projects.

The new group is informally referred to as the 'West Asia Quad.' The original Quad combine in the Indo-Pacific includes India, US, Japan and Australia.

The I2U2 assumed formal shape following the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE. The I2U2 addresses marine security, infrastructure, and transportation challenges in the region.

Elaborating upon the significance of this grouping, sources said given the growing importance of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), the four countries will enhance greater engagement in the region to secure their interests.

The WIO, the region lying between India, the Suez Canal and South Africa, is strategically critical as it contains the key maritime chokepoints of the Bab-el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal.

Also, the threat of maritime piracy, smuggling of narcotics and weapons and terrorism has increased the importance of this region where India has lot of stakes, they said. The I2U2 nations have common interests and their capabilities are complementary to each other and the grouping will give a boost to the engagement in the region.

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

- India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The plan for the “integrated food parks” was announced in a joint statement after the leaders of the I2U2 grouping — India, Israel, the UAE, and the U.S. — held a summit recently.
- The leaders said they would bring in private capital for specific projects in the fields of water, energy, transportation, health, space, and food security.
- U.S. and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project. These investments will help maximize crop yields which, in turn, will help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East. India will “facilitate farmers’ integration into the food parks.
- The food parks aimed at cutting down “food waste and spoilage” are a few of the collaborations that the four countries declared after the summit.
- The UAE will invest \$2 billion in India to create the food parks.
- The I2U2 group will advance a hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system.
- “The US Trade and Development Agency funded a feasibility study for the USD 330 million projects,” the I2U2 joint statement issued after the inaugural meeting of leaders of India, Israel, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stated.

UAE announces \$2-b investment to develop food parks in India

REUTERS

Jerusalem, July 14

The United Arab Emirates pledged a \$2 billion investment to develop food parks in India in order to tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East, a joint statement from the United Arab Emirates, India, the United States and Israel said on Thursday.

Advanced climate tech

The parks will incorporate advanced climate technology, the statement said, in order to help maximize crop yields.

“U.S. and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project,” the statement said.



Combining resources July 2022 **I2U2 Summit**

The grouping of India, Israel, UAE and US unveiled schemes reflecting a focus to tackle challenges in sectors like food, energy, among others

“By mobilising the mutual strengths of our countries – capital, expertise and markets – we can accelerate our agenda and contribute significantly to the global economy.”
— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

INITIATIVES UNVEILED

FOOD SECURITY
\$2bn
 The UAE will invest this sum in India to develop a series of integrated agriculture parks across the country

CLEAN ENERGY
\$330mn
 To implement hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat consisting of 200MW of wind power and 100MW of solar capacity

“Think of the beneficial impacts this will have on India’s farmers and the people suffering from hunger and malnutrition in the region.”
— JOE BIDEN, US President

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- *FSIB will also advise the government on the extension of terms and termination of services for whole-time directors, and non-executive chairpersons across public sector entities in financial services institutions.*
- *Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has 11 members including the Chairperson. Chairperson will be nominated by the Centre.*
- *Its ex-officio members are the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) Secretary, and IRDAI Chairperson.*
- *Three persons with knowledge relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) will be nominated as part-time members.*
- *Currently, three members for PSBs and FIs are Animesh Chauhan, Shailendra Bhandari, and Deepak Singhal.*
- *Three persons with knowledge relating to public sector insurers (PSI) are to be nominated as part-time members on the insurance front.*
- *On the public sector insurance front, the Centre has nominated Usha Sangwan, A V Girija Kumar, and Sujay Banerji. A Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India will be an ex-officio Member.*

PNB signs MoU with IAF for 'PNB Rakshak Plus' scheme

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide specially designed products to the defence personnel under the bank's flagship scheme of 'PNB Rakshak Plus'. This scheme includes, inter alia, personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance to serving, retired and trainees of the defence forces, central armed police forces, state police force, metro police



70. Which bank has signed MoU with Indian Air Force under its scheme which consists of personal accident insurance and air accidental insurance for serving, retired, and trainees of defense forces?

- A. Punjab National Bank**
- B. Axis Bank
- C. Union Bank of India
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

- *Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed MoU with Indian Air Force under PNB Rakshak Scheme.*
- *State Bank of India (SBI) has renewed its MoU on the defense salary package scheme with IAF.*
- *PNB Rakshak Scheme consists of personal accident insurance and air accidental insurance for serving, retired, and trainees of defense forces.*
- *SBI's defense salary package scheme includes complimentary personal accident insurance and additional aid in case of on-duty death.*

71. RBI has recently allowed banks to settle trade transactions with Sri Lanka in permitted currencies outside Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism. In which year was ACU established?

- A. 1973**

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- B. 1974
- C. 1975
- D. 1976
- E. None of these

- **RBI has allowed banks to settle trade transactions with Sri Lanka in permitted currencies outside Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.**

Asian Clearing Union (ACU) Mechanism – Indo-Sri Lanka trade

RBI/2022-2023/89
A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 09

July 08, 2022

To
All Category-I Authorised Dealer Banks
Madam/Sir,

Asian Clearing Union (ACU) Mechanism – Indo-Sri Lanka trade

Attention of Authorised Dealer Category – I (AD Category-I) banks is invited to Regulations 3 and 5 of [Foreign Exchange Management \(Manner of Receipt and Payment\) Regulations, 2016](#) in terms of which export / import transactions between ACU member countries are to be routed through the ACU mechanism.

2. The extant provisions have been reviewed and in terms of clause b of sub-Regulation 2 of Regulation 3 and clause c of sub-Regulation 2 of Regulation 5 of [Foreign Exchange Management \(Manner of Receipt and Payment\) Regulations, 2016](#), it has been decided that all eligible current account transactions including trade transactions with Sri Lanka may be settled in any permitted currency outside the ACU mechanism until further notice.

3. The above instructions shall come into force with immediate effect. AD Category-I banks may bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents concerned.

4. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions / approvals, if any, required under any other law.

- **This new rule has come into force with immediate effect. It will be in place until further notice.**
- **The members of ACU are central banks and monetary authorities of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.**
- **Asian Monetary Unit (AMU) is the common unit of account of ACU.**
- **It is denominated as ACU dollar (equivalent in value to one US dollar), ACU euro (equivalent in value to one euro), and ACU yen (equivalent in value to one Japanese yen).**
- **Asian Clearing Union (ACU):**
- **It is headquartered in Tehran, Iran. It has nine member economies.**
- **It was established on December 9, 1974, at the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).**

72. Consider the following statements related to the **system introduced by RBI for trade payments in rupees.**

1. **Authorised Dealer (AD) banks in India have been permitted to open Rupee Vostro Accounts.**
2. **Indian importers using this mechanism will have to pay in Dollars.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- **Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) established a mechanism to settle international trade in rupees to promote global trade growth with a focus on Indian exports.**
- **The move by the central bank follows increased pressure on the Indian currency as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and sanctions imposed by the US and the EU.**
- **Recently, the Indian rupee fell to a new low (lost almost 6% during the current year) against the US dollar, as domestic stock markets fell and foreign investors continued to sell Indian equities.**
- **The Indian rupee breached for the first time the Rs 79/\$ level in post-market trade.**
- **In a circular issued to commercial banks, the RBI said all exports and imports under this arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in INR.**
- **The exchange rate between the currencies of the two trading partner countries may be market determined.**
- **Authorized Dealer (AD) banks in India have been permitted to open rupee Vostro accounts.**
- **A Vostro account is an account a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank.**
- **Accordingly, for settlement of trade transactions with any country, AD banks in India may open special rupee Vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country.**
- **However, banks acting as authorized dealers for such transactions would have to take prior approval from the Foreign Exchange Department of RBI, Central Office at Mumbai, to facilitate this.**

RBI sets up mechanism to settle trade transactions in Re

This comes even as the rupee sank to new low; may help in trade with countries such as Russia, Iran and Sri Lanka

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 11

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in the Rupee (INR) even as the domestic unit sank to a new low of 79.4375 per dollar on continuing FPI exits and a strong USD.

The measure relating to international trade settlement in rupee comes even as the central bank took a host of measures last week to augment supply of dollars to prop up the weakening rupee, which has depreciated 4.79 per cent since March-end.

Promoting global trade

The RBI expects its latest measure to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and "to support the increasing interest of the global trading community in the INR".

According to the broad framework for cross-border trade transactions in INR under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), all exports and imports under this arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in rupee; the

exchange rate between the currency of the trading partner countries may be market determined.

Special Vostro account

Further, for settlement of trade transactions with any country, a bank authorised to deal in foreign exchange in India can open Special Rupee Vostro Account of the correspondent bank of the partner trading country.

To allow settlement of international trade transactions through this arrangement, Indian importers can pay in INR, which will be credited into the Special Vostro Account of the correspondent bank of the partner country against the invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier.

Indian exporters using this mechanism will be paid in INR from the balances in the designated Special Vostro Account of the correspondent bank of the partner country.

The RBI said exporters may receive advance payments from importers in rupees through this mechanism. Issue of bank guarantee for trade transactions, undertaken through this arrangement, is permitted, subject to adherence to the provisions of FEMA and Master Direction on Guarantees and Co-acceptances.

'Set-off' of export receivables against import payables in respect of the same overseas buyer and supplier with facility to make/receive payment of the



balance of export receivables/import payables, if any, through the Rupee Payment Mechanism may be allowed, subject to conditions.

The RBI said the balance in Special Vostro Accounts can be used for: payments for projects and investments; export/import advance flow management; and investment in government Treasury Bills, government securities, etc.

Forex dealers say the Rupee Payment Mechanism could be used by Indian exporters/importers for their trade with countries such as Russia, Iran and Sri Lanka.

Rahul Bajoria, MD and Chief India Economist, Barclays, said the latest RBI measure appears to be aimed at reducing demand for foreign exchange, by promoting rupee settlement of trade.

Meanwhile, the Rupee declined 0.23 per cent to a record closing low of 79.4375 as the greenback gained strength against other currencies comprising the Dollar Index.

Anindya Banerjee, Vice-President, Kotak Securities Ltd, noted that strong US Dollar Index and spike in US bond yields caused Rupee to depreciate.

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- *Indian importers using this mechanism must pay INR, which must be credited to the special Vostro account of the partner country's correspondent bank, against invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller or supplier.*
- *Indian exporters who use this mechanism to export goods and services should be paid INR from the balances in the designated special Vostro account of the partner country's correspondent bank.*
- *The issue of bank guarantee for trade transactions (undertaken through this arrangement) is permitted subject to adherence to provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) notification.*
- *Indian importers using this mechanism must pay INR, which must be credited to the special Vostro account of the partner country's correspondent bank, against invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller or supplier.*
- *Indian exporters who use this mechanism to export goods and services should be paid INR from the balances in the designated special Vostro account of the partner country's correspondent bank.*
- *The issue of bank guarantee for trade transactions (undertaken through this arrangement) is permitted subject to adherence to provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) notification.*
- *This will promote global trade growth, with an emphasis on Indian exports, and will support the growing interest of the global trading community in INR.*

73. Consider the following statement regarding Startup School India initiative.

1. *Microsoft has announced the launch of the Startup School India initiative.*
2. *The initiative will help 10,000 startups in tier 2 and tier 3 cities (smaller cities).*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Google has announced the launch of the Startup School India initiative. The initiative will help 10,000 startups in tier 2 and tier 3 cities (smaller cities).*
- *It aims to organize accumulated knowledge into a structured curriculum to enable startups in small cities to overcome various challenges.*
- *The curriculum will have modules on subjects like shaping an effective product strategy, driving user acquisition, and many more.*
- *The nine-week program will be delivered virtually. It will include chats between collaborators from across the startup ecosystem and Google leaders.*
- *Google is an American multinational technology company. Its CEO is Sundar Pichai*

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74. Consider the following statement regarding Akasa Air Airlines.

1. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has granted the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) to the newest airline in the country, Akasa Air to start its commercial operations.
2. It has signed MoU with Boeing 737 MAX aircraft for 72 aircraft.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has granted the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) to the newest airline in the country, Akasa Air to start its commercial operations.
- The airline's operations will commence at the end of July.
- The airline took delivery of its first Boeing 737 MAX aircraft in India on June 21.
- The airline will have 18 aircraft by the end of the fiscal year 2022–2023 and will then add 12–14 aircraft every 12 months after that.
- This will complete its order of 72 aircraft, which will be delivered over five years.
- Akasa Air: It is backed by billionaire investor Rakesh Juhunjhunwala.
- It was founded in December 2021, and it is headquartered in Mumbai.

75. Recently in July, The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 5.72 crore on _____ for non-compliance with norms related to insurance broking/corporate agency services while imposing a fine of Rs 70 lakh on _____ for non-compliance with Know-Your-Customer (KYC) norms.

- A. Axis Bank, Bank Of Baroda
- B. Federal Bank, Bank Of India
- C. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank
- D. Indusind Bank, Indian Overseas Bank
- E. None of these

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5.72 crore on Federal Bank for non-

Akasa Air gets licence from DGCA; to take off by July-end

Billionaire investor Rakesh Juhunjhunwala-owned Akasa Air has been cleared for take-off. The no-frills airline received its air operator certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday. The airline will start its operations from the end of July.

The grant of the AOC is the final step of a comprehensive process laid down by the DGCA. The airline inducted its first Boeing 737 Max aircraft on June 21.

It plans to start its service, connecting metro cities with tier II and III cities, after adding its second aircraft. The airline hopes to have 18 aircrafts by the end of financial year (FY) 2023.

“We now look forward to opening our flights for sale, leading to the start of commercial operations by late-July. This will begin our journey towards building India’s greenest, most dependable, and most affordable airline,” the Akasa air’s founder and CEO, Vinay Dube said in a statement.

Dube, who served as the CEO of Jet Airways, teamed up with his former colleagues and, IndiGo’s former president Aditya Ghosh to launch the airline.

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compliance with norms related to insurance broking/corporate agency services.

- **The RBI separately imposed a fine of Rs 70 lakh on the Bank of India for non-compliance with Know-Your-Customer (KYC) norms.**
- **Bank of India failed to allot Unique Customer Identification Code (UCIC) to several customers and complete the process even within extended timelines.**
- **In addition, the RBI fined Gurugram-based Dhani Loans and Services ₹7.06 lakh for failing to follow the "Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016".**
- **The RBI also canceled Shri Anand Co-operative Bank Ltd.'s license on July 7, 2022, and the bank ceased to conduct banking operations as of the close of business on July 7, 2022. The license has been canceled as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects, and the bank has failed to comply with the requirements of Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**

RBI slaps ₹5.72-cr penalty on Federal Bank

Also imposes ₹70 lakh fine on BoI, ₹7.60 lakh on Dhani Loans

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 8

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Federal Bank (₹5.72 crore), Bank of India (₹70 lakh) and Dhani Loans and Services (₹7.60 lakh).

The central bank said it imposed monetary penalty on Federal Bank for non-compliance with the provisions of 'Reserve Bank of India (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016.'

The RBI noted its inspection findings (with reference to the bank's financial position as on March 31, 2020) revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the aforesaid directions to the extent the private sector bank failed to ensure that no incentive (cash or non-cash) was paid to its staff engaged in insurance broking/corporate agency services by the insurance company. In

furtherance to the same, a notice was issued to the bank, advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for failure to comply with the said directions.

"After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made in the personal hearing, the RBI came to the conclusion that the aforesaid charge of non-compliance with the aforesaid RBI directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty, to the extent of non-compliance with such directions," per the statement.

Bank of India

The RBI imposed monetary penalty on BoI for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India - (Know Your Customer) Direction, 2016' and circular instructions on 'Compliance Function in Banks.'

The central bank observed that its inspection findings (with reference to the bank's financial position as on as on March 31, 2019) revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the aforesaid

directions to the extent the bank failed to allot Unique Customer Identification Code to a large number of customers, and failed to complete the process even within extended timelines.

In furtherance to the same, a notice was issued to the public sector bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for failure to comply with the said directions.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice and oral submissions made in the personal hearing, the RBI came to the conclusion that the charge of non-compliance with the aforesaid directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty, to the extent of non-compliance with such directions, according to the central bank.

Dhani Loans and Services

The central bank said it imposed monetary penalty on Dhani Loans and Services Limited, Gurugram, for non-compliance with the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer) Directions, 2016.'

76. Recently in July _____ and Shriram General Insurance, an agreement for the distribution of Shriram General Insurance products through the bank's network of 727 branches across the country.

- A. RBL Bank
- B. City Union Bank
- C. DBS Bank
- D. Yes Bank
- E. None of these

CUB, Shriram General Insurance in corporate agency deal

Bank to distribute the insurer's products through 727 branches

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, July 8

City Union Bank (CUB) and Shriram General Insurance, on Friday, signed a corporate agency agreement, wherein the bank will distribute the latter's insurance products through its network of 727 branches across the country.

Under this agreement, Shriram General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as motor, personal accident, home and travel, along with commercial lines of insurance products such as property, marine and engineering insurance to the bank's customers.

The agreement will help deliver enhanced customer experience by leveraging technology

and augmenting the services distributed by the bank, says a release. N Kamakodi, MD & CEO, City Union Bank, told newspapers: "We are of firm belief that this partnership will certainly bring the best of non-life insurance products to our customers."

IRDAI directive

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has permitted banks to have tie-ups with three companies each for general insurance, life insurance and health insurance. The bank has now entered in to a tie-up with Shriram Insurance.

Originally, the bank had a tie-up with broking firm, Bharat Re Insurance Brokers (of Shriram Group), to deal with customers



(from left) S Subhasri, CFO, Shriram Capital; Anil Kumar Aggarwal, MD and CEO, Shriram General Insurance; and N Kamakodi, MD & CEO, CUB, announce the tie-up, in Chennai, on Friday. **BJAY GHOSH**

and ascertain the risks and claim settlement. However, this is not there anymore. The bank has a tie-up with LIC for life insurance and with Start Health for health insurance.

For general insurance, the bank has now joined hands with Shriram General Insurance, and soon will sign an

agreement with Royal Sundaram. For life insurance, along with LIC, the bank will have two more tie-ups – Bajaj and Tata AIG. For health insurance, the bank will have tie-ups with Aditya Birla and Care Insurance.

Of these six tie-ups, four are being signed today and on

Monday, and the other two before the month-end, he said.

Anil Kumar Aggarwal, MD & CEO, Shriram General Insurance, said this is a strong relationship with the bank for the future. "Through this tie-up, we will provide the best services to the customers of CUB. By leveraging technology, we will ensure digital, instant, and seamless insurance experience to the bank's urban as well as rural customers," he added.

"Whatever we have done in Shriram General Insurance for small operators, where turnaround time for the claims settlement has reduced to 24 days from one-half-years a decade back, we will replicate the same thing in CUB. It is a win-win situation for both organisations," he said. "By using technology, we want to further reduce the claims settlement to around 20 days," he added.

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- *The City Union Bank and Shriram General Insurance signed an agreement for the distribution of Shriram General Insurance products through the bank's network of 727 branches across the country.*
- *Under this agreement, Shriram General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as motor, personal accident, home, and travel, along with commercial products such as property, marine, and engineering insurance.*
- *N Kamakodi, MD and CEO of CUB, Anil Kumar Aggarwal, MD, and CEO of Shriram General Insurance.*

77. Recently _____ has acquired the agriculture and healthcare equipment financing portfolio of the Indian subsidiary of global asset finance company De Lage Landen International BV (DLL).

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. **Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- C. Yes Bank
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

Kotak Bank acquires agri, healthcare equipment financing portfolio of DLL

‘Acquired portfolio will be transitioned in a planned manner over next few months’

SURABHI
 Mumbai, July 8
 Kotak Mahindra Bank has acquired the agri and healthcare equipment financing portfolio of De Lage Landen Financial Services India (DLL India), a subsidiary of Rabobank-owned De Lage Landen International.

“The operations of DLL India’s acquired portfolio will be transitioned to Kotak Mahindra Bank in a planned manner over the next few months,” said the bank in a statement, adding that until the transition, the portfolio will continue to be managed by DLL India. It did not disclose the value of the transaction.

The acquisition will help Kotak gain access to over

25,000 customers with a total standard loan outstanding of around ₹582 crore, and a non-performing assets portfolio with a total loan outstanding of around ₹69 crore.

“Kotak Mahindra Bank’s acquisition of DLL India’s agri and healthcare equipment portfolio reiterates our continued commitment towards a strong presence in this space, and gives us access to a high-quality customer base,” said D Kannan, Group President - Commercial Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Specialised units

The private sector lender’s commercial banking business focusses on meeting the



The acquisition will help Kotak gain access to over 25,000 customers with a standard loan outstanding of around ₹582 cr

banking and financial needs of customer segments beyond metro and urban centres, with specialised units offering financial solutions for commercial vehicles, construction equipment, tractor and agriculture sector, said the statement.

Abhishek Mudgal, Country

Manager, DLL India, said: “In the last nine years of operations in India, we have established an excellent customer base in India.

“We are glad that we are transferring our outstanding portfolio and customer base in India to Kotak Mahindra Bank.”

- *Private sector lender, Kotak Mahindra Bank on Friday said it has acquired the agriculture and healthcare equipment financing portfolio of the Indian subsidiary of global asset finance company De Lage Landen International BV (DLL).*
- *With this, the bank has secured 25,000 customers with a total credit outstanding of around Rs 582 crore.*
- *The bank has also received an outstanding non-performing assets portfolio of around Rs 69 crore. Launched in September 2021, the bank’s healthcare finance division provides funds of up to Rs 10 crore to hospitals, laboratories, diagnostic centers, nursing homes, and clinics. It also finances tractor purchases, crop loans, and working capital loans for SMEs.*
- *The transfer of the agri and healthcare finance portfolio will take place in a phased manner over the next few months and DLL India will continue to manage the operations till then. DLL Group, a subsidiary of Rabobank, provides vendor finance in agriculture, food, healthcare, clean technology, construction, transportation, and industrial sectors.*

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78. Recently in July _____ announced the launch of Metaverse Virtual Lounge & Open Banking Sandbox environment named 'Uni-verse'.

- A. Union Bank of India
- B. Yes Bank
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- Union Bank of India announced the launch of Metaverse Virtual Lounge & Open Banking Sandbox environment at an event held in Mumbai.
- Uni-verse, the Metaverse Virtual Lounge of the Bank, hosts Bank's products information and Videos in the initial phase. Uni-verse will deliver a unique experience of Banking to the Customers who can roam around the Lounge, and get information on the Bank's Deposit, Loan, Govt. Welfare Schemes, Digital initiatives, etc. as if they are experiencing the real world. This initiative is in partnership with M/s Tech Mahindra.

UBI's 'Metaverse Virtual Lounge'

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 8

Union Bank of India has launched the Metaverse Virtual Lounge, 'Uni-verse', and Open Banking Sandbox environment.

Uni-verse will host the bank's product information and videos in the initial phase, according to the

public sector bank's statement.

With Uni-verse, customers can roam around the lounge, get information on the bank's deposits, loans, government welfare schemes, and digital initiatives, among others, similar to the real-world scenario, said the bank.

- Union Bank of India also launched Open Banking Sandbox environment through which it will collaborate with Fin Techs and Start-Up partners for developing and launching innovative Banking products. Sandbox environment empowers Fin Techs and developers by providing a platform that will realize their ideas.
- Ms. A Manimekhalai, MD&CEO, Union Bank of India.

79. Consider the following statement regarding the payment aggregator license.

1. Razorpay, Pine Labs, Stripe, and 1Pay have received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for payment aggregator licenses.
2. According to RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of Rs 15 crore as of March 2021, and a net worth of Rs 25 crore by on or before March 2023. And, they have to maintain a net worth of Rs 25 crore at all times thereafter.

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

- Several payment providers such as Razorpay, Pine Labs, Stripe, and 1Pay have received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for payment aggregator licenses.
- Payment aggregators are entities that enable e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations, without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.
- Back in 2020, RBI issued guidelines that said only firms approved by the regulator can acquire and offer payment services to the merchants. While banks do not need separate approvals, non-bank entities offering payment aggregator services had to apply for authorization to the RBI by June 2021, which was later extended.
- According to RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of Rs 15 crore as of March 2021, and a net worth of Rs 25 crore by on or before March 2023. And, they have to maintain a net worth of Rs 25 crore at all times thereafter.

80. Consider the following statement regarding **India's defense exports**.

1. India's defense exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crores.
2. The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for 30 %.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India's defense exports for 2021-22 were estimated at ₹13,000 crores, the highest ever, the Defence Ministry said.
- The U.S. was a major buyer, as also nations in Southeast Asia, West Asia, and Africa.

Payment aggregator licence: RBI nod for PineLabs, Stripe, 1Pay and Razorpay

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 8

A number of payment players, including Razorpay, PineLabs, Stripe and 1Pay, are understood to have received in-principle approval from the RBI for payment aggregator licences.

According to sources, a few more companies are likely to get approval in the coming days.

The RBI had, in 2020, issued guidelines on regulation of payment aggregators and payment gateways, under which non-bank PAs would require the central bank's authorisation under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Such entities had to apply for authorisation, but the RBI had permitted them to continue their operations till they receive communication regarding their application.

A number of companies had applied for these licences.

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- **The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest. Earlier, the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of defense public sector units had gone up.**
- **While India's defense imports from the U.S. have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of U.S. defense companies.**
- **In January, India signed a \$374.96-million deal with the Philippines, its single biggest defense export order, for the supply of three batteries for a shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.**

India's defence exports top ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8

India exported defence items and technology worth a record ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22, an impressive 54.1 per cent increase over the previous year, a top defence ministry official said on Friday.

The country's defence exports are chiefly to the US, the Philippines and other countries in the South-East Asia, the Middle-East and Africa. "In 2021-22, we have recorded ₹13,000 crore of exports which is the highest ever exports number that we have recorded in defence," Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary in the Department of Defence Production (DDP), told a media briefing.

The exports in 2021-22 were almost eight times of what they were about five years back, he added.

India's defence exports

were worth ₹8,434 crore in 2020-21, ₹9,115 crore in 2019-20 and ₹2,059 crore in 2015-16.

"There has been good progress. Of course, two years of Covid-19 was a bit of a setback. But this year, we have been able to record this number (of ₹13,000 crore)," he noted.

Reward for best performers

At an event titled "Artificial Intelligence in Defence" on Monday, the defence ministry will reward a private sector organisation and another from the public sector that performed the best in defence exports, he said.

Generally, he said, private sector companies dominate the defence exports market with a share of almost 90 per cent. Last year, public sector companies also did well contributing 30 per cent to the country's defence exports, he added.

81. Recently in July Women's World Banking and Bank of Baroda announce the Rollout of 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' in _____ to Inculcate Savings Behaviour in Customers.

- A. Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**
- B. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**
- C. Sikkim and West Bengal**
- D. Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**
- E. None of these**

- **Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, has partnered with Women's World Banking (WWB), a global non-profit committed to giving low-income women access to financial tools for long-term financial security and prosperity, to roll out the third and broader phase of the 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' program across 25 districts of Uttar Pradesh and all 13 districts of Uttarakhand.**

- **The third and largest phase of 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' will reach out to a wide base of existing Jan Dhan customers of Bank of Baroda through financial literacy camps and business correspondents, to disseminate the benefit of savings and provide access to formal credit by way of PMJDY Overdraft facility and other social security schemes. The program will also train and work with over 2000 business correspondents (BC) and 1000 BC Sakhis (women business correspondents) to empower them to help women customers in their regions.**

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- The initial two pilot projects of 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' were conducted with 170 Bank of Baroda branches (with over 650 BCs and over 100 BC Sakhis) across Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh between Jan 2020 to Jan 2022.
- Bank of Baroda is one of the leading commercial banks in India. At 63.97% stake, it is majorly owned by the Government of India.

82. Recently the Reserve Bank of India 11 July imposed a penalty on three cooperatives banks. Which of the following cooperatives banks was not on the list?

- A. Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank
- B. Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd
- C. National Central Cooperative Bank Limited
- D. Kolkata State Co-operative Bank Ltd**
- E. None of these

RBI penalises 3 co-op banks including The Nasik Merchant's Co-op Bank

The Reserve Bank on Monday said it has imposed penalty on three cooperatives banks, including Maharashtra-based The Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank, for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. In a statement, the RBI said a penalty of Rs 37.50 lakh has been imposed on The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank, Mumbai for non-compliance with the directions issued by Nabard on 'Frauds - Guidelines for Classification, Reporting and Monitoring'.

- The Reserve Bank of India on 11 July imposed a penalty on three cooperatives banks, including Maharashtra-based Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank, for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- The banks on which the RBI imposed penalties include – Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd in Nashik, Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd in Mumbai, and National Central Cooperative Bank Limited in Bettiah.
- In three separate statements, the RBI fined ₹50 lakhs on Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd, ₹37,50,000 on Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd, and ₹2 lakh on National Central Cooperative Bank Limited respectively.
- Elaborating more details, the RBI statement said that the fine on Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd was imposed for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of deposits with other banks and Interest Rate on Deposits.
- The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd will have to pay a fine for non-compliance with the directions issued by NABARD on 'Frauds - Guidelines for Classification, Reporting, and Monitoring'.
- While, on National Central Cooperative Bank Limited, RBI imposed a fine for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on the depositor education and awareness fund and, Know Your Customer (KYC).

83. Recently in July Prasar Bharati India's public broadcaster, unveiled its new logo. Who is the CEO of Prasar Bharati?

- A. Apurva Chandra
- B. Mayank Kumar Agrawal**

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- C. DPS Negi
- D. Pawan Munjal
- E. None of these

- **Prasar Bharati India's public broadcaster unveiled its new logo on 11th July 2022 & with that added a new chapter in its glorious history.**

- **The new logo of Prasar Bharti is replete with rich meaning. In the new logo symbol for Prasar Bharati, an autonomous statutory body under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the elements in the central circle and map of India signify the service of trust, security, and perfection for the common man.**

Jul 11, 2022, 7:45PM

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra unveils new logo of Prasar Bharati

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra today unveiled new logo of country's Public Service Broadcaster, Prasar Bharati.

In the new logo, map of India signify the service of trust, security and perfection to the nation. Its dark moderate blue colour represents both sky and sea which is associated with open space, freedom, intuition, imagination, inspiration and sensitivity. Blue also represents meanings of depth, trust, loyalty, sincerity, wisdom, confidence, stability, faith and intelligence.

The blue colour also pays tribute to the Indian ethos and traditions associated with religious figures, mythological characters and in the Indian miniature paintings.

On the occasion of unveiling of a new logo, Prasar Bharti's Member D. P. S. Negi opined that the new logo of Prasar Bharati is defined as a blend of both AIR and Doordarshan. During the unveiling of logo, the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati Mayank Agrawal, Senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharati were present.

Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body set up by an act of Parliament. It comprises Doordarshan and All India Radio.



- **The organization started as All India Radio (AIR) in the past and Doordarshan (DD) was born to cater to television services later and finally came Prasar Bharati (PB) by the enactment of an act by the parliament, which is visualized in the logo identity as emerging and evolving from the center.**
- **Prasar Bharti's Member (Personnel) Shri DPS Negi opined that in the earlier format, the corporate office of Prasar Bharati used both AIR and Doordarshan logos on both sides of the written text 'PRASAR BHARATI' along with the Indian emblem in the middle.**
- **Headquartered in New Delhi, Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament. It comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio (AIR), which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.**

84. Recently _____ announced to tie up with four more insurers for the distribution of their insurance products in the life, health, and general sectors.

- A. Union Bank Of India
- B. City Union Bank
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. Yes Bank
- E. None of these

City Union Bank to ink pacts with more insurers

CHENNAI

City Union Bank (CUB) said it would tie up with three more insurers for distribution of insurance products in life, health and general sectors. On Monday, CUB announced a tie-up with Care Health Insurance. Over the next few days, the bank said, it would ink pacts with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd. and Aditya Birla Health Insurance.

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- Private sector lender City Union Bank (CUB) is likely to tie up with four more insurers for the distribution of their insurance products in the life, health, and general sectors.
- Altogether, it had a tie-up with eight insurers – three each in life [LIC, Tata AIA, and Bajaj Alliance] and health [Star Health, Aditya Birla, and Care Insurance] and two in general insurance [Shriram General and Royal Sundaram].
- The bank announced a tie-up with Shriram General and Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and on Monday with Care Health Insurance. The bank already has tie-ups with LIC and Star Health & Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Over the next few days, the bank said it would ink pacts with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd., and in the non-life sector with Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd. and Aditya Birla Health Insurance.

85. Recently **Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd** announced an alliance with _____ to offer life and health insurance solutions to the bank's consumers.

- A. Union Bank Of India
- B. City Union Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. State Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd and City Union Bank (CUB) have announced an alliance to offer life and health insurance solutions to the bank's consumers.
- This partnership will help CUB consumers get to benefit from Tata AIA Life's products in terms of insurance, savings and investment, retirement, and health through the bank are over 700 branches.
- N Kamakodi, MD & CEO CUB.

86. Recently **UIDAI** has launched a new mobile app named _____ to perform face authentication through mobile app from anywhere and at any time

- A. AadhaarFaceRD**
- B. AadhaarxRD
- C. AadhaarDataRD
- D. AadhaarIdentityRD
- E. None of these

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- *Aadhaar holders no longer need to carry physical identification by using Iris and Fingerprint scans by physically visiting their local Aadhaar enrollment center, as UIDAI has launched a new mobile app named "AadhaarFaceRd" to perform face authentication through mobile app from anywhere and at any time.*
- *Aadhaar holders' identities, including their Aadhaar numbers and any demographic or biometric data, can be stored in the Central Identity Data Repository using face authentication, according to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).*
- *Through this verification, an Aadhaar holder's real identity is validated and recorded in the databases of UIDAI which was captured at the time of Aadhaar enrolment.*
- *Residents are now using the #Aadhaar Face Authentication feature by downloading the #UIDAI #RDApp, which can be used for various #Aadhaar Authentication Apps like #JeevanPraman, #PDS, #Scholarship schemes, #COWIN, #FarmerWelfare schemes.*
- *Aadhaar FaceRD App captures a live person's face for Aadhaar authentication using Face Authentication Technology.*
- *Aadhaar Face Authentication technology has been developed in-house by UIDAI.*
- *As per the details provided by UIDAI, through Aadhaar FaceRD Aadhaar holders can use face authentication for various Aadhaar applications such as:*
- *Jeevan Pramaan, Ration Distribution (PDS), Co-Win Vaccination App, Scholarship schemes, Farmer welfare schemes.*
- *Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):*
- *It was established as a statutory authority under the Aadhaar Act 2016.*
- *It works under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).*
- *It has so far issued Aadhaar numbers to more than 132 crore residents.*
- *Dr. Saurabh Garg is the Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India.*

87. Recently in July *Tata Power-backed wholly-owned subsidiary TP Saurya (TPSL) received the 'Letter of Award' from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for setting up a 600 MW hybrid (wind and solar) power project in*

- A. *Odisha*
- B. *Karnataka*
- C. *Uttar Pradesh*
- D. *Rajasthan*
- E. *None of these*

- *Tata Power-backed wholly-owned subsidiary TP Saurya (TPSL) has received the 'Letter of Award' from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for setting up a 600 MW hybrid (wind and solar) power project in Karnataka.*

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- *The subsidiary received the LoA through tariff-based competitive bidding followed by an e-Reverse auction. Tata Power on Wednesday said the project will be commissioned within 24 months from the PPA execution date.*
- *Renewable hybrid projects are a game changer in India as they can generate round-the-clock power with high-reliability levels to help meet the country's decarbonization goals.*
- *Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD Tata Power.*

88. Recently a selection panel of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has selected _____ *new Insurance Ombudsmen for various centers across the country.*

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 8**
- D. 10
- E. None of these

- *A selection panel of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has selected eight new Insurance Ombudsmen for various centers across the country.*
- *Atul Sahai, former CMD, New India Assurance (NIA) has been selected for Lucknow along with Manoj K Parida, a retired IAS officer for Bhubaneswar, Bimbadhar Pradhan (retired IAS officer for Noida), Sumeet Jerath (retired IAS officer for Delhi), C Vikas Rao (for Ahmedabad), Kiran Sahdev (LIC, Kolkata), Susmita Mukherjee (a former director, NIA for Patna), Sunil Jain (retired principal commissioner, Customs, Pune) have been selected by the selection panel.*
- *40 applicants were interviewed over three days last week and out of eight vacancies, four have gone to civil servants, two each for LIC officials and NIA officials. After due diligence by the government authorities, MoF will issue orders of appointment to the selected candidates.*
- *An Ombudsman is an officer appointed by the Government of India. At the moment, 17 Insurance ombudsmen are working in different parts of the world.*
- *An Ombudsman can entertain a complaint for a maximum amount of Rs 20 lakhs.*

8 new Insurance Ombudsmen selected

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 11

A SELECTION panel of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has selected eight new Insurance Ombudsmen for various centres across the country.

Atul Sahai, former CMD, New India Assurance (NIA) has been selected for Lucknow along with Manoj K Parida, a retired IAS officer for Bhubaneswar, Bimbadhar Pradhan (retired IAS officer for Noida), Sumeet Jerath (retired IAS officer for Delhi), C Vikas Rao (for Ahmedabad), Kiran Sahdev (LIC, Kolkata), Susmita Mukherjee (a former director, NIA for Patna), Sunil Jain (retired principal commissioner,

After due diligence by government authorities, the Finance Ministry will issue orders of appointment to selected candidates

Customs, Pune) have been selected by the selection panel.

There were 40 applicants who were interviewed over three days last week and out of eight vacancies, four have gone to civil servants, two each for LIC officials and NIA officials. After due diligence by the government authorities, MoF will issue orders of appointment to the selected candidates.

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89. According to the most recent additional data from the *Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020 - June 2021*, which state has the highest proportion of women working as legislators and managers?

- A. Assam
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Nagaland
- D. Mizoram**
- E. None of these

- According to the Govt. survey, Mizoram has the highest proportion of women working as legislators and managers.
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020-June 2021, Mizoram also has the highest proportion of women working in managerial positions (40.8%), followed by Sikkim (32.5%) and Meghalaya (31%).
- The data showed that the proportion of female workers in the general positions working in managerial positions at All India levels was 18 percent.
- Similarly, the proportion of female workers to male workers as legislators, senior officials, and managers was 22.2 percent.

At 70.9%, Mizoram leads woman-man ratio in sr jobs

Sikkim, Manipur & Meghalaya Also On The List Of Top 5 States

Surojit.Gupta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Mizoram had the highest 70.9% ratio of female-to-male workers who were working as legislators, senior officials and managers and also the highest proportion of women occupying managerial jobs. Nearly all the northeastern states, barring Nagaland, have strong double-digit representation in senior level jobs, according to the latest additional data in Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020-June 2021.

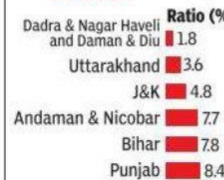
Sikkim with 48.2% and Manipur at 45.1% made up the top three states. Among the top five states in the category, Andhra Pradesh recorded 43%. The other northeastern state among the top five was Meghalaya with 44.8%. Assam had 16.1% while Nagaland had a ratio of 9.1%. The all India ratio for females to male workers, working as leg-

NE STATES SHOW THE WAY

Top five states with highest ratio of female to male workers working as legislators, senior officials and managers



...the states and UT's at the bottom



Top states with the highest ratio of female to male workers working in managerial positions



islators, senior officials and managers, was at 22.8%.

There were several states and Union Territories which had a sharply lower proportion. Among the larger states and Union Territories with a

low ratio were Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir; Bihar, Punjab and Andaman and Nicobar. Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu had the lowest ratio of 1.8%.

In terms of senior mana-

gerial jobs, Mizoram again topped the charts with 40.8% followed by Sikkim with 32.5% and Meghalaya at 31%. Here again, Andhra Pradesh was among the top five with a ratio of 30.4%. Traditionally, northeastern states have had a larger proportion of women in senior managerial jobs. But what is surprising is that Punjab, which had figured among the top states in this category in 2021, recorded a ratio of only 7.5%.

Experts said traditionally the northeastern state have fared much better in terms of female workers participation and jobs at the managerial and senior levels. "It has got to do with education, culture and gender sensitivity. For other states to follow there has to be social transformation across the spectrum," said Pronab Sen, former chief statistician of India and an eminent economist.

- According to the data, numerous states/union territories had lower proportions of women working as legislators, senior officials, and managers. These are Uttarakhand (3.6 percent), Jammu and Kashmir (4.8 percent), Bihar (7.8 percent), Punjab (8.4 percent), etc.
- Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (1.8%) had the lowest ratio.

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- In April 2017, the National Statistical Office (NSO) launched PLFS.
- 90. In which of the following cities has Union Agriculture Minister launched the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the e-NAM on the sidelines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference?**
- Bengaluru**
 - Ahmedabad
 - Lucknow
 - Bhopal
 - None of these
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
 - He launched the POP under e-NAM on the sidelines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - An equity grant of more than Rs 37 crore was also released to 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
 - With the introduction of POP, farmers will be able to sell crops outside the state borders.
 - 41 service providers from different platforms are covered under POP. The POP can be accessed through the e-NAM mobile app.
 - E-NAM mobile app can be downloaded from Google Play Store.
 - Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India is organizing the National Conference of

Nine private sector online trading portals to join upgraded e-NAM

Farm Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to launch platform-of-platforms today

PRASHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, July 13

As the Centre is set to widen the scope of its online trading platform e-NAM, where 41 other entities, including 9 trading platforms, will offer their services, electronic trading is likely to get a major boost. However, the success of the new platform hinges on reduced dependency on agricultural produce marketing committee (APMC) yards by making it available for farmers outside mandis.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will launch the "Platform-of-Platforms (PoPs) under e-NAM" during the national conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers scheduled for July 14-15 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The new initiative will also offer transportation, warehousing, quality assaying, storage,

fintech, sorting and grading, and agri-advisory services. The Centre was working on this initiative over the past year for widening the participation of all the stakeholders as this is considered to bring in the next level of revolution in agri-produce marketing. "PoPs will facilitate the farmers to sell their produce beyond their State boundaries. This will enhance farmers' accessibility digitally to multiple numbers of markets, buyers, and service providers, and to bring transparency in trade transactions with the intent to improve price discovery mechanism for better price realization of farm produce," the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement.

Better potential
This may help remove one of the major bottlenecks in online

trading - the quality guarantee of the crops - as assaying and certification agencies have also been empanelled. As many as eight companies have agreed to offer their assaying services through the POPs so that a trader sitting at a distance can be assured of the quality when purchasing through the portal, sources said. "While e-NAM is currently restricted to 1,000 mandis, owned by Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), the coming together of these private sector online portals will definitely take trading out of APMC mandis' boundary. But, the Centre has to make it effective together with State governments as trading volume of these private platforms were also not that big, whereas the potential is better after they join the government initiative," said a former senior official of the agriculture ministry.

After the farm laws, which were repealed in November last year, were introduced by the



Electronic mandis and APMCs can work side by side to grow the market. Farmers will have dual choices, resulting in better efficiencies, improved customer service and scientific selling methods.

AMITH AGARWAL,
Co-founder and CEO
of Agribazaar.

Centre, several States such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have allowed traders to purchase directly from farmers outside mandis through unified licence, though in most of the States the

mandi fees are levied even if purchased outside. While Nebulla Innovations and National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC) will provide quality assaying services, there are some companies which will provide multiple services, such as Star Agribazaar Technology which will offer services in trading, market information and agri inputs.

Dual choices for farmers
"Electronic mandis and APMCs can work side by side to grow the market. Farmers will have dual choices, resulting in better efficiencies, improved customer service and scientific selling methods," said Amith Agarwal, co-founder and CEO of Agribazaar platform. With mobile penetration and internet connectivity, electronic mandis will complement the physical APMC mandis in ensuring that the farmers get better and faster remuneration for the produce, he said appreciating the move to launch PoPs.

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91. Recently _____ to become *world's first intermodal partner of Star Alliance from August 1 .*

- A. **Deutsche Bahn**
- B. Nolan Transport Group
- C. Werner Enterprises
- D. SBB CFF FFS.
- E. None of these

- *A rail network will soon be a member of the world's largest airline alliance when German national railway company, Deutsche Bahn, boards Star Alliance on August 1, 2022.*
- *German mega carrier Lufthansa has for years been issuing multi-modal boarding cards with cities close to busy airports in the country like Frankfurt being served by trains.*
- *As of August 1, Deutsche Bahn (DB) will be the world's first Intermodal Partner of Star Alliance.*
- *With this, DB and the aviation industry are sending another strong signal for the environment-friendly evolution of the travel industry. Under the new cooperation, DB customers and passengers of Star Alliance member airlines will be able to start or end their journey comfortably on the environment-friendly train.*
- *Germany is the first market and DB is the world's first partner in the new Star Alliance initiative,*
- *The new partnership between DB and Star Alliance builds on the Lufthansa Express Rail program.*

92. Recently in July _____ *industry-first initiative QR Code Enabled Services* to empower more customers to self-service their needs with immediate closure.

- A. Bandhan Bank
- B. India Post Payments Bank
- C. IDFC First bank
- D. **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**
- E. None of these

- *To empower more customers to self-service their needs with immediate closure, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, has launched QR Code Enabled Services.*
- *This industry-first initiative is simple and safe and provides customers access to 15 popular services on their phones. All the customer has to do is scan the QR Code available in the company's branches and self-service their life insurance policy.*
- *The QR-Code Enabled service, a unique digital self-service feature, is available across all 509 branches of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and is designed to offer seamless service delivery to customers.*

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93. Recently in July _____ collaborated with *Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS)* to co-create a master's program in management studies in digital payments for its employees.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. Bank Of India
- D. National Payments Corporation of India**
- E. None of these

- *The National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) said it has collaborated with Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS) to co-create a master's program in management studies in digital payments for its employees.*
- *The course is launched under NPCI's "Learn while you Earn" higher education program with its first batch commenced today. The program aims to integrate aspects of technology, and finance.*
- *National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India*

94. Recently _____ announced signing an *MOU (memorandum of understanding)* with the *Indian Air Force* under its '*Power Salute*' initiative.

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

- *Axis Bank announced signing an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the Indian Air Force.*
- *According to the press release, the bank will offer a 'defense service salary package' with best-in-class benefits and features under its 'Power Salute' initiative.*
- *Through this Defence Service Salary package, the bank will offer benefits to all ranks of Indian Air Force personnel including the veterans, and cadets/recruits.*
- *Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.*

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95. Recently _____ announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for Salary Savings Accounts.

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

- Bank of Baroda on Wednesday announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for Salary Savings Accounts.
- Under the MoU, the Bank of Baroda will offer Baroda Military Salary Package for Uniformed Personnel and Veterans of the Indian Air Force.
- The MoU covers special benefits including enhanced free comprehensive Personal Accident Insurance cover (PAI), attractive offers on Retail Loans, and a host of other benefits.
- The Baroda Military Salary Package includes lucrative benefits like free comprehensive Personal Accident Insurance cover up to Rs 105 lakh for serving personnel and up to Rs 70 lakh for Veterans, Air Accident Insurance covers up to Rs 100 lakh for serving personnel, lifetime free Debit Card.

Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Air Force

BANK OF BARODA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for Salary Savings Accounts. Under the MoU, Bank of Baroda will offer Baroda Military Salary Package for uniformed personnel and veterans of the Indian Air Force. The MoU covers special benefits including enhanced free comprehensive personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹105 lakh for serving personnel and up to ₹70 lakh for veterans, air accident insurance cover up to ₹100 lakh for serving personnel, Yoddha Retail Loans at interest rate independent of CIBIL based pricing and other attractive loan offers.

96. Recently as per UNCTAD latest Global Trade Update the global trade jumped nearly 15% in the first quarter of 2022 to _____.

- A. \$6.7 trillion
- B. \$8.7 trillion
- C. \$7.7 trillion**
- D. \$9.7 trillion
- E. None of these

Global Trade Rises 15% in Q1 of 2022

Rising interest rates, winding down of stimulus packages to impact remaining 3 quarters: UNCTAD

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The global trade jumped nearly 15% in the first quarter of 2022 to \$7.7 trillion, fuelled by high commodity prices compared to the first quarter of 2021, but is expected to slow down in the rest of the year. Rising interest rates and the winding down of economic stimulus packages will likely have a negative impact for the remaining three quarters, UNCTAD said in its latest Global Trade Update. The global trade in the first quarter of 2022 was about \$1 trillion more compared to the first quarter of 2021 and about \$250 million higher relative

The Ukraine war is starting to influence global trade, largely through increases in prices, says the report

The global merchandise trade jumped 25% from a year ago to \$6.1 trillion and was 3.6% more compared to the fourth quarter of 2021. The services trade

to Q4 2021, fuelled by rising commodity prices, as trade volumes have increased to a much lower extent, it said.

"The war in Ukraine is starting to influence international trade, largely through increases in prices," the report says.

rose by 22% annually to \$1.6 trillion while it increased by 1.7% compared to the fourth quarter of 2021.

According to the report, though global trade is expected to remain positive it has continued to slow during the second quarter of 2022.

"The rising interest rates and the winding down of economic stimulus packages will likely have a negative impact on trade volumes for the rest of 2022," the report said, adding that volatility in commodity prices

and geopolitical factors will also continue to make trade developments uncertain. "The war in Ukraine is affecting international trade by putting further upward pressure on international prices of energy and primary commodities," it said.

In the short term, because of the inelastic global demand for food and energy products, rising food and energy prices would likely result in higher trade values, and marginally lower trade volumes, it said.



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- The value of global trade rose to a record \$7.7 trillion in Q1 2022, an increase of about \$1 trillion relative to Q1 2021, according to UNCTAD’s Global Trade Update published on 7 July.
- The growth, which represents a rise of about \$250 billion relative to Q4 2021, is fuelled by rising commodity prices, as trade volumes have increased to a much lower extent.
- Though expected to remain positive, trade growth has continued to slow during Q2 2022.
- “The war in Ukraine is starting to influence international trade, largely through increases in prices,” the report says.
- The global merchandise trade jumped 25% from a year ago to \$6.1 trillion and was 3.6% more compared to the fourth quarter of 2021.
- The services trade rose by 22% annually to \$1.6 trillion while it increased by 1.7% compared to the fourth quarter of 2021.

97. Which of the following has developed India’s first floating CNG station was dedicated by PM Narendra Modi to the nation to run 500 boats on environment-friendly Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) from petrol and diesel.

- A. NTPC
- B. GAIL Ltd**
- C. IOCL
- D. GRSE
- E. None of these

PM dedicates 500 CNG-run boats to nation

First-of-its-kind initiative in India by GAIL to run boats on the clean fuel

AGENCIES
Varanasi

In a far-reaching move to make the holy river Ganga pollution free, Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 7 dedicated to the Nation 500 boats converted to run on environment-friendly Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) from petrol and diesel.

These boats are being supplied CNG from India’s first

floating CNG station built by GAIL (India) Limited at Namoo Ghat here.

The conversion of the boats running on petrol/diesel to run on CNG also was carried out under GAIL’s Corporate Social Responsibility initiative in association with Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN). VNN appointed Varanasi Smart City as coordinator of the project while Mecon Limited is providing engineering

and consultancy services for conversion of the boats to run on CNG.

Many of the boats present across the various ghats of river Ganga are used by tourists when they visit the holy city Varanasi. However, leakage and exhaust from conventional fuels is a major concern which affects the water quality and marine life of the river Ganga.

Conversion to CNG will



not only reduce pollution but the resultant savings on fuel will lead to better economic condition of boatmen.

- In another first Varanasi takes pride in the first floating CNG fuel station on the banks of the Ganges. PM Modi dedicated 500 CNG-run boats to the Nation. A first-of-its-kind initiative in India by GAIL to run boats on clean fuel in Varanasi on July 7th.
- Modi is dedicated to the Nation’s 500 boats converted to run on environment-friendly Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) from petrol and diesel.
- These boats are being supplied CNG from India’s first floating CNG station built by GAIL (India) Limited at Namoo Ghat here.
- The conversion of the boats running on petrol/diesel to run on CNG also was carried out under GAIL’s Corporate Social Responsibility initiative in association with Varanasi Nagar Nigam. VNN appointed Varanasi Smart City as coordinator of the project while Mecon India is providing engineering and consultancy services for the conversion of the boats to run on CNG.

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- Many of the boats present across the various ghats of river Ganga are used by tourists when they visit the holy city Varanasi. However, leakage and exhaust from conventional fuels is a major concern that affects the water quality and marine life of the river Ganga.

98. Consider the following statement regarding the newest cargo airline Pradhaan Air Express.

1. It is Set up by Nipun Anand, founder of airline general sales agency Zeal Global Corporation.
2. India's brand new all-cargo airline will begin commercial operation with the world's first A320 converted freighter.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Upcoming cargo airline Pradhaan Air Express said it has received the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the civil aviation ministry and is expected to begin commercial operation later this year.
- Set up by Nipun Anand, founder of airline general sales agency Zeal Global Corporation, the Delhi-based cargo carrier plans to start its services with an A320 converted freighter which is expected to arrive in Delhi later this month.
- India's brand new all-cargo airline will begin commercial operations later this year with the world's first A320 converted freighter.
- The setting up of the new cargo airline endorses the government's vision to achieve 10 million tonnes of annual cargo throughput by 2030 and pushes the Indian air cargo market in the global ranking.
- The conversion of the aircraft, which has been leased from Vaayu Group/ Astral Aviation, was done by Elbe Flugzeugwerke (EFW), a joint venture of ST Engineering and Airbus, at its facility in Singapore.
- Pradhan Air Express will be India's first airline to operate an Airbus narrow-body freighter, which offers a payload of 21 tonnes with the palletized main deck.

99. Recently The Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) has partnered with _____ to open the country's first dedicated branch for startups (SBI Startup Hub branch) in Koramangala of Karnataka.

Pradhaan Air Express eyes 2022 launch

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
MUMBAI

Upcoming cargo airline Pradhaan Air Express on Wednesday said it has received the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the civil aviation ministry and is expected to begin commercial operation later this year.

Set up by Nipun Anand, founder of airline general sales agency Zeal Global Corporation, the Delhi-based cargo carrier plans to start its services with an A320 converted freighter which is expected to arrive in Delhi later this month.

India's brand new all-cargo airline will begin commercial operations later this year with the world's first A320 converted freighter, the company said. The freighter will offer charter facility to Indian shippers and freight forwarders on domestic and international routes, Pradhaan Air Express said.

"We thank our lessor for having confidence in us to offer the world's first A320 converted freighter for the Indian market. This will secure dedicated cargo capacity, boosting the trade's self-reliance," said Anand, founder-CEO, Pradhaan Air Express.

The air cargo market in India has an untapped domestic and international potential fuelled by various initiatives to become a global hub for cargo services, said Vipul Bhalla, CEO, Pradhaan Air Express.

"We aim to make our small contribution to the big dreams of the Indian cargo industry by offering tailor-made solutions with on-demand charters, he added.

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- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. State Bank Of India**
- C. Karnataka Vikas Gramin Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) and State Bank of India Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which enables SBI to open its country's first dedicated branch for startups (SBI Startup Hub branch) in Koramangala. The branch will be inaugurated in August.**
- **The collaboration will enable startups across the state to access banking facilities, funding, and credit facilities. Rs 2 crore collateral-free financial assistance will be given to startup entrepreneurs.**
- **As per this MoU, SBI will work towards creating and enabling a mechanism for startups recognized by the Government of Karnataka and supported by KDEM for availing time-bound credit based on the purchase order.**
- **KDEM will establish a Fintech Innovation Hub at Mangaluru focusing on the Fintech area and SBI has agreed to be one of the partner organizations for the planned innovation hub sharing knowledge and providing financial support.**

SBI signs pact with Karnataka to open India's first branch for startups

The collaboration between SBI and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission will enable startups across the state to access banking facilities, funding, credit facilities.

By: **Express News Service** | Bengaluru |
 Updated: July 10, 2022 6:51:02 am



The collaboration will enable startups across the state to access banking facilities, funding, credit facilities. Rs 2 crore collateral-free financial assistance will be given to startup entrepreneurs. (Express File)

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) and State Bank of India Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which enables SBI to open its country's first dedicated branch for startups (SBI Startup Hub branch) in Koramangala. The branch will be inaugurated in August.

The collaboration will enable startups across the state to access banking facilities, funding, credit facilities. Rs 2 crore collateral-free financial assistance will be given to startup entrepreneurs.

Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Minister for IT/BT said the MoU will boost the prevailing startup ecosystem in the state. He announced that SBI will start similar branches in Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Hubballi-Dharwad clusters in the next six months.



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 12 hours ago

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One highlight.
Two stories under the light.

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- *The state government has envisaged helping startups by making use of the Union Government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme to provide loans of up to Rs 2 crore for micro and small enterprises.*
- *CGTMSE was launched by the Union government to make collateral-free credit to the micro and small enterprises sector.*

100. Recently _____ announced the launch of its audio based chat app called the Open Doors.

- A. Paytm
- B. Truecaller**
- C. Meta
- D. Whatsapp
- E. None of these

- *The Scandinavian caller identification service company, Truecaller has announced Open Doors, a new real-time audio chat app. The new app has been developed by Truecaller's teams in Stockholm and India.*
- *The company announced that Open Doors will be available globally free of cost via Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The company claims that it works seamlessly between Android and iOS.*
- *Truecaller users can download Open Doors and simply sign in with a single tap to start using the app.*
- *Open Doors allows its users to join and leave conversations at will. The app notifies your friends when you join or start a conversation.*
- *Truecaller added that the user interface of Open Doors has English, Hindi, Spanish, Latin, and French languages available. The company added that more languages could be added later on user demand.*

101. Recently in July _____ Bank announced an expansion in its state-of-the-art banking services with the launch of its video banking services for customers.

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

- *Fincare Small Finance Bank announced an expansion in its state-of-the-art banking services with the launch of its video banking services for customers.*

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- Aimed at reducing waiting lines and offering location agnostic banking services, the Bank launched the video banking platform whereby customers can connect face-to-face with a customer service representative of the bank and also chat, simply by initiating a video call using the Bank's WhatsApp channel.
- The channel supports an increased drive towards modern, digital means of banking with elements of higher personalization, quick and convenient, with the pleasure of a full interaction without having to visit a physical branch.
- Fincare Small Finance Bank is a new-age bank with a Digital-first DNA. It offers modern banking services through banking outlets, ATM, WhatsApp, Mobile, Internet Banking, Video Banking, and BOTs.
- Fincare Small Finance Bank commenced banking operations on 21st July 2017 under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, after receiving the final license from the RBI in May 2017. Fincare SFB has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, published in the Gazette of India dated April 13, 2019.

102. **India Mortgage Guarantee Corp. (IMGC)** has partnered with _____ to offer mortgage guarantee backed home loan products for salaried and non-salaried customers.

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

- **India Mortgage Guarantee Corp. (IMGC)** has partnered with **RBL Bank** to offer mortgage guarantee backed home loan products for salaried and non-salaried customers.
- This partnership with IMGC will help RBL Bank extend mortgage guarantee-backed home loans to new borrower segments through its network of over 500 branches across the country.
- The combined expertise would enable a compelling value proposition for its customers and help create a conducive lending environment for early homeownership by ensuring timely disbursement of housing credit and longer tenure to customers.
- **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC):** It is the first Mortgage Guarantee Company in India. It started operation in 2014.
- **RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai and founded in 1943.**

Home loan partnership



India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) has announced its strategic partnership with RBL Bank to offer innovative mortgage guarantee backed home loan products for salaried and non-salaried prospective customers. This partnership with IMGC will help RBL Bank extend such home loans to new borrower segments through its network of over 500 branches across the country. The combined expertise is expected to enable a compelling value proposition for its customers and help create a conducive lending environment for early homeownership by ensuring timely disbursement of housing credit and longer tenure to customers, a statement said.

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103. Recently *Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with _____ to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the lender's customers across their 727 branches.*

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

- *Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with City Union Bank to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the lender's customers across their 727 branches.*
- *Through this partnership, City Union Bank customers will be able to fulfill their long-term financial goals by investing in Bajaj Allianz Life's value-packed products ranging from term, savings, retirement, investment solutions, and more.*
- *City Union Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu. The bank was initially named Kumbakonam Bank Limited and was incorporated on 31 October 1904. The bank preferred the role of a regional bank in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu.*

104. Recently _____ *has become the first Indian renewable energy company to refinance dollar-denominated bonds.*

- A. Azure Power
- B. Tata Poer
- C. ReNew Poer**
- D. Adani Green Power
- E. None of these

- *Renew Energy Global plc 'India's leading renewable energy company, announced that it has successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds with amortizing project debt from an Indian nonbank financial company, becoming the first Indian renewable energy company to do so.*

ReNew becomes first Indian RE firm to refinance dollar-denominated bonds

ReNew on Tuesday announced that it has become the first Indian renewable energy company to refinance dollar-denominated bonds. "ReNew Energy Global plc (ReNew), India's leading renewable energy company, has successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds with amortising project debt from an Indian non-bank financial company, becoming the first Indian renewable energy company to do so," a company statement said.

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- *ReNew issued bonds worth US\$ 525 million in 2019, which were set to mature in 2024. By refinancing the dollar-denominated bonds ahead of time, ReNew has shown strong and continued access to domestic debt capital, as well as an ability to proactively manage refinance risk.*
- *This refinancing has cut the bonds' INR interest cost by 200 basis points, with the interest rate fixed for three years while pushing out the maturity to the end of the fiscal year 2027. The rate reduction, rate fixing, and tenor extension have taken place against the backdrop of a rising interest rate environment in the broader markets. This pre-emptive refinancing mitigates near-term refinancing risk for bonds and provides liquidity to bond investors.*
- *ReNew is one of the largest renewable energy Independent Power Producers in India and globally. ReNew develops, builds, owns, and operates utility-scale wind and solar energy projects, and hydro projects.*

105. Recently The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on **Ola Financial Services Private Limited** for non-compliance with certain provisions related to pre-paid payment instruments and Know Your Customer norms.

- A. Rs 1.56 Cr
- B. Rs 1.68 Cr**
- C. Rs 2.56 Cr
- D. Rs 1.30 Cr
- E. None of these

- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.68 crores on Ola Financial Services Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions related to pre-paid payment instruments and Know Your Customer norms.*
- *The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,67,80,000 on Ola Financial Services Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on PPIs dated 27 August 2021 and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016.*
- *The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,67,80,000 on Ola Financial Services Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on PPIs dated 27 August 2021 and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016.*
- *The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,67,80,000 on Ola Financial Services Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on PPIs dated 27 August 2021 and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016.*

RBI slaps ₹1.68-cr penalty on Ola Financial Services

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, July 12

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1.68 crore on Ola Financial Services for non-compliance with certain provisions of know your customer (KYC) norms, the central bank said in a press release. The RBI has imposed the penalty under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which gives the central bank the authority to impose penalty on companies not complying with norms.

“It was observed that the entity was non-compliant with the directions issued by RBI on KYC requirements,” the RBI said in a statement.

A notice was issued to the entity advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions, it added. “After considering the entity's response, RBI concluded that the aforesaid charge of non-compliance with RBI directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty,” the RBI said.

Ola Financial Services, a part of taxi-hailing platform Ola, provides e-wallet services under the brand name Ola Money. The wallet is issued by Zipcash in co-branding with Ola. The company also issues credit cards and offers postpaid services.

Last week, the RBI imposed a fine of ₹5.72 crore on Federal Bank, ₹70 lakh on Bank of India, ₹1 crore each on IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance.

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106. Recently in July _____ unveiled India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell.

- A. **Ola Electric**
- B. Tata Motors
- C. Asani Power
- D. Azure Power
- E. None of these

Ola Electric unveils indigenously made Li-ion cell

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Ola Electric on Tuesday unveiled the country's first indigenously developed lithium ion cell.

The Bengaluru-based two-wheeler maker said it will begin the mass production of the cell – NMC 2170, from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023.

The use of specific chemistry and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell, the company said in a statement.



The cell has been developed keeping the indigenous conditions at the core, it added. "A cell is the heart of the EV revolution. Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research center that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and af-

fordable EV products in the world with speed," Ola Electric Founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal noted.

The first indigenously made Li-ion cell is also the first of many in the company's cell technology roadmap, he added. "Having a robust local EV ecosystem is important for India to become a global EV hub," Aggarwal said.

Ola Electric noted that it is committed to invest in core R&D to create indigenous advanced cell technologies, strengthen manufacturing capabilities and create an integrated Ola Electric vehicles hub.

- **Electric two-wheeler maker Ola Electric on Tuesday unveiled India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell.**
- **The Bengaluru-based company said it will begin the mass production of the cell -- NMC 2170, from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by next year.**
- **The two-wheeler maker said that the use of specific chemicals and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell.**
- **The cell has been developed keeping the indigenous conditions at the core.**
- **Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research center that will enable us to scale and innovate faster and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed.**
- **The company was recently allocated 20GWh capacity under the ACC PLI scheme by the Government of India for developing advanced cells in the country and is setting up a cell manufacturing facility with an initial capacity of up to 20 GWh, localizing the most critical part of the EV value chain.**
- **Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August last year and has set up the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturing facility in the country.**

107. Recently in July _____ and Common Services Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, have partnered to provide over 5 lakh CSCs access to a select range of insurance products.

- A. **Star Health Allied Insurance**
- B. HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- C. Kotak General Insurance
- D. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- E. None of these

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- *Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. and Common Services Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, have partnered to provide over 5 lakh CSCs access to a select range of Star Health insurance products.*
- *These products have been designed to meet the needs of rural customers across the tier-II, tier-III cities, and rural markets pan India.*
- *The Common Services Centers (CSC) is one of the mission mode projects under the Digital India Programme.*
- *This tie-up with CSC is a huge step toward our endeavor of providing easy access and more choice of health insurance products that meet the specific needs of the people in rural India. CSC's robust network and presence across India make them an ideal distribution partner for this initiative.*
- *Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd is an Indian multinational health insurance company headquartered in Tamil Nadu, Chennai.*

108. Recently in July _____ partnered with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) at UNICEF to expand access to employment opportunities for students.

- A. Indian Council of Cultural Relations
- B. Prasar Bharti
- C. Power Grid Corporation of India
- D. Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University**
- E. None of these

- *Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) has partnered with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) at UNICEF to expand access to employment opportunities for students.*
- *DSEU and UNICEF have introduced ' Career Awareness Sessions ' for students at DSEU to make them more aware of the existing job portals and thereby enhance their accessibility to job roles best suited for them, as part of the joint venture.*
- *These detailed webinar sessions include a walkthrough of job portals, application processes, and navigation of these portals, which are facilitated by YuWaah through its network of job portal partners including the National Career Service portal by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Apna, Teamlease, and QJobs by Qness Corp for students studying at various campuses of DSEU.*
- *'YuWaah Step Up - Bano job ready', a 6-month pilot being conducted by Flywheel Digital Solutions Pvt with DSEU students and other job seekers in Delhi to enhance the reach of young job seekers on the new age job portals, is another pillar of this partnership program.*
- *The pilot shall run at Ambedkar DSEU Shakarpur - I campus starting July 20.*
- *The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) was established in August 2020 by the Government of NCT of Delhi to equip students with world-class skill education to enable access to aspirational jobs and inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset and entrepreneurship.*

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109. Recently _____

Incorporated the Joint Venture Company with Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) with equity participation of 50:50 for implementation of Indian Portion of New Butwal - Gorakhpur 400 kV Double Circuit (Quad Moose) Cross Border Transmission Line.

- A. **POWERGRID**
- B. Hindustan Power Exchange
- C. TPC Limited
- D. Tata Power
- E. None of these

PowerGrid to invest ₹4,860 cr in transmission projects

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, July 7

State-run PowerGrid on Thursday said that its board has approved a slew of proposals including investing ₹4,860.06 crore in three transmission projects, as well as forming a JV company with the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

The proposals were approved by the transmission giant's board of directors on Wednesday.

"Investment approval for transmission network expansion in Gujarat to increase ATC from ISTS: Part B at an estimated cost of ₹4,546.26 crore scheduled to be com-



mitted by June 2023," it said in a filing to stock exchanges.

Investment approval for transmission network expansion in Gujarat to increase ATC from ISTS, Part C at an estimated cost of ₹186.19 crore scheduled to be commissioned matching with establishment of 400/ 220kV Prantij S/s and 400kV

Sankhari- Prantij D/c line by GETCO. It is presently expected to be completed by March 2025, it added.

Western region

Another approval was for investment in Western Region Expansion Scheme XXVI at an estimated cost of ₹127.61 crore scheduled to be commissioned matching with downstream 220kV lines being implemented by MSETCL. Presently, it is expected to be completed by June 2024, the PSU said.

"Incorporation of the Joint Venture company between Power Grid Corporation of India and NEA with equity

participation of 50:50 by both JV partners for implementation of Indian Portion of New Butwal-Gorakhpur 400 kV Double Circuit (Quad Moose) Cross Border Transmission Line," Power Grid said.

BusinessLine

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- **The Board of Power Grid Corporation of India at its meeting held 06 July 2022 accorded approval for the Incorporation of the Joint Venture Company between Power Grid Corporation of India and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) with equity participation of 50:50 by both JV partners for the implementation of Indian Portion of New Butwal - Gorakhpur 400 kV Double Circuit (Quad Moose) Cross Border Transmission Line.**
- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is an Indian public sector undertaking engaged mainly in the transmission of bulk power across different states of India. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and is headquartered in Gurgaon.**

110. Where is India's first floating terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) that is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022?

- A. Jafrabad
- B. **Jaigarh**
- C. Anmer
- D. Surat
- E. None of these

Companies

India's first floating LNG terminal likely to operationalise in H2 2022

Rishi Ranjan Kala | New Delhi, July 6 | Updated On: Jul 06, 2022



Another floating LNG terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat is also expected to begin operations this year

India's first floating terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) at Jaigarh in Maharashtra is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022. Besides, another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat is also likely to begin operations this calendar year.

H-Energy Gateway's floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) at Jaigarh and the Swan Energy-led terminal at Jafrabad are cumulatively expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity, the International Gas Union (IGU) said.

"In India, two FSRU-based terminals, at Jaigarh and Jafrabad, are currently under development and are expected to start operations in 2022 after pandemic and weather-related delays," IGU said in its World LNG 2022 report.

At present, India has six operational import terminals. No new LNG import terminals were commissioned in 2021, with Mundra LNG being the last one to come into operation in 2020, adding 5 mtpa of regasification capacity, it added.

India experienced "exceptionally strong growth" over the past decade, increasing its import capacity by more than 160 per cent. Despite accounting for only 39.5 MTPA of regasification capacity by the end of 2020, India has another 30 MTPA of capacity under construction as of April 2022, the report said.

Floating LNG terminals

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- India's first floating terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) at Jaigarh in Maharashtra is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022. Besides, another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat is also likely to begin operations this calendar year.
- H-Energy Gateway's floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) at Jaigarh and the Swan Energy-led terminal at Jafrabad are cumulatively expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity, the International Gas Union (IGU) said.
- In India, two FSRU-based terminals, at Jaigarh and Jafrabad, are currently under development and are expected to start operations in 2022 after pandemic and weather-related delays.
- At present, India has six operational import terminals. No new LNG import terminals were commissioned in 2021, with Mundra LNG being the last one to come into operation in 2020, adding 5 mtpa of regasification capacity.
- The FSRU will deliver regasified LNG to the 56-kilometer-long Jaigarh-connecting the LNG terminal to the national gas grid.

111. Recently **Nokia** has partnered with _____ to set-up **Nokia Center of Excellence in networked robotics**.

- A. IISc Bengaluru
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Delhi
- E. None of these

- Finnish telecom gear maker **Nokia** has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Science** to set up the **Nokia Center of Excellence in networked robotics at IISc Bengaluru**.
- The **Center of Excellence (CoE)** will promote inter-disciplinary research involving robotics and advanced communication technologies in **5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The agreement for setting up the **CoE in Networked Robotics** was concluded in **August 2020**, and since then a core group has worked to set up and equip the center.
- **Nokia** will fund the **CoE** for three consecutive years to sustain the first phase of the partnership between **Nokia and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**.

Israel Sells Haifa Port to Adani Ports, Gadot for \$1.2 B

Adani Buys Israeli Asset

- ▶ As per the deal, Adani will have a majority 70% stake and Gadot will hold the remaining 30%
- ▶ Adani and Gadot to operate the port until 2054
- ▶ The new owners will compete with a private port that opened down the bay last year, which is operated by Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG)
- ▶ Haifa Port Chairman Eshel Armoni said the new group will operate the port till 2054

"The privatisation of the port of Haifa will increase competition at the ports and lower the cost of living"

Avigdor Lieberman
Israeli Finance Minister



Reuters

Jerusalem: Israel said on Thursday it will sell Haifa Port, a major trade hub on its Mediterranean coast, to winning bidders Adani Ports of India and local chemicals and logistics group Gadot for 4.1 billion shekels (\$1.18 billion).

Gadot and Adani made it to the end of a two-year tender process that Israel hopes will lower import prices and help shorten notoriously long wait times at Israeli harbours.

"The privatisation of the port of Haifa will increase competition at the ports and lower the cost of living," said finance minister Avigdor Lieberman.

Adani will have a majority 70% stake and Gadot will hold the remaining 30%, according to an industry official. Neither company was reachable for immediate comment.

Adani Ports, which has said it is the largest transport utility in India, is operating

THE WINNERS



Gadot and Adani made it to

the end of a two-year tender process that Israel hopes will lower import prices

opened down the bay last year, which is operated by Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG).

About 98% of all goods move in and out of Israel over sea and the government has been upgrading the sector to maintain economic growth.

Warming ties with neighbouring Arab countries are also creating new trade opportunities for Israel and Haifa is well placed to become a regional hub.

Haifa Port said the new group will operate the port until 2054 and that the privatisation will help

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- The research projects undertaken by the CoE will include the design of advanced robotics, AI, and automation solutions built upon next-generation telecom networks and their applications for solving societally relevant problems.

112. Recently seen in the news Haifa Port which has been sold to Adani

Ports is situated in which of the following country?

- A. Iran
- B. Israel**
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Italy
- E. None of these

- Israel said it will sell Haifa Port, a major trade hub on its Mediterranean coast, to winning bidders Adani Ports of India and local chemicals and logistics group Gadot for 4.1 billion shekels (\$1.18 billion).
- Gadot and Adani made it to the end of a two-year tender process that Israel hopes will lower import prices and help shorten notoriously long wait times at Israeli harbors.
- Adani will have a majority 70% stake and Gadot will hold the remaining 30%, according to an industry official. Neither company was reachable for immediate comment.
- The new owners will compete with a private port that opened down the bay last year, which is operated by Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG).
- Haifa Port said the new group will operate the port until 2054 and that the winning bid was higher than expected.

113. Recently Tata Power announced to invest over _____ crore in renewables in the next five years and aims to have an electricity generation capacity of 30 GW during the same period

- A. Rs 25,000 crore
- B. Rs 50,000 crore
- C. Rs 15,000 crore
- D. Rs 75,000 crore**
- E. None of these

- Tata Power plans to invest over Rs 75,000 crore in renewables in the next five years and aims to have an electricity generation capacity of 30 GW during the same period with

Tata Power plans ₹75,000-crore capex in renewable energy in next five years

Company looking to increase generation capacity to over 30 GW by FY27

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 7

Tata Power, one of India's largest power generation companies, has lined up a capital expenditure of ₹75,000 crore for renewable energy over the next five years. Chairman, N Chandrasekaran said to shareholders at the company's 103rd annual general meeting.

The focus on renewable energy sector has led to steady growth of India's renewable energy capacity over the years, crossing the 100 GW mark in FY22, with share of renewable based capacities



N Chandrasekaran

moving up from 12 per cent in FY12 to 28 per cent in FY22, mainly driven by solar.

"The government-backed policy initiatives along with the consistent fall in cost of solar technology provided boost to the solar energy sector, making it attractive for domestic and global players. Tata Power is looking to scale up its generation capacity to over 30 GW by FY27 from current 13.5 GW with an increased clean energy portfolio from current levels of 34-60 per cent by 2027 and 80 per cent by 2030," Chandrasekaran said.

Binding agreement
In April, Tata Power and BlackRock Real Assets-led consortium, including Mubadala Investment Company, entered into a binding agreement to invest in Tata Power's renewable energy subsidiary, Tata Power Renewable Energy.

BlackRock Real Assets, together with Mubadala, committed to invest ₹4,000 crore for a 10.53 per cent stake in Tata Power Renewables, translating to a base equity valuation of ₹34,000 crore. The final shareholding will range from 9.76 per cent to 11.43 per cent on final conversion.

"The changing dynamics driven by maturing technologies have shifted the trend from plain standalone solar and wind projects, to rising interest in more complex projects including hybrid, Round the Clock (RTC), peak power, floating solar and storage," Chandrasekaran added.

Solar order
The consolidated capex for FY23 stands at ₹14,000 crore, including ₹10,000 crore for new renewable energy. The company claims to have a solar EPC order book of ₹13,000 crore. It added 707 MW capacity in FY22 in renewables.

One of the other critical areas is increased participation of the private players in the transmission and distribution space to improve the operational efficiencies and financial performance of the distribution companies.

"The government has been announcing multiple schemes towards addressing the issues in the distribution sector which are yet to gain momentum," Chandrasekaran added.

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more than half coming from clean energy sources.

- *Currently, Tata Power has a generation capacity of 13.5 GW with 34 percent contributed by renewable energy sources.*
- *During the company's annual general meeting, its Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran said it has "planned a capex of over Rs 75,000 crore in next 5 years in renewables."*
- *In his speech, Chandrasekaran said that Tata Power is looking to scale its generation capacity to over 30 GW by FY'27 from the current 13.5 GW with an increased clean energy portfolio from current levels of 34 percent to 60 percent by 2027 and 80 percent by 2030.*
- *He also told shareholders that the company has planned a Rs 14,000 crore consolidated capex in FY'23 with Rs 10,000 crore in renewables.*
- *Tata Power added a renewable energy capacity of 707 MW in FY22.*
- *In this pursuit, he stated the company has set three key goals of becoming carbon net zero by 2045, 100 percent water neutral by 2030, and zero waste to the landfill before 2030.*

114. Infosys will acquire Denmark-based BASE life science for about _____ in an all-cash deal.

- A. 150 million euros
- B. 180 million euros
- C. 110 million euros**
- D. 100 million euros
- E. None of these

- *Infosys said it will acquire Denmark-based BASE life science for about 110 million euros (Rs 875 crore) in an all-cash deal. The acquisition will deepen Infosys' expertise in the life sciences domain as well as strengthen its footprint across Europe.*
- *"This acquisition augments Infosys' deep life sciences expertise, expands our footprint further in the Nordics region and across Europe, and scales our digital transformation capabilities with cloud-based industry solutions.*
- *Infosys Limited is an Indian multinational information technology company that provides business consulting, information technology, and outsourcing services. The company was founded in Pune and is headquartered in Bangalore.*

Infosys to buy BASE life for €110 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Infosys on Wednesday said it will acquire Denmark-based BASE life science for about €110 million (₹875 crore) in an all-cash deal.

The acquisition will deepen Infosys's expertise in life sciences domain as well as strengthen its footprint across Europe.

"This acquisition augments Infosys' deep life sciences expertise, and expands our footprint further in the Nordics region and across Europe, and scales our digital transformation capabilities.

"We are excited to welcome BASE life science and its team into the Infosys family," Infosys president Ravi Kumar S. said.

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115. Recently *GMR Aviation Academy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ to develop and extend educational programs in the field of aviation forensics and cyber security.*

- A. National Forensic Science University**
- B. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)**
- C. Bar Council of India (BCI)**
- D. Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM)**
- E. None of these**

- ***GMR Aviation Academy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Forensic Science University (NFSU) to develop and extend educational programs in the field of aviation forensics and cyber security.***
- ***As per the MoU, the GMR Group will sponsor domestic and international students in the field of aviation cyber security with one year of onsite training at GMR Airports.***
- ***GMR Airports, part of the GMR Group, manage and operate airports in Hyderabad and Delhi in India.***
- ***A research center, certified by NFSU, will be set up on the campus of GMR Aviation Academy in Hyderabad.***

116. Recently *Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to Expand Cooperation in Payment Systems, Digital Financial Innovation, and Anti Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT).*

- A. Bank Indonesia**
- B. American Central Bank**
- C. European Union**
- D. Central Bank Of Thailand**
- E. None of these**

GMR Aviation Academy signs MoU with NFSU

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

GM R Aviation Academy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Forensic Science University (NFSU) to develop and extend educational programmes in the field of aviation forensics and cyber security, a statement said on Wednesday. As per the MoU, the GMR Group will sponsor domestic and international students in the field of aviation cyber security with one-year of onsite training at GMR Airports, its statement said.

GMR Airports, part of the GMR Group, manage and operate airports in Hyderabad and Delhi in India. A research centre, certified by NFSU, will be set up in the campus of GMR Aviation Academy in Hyderabad, as per the MoU, the statement noted.

"NFSU scholars can pursue a full-time PhD in aviation forensics and cyber security domain at this unique centre with research and development opportunities in the live airport environment," it mentioned. Technology and digitization have brought many advantages to the aviation sector, but at the same time, these have created challenges in managing cyber vulnerabilities in such a complex environment, said Ashwani Lohani, CEO of GMR Services Business. The aviation industry has been an attractive target for cyber attackers.

RBI, Bank Indonesia sign MoU to deepen relations, cooperation

Will strengthen the exchange of information in central banking areas

EXIB BUREAU
Mumbai, July 16

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Saturday in Bali to improve mutual cooperation.

With this MoU, the two central banks have committed to deepening relations by strengthening exchange of information and cooperation in areas such as payment systems, digital innovation in payments services, and regulatory and supervisory framework for Anti Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT), the Reserve Bank of India said in a statement.

Mutual understanding
The MoU, which was signed by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra and BI



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Bali, Indonesia (AP) (1)

Deputy Governor Dody Budi Waluyo on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, will be implemented through policy dialogue, technical cooperation, exchange of information, and joint work, it added.

The MoU will also provide a basis for promoting mutual understanding, developing efficient payment systems, and achieving cross-border payment connectivity.

"Will deepen relations"
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that "given our shared goals and challenges, it is only natural that we

work together in many areas... This MoU is a step forward in putting our joint efforts within a formal mechanism," he said. He hoped that "going ahead, the MoU will enable us to further deepen our relations and facilitate our endeavour to make our financial systems accessible, inclusive and secure."

BI Governor Perry Warjiyo emphasised that "this MoU serves as a significant milestone in the relation between Bank Indonesia and the RBI. It has been a long period since we began cooperating productively, and this MoU will only ensure a more solid collaboration in the future."

Warjiyo added, "Going forward, I am convinced that such excellent partnership will result in fruitful outcomes that benefit both central banks and the people of both nations."

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- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 16, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting to improve cooperation between the two central banks.
- The MoU was signed by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra and BI Deputy Governor Dody Budi Waluyo in the presence of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and BI Governor Perry Warjiyo.
- With this MoU, RBI and BI committed to deepening relations between both central banks and strengthening the exchange of information and cooperation in the area of central banking, including payment systems, digital innovation in payments services, and regulatory and supervisory framework for Anti Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT).
- The MoU will be implemented through policy dialogue, technical cooperation, exchange of information, and joint work.

117. Recently _____ has bagged the best performing bank award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme category from NABARD.

- A. Indian Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Hdfc Bank
- D. City Union Bank
- E. None of these

- Indian Bank has bagged the best performing bank award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme category from NABARD.
- State finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan gave away the award, which was received by S L Jain, MD & CEO, and V Chandrasekaran, general manager (Rural Banking) during NABARD's 41st foundation day,
- 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.

118. Recently NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) has announced a strategic partnership with _____ to build a new age of Digital Talent for the banking industry.

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. State Bank Of India
- D. Bank Of Baroda
- E. None of these

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- *NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) - a subsidiary of NIIT Limited has announced a strategic partnership with HDFC Bank to build new-age Digital Talent for the banking industry.*
 - *The partnership will aim to nurture talent in the new-age tech field of data science and empower them to leverage data meaningfully and deliver useful business insights.*
 - *This program is the first of planned initiatives to raise digital skills in the BFSI industry. The program will make learners job ready in 12 weeks. Through this program, the bank hopes to hire close to 100 data scientists in a year.*
119. *Directorate General of Foreign Trade(DGFT) has introduced the Paper Import Monitoring System(PIMS) that is to come into effect from _____ .*
- A. *1st September 2022*
 - B. *1st October 2022***
 - C. *1st August 2022*
 - D. *1st December 2022*
 - E. *None of these*
-
- *The Directorate General of Foreign Trade(DGFT) has introduced the Paper Import Monitoring System(PIMS) by amending the import policy of major paper products from ‘Free’ to ‘Free subject to compulsory registration under PIMS’.*
 - *Paper Import Monitoring System(PIMS) to come into effect from 1st October 2022.*
 - *This system has been made mandatory for the import of 201 types of paper and paper boards such as glazed newsprint, handmade paper, and tissue paper.*
 - *– However, paper products like currency paper, bank bonds, Cheque paper, and security printing paper have been excluded from mandatory registration.*
120. *Recently _____ has signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to establish a ‘Transportation Research and Innovation Hub (TRI HUB).*
- A. *IIT Hyderabad***
 - B. *IIT Delhi*
 - C. *IIT Ropar*
 - D. *IIT Madras*

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E. None of these

- **Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IITH) has signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to establish a ‘Transportation Research and Innovation Hub (TRI HUB), a Centre of Excellence at IIT-H to work on contemporary and cutting-edge technologies for National Highways in India.**
- **TRI HUB is possibly the first of its kind in an IIT system. it will complement the recently inaugurated test bed for the Technology Innovation Hub for Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (TiHAN) at the Institute in demonstrating innovative technologies.**

121. Recently in July India became the _____ to **join Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) which will allow it to draw links between victims, abusers, and crime scenes using audio-visual data.**

- A. 68th
- B. 70th
- C. 75th
- D. 80th
- E. None of these

CBI has joined Interpol's child sexual exploitation database

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has joined Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database accessible to select countries, giving the investigative agency sharper snooping abilities to identify abusers, victims and crime scene from audiovisual clips on internet using specialised software, officials said on Monday.

India is the 68th country among the total 295 members of the Interpol to have access to this database and software, which will be available to the CBI, nodal body for Interpol coordination in India as it is the country's National Central Bureau, they said.

An intelligence and investigative tool, the database, on an average, helps identify seven child victims everyday globally using audiovisual clips which are reported by various sources, including social media giants and search engines, they said.

So far, it has identified over 30,000 victims of child abuse and over 13,000 criminals.



PTI India is the 68th country to have access of the ICSE database. MINT

- **India joined Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database which will allow it to draw links between victims, abusers, and crime scenes using audio-visual data.**
- **The CBI, which is India's nodal agency for Interpol matters, joined the database making India the 68th country to connect to it, according to a statement from Interpol.**
- **The ICSE database uses video & image comparisons to analyze child sexual abuse material and make connections between victims, abusers, and places.**
- **Detectives in all 68 countries can exchange information and notes with their colleagues across the world.**

122. Recently _____ is **planning to focus on developing new varieties with ISRO that will be resistant to the changing climatic patterns and assess the carbon sequestration potential in coffee among others.**

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- A. Coffee Board**
- B. Tea Board**
- C. Coconut Board**
- D. Spices Board**
- E. None of these**

- **Coffee Board is planning to focus on developing new varieties that will be resistant to the changing climatic patterns.**
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shown interest. They have technology that can help us better understand climate change, using which our scientists can breed better varieties**
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Coffee Board and ISRO is being signed next week about breeding climate-resilient varieties and assessing the carbon sequestration potential in coffee among others.**

Coffee Board to develop varieties resistant to climate with ISRO's help

VISHWANATH KULKARNI

Bengaluru, July 8

In a fresh impetus to the research activities in the country's coffee sector, State-run Coffee Board is planning to focus on developing new varieties that will be resistant to the changing climatic patterns.

Coffee growers in the country have been facing the brunt of changing climatic patterns in the recent years. The number of extreme weather events such as excess rains within a short period or deficit rainfall, which affect growers, is on the rise.

"With the climate change here to stay, one new line of research we are starting is how do we develop the climate resistant coffee varieties, which perform the same whether it is drought or floods. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shown interest. They

have technology that can help us in better understanding the climate change, using which our scientists can breed better varieties," said KG Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Coffee Board and ISRO is being signed next week with regard to breeding climate-resilient varieties and assess the carbon sequestration potential in coffee among others.

Germplasm collection

The plant related research activities under the Board are carried out by the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) in Karnataka's Chikmagalur district in plant breeding, agronomy, agriculture chemistry and soil science, plant physiology, pathology, entomo-



logy and post harvest technology among others.

"We have a good germplasm collection of coffees in our main research centres at Balehonnur and five other sub centres. Besides, we can also source the germplasm from old varieties in some old estates. Our scientists will finalise what are the qualities, characters of the plant that will lend climate resistance character to the coffee plants and look at breeding them using techniques such as

marker assisted breeding," Jagadeesha said.

The Board will be making an outlay for the investments required in taking up the collaborative research with ISRO, which will also focus on assessing carbon sequestration potential in the coffee growing regions.

India is one of the very few countries, where coffee is grown under the tree shade, unlike major producers such as Brazil and Vietnam, where it is grown in the open.

"Coffee releases carbon, but it is a net carbon-deficit crop. ISRO has technology to figure out how much carbon is released and how much is absorbed by the plants. Such data on carbon sequestration will help our growers command a premium in markets like Europe," Jagadeesha said.

- **The Board will be making an outlay for the investments required in taking up the collaborative research with ISRO, which will also focus on assessing carbon sequestration potential in the coffee-growing regions.**
- **India is one of the very few countries, where coffee is grown under the tree shade, unlike major producers such as Brazil and Vietnam, where it is grown in the open.**
- **The Coffee Board of India is an organization managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the government of India to promote coffee production in India. The head office of the Coffee Board is situated in Bangalore.**

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123. **Retail inflation** eased from 7.04% in May 2022 to _____ in June 2022.

- A. 7.03%
- B. 7.02%
- C. 7.01%**
- D. 7%
- E. None of these

- **Retail inflation eased to 7.01% in June 2022 compared to 7.04% in May 2022.**
- **Inflation eased marginally mainly due to the easing of prices in the "Food & Beverages" section.**
- **Inflation in the food basket came down from 7.84% in May 2022 to 7.56% in June 2022.**
- **The inflation in vegetables eased from 18.26% in May 2022 to 17.37% in June 2022.**
- **Inflation has remained above RBI's six percent upper range because of increasing global commodity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine war and high crude oil prices.**

Retail inflation eases, but still over 7%, IIP hits 12-month high of 19.6% in May

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

INDIA'S FACTORY output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), came in at a 12-month high of 19.6 per cent for the month of May, compared with a 6.7 per cent growth reported in April, partly on account of the base effect, data from the National Statistical Office showed Tuesday.

In a separate set of data

EXPLAINED
E Testing times

THE TEPID consumption recovery could impact industrial uptick. The slide in commodity prices may temper inflation, even as the weak rupee may neutralise some of these gains.

released by the NSO, retail inflation inched down marginally to 7.01 per cent in June from 7.04 per cent in the previous month due to moderation in food inflation. The inflation rate, however, continued to remain above the 7 per cent mark for the third month in a row, marking completion of the second quarter of it being higher than the Reserve Bank of India's target of 2+/-4 per cent for the medium term.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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124. Recently The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved *British oil and gas major Shell's proposed acquisition of renewable energy firm Solenergi Power*. Solenergi Power Is a Company of which of the following country?
- A. Maldives
 - B. Sri Lanka
 - C. Mauritius**
 - D. France
 - E. None of these
-
- *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on July 12, 2022, approved British oil and gas major Shell's proposed acquisition of renewable energy firm Solenergi Power.*
 - *While the deal was announced in April this year, the CCI said it has cleared the "acquisition of 100% shareholding and sole control of Solenergi Power Pvt Ltd by Shell Overseas Investments BV."*
 - *The Competition Commission of India in its official release notified that the "CCI approves acquisition of Solenergi Power Private Limited (Target) by Shell Overseas Investments B.V.'s (Acquirer) from Actis Solenergi Limited under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.*
 - *The acquirer is a company incorporated in the Netherlands and is a part of the Shell group. It is a holding company. Shell Plc is the ultimate holding company and directly and indirectly, owns investments in various companies (Shell Group).*
 - *Shell Plc shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange, Euronext Amsterdam, and the New York Stock Exchange.*
 - *Incorporated in Mauritius, Solenergi Power Pvt Ltd supplies solar and wind power to electricity distribution companies in India and it is the direct shareholder of the Spring Energy group of companies in India.*
 - *CCI has given its nod for the "acquisition of 100 percent of the equity in ten road infrastructure projects by ShremInvIT from Dilip Buildcon Ltd (DBL) and acquisition of certain units of Shrem InvIT by DBL". Bhopal-based Dilip Buildcon Ltd is into construction and infrastructure development while Shrem InvIT (Investment Infrastructure Trust) is engaged in the infrastructure projects space.*
-
125. *In May 2022, Industrial Production jumps to _____ against 7.1 per cent in the previous month.*
- A. 8.9%
 - B. 9.7%
 - C. 10.5%
 - D. 19.6%**
 - E. None of these

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- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- India's Industrial Production jumps to 19.6% in May due to the strong performance of the manufacturing, power, and mining sectors.
- In May, the manufacturing sector has grown by 20.6% while power generation soared by 23.5%.
- The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 137.7 for May 2022.
- Last year in May, the IIP had grown by 27.6% mainly due to the low-base effect.
- The IIP index provides the details of the growth of various sectors in the economy.

126. According National Housing Bank's (NHB) price index RESIDEX As many as _____ cities registered an increase in housing prices in FY 22.

- A. 41
- B. 50
- C. 35
- D. 47
- E. None of these

- As many as 41 cities registered an increase in housing prices while five registered a decline on an annual basis, as per the National Housing Bank's (NHB) price index RESIDEX.
- All of the eight major metros, Ahmedabad (13.8 percent), Bengaluru (2.5 percent), Chennai (7.7 percent), Delhi (3.2 percent), Hyderabad (11.0 percent), Kolkata (2.6 percent), Mumbai (1.9 percent) and Pune (0.9 percent) recorded an increase in the index on an annual basis.
- On a sequential (Q-o-Q) basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 2.6 percent in January -March 2022 as against 1.7 percent in the previous quarter.
- The HPI tracks the movement in prices of residential properties in select 50 cities every quarter with FY2017-18 as the base year.
- NHB RESIDEX, India's first official housing price index, was an initiative of the National Housing Bank (NHB) undertaken at the behest of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The index was formulated under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising of stakeholders from the housing market. It was launched in July 2007.
- The scope has been widened under the NHB RESIDEX brand, to include housing price indices (HPI), land price indices (LPI) and building materials price indices (BMPI), and also housing rental index (HRI).



Rates of residential units fell in five cities. HT

Housing prices up in 41 cities in FY22

Housing prices increased in 41 cities during 2021-22, while the rates of residential units fell in five cities and remained stable in four cities, according to price index RESIDEX released by National Housing Bank (NHB). All of the eight major metros of the country viz., Ahmedabad (13.8%), Bengaluru (2.5%), Chennai (7.7%), Delhi (3.2%), Hyderabad (11%), Kolkata (2.6%), Mumbai (1.9%) and Pune (0.9%) recorded increase in the index on an annual basis, NHB RESIDEX said.

The annual change varied widely across the cities, ranging from an increase of 13.8% (Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar) to a decline of 5.9% (Navi Mumbai), it said. On a sequential (quarter-on-quarter) basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 2.6% in January-March 2022 as against 1.7% in the previous quarter. The index shows an increasing trend on quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis since June 2021, suggesting revival of housing market post covid-induced lockdown, it said. The variation in market price ranged from an increase of 23.9% (Bhubaneswar) to a contraction of 10.8% (Indore). PTI

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127. Recently **HealthIndia Insurance TPA Services Pvt. Ltd.** launched

_____ which is India's single largest digital platform for all health and wellness needs.

- A. **HealthieU**
- B. HealthieZ
- C. HealthforU
- D. Health of mine
- E. None of these

- **Healthcare just got simpler with HealthieU's Cashless OPD feature. HealthieU is the single largest digital platform for all health and wellness needs.**
- **The brand envisions the future going completely cashless when it comes to availing healthcare facilities. A facility that allows the end-user to easily access a pre-loaded digital wallet by scanning QR codes at the different points of medical purchases.**
- **HealthieU is a part of the same promoter group as HealthIndia Insurance TPA Services Pvt Ltd, which is associated with more than 2,500+ Corporates, Brokers, and Insurance Companies.**
- **The launch of Cashless OPD is timely & relevant, given the inundated demand of corporates to provide a holistic healthcare plan that covers it all for their employees.**
- **Corporates can avail healthcare services by using the HealthieU wallet, pre-loaded with a designated wallet balance specific to the corporates.**
- **HealthieU's extensive network allows the HealthieU wallet to be used in tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 cities PAN India in any of the hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, or diagnostic centers.**
- **In India, OPD accounts for approximately 60 percent of the overall Healthcare costs. HealthieU wants to mobilize this potential by launching the Cashless OPD feature. This coupled with the comprehensive digital health care and wellness platforms can bring employee wellbeing to the fore.**

128. In July 2022, the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** found Customs duty evasion of around ₹4,389 crores by which of the following companies?

- A. Samsung Mobiles India
- B. **Oppo Mobiles India**
- C. Amazon India
- D. Microsoft India
- E. None of these

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- *The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has found Customs duty evasion of around ₹4,389 crores by Oppo Mobiles India.*
- *Finance Ministry said revenue intelligence officers found duty evasion by Chinese smartphone maker Oppo by misdeclaration of imports.*
- *A show-cause notice has been issued to Oppo India demanding Customs duty amounting to ₹4,389 crores.*
- *Oppo Mobiles India Private Limited is a subsidiary of Oppo China. It deals in brands of mobile phones, including Oppo, OnePlus, and Realme.*
- *Directorate of Revenue Intelligence works under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.*

DRI slaps ₹4,389-cr notice on Oppo for duty evasion

Searches lead to recovery of evidence indicating wilful misdeclaration: Govt

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 13 July

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has slapped a show-cause notice on Oppo India for allegedly evading ₹4,389 crore in Customs duty payments by wrongfully availing of exemption benefits.

Oppo India is a subsidiary company of China-based Guangdong Oppo Mobile Telecommunications Corp. and deals in mobile phone brands, including Oppo, OnePlus, and Realme.

Of late, Chinese smartphone companies like Xiaomi, Oppo, and Vivo have come under the lens of Indian authorities.

The duty evasion was detected during searches conducted by the DRI — an anti-smuggling agency under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs — on the office premises of Oppo India and at the residences of its key management.

The searches led to recovery of incriminating evidence, indicating 'wilful misdeclaration' in the description of certain items imported by Oppo India for use in the manufacture of mobile phones, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

"This misdeclaration resulted in wrongful availing of ineligible duty exemption benefits by Oppo India,



▶ Senior management and domestic suppliers of Oppo India questioned, who in their voluntary statements accepted the submission of wrongful description before Customs authorities at the time of import

▶ ₹450 crore has been voluntarily deposited by Oppo India as partial differential Customs duty

▶ Show-cause notice was issued on July 8

IN THE CROSS HAIRS

▶ Directorate of Revenue Intelligence conducts searches on the premises of mobile company Oppo India

▶ Finds evidence of firm availing of duty exemption benefits to circumvent Customs duty

▶ Finds wilful misdeclaration of imported items used to manufacture mobile phones

amounting to ₹2,981 crore," the ministry stated on Wednesday.

The investigation has further revealed that Oppo India had remitted/made provisions for payment of 'royalty' and 'licence fee' to various multinational companies, including those based in China, instead of using proprietary technology.

"The said 'royalty' and 'licence fees'

paid by Oppo India were not being added in the transaction value of goods imported by them, in violation of Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962. The duty evasion by the mobile maker on this account is ₹1,408 crore," the ministry added.

Oppo India has voluntarily deposited a sum of ₹450 crore as partial differential Customs duty.

129. Recently _____ along with pension fund regulator

PFRDA, has launched a digital platform that will allow customers to open NPS accounts using mobile phones.

- A. Bank Of India
- B. Indian Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. City Union Bank
- E. None of these

- *Bank of India along with pension fund regulator PFRDA launched a digital platform that will allow customers to open NPS accounts using mobile phones.*

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- **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Bank of India launched the digital platform for NPS enrolment in association with K-fintech.**
- **Customers can now open NPS (National Pension System) account in a hassle-free and paperless manner by scanning a QR code, said in a joint release by PFRDA and Bank of India.**
- **Scanning of QR code will lead to NPS account opening web page wherein an applicant will have to fill in the Aadhaar number to fetch picture and other details from DigiLocker.**
- **K-fintech provides SaaS (Software as a Service) based end-to-end transaction management, channel management, and compliance solutions.**

BoI with PFRDA launches platform for opening NPS accounts via mobile phone

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Bank of India along with pension fund regulator PFRDA on Friday launched a digital platform which will allow customers to open NPS accounts using mobile phones.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Bank of India launched the digital platform for NPS enrolment in association with K-fintech.

Customers can now open NPS (National Pension System) account in a hassle-free and paperless manner by scanning a QR code, said in a joint release by PFRDA and Bank of India.

Scanning of QR code will lead to NPS account opening web page wherein an applicant will have to fill in the



Aadhaar number to fetch picture and other details from DigiLocker.

PFRDA chairman Supratim Bandhyopadhyay inaugurated the digital platform in presence of A K Das, MD & CEO, Bank of India, and Swarup Dasgupta, executive director of the bank.

The digital process of account opening is simple, fast and completely paperless, making it easier for the customers to open the new account in just a few clicks. Further, new subscribers can also make additional contributions through QR code.

130. Recently _____ has signed a term sheet with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction (ARC) for the sale of identified stressed loans of the bank aggregating to up to Rs 48,000 crore.

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

Yes Bank picks JC Flowers as joint venture partner

The lender has signed a binding term sheet for a strategic partnership

Beena Parmar
beena.parmar@livemint.com
BENGALURU

Yes Bank Ltd's board has selected JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Co. as the joint venture partner to buy ₹48,000 crore (around \$6 billion) of the private-sector lender's bad loans.

With the final approval from Yes Bank's board credit committee on 13 July, the bank signed a binding term sheet with JC Flowers for the strategic partnership, the bank said.

The bank said it now proposes to run a Swiss challenge bidding process to sell its bad loans portfolio, using JC Flowers ARC's bid as the minimum bidding amount.

However, JC Flowers will be allowed to match the amount if a rival bidder exceeds the base bid.

The Swiss challenge auction process was scheduled to start on Friday. American private-equity firm Cerberus Capital, which was in the race to purchase Yes Bank's bad loans, was also expected to participate in the Swiss challenge, two people said on the condition of anonymity.

JC Flowers has valued Yes Bank's bad loan book at ₹12,107 crore, one of the two people said.

Yes Bank will now invest around ₹400 crore for a 20% stake in the joint venture with JC Flowers ARC. As part of the deal,



Yes Bank will now invest around ₹400 crore for a 20% stake in the joint venture with JC Flowers ARC.

the private sector lender demanded a \$50 million guarantee from potential suitors bidding for the NPAs. In addition, JC Flowers was required to clear the shareholder dispute with Eight Capital before the acquisition, the people cited above said.

Earlier this year, Eight Capital pulled

Bank of India for its stake sale.

Once Yes Bank's stake purchase is completed, the lender will participate in a rights issue proportionate to its stake to raise ₹1,800 crore.

The funds will be used by the ARC to meet the 15% cash payment to buy Yes Bank's bad loans, the second person said on the condition of anonymity.

According to RBI requirements, ARCs are required to purchase bad loans from any lender under the 15:85 structure, where 15% of the net value of the asset needs to be paid upfront while the balance 85% is paid in the form of security receipts. The deal will further pave the way for Yes Bank to clean up its books and raise further capital for business growth.

CLAWING BACK

YES Bank is now running a Swiss challenge bidding process to sell its bad loans

JC Flowers ARC's bid will be the minimum bidding amount for Yes Bank's bad loans portfolio

US private equity firm Cerberus Capital is expected to participate in the Swiss Challenge

out of the JV with JC Flowers because of a difference of opinion over bidding for Yes Bank's bad loans. The distressed manager is also awaiting approval from the Reserve

- **Private lender Yes Bank has signed a term sheet with JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction (ARC) for the sale of identified stressed loans of the bank aggregating to up to Rs 48,000 crore.**
- **Under the enabling approval of the Board of Directors on May 06, 2022, and the final approval from the Board Credit Committee on July 13, 2022, the bank has signed a binding term sheet with JCF ARC LLC and JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited ("JC Flowers ARC") for a strategic partnership to the sale of identified stressed loans of the bank.**
- **Yes, Bank had invited bids for its distressed loans portfolio, amounting to Rs 51,000 crore, soon**

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after the Reserve Bank of India in March 2021 rejected its plan to set up an ARC as its subsidiary. The potential completion of the transaction was reported to be India's largest sale of distressed assets which will result in Yes Bank becoming nearly a zero non-performing asset (NPA) bank, making it easier for the bank to raise capital.

131. Bharti Airtel has announced successful trial of India's first 5G Private Network at Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt Ltd (RBAI) facility located in

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

- **Bharti Airtel has announced a successful trial of India's first 5G Private Network at Bosch Automotive Electronics India Pvt Ltd (RBAI) facility in Bengaluru. Airtel's on-premise 5G Captive Private Network was built over the trial 5G spectrum allocated by the Department of Telecom (DoT).**
- **Airtel has implemented two Industrial grade use cases for quality improvement and operational efficiency at Bosch's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, utilizing the trial spectrum.**
- **In both cases, 5G technology such as mobile broadband and ultra-reliable low latency communications drove automated operations ensuring faster scale up and reduced downtimes.**
- **With Airtel 5G Captive Private Network, Bosch Manufacturing Execution System was able to significantly reduce the time taken to assess the quality through Automatic Optical Inspection (AOI) of surface-mounted devices.**
- **Airtel 5G is claimed to help Bosch shop floor managers and operators identify and resolves issues in real time thus reducing the Mean Time To Repair (MTTR) and Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF).**

Airtel successfully tests first 5G private network at Bosch facility

This even as telcos are opposing Big Tech participation in spectrum auctions

SRONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, July 15

Bharti Airtel on Friday said it had completed successful trials of India's first 5G private network at the Bengaluru facility of Bosch Automotive Electronics India. Airtel's captive private network was built on the trial 5G spectrum allocated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

According to sources, the company is in talks with at least two other manufacturers – one in the automobile sector in Maharashtra (most likely Mahindra & Mahindra) and the other in mobile handset manufacturing in Tamil Nadu – for providing similar 5G captive private networks.

This is an interesting development as the company, along with other telcos such as Reliance Jio and Vodafone-Idea, is opposing private technology companies' bidding in the upcoming 5G spectrum auctions for bands meant for private captive networks. On Thursday, the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI), which represents Airtel and other operators, had asked the government to ensure fair play in 5G, by not allowing 'back door entry' to Big Tech.

Reability, flexibility Airtel said it has implemented two industrial grade use cases for quality improvement and operational efficiency at Bosch's facility, utilising the trial spectrum. In both cases, 5G technology, such as mobile broadband and ultra reliable low latency communications, drove automated operations



Sources say company in talks with 2 more firms for providing similar network

ensuring faster scale up and reduced downtimes.

The private network set up on trial spectrum has the capability to manage thousands of connected devices besides delivering multi-Gbps throughput, Airtel said. The private 5G network provides greater reliability, enhanced security and flexibility, freeing the operations from wire-dependency to enable Bosch in achieving the benefits of automated operations, it added.

"Airtel is committed to In-

dia's digital transformation and supporting the development of its enterprise as they seek to acquire global scale. We believe that Airtel has the world class infrastructure, partnerships and expertise to deliver captive private network solution in any part of the country and to enterprise of any size," Ajay Chitkara, Director and CEO, Airtel Business, said.

Airtel is testing various vertical industry use cases with multiple partners and at several locations as a part of its #5GforBusiness. Last year, the company successfully demonstrated India's first 5G experience over a live 4G network in Hyderabad. It has also demonstrated India's first rural 5G trial as well as the first cloud gaming experience on 5G. The company has joined forces with leading global consulting and technology companies and brands to test 5G-based solutions.

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132. Recently in July Subsidiary of which of the following banks signed an MoU with the **Ministry of External Affairs** for the setting up of the **Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund)**?

- A. Axis Bank
- B. State Bank of India**
- C. Union Bank of India
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- **SBICAP Ventures Ltd (SVL) has signed an MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs.**
- **The MoU has been signed for the setting up of the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund).**
- **SVL will act as the administrator-cum-advisor (Investment Manager) of the TDC Fund. It is a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI).**
- **The TDC Fund will route India's commitment of about Rs 175 crore to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund).**
- **It will operate as a 'Fund of Funds' under the SEBI Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Regulations.**
- **GIP Fund will be set up as AIF in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) under the India-UK Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).**
- **It will invest chiefly in Indian small and medium enterprises that tackle development challenges as per the objectives of GIP.**

133. Which organization and the **Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (DA&FW)** have signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** to enhance the existing partnership for food and nutrition security in the South Asian region?

- A. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
- B. International Rice Research Institute**
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization
- D. Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
- E. None of these

- **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (DA&FW) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).**

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- *The agreement has been signed on the commencement of Phase-II activities of the IRRI South Asia Regional Center (ISARC).*
- *Its main aim is to enhance the existing partnership for food and nutrition security in the South Asian region.*
- *ISARC was set up five years ago after the approval of the Union Cabinet.*
- *In addition, ISARC established the Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA), which has a cutting-edge laboratory that can assess the quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw.*
- *On December 23, 2021, PM Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art Speed Breeding Facility (SpeedBreed) at ISARC in Varanasi.*

134. *The government recently relaxed norms for adjusting states' off-budget borrowings. As per new norms, liabilities of the last fiscal year can be adjusted against their borrowing ceilings till _____.*
- A. *March 2023*
 - B. *March 2024*
 - C. *March 2025*
 - D. *March 2026***
 - E. *None of these*

- *The norms for adjusting states' off-budget borrowings have been relaxed by the central government.*
- *As per the new norms, liabilities of the last fiscal year can be adjusted against their borrowing ceilings for the next four years till March 2026.*
- *To bring transparency to the finances of the states, the Center had informed them in March that the off-budget debt has to be equated with the states' borrowing.*
- *Any such funds raised by the governments in the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 will need to be adjusted outside the debt limit.*
- *Off-budget borrowings are the loans taken by state government entities, special purpose vehicles, etc, in which principal and interest are repaid from the budget of the state government.*
- *The off-budget borrowings of states have increased mainly due to the reduction in revenue growth and increased revenue expenditure.*
- *As per norms, state governments have to take approval from the central government for fresh borrowing after the limit of a financial year.*
- *The Centre has fixed the net borrowing ceiling of states at Rs 8,57,849 crore or 3.5 percent of GSDP.*

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Norms on States' off-budget borrowings eased

Govt says States can adjust FY22 exposure over the next four years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13

The Centre has relaxed norms for adjusting States' off-budget loans and said such liabilities of last fiscal year can be adjusted against their borrowing limits till March 2026.

The move will free up resources for States to fund their capital expenditure in the current fiscal.

To bring in transparency in State finances, the Centre in March informed States that off-budget borrowings are to be equated with the States' own debt and any such fund raised by the governments in 2020-21 and 2021-22 would need to be adjusted out of the borrowing ceiling this year.

Off-budget borrowings refer to loans taken by State government entities, special purpose vehicles, etc, where principal and interest would be repaid from State government's own budget, instead of the cash flows or revenues gen-

erated by the borrowing entity. Such borrowings bypass the yearly net borrowing ceiling fixed for States.

'Getting around set limit'

Since the responsibility for repayment lay with State governments, it adversely impacts their revenue and fiscal deficit.

As per norms, State governments are required to take the Centre's approval for fresh borrowing over the limit set for a particular financial year. Over the last two years, many States have resorted to off-budget borrowing to fund their capital expenditures and minimise the impact of an economic downturn induced by Covid-19.

With many States facing difficulties due to the borrowing restriction in the current fiscal because of the magnitude of such loans, the Finance Ministry has relaxed the norms and said off-budget borrowing done by States up to 2020-21 may not be adjusted and only those done in 2021-22 can be adjusted over the next four years. , the Department of Expenditure said.

India Ratings & Research Chief Economist DK Pant said adjustment of off-budget borrowing of



With many States facing difficulties due to the borrowing restriction in the current fiscal because of the magnitude of such loans, the Finance Ministry has relaxed the norms

FY21 and FY22 would have resulted in severe resource crunch for a few States.

'Tackling resource crunch'

"Decision of deferring adjustment of off-balance sheet borrowing of the State where debt-servicing is being done through State budget is a good decision. This will help States to focus on their development agenda. Global experience suggests at difficult times, axe of fiscal consolidation falls on capex and social sector," Pant added.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the modification regard-

ing off-budget borrowings is likely to provide substantial relief to some states and allow them additional borrowing space in current fiscal year.

'At a decadal high'

As per a study by Crisil Ratings, off-balancesheet borrowings by States are estimated to have reached a decadal high of 4.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), or about ₹7.9-lakh crore, in 2021-22.

This marks a rise of about 100 basis points from 2019-20, reveals a Crisil study of 11 States that account for about 75 per cent of the aggregate Gross State Domestic

Product (GSDP) of the country. There are two reasons for the rise in off-budget borrowings. One, constrained revenue growth due to the pandemic-induced slowdown and increasing revenue expenditure have led to States' fiscal deficits rising to 4 per cent of GSDP, well above the historical level of 2-3 per cent seen for most part of the last decade.

This has reduced the wherewithal of States to directly fund the entities they own.

Two, even if States wanted to do so by borrowing more, they can't without the explicit approval of, and beyond the limits set by, the central government.

But States don't need prior central consent to guarantee the loans and advances, and bonds issued by its entities. Also, the ceiling on guarantees is self-determined and varies from state to state. All these have led to greater reliance on off-budget borrowings, Crisil had said in a report in May.

The Centre has fixed the net borrowing ceiling of states at ₹8.57-lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of GSDP. States are also eligible for additional borrowing of 0.50 per cent of GSDP linked to reforms in the power sector.

135. WPI-based inflation eased from 15.88% in May 2022 to _____ in June 2022.

- A. 15.68%
- B. 15.48%
- C. 15.38%
- D. 15.18%**
- E. None of these

- **WPI-based inflation eased from 15.88% in May 2022 to 15.18% in June 2022.**
- **It stood at 12.07% in June last year. It eased due to lower prices of manufactured and fuel items.**
- **The WPI inflation in June remained double-digit for the 15th consecutive month beginning April 2021.**
- **Inflation in food articles in June was 14.39%. In May, wholesale price inflation in food articles was 12.34%.**
- **Inflation in manufactured products and oilseeds was 9.19% and 2.74%, respectively.**

136. India's goods exports increased 23.52% to _____ in June 2022.

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- A. \$40.13 billion
- B. \$26.18 billion
- C. \$66.31 billion
- D. \$39.31 billion.
- E. None of these

- India's goods exports increased 23.52% to \$40.13 billion in June 2022.
- Imports in June 2022 increased 57.55% to \$66.31 billion. The trade deficit increased to a record level of \$26.18 billion in June 2022.
- The trade deficit was recorded at \$9.60 billion in June 2021.
- The export of non-petroleum and non-gems & jewelry exports has shown an 8.65% increase to \$27.94 billion.
- In April-June 2022-23, total exports increased by 24.51% to \$118.96 billion.

137. Which bank has become the **second public sector bank to go live on the account aggregator platform?**

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. Bank of India
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Union Bank of India
- E. None of these

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the second public sector bank to go live on the account aggregator platform.
- PNB is now acting as Financial Information User (FIU) and Financial Information Provider (FIP).
- It has an on-boarded Account Aggregator (AA) platform. This will help customers digitally access and share information from one financial institution to other regulated entities.
- AA system helps banks use data acquired digitally through customers' consent.
- It, therefore, does away with the requirement of physical documentation furnishing by a customer for other financial usages.

PNB joins Account Aggregator ecosystem

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank has joined the Account Aggregator(AA) Ecosystem and went live on the Ecosystem as both Financial Information User (FIU) and Financial Information Provider (FIP).

Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB said, "Punjab National Bank is working on multiple business use cases which can leverage on the AA ecosystem and offer interesting products to its customers. This will further enhance the outreach of the Bank to provide customized digital products to its customers."

The Account Aggregator Ecosystem which went live in September 2021 has seen active participation from private and public sector banks in the country. Punjab National Bank is the second public sector bank to Go Live on the ecosystem acting as FIU and FIP.

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- **Financial Information User (FIU) can ask for data from FIP based on consent given by customers on their Account Aggregator handle.**
- **In May 2022, the Union Bank of India onboarded the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem.**
- **About Account Aggregator: The account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem went live in September 2021.**
- **Account Aggregator is a type of RBI regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license).**
- **It helps a person securely and digitally access or share information from one financial institution he/she has an account with to any other financial institution present in the AA network.**

138. Which of the following banks has become the first private bank to fully integrate with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department?

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- C. City Union Bank
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the first private bank to fully integrate with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department.**
- **Customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank will now be able to pay their direct taxes through the e-pay tax tab on the portal using Kotak net banking.**
- **In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval as a collections partner for taxes.**
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank 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. Uday Kotak is its MD & CEO.**

Kotak becomes first bank to integrate with new IT portal

Customers can now pay direct taxes using Kotak net banking

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 15

Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed technical integration with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department and has become the first private bank to fully integrate with the portal.

Its customers can now pay their direct taxes through the e-pay tax tab on the portal using Kotak netbanking or by visiting a branch. This will make the tax payment process simple, instant, and con-

venient for customers, said the bank.

Last October, Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval as a collections partner for taxes, after the announcement to permit all banks to participate in government business.

Dipak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said with this facility, Kotak Bank becomes one of the first to offer a direct taxes payment ecosystem across all channels. "We are continuously innovating to make this experience more customer-centric, convenient and secure," said Gupta.



139. Recently _____ announced its partnership with SBI General Insurance and Future Generali India Insurance Company to expand its insurance solutions for its 1.9 million farmers.

- A. Nurture.farm**
- B. ZeoCard
- C. XPay.Life

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- D. OmniCard
 E. None of these

- **Agri-tech startup nurture. farm announced its partnership with SBI General Insurance and Future Generali India Insurance Company to expand its insurance solutions for its 1.9 million farmers.**
- **nurture. the farm is an open digital platform for growers, farming communities, and food systems.**
- **The company had recently received a corporate agency license from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA). This license enables nurture. farm to help farmers access innovative insurance solutions at cost-effective price points.**
- **With these partnerships, nurture. the farm aims to offer its insurance solutions to 2 million farmers in 2022-23.**
- **SBI General Insurance Company Limited commenced its operations as a joint venture between the State Bank of India (SBI) and Insurance Australia Group (IAG).**
- **Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited is a private general insurance company in India. The company is a joint venture between the Future Group and Assicurazioni Generali.**

nurture.farm to expand its insurance coverage

OUR BUREAU
 Bengaluru, July 15

Agtech start-up nurture.farm has partnered with SBI General Insurance and Future Generali India Insurance Company to further expand its insurance solutions for 1.9 million farmers who use its nurture.farm app.

'Low insurance penetration' nurture.farm is an open digital platform for growers, farming communities, and food systems. It is actively working on a mission to strengthen agricultural outputs, making them profitable and sustainable. The company had recently received the corporate agency licence from India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA). This licence enables nurture.farm to help farmers access innovative insurance solutions at cost-effective price points.

Dhruv Sawhney, Business Head & COO of nurture.farm said, "Insurance penetration in India is very low, especially in the rural areas. We want to develop smart insurance solutions for farmers to increase their financial resilience. We are elated to have partnered with trusted brands like SBI General Insurance and Future Generali India Insurance Company. This partnership is a significant step forward in our path which will help us achieve our aim of becoming a one-stop destination for improving outcomes and resilience for our 1.9 million and growing community of farmers."

With these partnerships, nurture.farm aims to offer its insurance solutions to 2 million farmers in 2022-23, and will continuously innovate to offer risk mitigation solutions to farmers.

140. Recently _____ has introduced a new live-tracking application to track their local trains for daily commuting the app, called Yatri.

- A. Central Railway
 B. South Eastern Railway
 C. Western Railway
 D. Eastern Railway
 E. None of these

- **The Central Railway has introduced a new live-tracking application for Mumbaikars to track their local trains for daily commuting.**
- **The app, called Yatri, is available as a free download on Android and iOS, and users can download and start using the app right away to track trains in real-time.**

Yatri App's travel planner ready for use

KAMAL MISHRA / Mumbai

Striving towards reducing the travel hassles, the Central Railway on Wednesday came up with the Yatri App. Well, that's no more news as The FPJ has already informed you about it. But, the intriguing fact is the App's striking feature of sending an alert about the local train the commuter has planned to board.

Let's understand this with an example: If someone wants to board 6.06 pm Ambernath fast from CSMT, the person will get an alert 15 minutes in advance on their smartphone loaded with the Yatri App. Moreover, alerts can be set daily or weekly according to the user's preference.

According to the user's preference.

sengers. In case of any disruption, the App also provides the relevant information to the passengers.

A demonstration of this feature was held on Wednesday in presence of CR general manager Anil Kumar Lahoti and Mumbai Division divisional railway manager Shalabh Goel.

Talking about the App, Lahoti said that the digital product is a useful tool for daily suburban passengers to get information about train running and for better planning of their journey. They can also get information about cancellation of trains or running of special trains, especially during times of disruption of train services.

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- *The Yatri app can be used to track train arrival timings in real-time using GPS tracking, and in addition to that, users will also be able to track Mumbai Metro trains, the Monorail, and even Ferry rides.*
- *Central Railway has developed the Yatri in collaboration with a private firm.*
- *Currently, Mumbai locals are tracked via the M-indicator app, but now Indian Railways is looking forward to raising the bars in providing digital services to the passengers for a much more convenient journey.*

141. Recently _____ has entered into a strategic partnership with CarDekho and BikeDekho, to offer an automobile marketplace experience to its customers.

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. RBL Bank
- C. **Flipkart**
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

- *India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart and Girnarssoft, the parent company of CarDekho and BikeDekho has announced a strategic partnership wherein innovative tools, selections, and automobile content such as detailed specs, prices, comparisons, and more would be made available on the Flipkart app and mobile website through the microsite developed for this purpose.*
- *This collaboration with Girnarssoft will allow its users across the country to make informed auto decisions aided by search, research, and comparisons.*

142. Recently in July _____ received two letters of award for the manufacture of opium products from the Government of India.

- A. Serum Institute
- B. Cipla
- C. Medicare
- D. **Bajaj Healthcare**
- E. None of these

Flipkart joins hands with CarDekho



To offer automobile marketplace experience to Flipkart customers

OUR BUREAU

Bengaluru, July 13

E-commerce marketplace Flipkart and Girnarssoft, the parent company of auto search and discovery platforms CarDekho and BikeDekho, have entered into a strategic partnership to offer automobile marketplace experience to Flipkart customers.

Under this partnership, innovative tools, selections and automobile content such as detailed specs, prices, comparisons and more would be made available on the Flipkart app and mobile website through the microsite developed for this purpose.

Strengthening auto focus

Flipkart is strengthening its focus on the auto category, which currently covers accessories, select auto services, automobile spare parts and insurance options.

This collaboration with Girnarssoft is said to help its

users to make informed auto decisions aided by search, research and comparisons.

Speaking on the collaboration, Flipkart's Sankalp Mehrotra, Vice-President - Monetisation, said, "With over 400 million users on Flipkart, we are able to draw a deep understanding of their journeys. Our association with Girnarssoft will provide our customers with greater choices and selection in the auto category, as they go through their car and two-wheeler explorations. Users will be able to discover and learn more about the vehicle of their choice."

According to Mayank Jain, CEO - New Auto Business, Girnarssoft, this partnership with Flipkart allows them to offer their proprietary auto search and discovery services to a new and larger set of audiences in the country.

"Flipkart's reach and our strength in auto-tech solutions together will enable seamless vehicle discovery, research and buying experience for these users. This partnership takes us closer to CarDekho's vision of disrupting the personal mobility space in India," he said.

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- **Bajaj Healthcare has received two letters of award for the manufacture of Alkaloids/APIs from the Government of India.**
- **The drug maker has been awarded two tenders for the manufacture of concentrated poppy straw (CPS) and alkaloids/active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)**
- **The first letter of award is for the manufacture of alkaloids & APIs from the processing of 500 MT of the unlanded poppy capsule along with straw on an annual basis.**
- **The second letter of award is for the manufacture of alkaloids & APIs from the processing of 100 MT of opium gum on an annual basis**
- **Bajaj Healthcare (BHL) is the first-ever private player in India to be awarded a tender for opiate processing, which to date was a highly regulated & government-owned business.**

143. India set to be self-sufficient in urea by _____ .

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

- **Union Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya days ago hoped India would eliminate urea import by 2025 through the increased domestic production and enhanced use of nano urea, which cuts the consumption of traditional urea by as much as 30 percent.**
- **But trade and industry sources said India was on course to achieving near self-sufficiency in**

A first: Firm gets govt nod to process opium

Bajaj Healthcare to extract alkaloids for medicines; government brings in private sector as two state-owned plants are unable to meet demand

SOHINI DAS
Mumbai, 13 July

The central government has for the first time allowed a private company, Bajaj Healthcare, to process opium to extract alkaloids used to make pain-killers, cough syrups, and even cancer drugs.

Two government factories in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, and Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, do the work yet, processing some 800 tonnes of opium gum annually to extract alkaloids.

The government on Tuesday gave Thane-based Bajaj Healthcare an initial contract to process 500 tonnes of opium gum annually and wants production to be at 800 tonnes per annum (tpa) in the next five years, indicating the state's exit from the highly-regulated sector.

"We have been awarded two tenders for the supply of opium-derived Alkaloids & APIs to the GoI [government of India], under long term contracts and expect successive orders under similar tenders, to scale up to processing of around 6,000 tonnes of Poppy Straw and Opium Gum in the next 5 years," the company said in a statement.

"The processing of the opium gum from the poppy seeds has been outsourced to us. We will extract the alkaloid from it and give it back to the government, which can then sell it to user industries which are basically pharmaceutical players," Anil C Jain, joint managing director of Bajaj Healthcare, told *Business Standard*.

Bajaj Healthcare has modified a part of its plant in Gujarat's Savli to process



MAKING A START

- The poppy stem is cut below the pod and then crushed to produce a concentrate
- Alkaloids obtained from opium are used to make cough syrups, cancer medicines and pain-management medicines
- Therapeutically, alkaloids are particularly well known as anaesthetics, cardioprotective, and anti-inflammatory agents
- Well-known alkaloids used in clinical settings include morphine, strychnine, quinine, ephedrine and nicotine
- Alkaloids had some use as insecticides, but their use was limited due to high toxicity to humans

opium gum. Jain said the plant can process 250 tpa and the company plans to expand capacity.

Around 20-25 players participated in the government's expression of interest (EoI) for the opium processing work. Margins in the business are high, Jain said.

A company for active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) makes an Ebitda margin in the range of 18-35 per cent. The margins are better in opium processing, Jain said without giving specifics. Since the government supplies opium gum, there is no input cost for the processor.

Industry sources said the government brought the private sector in to opioid processing as the two state-owned plants are unable to meet demand. "The government had also tried to engage the private sector, primarily pharma players, to enter

poppy farming around 2011-12. This did not, however, see much response," said an industry source.

India is a rare country to legally cultivate opium poppy and it is the only one that licitly produces opium gum.

"The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Gwalior, licenses farmers to cultivate opium poppy; supervises and controls the cultivation; and procures the opium produced by the licenced cultivators," said the revenue department on its website.

The opium CBN collects is transferred to the government-owned opium factories. Part of the opium is dried and exported and some is used to extract alkaloids.

The government plants extract morphine, codeine, thebaine, and other alkaloids from opium and sell them to the pharmaceutical industry. Jain said that by

processing 800 tonnes of opium gum, around 60-90 tonnes of alkaloid APIs can be extracted.

Bajaj Healthcare is primarily an API and intermediates player, drawing around 90 per cent of its Rs 680 crore revenues from APIs and intermediates, while the balance comes from finished doses. Jain said his company will tap opportunities in the alkaloids space in India and abroad.

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries is into opium processing, but for overseas geographies like Australia and Hungary. It also grows poppies in Tasmania. In 2021, the company cut area under poppy production in Tasmania as globally demand for opiate-based pain-management drugs dipped sharply as the Covid-19 pandemic had led people to defer elective surgeries.

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urea in the next few years through conventional routes.

- The commercial production of nano urea started on August 1, 2021, and the producers were Iffco and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF).
- After that, a plan was drawn up to increase nano urea output in eight plants of Iffco and RCF in various phases starting August 2021. Those together will produce around 440 million bottles of 500-ml nano urea. This will be equivalent to around 20 million tonnes of urea.

INDIA'S FERTILISER PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS

India set to be self-sufficient in urea by 2025

Commissioning of new plants likely to bring down import dependence

SANJEEV MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 15 July

Union Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya some days ago hoped India would eliminate urea import by 2025 through increased domestic production and enhanced use of nano urea, which cuts the consumption of traditional urea by as much as 30 per cent.

But trade and industry sources said India was on course to achieving near self-sufficiency in urea in the next few years through conventional routes. Nano will play a big supportive role in the same.

This optimism rests on the commissioning of six new conventional urea plants, each with an annual production capacity of about 1.3 million tonnes. Of these, the Barauni and Sindri plants will be commissioned by September, and the others in the next three-four years. Once all these public sector urea plants start functioning, India's domestic urea output will rise by 7.8-8 million tonnes. This, when added to the existing production of 25 million tonnes per annum, will take the annual availability of fertilisers to almost 33 million tonnes.

India consumes around 35 million tonnes of urea at present. Hence, dependence on imports will automatically go down to 1-3 million tonnes a year as against the current 7-9 million tonnes. "This will not only make us almost self-sufficient in urea but also lower the requirement of floating open global tenders to import urea each year, which sometimes leads to cartelisation among global players to India's detriment," a senior industry official said.

He said once India became a marginal urea importer in the global market, a lot of problems associated with rising international rates would go. "On top of all these, the Central government is signing long-term contracts with countries such as Oman for about 1 million tonnes of urea a year. This should further eliminate the need for big imports," the official said.

Nano plan

The commercial output of nano urea started on August 1, 2021, and the producers were Iffco and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF). After that, a plan was drawn up to increase nano urea output in eight plants of Iffco and RCF in phases. Those together will produce around 440 million bottles of 500-ml nano urea. This will be equivalent to around 20 million tonnes of urea.

Since the launch of nano urea, the government has dispatched some 39 million bottles to be sold at outlets of Iffco and RCF. Of that around 28.7 million bottles have been sold.

This is equivalent to around 1.3 million tonnes of conventional urea. According to a ministry official, the government will save foreign exchange of about ₹40,000 crore a year due to a reduction in imports.

Nano urea's application can lead to a reduction in soil, water and air pollution caused by the overuse of chemical fertilisers.

At present, the nano urea capacity is 50 million bottles per year. Cooperative major Iffco has introduced innovative nano urea in the market. Commercial production started on August 1, 2021, at its Kalol unit in Gujarat. Seven more nano urea plants are being set up by Iffco as well as RCF and National Fertilizers. Iffco shifted nano urea technology to these two firms free of cost. It is estimated that by using nano urea, farmer income will increase by an average of ₹4,000 per acre.

Private sector in wait-and-watch mode

Nano urea being a patented product, private companies might have to get the licence to produce it in their plants.

However, some industry players said they wanted to assess its effectiveness and cost for atleast a year before doing large-scale production and sales through their channels.

Sources said, roughly, of the 25 million tonnes of urea domestically produced in the country, around 14-15 million tonnes comes from the public sector and cooperatives, rest from a combination of private sector and joint ventures.

Several private players said nano urea was essentially suitable for foliar application (that is, from the top through a sprayer on the leaves), while conventional urea was applied at the roots of the plants. Therefore, it needs to be closely analysed.



PRODUCTION PLANTS

Location	Production capacity	Commercial production date
Iffco Kalol	50	Aug 2021
Iffco Phulpur	60	Sep 2022
Iffco Aonla	60	Apr 2023
Iffco Bengaluru	60	Mar 2024
RCF Trombay	50	Mar 2024
NFI Nangal	50	Jul 2024
Iffco Deoghar	60	Nov 2024
Iffco Assam	50	Nov 2025

440 mn TOTAL BOTTLES BY 2025

NOTE: Production capacity in million bottles per year. Each bottle is of 500 ml
Source: Government estimates

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Appointment News

144. Recently The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up a three-member commission headed by _____ for carrying out a fresh delimitation exercise of the municipal wards in Delhi.

- A. Pawan Munjal
- B. R Dinesh
- C. Sanjiv Puri
- D. Vijay Dev**
- E. None of these

MHA sets up panel for delimitation of municipal wards

3-member committee to submit report in 4 months, paving way for civic polls; AAP calls formation of panel dilatory tactic; BJP says ready for election

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formed a three-member committee to carry out a delimitation exercise of municipal wards in the Capital, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) announced here on Saturday.

The delimitation exercise will pave the way for the city's first civic polls after the MCD's reunification.

"Taking a step forward in the direction of holding municipal elections, the Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a delimitation commission to assist Central government in delimitation of wards and carrying out other functions related to it," the MCD stated.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who recently threatened to drag the BJP-led Centre to court for deferring the civic polls, welcomed the development.



Vijay Dev, the State Election Commissioner, will be the chairperson of the delimitation panel. • FILE PHOTO

On May 22, *The Hindu* reported that a new panel would be formed for a fresh delimitation of civic wards in the city.

Ward uncertainty

While welcoming the constitution of the committee, Mr. Kejriwal also raised a question on how the committee would function without clarity on the number of civic wards the city would now

have. "We are happy that the Central government has constituted a committee for the delimitation of MCD wards. But it did not specify how many wards there will be in Delhi. How will this committee function?" the Chief Minister tweeted.

According to the MCD, the delimitation panel will have three members and will be chaired by Vijay Dev, the

Taking a step forward in the direction of holding municipal elections, the MHA has constituted a delimitation commission to assist Central government in delimitation of wards

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

State Election Commissioner. The other two members of the panel will be Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner, MCD. The panel is expected to submit its report within four months.

Reacting to the development, AAP MLA Atishi called the constitution of the panel

by the Centre, without a decision on the number of wards in the city, a tactic to delay the civic polls.

"The committee can't start its job without knowing how many wards there should be," Ms. Atishi said.

"It is another attempt by the BJP to postpone and delay the MCD election. Because they know that the people of Delhi have decided that they will vote out the BJP and vote the Kejriwal government to power in the MCD too. That is why the BJP is postponing the election as much as they can," she added.

Addressing the BJP, Ms. Atishi said, "After the 2013 [Assembly] election, you declared President's rule in Delhi and did not conduct the polls. But with the passage of time, the popularity of AAP and Kejriwal increased. No matter how much you delay the civic

polls, the people will give more votes to AAP and Kejriwal. Your situation will be the same as it is in the Delhi Assembly and you will be reduced to single digits."

'Not afraid'

On his part, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said that his party was the largest political party in the world, which had succeeded in making political inroads in areas where it had no previous presence. He said the BJP never ran away from elections.

"We are a party that began with just two MPs and today have 303 Lok Sabha members. The BJP never steps back from elections and believes in following the laid down democratic procedures. People making such allegations are exposing their own fear of defeat," Mr. Gupta added.

Mr. Gupta welcomed the

move and said that the BJP was ready and willing to contest the civic polls.

The reunified MCD came into existence on May 22, after the three erstwhile municipalities – North, East and South – were merged into one entity.

Senior IAS officers Ashwani Kumar and Gyanesh Bharti assumed charge of the body as its special officer and commissioner respectively.

Established in 1958, the MCD, which had 272 wards, was trifurcated in 2012 during the then Sheila Dikshit Congress government's tenure. North and South corporations got 104 wards each and the remaining 64 wards were brought under the ambit of the East civic corporation.

On April 5, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was passed by Parliament to reunify the three corporations.

Gandhi Nagar market revamp

- **The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up a three-member commission for carrying out a fresh delimitation exercise of the municipal wards in Delhi.**
- **The exercise will pave the way for the civic polls in Delhi, which would be the first since the recent reunification of the city's three corporations.**
- **The panel will have three members -- Vijay Dev, State Election Commissioner, Delhi, who will be its chairman, Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner, MCD.**
- **The commission will present its report within four months of its formation.**

145. Recently **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** has formed a committee on Right to Repair. The committee is chaired by _____.

- A. G.S. Bajpai
- B. Nidhi Khatri**
- C. Ashok Patil
- D. Paramjeet Singh
- E. None of these

- **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has formed a committee on Right to Repair.**
- **The committee is chaired by Additional Secretary Nidhi Khatri.**
- **It includes Anupam Mishra, Justice Paramjeet Singh Dhaliwal, G.S. Bajpai, and Ashok Patil as members.**
- **The committee also includes representatives from stakeholders, consumer activists, and consumer organizations as members.**
- **Department has set up the committee in a bid to develop an overall framework for the Right to Repair.**
- **Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables, and automobile & Automobile Equipment are the key sectors identified for this framework.**
- **The framework is expected to catalyze sustainability and employment generation by allowing third-party repairs. In India, a vibrant repair service sector exists.**
- **Right to Repair: It refers to government law that gives the consumers ability to get their product repaired where the manufacturer of the product requires consumers to use only its services by placing software barriers or restricting access to tools and components.**
- **The right to repair is recognized in the US, the UK, the European Union, and many other countries**

Department of Consumer Affairs sets up panel on Right to Repair

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 14

To develop an overall framework for the Right to Repair, the Department of Consumer Affairs has set up a committee chaired by Additional Secretary Nidhi Khatri.

"The aim of developing a framework on right to repair in India is to empower consumers and product buyers in the local market, harmonise trade between original equipment manufacturers and third-party buyers and sellers, emphasise on developing sustainable consumption of products and reduction in e-waste," the DoCA said.

The government expects the framework to serve as a catalyst for sustainability and employment generation through Aatmanirbhar Bharat, by allowing third-party repairs.

The key sectors identified for this framework include farm equipment, mobile phones/ tablets, consumer durables and

automobiles and automobile equipment. The committee includes Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary DoCA; Justice Paramjeet Singh Dhaliwal; GS Bajpai, Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala; Ashok Patil, Chair of Consumer Law and Practice; and representatives from stakeholders including ICEA, SIAM, consumer activists and consumer organisations as members, it added.

Customers' rights

"Manufacturers have proprietary control over spare parts (regarding the kind of design they use for screws and other). Monopoly on repair processes infringes the customer's "right to choose". Digital warranty cards, for instance, ensure that by getting a product from a "non-recognised" outfit, a customer loses the right to claim a warranty," the committee noted in its first meeting on Wednesday.

The committee also believes that manufacturers encourage a

culture of 'planned obsolescence'. "This is a system whereby the design of any gadget is such that it lasts a particular time only and after that particular period it has to be mandatorily replaced. When contracts fail to cede full control to the buyer, the legal right of owners is damaged," the statement added.

"During the deliberations, it

was felt that tech companies should provide complete knowledge and access to manuals, schematics, and software updates, and licence shouldn't limit the transparency of the product in sale.," it added.

The right to repair has been recognised in many countries, including the US, the UK and the EU.

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	
<small>(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)</small>	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	Avanti System Integrators Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	06th September, 2004
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Mumbai
4 Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U31907MH2004PTC148414
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	A-302, Brent Ford Hiramani Estate, Godhbandher Road, Patlipada, Thane Mh 400607 In
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	12th May, 2022 being the date of delivery of order by NCLT, Mumbai. (13th May, 2022 being the date of intimation of order by NCLT)
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	15-07-2022
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Complete details available on email at: cirp.avanti@gmail.com
9 Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Available at websites of :- IBBI : www.ibbi.gov.in Or available on email at: cirp.avanti@gmail.com
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	30-07-2022
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	09-08-2022

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146. Recently **KVIC launched Knowledge Portal for Khadi by the Center of Excellence**. Who is the current chairman of KVIC?

- A. Preeta Verma
- B. Manoj Kumar**
- C. Vinai Kumar Saxena
- D. Ashwini Bajpai
- E. None of these

- The newly-appointed Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Shri Manoj Kumar assumed the charge on Friday, 15th July 2022
- The Knowledge Portal for Khadi is a platform developed by the Center of Excellence for Khadi to provide design directions to the Khadi institutions.
- The portal was inaugurated by Ms. Preeta Verma, CEO-KVIC, on 14th July 2022. The Center of Excellence for Khadi has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at NIFT, to support Khadi Institutions.
- Knowledge Port for Khadi attempts to disseminate design knowledge to a broader section of Khadi Institutions. The portal intends to create design intervention by simplifying the trends especially suitable for Khadi.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.

147. Recently **InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo airline**, has approved the appointment of _____ as non-independent non-executive director.

- A. M Damodaran**
- B. Ashwini Bhatia
- C. Rahul Bhatia
- D. Nikhil Jha
- E. None of these

- InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo airline has approved the appointment of former SEBI Chairman M Damodaran as a non-independent non-executive director.
- In his previous stint at the airline, Damodaran was an independent director and chairman of the board of directors at InterGlobe Aviation from January 24, 2019, to May 3, 2022.

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- *M. Damodaran, IAS (Retd.), presently a Governance Consultant, Advisor, Mentor, and Coach, has worked with the Union and the State Governments of India, regulatory bodies, investment institutions, banks, and development financial institutions, and the private sector.*
- *He was Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) from February 2005 to February 2008.*
- *He was the Founder and Chairman of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirappalli.*
- *InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., doing business as IndiGo, is an Indian low-cost airline headquartered in Gurgaon, Haryana, India.*

148. Recently _____ has taken charge as Director (Technical) of REC Limited with effect from 12th July, 2022.

- A. **V.K. Singh**
- B. Manoj Kumar
- C. Vikram Sethi
- D. Anupam Biswas
- E. None of these

- *V.K. Singh has taken charge as Director (Technical) of REC Limited with effect from 12th July 2022.*
- *Before this elevation, Singh was Executive Director in REC holding a portfolio of key business areas including the Private Sector*
- *REC is an NBFC focusing on power sector financing and development across India. Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years in the area of its operations. It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards.*

149. Recently The **Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS)**, a self-regulatory industry body, announced the appointment of _____ as its director general.

- A. Sandeep Pradhan
- B. **Joy Bhattacharjya**
- C. Debashish Nanda
- D. Madhulika Bhaskar
- E. None of these

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- The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS), a self-regulatory industry body, has announced the appointment of Joy Bhattacharjya as its director general.
- In this role, he will oversee the functioning of the body and work with policymakers and industry stakeholders alike. Bhattacharjya is the CEO of the Prime Volleyball League and is a cricket analyst.
- The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS), earlier known as the Indian Federation of Sports Gaming IFSG, was established to protect consumer interest and create standardized best practices in the Fantasy Sports industry.
- The federation is a Section 8 company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 for self-regulation and promotion of best practices in online fantasy sports services and contests offered in India.
- Bimal Julka, chairman of FIFS.

150. Who among the following has been recommended by Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) for the position of Managing Director at the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)?

- A. Tapan Ray
- B. A. S. Rajeev
- C. Atanu Kumar Das
- D. G Rajkiran Rai**
- E. None of these

- FSIB has recommended G Rajkiran Rai for the position of Managing Director at NaBFID.
- This is the first-ever recommendation made by the newly created Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).
- G Rajkiran Rai is the former Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India.
- National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) is a newly created development finance institution (DFI).
- The government had earlier this year infused ₹ 20,000 crores into NaBFID.

151. Recently The government has given _____ the additional power of the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the New India Assurance (NIA) for three months or till a regular appointment to the post is done.

- A. Brajesh Upadhyay
- B. Madhulika Bhaskar**
- C. Debashish Nanda
- D. Pawan Munjal
- E. None of these

FSIB recommends Rajkiran Rai for NaBFID MD role

FORMER UNION BANK of India chief executive Rajkiran Rai G has been identified for the role of managing director of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) on Wednesday said that Rai was selected for the role after interviews held with five candidates. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface, their overall experience and the extant parameters, the Bureau recommends Rajkiran Rai G for the position of MD in NaBFID," the FSIB said in a tweet. —FE BUREAU

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- The government has given Madhulika Bhaskar, General Manager, New India Assurance (NIA), the additional power of the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the company for three months or till a regular appointment to the post is done, with immediate effect.
- While Bhaskar was shifted from GIC Re to NIA in March to be an acting CMD of the company, she was not given the necessary power to function as the CMD of the company.
- Currently, the government cannot make a regular appointment to the post of CMD of any PSU general insurance company as the 'Inderjeet Singh vs Indian Government' case is pending in the Delhi High Court, challenging the power of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) to select any CMD. On Monday, the Delhi HC adjourned the case to September 8.

NIA CMD charge

Mumbai: The government has given Madhulika Bhaskar, General Manager, New India Assurance (NIA), additional charge of CMD for three months or till a regular appointment is done, effective immediately. **ENS**

152. Recently the **central government has appointed** _____ **non-official members in the Board of Trade from different sectors.**

- A. 29
- B. 30
- C. 22
- D. 26
- E. None of these

- The central government has appointed 29 non-official members in the Board of Trade from different sectors.
- It comprises chiefs from trade and industry associations such as the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and the Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA).
- The new members include TEA President and member of FISME's central executive committee Raja M Shanmugham, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal, India Cellular & Electronics Association Chairman Pankaj Mahindroo, and Laghu Udyog Bharati Executive Member Om Prakash Mittal.
- It also includes Tata Consultancy Services CEO and MD Rajesh Gopinathan, KKR India Chairman Sanjay Nayyar, and GCMMF (Amul) Managing Director RS Sodhi, as per gazette notification by the Commerce & Industry Ministry.

Government appoints 29 members to Board of Trade

Representatives from TCS, KKR India, CAIT, Amul, LUB find a place



OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 12

The government has nominated 29 non-official members from multiple sectors and both large and small enterprises in the Board of Trade chaired by the Commerce and Industry Minister.

The new members include Tata Consultancy Services CEO and MD Rajesh Gopinathan, KKR India Chairman Sanjay Nayyar, Confederation of All India Traders Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal, India Cellular & Electronics Association Chairman Pankaj Mahindroo, GCMMF (Amul) Managing Director RS Sodhi, and Laghu Udyog Bharati Executive Member Om Prakash Mittal, according to a gazette notification by the

Commerce & Industry Ministry.

The terms of reference for the new non-official members include providing a platform to States and Union Territories for articulating State-oriented perspectives on trade policy, the notification said.

The members are also to act as facilitators in implementation of District Export Hub events including sensitisation workshops, identification and promotion of identified products.

They will also advise the government on policy measures for preparation and implementation of both short and long term plans for increasing exports, the notification added.

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- *The members are also to act as facilitators in the implementation of District Export Hub events including sensitization workshops, and the identification, and promotion of identified products.*
- *They will advise the government on policy measures for the preparation and implementation of both short and long-term plans for increasing exports.*
- *In 2019, the government merged the Council of Trade Development and Promotion with the Board of Trade to bring greater coherence in the consultation process with all stakeholders for promoting exports and imports, according to a notification of the commerce ministry.*
- *Board of Trade: It is chaired by the Commerce and Industry Minister. It advises the government on policy measures to improve the country's foreign trade.*
- *In 2019, the Council of Trade Development and Promotion was merged with the Board of Trade.*

153. **Recently *Eveready Industries***
has approved the appointment of _____ as non-executive directors (additional directors), effective from July 12, 2022.

- A. *Anand Chand Burman*
- B. *Mohit Burman*
- C. *Arjun Lamba*
- D. *All of the above***
- E. *None of these*

- *The board of the country's largest dry cell battery maker, Eveready Industries India, has been reconstituted with Burman family members and nominees being appointed to it.*
- *In a filing with the stock exchanges, the company informed that the board had approved the appointment of Anand Chand Burman, Mohit Burman, and Arjun Lamba as non-executive directors (additional directors) with effect from July 12, 2022.*
- *In addition, Sunil Alagh has been appointed as an independent director (additional director) of the company for five years.*
- *The Burmans would be appointing the chairman of the company – a post that fell vacant after Aditya Khaitan, younger son of late Brij Mohan Khaitan, stepped down as*

Burmans named non-executive directors of Eveready Ind

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, July 12

Eveready Industries India Ltd has appointed Anand Chand Burman, Mohit Burman and Arjun Lamba as non-executive directors (Additional Directors) effective July 12, subject to shareholder approval. The company has also appointed Sunil Kumar Alagh as an independent director (Additional Director) for a period of five years the company informed the exchanges.

It is to be noted that Burmans, the promoters of Dabur India, had recently become the promoters of Eveready Industries, pursuant to an open offer. The Burman family's shareholding in Eveready went up to 38.3 per cent as they obtained 14.3 per cent equity through the open offer. In February this year, the Burmans had announced an open offer for acquiring an additional 26 per cent in Eveready for ₹605 crore. Following that, the Burmans had said they plan to "professionalise" the company and consolidate its market leadership in the dry cell business.

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non-executive chairman, following the announcement of the open offer by the Burman Group earlier this year.

154. Recently Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) appointed _____ as the replacement of outgoing Managing Director and CEO Vikram Limaye of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

- A. Ashish Kumar Chauhan**
- B. Ashwini Bhatia**
- C. Nitin Chugh**
- D. KV Kamath**
- E. None of these**

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed Ashish Kumar Chauhan as the replacement of outgoing Managing Director and CEO Vikram Limaye of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). Limaye's term at NSE ended on July 16.**
- **Ashish Kumar Chauhan is the current MD & CEO of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).**

SEBI clears Ashish Chauhan for the post of NSE chief

PALAKSHAH
Mumbai, July 17

Market regulator SEBI has finally cleared the way for Ashish Chauhan to take over as the MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). In a letter sent to the NSE, SEBI said that Chauhan should be appointed for five years, sources told *BusinessLine*.

The NSE said in a statement that Chauhan's appointment is subject to his accepting the offer and fulfilment of terms and conditions including approval from NSE shareholders.

In the interim, the NSE Governing Board has decided to appoint an Internal Executive Committee



Ashish Chauhan

comprising Yatrik Vin, Group CFO & Head Corporate Affairs; Priya Subbaraman, Chief Regulatory Officer; Somasundaram KS, Chief Enterprise Risk and Information Security Officer; and Shiv Kumar Bhasin, Chief Technology and Operations Officer for

running the company. The Committee will be dissolved upon the new MD & CEO assuming office.

Chauhan is currently the MD and CEO of BSE and is known for reviving the exchange, that was on the verge of closure in 2009.

Uphill task ahead

At the NSE, Chauhan again has an uphill task to steer the exchange through the co-location scam now being pursued by the Central Bureau of Investigations and the Enforcement Directorate. The agencies have also registered a case of phone tapping against former and current key NSE officials.

- **The governing body of the NSE has formed an internal executive committee to run the affairs of the company till the new MD & CEO take charge.**
- **The committee will be dissolved once the new MD & CEO assumes office.**
- **Limaye, whose five-year term ended on July 16, did not seek another tenure at the NSE despite being eligible for it.**
- **Limaye was appointed as the NSE chief in July 2017, following the exit of the exchange's former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna.**

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- *National Stock Exchange of India Limited is the leading stock exchange in India, located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by number of contracts traded based on the statistics maintained by the Futures Industry Association, a derivatives trade body*

155. Recently in July Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of Rakesh Makhija as the Non-Executive Chairman of _____ till October 2023.

- A. Rbl Bank
- B. Axis Bank**
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda
- E. None of these

RBI Okays Fresh Term for Makhija at Axis Bank



NEW DELHI Axis Bank on Tuesday said Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Makhija as the Non-Executive Chairman till October 2023. RBI vide its letter dated July 12, has approved the re-appointment of Makhija as the Non-Executive (Part Time) Chairman of the bank, with effect from July 18 up to October 26, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

- *Axis Bank on July 12 said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Makhija as the Non-Executive Chairman till October 2023.*
- *RBI vide its letter dated July 12, has approved the re-appointment of Makhija as the Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman of the bank, with effect from July 18.*
- *Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.*
- *The erstwhile MCD, established in 1958, was trifurcated in 2012 during Sheila Dikshit's tenure as the chief minister. It was recently reunified by merging the three civic bodies -- North, South, and East Delhi municipal corporations or NDMC, SDMC, and EDMC.*

156. Consider the following statement regarding the two task forces set up by IRDAI to sort out issues between insurers and re-insurers.

1. A nine-member panel has been set up to sort out the issues between non-life insurers and re-insurers. Bhargav Dasgupta, MD, and CEO of ICICI Lombard General have been named the chairman of the panel.
2. The second task force, comprising seven members, will look at the life insurance segment and re-insurers. It is headed by Naveen Tahilyani, CEO and MD, Tata AIA Life Insurance.

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**

- **Regulator IRDAI has set up two task forces to suggest steps to sort out issues between insurers and re-insurers.**
- **The decision by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) follows meetings with representatives of life and non-life insurers and reinsurers in Hyderabad recently. The discussions at the 'Bima Manthan' were held on the issues and concerns related to reinsurance support to further increase insurance penetration in India.**
- **A nine-member panel has been set up to sort out the issues between non-life insurers and re-insurers. Bhargav Dasgupta, MD, and CEO of ICICI Lombard General have been named the chairman of the panel.**
- **The second task force, comprising seven members, will look at the life insurance segment and re-insurers. It is headed by Naveen Tahilyani, CEO and MD, Tata AIA Life Insurance.**
- **The panel on life insurance has been asked to study and make recommendations on stabilization of reinsurance rates, capacity constraints with reinsurers, securitization of mortality risk, and financial reinsurance solutions, among others.**
- **The panel headed by Dasgupta has been tasked to suggest steps on the applicability of compliance requirements, and faster settlement and payment mechanisms among the re-insurers and cross-border reinsurers (CBRs), among others**
- **The task forces have been asked to file their reports within three weeks.**

IRDAI sets up task forces to suggest steps to resolve insurers' issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11

Regulator IRDAI on Monday said it has set up two task forces to suggest steps to sort out issues between insurers and re-insurers.

The decision by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) follows meetings with representatives of life and non-life insurers and reinsurers in Hyderabad recently. The discussions at the 'Bima Manthan' were held on the issues and concerns related to reinsurance support to further increase in insurance penetration in India.

A nine-member panel has been set up to sort out the issues between non-life insurers and re-insurers. Bhargav Dasgupta, MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard General, has been named the chairman of the panel.

The second task force, comprising seven members, will look at the life insurance segment and re-insurers. It is headed by Naveen Tahilyani, CEO and MD, Tata AIA Life Insurance.

157. Who has been appointed as the new chief of Goa Shipyard limited?

- A. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay**
- B. Ajay Kumar Sinha**
- C. Abhay Kumar Singh**
- D. Alka Upadhyaya**
- E. None of these**

- **The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay as the Chairman and Managing Director of Goa Shipyard.**

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- He was currently serving as director (operations) at Goa Shipyard Limited.
- As the chief executive, he will be accountable to its board of directors and the government.
- He will be responsible for achieving the company's corporate objectives and performance parameters.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL): It is a Government-owned Shipbuilding Company. It was founded in 1957 and its headquarters is located in Goa.

158. Recently Defence Ministry has set up Apex Committee to conduct a Performance and Efficiency Audit into various aspects of its activities.

Who is the chairman of the Apex Committee?

- A. Defence Minister
- B. Chief of Defence Staff
- C. Defence Secretary
- D. Controller General of Defence Accounts
- E. None of these

- Defence Ministry has set up Apex Committee under the chairmanship of the Defence Secretary.
- The Apex Committee has been set up to conduct a Performance and Efficiency Audit into various aspects of the activities of the Ministry.
- Vice Chiefs of the three Services, Secretary Defence (Finance), and Chief of Integrated Staff Committee are members of the committee.
- The committee also includes Controller General of Defence Accounts, Director General (Acquisition), and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- The committee will identify specific areas for the conduct of performance and audit by the Controller General of Defence Accounts.
- The committee will also advise Defence Minister on remedial measures to be adopted.

- It will also advise Defence Minister on measures for overall improvement in the strengthening of internal oversight and Risk Management Framework.

159. Recently _____ has been appointed as the President of Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) for a term of two consecutive years, 2022-2024.

- A. Yaspal Sharma

Panel set up for performance audit of Defence Ministry

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Defence Ministry has set up an apex committee to conduct a "performance and efficiency" audit of capital procurements, logistics, inventory and maintenance of assets of the armed forces.

The committee, headed by the defence secretary, will advise Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on measures to be taken for overall improvement and the strengthening of internal oversight and risk management framework in various aspects of the functioning of the ministry.

The panel comprises vice-chiefs of the three services, secretary, defence (finance), chief of integrated staff committee, controller general of defence accounts and director general (acquisition) and other senior officials of the ministry, including representatives from the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

The setting up of the committee comes amid efforts to streamline the military procurement procedures and focus on enhancing the country's overall combat readiness.

"The Ministry of Defence has set up an institutional mechanism comprising of an apex committee with the defence secretary as chairman to conduct a performance and efficiency audit

into various aspects of its activities," the ministry said in a statement.

"This kind of audit is expected to provide valuable inputs to the top management of the ministry of specific shortcomings, if any, in planning and execution of projects, and suggest systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedures, identification of risk factors, etc.," it said.

The ministry described formation of the committee as a "major shift" from the existing transaction-based compliance audit to carry out an outcome-based performance and efficiency audit.

"The broad areas that have been identified for the conduct of performance and efficiency audit include defence capital procurements, provisioning, logistics, inventory levels, maintenance of platforms/assets, role and performance of authority holding sealed particulars etc.," the ministry said.

It said the apex committee can also recommend any other specific area for performance and efficiency audit. "The committee chaired by the defence secretary will identify specific areas for the conduct of performance and audit by controller general of defence accounts and monitor performance audit reports and action taken thereon," the ministry said.

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- B. Cyrus Katgara
- C. Milind Menon
- D. D Sachadeva
- E. None of these

- *At its Annual General Meeting held recently, the Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) formulated a new board for a term of two consecutive years, 2022-2024.*
- *Yashpal Sharma, MD, Skyways Group, has been appointed as the President of ACFI while Cyrus Katgara, the past President, will be part of the current board as Ex Officio, a press release from the association stated. Katgara will continue to support ACFI to achieve its goals and help boost the Indian economy.*
- *Sanjiv Edward, the newly elected ACFI Vice President.*
- *The “Air Cargo Forum India” - ACFI is an association of various stakeholders of Air Cargo Logistic Supply Chain Trade and Industry.*

160. Consider the following statement regarding the **Election Commission of India**:

1. **Rajiv Kumar is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.**
2. **RK Gupta has been named deputy Election Commissioner.**
3. **It is a constitutional body mentioned under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Senior bureaucrat RK Gupta has been named deputy Election Commissioner.*
- *Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, RK Gupta, will be a Deputy Election Commissioner (Joint Secretary level) till the date of his retirement, 28 February 2023.*
- *He has succeeded T Sreekanth.*
- *Rajiv Kumar is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.*
- *Anup Chandra Pandey is the Election Commissioner of India.*
- *Election Commission of India: It is a constitutional body mentioned under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.*
- *It comprises one Chief Election Commissioner and two other election Commissioners.*
- *It was established in 1950 and its secretariat is located in New Delhi.*

161. Recently Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe** resigned from his post. He was Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Mongolia

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- B. Maldives
- C. Mauritius
- D. Sri Lanka**
- E. None of these

- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe resigned from his post.
- Ranil Wickremesinghe has decided to resign as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after violent protestors stormed the residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo.
- 16 MPs from President Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party urged him to resign immediately.
- Following several waves of COVID-19, Sri Lanka is currently suffering from its worst economic crisis.
- The total foreign debt of Sri Lanka stands at \$51 billion.
- The Sri Lankan rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.
- Its executive and judicial capital are Colombo, and its legislative capital is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.

162. Recently _____ has been appointed President of UBS Americas and CEO of UBS Americas Holding .

- A. Neena Updahya
- B. Raja Chari
- C. Naureen Hassan**
- D. Gita Gopinath
- E. None of these

- A prominent Indian-American finance executive, Naureen Hassan, has been appointed President of UBS Americas and CEO of UBS Americas Holding, according to the Switzerland-based financial giant.
- Currently, Hassan is the first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY).
- She will also be serving on UBS Group's Executive Board, according to a press release by UBS Americas.
- Hassan will join in the leadership role in October this year and will succeed Tom Naratil, the Zurich and Basel-headquartered company said in a press release.
- UBS Group AG is a multinational investment bank and financial services company founded and based in Switzerland.
- Co-headquartered in the cities of Zurich and Basel, it maintains a presence in all major financial centers as the largest Swiss banking institution and the largest private bank in the world.

Indian-American Named President of UBS Americas, CEO of UBS Americas Holding

NEW YORK New York Naureen Hassan, an Indian-origin veteran of the financial services sector, has been appointed president of UBS Americas and CEO of UBS Americas Holding, according to the Switzerland-based financial behemoth. Hassan will join in the leadership role in October this year, from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY), and will succeed Tom Naratil, the Zurich and Basel-headquartered company said. She will become a member of UBS's Group executive board in October 2022. UBS said in a statement that in her new role, Hassan will be responsible for driving client relationships, promoting cross-business collaboration, navigating the evolving public policy landscape and ensuring sound regulatory and reputational risk governance. Prior to FRBNY, Hassan was the chief digital officer for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. PTI



Naureen Hassan

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- She will become a member of UBS's Group Executive Board in October 2022.

163. Recently Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the **appointment of former RBI executive Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of _____ for three years.**

- A. City Union Bank
- B. Karur Vysya Bank**
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of these

- Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former RBI executive Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of the bank for three years.
- In May, the bank had recommended Hemchandra's candidature for the position of non-executive independent (part-time) chairperson of the bank to the RBI for approval.
- Hemchandra was the Executive Director of RBI from June 2015 to November 2017.
- Karur Vysya Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank in India. headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu.

Jagan elected lifetime president of YSRCP

Party has created a bedrock on which the State's economic, social and political transformation will take place, says A.P. CM

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and national president of YSR Congress Party, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been unanimously elected lifetime president of the YSR Congress Party.

Announcing this at the plenary, which concluded here on Saturday, party national general secretary V. Vijaya Sai Reddy said 22 sets of nominations were filed on Friday, and since there was no other nomination, the party unanimously elected Mr. Jagan lifetime president.

Mr. Jagan was greeted by Ministers, MLAs and MLCs and senior leaders soon after the announcement. Ratification of the amendment to Part I of Article 1 of the party constitution and recognising the party as YSRCP were among the major resolutions adopted at the plenary.

The party also resolved to



New equations: Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with his mother, Y.S. Vijayamma, during the YSRCP plenary meeting held in Guntur district on Saturday. *K.V.S. GIRI

amend Article 8 and 9 of its Constitution and unanimously elect Mr. Jagan as lifetime president of the party.

Mr. Jagan Reddy thanked the party supporters for re-

posing faith in him for over a decade. "I am seeing an army of loyal men and women who have endured many difficulties for over a decade. I salute the party supporters

with all my heart and I promise to take care of you. We have set a new trend and brought about a revolution in economic, social and political sphere and in educa-

tion, health and women empowerment," said Mr. Jagan.

Giving a clarion call for the party cadre to gear up for the coming general elections, YSRCP national president and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that the party has created a bedrock on which the State's economic, social and political transformation would take place.

Sounds poll bugle

"I am happy to say that we have created a sound foundation on which remarkable transformation has taken place in education, health and agricultural sector in three years. I urge you to lead the battle against the evil conglomerate of Opposition parties and their friendly media, like Arjuna in the Mahabharata, and tell every person in the State of the good things done by our government, our welfare

schemes, our innovative reforms in education, health and agriculture and our mission to ensure transformational changes in social, economic and political landscape," said Mr. Jagan at the end of two-day plenary session.

Massive crowds thronged the venue in between Guntur and Vijayawada. The national highway between Guntur and Vijayawada was choc-a-block as thousands came from distant places across the State.

Reminiscing the three-year YSRCP government rule, Mr. Jagan said that 95% of the poll promises made in the manifesto were fulfilled.

He recalled the journey of strengthening YSRCP, thanked the party workers for their support over the years, and assured them that he would continue to take their responsibility in the coming days as well.

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Days and Obituary News

164. National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated on _____ every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers, and concerned stakeholders throughout the Country.

- A. 9th July
- B. 10th July**
- C. 11th July
- D. 8th July
- E. None of these

- National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated on 10 July every year.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. Alikunhi.
- They contributed to achieving successful induced breeding of major carps on 10th July 1957 at Angul in Odisha for the first time in the country.
- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) celebrated the 22nd National Fish Farmers Day on 10 July 2022 in a hybrid mode at NFDB Hyderabad.
- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Dr. L. Murugan, graced the program virtually.
- He said India stands second in fish production through aquaculture.
- He highlighted that the Government of India has sanctioned Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu.
- NFDB and State Bank of India signed MoU to facilitate FIDF & Entrepreneur Models scheme.
- The fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) scheme was started in 2018-2019.

165. What is the name of the former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL) who was acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet, passed away?

- A. Brijendra K Syngal**
- B. Pawan Munjal
- C. Rajat Dalmia
- D. Kishore Biyani
- E. None of these

‘Father of Indian Internet’ BK Syngal passes away

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 10

Brijendra K Syngal, a former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd, passed away on Saturday after a prolonged illness. He was 82.

Syngal, who is acknowledged as the ‘Father of the Indian Internet’, was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment. As VSNL chairman, he was unofficially known as the ‘bulldozer’ for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles, as a result of which VSNL grew from a \$125-million company in 1991 into a \$1.65-billion communications giant by 1998.

Born in Ambala a year after World War II broke out, he started his schooling at Lahore’s DAV Model School in 1945. After Partition, in 1947, his family moved to Delhi. During his school days, he took a liking for cricket and stamp collection. In 1957, he got into the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, where he pursued electrical engineering.

After stints at multinational companies in London and Budapest, he surprised his family and friends by quitting a job with Inmarsat in London, and moved to Mumbai in 1991 to head VSNL, then a stodgy public sector company.

According to Syngal, this was



BK Syngal (1940 to 2022)

the most “challenging and satisfying” work in his life. “It was a great honour for me to take over VSNL for it placed me at the very centre of Indian telecommunications, more than perhaps anything else, has contributed to humanity’s progress over the last two centuries,” Syngal wrote in his memoir, *Telecom Man*.

One of Syngal’s biggest challenges and accomplishments was bringing the Internet to India in 1995. Until then India had a rudimentary version of the internet, called ERNET, and limited to educational institutes. Syngal was told to do launch mass Internet on August 15, 1995. There was a lot of euphoria around it. But it turned out a damp squib with many glitches.

Syngal created a team in VSNL to rectify the issues within 10 weeks. “After that, we never looked back...” Syngal recalls in his book.

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- *Brijendra Kumar Syngal, former chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, passed away late on Saturday. He was 82.*
- *An IITian, Syngal left satellite communications company Inmarsat to take charge of VSNL in 1991.*
- *Under his watch, the company rolled out India's internet service and launched its then biggest global depository receipt issue.*
- *Tata Communications Limited is an Indian telecommunications company previously known as Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. It was previously a government- owned-telecommunications service provider and under the ownership of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.*

166. *World Population Day* is observed on the _____ every year to increase the awareness of the people towards the worldwide population issues.

- A. 10th July
- B. 11th July**
- C. 12th July
- D. 9th July
- E. None of these

- *World Population Day is observed on the 11th of July every year. The objective of the day is to increase the awareness of the people towards the worldwide population issues.*
- *World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989.*
- *By a resolution in December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.*
- *The Day was first marked on 11th July 1990 in more than 90 countries.*
- *In 2011, the world reached a population of 7 billion. This year, the number will hit 8 billion.*
- *The theme for World Population Day 2022 is 'A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all.'*

167. Name the *renowned archaeologist, historian, and former director-general of the Bangladesh National Museum, who died at the age of 85 in Dhaka.*

- A. *Dr. Rajat Kumar Kar*
- B. *Dr. Enamul Haque***
- C. *Dr. Binapani Mohanty*

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- D. Dr. Mukul Arya
- E. None of these

- **Dr. Enamul Haque, a renowned archaeologist, historian, and former director-general of the Bangladesh National Museum, died in Dhaka.**
- **He received the Padma Shri award in 2020 in recognition of his contributions to terracotta art and Bengal's iconography.**

Jul 11, 2022, 8:00PM

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Enamul Haque passes away

Eminent archaeologist, historian and former Director-General of the Bangladesh National Museum Dr. Enamul Haque passed away in Dhaka yesterday. He was 85. Dr. Enamul Haque was conferred with Padma Shri for the year 2020 for his work on Bengal's Iconography and terracotta art.

Dr. Enamul Haque was instrumental in setting up the Bangladesh National Museum. He was appointed its Director in 1973 and served as its Director-General between 1983-91. Dr Haque is credited with finding and protecting several valuable sculptures from various archaeological sites in Bangladesh.

During his illustrious career, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2016 and the highest civilian award of Bangladesh Swadhinta Padak in 2020.

Enamul Haque was a multi-faceted personality. He was a scholar, museologist, cultural activist, freedom fighter, songwriter and TV personality. His TV programme 'Amader Oitirjo' or 'Our Heritage' brought out the rich historical past of the country to the common people.



- **He received the Ekushey Padak in 2016 and the Swadhinta Padak (Bangladesh's highest civilian honor) in 2020.**
- **He was instrumental in the establishment of the Bangladesh National Museum.**
- **He became its director in 1973 and served as its Director-General from 1983 to 1991.**

168. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 41st foundation day on

- A. 11th July
- B. 12th July
- C. 13th July
- D. 14th July
- E. None of these

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 41st Foundation Day on 12 July 2022.**
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is an apex regulatory body for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was established on 12 July 1982 by an Act of Parliament.**



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- *The major functions of NABARD include promotion and development, refinancing, financing, planning, monitoring, and supervision.*
169. **International Malala Day** is observed annually on _____ on the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honor the young woman who has been advocating for female education.
- A. 10TH July
 - B. 11th July
 - C. 12th July**
 - D. 13th July
 - E. None of these
- *International Malala Day is observed annually on July 12 on the birthday of Malala Yousafzai.*
 - *United Nations (UN) designated 12 July as Malala Day to honor the young woman who has been advocating for female education.*
 - *Malala Yousafzai became an international symbol of the fight for girls' education.*
 - *She was shot in 2012 for opposing Taliban restrictions on female education in Pakistan.*
 - *In December 2014, she became the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate.*
 - *In 2015, an asteroid was named (316201 Malala) in honor of Yousufzai.*
170. Every year on _____ **World Youth Skills Day** is celebrated to highlight the strategic importance of providing young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.
- A. 13th July
 - B. 14th July
 - C. 15th July**
 - D. 16th July
 - E. None of these
- *Every year on July 15, World Youth Skills Day is celebrated.*
 - *The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2022 is "Transforming youth skills for the future."*
 - *The day is observed to highlight the strategic importance of providing young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.*
 - *In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 15 as World Youth Skills Day.*
 - *The day provides a unique opportunity for dialogue among youth, technical and vocational education and training institutions (TVET), firms, employers and labor organizations, policymakers, and development partners.*
171. Every year on _____ **India observes National Plastic Surgery Day.**
- A. 13th July

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- B. 14th July
- C. 15th July**
- D. 16th July
- E. None of these

- Every year on July 15, India observes National Plastic Surgery Day.
- Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy, the then President of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India, first proposed the concept of National Plastic Surgery Day in 2011.
- National Plastic Surgery Day has been adopted as World Plastic Surgery Day.
- 'APSI Sushruta Film Festival' (ASFF 2022) has been organized by the Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of AIIMS, Delhi in collaboration with the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSI).
- It was organized to celebrate the 12th National Plastic Surgery Day on 15th July.
- The film festival was observed on the theme of 'Changing lives with Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.
- The purpose of the film festival is to highlight the best work performed by plastic surgeons across the country.



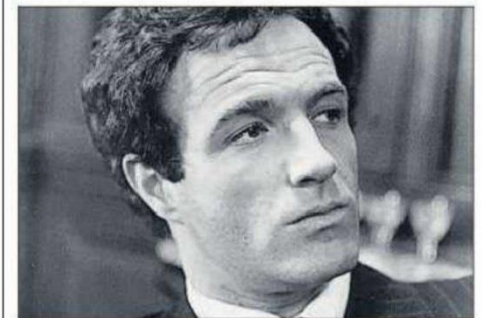
**Former NZ captain
Sinclair passes away**

WELLINGTON

Former New Zealand cricket captain Barry Sinclair passed away on Sunday, aged 85. He was the third New Zealander after Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid to score 1,000 Test runs. Sinclair played 21 Tests between 1963 and 1968, scoring 1,148 runs at 29.43, including three centuries. He captained the side in three Tests. ANI

{ **WORLD** } ACTOR WAS 82

**James Caan, star of
The Godfather, dies**



James Caan, the US actor best known to movie fans as the curly-haired hot-headed Sonny Wortzik in 'The Godfather', has died aged 82, his manager said on Thursday. Caan, who also had roles in 'Misery', 'Thief' and 'Rollerball', received an Oscar nomination for his tragic portrayal of the No. 1 enforcer and eldest son of Mafia boss Vito Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's 'The Godfather'. "It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Jimmy on the evening of July 6," his family said in a tweet posted to Caan's account. His manager Matt DelPiano confirmed that he died on Wednesday. No cause was given. Caan, a grinning, handsome performer with an athlete's swagger and muscular build, managed a long career despite drug problems, outbursts of temper and minor brushes with the law. AGENCIES

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Sports Award Books News

172. The 36th National Games will be hosted by which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Gujarat
- E. None of these

- The 36th National Games will be organized in six cities – Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar.
- The National Games event is being organized after a gap of seven years. Around 7,000 sportspersons will participate in 34 disciplines.
- The last edition of the National Games was organized in Kerala in 2015.
- Gujarat is equipped with a world-class sports infrastructure. It will host the National Games for the first time.
- National Games will have indoor and outdoor sporting events including athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, judo, kabaddi, kho-kho, etc.

173. Consider the following statement regarding Hyderabad Marathon 2022.

1. NMDC has taken up the Title of Sponsorship of the Hyderabad Marathon to be held on the 27th and 28th of August this year.
2. The Face of NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2022 is Ms. Nikhat Zareen, World Champion Boxer.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

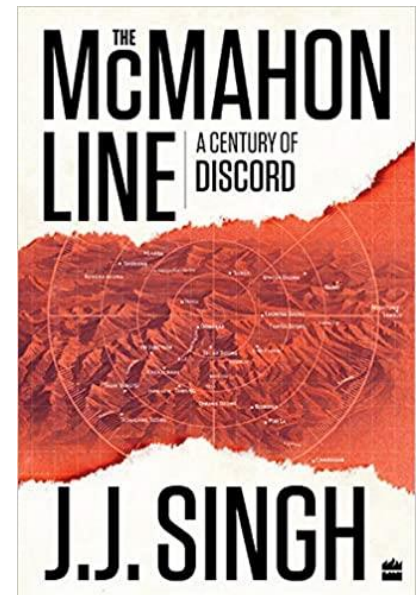
- The NMDC and Hyderabad Runners Society along with IDFC First Bank and the Government of Telangana launched the logo and unveiled the race t-shirt for the 2022 edition of the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon.
- The national mining major, NMDC has taken up the Title of Sponsorship of the Hyderabad Marathon to be held on the 27th and 28th of August this year. The Face of NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2022 - Ms. Nikhat Zareen, World Champion Boxer virtually connected to the event. Shri Sumit Deb CMD, NMDC; Shri Narayan TV, CMO, IDFC FIRST Bank; and Race Director Mr. Prashant Morparia were present during the launch ceremony and ensuing Press Meet.

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- *Marking the beginning of marathon season in India, a curtain raiser - 5K Fun Run will be held on Saturday, August 27th, and the 10K, Half Marathon (21.095 km), and Full Marathon (42.195 km) will take place on August 28th, 2022.*

174. Who is the author of the book titled “The McMahon line: A century of discord?”

- A. Gurmit Singh
- B. Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C. Nirbhay Sharma
- D. JJ Singh
- E. None of these



- *Himachal Pradesh Governor released a book titled “The McMahon line: A century of discord”.*
- *It has been authored by former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former Chief of Army Staff General JJ Singh (Retd).*
- *The book is about the former Army chief’s experiences and research on the India-China border dispute.*
- *In this book, he has written about the politics, history, structure, and geography of the McMahon line.*
- *A short film related to the McMahon line was also screened on the occasion.*

175. Recently in July _____ won the Gijon Chess Masters title at Gijon, Spain.

- A. D Gukesh
- B. Nihil Saran
- C. Raunak Sadhwani
- D. Magnus Carlsen
- E. None of these



Gukesh triumphs

GIJON (SPAIN)

India’s D. Gukesh won the Gijon Chess Masters here on Friday, with eight points out of nine rounds. In the last round, Gukesh drew with Cuba’s GM Martinez Duany. GM Alexandr Fier of Brazil finished second with 6.5 points while IM Pedro Antonio Gines of Spain came third, scoring six points.

- *Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh continued his winning spree as he lifted the Gijon Chess Masters title at Gijon, Spain.*
- *The 16-year-old scored 8 points out of 9 to be crowned the champion*

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- His dominance in the tournament can be understood from the fact that the second-placed player in the event - GM Alexander Fier, finished with a total of 6.5 points while the third-placed IM Antonio Gines finished with 6 points.
- Gukesh is now also the second-ranked junior in chess behind Alireza Firouzja who competed in the recently concluded Candidates Tournament for earning a shot at challenging the current World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

176. Recently **Elena Rybakina** of _____ won the **women's singles final at Wimbledon** claiming her first grand slam title.

- A. Tunisia
- B. Kazakhstan**
- C. Albania
- D. Colombia
- E. None of these

RUSSIA-BORN KAZAKH MAKES HISTORY

In its centenary year, Wimbledon Centre Court crowns a new ladies' singles champion – Elena Rybakina, the first player representing Asia and Kazakhstan to win a senior Wimbledon singles title

- > 17th seed Elena beat 3rd seed & crowd favourite Ons Jabeur 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Ons, from Tunisia, was the 1st Arab in a Slam final
- > 60 years since the women's title match was played between two players making their debut in a major final (1962)

- > 4 years since the Moscow-born Elena shifted from Russia to Kazakhstan when that country offered funding to support her career
- > At 23, Elena is the youngest player to win Wimbledon since 2011 (Petra Kvitova at 21)

“It's an honour to play here in this unbelievable atmosphere. I didn't expect to be in the second week. To be a winner is just amazing”
 –Elena Rybakina



- Elena Rybakina won the women's singles final at Wimbledon claiming her first grand slam title and the first for Kazakhstan.
- Rybakina beat world No. 3 Ons Jabeur in three sets, coming from a set down to win 3-6 6-2 6-2.
- Jabeur, bidding to become the first African woman and first Arab to win a Grand Slam singles title, settled quickly to take the opening set in blazing sunshine.
- The 23-year-old, appearing in her first grand slam final, started slowly but gradually found her rhythm and powerful serve to overcome Jabeur.
- Rybakina, who was born in Russia but has represented Kazakhstan since 2018, was the youngest women's finalist at Wimbledon since 2015 when Garbine Muguruza was 21.
- But at the end of an enthralling encounter, **Rybakina lifted the Venus Rosewater Dish aloft** as she was named Wimbledon champion for the first time.

177. Consider the following statement regarding the men's singles title at **Wimbledon 2022**.

1. **Serbian star Novak Djokovic** won Wimbledon 2022 as the **21st Grand Slam title** after beating Australia's Nick Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in London.

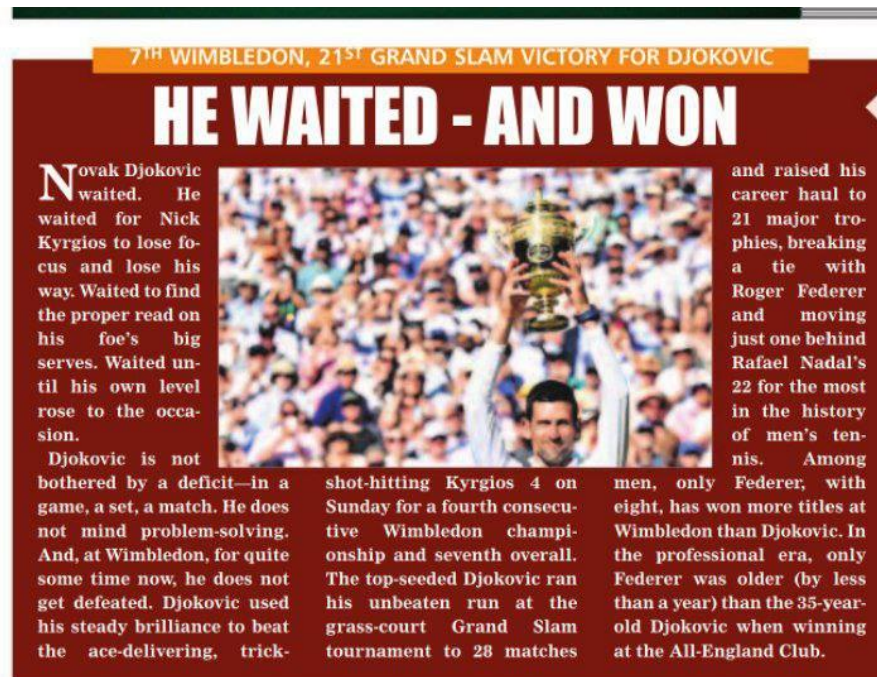
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2. Novak Djokovic became the **fourth player in the open era after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, and Bjorn Borg to win four Wimbledon titles in a row.**
3. Djokovic has a **total of seven Wimbledon titles**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- In Tennis, Serbian star Novak Djokovic won Wimbledon 2022 after beating Australia's Nick Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 in London. Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan clinched the Women's Singles title.
- Novak Djokovic became the fourth player in the open era after Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, and Bjorn Borg to win four Wimbledon titles in a row. Djokovic has a total of seven Wimbledon titles with his last four titles coming in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022.
- It is Djokovic's 21st Grand Slam title overall, putting him one behind record-holder Rafael Nadal.
- Wimbledon: It is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments.
- It is the only Grand Slam tennis tournament still played on grass. It is the only Grand Slam that does not conduct night matches.
- 2022 Wimbledon was the 135th edition. It was played between 27 June 2022 and 10 July 2022.



178. Consider the following statement regarding **ISSF Shooting World Cup.**

1. India finished the tournament with **eight medals including three golds, four silvers, and one bronze.**
2. **Arjun Babuta had won the gold medal in the men's 10 m air rifle category.**
3. It was held at **Changwon in South Korea.**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- In the ISSF Shooting World Cup, India topped the medal tally at Changwon in South Korea.

- India finished the tournament with eight medals including three golds, four silvers, and one bronze, and was way ahead of hosts Korea and Serbia in the medal tally.

- Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane, and Paarth Makhija helped India in winning its third gold in the 10-meter air rifle team event.

India top medal haul with 3 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze

ISSF WORLD CUP

PTI / Changwon

India topped the medal's tally at the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Cup here on Thursday after a slew of fantastic outings from their shooters.

India finished the tournament with eight medals — three gold, four silver and one bronze — and were way ahead of hosts Korea and Serbia in the medal's tally.

The day began on a brilliant note for India when the troika of Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija helped the country bag its third gold medal, beating Korea 17-15 in the 10m air rifle team event.

Arjun, Makhija and Mane



Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija helped India bag its third gold medal on Thursday.

PIC: TWITTER

fought neck to neck and staged a comeback, leading through the final to claim the top prize ahead of the Korean team of Seungho Bang, Sang-

do Kim, and Hajun Park. It was Arjun and Shahu's second gold in the World Cup. The second medal of the day came in the form of a sil-

ver when the trio of Elavenil Valaviran, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ramita settled went down to the home team of Ji-hyeon Keum, Eunseo Lee, and Dayeong Gwon 10-16.

In the men's 10m air Pistol team event final, the Indian team put up a spirited fight against the experienced Italian trio of Paolo Monna, Alessio Torracchi and Luca Tesconi before going down 15-17, ensuring another silver for the country.

India's third silver of the day came in the 10m air pistol team women's event when the new-look team of Rhythm Sangwan, Yuvika Tomar and Palak faced a 2-10 drubbing against a quality Korean side comprising Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Kim Minjung.

- Earlier, Arjun Babuta had won the gold medal in the men's air rifle category, while the duo of Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged gold in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team category.

179. Recently _____ and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) have entered into a long-term partnership to enable the holistic growth of athletics in India.

- A. **Reliance Industries Limited**
- B. Tata Consultancy
- C. Paytm

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D. Adani Sportsline

E. None of these

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) have entered into a long-term partnership to enable the holistic growth of athletics in India.**
- **Reliance Foundation has been a dedicated partner to AFI over the years and now the partnership is set to deepen the engagement between the two organizations.**
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) have entered into a long-term partnership to enable the holistic growth of athletics in India.**
- **Reliance Foundation has been a dedicated partner to AFI over the years and now the partnership is set to deepen the engagement between the two organizations, Reliance Industries Limited said in a statement.**
- **Nita Ambani has been leading India's Olympic Movement and has been deeply committed to providing sporting opportunities for the next generation in India. Her role as an IOC member since 2016, has enabled her to bring valuable international exposure to India's efforts to transform sports and engage with the Olympic Movement, and led the India delegation that won the bid to host the 140th IOC session 2023 in Mumbai, India, RIL said in the statement.**
- **In 2018, Reliance Foundation set up Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics HPC, a high-performance center in partnership with the Government of Odisha, from where multiple national and international medalists and national record holders have been shaped.**

Reliance to support Indian athletes

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday said it will partner with Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to support the development of Indian athletes and grow the country's Olympic movement.

"Reliance Foundation (the company's philanthropic arm) has been a dedicated partner to AFI over the years and now the partnership is set to deepen the engagement between the two organizations," the company said in a statement.

The statement, however, did not give details of the finances that are being extended to AFI.

The partnership aims to discover, nurture and develop Indian athletes from



across the country and provide them with world-class facilities, coaching and sports science and medicine support by leveraging the Reliance Foundation ecosystem, including the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Center and Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital.

"In line with the larger vision of the organization, this

partnership will have a special focus on girl athletes and aim to bridge the gender divide and enable them to achieve their dreams," it said.

As AFI's principal partner, the Reliance brand will appear across the national team's jerseys and training kits at key national, international competitions and training camps.

180. Who among the following **will be awarded Japan's highest order, the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum?**

A. Joe Biden

B. Anthony Albanese

C. Narendra Modi

D. Shinzo Abe

E. None of these

- **Shinzo Abe will be awarded the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum.**

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- Abe will be the fourth former Prime Minister to receive this honor under the postwar Constitution.
- The Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum is Japan's highest order.
- Shinzo Abe is the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japanese history.
- He served as President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

181. International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the **ICC Player of the Month** awards for June 2022. _____ bagged the Men's Player of the Month title while _____ batter **Marizanne Kapp** was awarded with **Women's Player of the Month**.

- A. Rishabh Pant, Australia
- B. Hardik Pandya, England
- C. Jonny Bairstow, South Africa
- D. Deepak Hooda, England
- E. None of these

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the ICC Player of the Month awards for June 2022. England's in-form batter Jonny Bairstow bagged the Men's Player of the Month title while South Africa's power-hitting batter Marizanne Kapp was awarded Women's Player of the Month.
- Jonny Bairstow received the title after his remarkable performances last month against New Zealand. He defeated his team-mate Joe Root and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell in the race of receiving the "Player of the Month" award.
- Bairstow started slowly in the opening match of the three-game World Test Championship series against reigning champions NZ. However, he went on to score a match-winning knock of 136 on the final day of the second Test, helping the English to chase down 299 in Nottingham. He scored his hundred off 92 balls - the second-fastest century by an England player in Tests
- With this feat, Kapp has become South Africa's first ICC Women's Player of the Month winner since Lizelle Lee, who was crowned in March 2021. Kapp helped her side in pulling off a draw against England. With her team at 45/4, it seemed all impossible for the South African side. However, Kapp's record 150 led her team to stand at a respectable score of 284 in the first innings. In the 2nd innings, Kapp once again starred for her team with 43 not out before rain disrupted the play on the final day.

Bairstow and Kapp win ICC award

ANI
DUBAI

England's Jonny Bairstow and South Africa's Marizanne Kapp won the ICC men's and women's Player of the Month award for June.

Bairstow came up with a memorable performances in his side's 3-0 series victory against reigning champion New Zealand in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

Solid resistance

South Africa's Kapp was selected for the award thanks to her solid and fierce resistance in the face of a hostile England bowling attack in the Test at Taunton which secured her side a valuable draw.



Kapp. ■GETTY IMAGES

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182. Who among the following has won the gold medal in World Masters Athletics Championships in Finland?

- A. Gurbachan Singh Randhawa
- B. Bhagwani Devi Dagar**
- C. Tarlok Singh
- D. Makhan Singh
- E. None of these

- **94-year-old Bhagwani Devi wins gold medal in World Masters Athletics Championships in Finland.**
- **Bhagwani Devi Dagar won the gold medal in the 100m sprint at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Tampere.**
- **She finished the 100m race in 24.74 seconds. She also won the bronze medal in shot put.**
- **World Masters Athletics Championships is a tournament of athletics (track and field) for 35 years and above-age athletes. It was originally scheduled to be held in 2021 but due to the pandemic, it was rescheduled to 2022.**

94-year-old Bhagwani Devi clinches gold at World Masters Athletics

Tampere (Finland): Bhagwani Devi, a 94-year-old sprinter from India, won the gold medal in the 100m sprint at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Tampere.

She won the gold with a timing of 24.74 seconds. Bhagwani also bagged a

bronze medal in shot put.

World Masters Athletics Championships was held in Tampere from June 29 - July 10. It is a world championship-calibre event for the sport of athletics (track and field) for male and female athletes aged 35 years and over. The Department of



Bhagwani Devi Dagar

Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports tweeted Bhagwani Devi's commendable effort.

Former member of the Kerala legislative assembly from Piravom and senior leader of the CPM, M.J. Jacob, 82, has won two bronze medals in World Masters

Athletic Tampere.

The veteran politician won the medals in the 200 m hurdles and 80 m hurdles competition in the M80 category which is for men aged between 80 and 84 years, his office informed. He had won gold medals in 80 m hurdles and 200 m hurdles in Kerala

masters athletics held earlier this year.

He had also won a gold medal in the Asian Masters Athletics championship previously. Jacob had won the Pirvarom assembly seat for the CPI-M in 2006, defeating sitting MLA and former minister T.M. Jacob. AGENCIES

TIMES NATION

183. _____ will be awarded the Mohun Bagan Ratna, the club's highest honor, on its foundation day ceremony on July 29.

- A. Sunil Chettri
- B. Jorem Thanga
- C. Shyam Thapa**
- D. Abhishek Kumar
- E. None of these

- **Former India forward Shyam Thapa was on Thursday chosen as the Mohun Bagan Ratna, the club's highest honor, which he would receive on its foundation day ceremony on July 29. Famous for his bicycle kick and back**

Mohun Bagan Ratna for Shyam Thapa

Former goalkeeper Balai Dey to be conferred Lifetime achievement award

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA

Former India forward Shyam Thapa was on Thursday chosen for the Mohun Bagan Ratna, the club's highest honour, which he would receive on its foundation day ceremony on July 29.

Famous for his bicycle kick and back volleys, Thapa made his name for East Bengal in the mid-1960s and early 70s before Mohun Bagan roped him in 1977 for a record sum of ₹50,000. The Mariners in that season won

triple titles of IFA Shield, Rovers Cup and Durand.

He went on to play in the green-and-maroon jersey for seven consecutive seasons and was made the skipper in 1982. Thapa scored a goal against New York Cosmos, that had Pele in its ranks, in the 2-2 draw in an exhibition match in 1977.

Thapa was the chairman of the All India Football Federation's technical committee before it was disbanded and CoA took over.

"I am honoured. I have no hesitation in admitting that I waited for the Mohun Bagan

Ratna. I am very happy," the 74-year-old said.

Former goalkeeper Balai Dey will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement, the club stated. The ceremony was held virtually last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The awardees: Best athlete: Bapi Sekh; **best forward:** Kiyam Nassiri; **best sports journalist:** Ashok Dasgupta; **Best sports official:** V.C. Praveen (Gokulam Kerala FC); **best cricketer:** Priyann Dutta; **best footballer:** Liston Colaco; **lifetime achievement:** Balai Dey; **Mohun Bagan Ratna:** Shyam Thapa.



Shyam Thapa.

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

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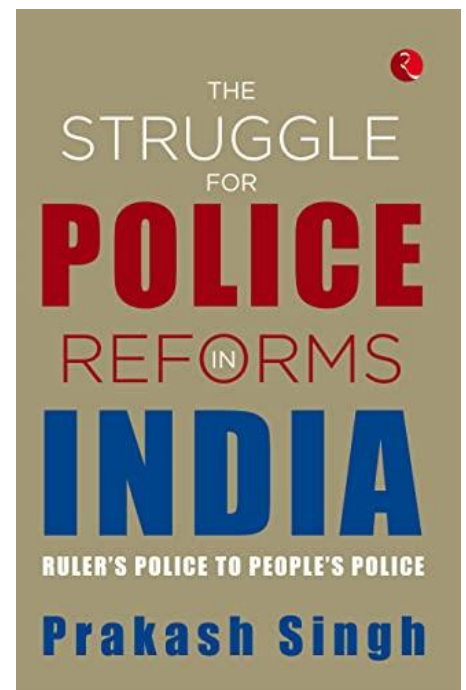
volleys, Thapa made his name for East Bengal in the mid-1960s and early 70s before arch-rivals Mohun Bagan roped him in 1977 for a record sum of Rs 50,000.

- The Mariners in that season won triple titles of IFA Shield, Rovers Cup, and Durand. He went on to play in the green-and-maroon jersey for seven consecutive seasons as he was also made the skipper in 1982.
- The Mohun Bagan working committee also picked talented youngster Kiyon Nassiri as the 'Best Forward', while Liston Colaco was adjudged the Best Footballer. Former goalkeeper Balai Dey will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement, the club stated.

184. Who is the author of the book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police"?

- A. Bibek Debroy
- B. Prakash Singh
- C. Shlok Sharma
- D. Avinash Sethi
- E. None of these

- In his new book, former Uttar Pradesh DGP Prakash Singh writes about his long struggle to implement police reforms in India.
- The Struggle for Police Reforms in India recounts how the decline in policing started during the time of Indira Gandhi but refrains from commenting on recent controversial police actions in states such as Delhi, UP, and Assam.
- The book is full of interesting anecdotes on what happened in the time between the filing of his petition in the Supreme Court in 1996 till now. Singh narrates the story of his removal as UP DGP at the peak of the Ram Temple movement during the Kalyan Singh government.



185. Recently _____ emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open .

- A. Aravindh Chithambaram
- B. R B Ramesh

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- C. Raunak Sadhwani
- D. Vishwanathan Anand
- E. None of these

- Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram emerged the winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open after edging Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani based on a tie-break score here.
- Chithambaram, Hovhannisyan, and Sadhwani finished on eight points from 10 rounds along with seven others. Chithambaram, a former national champion, took the top prize based on a superior tie-break score.

186. Recently _____ won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia .

- A. Raunak Sadhwani
- B. Vishwanathan Anand
- C. R Praggnanandhaa
- D. Aravindh Chithambaram
- E. None of these

- Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia, scoring 8 points from nine rounds.
- Alexandr Predke took the second spot with 7.5 points ahead of Alisher Suleymenov and India's AL Muthaiah, who both scored 7 points. Suleymenov grabbed third place based on a better tie-break score.

187. Who is the author of the book titled "The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed The Party"?

- A. Suman Sharma
- B. Ajay Singh
- C. Swati Sinha

Titles for Pragg and Aravindh

Gukesh tops 2700-mark, climbs to 32nd in live rankings

Early rise | GM D. Gukesh became only the sixth Indian, and the third youngest GM, to cross the coveted 2700 ELO ratings mark following his victory against Vietnam GM Le Quang Liam in the third round of the Biel Chess Festival (Classic) in Switzerland on Saturday

Player	Age when they reached 2700
Wei Yi	15.8
Alireza Firouzja	16.1
Gukesh	16.1
Magnus Carlsen	16.6
Anish Giri	17



Gukesh. • RAKESH RAO

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

R. Praggnanandhaa warmed up for the upcoming Chess Olympiad by winning the Paracin Open chess title in Paracin, Serbia, on Saturday and bounced back into the world's top-100 live rankings.

Needing to stay undefeated to ensure the top prize, Praggnanandhaa drew the ninth and final round with Kazakhstan's Alisher Suleymenov in 46 moves to tally eight points.

Top seed Alexandr

Predke (7.5), playing under the FIDE flag, took the second spot while Suleymenov (7) finished third.

Impressive show

The prodigious 16-year-old, rated 2648, has gained 12.5 rating points following this impressive performance and jumped 17 places to 90th.

Former National champion Aravindh Chithambaram won the 41st Benasque Open chess title in Benasque, Spain, on Friday.

In the 10-round tournament, fourth seed Aravindh topped a 10-way tie for the

title at eight points.

Meanwhile in Biel, Switzerland, D. Gukesh breached the 2700-rating barrier in live rating following a dominating 49-move victory over Vietnam's Le Quang Liem (rated 2722) in the Biel/Bienne Grandmasters Triathlon on Saturday.

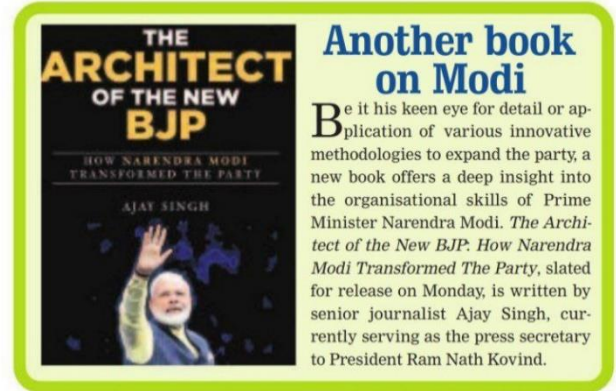
The victory with black pieces gave Gukesh 5.5 rating points, raised his live rating to 2703.9 and placed him 32nd in live rankings.

Viswanathan Anand (12th), P. Harikrishna (24th) and Vidit Gujrathi (28th) are the only Indians in the top-30 bracket.

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- D. Rajshree
 E. None of these

- **“The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed The Party”, slated for release on Monday, is written by senior journalist Ajay Singh — currently serving as the press secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind.**
- **Published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI), the book tells how PM Modi and his “unmatched organizational skills” paved the way for his rise in the party and transformed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) into “the election-winning machine it is today”.**



188. Recently _____ has been honored with Kerala's highest film award, JC Daniel Award.

- A. KP Kumaran
 B. Jagdeep Shankar
 C. Krishnamurthy Satish
 D. Krishan Shetty
 E. None of these

- **Malayalam filmmaker KP Kumaran has been honored with Kerala’s highest film award, the JC Daniel Award. Kumaran won the award for his contribution to the Malayalam film industry. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.**
- **The filmmaker made his directorial debut with Athithi in 1975 and earned fame for his films like Rugmini, which won the National Award for a Best feature film in Malayalam and the Kerala State Film Award in 1989. He is also known for films like Thenthulli, Laxmivijayam, and Thottam.**

Prestigious J.C. Daniel Award for filmmaker K.P. Kumaran

He gave a new aesthetic to Malayalam parallel cinema: jury

STAFF REPORTER
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Filmmaker K.P. Kumaran has been chosen for the prestigious J.C. Daniel Award for 2021. The award, conferred by the Kerala government annually in recognition of an individual's contributions to Malayalam cinema, carries a purse of ₹5 lakh, a statuette, and a citation. State Minister for Cultural Affairs V.N. Vasavan announced the award here on Saturday.

A jury consisting of playback singer P. Jayachandran, who was the recipient of the award last year, filmmaker Sibi Malayil, Chalachitra Academy chairman Ranjith



K.P. Kumaran

and Culture Secretary Rani George chose Mr. Kumaran for the award. According to the jury, he provided Malayalam parallel cinema with a new aesthetic and visual language in a career spanning around 50 years.

They further observed that since his debut with the short film *The Rock* in 1972 and *Athithi* in 1975 and *Gramavrikshathile Kuyil* made in 2020 at the year of 83, he has made sincere and meaningful use of the cinematic medium. *Athithi*, in which the real and the surreal are entwined, was one of the pioneering works of Malayalam new wave.

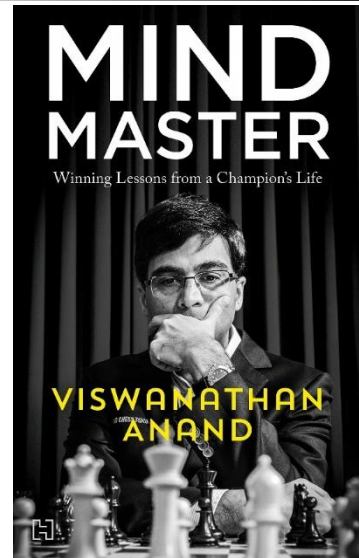
Mr. Kumaran was one of the first filmmakers from the State to win an international award when his short film *The Rock* fetched the gold medal at the Expo film festival in Tokyo in 1972.

The award ceremony will be held on August 3.

189. Who is the author of the book titled 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life'?

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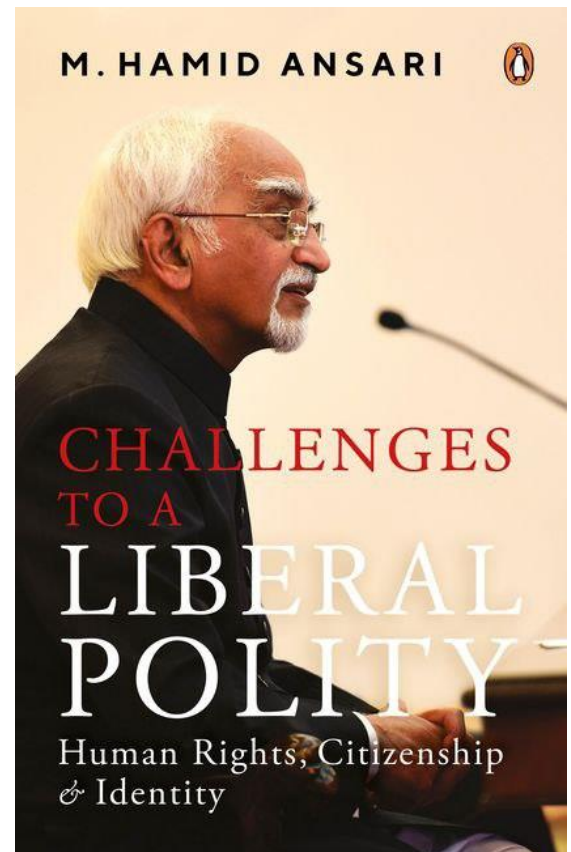
- A. Viswanathan Anand
- B. Susan Ninan.
- C. Shristi Sinha
- D. Both A & B**
- E. Both A & C



- The Next edition of Viswanathan Anand's memoir 'Mind Master' will be released on 15 July.
- The book is titled 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life'.
- It has been written by Anand with author-journalist Susan Ninan.
- In this edition, the book has a bonus chapter on how to navigate uncertainty and rapidly changing realities in the wake of the pandemic.

190. Who is the author of the book titled "*Challenges to A Liberal Polity Human Rights, Citizenship and Identity*"?

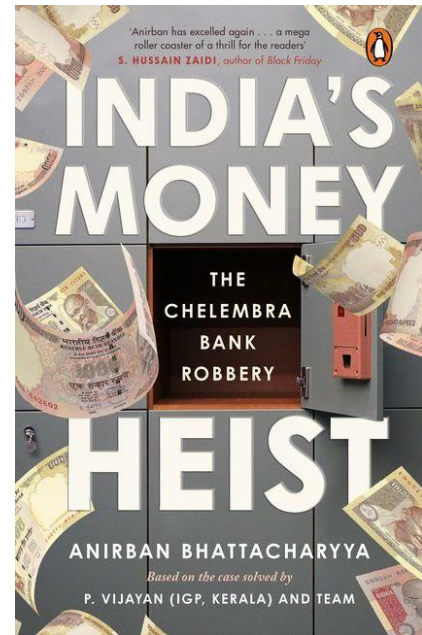
- A. Hamid Ansari**
- B. Mukhtae Abbas Naqvi
- C. Rajendra Singh
- D. Purshottam Rupela
- E. None of these



- *Challenges to a Liberal Polity*, amazingly relevant and thought-provoking for our times-by Hamid Ansari, former Vice President of India-brings to light some of the most critical issues, which influence our thoughts every day.
- From Nehru's vision for India as a major world power to the issues of citizenship, religion, democracy, the idea of plurality and Muslim identity in Indian society, inclusion/exclusion of Indian Muslims, the 'mainstream' decision-making process in India, the role of women to build a compassionate society, the implication for dissent, some of the burning issues of Indian polity and society.
- Mohammad Hamid Ansari was the vice president of India and chairman of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2007 to 2017.
- In 2008, he published a set of his writing, *Travelling through Conflict: Essays on the Politics of West Asia*. Selections from his speeches have been published as *Teasing Questions* (2014), *Citizen and Society*

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(2016), *Dare I Question?* (2018) and *Many A Happy Accident: Reflections of a Life* (2021).



191. Who is the author of the book titled "*India's Money Heist? The Chelembra Bank Robbery*"?

- A. Anirban Bhattacharyya
- B. Joy Bhattacharyya
- C. Ramesh Inder Singh
- D. Deepak Singh
- E. None of these

• From the creator-producer of *Savdhaan India*, the producer of *Crime Patrol*, and the bestselling author of *The Deadly Dozen: India's Most Notorious Serial Killers*, comes the true story behind one of India's biggest and most sensational bank heists

- 31st December 2007. New Year's Eve. A sleepy town in Kerala called Chelembra finds itself in the national headlines for India's biggest bank heist to the tune of a whopping Rs 8 crore which included 80 kg of gold.
- A crime that was supposedly inspired by a Bollywood blockbuster, this is the sensational story of that heist seen from both sides of the coin—the planning and execution by the mastermind criminals, and the difficult, yet thrilling, an investigation by the Kerala police team led by P. Vijayan.

192. Who among the following won the Austrian GP?

- A. Carlos Sainz
- B. Lewis Hamilton
- C. Max Verstappen
- D. Charles Leclerc
- E. None of these

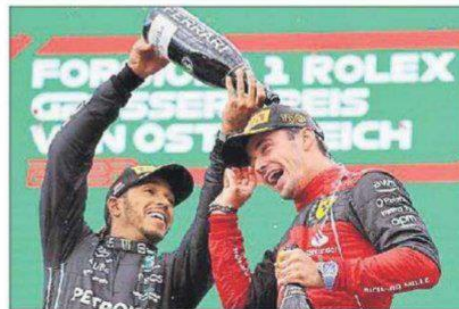
- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc held off world champion Max Verstappen to win the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday and reboot his world championship challenge.
- Lewis Hamilton took third ahead of his Mercedes teammate

Ferrari's Leclerc wins after late scare

Reuters
 sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com
SPIELBERG: Charles Leclerc survived a late throttle scare to win the Austrian Grand Prix for Ferrari on Sunday and move back up as Formula One world championship leader Max Verstappen's closest rival.

Red Bull's Verstappen had to settle for second, with a comfortable 38 point lead over the Monégasque after 11 of 22 races. Mercedes' seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton completed the podium for the third race in a row. "I was scared. I was really scared," said a relieved Leclerc over the team radio after taking the chequered flag at the Red Bull Ring with Verstappen in his mirrors and one and half seconds behind.

He overtook the Dutch driver three times in the race but feared the win might still slip away as



Charles Leclerc (R) celebrates with Lewis Hamilton after winning the Austrian GP in Spielberg on Sunday. REUTERS

he battled a throttle problem over the last few laps. "It would get stuck at 20 or 30% throttle in the low speeds, so it was very tricky. We managed to make it stick until the end and I am so happy," said Leclerc.

Leclerc's team mate Carlos Sainz had already retired with an engine failure, his car rolling to a halt and flames erupting from the rear, with 14 laps to go while chasing a likely Ferrari one-two. Verstappen's team mate Ser-

gio Perez, who had been second overall, also failed to finish with his car damaged in a first lap collision with Mercedes' George Russell, who ended up fourth despite a five second penalty.

The win was Leclerc's third of the season, his first since Australia in April and the first time he was won from anywhere other than pole position. Verstappen had been chasing his fourth Austrian GP win in five years. "Unfortunately I couldn't give them a win but second place is still a good result," he said.

Alpine's Esteban Ocon was fifth, ahead of Mick Schumacher—who scored the first Formula One points of his career at Silverstone last weekend—in sixth for Haas. Lando Norris finished seventh for McLaren ahead of Haas's Kevin Magnussen and McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo with Alpine's Fernando Alonso taking the final point in 10th.

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George Russell in cars that had both needed hefty repairs after crashes in Friday qualifying.

- *This was Leclerc's third win of the year and Ferrari's first at the Red Bull Ring since Michael Schumacher in 2003. After a series of disappointing results, Leclerc was thrilled to finally get another win under his belt.*

193. Who has recently unveiled a book titled ‘Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro’?

- A. Amit Shah
- B. Piyush Goyal
- C. Meenakshi Lekhi**
- D. Nitin Gadkari
- E. None of these

- *Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi unveiled a Gujarati book on the freedom fighters’ sacrifice.*
- *Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi unveiled a book titled ‘Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro’.*
- *It has stories of the sacrifices made by 75 freedom fighters. It has been released as part of the “Swadhinta Ka Amrit Mahotsav”.*
- *The book reminds us of the contribution of our freedom fighters to India’s Independence.*
- *This book has been prepared by Hindu Spiritual and Service Foundation (HSSF).*

194. Consider the following statement regarding Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships.

- 1. India wins 22 medals that including four gold medals, nine silver medals, and nine bronze medals.**
- 2. It was held in Manama, Bahrain.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India wins 22 medals in the Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships in Manama, Bahrain.*
- *The 22 medals include four gold medals, nine silver medals, and nine bronze medals.*

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- *The women's team won 10 medals. It won three gold through Priyanka, Arju, and Antrim.*
- *Men's freestyle wrestler Sujeet won the 4th gold medal for India in the 65kg weight class.*
- *India finished second in the team ranking in women's wrestling.*
- *India also finished second in men's freestyle. It finished fifth in the team ranking in Men's Greco-Roman competition.*

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Science Technology Defence And Environment

195. Recently French engine manufacturer Safran Helicopter Engines and _____ have signed an agreement to create a joint venture to develop helicopter engines.

- A. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**
- C. Bharat Earth Movers Limited
- D. Bharat Heavy Electricals
- E. None of these



HAL, France's Safran ink deal to develop helicopter engines

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: State-run airplane maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and France's Safran Helicopter Engines on Friday signed an agreement for a new joint venture to develop helicopter engines, HAL said in a statement.

It was signed by HAL Chairman R Madhavan and Safran Helicopter Engines CEO Franck Saudo in the presence of Safran Group CEO Olivier Andriès.

"The new aero-engine company in India will be dedicated to the development, production, sales and support of helicopter engines, and one of its main objectives will be to meet the requirements of HAL and defence ministry's future helicopters, including the 13-tonne IMRH (Indian multi-role helicopter)," HAL said. IMRH is expected to compete with Russian Mi-17 choppers in Indian and foreign markets. The platform could have a huge market as nearly 40 air forces across the world operate Mi-17 type helicopters, HAL officials said.

IMRH will be capable of carrying out a wide variety of missions, including transporting troops, conducting assault operations, air maintenance and anti-submarine warfare.

"Safran Helicopter Engines has been our valued partner for several decades. We now look forward to utilise this opportunity to leverage HAL's experience in manufacturing of more than 15 types of aircraft and helicopter engines to jointly co-develop and manufacture engines with immediate focus on IMRH and its naval variant, the deck-based MRH," said Madhavan.

HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines already have multiple partnerships, including the Shakti engine that powers HAL-produced helicopters such as Dhruv, Rudra and the light combat helicopter, the HAL statement said.

- French engine manufacturer Safran Helicopter Engines and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have signed an agreement to create a joint venture to develop helicopter engines.
- Under this, both partners will establish a new aero-engine company in India to develop and produce helicopter engines.
- One of its main objectives is to meet the requirements of HAL and the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) future helicopters, including the future 13-ton IMRH (Indian Multi-Role Helicopter).
- Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL already have multiple partnerships, including the Shakti engine, which powers HAL-produced helicopters, including the Dhruv, Rudra, and the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH). More than 500 Shakti engines have already been produced.
- This MoU demonstrates once again the commitment of both Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL to the Indian Government's vision of achieving self-reliance – particularly in defense technologies.
- Recently, Safran announced its plans to establish its largest facility for maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of commercial aircraft engines in Hyderabad by 2025.

196. Recently in July INS Tarkash conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with _____ in the Red Sea on 07 July 2022.

- A. Germany
- B. Sudan**
- C. UAE
- D. Egypt

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E. None of these

- **Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Tarkash visited Djibouti as part of her long-range overseas deployment followed by a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Sudan Navy. The ship is on a deployment to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which is intended to coincide with Independence Day enabling her to hoist the tricolor in South America on the occasion as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **INS Tarkash also conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Sudan Navy ships Almazz (PC 411) and Nimer (PC 413) in the Red Sea near the Sudan Naval Base on 07 July 2022. The exercise included maneuvers, flying operations for vertical replenishment, visit and board operations, and communication procedures.**
- **INS Tarkash is a state-of-the-art platform and has a weapon-sensor fit that enables her to address threats in all dimensions. The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and functions under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.**



Indian Navy's stealth frigate *INS Tarkash* conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Sudan Navy ships *Almazz (PC 411)* & *Nimer (PC 413)* in the Red Sea off Sudan Naval Base, on Thursday. ■ ANI

197. What is the name of the vessel delivered by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration with a capacity to carry 500 passengers?

- A. Sindhu
- B. Nalanda**
- C. Tarkash
- D. Trishul
- E. None of these

Jul 07, 2022, 9:05AM

Cochin Shipyard delivers passenger-cum-cargo vessel to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Public sector Cochin Shipyard has delivered a passenger-cum-cargo vessel built by it to the Andaman and Nicobar administration.

The vessel christened Nalanda has a capacity to carry 500 passengers and 150 metric tonnes of cargo. The ship will operate mainly between the islands in Andaman and Nicobar, but can also sail to the mainland if needed.

The protocol signing and handing over ceremony of Nalanda was held on board the vessel at the Cochin Shipyard.

- **The public sector Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered another vessel with a capacity to carry 500 passengers to the Andaman**



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and Nicobar Administration.

- The public sector Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered another vessel with a capacity to carry 500 passengers to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
- The protocol signing and handing over ceremony of Nalanda has been held on board the vessel at Cochin Shipyard. The ship will operate mainly between the groups of islands of Andaman and Nicobar but can also sail to the mainland if needed. The vessel is capable of carrying a cargo of up to 150 MTs to the remote islands.
- Nalanda and the lead vessel of the series Sindhu are designed to cruise at 6 knots. The ships are built to the highest standards of the Indian Register of Shipping and American Bureau of Shipping, meeting the Indian Merchant Shipping rules, and are customized for Indian requirements with a high level of safety and comforts comparable to international standards.

198. Recently National Highways Authority of India achieved the world record in Nagpur by Constructing the longest Double Decker Viaduct of _____ Km with Highway Flyover & Metro Rail Supported on single column piers said.

- A. 4.15 Km
- B. 3.14 Km**
- C. 5.16 Km
- D. 9.12 Km
- E. None of these

Maha Metro, NHAI feted for building Asia's longest multi-layer viaduct

AGENCIES / Nagpur

Maharashtra's Maha Metro and the Centre's National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on Sunday received the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records certifications from Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for constructing the longest multi-layer viaduct in Asia.

Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari said Maha Metro, a joint entity of the state and Union governments, and NHAI each saved up to 20 percent, or collectively 40 percent of the cost, while building this viaduct.

The Union minister for roads, highways and transport also directed Maha Metro to prepare a detailed

project report (DPR) for a trolleybus system, where vehicles will draw power from overhead wires, in Nagpur.

The multi-layer viaduct project was jointly completed by the two organisations and the certifications were received from the minister by Maha Metro managing director Brijesh Dixit and NHAI Regional Officer Rajiv Agarwal, a press release said.

"The multi-layer viaduct on three metro stations under the Nagpur Metro Rail project have been recognised by Asia and India Book of Records. It was formally announced today," it said.

Dixit said the increasing ridership of Nagpur metro is an indication that people have accepted it.



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari Congratulated Team Maharashtra Metro & Team NHAI on achieving the world record in Nagpur by: -Constructing the longest Double Decker Viaduct (3.14 KM) with Highway Flyover & Metro Rail Supported on single column piers said.

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- **The Minister said constructing Maximum Metro stations (3 Metro Stations) on Double Decker Viaduct in Nagpur, Recognized by Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records.**

199. Consider the following statement regarding **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-Vikrant**.

1. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant completed the fourth phase of sea trials.
2. The IAC is 262 meters long, and 62 meters wide and it has a height of 59 meters.
3. It has been constructed by the **Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)**.

Which of the following statement Is correct?

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

- **India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1), INS Vikrant, completed the fourth and final phase of sea trials.**
- **The ship's delivery is being targeted in end-July 22, followed by the commissioning of [INS Vikrant] on August 22 to commemorate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**
- **INS Vikrant will complement the INS Vikramaditya, currently the navy's lone carrier, which was acquired from Russia in 2013. The indigenous carrier will be the navy's flagship.**

INS Vikrant completes sea trials



THE NEW WARSHIP

- **262 metres** long, **62 m** wide, **59 m** high, including the superstructure
- has **14 deck** levels, including five in the superstructure
- cruises at **18 knots (33 kmph)**, at which it has an endurance of about **7,500 nautical miles (13,800 km)**
- designed for a crew of **1,700**
- has over **2,300** compartments, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers
- has a high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation, and survivability



INS Vikrant during the fourth phase of trials. PTI

Navy to get first indigenous aircraft carrier in August

AJAY BANERJEE
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 10

The first indigenously built aircraft carrier—Vikrant—is set to be commissioned next month, the Indian Navy said on Sunday. The fourth and the last phase of sea trials for the Vikrant were successfully completed today. The warship conducted integrated trials of equipment and systems onboard, including some of the aviation facilities on the deck.

The first trial was successfully completed in August last year, followed by the second and third phase in October 2021 and January 2022, respectively.

The warship's endurance testing of propulsion machinery, electrical and electronic warfare suites, deck machinery, life-saving appliances, navigation and communication systems have been tried out at the sea.

The fighter jets that will operate from the deck of the carrier are to be tested using the Russian MiG-29K jets after the warship is handed over to the Navy.

The 44,000-tonne indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) has been made at the state-owned Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, Kerala.

It is being commissioned in the backdrop of India-China race off to expand their naval strength. China has two operational aircraft carriers—the Liaoning and the Shandong. Last month, it launched another one called the Fujian that would take around three years for commissioning.

LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX WARSHIP

■ The IAC Vikrant is the largest and most complex warship ever to be designed and built in India

■ The 44,000-tonne indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) has been made at the state-owned Cochin Shipyard in Kochi

■ With this, India joins a select group of nations having niche capability to indigenously design, build and integrate a state-of-the-art aircraft carrier

■ The US, the UK, Russia, Italy, France, Japan and China have such capacities

A US Department of Defense report — 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2021' warns that "China continues to build a multi-carrier force." The plans are for six carriers by 2030.

India has one operational carrier — INS Vikramaditya — purchased from Russia and the upcoming Vikrant. The plan for the third carrier is, so far, not approved by the Government. Besides India and China, Japan and South Korea are adding carriers to their fleets as the Asian countries race to project power at sea. The Japanese has the JS Izumo — a 250-metre-long warship which can fly fighter jets. It's adding another one — the JS Kaga. South Korea has a plan to launch by 2030 a large-deck amphibious warfare ship that could handle fighter aircraft from its deck.

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- According to the MoD, “The indigenous design and construction of the [IAC-1] by the Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) is a shining example in the nation’s quest for ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Make in India Initiative,’ with more than 76 percent indigenous content.”
- The IAC-1, which is being delivered vastly late and over budget, embarked on its maiden sea trials last August. This was followed by the second and third phases of sea trials on October 21 and January 22 respectively.
- INS Vikrant is 262 meters long, 62 meters wide, and 59 meters high including the superstructure. It has 14 deck levels, including five in the superstructure, says the navy.
- For normal operations, the Vikrant cruises at 18 knots (33 km), a speed at which it has an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles (13,800 kilometers). Italian shipbuilder, Fincantieri, provided consultancy for the propulsion system.
- Originally planned to be built with imported steel, the DRDO and Steel Authority of India (SAIL) developed and manufactured indigenous warship-grade steel. As a result, the Vikrant is built from SAIL’s DMR 249A and B-grade steel.

200. Recently _____ has become the first railway station in India to be equipped with augmented reality screens.

- A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
- B. Kevadiya Railway Station
- C. Rani Gadinilu Railway Station
- D. Rani Kamlapati Railway Station
- E. None of these

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus becomes the first railway station to have an augmented reality facility.
- The passengers at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus of Mumbai will be able to meet animals, witness magic tricks and snowfall, and visit any place in the world virtually.
- It will generate revenue for Central Railway and provide fun and infotainment during wait periods to passengers.
- In Augmented reality, magic mirrors create a virtual world around the person standing in front of the screen.
- Recently, a pod hotel was also opened at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. This allows rail passengers to rest at the stations at a very low cost.
- Augmented Reality is a technology that allows overlaying of real-world objects and environments with 3D virtual objects using an AR device.

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201. Which of the following **country is building the world’s first floating city?**

- A. Maldives**
- B. Mauritius
- C. South Africa
- D. Denmark
- E. None of these



- **The Maldives will soon be home to one of the world’s first floating cities.**
- **Set in a warm-water lagoon close to the capital, Male, the new district will feature thousands of waterfront residences built across a flexible, functional grid. Up to 20,000 people will inhabit the development, which will consist of a series of hexagonal-shaped floating structures.**
- **Inspired by traditional Maldivian seafaring culture, Maldives Floating City will also eventually be home to hotels, restaurants, boutiques, and a world-class marina.**
- **The project has been under research since 2009 and is due to be fully completed by 2027. It was conceptualized by Dutch architecture firm Waterstudio, in partnership with the government of the Maldives and Netherlands-based developer Dutch Docklands.**
- **It is believed to be the first floating city in the world to be built as an island, with similar projects testing the waters in South Korea and the Netherlands. Smaller floating communities can also be seen around the globe from Peru to Vietnam.**
- **The city is designed to look like brain coral. Residents will start to move into the first housing units in early 2024.**

202. Recently India has given a **boost to self-reliance in safeguarding its space assets by inaugurating _____** with a holistic approach towards ensuring the safety and sustainability of the space environment.

- A. IS8OM
- B. IS4OM**
- C. IS6OM
- D. IS2OM

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E. None of these

- India has given a boost to self-reliance in safeguarding its space assets with **ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM)**.
- IS4OM is a system conceived with a holistic approach towards ensuring safety and sustainability of the space environment while reaping the benefits of sustainable utilization of outer space for national development, according to ISRO.
- It's part of the space situational awareness (SSA) program to identify space debris and monitor them.
- In addition, as part of IS4OM, dedicated labs have also been set up for space debris mitigation and remediation, compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) guidelines, and various R&D activities.
- Space debris consists of rocket bodies that are used to launch satellites, defunct satellites, materials released during mission operations, fragments from on-orbit breakups of space objects, and fragments from Anti-Satellite (ASAT) tests.
- These space objects move with an average speed of 27,000 km per hour in Low Earth Orbits; therefore, a collision with even a centimeter-sized tiny fragment can be catastrophic to an operational space asset.
- In December 2020, ISRO inaugurated a dedicated control center for A activities, aimed at monitoring, tracking, and protecting India's space assets.
- ISROA Control Centre, 'NETRA' (NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis), envisaged to function as a hub of all A activities within India, was set up within the ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network) campus at Peenya here.

Govt boosts space assets' protection

PTI
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 BENGALURU

India has given a boost to self-reliance in safeguarding its space assets with ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM) to be inaugurated on Monday by minister of state for space Jitendra Singh in the presence of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman S Somanath.

IS4OM is a system conceived with a holistic approach toward ensuring safety and sustainability of the space environment while reaping the benefits of sustainable utilisation of outer space for national development, according to ISRO.

"It's part of the space situational awareness (SSA) programme to identify space debris and monitor them," an ISRO official said.

"It's to identify the potential

collision of our active satellites with other space objects and avoid collisions with prop manoeuvring to save our space assets (satellites)," he said.

Sources in the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said concurrent processing of data from the observational facilities for space objects' orbit determination, correlation and catalogue generation will take place here.

In addition, as part of IS4OM, dedicated labs have also been set up for space debris mitigation and remediation, compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination

Committee (IADC) guidelines and various research and development activities.

The research and development activities encompass space object fragmentation and breakup modelling, space debris population and micro-meteoroid environment modeling, and Near Earth Objects, among others.

IS4OM is a system conceived with a holistic approach towards ensuring sustainability of the space environment

203. Recently to bolster the measurement of air pollution in rural India _____ is embarking on a \$2.5-million project to install nearly 1,400 sensors in the rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. IIT Kanpur

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- C. IIT Roorkee
- D. IIT Delhi
- E. None of these

- To bolster the measurement of air pollution in rural India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is embarking on a \$2.5-million project to install nearly 1,400 sensors in the rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The three-year project is expected to be a pilot that, going ahead, could pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.
- Air pollution in India is largely framed as an urban blight though causes of pollution, such as biomass burning and reliance on diesel generators for electricity, are worsening air quality in villages too.
- In 2019, the government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to reduce particulate matter air pollution by 20-30% by 2024. This, however, is primarily aimed at 122 cities that have been categorized as India's most polluted cities.
- Under NCAP, ₹375.44 crores were provided to 114 cities from 2018-19 to 2020-21, and ₹290 crores were allocated to 82 cities for the financial year 2021-22. The program has an allocation of ₹700 crores envisaged for 2021-26.

IIT-K setting up air-quality sensors

It will install 1,400 units in U.P., Bihar

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

To bolster measurement of air pollution in rural India, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, is embarking on a \$2.5-million project to install nearly 1,400 sensors in the rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The three-year project is expected to be a pilot that, going ahead, could pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.

"The outcomes from this network will help local communities, policy makers and researchers understand the ground situation. Data from this network will also be made available in real-time to enable actionable and evidence-based decision-making," said Sachidanand Tripathi, project leader and Professor at IIT-Kanpur.

Air pollution in India is largely framed as an urban blight though causes of pollution, such as biomass burning and reliance on diesel generators for electricity, are worsening air quality in villages too.

In 2019, the government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to reduce particulate matter air pollution by 20-30% by 2024. This, however, is primarily aimed at 122 cities that have been categorised as India's most polluted cities. At its launch, government officials had committed to increasing the



The NCAP aims to achieve 30% air pollution reduction by 2024. *SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

network of rural air pollution monitoring sensors but little progress has been made on that front. Despite having several cities in the world's list of the most polluted cities in the world, India still has very few sensors relative to the size of its population due to which the magnitude of the air pollution crisis is obscured.

Cities, because of their population density and industrial establishments, continue to be the overwhelming source of emissions. The country's current annual safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m³) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre.

Under NCAP, ₹375.44 crore was provided to 114 cities from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and ₹290 crore was allocated to 82 cities for the financial year 2021-22. The programme has an allocation of ₹700 crore envisaged for 2021-26.

204. Recently Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorization to _____ to manufacture the indigenously developed India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.

- A. Bharqat Biotech
- B. Serum Institute of India**
- C. Cipla
- D. Sun Pharmaceutical
- E. None of these

- Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla said the company plans to launch its indigenously developed vaccine to prevent cervical cancer in women later this year.
- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted market authorization to the Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture

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the indigenously developed India’s first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.

- *The approval by the drug regulator of SII’s anti-cancer vaccine follows a recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization on the COVID-19 vaccine on June 15, 2021.*
- *Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second-most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.*

205. Recently, NASA released the highest resolution photo of deep space.

The image was captured by which telescope?

- A. Spitzer Space Telescope**
- B. Hubble Space Telescope**
- C. James Webb Space Telescope**
- D. Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope**
- E. None of these**

- *The first full-color image captured by James Webb Space Telescope has been released by NASA. US President Joe Biden released the image at an event in the White House.*

SII to launch vaccine to prevent cervical cancer

DCGI grants approval for manufacture

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla on Tuesday said the company plans to launch its indigenously developed vaccine to prevent cervical cancer in women later this year.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Tuesday granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the indigenously developed India’s first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.

In response to the approval by the drug regulator,

Mr. Poonawalla in a tweet said, “For the first time, there will be an Indian HPV vaccine to treat cervical cancer in women that is both affordable and accessible. We look forward to launching it later this year.”

The approval by the drug regulator of SII’s anti-cancer vaccine follows recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization on COVID-19 vaccine on June 15, 2021.

Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second-most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

NASA telescope’s 1st cosmic view goes deep

NYT & REUTERS
JULY 12

FOLLOWING A US Presidential sneak peek of a galaxy-studded photo from the deep cosmos, NASA officials on Tuesday drew back the curtain to a larger display of luminous images captured by the largest and most powerful observatory ever launched to space.

The first full-colour, high-resolution pictures from the James Webb Space Telescope, designed to peer farther than before with greater clarity to the dawn of the universe, were hailed by NASA as milestone marking a new era of astronomical exploration.



It is the oldest documented light in the history of the universe from 13 billion years ago, says Biden. AP

In a brief event at the White House on Monday evening, President Biden unveiled an im-

age that NASA and astronomers hailed as the deepest view yet into our universe’s past.

The image, taken by the James Webb Space Telescope — the largest space telescope ever built — showed a distant patch of sky in which fledgling galaxies were burning their way into visibility just 600 million years after the Big Bang. “This is the oldest documented light in the history of the universe from 13 billion — let me say that again, 13 billion — years ago,” Biden said. The President praised NASA for its work that enabled the telescope and the imagery it will produce. “We can see possibilities no one has ever seen before,” Biden said. “We can go places no one has ever gone before.”

The image goes by the name of SMACS 0723. It is a patch of sky

visible from the Southern Hemisphere on Earth and often visited by Hubble and other telescopes in search of the deep past. It includes a massive cluster of galaxies about four billion light-years away that astronomers use as a kind of cosmic telescope.

Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA’s associate administrator for space science, described this image as the deepest view yet into the past of our cosmos. Marcia Rieke of the University of Arizona, who led the building of NIRC2, one of the cameras on the Webb telescope that took the picture, said, “This image will not hold the ‘deepest’ record for long but clearly shows the power of this telescope.”

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- In this image, the Galaxy cluster SMSCS 0723 is seen with a lot of detail. Thousands of galaxies were seen in web view for the first time.
- The image shows thousands of galaxies, and some of the faintest objects in blue, orange, and white colors.
- It also provides glimpses of what the early Universe looked like. It is the clearest image to date of the early universe.
- It is the highest resolution photo of deep space and the light captured by the telescope in this photo has traveled more than 13 billion years.
- James Webb Space Telescope is an international program led by NASA with its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency).
- This telescope can see farther than any other telescope in space with the help of its huge primary mirror and instruments.

206. Recently the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** started the conservation work of a Buddhist site near which city?

- A. Kanaganahalli
- B. Mysore
- C. Bellary
- D. Vijayapura
- E. None of these

Ancient Buddhist site finally in focus

ASI has taken up conservation work at the site in Karnataka after two decades

KUMAR BURADIKATTI
KALABURAGI

Left almost unattended for 20 years after it came to light through the excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) between 1994 and 2001, the ancient Buddhist site on the bank of Bhima river near Kanaganahalli (forming part of Sannati site) in Kalaburagi district, has finally got some attention.

The ASI has now come up with a plan for the conservation of the site at a cost of ₹3.5 crore and work has just begun. ASI Regional Director (South) D. Maheshwari and Circle Superintendent (Hampi) Nikhil Das are camping at the site monitoring work.

Till now, some items of antiquity found during excavation were kept in three tin sheds in the same site, while many remained scattered in



Excavated antiquities lying in an open area for the last 20 years at the Kanaganahalli ASI site near Sannati. • ARUN KULKARNI

the open. The conservation project taken up now envisages the resetting of the remains of *Maha Stupa* retrieved in the excavation to their original positions without much ornamentation and reconstructing of fallen portions of the *Ayaka* platforms using newly-fabricated bricks of the same size, shape and texture.

Sannati and Kanaganahalli were small and ordinary villages on the bank of the Bhima till 1986 when the Kali temple at the Chandralamba temple complex in Sannati collapsed.

Accidental discovery
In the process of clearing the debris, they discovered an Ashokan edict which put the

villages on the world map and opened new avenues of historical research on Mauryan Emperor Ashoka and Buddhism in its early years. It prompted the ASI excavations at Sannati and nearby Kanaganahalli and attracted historians across India and beyond.

The Kanaganahalli excavation opened up many marvels - an 'abandoned well' in the eyes of local villagers turned out to be the magnificent *Maha Stupa*, which was referred to as *Adholoka Maha Chaitya* (the Great Stupa of the netherworlds) in the inscriptions.

While the Stupa is believed to be one of the largest of its time, the stone-portrait is considered to be the only surviving image of the Mauryan Emperor which had the inscription 'Raya Asoko' in Brahmi on it.

- Twenty years after the excavation, the Archaeological Survey of India has come up with a plan for the conservation of an ancient Buddhist site on the bank of Bhima river near Kanaganahalli (forming part of the Sannati site) in Karnataka.
- The conservation project aims to reset the remains of *Maha Stupa* retrieved in the excavation to their original positions.
- The stupa was built with limestone and most of the dome slabs, drum slabs, and inscribed sculptures are in broken states.
- *Maha Stupa* found in excavation is referred to as *Adholoka Maha Chaitya* in the inscriptions. The Stupa was believed to be one of the largest of its time.
- The stone portrait found in the excavation is the only surviving image of the Mauryan Emperor which has the inscription 'Raya Asoko' in Brahmi on it.
- This stupa is believed to be built in three periods- Maurya, Early Satavahana, and Later Satavahana.

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207. Recently *Agnikul Cosmos* opened India's first private rocket engine factory in _____ .

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

India's 1st pvt rocket engine factory opens

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 NEW DELHI



The new facility will use additive manufacturing technology to develop 3D printed rocket engines for its in-house rockets.

Homegrown space startup, Agnikul Cosmos, opened on Wednesday the country's first private factory dedicated to building rocket engines.

Located in Chennai, the facility was inaugurated by N. Chandrasekaran, chairman, Tata Sons, and S. Somanath, chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The new facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines, and will develop engines for its in-house rockets, according to the company.

Srinath Ravichandran, chief executive, Agnikul Cosmos, said the facility can currently build up to two rocket engines every week. This will allow it to build sufficient engines for the launch of Agnibaan, its two-stage launch vehicle, which is expected to happen by this year-end.

"Since companies and organizations looking to

launch satellites no longer have access to Russian facilities, and launching aboard heavy rockets could be expensive, small orbital launch vehicles can help India win a large chunk of satellite launch orders in the near future," Ravichandran said. He added that the company will take an additional week to launch the Agnibaan rocket once the engines are ready.

Agnikul Cosmos said it already has partners who are preparing small-sized satellites for launch on Agnibaan, and that the factory will

address this demand. Agnibaan is an ultra-light launch vehicle, which is even lighter than ISRO's upcoming small, light commercial rocket, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

While the SSLV can carry payloads of around 300kg, Agnibaan will be able to carry payloads of up to 100kg to low Earth orbits (LEOs) of up to 700km above Earth.

To be sure, Agnikul Cosmos is not the only entity building such small launch vehicles for use in commercial space missions. Another

homegrown space startup Skyroot Aerospace is nearing a technology demonstration launch of its indigenous rocket, Vikram, later this year.

"Gaining the ability to build small, easy to build, and affordable rockets on a conveyor belt setup will help India build capacity to attract a larger chunk of the global satellite launch market," said Chaitanya Girl, a consultant at Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a New Delhi-based research institute.

With satellite internet operators, and space sensing and earth observation technology startups looking to deploy small satellite constellations in low Earth orbits, light and affordable rockets, and even ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs), which are being developed by an industry consortium comprising Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro, could all contribute to India offering multiple avenues for educational institutes, research organizations and private companies to launch their own satellites.

- **Homegrown space startup, Agnikul Cosmos, the country's first private factory dedicated to building rocket engines in Chennai.**
- **The company said that the facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines, and will be used to produce engines for its in-house rockets.**
- **Srinath Ravichandran, chief executive of Agnikul Cosmos, said that the facility presently can build two rocket engines from scratch, every week. This will allow the factory to produce eight engines every month and build the number of engines required to launch Agnibaan – its two-stage launch vehicle, expected to launch by the end of the year.**
- **The company said that it already has partners who are preparing small-sized satellites to be launched on the Agnibaan rockets, and the factory will address this demand.**

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- Agnibaan is an ultra-light launch vehicle that is lighter than the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s upcoming small, light commercial rocket – the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). While the SSLV can carry payloads of around 300kg, Agnibaan will be able to carry payloads of up to 100kg to low Earth orbits (LEOs) of up to 700km above Earth.

208. **Indian Navy** to collaborate with _____ to **help in submarine maintenance** .

- A. Australia
- B. Brazil**
- C. Israel
- D. France
- E. None of these

- In a positive addition to the nascent Indian defense industry, discussions on the maintenance of submarines were held by Brazil.
- During the two-day visit, the Brazilian delegation held extensive discussions with the Indian Navy counterparts with a focus on the maintenance of submarines. As part of the visit, the delegation also visited Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) and a Kalvari (Scorpene) class submarine of the Indian Navy.
- MDL is involved in manufacturing six conventional Scorpene (Project 75) jointly with the Naval Group of France. The sixth and last submarine of the Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarines was launched in April this year.
- The Brazilian Navy also operates 4 Scorpene-class submarines and is exploring options for collaboration towards the maintenance of the diesel-electric attack submarines.

India, Brazil Navies may collaborate soon

Both countries to come together for maintenance of Scorpene submarines

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Navies of India and Brazil, both of which operate the French Scorpene class submarines, are exploring options for collaboration towards maintenance of the diesel-electric attack submarines, the Navy said on Tuesday. A Brazilian Navy delegation was at the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, where this issue was extensively discussed.

"Yes, discussions are under way between the two sides. It is an area both sides want to explore," diplomatic sources told *The Hindu*.

Common interest

The Brazilian Navy delegation led by Vice Admiral Liberal Enio Zanelatto, Director of Industrial Production and



Both India and Brazil operate the French Scorpene class submarines. •FILE PHOTO

Engineering, called on Vice-Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

"The two senior officers discussed various issues of common interest, including

defence and submarine technology, 'Make in India', initiatives towards professional cooperation between the Navies, and the outlook of the Indian Navy towards shared maritime interests with all like-minded Navies/nations," the Navy said in a statement.

During the two-day visit, the Brazilian delegation held "extensive discussions" with the Indian counterparts with focus on "maintenance of submarines", the Navy said, adding that the delegation also visited Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Ltd. and a Kalvari (Scorpene) class submarine of the Indian Navy.

India has inducted four of the six Scorpene submarines contracted from France, being manufactured locally with assistance from Naval

Group. The 5th submarine is in advanced stages of sea trials while the last one was recently launched into water and is expected to join the Navy by the middle of next year.

The Brazilian Navy also operates four Scorpene class submarines and is currently in the process of building a nuclear attack submarine (SSN) with assistance from France. India, which has leased SSNs in the past from Russia, is in the process of indigenously building SSNs while it already operates nuclear ballistic submarines (SSBN).

Brazil previously entered into negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency over safeguards for the use of nuclear fuel for the submarine program.

209. Which state has been included by **TIME magazine** among the **50 extraordinary destinations** in its list of the **World's Greatest Places of 2022**?

- A. Himachal Pradesh

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- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha
- E. None of these

- Ahmedabad and Kerala have been included by TIME magazine in their list of the World’s Greatest Places of 2022.
- These places have been included by TIME magazine among the 50 extraordinary destinations in its list of the World’s Greatest Places of 2022.
- Seoul, Buahan in Bali, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and Madeira in Spain are other places on the list.
- TIME described Kerala as ‘one of India’s most beautiful states.’ Kerala is known as “God’s own country”.
- TIME said Kerala’s first caravan park, Karavan Meadows, has been opened in Vagamon.
- Ahmedabad is India’s first UNESCO World Heritage City.
- TIME said that Ahmedabad’s Gujarat Science City added three attractions last year.
- They include a 20-acre natural park, a new robot gallery, and a new aquarium. Science City’s new aquarium is now India’s largest.



210. Who has become the **youngest astronaut to complete the Analog Astronaut Program from the AATC in South Poland at the age of 19?**

- A. Sirisha Bandla
- B. Swati Sharma
- C. **Jahnavi Dangeti**
- D. Sunita Kumari
- E. None of these

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- *Jahnvi Dangeti becomes the youngest astronaut to complete the Analog Astronaut program from AATC.*
- *Jahnvi Dangeti completed the two-week training program at the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) in South Poland at the age of 19.*
- *AATC has been established by the European Space professionals to carry out spaceflight scientific studies.*
- *Six persons from across the world were selected for this program based on achievements and association with the space programs.*
- *Jahnvi Dangeti completed NASA’s International Air and Space Programme (IASP) at the Kennedy Space Centre in 2021.*
- *Under the Analog Astronaut program, AATC has so far trained 45 batches.*

211. Which of the following space company has **launched the new Vega C rocket from Kourou, French Guiana?**

- A. *Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)*
 - B. *European Space Agency (ESA)***
 - C. *National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*
 - D. *China National Space Administration (CNSA)*
 - E. *None of these*
- *European Space Agency’s Vega-C lift vehicle made its inaugural flight —success on all counts.*
 - *The launch saw Vega-C deploy six CubeSats. It also deployed a science payload for LARES-2, an orbital physics experiment that the Italian Space Agency will use to test predictions of relativity.*
 - *With Vega-C and Ariane 6, Europe will have a flexible, independent solution for a fast-changing launch market.*
 - *it launched for its debut flight from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.*
 - *Vega C, which was developed by the European Space Agency and the French company Arianespace, is considerably more powerful than the original Vega, which has been flying since 2012.*

Vega-C soars into sky

The European Space Agency on Wednesday celebrated the first flight of its Vega-C rocket, which is designed to provide more bang for customers' buck in the increasingly competitive business of launching satellites into orbit. Vega-C is an upgrade to the Vega rocket that made its debut in 2012 as a launcher specialising in lifting small payloads into space. The new rocket can carry heavier payloads than its predecessor while burning less fuel. The 115-foot tall rocket's launch from French Guiana succeeded on the third attempt.



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- Vega C can deliver 2.3 tons to a polar orbit around Earth, compared to 1.5 tons for the earlier Vega.
- The debut mission displayed such diversity. The Vega C lofted seven satellites on Wednesday — one main spacecraft and six tiny, ride-along CubeSats.
- Vega C joins the original Vega and the Ariane 5 heavy lifter in Arianespace's rocket stable. The company is also developing another rocket, the Ariane 6, to replace the Ariane 5; the first flight of that powerful new rocket is expected in 2023.

212. Recently _____ has developed 'Structural Integrity Management System' (SIMS) a large database management software system to collect structural and design-related data for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to reduce the cost of maintenance and rehabilitation of offshore oil platforms.

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Ropar
- E. None of these

- The software 'Structural Integrity Management System' (SIMS) was developed by the Offshore Structures Group by the department of ocean engineering at IIT Madras.
- Premier research institute Indian Institute of Technology-Madras on Thursday said it has developed a large database management software system that would collect structural and design-related data for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to reduce the cost of maintenance and rehabilitation of offshore oil platforms.

IIT Madras creates indigenous system for ONGC to extend life of offshore oil platforms

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

For Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the Indian Institute of Madras researchers has created a locally produced lifecycle management system to cut the cost of upkeep and rehabilitation of offshore oil installations.

The Offshore Structures Group from the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, created the "Structural Integrity Management System" (SIMS). With the press of a button, it is possible to retrieve important data regarding structural and other design-related data from its sizable database management system, saving ONGC a great deal of time and work.

The implementation of engineer-

ing, inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and remediation activities is known as "structural integrity management," and it is necessary to show that a structure is fit for use for its intended application for the duration of its service life as well as to prevent or mitigate serious or catastrophic health, safety, environmental, or structural events.

The SIM process offers a proactive way to monitor, assess, and evaluate the structural condition as well as a method to verify an offshore structure's suitability for service.

During a ceremony on the IIT Madras campus today, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, presented the SIMS system to Shri Pankaj Kumar, Director (Offshore), ONGC (14th July 2022)

Congratulating the Ocean Engineering Department Researchers and ONGC on development of this system, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "We are not just an academic institution as our researchers have developed a product that is in the market. I am sure this software will contribute towards 'Atmanirbharta,' which is very important. Today tons and tons of your personal data is going (abroad). This IIT Madras contribution is extremely important in keeping ONGC data from going out. This data, if collected in a streamlined manner for some years, can help in the development of indigenous start-ups that can develop atmanirbhar technologies."

Prof. V. Kamakoti added, "The Structural Integrity Management System is a very important system.



Along with the oil that ONGC is drilling, it is also drilling data, which is extremely important. Real-time sensors can enable inspection every second, instead of periodical frequencies. We can also develop AI and ML Tools to predict when inspections would be required."

Speaking about this system, Prof. S. Nallayarasu, Head, Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, who headed the Research Team that developed SIMS,

said, "SIMS process provides a proactive approach to monitor, evaluate and assess structural condition and establish a procedure to validate the fitness-for-service of an offshore structure. It includes development of database management system for more than 330 platforms, development of Reliability Analysis Scheme for fatigue life of tubular joints and development of a Risk-Based Underwater Inspection Methodology (RBUI)."

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- The software 'Structural Integrity Management System' (SIMS) was developed by the Offshore Structures Group by the department of ocean engineering at IIT Madras.
- The facility would be implemented by ONGC with access to various stakeholders like the Institute of Engineering and Ocean Technology, offshore assets, offshore engineering services, and inspection and maintenance and repair teams of ONGC.

213. Consider the following statement regarding **Y - 3023 (DUNAGIRI)**.

1. Dunagiri, a **Project 17A frigate**, will be launched into the **Hooghly river**.
2. It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata**.
3. Christened after a mountain range in the state of **Uttarakhand**, '**Dunagiri**' is the fourth ship of **P17A Frigates**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Dunagiri, a Project 17A frigate, will be launched into the Hooghly river at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata.**
- **Christened after a mountain range in the state of Uttarakhand, 'Dunagiri' is the fourth ship of P17A Frigates. These are follow-on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors, and platform management systems.**

Stealth frigate **INS Dunagiri** set for launch into Hooghly

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 14 July

Indian Navy Ship (INS) *Dunagiri*, one of seven stealth frigates that India is constructing under Project 17A, will be launched into the Hooghly River near Kolkata on Friday.

Launching is a critically important landmark in the building of a warship. It means the ship can float, while the rest of the build, especially the superstructure, is carried out.

Like all the frigates of Project 17A, *INS Dunagiri* is named after a mountain range in the country. This began with Project 17, which yielded three frigates: *INS Shivalik* in 2010, *INS Satpura* in 2011 and *INS Sahyadri* in 2012.

Dunagiri is the fourth warship of Project 17A. These highly advanced, 6,600-tonne, guided missile frigates are follow-on vessels of the three-fragate Project 17, known as the Shivalik-class. However, Project 17A frigates have improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.

INS Dunagiri is the reincarnation of an earlier frigate with the same name, which was part of the six-fragate Leander class. The first two warships of Project 17A—*INS Nilgiri* and *INS Himgiri*—were



The first two warships of Project 17A — *INS Nilgiri* and *INS Himgiri* (pictured) — were launched in 2019 and 2020

launched in 2019 and 2020 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) respectively. The third ship, *INS Udaygiri*, was launched at MDL in May this year.

In the earlier *INS Dunagiri*'s 33 years

of operational service from May 1977 to October 2010, she had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises, said the navy on Thursday.

"The launch of the fourth ship within such a short span is a testimony to the impetus provided towards self-reliant shipbuilding with a focused approach," said the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

All the Project 17A guided missile frigates have been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND). The DND has spearheaded the design of numerous classes of indigenous warships in the years gone by.

"This is a testimony of the nation's unwavering efforts towards 'Aatmanirbharta' as 75 per cent of the orders for the warships' equipment and systems are also being placed on indigenous firms, including MSMEs (medium, small and micro enterprises)," the ministry said.

The Nilgiri-class, as the Leander-class frigates are called after the first-of-class vessel, were the first Indian warships that saw the navy carrying out significant levels of design and indigenisation.

The seven Project 17A frigates are the first Indian warships to have incorporated modular shipbuilding technologies, for which MDL and GRSE shipyards have been upgraded at significant cost.

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- *Dunagiri is the reincarnation of the erstwhile ‘Dunagiri’, the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which in her 33 years of service from 05 May 1977 to 20 Oct 2010, had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises.*
- *The first two ships of the P17A Project were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively. The third ship (Udaygiri) was launched at MDL on 17 May 22 earlier this year.*
- *The launch of the fourth ship within such a short span is a testimony to the impetus provided towards self-reliant shipbuilding with a focused approach.*
- *P17A ships have been designed in-house by the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design (DND), which has successfully spearheaded the design of numerous classes of indigenous warships in the past.*
- *This is a testimony of the nation’s unwavering efforts towards ‘AatmaNirbharata’ as 75% of the orders for equipment & system are also being placed on indigenous firms including MSMEs.*

Show of self-reliance



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the P17A stealth frigate *Dunagiri*, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, onto the Hooghly river in Kolkata on Friday. Singh said such vessels being built by Indian shipyards signifies the advancement of self-reliance

214. Recently _____ spacecraft has left for the International Space Station (ISS) carrying science experiments that will help carry out climate science research in space.

- A. **SpaceX**
- B. Blue Origin
- C. European Space Agency
- D. Roscoumbus
- E. None of these

- *A SpaceX resupply spacecraft has left for the International Space Station (ISS) carrying science experiments that will help carry out climate science research in space.*
- *Launched on the Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the Cargo Dragon spacecraft is transporting 5,800 pounds of science experiments, crew supplies, and other cargo.*
- *This is SpaceX's 25th commercial resupply services mission to the ISS for NASA.*

36 Rafale jets delivered to India: French envoy

35 jets have arrived; one still in France

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

France has delivered all 36 Rafale fighter jets to India, said the French Envoy in India, Emmanuel Lenain, speaking on the sidelines of the French National Day celebrations on Thursday.

However, while 35 jets have arrived in India, one jet still remains in France, official sources said.

One Rafale jet, which is the instrumented aircraft on which the 13 India specific enhancements (ISE) are being tested, is still in France, an official source said on Friday.

The last batch of three Rafale jets had arrived in India in February, taking the total Rafale jets in inventory of the Indian Air Force to 35. As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, work on upgrading all the Rafale jets in service

to the Indian standard configuration with the 13 ISE is currently underway in India.

The naval variant of the French jet, Rafale-M, is in the race along with Boeing F-18 Super Hornet for the Indian Navy’s tender for jets to operate from its aircraft carriers. In January, the Rafale-M had demonstrated its compatibility by operating from the Navy’s shore-based test facility in Goa, while the F-18 carried out demonstration in May.

India and France had signed a €7.87 billion inter-governmental agreement (IGA) in September 2016 for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition, following the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015 citing “critical operational necessity” of the IAF.

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- *The SpaceX spacecraft is loaded with some experiments with one being the Earth Surface Mineral Dust Investigation (EMIT). It is an instrument developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA and is equipped with the space agency's imaging spectroscopy technology.*

215. Consider the following statement regarding **Rafale jets**.

1. France has delivered all **36 Rafale fighter jets to India**.
2. India and France **signed a €7.87 billion inter-governmental agreement (IGA) in September 2016 for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *France has delivered all 36 Rafale fighter jets to India, said the French Envoy in India, Emmanuel Lenain, speaking on the sidelines of the French National Day celebrations.*
- *However, while 35 jets have arrived in India, one jet remains in France, official sources said.*
- *One Rafale jet, which is the instrumented aircraft on which the 13 India-specific enhancements (ISE) are being tested, is still in France.*
- *The last batch of three Rafale jets arrived in India in February, taking the total Rafale jets in the inventory of the Indian Air Force to 35. Work on upgrading all the Rafale jets in service to the Indian standard configuration with the 13 ISE is currently underway in India.*
- *The naval variant of the French jet, Rafale-M, is in the race along with Boeing F-18 Super Hornet for the Indian Navy's tender for jets to operate from its aircraft carriers.*
- *In January, the Rafale-M demonstrated its compatibility by operating from the Navy's shore-based test facility in Goa, while the F-18 carried out a demonstration in May.*
- *India and France signed a €7.87 billion inter-governmental agreement (IGA) in September 2016 for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition, following the announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015 citing the "critical operational necessity" of the IAF.*

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216. Recently _____ has bagged the top position for the second time in a customer satisfaction survey conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

- A. Birsa Munda International Airport
- B. Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C. Chennai International Airport
- D. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- E. None of these

Udaipur, Ranchi best airports in survey

RANCHI'S BIRSA MUNDA Airport (BMA) has been adjudged as the best in the Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) survey along with Udaipur airport, an official said on Friday.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducted the sur-

vey at 55 airports during Round-1 for the period from January to June 2022. Ranchi airport along with Udaipur Airport scored the highest 4.99 on a five-point scale in the survey, the official said.

– PTI

- *Birsa Munda International Airport has bagged the top position for the second time in a customer satisfaction survey conducted by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) by achieving a score of 4.99 out of five on Friday. Ranchi was declared the winner along with Udaipur airport which also scored the same.*
- *The announcement was made by AAI on its official Twitter handle declaring Ranchi as the winner in the survey conducted between January and June this year. The survey was conducted by AAI through a third party in which Ranchi airport topped the chart among 55 mid-sized airports leaving behind Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Varanasi, Patna, Lucknow, Coimbatore, and Trichy among others.*
- *This is for the second time that Ranchi airport has achieved this feat as it won in 2020 by beating 17 airports across the country with a score of 4.77.*